

EA Philippines March-September 2023 (6 Month)

EAIF Grant Report

[CEA/EAIF Copy]

Executive Summary

Albeit a lot of back and forth with our fund manager regarding EA Philippines' strategy, the team was able to achieve the following results which you may go into detail individually.

Key Result Number	Target	Result as of Sept 2023	Target Completion	KR Completion	Objective Completion
K1- For university groups to have at least 5 main organizers working 6-8 hours per week	EA Blue, EA UPD, EA Taft all each have at least 5 EBCB	EA Blue- 100%	133%	133%	117%
		EA UPD- 100%			
		EA Taft- 200%			
K2- Support and advise the university groups to be capable of acquiring all needed resources for their own project/activities	University groups leads feel supported for their strategy and planning and maintain close relationships with each other	100%	100%	100%	
K3- Deepen EA knowledge for Filipino Intro Fellowship Graduates	to current 20% of the community to increase to 40%	80/297 or 26.9%	67.25%	67.25%	60.98%
K4- Provide spaces to converse about EA careers and uncertainties	Career Retreat NPS Score: 8.5/10	NPS score of 9.3	109.41%	54.71%	
	Continue our Career Advising Program NPS Score: 8.5/10	The students and mentors became unresponsive. Some reported that their advising program had reached a natural conclusion or that it was unnecessary to continue	0%		
K5- Conduct of EA-Aligned Productive Meet-Ups	4 /5 Rating on average for all meet-ups on meet-ups being value-adding	Average: 4.6 / 5	115.00%	57.50%	110.11%
	At least 3 case studies of EA PH's events and/or comms work during this grant period having a minor positive impact on someone's career or being impactful via another way (e.g. it helped an EA organization).	While we received anecdotal feedback of how our EAPH organized events and social media provided members with information and connections to advance their opportunities. They preferred to be anonymous	0.00%		
K6- Sharing of EA-related resources, opportunities, and events via EA PH social media, website,	4/5 Rating on average on EA PH Social Media, Website and Newsletter being value-adding	Average 4.39/5	109.75%	109.75%	

and newsletter					
K7- Community Safeness / Openness Score	4.5/5 Rating	Average 4.58/5	101.78%	101.78%	
K8- Consolidating Filipino EAs interest at EAGxPhilippines	70 Filipino Participants sign up by September 30	120	171%	171%	

The team was able to hit 100% of 7/9 targets translating to 117% for Objective 1: University Groups Autonomy and Resilience; 60.98% of Objective 2: Focus on Filipino Talent Pipelines; and 110.11% of Objective 3: Foster a Sustainable Filipino EA Community. You may peruse through the individual objectives and targets below.

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I. Funding Received for March-September 2023 and Financial Summary

In March 2023, EA PH received a total grant of **\$45,311** from the EA Infrastructure Fund, for 6 months at 2.50 FTE salary split across 5 to do community building work for EA Philippines. This was how the grant was split:

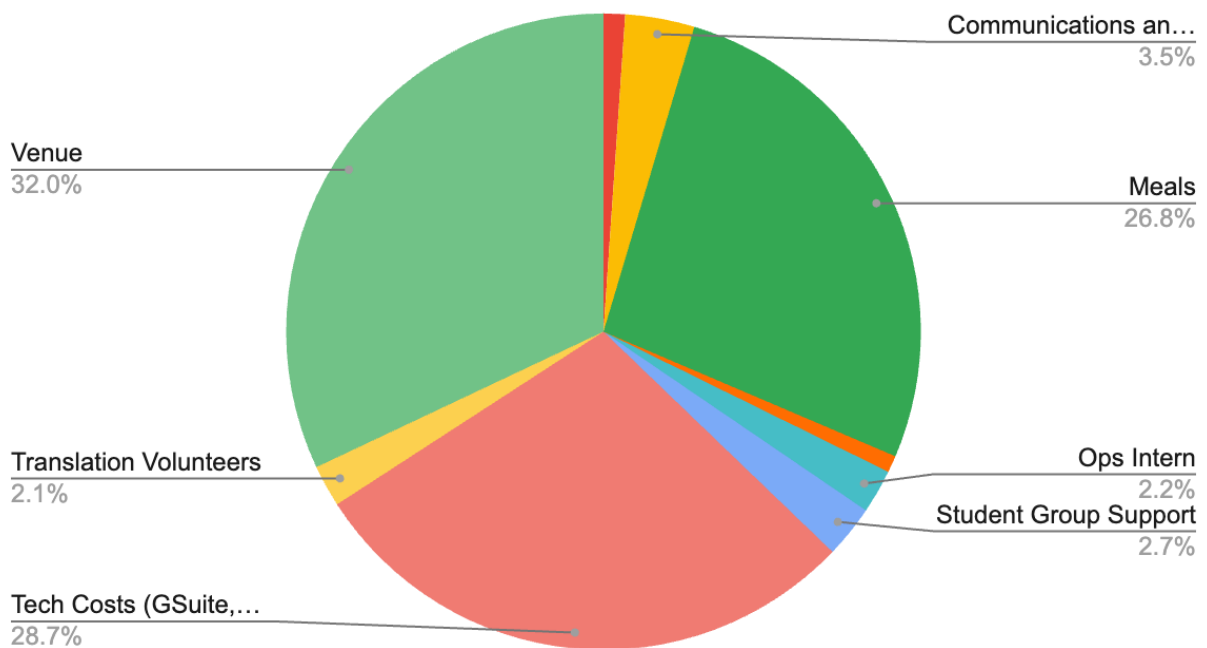
Person / Budget Item	Role	Avg. EA PH FTE from Feb 2022 to Jan 2023	12-Month Grant in USD	% of Total
Elmer Cuevas	Full-Time Community Builder	0.94	\$28,275	32%
Red Bermejo	Part-Time Community Builder	0.50	\$15,080	17%
Brian Tan*	Part-Time Community Builder	0.49	\$14,662	16%
Janaisa "Janai" Baril	Part-Time Communications & Operations Associate	0.25	\$7,540	8%
Nastassja "Tanya" Quijano	Part-Time Health & Dev't Community Builder	0.15	\$4,524	5%
EA Philippines General Grant Funding			\$6,500	7%

