

7th

PHE Ethiopia Consortium General Assembly Meeting Proceedings



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Executive Summary

The seventh PHE EC General Assembly (GA) meeting was conducted from March 12-15, 2013 in Addis Ababa with 66 participants from Africa and the United States of America. Each day of the GA featured different meetings including the PHE EC Business Meeting, a Donors' Forum and a field visit. The first day of the General Assembly opened with a welcome speech, introductions and keynote address. These were followed by a presentation by CCRDA on integrated PHE approach they are implementing with partners in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and presentations on recent research conducted on the effectiveness of the PHE approach for achieving family planning and fertility outcomes in Ethiopia and a process evaluation of integrated PHE sites in Mettu woreda (EWNRA) and Raya Azebo Woreda (REST). PHE EC also presented on the contribution of its members to achieve the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) targets and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This presentation was concluded with reflections from government and CSOs representatives on the PHE approach. The afternoon of day one featured experience sharing and discussion with PHE implementers working in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Madagascar.

Day two of the General Assembly included the Business Meeting and a capacity building session. The General Assembly Business Meeting was held in the morning and included discussions on the 2012 physical, financial, external audit and 2013 plan reports. Consortium members discussed and accepted the reports. The meeting was concluded with the signing of the General Assembly minutes. The afternoon session involved a capacity building session on the newly developed monitoring and evaluation toolkit. Participants were able to apply the resources provided in the tools using a case study. In addition to this, PHE EC revealed the type of in kind supports gained from different originations and the number of proposals that were submitted to international and local donor originations for funding.

On day three, as part of the 7th GA meeting, a Donors Forum was conducted on 14 March 2013 at the Radisson Blue Hotel. The objective of the forum was to sensitize and share the contribution of multi-sectoral approaches to meet the Ethiopian development goals with donors, embassies and invited guests from local and international audiences. A total of 25 people were gathered from organizations including the US State Department Regional Environmental Office, USAID Ethiopia and Washington, Packard Foundation, DSW and Johns Hopkins University as well as PHE implementing from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Finally, on March 15, participants traveled to the Guraghe People's Self-help Development Organization's (GPSDO) PHE Mhur Akilil Woreda project site in the Guraghe Zone, SNNPR. Guests from USAID/Ethiopia, East African PHE partners and the US were able to discuss the GSPDO program with beneficiaries and see the conservation efforts put in place by the community through the project.

1. Day One, 12 March 2013

1.1. Welcome and Introduction

Ato Negash Teklu, Executive Director of PHE Ethiopia Consortium opened the seventh General Assembly meeting by listing seven key milestones PHE EC has reached since its establishment. First, multi-sectoral PHE projects have now been implemented in Ethiopia for five years. Second, the recent impact evaluation of the GPSDO project and process evaluations of REST and EWNRA now allow us to demonstrate the results of PHE and describe how it works better than was previously possible. These evaluations were conducted in partnership with Jimma and John Hopkins Universities. Third, CCRDA has entered into its second phase of its PHE project and is actively promoting the PHE approach with its implementing partners. Fourth, PHE is being scaled up to two Protected Areas, Awash and Siemen Mountains National Parks, which are home to pastoral and/or farming communities. This work is funded through the DFID/SCIP program. Fifth, additional manuals, guidelines and tools that support the implementation of the approach on the ground are now available on topics including youth peer education and monitoring and evaluation. Sixth, PHE EC has established strong partnership with our development actors from civil society organization, government and international partners. Lastly, PHE EC is hosting an international conference on PHE in conjunction with East Africa Working Groups and the Population Reference Bureau, two days before the International Conference on Family Planning in Addis Ababa. In totality, the consortium, its members and partners are at a stage where they need to strengthen evidence generation and documentation that can inform the design of programs that can contribute to the sustainable development of Ethiopia and further the implementation of the national policies and strategies.



Ato Negash Teklu

1.2. Key Note Address

W/ro Yemeserach Belayneh, Country Director of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation provided the key note address for the General Assembly meeting. She said that the efforts by the PHE Ethiopia Consortium and its members have made progress in raising awareness of the value of PHE in a short period with limited resources.

Established in 1964, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation focuses its grant making in three program areas: conservation and science, population and children, families and communities. In Ethiopia, the foundation is well known for its population program, which started in 1999. In addition to its core programs, the Packard



W/ro Yemeserach Belayneh

Foundation tries to promote innovative approaches that improve the health and wealth of society whenever possible. Some of these interventions include microfinance and integrated population, health and environment (PHE) programs.

W/ro Yemeserach mentioned five reasons why PHE integration is highly relevant to Ethiopia's sustainable development efforts. First, an integrated approach for population health and environment takes gender into consideration, which will contribute to Ethiopia in implementing effective programs to realize national policies and programs for transformation. This is because women are affected disproportionately from the impacts of poor reproductive health which are made worse by environmental degradation. Second, the government's policy documents recognize the linkages between, health and environment and calls up on development partners to support these linkages. Third, there are thousands of extension workers that are deployed throughout the country and which are trained in integrated community development. The national health extension program has all the same components as PHE programs. Fourth, the donor community is interested in exploring integrated approaches. For example, USAID has a major initiative in sustainable development that incorporates environment and health issues. The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) has an office in Ethiopia and has undertaken some interesting initiatives to support government's programs. Fifth, in the last several years, the Packard Foundation has invested and conducted extensive dialogue with development partners to gage their attitudes towards supporting PHE initiatives. The factors demonstrate that the PHE integration approach is becoming recognized for its contributions to the sustainable development of the country.

