



GentleMEN Bicol for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



2019

Message



It fills me the pride to see the efforts of the GM family and the support of our partners and friends in the advocacy in dealing with the health and social issues faced by Bicolano families. Together, unwavering and united, GM Bicol for Sexual and Reproductive Health was hailed as one of the recipients of the 10th Salud Bikolnon Awards on HIV Advocacy.

This award represents the GM Bicol spirit which is to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in service to the Bicolandia community. Likewise, this award represents the hard work of its members and volunteers, offering their invaluable time and effort to create safe spaces for people to learn about SOGIE, STIs, HIV/AIDS, and their right to sexual and reproductive health information and services.

GM's real strength is its members and volunteers. The Salud Bikolnon recognition given to GM Bicol is well deserved. This marks our members' dedication to the advocacy and to the purpose of our organization. I want to extend the honor and gratitude to our family members who in their capacity would support all of us (the members) as we share our precious time as volunteers to help and serve the Bicolano Community.

Personally, I want to express my gratitude to our Board of Trustees, Board of Advisors and Committee Officers. Your support and guidance enabled me to meet your expectations as President of GM Bicol. My success as President is also your success.

To the people who we came across during this 2019 journey, I trust that our short encounter has made an impact on your lives. I also trust that 'knowing your status' and 'prevention starts with me' will be part of your personal mantra in protecting yourself and your loved ones from getting HIV.

On behalf of the GM Family, I would like to thank our partners: regional government agencies, provincial and municipal LGUs, local and national CSOs and NGOs, thank you for your trust and support.

To the people living with HIV, your fight is also our fight. GM Bicol reaffirms its commitment to continue its advocacy in advancing SRHR to break the stigma and correct the misconceptions. Together as a community of advocates, regardless of gender, color, culture, and status, we are the strongest if we work together - 'sarong kumpas' (one beat), 'sarong tono' (one tune/sound), towards a safe, friendly, and healthy Bicolandia!


Richard B. Hayag
President

GM UPDATES:



GM Bicol is a Salud Bikolnon 2019 awardee for Advocacy. Salud Bikolnon is an annual recognition and awarding activity of partners in the health sector by the Department of Health Region V.

GM Bicol welcomed its new Trustee:
Mr. Elson Jay Mortel, LPT



10th Salud Bikolnon Awards GM for HIV Advocacy

GM Bicol was recognized during the 10th Salud Bikolnon awarding ceremony for its contribution to HIV education, service provision and advocacy.



Capacity Building Activities

Technical Support to Peer Educator Training

GM Bicol was able to provide assistance as lead facilitator in the conduct of two Peer Educator Training organized by the Local Government Units of Ligao City and Polangui, Albay.

GM as lead facilitator prepared the training design and facilitated the training - workshop proper. These initiatives by the LGUs resulted to 45 trained peer educators.



Co-Facilitation of Community-based Screening Training

GM Bicol served as co-facilitator to two CBS training organized by the Department of Health Region V.

Four GM members were enrolled in the training. Through the training, GM enlisted four new CBS motivators to provide CBS services during health missions and HIV advocacy-related activities.



Awareness Raising Activities

GM was able to provide technical support by sending resource persons to HIV/AIDS forums in the region.

HIV talks supported by GM reached 2,384 diverse group of people, in particular, key-affected population such as young people and MSMs.

LGUs / SKs

Local government initiated activities which were supported activities were organized by: Virac, Catanduanes; Castilla and Magallanes, Sorsogon; Pili and Nabua, Camarines Sur; Libon and Sto. Domingo, Albay; Brgy. Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay; Brgy. Travesia, Guinobatan, Albay, and; Brgy. Carolina, Naga City.



School-based

School-based activities supported were organized by Bicol College, BU College of Education, BU Graduate School, BU College of Medicine, and San Jose Community College.



Workplaces

Technical assistance were also provided to PNP V, DSWD V and Oriental Hotel, Legazpi City.

