

2013 International Population, Health, and Environment Conference Proceedings



November 11-12, 2013 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2013 International Population, Health, and Environment Conference, organized by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and the PHE Ethiopia Consortium, convened over two days in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia around the theme “Healthy Families, Healthy Environments.”

The PHE Conference, funded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, USAID’s Office of Population and Reproductive Health, and USAID’s East Africa Regional Office, brought together over 150 PHE implementers and advocates representing 20 different countries from sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, and North America.

After receiving more than 120 abstracts, 32 were selected for presentation as part of eight moderated presentation panels including: "Dispatches From the Field," "Conservation and Health," "Innovative Partnerships," "Gender and PHE," "Advocacy and PHE Support," "Family Planning and PHE Results," and "Monitoring and Evaluation of PHE Programs."

Practitioners, donors, policymakers, journalists, and potential partners had the chance to learn about recent accomplishments and pressing issues during roundtable discussions, plenary sessions, and an evening reception. Roundtable discussions provided a space to discuss experiences and challenges and chart paths forward in areas critical to the advancement of the field. These themed discussions included: "Best Practices in Implementation," "Monitoring and Evaluation," "Expanding and Institutionalizing PHE Interventions," and "Advocacy and Communications/Networks." Among the many needs and priorities identified were improvements in monitoring and evaluation; communicating results with data to increase donor and policymaker support; coordinated and strengthened advocacy efforts, including the role of networks; identifying and institutionalizing best practices in delivering integrated components of projects and programs; and better documentation of existing scale-up efforts to target areas for future expansion of PHE approaches.

The conference aimed to inform new audiences of the PHE approach. PHE integration featured prominently in the media throughout the week, culminating at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP). The opening of the PHE conference featured for two consecutive days on the front page of *The Ethiopian Herald*, an English language newspaper, and was thus seen by many attendees at the much larger ICFP. His Excellency, BeleteTafere, Minister of Environment and Forestry of Ethiopia, delivered the opening message and discussed the expansion of integrated PHE efforts in his country. He noted that many accomplishments of PHE programs and projects, including greater empowerment for girls and women, and improved reproductive health, have contributed to progress toward Ethiopia’s Growth and Transformation Plan.

Jason Bremner (PRB), Julia Henn (USAID's East Africa Regional Office), and Lester Coutinho (David and Lucille Packard Foundation) spoke during the opening, with comments supporting the potential for PHE approaches and the importance of program planning through a gendered lens. The opening served as the launch for the PHE ENGAGE multimedia presentation, showcasing results from successful PHE projects around the world. The presentation is available from PRB and can be used by stakeholders to explain the benefits of the integrated PHE approach.

Remarks in the final plenary were delivered by Roger-Mark De Souza (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars), who reflected on progress since the last conference in 2007. Finally, Dr. Canisius Kanangire, executive secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), closed the conference and reported on the growing role that African institutions like LVBC will be taking in scaling up the PHE approach. Negash Teklu (PHE Ethiopia) thanked the participants and called for each person to build on the momentum of the conference to further their individual and coordinated efforts.

INTRODUCTION

The 2013 International Population, Health, and Environment Conference brought together organizations working on PHE across sub-Saharan Africa. This Conference built on existing momentum in the PHE community and further developed strategies for scaling up efforts to address the priorities of remote and rural communities where poor reproductive health outcomes and population growth contribute to poverty and unsustainable natural resource use.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The 2013 International Population, Health, and Environment Conference objectives were to:

1. Create a space for sharing and networking among PHE implementers.
2. Raise the profile of PHE efforts and results to increase interest among new donors and possible implementers.
3. Identify needs and priorities for PHE advocates and implementers in order to chart the coming years of technical assistance and support.

SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

Opening Plenary

The Conference opened on November 11, 2013. An opening statement was delivered by His Excellency Belete Tafere, Minister of Environment and Forestry of Ethiopia. He discussed expanding PHE efforts in Ethiopia and their many successes, including increased empowerment for girls and women, improved reproductive health indicators, and their overall contribution to Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan.

Jason Bremner (PRB), Julia Henn (USAID's East Africa Regional Office), and Lester Coutinho (David and Lucille Packard Foundation) spoke during the opening. Their comments were supportive of the potential for PHE approaches and the importance of program planning through a gendered lens.

The opening served as the launch for the PHE ENGAGE multimedia presentation, showcasing results from successful PHE projects around the world. The presentation can be used by stakeholders to explain the benefits of the integrated PHE approach.

Opening Remarks

Jason Bremner, Population Reference Bureau

Welcome Statements

Julia Henn, USAID East Africa Regional Office

Lester Coutinho, David and Lucille Packard Foundation

ENGAGE Presentation

"Population, Health, and Environment Working Together"

Messages

Hon. Ato Belete Tafere, Ethiopia Minister of Environment and Forestry

Concurrent Sessions A

A1. DISPATCHES FROM THE FIELD

Moderator: Richard Mwesigwa, *Conservation through Public Health*

Results From 6 Years of Integrating Family Planning With Marine Conservation in Southwest Madagascar

Laura Robson, Caroline Savitzky, Vik Mohan
Blue Ventures

Improving Community Health in the Buffer Zone of Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique

Corina Clemente¹, Natasha Anushri Anandaraja², Sigrid Hahn², Pinho Murive Chombe Dauce¹, Pelagia Mukumba Pita¹, Benjamin Bristow², Lucas Jackson Michael Saint-Mart¹
1 Gorongosa Restoration Project, Mozambique
2 Mt. Sinai Global Health Training Center, New York, USA

Lessons Learned and Best Practices From PHE Madagascar

N'Aina Zo Zatovonirina
Conservation International Madagascar

Population, Health, and Environment Linkages: Experience From the Design and Implementation of the Tuungane Project in Western Tanzania

Petro Masolwa¹, Ernest Athumani², Magnus Mosh³, Lucy Magembe¹, Hellen Magige², Mustafa Kudrati²:
1 The Nature Conservancy
2 Pathfinder International
3 Frankfurt Zoological Society

A2. CONSERVATION AND HEALTH

Moderator: Kristen P. Patterson, *Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health*

Saving Forests With a Stethoscope

Allison Norris
Health In Harmony

PHE Project in the Lobeke National Park: Best Successes and Lessons Learned

Louis Ngonu
World Wildlife Fund, Cameroon

Conservation Through Health: A Case of JGI-Uganda's Peer Education Program

Rachel Bitarabeho, Tumwine Umar, Alice Macharia
The Jane Goodall Institute, Uganda

Sustaining and Scaling up PHE Interventions in and Around National Parks in Uganda

Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka¹, Richard Ruhigwa Mwesigwa¹, Steven Rubanga¹, Ezra Mugote²
1 Conservation Through Public Health
2 Uganda Wildlife Authority

A3. INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Moderator: Sono Aibe, *Pathfinder International*

Scaling up Integrated Approaches to Population, Health, and Environment (PHE): Lessons From a Decade of Practice in Coastal Philippines

Leona Ann D'Agnes

PATH Foundation Philippines Inc.

Advancing Community Excellence Through Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Approaches: The BALANCED Project Experience

Enrique Dela Rosa Hernandez¹, Joan Castro¹, Linda Bruce², Lesley Squillante², Elin Torell², Janet Edmond³

¹ *PATH Foundation Philippines Inc.*

² *University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center*

³ *Conservation International*

Growing Together: How Population and Environment Groups can Advance PHE Through Capacity Building Partnerships

Tricia Petruney¹, Aurelie Brunie¹, Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka², Patricia Wamala³, Angela Akol³

