

7 December 2020

The Program on Alternative Development (AltDev) of the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) invites you to "A Public Forum on Marginalized Societies and the State in the Time of Pandemic: The Philippine Case" on 9 December 2020 (Friday) from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (GMT +8) via Zoom.

**Zoom Details:**

<https://up-edu.zoom.us/j/89815035830>

Passcode: altreg2020

This reporting draws from the UP CIDS Report on the multifaceted challenges confronted and addressed by marginalized communities in the Philippines under the COVID-19 crisis. The report is the product of a collaborative research study between UP CIDS AltDev and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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Thank you very much, and we look forward to a fruitful discussion with you.

Sincerely,



Eduardo C. Tadem

Convenor, UP CIDS Program on Alternative Development

# Concept Note

## Introduction<sup>1</sup>

On 8 March 2020, the Philippine government declared a state of public health emergency due to reports of rising cases of COVID-19 infections. The country was placed under lockdown and strict quarantine measures. Eight months after, the country remains under lockdown (with varying degrees of stringency). Nonetheless, infections and fatalities continue to rise. As of 21 October 2020, the Philippines has recorded 362,243 confirmed cases (the highest in Southeast Asia) and 6,332 deaths.

The government has responded to the health crisis with a “whole of government approach,” where state agencies from the national to the local coordinate to implement containment measures. The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) was established led by retired generals, which was mandated to scale-up critical healthcare capacities, testing, and contact tracing; provide material and financial support to the poor and micro, small and medium businesses, and, enforce minimum health standards. Two social amelioration programs (SAP) were initiated to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable families

The above measures exacted a heavy toll on the Philippine economy, social fabric, and political life. By the second quarter of 2020, the economy slipped into recession. Poverty increased, joblessness overwhelmed half of the labor force with 40 percent lapsing into part-time work, and 7.6 million families (30.7%) experienced hunger. In education, remote learning modes discriminated against poor families unable to access the required technologies. Women, particularly in urban poor areas, became even more vulnerable to domestic abuse and harassment. Human rights concerns have also surfaced.

## Partnership with UNESCO<sup>2</sup>

The University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS), the UP System primary policy research unit, is mandated to “develop, organize, and manage research issues of national significance” utilizing an “integrated and collaborative approach” to address current national policy and development needs. In July 2020, the Program on Alternative Development (AltDev) of the UP CIDS entered into a partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO Jakarta Office) for a four-month research project on *Producing Evidence to Promote Equitable COVID-19 Response and Recovery Policies*.

The collaboration between UP CIDS AltDev and UNESCO on the COVID-19 pandemic has the objective of supporting the Philippine government in the decision-making process focused on the mitigation of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through:

1. Identifying critical policy areas where the pandemic and the government’s response and recovery have significant social and economic equity implications.
2. Conducting research to collect inequality data/evidence that employs participatory methodologies and is geared towards filling specific gaps in the availability of data/ evidence for inclusive policymaking.
3. Informing public discourse and contributing towards devising coherent and equitable policy solutions in critical policy areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Tadem, E. & Hapal, K.F. (2020). *Addressing the needs of marginalized peoples in pandemic times*. Quezon City: UP CIDS.

<sup>2</sup> Tadem, E. (2020). Introduction, *Marginalized Societies and the State in the Time of Pandemic: The Philippine Case*. Quezon City: UP CIDS.

## **The Case Studies**

While COVID-19's adverse impact cuts across all sectors of society, poor and marginalized communities are more vulnerable and bear the brunt of the crisis. Despite difficulties and various limitations, however, some grassroots organizations have taken up important roles in providing relief for their communities, especially in areas where government support was lacking. In this context, it is important to look into the effect of the pandemic on society's marginalized and vulnerable sectors and how they responded to it.

The UP CIDS AltDev, with support from the UNESCO, examined five grassroots cases: (1) an urban poor home-owners association, (2) a health watch program of a relocated urban poor community, (3) a women's micro-social enterprise, (4) an indigenous people's community, and (5) a school for indigenous children and youth. These cases generated vivid stories narrated from the community level on how the multifaceted challenges of the pandemic are confronted and addressed.

It is in this context that the UP CIDS-AltDev is organizing two half-day forums on 09 December 2020 and 11 December 2020 via Zoom. The forum series will serve as a platform to present the key findings of the research undertaking and bring to the attention of decision makers and the wider public some policy recommendations for inclusive policy making. The first installment will engage concerned government agencies while the second will engage the mass media and the wider public.

# A Public Forum on Marginalized Societies and the State in the Time of Pandemic: The Philippine Case

## Program

9 December 2020, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER
<b>10:30 - 10:35</b>	Opening Remarks	<b>Prof. Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem</b> Executive Director, UP CIDS
<b>10:35 - 10:45</b>	Introduction	<b>Dr. Eduardo C. Tadem</b> Convenor, UP CIDS - AltDev
<b>10:45 - 10:55</b>	Community Responses and Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Case of the Alyansa ng mga Samahan sa Sitio Mendez, Baesa Homeowners Association, Inc.	<b>Mina Amata-Justo</b> Secretary, ASAMBA
<b>10:55 - 11:05</b>	Social Enterprise at the Time of Pandemic: The Case of Igting (Maigting na Samahan ng mga Panlipunang Negosyante ng Towerville Inc.)	<b>Rowena Osal</b> BOD and Head of Production Committee Igting
<b>11:05 - 11:15</b>	Community Healthcare in the Time of COVID-19: The Story of the Bantay Kalusugan Pampamayanan (Community Health Watch) of San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan	<b>Marivic Atacador</b> President, Bantay Kalusugang Pampamayanan
<b>11:15 - 11:25</b>	Indigenous Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Ayta Mag-indi Community, Porac, Pampanga	<b>July Sumayop</b> Researcher
<b>11:25 - 11:35</b>	Lumad and Bakwit Schools Amid the Pandemic: Report from Teachers, Students and Parents	<b>Rose Hayahay</b> Volunteer Teacher, Save Our Schools Network
<b>11:35 - 11:50</b>	Policy Recommendations	<b>Dr. Eduardo C. Tadem</b> Convenor, UP CIDS - AltDev
<b>11:50 - 12:30</b>	Open Forum	
Session Moderator: <b>Venarica Papa</b> , UP CIDS Program on Alternative Development		