1.3. Key Note Address

Dr Yetnayet Asfaw began her comments with a story of two horses. A group had gathered to see how much weight a horse could pull. In the first round, one horse pulled 1,700 kilograms and the second horse pulled 2,000. Then, they wanted to see what would happen if the horses pulled the weight together. The group was asked to guess how much they could pull if they worked together. Many people thought they would pull less, because they would go in opposite directions. However, when put to the test, the horses were able to pull 4,700 kilograms together, which was much more than any person had guessed. They would have never been able to pull that much weight on their own. This shows that, both horses jointly can perform by far greater than they can do independently. In other words, collaboration is better than individual efforts.



Dr Yetnayet Asfaw

Based on the story, Dr. Yetnayet emphasized that PHE integration is all about creating synergies both at implementation and policy levels. PHE integration as a development approach is new in Ethiopia and a lot needs to be done. The approach needs more resources to implement interventions, generate evidence that demonstrates PHE generates better results than sectoral interventions. Therefore, implementing PHE integration throughout the country, establishing and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, conducting scientific research on the approach and mobilizing resources should not only be the work of PHE Ethiopia Consortium but also the work of donors, members, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders so that we can

have synergy between all of our efforts. The fate of PHE integration as a development approach is in the hand of all of us. Together, we can achieve more, just as the horses did in the story.

1.4. CCRDA's Integrated PHE Program

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, the Executive Director of the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA) started his presentation by introducing the consortium. It was established in 1973 to address the humanitarian disaster that was happening in the northern part of the country. There were 13 founding members. There are now 360 member organizations (97 INGOs and 263 local member organizations). CCRDA member organizations work in various development sectors including rural development and food security, health, RH/FP, urban development, HIV/AIDS prevention and control, environmental protection, gender mainstreaming, water etc. Dr. Meshesha explained to the participants why integrated population, health and environment (IPHE) is top priority area of intervention for CCRDA at this moment. The reasons he mentioned were: PHE integration recognizes the interconnectedness between people, health and their environment; supports multi-sectoral/cross-sectoral collaboration, coordination and partnership; creates synergy between interventions in population, health and environment; can be applied in wide range of development interventions like poverty reduction, food security, gender equity, migration, climate change and disaster mitigation. Currently, PHE implementation sites of CCRDA are in four zones of the Sothern Nations Nationalities and People Region (SNNPR). The reasons for selecting SNNPR were: it is the third most populous and densely settled regional state in the country; about 91 % of the people in SNNPR depend on substance agricultural production for their livelihood; the region has a high total fertility rate and unmet need for family planning services among newly married women and deforestation to create farm land and fuel and degradation of natural flora and fauna of the environment are severe. Finally, Dr. Meshesha did not hide that CCRDA's role model for the implementation of PHE integration in the region is the PHE Ethiopia Consortium.



Dr. Meshesha Shewarega

1.5. The power of the multi-sectoral PHE integration approach to accelerate progress towards the MDGs, GTP & CRGE

Ato Negash presented the importance of the multi-sectoral PHE integration approach in accelerating the achievement of Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) and MDG targets. PHE integration has been adopted by members of the consortium like Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Guraghe People's Self-help Development Organization (GPSDO), MELCA Ethiopia, Lem Ethiopia and Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA). Their work and the work of other members and partners is contributing a lot to achieving the national targets set out in the MDGs, CRGE and GTP. Meeting these targets by addressing the social economic and environmental concerns of communities in a sustainable way requires the use of multi-sectoral, integrated approaches. It is

with this understanding that the consortium and its members are endeavoring to meet these targets. The contributions of the members of the consortium to the achievement of these national targets have been confirmed by evaluations conducted at REST, EWNRA and GPSDO PHE sites.

1.6. Recent Research on Multi-sectoral PHE Interventions

1.6.1 GPSDO Impact Evaluation

Ato Ahmed Mohammed, PHE EC Program Officer shared the results of the research conducted by Jimma University Department of Public Health on the effectiveness of the PHE approach for achieving family planning and fertility outcomes in Ethiopia. The study was conducted in two woredas of the Guraghe zone namely: Mihur Aklil (PHE site) and Gumer (non-PHE site). The result shows that family planning and fertility outcomes are better in the PHE site than in non PHE site, where only reproductive health interventions had been implemented. This implies that family planning interventions can be more effective using PHE integration than through sectoral approaches. In addition, using the PHE approach has added value to the community by increasing male support for family planning, improving women's livelihoods and environmental rehabilitation. For further information see at PHE EC web site: http://phe-ethiopia.org/pdf/GPSDO_policy_brief.pdf



Ato Ahmed Mohammed

1.6.2 Process Evaluation Research

Mr. Samuel Donovan and Ms. Lianne Gonsalves, master's degree candidates from John Hopkins University School of Public Health, conducted a process evaluation of integrated population, health and environment programs in rural Ethiopia at PHE sites in Mettu woreda (EWNRA) and Raya Azebo Wored (REST). The research employed qualitative methods to respond to process research questions namely: what strategies do organizations use to implement population, health, and environment interventions? And to what extent do the PHE programs integrated across sectors? Based on these and other questions, the research analysis found that both REST and EWNRA use multi-sectoral partnerships with local governments at kebele and woreda levels and use peer education as a strategy of promoting PHE integration. Both organizations actively engage social institutions (e.g. iddir), health extension workers, agricultural development agents, schools and other government organizations. Integration occurs vertically and horizontally from the woreda to



Mr. Samuel Donovan and Ms. Lianne Gonsalves

household level and community education for creating awareness is dominant in both organizations. These organizations are contributing much to government set national targets. However, the researchers recommended that to fine-tune and scale up their contributions, the consortium should support them to improve their service delivery by sharing good practices, promoting integration strategies, providing technical support, using shared M&E databases, developing PHE implementation manual and raising government and donor awareness on the PHE integration approach.