¹ *FHI 360, United States of America*

² *Conservation Through Public Health*

³ *FHI 360, Uganda*

Integrating Population and Environment Into National Development Planning: The Cases of Malawi and Kenya

Clive Mutunga¹, Eliya Zulu², Ruth Muslia², James Ciera², Roger-Mark DeSouza³

¹ *Population Action International, United States of America*

² *African Institute for Development Policy*

³ *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*

A4. GENDER AND PHE

Moderator: Joan Castro, *Path Foundation Philippines Inc.*

Integrating Gender Into Population-Health-Environment Projects

Kame Westerman¹, Elin Torell²

¹ *Conservation International*

² *University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center*

Healthy Oysters, Healthy Mangroves, Healthy Women

Fatou Janha Mboob

TRY Oyster Women's Association

Empowering Women, Promoting Reproductive Rights, and Protecting the Environment

Karen Aleida Recinos Dubois¹, Marco Vinicio Cerezo Blandon¹, Leila Darabi²

¹ *Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation*

² *Planned Parenthood Federation of America*

Key Opportunities for PHE Integration Under a Resiliency Framework

Roger-Mark De Souza

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Concurrent Sessions B

B1. DISPATCHES FROM THE FIELD II

Moderator: Sandeep Bathala, *Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars*

Community Centered Conservation in the DRC: Linking Population, Health, and Environment

Dario Merlo, Desire Safari, Alice Macharia

The Jane Goodall Institute, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Integrating PHE in Rural Agricultural Interventions Among Small Holder Farmers

Christine Kaaya Nakimwero

Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns

PHE Integration: Value Addition to Development Projects and Significance for Climate Change Adaptation

Lianne Gonsalves¹, Samuel Donovan¹, Peter Winch¹, Shewaye Deribe Woldeyohannes²

1 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

2 Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association

Can Integrating PHE in Schools and Communities Bring Change? The Case of the Bale Community, Ethiopia

Befekadu Refera, Million Belay

Melca Ethiopia

B2. ADVOCACY AND PHE SUPPORT

Moderator: Trisha Petruney, *FHI 360*

Funding for PHE Initiatives: Addressing the Resource Mobilization Challenge

Stacy Langer, George Kamau

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (German Foundation for World Population), Zambia

The Sustainable Development Goal Process: Why PHE is Relevant, and how to Link With the Process Effectively

Karen Melanie Newman

Population and Sustainability Network

Advancing Advocacy and Harnessing Regional Coordination for Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Approaches in the EAC: Role of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission

Doreen Maloba Othero, Ally-Said Matano

Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Kenya

A Modeling Framework for PHE Interventions

Scott Moreland, Alexander Paxton

Futures Group

B3. FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESULTS

Moderator: A. Tianna Scozzaro, Population Action International

Integration of FP/SRH With Forest Conservation Enhanced Active Involvement of Young People

Abebe Demisu Belay

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (German Foundation for World Population), Ethiopia

Population, Health, and Environment Activities Conducted by the Green Belt Movement in Kenya:

Results of a Pilot Introduction

Caroline Mackenzie¹, Theresa Hoke², Gwyneth Vance², Waceke Njuguna³, Agatha Mbulo³

1 FHI 360, Nairobi, Kenya

2 FHI 360, United States of America

3 Green Belt Movement (formerly)

Analyzing Changes in Population, Health, and Environmental Perceptions and Behaviors in the Saadani National Park Areas, Tanzania

Elin Torell, Juma Dyegula, Kalangahe Baraka, Catharine McNally

University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center

Effect of Integrated PHE Interventions on Uptake of Family Planning and Safe Delivery Services: The HOPE LVB Project Experience

Dorah Taranta, Caroline Nalwoga, Laura Subramanian, Lucy Shillingi, Millicent Kodande, Antony Omimo, Mey Cooper

