



the David &
Lucile Packard
FOUNDATION

5th

**PHE Ethiopia
Consortium**

General Assembly Meetings

Proceeding



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Executive Summary

The 5th Annual General Assembly Meeting of the Population Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE Ethiopia Consortium) was held on March 17-19, 2011 at the Bio Economy Africa (BEA) conference hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting was attended by over 80 participants from federal and regional government offices, NGOs, Community Based Organizations, Journalists, as well as representatives of international organizations working on PHE intervention programs.

The main themes of the meeting focused on how PHE approach is progressing at global, regional and local level, on the relationship of PHE and emerging issues of development, field integration of PHE specially of implementing member organizations and partners, as well as the legal Annual General Assembly Meeting to update PHE Ethiopia Consortium members, partners and donors on the status of integrated PHE interventions in Ethiopia.

PHE Ethiopia Consortium is a coordinating body made up of 47 organizations that implement integrated PHE development programs at more than 30 district sites across the country. At the general assembly, more than eight member and partner organizations from around the country reported on their efforts to improve livelihoods and communicate the effectiveness of integrated development.

Opening Session and Launch of 5th Annual General Assembly Meeting

The 5th Annual General Assembly Meeting (AGAM) began with an introductory welcoming address, key note speech and opening address by Ato Mesfin Kassa, Program Officer, Ato Negash Teklu, Executive Director of PHE Ethiopia Consortium, and Ato Tigistu G/Meskel, Director, Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate, respectively.

Addressing the AGAM, Ato Negash Teklu, said the meeting was special, “bringing unique features in terms of its goal, wide scope of objectives, content and composition of participants”. Ato Teklu said the reason for holding the General Assembly is taking into consideration “what our country, our consortium, its members, partners and the global environment are showing progress...” adding that “it will empower and build the capacity of our members and partners locally and internationally and strengthen our partnerships so that we can contribute to the development initiatives of Ethiopia through the MDG and GTP.

He said main themes of the meeting focuses on how PHE’s approach is progressing at global, regional and local level, on the relationship of PHE and emerging issues of development, field integration of PHE specially of implementing member organizations and partners, as well as the AGAM to update PHE Ethiopia Consortium members, partners and donors on the status of integrated PHE interventions in Ethiopia.

Ato Negash welcomed guests from the USA, Kenya, Uganda and the Philippines and gave vote of thanks to government bodies, donors, members, local and international partners, the media and higher learning institutions for their support in sustaining the PHE initiative and approach in Ethiopia.

(For more details please refer to Annex 1)

Ato Tigistu G/Meskel made an opening remark on behalf of H.E. Ato Sileshi Getahun, State Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, who could not make it to the meeting due to other government commitments.

Addressing the meeting, Ato Tigistu said Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa with population growth rate of 2.6%, is faced with increased pressure on land and natural resources, resulting in degradation of the environment and impacting the human wellbeing and health and diminishing the capacity of eco-systems to provide essential environmental goods and services.

Ato Tigistu G/Meskel >>



Ato Tigistu pointed out that given these situations, the Ethiopian government has developed policies, strategies and programs as a prerequisite for sustainable development with provision of enough attention to the integration of population, health and environment as the goal of the Health and Population Policy of Ethiopia “with emphasis of the policies being harmonization of environmental issues, community participation, watershed management, climate change national mitigation and adaptation plans.”

Ato Tigistu wished participants excellent deliberations and declared the assembly opened.