1.7 East African Experiences with PHE Integration

1.7.1 Blue Ventures (Madagascar)

Mr Matthew Erdman (USAID/Washington's PHE Technical Advisor, formerly of Blue Ventures) presented the Blue Ventures' (British NGO) PHE work to protect the coral reefs and mangroves while also improving the quality of life of the local community in southwestern Madagascar. Southwestern Madagascar is home to the fourth largest reef system in the world, and local communities are heavily dependent upon it for food, trade, and income. However, it is not being used sustainably. With poor health infrastructure, an average birth rate of 6.7 children per woman, and more than half of the target population under the age of 15, the coral reef is at risk of destruction from increased human pressures. Due to all these reasons, an integrated PHE approach was found to be a remedial development intervention for the target population. In this integrated approach, ecological resilience is built through a number of initiatives overseen by the local marine management association, including restricting the use of various destructive fishing methods, regulating key export fisheries, and preserving coral and mangrove habitats through the establishment of protected areas. To reduce anthropogenic pressures, alternative livelihoods such as raising sea cucumbers and farming seaweed have also been introduced, and both formal and informal education programs serve to teach local students about the benefits of conservation and improved health. Health interventions include family planning, maternal and child health, and water, sanitation and hygiene programs. Research has shown increased fish size and diversity in and around the protected areas, and since the family planning program began in 2007, tangible changes have been observed in both contraceptive prevalence and birth rates.



Mr Matthew Erdman



Mr Anthony Omimo

1.7.2 HOPE LVB (Kenya and Uganda)

Mr Anthony Omimo (PHE Project Coordinator for Kenya) presented on the HOPE LVB (Health of People and the Environment in the Lake Victoria Basin) experience in PHE integration. Lake

Victoria is Africa's most important inland fishery and is recognized for its biodiversity. 80% of the people in the basin area depend on the lake. The basin covers five countries: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The HOPE LVB project works in Kenya (Gwasssi Division, Rakwaro and Karachuonyo of the Homa Bay County) and Uganda (Busi Island and Jagusi sub county in the Mayuge District). Problems are threatening the health of the basin including over-fishing, poor sanitation infrastructure, deforestation and siltation, poor agricultural land use practices and lack of access to basic health services. HOPE LVB interventions recognize the complex connections between humans, their health, and the environment. The main goal of the HOPE LVB project is to improve access to health services, especially family planning (FP) and sexual and reproductive health while helping communities manage natural resources and conserve the critical ecosystems within Lake Victoria. The project is funded by USAID/ Washington, the Packard Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.

1.7.3 Tanzania

Dr Ernest Athumani presented the experience of the joint PHE integration project implemented by Frankfurt Zoological Society, Pathfinder International and the Nature Conservancy in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem in Western Tanzania. Basic problems the target population faces are: poor governance, inadequate access to primary and reproductive health services and commodities, unsustainable fishing practices, lack of land use planning and enforcement which is leading to habitat degradation and unplanned agricultural and settlement expansion, lack of alternative livelihoods, global climate change impacts and low literacy. To address all the problems, these organizations are implementing the PHE integration approach in the target community. The implementation process started in 2012 and will have three implementation phases up to 2020. Some preliminary activities like signing MOU, baseline survey, election of leaders for beach management, trainings, awareness creation, etc. were carried out. Finally, Dr Ernest said that he was very grateful for exchanging good experiences from PHE implementation in Ethiopia with the consortium and its member organization and other East African countries.



Dr Ernest Athumani

2. Day Two, 13 March 2013

Ato Afework Hailu the chairman of the General Assembly leaders declared the official opening of the legal General Assembly meeting after confirming the fulfillment of the quorum. He then invited the board chairwoman, Dr Yetnayet Asfaw, to present the 2012 board activity report.

2.1. Board Report

Dr. Yetnayet started her report by mentioning the major activities performed by the board. The board had four meetings in the fiscal year of 2012 to discuss the progress of the Consortium and set the policy direction.

The board discussed the quarterly reports that detail the activities of the consortium.

This includes, on the consortium's engagement in evaluative research in partnership with local and international universities and the development of a web based M&E system, web library, shared M&E toolkit, PHE implementation manual, good practice and champion story guidelines, organizational delegation structure and a staff performance evaluation checklist. The consortium also conducted activities to build the capacity of PHE implementers through experience sharing workshop and visits and field visits for policy makers and others international partners.



Board report presented by Dr. Yetnayet

Finally, Dr. Yetnayet concluded her speech, by praising the consortium's secretariat for its 2012 achievements, which are very encouraging and motivating. The consortium has entered into a new development phase where the partners are increasing in number, the budget is doubling and performance trends are improving and as a result, the impact of the consortium is well recognized at regional, national and global levels, even with the limited staff they have. The products of those encouraging engagements have brought interest to PHE. PHE Ethiopia Consortium will be co-hosting an international conference on PHE in November 2013 in partnership with our African and global partners. The biggest concern and call is that members need to strengthen their commitment and participation to benefit from the approach and the consortiums values.