Pathfinder International, United States of America

B4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PHE PROGRAMS

Moderator: Clive Mutunga, Population Action International

PHE Integration in Guraghe Zone

Alexon Ayele Tegegne

Guraghe People's Self-help Development Organization

Increasing the Evidence Base for PHE in Ethiopia: New Ideas and Approaches

Kristen Stelljes¹, Molla Mengesha², Victoria D. Ryan³, Peter Winch³

1 Packard Foundation/GFHP II, Ethiopia

2 PHE Ethiopia Consortium

3 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Monitoring Progress and Measuring Value-Added Outcomes in Integrated PHE Projects: Experiences From the HoPE-LVB Project in Uganda and Kenya

Caroline Nalwoga, Laura Subramanian, Dr. Lynne Gaffikin, Lucy Shillingi, and Mey Cooper

Pathfinder International, United States of America

Methods for Capturing the Complexity and Evaluating the Value-Added Benefits of Integrated PHE Programmes

Laura Robson, Caroline Savitzky, Vik Mohan

Blue Ventures

World Café: Round Table Break-Out Discussions

Discussion Theme 1: Best Practices in Implementation

Facilitator: Enrique Hernandez, *Path Foundation Philippines Inc.*

This session engaged implementers in a discussion about PHE models in order to identify best practices that have emerged from using an integrated PHE approach. Implementers discussed key factors that have contributed to successful PHE projects, common challenges and how to overcome them, and avenues for mainstreaming best practices.

Discussion Theme 2: Monitoring and Evaluation

Facilitator: Kristen Stelljes, *Hewlett Foundation*

This session engaged implementers and advocates in a discussion of monitoring and evaluation of integrated PHE approaches. Participants discussed different ways they are monitoring and evaluating their efforts, and identified the challenges they have faced and strategies they have used or are planning to use to overcome these challenges. Promising practices and future needs for technical assistance and support were identified.

Discussion Theme 3: Expanding and Institutionalizing PHE Interventions

Facilitator: Ados Velez May, *IBP Initiative/ExpandNet*

This session enabled participants to explore the requirements for expanding PHE activities to additional groups and more diverse populations, and to institutionalize them in organizations and programs. Participants shared their insights about what would be needed to move beyond their initial/pilot target areas. Discussion touched on areas of essential focus for scale-up, including advocacy and dissemination strategies, how to organize for and manage expansion and institutionalization, resource mobilization and costs, and the importance of monitoring and evaluation. The essential role of adaptation of PHE interventions during expansion was also discussed.

Discussion Theme 4: Networking / Advocacy and Communications

Facilitators: Meaghan Parker, *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*
Negash Teklu Gebremicheal, *PHE Ethiopia Consortium*

This session started with a presentation by two international journalists who described their experiences visiting PHE projects and reporting on them to international audiences. They discussed how they have communicated about the PHE approach and reflected on some of the communication challenges that PHE advocates face. The session continued with a discussion on the successes and challenges of PHE advocacy efforts in order to identify successful strategies that have emerged as well as common challenges. Finally, PHE advocates discussed the role that PHE networks have played in advocacy efforts to identify new paths for networking and advocacy.

Plenary Session: World Café Summary

Discussion Theme 1: Best Practices in Implementation

Some key factors in implementation identified by roundtable participants included availability and accessibility of contraceptives, local champions, community/stakeholder involvement (development of by-laws, capacity for advocacy), use of testimonials, partnerships, government involvement, and broadening the “E” in PHE to include areas beyond biodiversity.

Roundtable participants discussed obstacles and their potential solutions: vertical programs and funding, hesitation of community members and implementers to collect data, and political/religious/regional conflicts of interest or ethnic barriers to implementation. They felt these conflicts/barriers could be addressed with evidence-based models for educating/advocating to donors/government officials; providing participatory data collection training and emphasizing benefits to the community; and adapting programming to the political/cultural environment, empowering the local community as much as possible.