Person / Budget Item	Role	Avg. EA PH FTE from Feb 2022 to Jan 2023	12-Month Grant in USD	% of Total
2 Months Buffer / Runway (i.e. if we have delays in our grant application or fundraising for the period after this grant)			\$12,769	14%
Total with General Grant Funding			\$89,350	100.0%

We generally followed this split, and the team worked roughly at the FTE hours allotted to them with Elmeri spending roughly 5-10 hrs a week for EAGxPhilippines which gradually increased nearing the event date.

From the General Grant Funding of \$3713, below are categories of costs incurred throughout the grant period. This does not count most of the costs of the students and professionals retreat we organized, as we applied for separate group support funding from CEA for that.

Cost Categorization of EAPH General Grant Funding

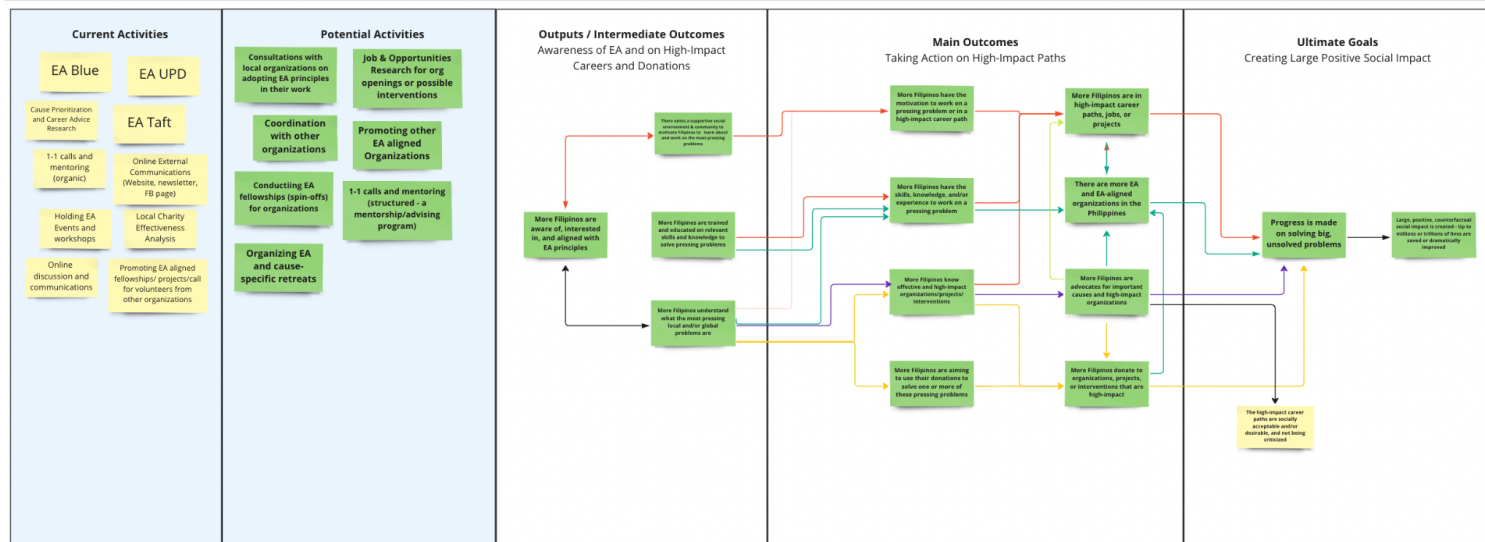


Highest cost at 32% of the General Grant Funding is on event venues for in-person meet ups. Second highest cost category comes from recurring Technology costs (GSuite, Zoom, Webflow etc) at 28.7%. Third highest cost are meals for in person events at 26.8%. In our previous report (Feb 2022-2023), Meals and Venues for In Person events constituted 40.3% of General Funding. Since the pandemic restrictions loosened and more in person events were conducted by EAPH, running Meals and Venue is at 58.8% of General Funding. We have a separate section in this report outlining events conducted.