After Dr. Yetnayet's speech, Ato Afework invited Ato Negash Teklu, the Executive Director of PHE Ethiopia Consortium to present the annual physical and financial performance reports of 2012.

2.2. 2012 Report and 2013 Plan

Accordingly, Ato Negash started his presentation by explaining the performance of the consortium in terms of resource mobilization. In 2012, PHE EC submitted 15 proposals, of which 10 to international and 1 to a local donor were accepted. Four of them were not accepted for funding. PHE EC has also received in kind support from EngenderHealth. In system building and manual development, the consortium has developed an M&E toolkit, good practice and champion guidelines, an online

M&E system, translated a youth peer education manual into Amharic and developed manuals in implementation Mainstreaming Environment, Children, Gender and Disability and Grant Management manuals. In addition, the Human Resource & Procurement Management manuals were revisited and improved.

In 2012, the consortium has conducted three researches on: the Effectiveness of PHE approach for achieving FP & fertility outcome in Ethiopia: a comparative study in the Guraghe Zone, PHE implementation process evaluations at Ethio Wetland and Natural Resources Association and Relief Society of Tigray PHE sites and a study on the role of floriculture sector in empowering women in Ethiopia. The impact evaluation is the most robust evaluation conducted on a PHE project in Ethiopia and demonstrates the approach's impact and how it contributes to the achievement of national targets relative to the sectoral ones. All of the PHE evaluations show how integration is happening successfully in the field through the involvement of stakeholders and their ownership over the program.

In terms of training and awareness creation, the consortium has conducted policy communication workshops for government higher and senior officials, a PHE implementers workshop on the three new documentation tools (M&E toolkit, good practices and champion stories) and a workshop on demand driven research for higher institutions and universities. The consortium is also producing documentary films on basin status, rehabilitation, challenges taking place in the Rift Valley and Omo-Gibe, PHE success stories from PHE sites in Mettu woreda and the Guraghe and Gedeo zones. The consortium facilitated several PHE field site visits for different stakeholders including government higher officials, parliamentarians, directors of NGO's, journalists and international partners. Three online forums were conducted on women and climate change, demand driven research and monitoring and evaluation for enhancing knowledge sharing and evidence based decision making. In all online forums, different ideas were entertained and participants were able to share experiences. The consortium channeled funds to Lem Ethiopia, Melca Ethiopia and EWNRA to support PHE implementation projects. In addition, it financially supported events for the celebration of international Earth, Environment and Population days as well as national conferences organized by Gonder and Arbaminch Universities.

Ato Negash identified the major challenges facing the consortium and its members for the last one year. These were: limitation of evidence for donors and governments to support and own the PHE integration as a development approach, limitation of donors fund because of the seventy-thirty directives, dependency on small grants and low willingness and commitment of members to pay membership fee on time. Regarding financial resource mobilization and utilization, the consortium has generated funds that can support the planned activities and its expenditure was fair despite the aforementioned challenges.

2.3. 2012 Audit Report

The third presentation was the 2012 FY audit report by **Ato Getachew Wakjira, from Getachew Wakjira & Co. chartered Certified Accountants (London) Authorized Auditor (Ethiopia)**. Ato Getachew started his presentation by explaining that his opinions as an auditor are based on generally accepted auditing standards, proclamation no. 621/2009 and other directives issued by the Charities and Societies Agency. Accordingly, the accompanying of financial statement together with the note presented the state of affairs of PHE Ethiopia Consortium as of December 31, 2012. In 2012, the organization received 5.3 million birr and the total program expenditure was 3.4 million which 67.3% of the total expenditure is. The administration expenditure was 1.6 million birr. Combined the annual expenditures totaled 5.1 million birr. The fund balance forwarded from the previous year was 2.3 million for 2013.

Ato Getachew finally presented the finding of the audit on membership contributions. It was recommended that members of the consortium should settle on time. However, most of the members did not comply with the requirement of the Article 8(3) of the association's constitution. The consortium has find strategies to overcome this challenge. Secondly, the organization didn't comply with 70/30 cost sharing between the program and administration expenditures respectively and the payment vouchers (both cheque and petty cash) and their supporting documents were not stamped "PAID" or "REPLENISHED" after the transaction were completed. For the audit findings PHE EC management response were also presented by Ato Getachew. In regards to 70/30%, PHE EC is making improvement in complying with the directives of the law. That means there is a progress towards fulfilling the 70/30 as compared to previous years. Regarding to use PAID and REPLENISHED stamps, the management of the secretariat has accepted this recommendation and decided to use the stamps on check and petty cash payments and supporting documents starting in the 2013 budget year.



Audit Report presented by Ato Getachew

After the presentation, Ato Afework invited the participants to ask questions and make comments on the 2012 board and secretariat reports as wells as the audit report. Some of the questions included: What is the role of the board in relation to the achievements of the consortium? How is the consortium planning to handle its issues with 70/30 compliance? What are the impacts of journalist trainings in relation to media coverage? And what efforts were made to make members pay their membership fee?

The consortium staff responded that the consortium has shown remarkable improvements in its performance, which is encouraging despite the 70/30 directives and limited staff. Its publications, website and online forums witness that the consortium is active and has engaged members and partners in its efforts to popularize the approach both at national and international levels, etc.