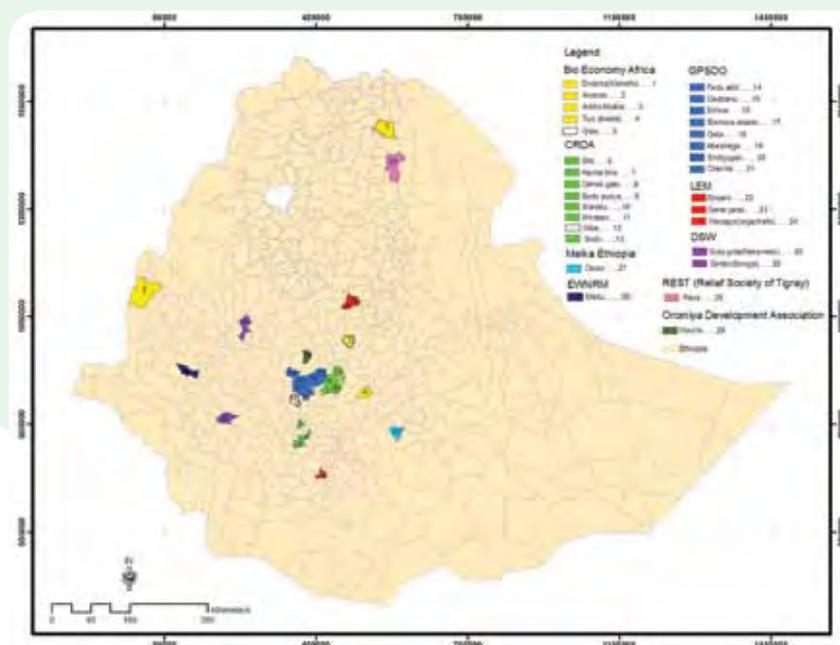
(For more details please refer to Annex 2)

Field Visit to Projects in Bio Economy Africa, LEM and GPSDO Sites to Learn About Integrated PHE Approaches

The other part of the meeting was devoted to a field trip to visit projects which are striving to “contribute to the realization of sustainable livelihoods in the targeted communities and to guarantee economic efficiency, ecological integrity and social equitability through the PHE approach”.

Accordingly, field visits were conducted at the BEA site in Addis Ababa where the meeting venue was, LEM Ethiopia project sites in Girar Jarso Woreda (North Shoa, Oromia Regional State) and GPSDO sites in Guraghe Zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS).

The visits demonstrated the achievements in “addressing the complex problems of high population growth, poor provision of basic health services and inadequate natural resources management with PHE integration”.



Next Steps for Moving Forward

The meeting and field visits gave a perspective that an impressive activities are being done on the ground with innovative and diversified approaches. The participants were impressed by the volume of work done, which testify that the PHE movement is going well and that it is being done passionately.

All network members acknowledged the need to work hard for better PHE integration, improved partnerships, use mechanisms to impress the donors and get more funding, undertake more awareness raising activities and research based advocacy campaigns, bring about better government involvement and use of its structure.

The meeting wined up with a commitment of member organizations to maximize their contribution to the Consortium and get ready for more challenges.

Harmonizing PHE for Survival

Day One:

Morning Session

Part I:

Presentations at the Annual General Assembly Meeting

1.1. Summary of Papers presented at the AGAM

1.1.1. *PHE Globally and in Africa : Challenges and the Way Forward*

Jason Bremner
PRB, PHE Program Director

Mr. Bremner gave program highlights of the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) that is working in partnership in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and globally to continue in the next five years to bring people together to discuss PHE issues. He pointed out the activities undertaken globally and in Africa and its activity to inform people on PHE, empower them to reach decision makers and advance the well being of current and future generations.

Mr. Bremner started with the question “what are we doing to improve health, why are we doing it and where are we now? He said “the answer for all these questions is that we are doing it to improve the lives of our children and for the generation to come”.



Mr. Jason Bremner

He used a data chart to show the progress of poverty and life expectancy indicators during the 1960s and explained that there was better life expectancy and that people lived longer, were richer and there was fair share and use of resources at the moment. It was possible to see how the world changed and transformed making it a better, healthier and wealthier place to the developed counties to live in whereas the Sub-Sahara Africa is lagging behind with stagnant growth and improvement, and persistent poverty and inequality. The reality is that poverty, inequality and scarcity of resources has prevailed because of consumption of those living well.

The question remained “how do we get people out of poverty, reduce family size, give access to FP/RH services, access to water and land, what are the stories to be told and what needs to be achieved with PHE integrated approach and bring synergy through evidence-based research”?

The answer, he said, is integrated PHE approach, for getting better off and healthier, for restoration of natural resources, delivery of better FP/RH services through a strategic communication and advocacy initiatives “to inform, empower and advance”.

Challenges

- Designing and implementing integrated PHE programs
- Designing support materials
- Building local capacity
- Providing technical assistance

The way forward

Mr. Bremner suggested using communication processes and steps to get the message out and helps reach its intended target, and measuring communications impact to overcome the challenges. He stressed the need to work together for better communications, Knowledge and information sharing.

