

# **Involving Migrant Workers in Building Capacity of Foreign Service Personnel in handling HIV Cases...**

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# As a migrant worker in the Middle East...

- Secretary in a hotel
- Income is not enough
- Blood donation as other source of income

# Upon diagnosis...

- Incarcerated for 11 months
- Repatriated
- Impact
  - Depression and confused
  - Discriminated by family members
  - Loss of income and depletion of savings
  - Health situation got worse

# Assistance and referrals...

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration  
(POEA)



Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)



Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE), Inc.



Support group of people living with HIV such as Pinoy Plus Association and another NGO, Remedios AIDS Foundation

# Invitations...

## As a participant

- Migrant Worker Educators training on HIV/AIDS (Philippine NGO Council on population, health, and welfare in collaboration with Achieve Inc..)
- Workshop Program for Consultative with Stakeholders working in migration and HIV/AIDS issues with UN Agencies, ILO, GA's, LGU'S, Recruitment Agencies and other NGO's.
- Regional Meetings conducted by Achieve Inc, a mini-consultation with Migrant Workers living with HIV in the Philippines regarding the CARAM Asia Strategic Planning.

# Analysis...

*"Through these activities, I learned that it is worth the effort to be involved in advocacy work. This may help to ensure that other migrant workers will not experience the same things that I did".*

## Philippines Aids Prevention and Control Act Law of 1998 (Republic Act 8504)

- All overseas Filipino workers and diplomats, military, trade and labor officials and personnel to be assigned overseas shall undergo or attend a seminar on the cause, prevention and consequences of HIV/AIDS before certification for overseas assignment

# Involvement...

## As a resource speaker

- Pre-departure orientation seminar for foreign service personnel and officers to be deployed abroad



- Information about the vulnerability of migrant workers to HIV
- Impact of HIV to migrant workers

# Barriers

1. Health constraints
2. Fear being stigmatized and discriminated
3. Economic constraints

# Learning's...

- Some government personnel and officers are not aware that migrant workers are vulnerable to HIV

- Involve migrant workers living with HIV in advocacy work. This is an important measure because it is the only way to make Foreign Service Personnel aware of the challenges that makes migrant workers vulnerable on site.
- Involvement in advocacy work helps in building or regaining the confidence of migrant workers now living with HIV

- It has not only helped in changing the negative images of migrant workers living with HIV but also benefited us emotionally and psychologically.

**Thank you very much...**