Discussion on the steps forward included mainstreaming a set of best practices. Some ideas on what is needed to achieve this included information sharing, collaboration, broader sources of funding, and involvement of high-level officials in PHE programming, as well as other suggestions.

Discussion Theme 2: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Participants in this roundtable discussed M&E challenges specific to PHE and areas that the PHE community should articulate moving forward. Among the 10 challenges Kristen Stelljes shared in the plenary were attributing results to PHE integration and the lack of evidence as a barrier to investment; the pilot nature of PHE projects; and the difficulty in measuring integration or value added. Some of the recommendations made in the roundtable were strategically partnering with organizations with sector-specific M&E experience; advocating for M&E to be completed as a research exercise built into projects, rather than taking funding away from implementation for M&E activities; and building a culture of evaluation with everyone involved.

In moving forward, roundtable participants identified several questions and issues, including:

- Question: How should integration and value added be measured?
- Question: How can data gathered from projects be linked to national/regional government systems and goals?
- Issue: Creative ways to do evaluation
- Issue: Standardizing indicators across projects

Discussion Theme 3: Expanding and Institutionalizing PHE Interventions

This discussion focused on several aspects of scale-up, including what scale-up looks like for PHE projects, using the HoPE-LVB project as an example, general discussion about difficulties and shortcomings, the focus of PHE on biodiversity, and barriers and opportunities to institutionalizing PHE in large, international NGOs. Participants raised interesting issues such as rebranding and marketing PHE projects as “reaching-the-hard-to-reach” to organizations focused on the “P” and the “H.” Conversation also covered how to know when scale-up is appropriate, knowing that PHE is not always efficient on larger scales. Opportunities included creativity in pitching the integrated approach; building advocacy efforts to connect climate and family planning, as these are often unfunded in National Adaptation Programmes of Action; and focusing on a strategic repositioning of PHE.

Discussion Theme 4: Networking / Advocacy and Communications

In this joint session, important lessons for networking and advocacy were elicited. These included: Finding shared values, stakeholders from multiple organizations, avoiding competition, and creating a clear governance structure. Some challenges identified in this roundtable included: identifying clear advocacy/communication actions and where efforts should be focused, public sector leadership/involvement, and clearly and effectively communicating the impacts and activities of a network. Roundtable participants felt that time-bound specific goals, dedicated coordinator positions, governance structure, strategic planning, and independence of government institutions (via external donor support) could help advance networks.

Closing

Take-Away Messages

Roger-Mark De Souza, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Roger-Mark De Souza shared some take-away messages from the PHE Conference. He began by reviewing recent decades: the 1970s and 1980s when rural development projects started taking shape, the 1990s as formative years for the PHE community, and the 2000s as a time when the integrated approach was being implemented, measured, evaluated, and promoted.

According to De Souza, 2013 is the year when the community began “taking the pulse” and realizing that PHE is “alive, kicking, and screaming.” Implementers are comfortable, expanding their communities, producing results, and exploring opportunities to get to the heart of innovation. Furthermore, the integrated approach has become more dynamic with advocates and implementers eager to learn more.

The presentation ended with three questions for participants to consider:

1. What is our high-level strategic collective impact?
2. Where is the intentionality in our work?
3. How have we brought others on board?

Final Thanks

Negash Teklu Gebremicheal, PHE Ethiopia Consortium

Negash Teklu provided remarks thanking PHE implementers for their demonstrated past hard work and thanked new people for their interest in learning more about the PHE approach. He urged participants to take stock of what they learned from the Conference and build on the momentum.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Lake Victoria Basin Commission

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Ms. Suzanne York Institute for Population Studies United States	Mr. Eliya Msiyaphazi Zulu African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) Kenya
Mr. N'Aina Zo Zatovonirina Conservation International Madagascar Madagascar	



Opening panelists included: Jason Bremner, *Population Reference Bureau*; Julia Henn, *USAID East Africa Regional Office*; Lester Coutinho, *David and Lucile Packard Foundation*; His Excellency Belete Tafere, *Ethiopia Minister of Environment and Forestry*