All questions were responded by the presenters. Among the responses for the questions were that the board is proactive in providing technical support to the consortium. In relation to the 70/30 issue, the consortium is working to improving the ratio of program and administration costs. In addition, in partnership with members and partners, it is under discussion to amend the directive for organization implementing environment, agriculture, water and livelihood related program and projects. The issue of media utilization is encouraging as the approach is getting coverage in print, audio and TV as a result of capacity building trainings delivered to journalists at federal and regional levels. To make members pay their fee, the consortium communicated with members through different channels, but was not as effective as expected. Therefore, the General Assembly recommended to fully apply all rights and obligations as indicated on the consortium's membership bylaw.

Finally, the assembly accepted and endorsed the board, the secretariat, physical, financial and the external audit reports of 2012 unanimously.

2.4. 2013 Physical and Financial Plan

Accordingly, the consortium has planned to mobilize 16.4 million birr for 2013 FY, of which 27.3% (4.5 million birr) will be spent in administration and 76.7% (11.9 million birr) will be spent on program cost. Major intervention area the plan for the year 2013 are: ensuring the continuity of the implementation of already started project, developing partnership, resource mobilization, promoting and conducting research results, organizing national and international conferences, producing publications and documentary films, finalizing manuals and guidelines and, conducting monitoring and evaluations projects.

Some of the concerns, comments and questions raised were: the plan looks ambitious and how the consortium can realize it? How the plan can be implemented by the limited staff? How can you manage office space constraints? Ato Negash said that even though the plan looks ambitious the consortium can achieve it based on the positive engagement being created with different partners through developing joint proposals. In relation to staff limitations, all new projects will recruit staff to coordinate them. The office space constraint is being addressed with EngenderHealth, which has agreed to provide additional space for the consortium. In addition, the membership issue of new applicants was delegated to the board.

Finally, the General Assembly participants congratulated the consortium and appreciated its efforts, commitment and its promising developments. The meeting closed with the unanimous endorsement of the 2013 physical and financial plan.

2.5. Capacity Building on the PHE Shared M&E Toolkit

In the afternoon, after the legal assembly meeting, a capacity building session was held on the PHE monitoring and evaluation toolkit was presented. The capacity building session was facilitated by **Kristen Stelljes, PHE Advisor, and Wondimu Chifra, PHE M&E Officer**. Wondimu's presentation discussed the reason why the shared M&E toolkit is essential. The purpose of the toolkit is: to have clearly defined shared indicators, make data aggregation simpler at any level, improve data management at the national level and easily show the contribution of PHE implementers to Ethiopia's development efforts in general. The presentation was followed with the explanation of the major outcome areas of the shared M&E framework: family planning, maternal mortality, safe water, livelihoods, energy saving stoves, food security, natural resource management and integration. He has also described the column and rows of the data collection tool and showed the various variables on the columns like: numerators, denominators, data source, comments, etc.

It is expected that, the leaders of the implementing organizations play an important role in encouraging adoption of shared indicators, use of the toolkit, providing relevant support to staff to implement the toolkit, ensure staff are collecting and submitting data according to the toolkit and ensure that staff reflect on what they are learning from shared indicators. He explained the PHE community can learn the most from these indicators by planning M&E strategies and indicators from the beginning that are consistent within and across projects, collecting baselines for projects, establishing an internal process to look at changes in indicators over time, discussing what questions to answer about PHE projects and seeing how the data from the indicators can help to answer them, then adjust projects based on lesson learned and linking monitoring and evaluation activities.

PHE EC will help partners learn from these indicators by sharing the results with them and developing reports and communication pieces using the data. PHE EC members were involved in picking the indicators in the framework and will be involved in periodic reviews of the indicator reference sheets for shared understanding of indicators. PHE EC will store the data collected in a well secured storage place where manipulation cannot occur, compile data and share it back to implementers. It will also be used for conducting research, publication of fact sheets and policy briefs and design projects/ programs.



Kristen Stelljes and Wondiumu Chifra

After the presentation, several questions and comments were raised, including: What are the challenges in gathering data? What methods did they pursue?

What orientation was given by PHE on the M&E framework? Some indicators (e.g. CPR), there are problems in the definition of the word (e.g. what are “new family planning acceptors?” is someone who discontinues use, and then starts again, a defaulter or a new acceptor?). Also, in implementing environmentally-friendly IGAs, how do you see the impact/outcomes of these activities?

Both Kristen and Wondimu responded to the questions along with contributions from other participants. After the discussion, the participants divided into groups and discussed a case study which involved applying the toolkit. Groups then presented their responses. In conclusion, participants said that the M&E toolkit is critical. Not only for PHE as a whole, but even for individual projects. Reporting has tended to be based more on opinion than fact. Furthermore, to demonstrate the effectiveness of the PHE approach (which is currently being implemented in 35+ woredas around the country), evidence is needed to convince policy makers and donors that investing in this approach is useful. Value added needs to be demonstrated, as well as concrete evidence that PHE is contributing towards MDGs and GTP targets. This is a critical engagement even for international partners, as they consider how to scale up pilot projects. Further discussion at individual or regional level will be important. The discussion should include regional government officials and should strengthen engagement with members and partners.