During this 6 month period, EA PH paid out small allowances for translation volunteers, and regular volunteers (Communications/ Events, Book Operations) who have routine tasks that keep operations running.

II. Planning for 2023 and onwards

- In November 2022, the team decided to update our Theory of Change for 2023 Linked is the [current version of the updated EA PH Theory of Change](#) (Also shown below)



The document linked above was last updated in Sept 2021 but became the rough basis for the goals for this current EAIF grant. We have started to revisit this ToC for the 2023 cycle.

Effective Altruism in the Philippines Swot Analysis April 2023

Different Colored Bullets refer to where the point is associated with:

- General Information about the Philippines
- Global Poverty/ Development
- Animal Welfare
- Longtermism
- Meta-EA

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Currently most active number of EAs in a single country in Southeast Asia 2 strong university groups (Blue, UPD) 1 uni group being restarted (Taft) ~274 Filipino Intro fellowship graduates 57 (~20%) continued to do In Depth/ Cause specific programs after completing an Intro Fellowship - Regular meetups and socials that allow for high fidelity conversations about EA principles and possible projects - Successfully seeded a network of professionals in EA through the intro fellowship for professionals - Social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, IG, LinkedIn and active community messaging management on Slack - Successfully incubated Animal Empathy Philippines for Animal Welfare <u>Conducted Local Charities Research</u> Most working on GH&D - Initiated discussions on IIDM and possible projects with professionals - Two professionals working on AI alignment and safety projects and at least 10 students constantly conducting in-depth discussions on the cause	- EA PH is not a registered charity - Highly dependent on CEA CBG/ EA Funds for funding - EAPH members are currently centered in Manila but have members in other provinces - Relatively new (?) organization ~2018 compared to others in the region - Lack of EA-aligned direct work opportunities in the country (most working remotely) - Lack of thorough research on the comparative advantage and possible gaps Filipino EAs can contribute to - Lack of EA resource and materials in local language - Lack of model/method to measure the impact of local community building efforts - NGOs in the country currently don't have a thorough process to measure their impact and how to make it bigger - Lack of strong EA career consulting procedure and services - High bureaucracy and corruption in Philippine Government institutions (<u>33/100 Corruption Perception Index</u>) - Country Rank 78/175 Highest meat consumption
Opportunities	Threats
- High Level of English proficiency in Asia - Filipinos have a strong sense of community and believe in the power of coming together. It's easier to involve them in community activities for EA. 13.2% Poverty Rate, Not an underdeveloped country - Strong Executive Assistant Industry in the country. Some of which are working for EA aligned/adjacent organizations - Upcoming EAGxPhilippines 2023	- Not being funded after September 2023 - International EA organizations that can influence the future of EA in PH such as EAIF and CEA have little understanding of how EA is contextualized in LMICs - Discrimination against Filipinos/people from LMICs in general over international remote opportunities - Imposter syndrome of some Filipinos - EA-aligned direct work opportunities are seen as high-risk compared with lower impact local jobs

• Growing Professionals and Organizational Networks • Good Baseline for Alternative Protein Research % AEP • Other organizations part of the animal welfare conversations in PH: Animal Empathy Philippines, Mercy For Animals, Animal Kingdom Foundation, PAWS • Charity Entrepreneurship highlighted starting a Milkfish Welfare Charity in the Philippines • IDinsight has an office in Manila and recently partnered with city and national level government departments to promote evidence-based policymaking in key sectors such as public health, transportation, and trade and industry • GH&D Orgs operating in PH: ◦ Pure Earth Philippines ◦ Helen Keller International Philippines ◦ The Fred Hollows Foundation Philippines ◦ The Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines (EcoWaste Coalition) ◦ Food Fortification Initiative ◦ Innovations for Poverty Action Philippines • Robust Tech Start Up Ecosystem/ Developer Networks like DevCon that we can tap to raise awareness for AI safety • There is a Biorisk Association of the Philippines since 2015 • There's an organization called EpiMetrics that is working on some things related to Biosecurity / Pandemic Preparedness • <u>Percentage Distribution of Gross Value Added from Agriculture per industry</u> ◦ <u>Fishing & Aquaculture-12.6%</u> ◦ <u>Livestock -10.1%</u> ◦ <u>Poultry/egg- 9.9%</u> • Max Stauffer of the Simon Institute recommends having a PH Counterpart for LatAm's Riesgos Catastróficos Globales	• Animal agriculture as primary source of income for most Filipinos in rural areas • Animal products as part of Filipino culture and Filipinos' preference of "fresh food" over frozen food • The difficulty involved to study abroad and/or get visas to partake in opportunities in EA hubs abroad makes it hard for Philippine EAs to gain good connections or career capital to contribute to longtermist priorities • PH government granting only Php 24.3B instead of proposed Php 44.17B proposal for science and technology in the country. Biosecurity not part DOST priorities • Philippines' vulnerability for disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions which contributes heavily to high poverty rates • Filipinos are known to be collectivists. It might be challenging for them to pursue "unconventional" EA-aligned careers given the pressure and expectations from their families and peer groups. • Social hierarchy culture of Filipinos
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- From the SWOT Analysis, the team summarised gaps that EAPH can fill based on the four top priority areas: Global Health and Development, Animal Welfare, Longtermism, Meta-EA.

