



PHE Ethiopia Consortium

Since its establishment in 2008, the Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC) has been striving to advance a multi-sectoral PHE integrated approach for addressing family planning, reproductive health, environmental conservation, and climate change resilience in Ethiopia and internationally.

What is PHE?

Population, health and environment (PHE) approaches acknowledge and address the complex connections between humans, their health, and the environment. PHE evolved from the recognition that communities cannot exercise adequate stewardship over their natural resources and environment if their health, nutrition and economic needs are not met. In addition, population growth and unsustainable use of natural resources can lead to loss of ecosystems services, exacerbating poverty and adversely affecting health outcomes.

Central to the PHE approach is improving access to family planning information and services, which works in a complementary fashion with health, environmental management, and alternative livelihood activities to enhance rural development and preserve local ecosystems. The underlying philosophy is one of integration and multi-sectoral partnerships, which create synergies to enable more effective achievement of health and environmental conservation outcomes and promote strong community participation and ownership.

PHE approaches have been successfully implemented in a number of countries in Africa and Asia. They have been found to be more effective and gain more support from target communities than single-sector interventions due to their integrated and comprehensive approach.ⁱ

How Does PHE EC Operate?

PHE EC works closely with a diverse range of member organizations and partners at different levels to promote and cultivate comprehensive and collaborative responses to the multi-dimensional challenges associated with poverty and vulnerability in order to achieve sustainable development. This includes supporting the implementation of PHE interventions through fund acquisition and technical assistance, conducting research and knowledge dissemination activities to identify and raise-awareness of good practices, advocating for improved policies and programs to build an appropriate enabling environment, and actively engaging in global conferences and networks.

PHE EC has also played an important role on the climate change agenda including participation in COP15-20 as part of the Ethiopian delegation, contributing to the Ethiopian Government's Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy through its membership on the national advisory committee, and engaging in national and international policy dialogues on the linkages between climate change and population growth through research and advocacy.

PHE and Climate Change

The multi-sectoral PHE integrated approach, with its emphasis on addressing several issues in a coordinated manner, is considered to be a very suitable mechanism for responding to the multi-faceted challenges associated with climate change, which inherently requires a coordinated and cross-sectoral response. The PHE approach has many similarities with community-based climate change adaptation (CBA) programs. The primary difference is the emphasis of CBA approaches on reducing vulnerability to climate change and its limited focus on population and health issues, such as family planning and reproductive health.ⁱⁱ

Therefore, the inclusion of CBA tools and methods into PHE approaches, such as Vulnerability Reduction Assessments, presents an opportunity to strengthen existing PHE initiatives and take advantage of the experience and knowledge gained from these integrated projects while building resilience to climate change.

Another key area of focus for PHE EC is the link between climate change, food security and population growth. Modeling undertaken by the Futures Group in partnership with PHE EC has demonstrated that the expected negative impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security in Ethiopia by 2050 could be offset by reducing the current rate of population growth.ⁱⁱⁱ As such, PHE EC is strongly advocating for rights-based family planning to be considered as a key strategy for adapting to the effects of climate change and for it to be incorporated into relevant national and global strategies and programs.

Current PHE EC Initiatives and Projects

- Building institutional capacity and participatory leadership for resilience, mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks, funded through the [Strategic Climate Institutions Program](#).
- Partnering with Farm Africa and a consortium of organizations to conserve the biodiversity and ecosystems services in the Bale-Eco Region and increase the resilience and well-being of local communities, funded by the [Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience](#) program.
- Strengthening and scaling up reproductive health and family planning interventions through the development of a PHE learning center and mainstreaming reproductive health and family planning across sectors at national level funded, by the [David Lucile Packard Foundation](#).
- Supporting network creation and capacity building in the Yayu Biosphere Reserve to improve the management of conservation and development interventions for environmental sustainability, funded by the [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund](#).

Further Information: www.phe-ethiopia.org

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ⁱ Population Action International 2014, *Integrated Population, Health and Environment (PHE:) More than the Sum of its Parts*, Washington, USA.

ⁱⁱ Hardee, K, Bremner, J and Mogelgaard, K 2010, 'Is there a Link between Population, Health and Environment (PHE) and Climate Change Adaptation?', *Balanced Newsletter*, Vol. 1, Iss. 2.

ⁱⁱⁱ Moreland, S and Smith E 2012, *Modeling Climate Change, Food Security, and Population: Pilot-Testing the Model in Ethiopia*, MEASURE Evaluation PRH: Chapel Hill, USA.