3. Day Three, 14 March 2013

3.1. Donors Forum

As part of the 7th GA meeting, a Donors Forum was conducted on 14 March 2013 at the Radisson Blue Hotel. The objective of the forum was to sensitize and share the contribution of multi-sectoral approaches to meet the Ethiopian development goals with donors, embassies and invited guests from local and international audiences. A total of 25 people were gathered from organizations including the US State Department Regional Environmental Office, USAID Ethiopia and Washington, Packard Foundation, DSW and Johns Hopkins University as well as PHE implementers from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The forum was opened by Dr. Yetnayet Asfaw, PHE EC board chairperson with a thrilling analogy to the audience about a boy who wanted to challenge the wisdom of a wise man. He caught a bird in his hand and came to the man to ask him the bird was alive or not. The boy planned to squeeze the bird and kill it without the knowledge of the old man if he answered that it was alive and to let it go if the man said it was dead. The response of the man was to say, "Son, the life of the bird is in your hand." She then connected the story of the participants and reminded them that the achievement of Ethiopia's development goals is in their hands. She highlighted how PHE integration is working in 35 woredas (districts) through members of PHE EC to make positive impacts in the communities where they work and to contribute to the national development targets.

3.2. USAID's Global Support for Multi-sectoral Approaches

Mr. Matthew Erdman, PHE Technical Advisor, USAID/Washington DC, presented on the multi-sectoral work that USAID is currently funding and why they see it as an important investment. He also shared the experience of the Blue Ventures PHE project in Madagascar, where he previously worked. He explained that integrated approaches to conservation and development address the interconnectedness of humans, their health and the environment in which they live. He presented that the approach is very effective in rural areas that are biodiversity hotspots and are facing rapid population growth and pressure on the natural resources. Over 1 billion people are living in the 25 areas that have been designated as hotspot areas. These hotspots have 40% faster population growth than the world average. USAID is focusing on replicating the PHE approach in these areas.

In these rural communities, people depend almost entirely on local natural resources for food, water, building materials, fuel woods, etc. These resources become depleted and scarcer as the population grows rapidly. In order to reach a more sustainable population growth rate that is in balance with available resources, providing family planning services is essential. Increasing access to contraceptives can help to address high child mortality rates and give families the options to balance the number of children they have with their available financial and natural resources.

Matthew also discussed the importance of creating synergies among sectors and practitioners, as it results in greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The PHE integration approach can also lead to increased community buy-in as the approach often addresses the community's immediate health needs.

USAID's support of the Building Actors and Leaders for Advancing Community Excellence in Development (BALANCED) project focuses on three components: capacity building for PHE practitioners; knowledge management, including the PHE toolkit hosted by K4Health; and field implementation, including two main projects in the Philippines (bringing family planning into fishing communities) and Tanzania (a coastal management partnership focusing health measures and conservation activities).

He also discussed the other five seed projects supported by USAID through the BALANCED project: two of them are in Uganda, one in Zambia, one in Papua New Guinea and one in Ethiopia (through the Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association). All five of these projects are providing family planning to communities through family planning distributors and peer educators along with natural resource conservation activities.

The Health, Environment, Livelihood, Population and Security (HELPS) project is being implemented by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars based in Washington DC. The objective of this project is to expand dialogue and advance knowledge on the links between population, health, environment, development, and security. The Wilson Center does this through hosting a variety of events, synthesizing and disseminating information on PHE linkages, and increasing media coverage of PHE through articles, blogs, podcasts, and videos.

USAID also supports several PHE activities through other projects, including IDEA/Population Reference Bureau (PRB). Through this mechanism, PRB supports policy communication in Ethiopia through PHE EC. In addition to this, USAID/Washington also provides technical assistance to the HOPE LVB project in the Lake Victoria Basin (Uganda and Kenya). The project integrates conservation and family planning and health with coastal communities on Lake Victoria.

The PHE Technical Advisor position had been vacant for the last year. However, Matthew is now fully onboard and is actively championing the PHE approach.

3.3. Global Lessons from Multi-sectoral Projects

Kristen Stelljes, PHE Advisor, shared a few examples of PHE projects around the world. She mentioned that there are many PHE projects in Africa that are making tangible differences in people's lives. She provided overviews of the following projects:

- 1.** The Terai Arc Landscape project in Nepal was a joint project implemented by WWF, Community Forest Coordination Committee, the Nepal Red Cross Society and ADRA with funding from Johnson and Johnson and USAID. The major project components included: WASH, community run health clinics, HIV/AIDS and FP awareness raising, community based FP commodity distribution, biogas and improved cook stoves, establishing stall feeding for cattle and IEC production. The project resulted in increasing CPR from 43% in 2006 to 72% in 2008. Increased use of biogas and improved stoves from 11% to 19% which saved 1,524 metric tons of firewood annually. In addition, 1,320 rural households installed solar lamps.
- 2.** The SPREAD project in Rwanda was implemented by Texas A&M University with funding from USAID. The project involved three coffee cooperatives and one private enterprise. The project reached more than 95,000 farmers through peer education, 7,544 farmers tested for HIV and 1,428 condoms were sold. Peer educators referred 1,000 for VCT, 546 for family planning and 734 for antenatal care.

3. The Blue Ventures project at Madagascar is a project has financial and technical support from PSI, MSI, the MacArthur Foundation, UNFPA, USAID, UNCIEF and DFID. It employs an integrated approach to conservation and which also includes population, health and environment issues. It resulted in increasing use of FP in main project village from 9.4% (2007) to 42% (2011). Fertility rate decreased from 250 in 2007 to 169.9 in 2011.

4. The Tuungane project was recently launched as a partnership between Pathfinder, Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Nature Conservancy. It operates in 24 villages in Tanzania. The project components include terrestrial and fisheries resource management, livelihoods, IEC and advocacy.