Gaps and Opportunities that EA Philippines can potentially fill:

Global Health and Development	Animal Welfare
• Conduct a charity evaluation study or offer charity evaluation consultation services that will help existing local charities assess and increase their impact (or at least to have people work on the possibility of this) • Collaboration projects and networking events with IDinsight • Conduct a research project on possible pressing health issues/problem in the Philippines that is not studied or prioritized before (or at least to have people work on the possibility of this) • Scout for possible leads that will start subgroups on GH&D and MH in the Philippines	• Funnel students/professionals to organizations working on animal welfare • Since Animal Empathy Philippines is there, they will be the point of contact for people in EA interested in the space. • Work with FWI and AEP on the possibility of starting the Milkfish Welfare Charity in the Philippines
Longtermism	Meta- EA building
• Push for more AI Safety conversations in multi-stakeholder panels • Push students/professionals to join more fellowships/ workshops on AI Safety/ Biorisk • Incubate the PH Counterpart for LatAm's Riesgos Catastróficos Globales • Incubate a local EA subgroup for AI Safety and Policy work or at least find possible leaders for the subgroup and work on the possibility in the next 1-2 years • Conduct a scoping research on the state and opportunities for AI in the Philippines • Conduct a scoping research on the state and opportunities for biosecurity in the Philippines • Reach out to economists or promote for people to take MS/PHD in economics/philosophy which can help them contribute to global priorities research	• Prioritize EA PH translation project • Create/collate more resources on effective project work • Maintain and grow existing network with international EAs and promote Filipino talent to international EA-aligned organizations • Conduct a small pilot version of an incubation program for charity entrepreneurs/people who want to start their own EA aligned-orgs (at least do the planning and feasibility study in the next 4-5 months) • Conduct a high-impact local career pathway research (mini 80k hours PH version), or at least look for people to work on the possibility of this • Conduct a thorough research on the comparative advantage of the Philippines when it comes to contributing to global causes

- Given the current Gaps and Opportunities that EA Philippines can fill. The team decided to look into areas we can focus on during the 6 month grant period as proof of concept.

III. EA Philippines March-September 2023 Focus and Results:

A. University Group Autonomy and Resilience

EA Philippines seeks to ensure that local university groups are not highly dependent on the national group for operational support and community building strategy. However, we view the common practice of the university alumni frequently visiting and providing advice to current student organizers as part of the deep Filipino culture of familial connection and does not negatively affect autonomy and resilience.

We are slowly transitioning to a peer-level working relationship with student organizers and a needs-based level of interaction for work. Furthermore, our future projects with university groups will focus on: (1) fortifying coordination structure between groups, and (2) building the organizers' confidence in community building and in the EA space.

Because of this, the KRs for this objective aligned to the current TOC include:

K1- For university groups to have at least 5 main organizers working 6-8 hours per week

While EA Philippines will not be hands-on in Executive Board recruitment and deliberations of university groups, we think one good indicator that they could be autonomous and resilient is for them to have strongly capable organizers who are willing to dedicate their time and skills for the group.

Percent Achieved: 100%

As of September 2023, each EA student group has successfully recruited at least 5 main organizers who will work on strategizing and running their key activities and programs for the academic year.

Student Group	Goal	Current	Percent Achieved	KR Lead
EA Blue	5	5	100%	Robin Madlangbayan
EA Taft	5	10	200%	Shan Adorna
EA UPD	5	5	100%	Andrea Castro, Danielle Chua

K2- Support and advise the university groups to be capable of acquiring all needed resources for their own project/activities

Goal: Achieve the following:

- For EA Blue and EA UPD to initiate in organizing all of their projects and activities with advice and help on manpower (possibly PH connections for guest speakers)
- For all university groups (EA Blue, EA UPD, and EA Taft) to have successfully been granted funding from either CEA Group Support, University Group Accelerator Program or Open Philanthropy

*EA Taft will undergo an incubation period during this time to rebuild the structure and will need advice and support from EA PH as they are being restarted.

Percent Achieved: 100%

At the beginning of the grant period, EA Philippines has conducted at least 1 catch-up call per month with all the student groups. We maintain close communication through Slack and stay updated with each other through monthly update docs. As of September 2023, all student groups are >50% done with planning their strategy and programs for the academic year.

Programs

All three student groups will hold introductory fellowships for their respective university with a goal of at least 10-15 graduates. EA Blue will be holding an in-person introductory fellowship while EA Taft will be having it in a virtual setting. The EA UPD core team is still deciding on whether they will hold a virtual or in-person fellowship.

