# Using high resolution data to explain inequities in vaccination coverage among children: An example from The Philippines

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#### **About EPCON**

EPCON is an impact company, using AI to help NGOs and governments in LMIC to strengthen public health.

Our partners use our Epi-control platform for more efficient case-finding interventions, diagnostic network optimization, predict treatment outcome, improved vaccination planning or service delivery.

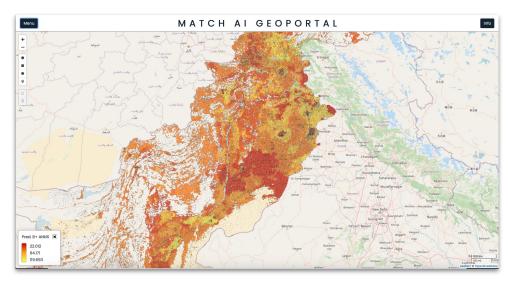
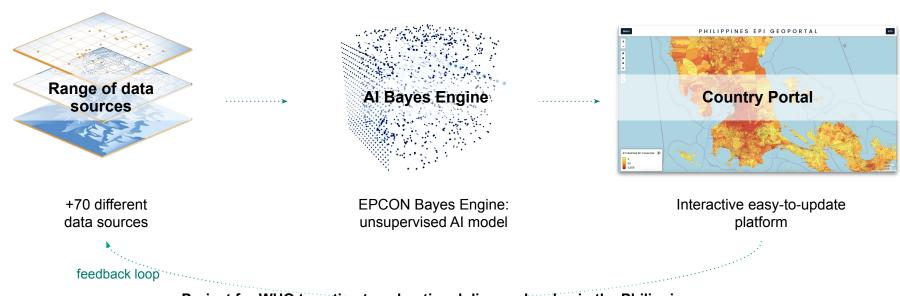


Image showing distribution of Tuberculosis Risk in Pakistan as modelled by EPCON



## The solution gives a live view on subnational disease estimates



Project for WHO to estimate subnational disease burden in the Philippines.



# **Background**

There were around 637,000 zero dose children in the Philippines in 2022 (UNICEF, 2023).

Analysis of sub-national data at high spatial resolution can help to unmask gaps in immunization coverage

Inequity: Vaccination coverage percentage in Davao region, eastern Visayas, Zamboanga peninsula and Cagayan valley was 87.0 [77.5-92.9], 84.2 [74.0-90.9], 61.1 [48.7-72.3] and 64.2 [46.3-78.9] percent respectively (WHO-SEARO,2022)

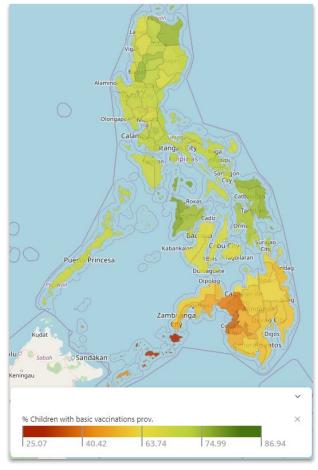


Image from EPCON geoportal



## **Background**

The Positive Deviance (PD) approach is a problem-solving approach stemming from the observation that in all communities there are some people (Positive Deviants, PDs) who manage to find better solutions and better results to their problems as compared to their peers faced with the same set of challenges and with a similar access to resources

**Objective**: To identify geographical distribution of 'positive deviants' in immunization coverage using sub-national data such socioeconomic status and other proxies of access to health care across the Philippines.



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- Secondary Analysis of open-source subnational high-resolution data
- Outcome of Interest: Full basic vaccination coverage (8 doses):

Proportion of children aged 12-23 months who have received the complete schedule of recommended doses, including one dose each of Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) and measles vaccines, as well as three doses of both DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) and polio vaccines, amounting to a total of 8 doses (DHS 2017)

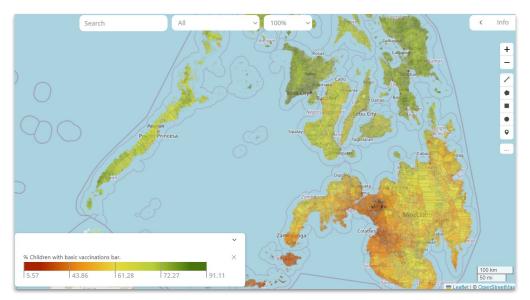


Image from EPCON geoportal



Independent variables/Proxy Indicators available form open-source platforms:

