

# The Cities Report

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# Quezon City



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**The city is focusing on local investment and innovation for a successful AIDS response.**

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The 2011 Quezon City Investment Plan for AIDS lays out their five-year plan, which aims to reach 80–90% of key populations with prevention coverage annually by 2015.

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*After-hours health clinics and a peer education drive have led to an impressive increase in the uptake of HIV services.*

## OVERVIEW OF THE HIV EPIDEMIC

**Q**uezon City, with a population of 2.76 million, accounts for a significant proportion of the HIV epidemic in the Philippines, with a total population of about 95 million. Since 2007 there has been an upwards trend of HIV infections among men who have sex with men. HIV prevalence in this group increased from under 1% to nearly 7%.

## Quezon City



### THE AIDS RESPONSE

Quezon City has taken strong and bold action to understand and respond to its epidemic. Advocacy linked to strategic information has led to increasing local investment, with city administrators leading and funding the HIV response. The 2011 Quezon City Investment Plan for AIDS aims to reach 80–90% of key populations with HIV prevention coverage annually by 2015.

The Sundown Clinic is perhaps the city's most innovative programme. In response to an significant increase in HIV infections among men who have sex with men, the city established a community clinic that operates from the afternoon until late at night to enable people to attend after work. The clinic, Kilinka Bernardo, is a comprehensive sexual health-care clinic that provides testing, counselling and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

To localize its peer education programme, the city has hired 20 educators who work at night providing outreach, counselling and testing. Access to HIV related information is now offered online, enabling people to access information in private and on their own

terms. Of the people tested by peer educators in the field, fewer than 50% go back to the facilities for treatment; to counter this, satellite treatment hubs are being established.

### WHY THIS CITY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In response to the evidence presented in the Integrated HIV Behavioural and Serological Surveillance (IHBSS), Quezon City is taking intensive action to scale up its HIV response for key populations. A local investment planning was undertaken with stakeholders, including international partners.

The response is being rolled-out and it is already showing an increase in the uptake of services. More than double the number of men who have sex with men are being reached.



### MAYOR OF QUEZON CITY

“Quezon City is unrelenting in its effort to pursue and sustain its programme of zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Our governance mantra is to respond and invest in programmes to address this health issue rather than turn a blind eye to this stark reality. We remain committed to providing preventive intervention, treatment, care and counselling to ensure our patients receive a better quality of life.”

*Herbert M Bautista,  
Mayor of Quezon City*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Under the leadership of its mayor Herbert Bautista, the Quezon City government has worked with local landowners and the private sector to undertake an ambitious housing programme. The government purchased land and managed the building of affordable, decent housing for informal settlers and poorer residents. In the third stage of the programme, more than 1000 housing units have been built.

In recognition of its achievements in the response to HIV, the Quezon City government received the Philippines' Galing Pook award for outstanding local governance in 2014 for its socialized housing programmes and the pioneering sundown clinic.