5. In the Philippines, the IPOPCORM was the first PHE project. It was implemented by Path Foundation Philippines with funding from the Packard Foundation. The project encompassed 33 municipalities and included community based family planning distribution, youth peer education, IEC and microcredit for non-fishing livelihoods. The project resulted in a 13 fold increase in family planning access, ten municipalities and 146 village councils included RH into their environmental plans, 97 regulatory measures were enacted over six years, 18,000 CBD clients were recruited and 1,050 community volunteer fish/forest wardens were trained.

3.4. Common Themes in PHE projects

Similarities across PHE projects include a focus at the household level with an emphasis on working with youth and women. PHE projects work in places where people are dependent on local natural resources and the impacts of population pressure are being felt by the community. In addition to including population, health and environment interventions, PHE projects commonly also have a livelihood component so that participants can access sustainable income generating activities. Many of the projects have peer education programs and employ IEC methods. PHE projects are also often implemented in partnership to draw on a diversity of expertise and involve strong local partners.

3.5. Major Challenges for PHE projects

There have been common bottlenecks in all projects of PHE such as lack of published evidence on benefits of PHE approach, the difficulty of managing complex projects with multiple partners and finding room for integration within the sectoral focus of most governments and donors.

3.6. Lessons Learned from PHE projects

Integrated programs address the needs of communities as communities experience them. By linking family size to environmental quality, food security and livelihoods, PHE projects help people recognize the importance of smaller families, leading to FP use. PHE projects have also seen women become more involved in natural resource management/agriculture and men become more involved in FP. Despite their often small size and pilot nature, PHE projects have been able to achieve big changes with small inputs. Results from the evaluations of PHE projects show that integrated programs have greater positive impacts on human and ecosystem health than single-sector programs and at a lower total cost. Partnership with stakeholders, especially with government, and at the local level with extension workers, communities, schools and civic society organizations are key and PHE fosters multi-sectoral partnership between organizations.

3.7. Multi-sectoral PHE Integration to accelerate MDG, GTP & CRGE

The PHE multi-sectoral integration interventions in Ethiopia are part of a holistic, participatory approach whereby issues of environment, health and population are addressed in an integrated manner for improved livelihoods and sustainable well being of people and ecosystems. The result of a comparative study in Guraghe Zone on the effectiveness of PHE approach for achieving family planning and fertility outcomes was conducted by PHE EC in collaboration with Jimma University. It demonstrated that the PHE approach leads to significant positive changes related to the family planning and fertility behaviors when compared with a sectoral reproductive health only approach. Women in the PHE study woreda have better knowledge of commonly used family planning methods compared with those in the non-PHE study woreda. They also want and are having fewer children.

The process evaluation conducted in the REST and EWNRA PHE sites by John Hopkins University showed that both organizations are implementing PHE integration at household, kebele and woreda levels through multi-sectoral partnerships.

The national MDG, CRGE and GTP targets require multi-sectoral involvement to be achieved. This implies that the multi-sectoral PHE integration at these sites are contributing to the achievement of these national targets by facilitating multi-sectoral partnership and collaboration.

3.8. The way forward

The presentations were followed by lively discussion. Based on the suggestions of the participants, the following major recommendations were suggested:

1. In order to scale up the multi-sectoral PHE integration approach, the PHE community needs to generate more evidence about the effectiveness of the approach as well as leverage resources for implementation.
2. Processes for documentation and knowledge generation around the PHE approach are necessary to measure the impact of integrated approaches and align the indicators with national data management systems. This requires discussion with government on the importance of establish shared indicators across ministries and with NGOs.
3. Establishing multi-sectoral partnerships is necessary to create synergies.
4. To gain more acceptance for the PHE approach, there must be more capacity building done for the public, NGOs and donors.
5. PHE implementers should establish and strengthen their network at national, regional and global levels to share knowledge and influence policies.

3.9. Regional Meeting with the East Africa PHE Network

The afternoon of March 14, the East Africa PHE Network convened for a meeting. Participants represented Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar and Ethiopia. The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences and discuss the upcoming international conference on PHE, which will be held on November 11-12, 2013. PHE EC and PRB will lead the coordination and program organization with the

support of the East Africa PHE Network members and other stakeholders from the PHE community. It was decided that the group would further discuss details of the conference at the Lake Victoria Basin Commission meeting in Kigali at the end of March 2013.

It was also agreed that working groups in each country will take the responsibility to contribute inputs for the successful organization of the conference as well as to inform the organizers as to who should represent their country in the conference and in the steering committee.



Regional Meeting with the East Africa PHE Network

4. Day Four, 15 March 2013

4.1. Field Visit to GPSDO PHE Site

Immediately after the seventh General Assembly, PHE Ethiopia Consortium organized field visit on March 15, 2013 for the international and regional participants who attended. Participants came from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, USA and USAID/Ethiopia. The group visited the GPSDO PHE integrated site at Cheza kebele, Muhirna Aklil woreda. This was the PHE site where the impact of the evaluation of the GPSDO PHE project was conducted. During the visit, the participants discussed with project beneficiaries and learned what they saw as the impact of PHE interventions on family planning outcomes and how the community volunteer health workers coordinate with the health extension workers in the kebele. The roles of religious and cultural leaders in influencing positively the attitude of the population were also discussed. The group visited a gully treatment site.



Briefing before field visit at GPSDO office, Wolkitie

POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM
AUDITORS' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

OPINION

5. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements together with the Notes thereon present fairly the state of affairs of Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium as at December 31, 2012 and of its excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.



Getachew Wakjira
GETACHEW WAKJIRA & CO.
CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS (LONDON)

Addis Ababa
March 6, 2013

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GETACHEW WAKJIRA & CO.