- 1. Relative Wealth Index (Vulnerability Index)
- 2. Total population density
- 3. Night-time lights
- 4. Access to improved water source
- 5. Access to improved sanitation facilities
- 6. Motorised travel time to a healthcare facility
- 7. Distance to major roads in kilometres
- 8. Elevation above sea level
- 9. Distance to artificial surfaces in kilometres



Image from EPCON geoportal



#### Categorization of Variables:

Variable	Low	Medium	High
Access to improved water source	< 80% (1.49%)	-	> 80% (98.51%)
Distance to major roads	< 5 km	5-10 km	> 10 km
	(95.92%)	(3.00)	(1.08%)
Motorised travel time to healthcare facility	< 30 mins	30-60 mins	> 60 mins
	(86.44%)	(7.74%)	(5.82%)
Vaccination coverage	< 60% (36.51%)	-	> 60% (63.49%)
Vulnerability index	< 0.7	0.7-0.9	> 0.9
	(37.94%)	(52.87%)	(9.19%)



#### **Residual Outlier Analysis**

Potentially positive outliers: standardised residuals >= 2 or <3

Achieved high vaccination coverage despite high vulnerability

Positive outliers: standardised residuals >3

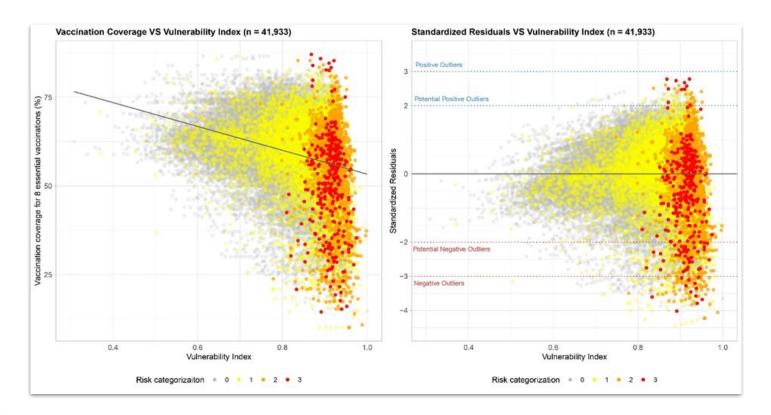
Negative outliers: standardised residuals <=-2 or > -3

Negative outliers: standardised residuals <-3

low vaccination coverage despite low vulnerability



## **Results**





### **Results**

#### **Positive Outliers:**

There could have been more targeted vaccination campaigns, incentivisation of vaccination completion, innovative models for vaccine delivery or other differences in local policies.

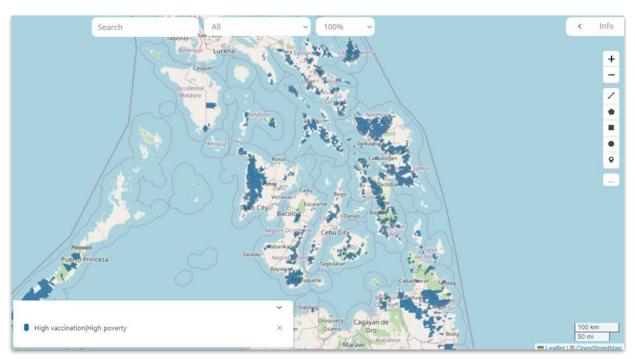


Image from EPCON geoportal



## **Results**

**Negative Outliers:** 

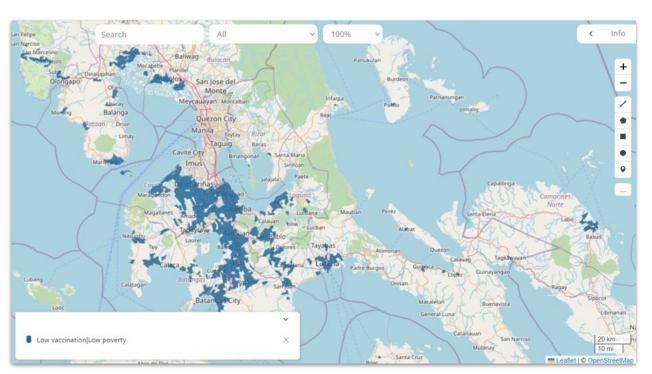


Image from EPCON geoportal



## **Conclusion & Implications**

- Analysis of subnational high-resolution data can unmask gaps in access to health care which would have gone undetected.
- Specific geographical regions need very specific and tailored interventions designed to suit the local context.
- High resolution mapping of data can help to identify and locate communities or villages that are underserved or vulnerable
- Open opportunities for further research and modelling



## Acknowledgement

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Thank you

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