1.1.2. BALANCED: Building Actors & Leaders for Community Excellence in Development

***Linda Bruce,
Director, BALANCED Project***

Ms. Linda pointed out that “over 1.1 billion people worldwide live in biodiversity hotspots making population growth in hotspots nearly 40 percent greater than globally and resulting in loss of biological resources and accelerating the pace of species extinction”.

She said that is why the five-year, multi-million dollar Building Actors and Leaders for Advancing Community Excellence in Development (BALANCED) Project, is working to “scale-up, build on, and foster the implementation of field-based PHE initiatives in areas of high biodiversity to assure sustainability of conservation gains in biodiversity hotspots and in climate change mitigation and adaptation and generate higher impact for sectoral approaches”.



Ms. Linda Bruce

Ms Linda said BALANCED support in Ethiopia focused on capacity building to PHE implementers on:

- Community based distribution of FP
- IEC materials development
- Youth peer education
- M& E

It has also provided seed grant to EWNRA to integrate FP/RH into wetlands conservation.

She said BALANCED will continue to build capacity of PHE Ethiopia members, over the next two years, through training and hands-on technical assistance, operationalizing PHE integration and engaging women in PHE to strengthen PHE implementation.

It will also provide technical support to link PHE Ethiopia to a global resource/audience through USAID/Johns Hopkins University’s Knowledge for Health website and strengthen capacity of PHE Ethiopia Secretariat as a technical resource.

(For more details please refer to Annex 3)

1.1.3. PHE and Climate Change

***Mr. Roger-Mark De Souza
Vice President for Research
Population Action International (PAI)***

Mr. Mark De Souza started his presentation with an Ethiopian proverb “Dir Biabir Anbessa Yassir” with a literal meaning of “When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion”. He asked “how can we use these spider webs to tie up the lion - that is climate change- and improve the future”?

He pointed out that there is a need to “keep an eye on the Lion” based on PAI’s population climate change initiatives of using research, advocacy and program development “to improve access to reproductive health care across the world so women and families can prosper and live in balance with the Earth”.

Mr. Roger gave briefings on the current population and climate change dynamics and the entailing challenges and what needs to be done to address the challenges. He discussed the main drivers of climate change, and its impact



Mr. Roger-Mark De Souza

on countries in the Horn of Africa. Climate change impacts particularly on the natural environment of Ethiopia as well as social impact of climate change and its links with population and Family Planning, as well as views from Ethiopia regarding unmet needs.

He mentioned population size, deforestation, land degradation, vulnerability (the need to understand people's vulnerability and ability to adapt to changes in climate) and integration (Global architecture for climate change policy not well-suited for "social sector" responses) amongst the challenges for Ethiopia.

Coming to finding a solution to the above mentioned challenges, Mr. Mark De Souza Suggested partnership, leading with rights based working environment for MDGs, accountability to sectoral issues, universal access to RH and FP, and other additional actions to give support to the children and our future. He pointed out that the solutions can be reinforced with the key message that "universal access to reproductive health is a win-win opportunity for climate change and poverty alleviation".

(For more details please refer to Annex 4)

1.1.4. PHE Integration in Ethiopia and Its Progress

Ato Negash Teklu
Executive Director of PHE Ethiopia-Consortium

Ato Negash said social, economic, environmental health indicators have so far shown the challenges, Ethiopia is facing.

Following the November 2007 Regional Conference on Population Health and Environment organized by LEM Ethiopia & PRB, which gave the ground for development of the clearly defined PHE goals, Ato Negash said the advent of PHE gave the basis for integrated approach and coordination, brought harmony between nature and people and opened a new era whereby capacity building, communication, networking and partnership as well as relations between government and NGOs are resurrected to address environment, health, and population in an integrated manner for improved livelihoods and sustainable wellbeing of people and ecosystems".



Ato Negash Teklu

- He gave briefings on the PHE formulation process and the approach that gave the Consortium the Coordination mandate on: Capacity Building
- Communication
- Networking and partnership
- Research
- Resource mobilization
- Strengthening implementation on the ground

a) Achievements

Regarding major achievements within the last three years Ato Negash said implementation of integrated development approaches that address poverty and sustainable development have so far been implemented by seven members and partners in over 30 project sites showing improvement in inter and intra communication (website development with above ten thousand visitors - count by email reaching 5, 000), partnership with international organizations, bridging the gap between GO and NGO, , becoming learning place for integrated PHE approach, etc.