Support and Funding

Both EA Blue and EA UPD have leftover money from the CEA Group Support funding they received last year. They are planning to spend this within the CEA guidelines and will be applying for another support grant when it runs out. EA Taft is planning to apply for group support funding for their introductory fellowship and other activities.

Each student group had 1-2 representatives who were accepted in the Organizer Support Program (OSP) run by the CEA's University Groups Team (EA Blue: Robin Madlangbayan, EA UPD: Jester De Torres, EA Taft: Shan Adorna and Kriz Tahimic). All of them were assigned to Alicia Pollard from EA Northeastern. They found the mentorship calls really valuable in planning their high-level strategy for the academic year.

B. Focus on Filipino Talent Pipelines

Given the track record and potential for more Filipino talent to work for EA aligned organisations (ie Executive Assistants, communications, operations) and starting EA aligned organisations and projects (ie Animal Empathy Philippines, Fish Welfare Initiative Philippines Project, Kaya Guides). EA Philippines would like to continue upskilling Filipinos, funneling them to EA aligned/adjacent opportunities, as well as providing local context and input for foreign EA organisations looking into tapping the Philippines/Filipinos for their next country of operations (ie Mercy For Animals).

K3- Deepen EA knowledge for Filipino Intro Fellowship Graduates

This means increasing the number of Filipino Intro Fellowship Graduates who continue to do further fellowships/ programs under the EA umbrella via conducting 1:1s, mentoring and funneling opportunities or running a local in-depth fellowship/ cause prioritisation program.

Baseline: 57/ 274 or 20.8% of the community

Goal: 40% of the entire community

As of September 2023 the count is now, **80/297 or 26.9% of the community (67.25% of the target)**

While we were not able to reach the 40% target, we still conducted topical specific reading groups in order to deepen EA knowledge of our members. The table below summarizes the number of participants who finished the reading groups and their ratings after completion.

Reading Group Syllabus	Participants (finished/joined)	Average Rating for Value of Readings	Average Rating for Value of Discussions	Recommendation Rating
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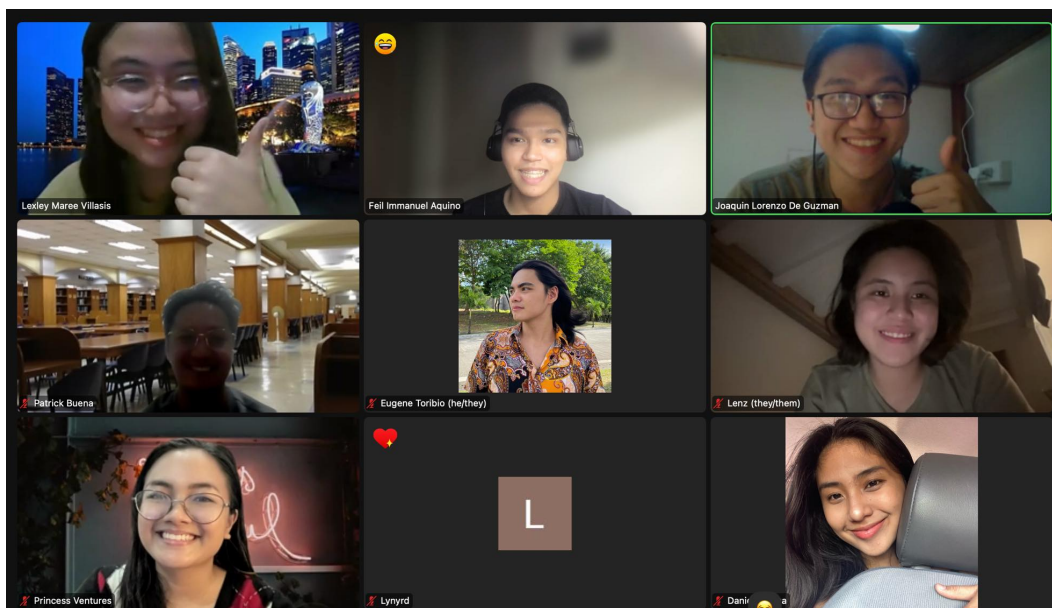
IIDM Discussion Group	11/18	4.2/5	4.6/5	4.25/5
AI Safety Reading Group	10/13	5/5	4.7/5	5/5
In-Depth EA Reading Group	5/8	5/5	5/5	4.4/5

Below are photos from the in-person/online meetups of the reading groups.

IIDM Discussion Group



AI Safety Reading Group



In-depth EA Reading Group



K4- Provide spaces to converse about EA careers and uncertainties

Creating a vision for a high-impact career may be overwhelming. Anxieties and uncertainties about career plans can be eased away by using helpful tools and consistently updating and conversing about them. EA Philippines aims to provide safe spaces for Filipino EAs to talk about their career choices, plans, and uncertainties.