Sono Aibe, *Pathfinder*, moderates a panel on innovative partnerships



Louis Ngono, *World Wildlife Fund, Cameroon*, relates success stories from the Lobeke National Park



Caroline Savitsky, *Blue Ventures*, presents results from 6 years of integrating family planning with marine conservation in Madagascar



Conference participants share information on family planning and reproductive health results



Christine Kaaya Nakimwero, *Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns*, makes a comment during a plenary session



Enrique Hernandez, *PATH Foundation Philippines*, speaks at the closing plenary session



Conference participants, speakers, and organizers gained new information and knowledge.

2013 International Population, Health and Environment Conference Media Collection

Uganda

[“Family planning: Uganda criticized”](#) by Anne Mugisa
New Vision, 12 November 2013

Uganda’s poor distribution of family planning products as stocks pile up in the National Medical Stores (NMS) has come under scrutiny at the international conference on population, health and environment in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia

[“Minister lauds PHE initiatives as 2nd int’l conference opens”](#) by Aregu Balleh
Ethiopia Herald, 11 November 2013

Environment Protection and Forestry Minister Belete Tafari said that the population, health, and environment integration approach would have positive contributions for the improvement of health and livelihoods and would ensure the long-term sustainability of natural resources and land use in the country. The Minister opened the 2nd International Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) conference here yesterday.

[“Integrated approaches to tackle interlinked challenges”](#)
Ethiopia Herald, 12 November 2013

Integration of Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) is a new development approach that is becoming popular in the developing world. PHE integration is a sustainable development approach that tries to address social, economic, health, and environmental issues in an integrated manner. This approach has been practiced and proven successful in different sub-Saharan countries. In Ethiopia, pilot PHE projects have been underway since the past six years with the support of international and local PHE organizations.

Partner Blogs/Websites

[“News from the International Population, Health and Environment Conference 2013”](#) by Tuver Wundi
Wildlife Direct, 14 November 2013

Hi, This is Sam...

I recently went to Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, where the International Population, Health, and Environment Conference (PHE) 2013 was being held. I attended this annual convention along with many civil society organizations, government officials, researchers, and donors from across the world. We gathered to share, learn, network, and identify the needs and priorities of PHE advocates and organizers.

[“Octopuses and Contraceptives: Notes from the Population, Health, and Environment Conference”](#) by Elaine E. Rossi
John Snow Inc, *The Pump*, 15 November 2013

The buzz of intense conversation didn’t stop...in less than two days, a select group of 150 delegates to the Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Conference in Addis Ababa produced an impressive list of recommendations reflecting work in the Philippines, Tanzania, Madagascar, Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, among other countries. PHE is a severely under-funded initiative, struggling to find its way among the sectoral approaches favored by donors.

[“PSDA highlights population and sustainability links at International Conference on Family Planning”](#)
Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA), 18 November 2013

Last week at the International Conference on Family Planning 2013 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, participants came together with the Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) to take part in an important yet overlooked dialogue for the post-2015 development framework.

["PSDA meets in Ethiopia to strategize on post-2015"](#)

PSDA, 18 November 2013

The Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) came together in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, last week for a series of events held prior to the International Conference on Family Planning: a PSDA Members' Meeting and Post-2015 workshop, a PHE field trip, and the International PHE Conference.

["Population-Environment Program Wins Recognition: Blue Ventures Honored at International Conference on Family Planning"](#) by Schuyler Null

Wilson Center, 19 November 2013

This year's International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) happened to coincide with the UN's annual climate change summit. Perhaps it's apt then that one of the organizations recognized for excellence is helping to bridge the gap between the environment and family planning communities. London-based NGO Blue Ventures was presented with an Excellence in Leadership for Family Planning (EXCELL) award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health for their work integrating community-based reproductive health education and services into their marine conservation and coastal livelihood initiatives in Madagascar.