He said the Consortium has also enabled member organizations to integrate social, economic and environmental issues with participation of the main actors and to become good examples in climate change adaptation and mitigation and progressed to a position where there is a contribution for development.

b) Unique Features

Describing unique features of the Consortium Ato Negash said it is characterized, among others, by commitment and multifaceted partnership, and has proved to be globally "One of the consortiums engaged in coordinating integrated PHE approach".

c) Opportunities

Among the major opportunities for PHE implementation, integration with the different Ministries and regional bureaus has enabled extension of area coverage to many places due to the high demand for integration.

d) Challenges

Limitation of capacity within implementing members and the consortium, highly entrenched attitude towards sector approach that needs strong advocacy and high demand for scaling up and Monitoring and Evaluation are also cited as major challenges.

e) The Way Forward

He stressed the need for government engagement on integration system wise, building the capacity of implementing organizations, establishing M&E system, consolidating the engagement of research, scaling up international support & partnership, and strengthening PHE network.

In addition, looking ahead Ato Negash suggested strengthening the role of international organizations such as Pathfinder International, Engender Health, IPAS and Marie Stops in PHE intervention programs is essential to strengthen integration of RH/FP services.

(For more details please refer to Annex 5)

1.2. Reflections on the four presentations

1.2.1. General

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Executive Director of CCRDA, facilitated the presentation and discussion session for the morning session and gave summary of the presentations as follows:

Mr. Jason Bremner gave three important conclusions that the need for better health services and education; scarcity of land and maximized use of resources; the issue of population growth are the major challenges and that there is a need for more communication amongst NGOs, GO and CBOs.

Ms Linda Bruce focused on the hard to reach and underserved, unprivileged and marginalized community members, the need for male involvement in family ventures; the need for increased services in RH/FP and strong appeal to the youth and community.

Mr. Roger Mark-De Souza showed how Ethiopia recognizes the ever increasing population pressure and climate change contributing for declining resources, poverty, conflict, migration, challenges of vulnerability, and the need for integrating PHE and strategies for PHE.

Ato Negash Teklu focused on practical Ethiopian reality in the integration of PHE and cited the living cases and examples that PHE is possible; dealt with opportunities for realizing implementation of PHE; and pointed out the mounting pressure of health and education and the MDG.

1.2.2. Panel Discussion Session

Following the four presentations the floor was open for discussion and participants raised questions, and gave comments and suggestions regarding PHE intervention for Ethiopia, East Africa and the rest of the world.

The discussion focused on four major themes which are classified and summarized as follows:

1.2.2.1. The issue of PHE Integration

a) How could we make PHE integration practical and how could we bring it up to the standard with the



Dr. Meshesha Shewarega

uni-disciplinary orientation we have and the sectoral approach which dominates the existing development issues in Ethiopia?

b) Is there any tool to introduce and standardize PHE integration?

How do we tackle the practical difficulty in getting expertise?

How do we come together and participate in integrating PHE and to measure its impact?

c) What is expected of the network members, especially from those coming from the health sector to facilitate PHE integration?

d) How can integration be supported by policy so that responsible organizations could integrate PHE in their plan of action?

e) How do we conduct evidence-based research on male engagement to get better FP/RH services?

f) Is there any mechanism to influence the consortium members to integrate PHE into their programs?

Summary of discussions on the theme of PHE Integration

The following approaches were suggested for PHE integration:

1) Coordination of one or two organizations in a district and create relations amongst consortium members and establish them according to the interest of the members

2) The need for balanced relationship with active roles - active members can get support from bigger organizations such as Pathfinder International, Engender Health, and BALANCED Project. But we have to make sure that there is a clear working relations and demarcation of mandates amongst organizations

3) Policy level issues are areas that need focus mainly the sector based approach of the government. Show evidence to what the government is planning to achieve and establish a task force to convince them on the need for coordination and scaling up of projects: think of systematizing PHE integration and make it a policy issue

4) Use the legally binding approach in the public health intervention and integration representing public health advocates in internally negotiated texts, e.g. the case of IUCN regional bodies in Latin America which took them “eight years to implement gender equity policies and action plans. These policies helped link RH and FP to environmental concerns”.