Goal: Achieve the following:

- Organize a **retreat** attended by the most engaged 15 students and 15 professionals that will seek to deepen their cause area knowledge and help them in career planning for high impact. **NPS Score: 8.5/10**

Percent Achieved: 109.41%

A weekend retreat attended by 11 professionals and 14 students was held last July 21-23 in San Pablo Laguna. The retreat was funded by the EA Infrastructure Fund and CEA Groups Team. Participants gave the retreat an **NPS score of 9.3**. A summary of the retreat report is in this [EA forum post](#) and a long detailed version is in this [document](#).

- Continue our Career Advising Program for at least 10 students to converse regularly with EA professionals and provide them support in reflecting on their career plans. **NPS Score: 8.5/10**

Percent Achieved: 0%

Fifteen students were assigned to their respective mentors (based on proximity of background) for the Career Advising Program. Since the beginning of the program (February 2023), there were 11 recorded interactions between the mentees and mentors. Most met once with their mentors and the highest number of sessions reported was 3. The students and mentors became unresponsive. Some reported that their advising program had reached a natural conclusion or that it was unnecessary to continue. Despite persistent reminders for them to provide feedback through the form since May 2023, no responses were received as of September 2023.

C. Foster a Sustainable Filipino EA Community

While we primarily aim to have Filipinos maximize their career and resources to do the most good, we also would like to foster a safe and productive community while members are still trying to learn more about EA for themselves, better their epistemics, and improve on their personal cause-prioritisation.

K5- Conduct of Productive EA Aligned Monthly Meet Ups

Target:

- **At least 3 case studies of EA PH's events and/or comms work during this grant period having a minor positive impact on someone's career or being impactful via another way (e.g. it helped an EA organization).**

We have received anecdotal feedback of how our EAPH organized events and social media provided members with information and connections to advance their opportunities. These are:

- A student from Ateneo de Manila University joined EA Blue due to her interaction with EA Philippines' newsletter.
- Two students from EA Taft and EA UP Diliman were invited to be guest speakers due to their talks in one of EA PH's Komunidad events.
- Our monthly EA PH Komunidad provided a good space for our community to connect with each other.

Contrary to the goal, we were unable to provide concrete and detailed case-studies as we think we did not give enough prompts for our community members to provide one in our evaluation.

- **4 /5 Rating on average for all meet-ups on meet-ups being value-adding**

The goal of our Komunidad (Filipino word for Community) meet-up is to provide an opportunity for everyone in our community to connect with each other, engage in discussions of ideas, and explore collaborative opportunities such as collaborations or projects.

As physical events are now allowed in the Philippines, we have received requests from our members to conduct monthly meet-ups. During the 6-month grant period, the feedback from our Komunidad event's feedback forms shows an average **rating of 4.6**, indicating that the meet-up adds value for those who have attended, with each individual making **at least 3 new connections**.

Notably, our community members and the guests they invited, who are interested in learning more about EA, have had a dedicated space to discuss the philosophy and learn from other community members about the real-life applications of effective altruism in their careers or lives. This has also provided an opportunity for EA community members from abroad to meet our local community members and explore potential collaborations.

Komunidad Meet-up	Activity	Feedback (How valuable was the meet-up?)	Feedback (How many new connections did you make?)
March • Photos from the event	• Talk on Women's Rights and Safety for the PH's Women History Month • Discussion group on how the the talk could be applied in core ideas of Effective Altruism	Average: 4.1 / 5	Average: 3
April • Photos from the event	• Authentic Relating Workshop with Simmo Simpson • EA PH Townhall Meeting to talk about the 6-month grant results	Average: 4.5 / 5	Average: 2
May • Photos from the event	• An introductory talk by Keyur Doolabh and Nils Voelker from the Healthy Futures Global on their newly incubated charity by Charity Entrepreneurship where the Philippines could be a possible start-off point for their charity	Average: 4.5 / 5	Average: 5
July • Photos from the event	• An introductory talk on AI Safety was held where our community members—Kriz Tahimic, Lexley Villasis, and Ox Sandre— each gave a brief scope on AI Safety, AI Governance, and AI Risk.	Average: 4.5 / 5	Average: 3
August • Photos from the event	• An introductory talk on Biosecurity was given by Kirsten Angeles, project manager of project SHIELD PH. She touched on points on why effective altruists care about biosecurity, how to get started on it, biological risks, and what Project SHIELD is currently doing.	Average: 5 / 5	Average: 4
September	• The virtual town hall meeting will have the EA PH core team and board members discuss and address any questions the community may have on	Average: 5 / 5	No socials

	the upcoming organizational change and current funding situation within the organization.		
		Average: 4.6 /5	Average: 3

K6- Sharing of EA-related resources, opportunities, and events via EAPH Social Media, Website and Newsletter

Target: 4/5 Rating on average on EA PH Social Media, Website and Newsletter being value-adding

To be measure through a survey with the following questions:

- **1. How valuable have EA PH's social media channels (including our Slack) been to you? (from 1-5)**
- **2. How valuable is EA PH's website and job board to you? (from 1-5)**
- **3. How valuable is EA PH's newsletter to you? (from 1-5)**
- **4. In what specific ways have our newsletter, social media, website, or job board been helpful to you?**

Currently, EA PH shares quality and credible EA-related resources and events through our EA PH social media platforms, primarily Facebook, our website, and our monthly newsletter. Our community mainly follows our newsletter, as it showcases a compilation of resources, opportunities, and news from local and international EA groups.