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Fax 251-011-552 05 80

Ref. No. 00624/6/05

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM**

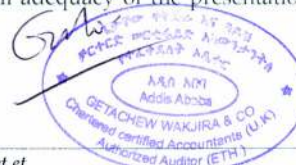
1. We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization") set out on pages 3 to 7 for the year ended December 31, 2012 which have been prepared under the historical cost conventions and the accounting policies set out on page 6.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT AND AUDITORS

2. The management of the Organization is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

BASIS OF OPINION

3. We conducted our audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Proclamation No 621/2009 and other Directives issued by the Charities and Societies Agency. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the management in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Organization's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.
4. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.



e-mail getwak@ethionet.et

POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2012

	<u>Birr</u>	<u>Birr</u>	<u>2010</u> <u>Birr</u>
<u>ASSETS EMPLOYED</u>			
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Sundry debtors	3,920		-
Project advance	5,730		3,367
Cash and bank balances (Notes 3)	<u>2,425,208</u>		<u>2,300,006</u>
		2,434,858	<u>2,303,373</u>
<u>LESS:- CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Income tax	26,735		19,004
Withholding tax	6,092		2,649
Pension payable	10,372		1,866
Sundry creditors	<u>-</u>		<u>18,498</u>
		(43,199)	<u>(42,017)</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>2,391,659</u>	<u>2,261,356</u>
<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>			
<u>FUND BALANCE</u>		<u>2,391,659</u>	<u>2,261,356</u>



POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	<u>Birr</u>	<u>Birr</u>	<u>% share from total income/ expenditure</u>	<u>2011 Birr</u>
<u>INCOME</u>				
Donation received - International (Notes 4)		4,147,600		3,587,975
- Local (Notes 4)		1,107,818		938,095
Members contribution - Local (Notes 4)		36,000		15,000
Other incomes (Notes 4)		<u>13,309</u>		-
		5,304,727	100%	<u>4,541,070</u>
<u>PROGRAM EXPENDITURES</u>				
Project staff salaries and benefits	222,715			155,675
Capacity building activities	921,840			271,144
Networking and communication	23,675			26,891
Awareness creation - Media training	44,342			232,629
Potential activities	2,720			236,249
Participant expenses	-			7,554
Training	-			50,492
Communications components	139,712			66,816
Project documentation	41,683			53,321
PHE - Brochure	36,247			45,205
Women journalist visit	51,546			54,097
Capacity building on energy and basin rehabilitation	357,411			244,792
Workshop, field visit & documentation on climate change	30,083			186,798
Channeling fund for the partners	969,500			1,178,244
Measure evaluation	117,367			-
Develop model	200,418			-
Institute capital building CCRDA	324,274			-
Balanced project	-			90,286
Sub total		<u>3,483,533</u>	67.3%	<u>2,900,192</u>



	<u>Birr</u>	<u>Birr</u>	<u>% share from total income/ expenditure</u>	<u>2011 Birr</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES</u>				
Honorarium consultancy fee	344,092			61,100
Monitoring, evaluation and workshop	43,945			4,255
Personnel	978,669			707,605
Office expenses	<u>324,185</u>			<u>911,452</u>
Sub total	<u>1,690,891</u>		<u>32.68%</u>	<u>1,684,412</u>
Grand total		<u>(5,174,424)</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>(4,584,604)</u>
<u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/ (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)</u>		130,303		(43,534)
<u>FUND BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</u>		<u>2,261,356</u>		<u>2,304,890</u>
<u>FUND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</u>		<u>2,391,659</u>		<u>2,261,356</u>



**POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012**

1. ESTABLISHMENT

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium is a Non Governmental Organization established in May 2008. It provides support to development practitioners in Ethiopia in developing integrated approaches that acknowledges the interconnectedness of people, their health and their surrounding environment. The Organization obtained Certificate No. 1496 dated February 9, 2010 from Ministry of Justice - Charities and Societies Agency.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:-

2.1 Basis of preparation

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is the historical cost convention except otherwise stated in the accounting policies below. The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared in accordance with modified cash basis of accounting.

2.2 Fixed asset/ stock items

Purchase of fixed assets and stock items are expensed in the year of purchases.

2.3 Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currency are translated to the reporting currency, Birr, at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

2.4 Accounting basis

The Organization uses the Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting except for some accounts such as receivable and taxes which are kept under the accrual basis.



3. CASH AND BANK BALANCES

	<u>Birr</u>	<u>2011 Birr</u>
Petty cash	3,500	424
Cash at bank	<u>2,421,708</u>	<u>2,299,582</u>
	<u>2,425,208</u>	<u>2,300,006</u>

4. DONATION

	<u>Birr</u>	<u>2011 Birr</u>
David Lucy Packard Foundation	2,699,549	1,025,892
Population Action International	-	244,316
Population Reference Bureau	491,388	596,714
Path Foundation Philippines	14,071	202,891
Heinrich Boll Foundation	721,604	200,000
Netherlands Embassy	504,455	-
Measure evaluation	253,492	-
CCRDA	87,802	351,208
Bar Foundation	-	1,532,075
German Foundation for world population	-	25,000
FfE/ DFID	-	202,974
Future Group Global	298,412	145,000
Membership fess	36,000	-
General fund	13,309	-
IPAS	37,500	-
Optimum Population Trust	<u>147,146</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,304,728</u>	<u>4,526,070</u>



Population Health and Environment - Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC)

Attendance Sheet

7th General Assembly Meeting

Date March 11-12, 2013

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