



Experience Sharing Visit by DFPA and its Partners in Kenya to PHE Ethiopia Site



Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Ethiopia Consortium strives for a balanced and healthy ecosystem to the wellbeing of people at all level by enhancing and promoting a holistic and integrated development approach on population, health and environment to contribute the national effort of growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to ensure sustainable development.

As part of the objective of PHE EC, the consortium in collaboration with member organization called Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resource Association (EWNRA) facilitated and organized an experience-sharing visit for a group of health and environmental NGOs namely: **ViAgroforestry, Community Rehabilitation Project, Osienala and Health Options Kenya** from Kenya and **Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)** from Denmark.



Visitors from Kenya & Denmark

The visit was sponsored by DFPA and hosted by PHE EC which is a partner to DFPA in the international Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) since 2009.

From September 5-9, 2014 a group of Kenyan health and environmental NGOs discussed and visited the projects of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium site especially in Metu Woreda, Illu Aba Bora Zone of Oromia Regional State with the intention of creating awareness and shading light on the practical clarity of PHE's integrated approach, and creating gainful settings to take up the best practices, lessons in implementing PHE integrated approach to be replicated in their respective operational areas with similar settings in Kenya.

Before undertaking the experience sharing field visit, Mr. Negash Teklu welcomed and appreciated the new PHE initiative of Kenya in his office and presented about PHE EC and its multi sectoral integrated approach starting from its establishment and the progress so far achieved and his expectation. "May be in the near future we shall see a PHE Consortium also in Kenya" said Mr. Negash Teklu. Mr. Tilahun Semu, EWNRA field office project coordinator has also elaborated the establishment of EWNRA, the overall objective, activities and the achieved results so far to the visitors in Metu field office.

The group visited the Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) project in Ale Buya kebele and the Network Creation and Capacity Building Project in Yayu Biosphere Reserve coordinated by PHE EC and briefed by Mr. Feyisa Tefera, coordinator of the project in Metu area.



Discussion with PHE Club members

The group made a discussion with Ale Buya kebele PHE club members who testified that reproductive health of mothers has improved significantly due to increased awareness of family planning. They also explained how the revolving fund and income diversification had raised the standard of living in the community.

The visitors group was also shown concrete evidence of environmental protection by afforestation/plantation of grevealia tree, terrace construction and physical and biological soil and water conservation (vetivar system or vetivar grass plantation) on the slopes of the beautiful hills in the area.



Plantation by PHE club members

They also visited the vegetable home garden which help the households in improving nutritional status and their income, wheat demonstration site, and PHE provider in their shop who have been serving the communities on voluntary basis by providing condoms and pills to them that have less access to any health institutions.



Vegetable home garden



Wheat demonstration site



Discussion with PHE provider

Finally, Mrs. Elisabeth Riber Christensen from DFPA on behalf of the group says, “We are impressed with the social, environmental and economic impact of the PHE projects and we will transfer your best practices to Kenya”. In their feedback to EWNRA the group had taken note of the strong community commitment and the close cooperation between EWNRA and the line offices from zonal to kebele level. The group takes back a lot of inspiration from Ethiopia to start a new PHE project near Lake Victoria and Kisumu town in Kenya. The project which is about to begin implementation later this year is funded by the DFPA.

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consortium