5) Apply the Philippine network experience of convincing development partners, UNFPA support for capacity building of district planning officers; conduct research on population dynamics and climate change; putting PHE consortium together and retain membership; provide common funding for network members; reaching the leadership at different levels (PHE as nation-driven agenda or individual attitude) and mainstreaming PHE in policies and strategies system based approach”.

Sharing the Kenya experience, Ricky Hernandez, said that integration will be successful if it starts at the grassroots level for impact and sustainability of PHE integrated projects.

Remember that “the integrated population-health-environment (PHE) approach to development recognizes the interconnectedness between people and their environment and supports cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination”.

1.2.2.2. The Issue of Influencing Mechanisms to Reach Different Stakeholders and Donors and Pursuing Donors to Buy-in PHE

a) How do we work to prove to donors that PHE approach is useful and to make them willing to support the PHE approach?

b) What do PRB, PAI and BALANCED Project do globally in pursuing donor community to buy-in the PHE approach?

c) Can you give us an experience from other countries that succeeded in securing funding with PHE approach?

Summary of discussions on the theme of influencing mechanisms to reach different stakeholders and donors and pursuing donors to buy-in PHE approach

At national level

- Though there is a challenge, there is a need for commitment. Attest to the fact that there are sectoral donors and we should be able to make research on what they need and want to do to get them on-board. Use the alternative of integration of the whole package in an area by working with partner organizations.

At international level

- Hold funding/donor forum, conduct experience sharing amongst donors, make a commitment to use their resources and devise livelihood and health packages/health services
- We need to know the PHE projects we are working on
- Organize experience sharing visits and sell our stories
- Provide research based data, facts and story for reaching where they could not reach, reach the different departments and give briefings, talk the same language for strong advocacy impact
- Organize ourselves to answer their questions, have organized data base, success stories, show them an organized approach to an issue and change is needed from ourselves
- Work around the donors, “the people who control the money”, organize an experience sharing visits and bring the donors to the community, have them convinced by champions, mention the names of other donors who are investing and let them testify about your programs. Remember that “No” might mean not now, or not the right person. All there is to do is to figure out what you exactly need to do and keep on trying
- Understand the level of fund raising and how donors work; how their money is being released and things that interest them more; know how to talk to them about what you want “a donor” to do; make them champions for you; introduction, and give more information to others; conduct site visits and give good explanation about the site; engage donors and strategize to find out where donors are coming from; and think about building trust

1.2.2.3. The Issue of keeping Members Intact to Work together for an Impact

- a) How did PHE Consortium Ethiopia managed to maintain its members to achieve of common goal? What is the secret?
- b) Can advocacy for PHE take place for governmental institutions like the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Culture and Tourism?

Summary of discussion to retain members and strengthen relations with members

- There is a need for balancing support amongst all consortium members, and in one organization target all board, management and staff members.
- Bridge the gap between sectoral integration and implementation for PHE integration
- Consider the issue of supporting the youth and think about how much integration will save the next generation
- Conduct situation analysis of each country and core Stakeholders/ on how PHE can happen,
- Create linkage and contacts for good-working relations and have discussions as much as possible
- Identify core members and have clarity of discussion to bring in commitment
- Coordination vs. implementation. Be cautious about your role. Be ware of interest of conflict

1.2.3. The Way Forward

Summary of issues to take hold-of

1. Sense of purpose to save the generation to come
2. Sense of urgency in all fronts and that we are running out of time
3. There is a need for evidence based advocacy to reach stakeholders (GO, NGO CBO, donors, international organizations)
4. Measurability of impact and the need for result in every form are the common denominators to change human life.

Day One:

Afternoon Session

1.3. Briefing on Integrated Bio-economy System (IBS) and field visit

Dr. Getachew Tikubet,
Director and Principal Scientist, Bio-Economy Africa

1.3.1. Briefing

Dr. Getachew gave briefings on the problem and livelihood challenges and the processes of change and the dimensions (social, economic and ecological capital building) required to bring about sustainable livelihoods, which he said are new solutions to old problems using innovative technologies, approaches and systems of :

- Using more of what you have (cactus mapping).
- Using it more efficiently/differently (sack gardening, biogas units).
- Reducing constraints (tsetse/malaria control).
- Using appropriate new technology (solar ovens).
- Integrating activities (bio-farms).
- Developing systems-based solutions (welfare/poverty mapping).
- Creating job and market

He also discussed the multi-faceted Integrated Bio-intensive System (Strategy) which proved to be fruitful when done in cooperation with universities, students and farmers.