According to our social media survey conducted by the end of the 6-month grant period, our newsletter was deemed to be valuable, attaining an **average rating of 4.28 / 5**

As for the EA PH website and EA PH job board, it attained an **average rating of 4.09 / 5**

In addition to that, we supplement our efforts through the EA PH social media, where Facebook serves as our primary platform for engaging with the local community and introducing Filipinos to the concept of EA, which is still new in our country. We regularly post daily updates of EA-related resources, local community updates, and announcements of upcoming EA PH events that are open to Filipinos interested in learning more about the philosophy.

By sharing content from other EA groups and organizations, both local and global, we help our members stay up-to-date with the core ideas of effective altruism and expose other Filipinos to EA, generating interest in learning more about effective altruism and engaging with our community. Doing these during the 6-month grant period gave these efforts an **average rating of 4.39 / 5**.

Percent Achieved: 109.25%

K7- Community Safety/ Openness Score

Target: 4.5/5 Rating

We want to cultivate a community that is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive and that the general community feels that it is so. Ensure that there are available avenues for community members to openly or anonymously communicate their concerns and platform to resolve any conflict. Through our survey, our community members gave an **average rating of 4.69 / 5** for our overall safety and an **average rating of 4.47 / 5** for our overall openness. This gives an overall **average rating of 4.58 / 5** for this key result.

Percent Achieved: 101.75%

K8- Consolidating Filipino EAs interest post EAGxPhilippines

EAGxPhilippines is slated for October 20-22, 2023. While this is beyond our current grant, we plan on consolidating the interest of individuals who attended the conference. Precursor to that which may fall within the current grant period is achieving a number of quality Filipino attendees for the conference. Sign ups are well inside the grant period

Target: 70 sign ups out of the 100 priority EA aligned/ adjacent Filipinos attending the conference.

As of Sept 23, 120 Filipinos have already been approved!

IV. EA PH Highlighted Members:

We wanted to highlight the recent progress of some EA PH members' growth within the last 6 months, and ones we are most excited about:

1. Carmel Pascual is a graduating Food Technology student at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Her program has planted the interest for Alternative Proteins due to the science behind it. After completing the intro fellowship organized by EA UPD, and attending EAG London 2022, she decided to pursue more Alternative Proteins research. She was recently contracted by Animal Empathy Philippines as a researcher and coordinator along with 4 other researchers for the [Alternative Proteins in the Philippines: Scoping Report](#). She along with Pierce Manlangit most recently just received a 6-month grant from ProVeg International and EA Animal Welfare Fund to catalyze alternative proteins research in the Philippines through science sector-based outreach.
2. [Rommel Songco](#) has been part of the EAPH community since 2019, recently he joined the 2023 AI Safety Camp (March-June) and is now currently working on [Policy Proposals for High-Risk AI Regulation](#) along with Koen Holtman who is a member of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC21) tasked by the European Commission to draft harmonised standards for the AI Act.
3. [Roc Bata](#) first found out about EA when she attended her first EA Philippines event in Sept. 2019. She then attended EAPH's introductory discussion group from May-July 2020, which motivated her even more to do more good with her career.

Since then, she's become an active member of the community, facilitating for various Intro Fellowships both for EA Philippines and its university chapters. She also briefly volunteered to help us in our Local Charity Effectiveness Research.

In December 2020, she started working part-time as an executive assistant to the CEO of Eon V Labs (Philip Chen), an EA-aligned longtermist organization. She also participated in WANBAM

(now Magnify Mentorship) and was mentored by Kathryn Mecrow-Flynn. She thinks it is unlikely she would have gotten exposed to these opportunities if not for EA Philippines.

Inspired to do the most good with her career, Roc also applied to several EA-aligned job opportunities, reaching the last stage of the application process for positions in Open Philanthropy and 80,000 Hours. Most recently, she received funding from Charity Entrepreneurship's Mental Health Funding Circle for her organization [Phlourish](#), which aims to improve the mental wellbeing of Filipino adolescents through guided self-help workbooks. This intervention was inspired by the results of EA Philippines' Mental Health Ideas Research Project. Together with two other members of the EA Philippines community, they are currently working on their registration as a nonprofit in the Philippines and will be running their pilot in partnership with the Department of Education.