Social Media-based Clans

MSM groups or clans were also provided with technical support. These groups are the Ba-BI-Lan and Metro Men Society.



AIDS Candlelight Memorial and World AIDS Day 2019

"Communities Make a Difference"

In solidarity to commemorate those who fought and lost their lives to HIV and AIDS, and to the Global Movement to end HIV and AIDS and stigma attached to it, GM continued its 'Prevention Starts With Me Campaign' by empowering vulnerable communities and population at risk such as men having sex with men (MSM) and young people to undergo voluntary testing.



As a token of GM Bicol's commitment to the advocacy and to further strengthen its partnership with local governments and other non-government agencies, GM supported and provided technical support to four local government units namely: Polangui, Albay; Daraga, Albay; Ligao City, and: Magallanes, Sorsogon. GM also supported Bicol University College of Medicine, Sigma Lambda Chi Fraternity and Sorority in its World AIDS Day activity.



GM provided resource speakers to talk about HIV and the relevance of joining the global movement to stop HIV and AIDS. It also assisted with providing Community-Based Screening to the communities.



Linkages and Partnerships

3rd Regional LGBT Convention

The 3rd Regional LGBT Convention spearheaded by the DOH Region V was participated by GM Bicol wherein it served as co-convenor. It was held in November 25, 2019 in Sorsogon City. GM Bicol served as the Scientific Committee in designing the program flow and identifying the papers and topics for the convention.



GM also provided technical support in terms of secretariat tasks and resource speakers. Topics assigned to GM were updates on the state of HIV and AIDS in the country and good practices in ending this epidemic, and LGBTQ and mental health which The Forum for Family Planning and Development, Inc. a national NGO supported.



Over 500 delegates attended the convention.



Daraga, Albay - Local AIDS Council

GM Bicol is recognized and CSO-rep/member to the Daraga LGU's Local AIDS Council.

Networks and Linkages

National Affiliations:

- Philippine Network Plus
- Network to Stop AIDS Philippines
- Y-Peer Pilipinas
- AIDS Society of the Philippines

Local Partnerships and Affiliations:

- Local AIDS Council, Daraga, Albay
- Albay SULONG RH
- Bicol LGBT Network
- Naga People's Council
- Albay Provincial Youth Development Office



Community Extension and Services

Turuwang para sa Tiwi

GM Bicol launched '*Turuwang para sa Tiwi*' initiative which paved a way for individuals and organizations to extend assistance to a calamity-stricken town of Tiwi, Albay. Food, cloths, drinking water, school supplies, and medicines were collected through the campaign.



Organizations who supported the activity were The Forum for Family Planning and Development, Inc., GAYON Albay LGBT Organization, Inc. and Medical Students' Society of Bicol University, College of Medicine.



The activities were comfort packs distribution and medical/health mission which benefited 180 households in Bariis, Tiwi, Albay.

HIV Community-Bases Screening

A total of 654 individuals were screened and counseled by GM volunteer CBS motivators.



14 clients whose results were reactive were properly counseled. 11 out of 14 were linked to care. Three clients however, despite of efforts to follow-up, were no longer reachable by any means of communication.

Continues support, such as emotional support and linking them to facilities & other relevant institutions, are being provided to reactive clients.



National Advocacy

R.A. 11166 - Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act & R.A. 11223 - Universal Healthcare Act

GM Bicol has active participation in the regional and national consultations on the drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the two laws abovementioned.



GM Bicol introduced to UNAIDS Country Director

GM Bicol was introduced to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS or UNAIDS Philippine Country Director, Dr. Louie Ocampo, in particular, GM's strategy and initiative in advancing SRHR in the context of HIV prevention and education in the Bicol Region.



National Meetings and Training

GM was invited to participate in various gatherings: Mental Health for All; Legal Literacy Training for Young Key Population; Data Dissemination Forum and Stigma Index Study Presentation.



Moving forward

GM Bicol aims to strengthen its capacity on Men's Health and to create a support mechanism for PLHIV in the region.