He also discussed Bio-farm operations in Ethiopia (Mekele, Benishangul Gumuz, Nekemte, Asella, Addis Ababa and Guraghe Zone) and said Afar and Dire Dawa are next. He said “links are already established with Mozambique, Côte d’Ivoire and Democratic Republic of Congo, where demonstration bio-farms are planned or already built”.

A bio-farm

Following the brief presentation three groups were formed for the local perspective visit to Bio Economy Africa Integrated Bio-economy System (IBS) demonstration site to see integration of systems and subsystems and understand the concept of bio-farming for ecological studies on the ground.

Dr. Getachew said the visit will enable visitors to be living witnesses to the fact that:

- We can manage without chemical fertilizers and become healthy as long as we do it right
- We have demonstrated success that has surpassed the chemical world and has achieved increased productivity
- We have utilized and shown the number of microorganisms and the unpaid workforce, which amplify the power of nature and bring in a healthy world

The Bio Economy Africa Bio-Intensive farming system demonstration site was started on a barren land 14 years ago to promote bio-farm and bio-economy system based on the three pillars of capital building.



Dr. Getachew Tikubet



Participants were able to visit eleven stations (biogas application, bamboo technology, rabbit production, dairy farm, horticulture and drip irrigation, alternative energy, soil and Biogas demonstration, water conservation, exhibition center, green house, waste management and bio compost, poultry production) wherein they were able to observe how IBS is applied “to manage every aspect of agriculture and natural resources as part of a single integrated system” as exemplified in the demonstration site

1.3.2. Reflections on the project visit by participants

Injera stove

- “Overwhelmingly impressive especially the Injera stove which is truly a breakthrough. Effort should also be made to work with other organizations like SNV who are working on biogas programs”.
- “It was an opportunity to visit such a wonderful model integrated approach. I did not even care to think of visiting whenever I pass by every day. Let us think of being part of such a mystified approach”.
- “It is quite innovative except for the absence of a health center. But this is so because of the health nutrition aspect of the programs, there is no need for a clinic”.
- “Include health education for the farmers, and I would like to hear more about it”.



1.4. Group discussion and plenary session

1.4.1. Group discussion

The afternoon session was also devoted to group discussions on emerging development issues “to help understand and communicate how PHE interventions are possible solutions”. Accordingly, four groups were formed to discuss:

Group I: PHE and Climate Change



Group II: PHE and Health (RH/FP)





1.4.2. The Plenary

Plenary session for presentation of group findings on the relation of PHE to the four emerging issues was made by group rapporteurs.

1.4.2.1. Common themes of the group findings

They show the need for:

- Popularization of PHE approach among politicians, decision makers, donors
- Evident linkage across PHE
- Education and improved skill at the grassroots level
- Community participation at the decision making level for sustainability purposes
- Capacity building for the policy makers and the community for better PHE approach
- Political leadership to serve as champions and leaders for coordinating and institutionalizing PHE
- research to fill identified gaps in integrated approach
- strengthening grassroots institutions for accountability and strong institutional make-up
- Participatory innovation and action research for applicability and to solve problems and build an improved livelihood
- working with cultural/traditional and opinion leaders widely accepted by the community, and who are validators and spokesmen to further skill-up the acceptability of PHE programs
- Considering indigenous knowledge of women for integration in natural resources utilization
- Individual and institutional commitment for PHE integration
- Committing resources and linkup amongst each other
- Convincing the donor community and involving them
- Involving community based associations with more members
- Having a structure to mobilize members

- IEC-BCC messages with targeted messages based on message development procedures
- Experience sharing with what we have
- Lack of data and absence of evidence-based research output for policy advocacy

1.4.2.2. Discussion sessions

Participants were asked for actions, ideas and thoughts that could help and bring solutions as to how these emerging issues fit in the strategic plans, actable criteria and priorities, and what could be done for resources mobilization, and to find a way to make it happen for strategic decisions and look for combined opportunities for action.