4. [Lexley Villasis](#) is a graduating Political Science Major at the University of the Philippines Diliman. She first got involved with EA via EA UP Diliman, attending the intro fellowship in 2021, and serving as part of the uni group's learning and development team from 2021 where she co-organized a reading group auditing BlueDot Impact's AI Safety Fundamentals Technical Track. She recently attended the Global Challenges Project's Existential Risk Workshop in Oxford, where she had solidified my interest in pursuing existential risk reduction particularly in AI safety and governance and field-building. Currently, she is an AI forecasting mentee under Epoch AI and the Forecasting Research Institute's Mentorship Program where she's researching about predictors of task automatability, and will be working on the research track of the current cohort of BlueDot Impact's AI Safety Fundamentals Governance Course this Summer to Fall 2023.
5. [Joseph Cubar](#) has been part of the EA Philippines Community since its very first meet-up in 2018. Most recently in the last half year, he has participated and facilitated in the EAPH Reading Group for Improving Institutional Decision-Making, and the EAPH Career Exploration Retreat. Joseph has deep passion for health and development having worked in the non-profit and civil society sectors, and has had a hand in multiple impactful projects as a development consultant for several government agencies. Along with Rochelle Bata and Shen Javier, Joseph co-founded Phlourish Mental Health Initiative, a new non-profit that seeks to make effective mental health interventions accessible to Filipino adolescents. In the coming months, Joseph will lead the local team at Healthy Futures Global, a CE incubated charity, pilots an implementation research in the Philippines. On top of all this, Joseph is currently working with the Philippines' Department of Health in strengthening its health statistical program, a precursor component in the country's soon-to-be established Centers for Disease Prevention and Control agency.

V. What can be done better/What we could have done differently

The EA PH core team is generally satisfied with our progress for this grant period and we see that the activities above can be continued. However, there are some areas where we think we could have done better or done differently.

A. University Groups and Resilience

- EA PH's support to student groups have been value-adding and communications have been more open and consistent. If there was additional

resources or time, the team might have co-run activities with student groups to provide advice or support in capacity-building or succession-planning.

B. Filipino Talent Pipeline

- When implementing introductory fellowships or cause-specific fellowships, we could have formed a better post-fellowship strategy during the inception of these activities and eventually determine personalised engagement pathways for each of the graduates to ensure they deepen their learning or action on the ideas they learned.
- The team provided above a detailed assessment of the Students and Professionals' Career retreat. That also provides more information on areas we could improve on.
- We envisioned the career mentoring program to be more mentee-led with reminders and support from the EA PH team. Despite persistent reminders or offers of support, some mentors-mentees did not interact or connect as deeply or regularly as desired. We could have developed a rigorous method of matching mentees-mentors through a detailed mentor preference form and deeper assessment of the mentee's career interests and goals. It's also possible that we could have organised more collective activities related to mentoring (i.e. learning sessions, socials) to keep mentors and mentees engaged with the program.

C. Foster a more Sustainable EA Filipino Community

- Generally, the community found our communications channels helpful and insightful with consistent and regular content being shared. It is noted that the team received anecdotes on the effectiveness of our engagements, but we thought of doing better in tracking these as valuable case studies by providing better prompts in the future. Some bits of the platform such as the EA PH opportunities board could have been more updated.
- Despite not being included as an official key result, the EA PH team thought of tracking the organization's inclusivity as a community and received a below average score. To improve on EA PH's inclusivity, the following are actions we can do better moving forward:
 - Remind community members to use more inclusive language: To remind people not to use jargon or if used to explain them. Additional reminders to the community that people do come from different backgrounds and have different baselines in understanding cause area topics so communicating in an inclusive manner is key. The team also had volunteers translate some EA materials into Filipino, but traction or interest was limited.
 - Recognising community members' inherent capacities: We will also take time to assure our community that each member brings in their own unique strengths and capacities and the EA community can support them on how to harness these to achieve shared goals with EA.
 - Mount hybrid events: The team also aims to explore avenues where we can involve more people outside of Manila and conduct occasional hybrid events (both online and face-to-face) so those in regional areas can still join.

D. Operations/Structure

1. Instituting clearer roles and organisational structure (i.e. defining roles and relationship of board/advisors and executive team)
2. Setting up accountability measures through performance review process of both board and executive team
3. Consider more efforts on conducting research or direct work on cause-specific projects if there were more certainty in funding and resources (including volunteers)
4. Have more volunteer activities available, but also consider the capacity to core team to manage them.

Additional Remarks

Considering that EAIF did not further evaluate and renew granting to EA Philippines, the group plans on sourcing new funding and rethinking EA Philippines' organisational structure and strategy moving forward for a positive long-term trajectory. As a result, there were two main decision points made:

First, we have instituted a board that will be responsible for shaping the new strategic direction of EA Philippines. This is currently made up of Tanya Quijano, Brian Tan and Red Bermejo. This will be more clearly defined in the months ahead and we plan to update the community on that more later.

Second, we have decided that recruiting a new set of leaders who will take on this new direction and help look for new sources of funding will be better for EA Philippines' sustainability as a community. All of these are progressing at the moment and we will ensure to update the community on the hiring process and efforts to improve EA Philippines' organisational structure by the end of the year.