["International PHE Conference Closes with Renewed Momentum"](#)

Women Deliver, 25 November 2013

The second International Population, Health, and Environment Conference, organized by Population Reference Bureau and PHE Ethiopia Consortium, convened over two days in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, around the theme "Healthy Families, Healthy Environments."

["New Security Beat: More Than Local: How PHE Can Help Solve Humanity's Biggest Problems"](#) by William Pan

Wilson Center, 2 December 2013

In an era of globalization, where products often travel thousands of miles before reaching our hands, there exists the dangerous perception that supplies are limitless. There's a disconnect too between our consumption choices and how their production and processing impacts the environment. All too often, the result is humans falling prey to the simple idea that more is better, which is dangerous when "more" is easy to obtain.

NEXT STEPS

Following the conference the organizers made all of the presentations available to participants online through a shared Dropbox site. In addition, the organizers are drafting a brief that provides more depth on the main learning and discussion points at the conference as a complement to these conference proceedings and as a map for further technical and donor support to improve and expand the PHE approach.

In addition to being disseminated to conference participants, donors, and through other channels, the conference proceedings, conference presentations, and summary brief will all be posted to the K4Health.org PHE Toolkit in early 2014. The PHE toolkit is a central repository for PHE tools, materials, and information, and is an excellent resource for new and experienced PHE practitioners and advocates.

The PHE ENGAGE presentation that was launched during the opening session of the conference is available both on the CD provided to participants as well as through PRB's website, PRB.org. The multimedia presentation is meant for practitioners and advocates to use in their communications and advocacy efforts. PRB can provide additional technical support to those interested in using the presentation.

Finally, PRB and PHE Ethiopia are following up with networks, partners, and other important stakeholders to continue the momentum developed at the PHE Conference, foster new collaborate efforts, and build the PHE community of practice that is blossoming globally.

CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS

Following the conference, a brief, anonymous survey was distributed to participants.

The Conference content, program, and networking opportunities got very high ratings from participants. In addition, people responded that they gained new ideas, new contacts, and valuable feedback on their projects/programs. Other reported benefits to participants included “a better sense of strengths and weaknesses,” and information about “different experiences and modalities to implement integrated PHE work.”

Participants were also asked how the Conference would benefit their future work. New contacts and partnerships were often mentioned as a major takeaway. For others who were not yet implementing integrated projects, the Conference was an introduction to the approach, and an eye-opener to the potential for results. Select responses include:

“Established contacts for reference on PHE in and around Africa.”

“New collaborations through contacts gained.”

“This conference was an absolutely exceptional opportunity for us to connect with and learn from other PHE practitioners, researchers and advocates. We particularly enjoyed participating in discussions about M&E and scale up as two key topics of direct relevance to our programme. This conference is benefiting our work by providing us with added impetus and ideas for carrying out a rigorous process evaluation of our integrated PHE approach; providing us with new contacts to explore partnering on communications, research, and advocacy; and providing us with a deeper understanding of the work of other PHE actors in the region as we seek to build a PHE network in our country. We believe that the learning gained, experiences shared, and connections made at this conference will add huge value to the development of our work in 2014.”

“1. The exposure and information sharing for learning. 2. The networks and possible fundraising for new project.”

“I will use the materials I received from the conference as evidence for advocacy activities for PHE integration in project/programme design and implementation. I will use the new ideas I acquired in the Conference to enhance the activities of the Kenya PHE Network by reaching out to more donors to support PHE activities in Kenya. I will use the new contacts to share experiences on PHE integration activities that can be replicated in different settings to improve the livelihoods of the people and ensure sustainable development.”

Finally, participants were asked to share any other comments or feedback to inform future meetings. Among others suggestions, feedback generally included the need for greater donor involvement in future conferences, incorporation of field visits, and more presentation sessions/fewer group discussions.