Opportunities

- Presence of a ground to have a role and to make something happen (e.g. Pathfinder International could come up with FP/RH package for fuel wood collectors)
- A chance to make an experience sharing on membership to accomplish activities which we could not manage on our own
- A conducive environment to work in collaboration with environmental organizations as an entry point
- A ground to advocate with religious leaders, extension workers, policy makers
- Exchange of resources as an access to practicality
- Practice regional and geographical scaling up and area coverage and make an inventory where they could match to answer a community demand and maximize PHE integration

Challenges

- How to match and exploit fund for practical projects even for small amount of money by adding value to what organizations are doing
- Bring about understanding between the management and staff and individual and organizational commitment
- Failure to have a strong hold within a community
- Absence of discussion forums for matching organizations with sites for joint program implementation
- Absence of professional hired to fill the gap observed

End of Day One 5:45 p.m. local time

Making it Happen

Day Two:

Morning Session

Part II:

Presentation of Best Practices from the Field in PHE Integration

Day Two of the AGAM started with presentation on best practices from the field to share the experience of what is happening on the ground for PHE integration in projects.

2.1. Summary of Papers presented

2.1.1. PHE Integration - Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) Specialty

Ato Shewaye Deribe, Program Officer, EWNRA Ato Shewaye gave different perspectives of EWNRA intervention areas in Fogera Woreda of South Gondar Zone (Amhara Regional State) and Mettu Woreda of Ilu Abba Bora Zone, (Oromia Regional State). He said PHE integration is practiced in the project areas to tackle fast changes observed such as population growth, eco-system degradation (caused by human and livestock population), poverty and climate change.

The integrated action, which started in 2005 in cooperation with Woreda Health Offices, is aimed at reversing environmental degradation (through Vetiver and compost based farmland management, wetland and forest management, capacity building, etc.), and benefiting people (by providing safe water, fuel wood for improvement of survival of women, promoting Family Planning services by distributing condoms and contraceptives through volunteer peer educators and FP/RH service providers such as BALANCED Project and Path/USAID, and awareness raising on HIV/AIDS).

The PHE integration has resulted in reduced environmental degradation, human health and wellbeing and better livelihood as well as better communication with the community.

The challenges observed in PHE integration are sectoral thinking due to low level of PHE understanding, capacity limitation and increased demand from volunteers for incentives

Experience from EWNRA has shown that integrating Family Planning, Livelihood, Health and Ecosystem management is cost effective and helpful to address community and environmental problems. Thus, he concluded that “PHE should be adopted as strategic direction for sustainable development and combating climate change and members should think of joint resource mobilization for successful PHE integration”.

(For more details please refer Annex 6)

2.1.2. Sustainable Livelihood Using the Integrated Bio-economy System (IBS)

Dr. Getachew Tikubet,
Director and Principal Scientist, Bio-Economy Africa

Dr. Getachew gave briefings on the problem and livelihood challenges and the processes of change and the dimensions (social, economic and ecological capital building) required to bring about sustainable livelihoods, which he said are new solutions to old problems using innovative technologies, approaches and systems of:

- Using more of what you have (cactus mapping).
- Using it more efficiently/differently (sack gardening, biogas units).
- Reducing constraints (tsetse/malaria control).
- Using appropriate new technology (solar ovens).

- Integrating activities (bio-farms).
- Developing systems-based solutions (welfare/poverty mapping).
- Creating job and market

He also discussed the multi-faceted Integrated Bio-intensive System (Strategy) which proved to be fruitful when done in cooperation with universities, students and farmers.

Dr. Getachew also discussed Bio-farm operations in Ethiopia (Mekele, Benishangul Gumuz, Nekempte, Asella, Addis Ababa and Guraghe Zone) and said Afar and Dire Dawa are next. He said “links are already established with Mozambique, Côte d’Ivoire and Democratic Republic of Congo, where demonstration bio-farms are planned or already built”.

Dr. Getachew said though more has been said on the field visit, his presentation is to give more light how sustainable livelihood is achieved using integrated bio-economy system.

He said apply bio intensive farming system to:

- Ensure wellbeing of generations
- Develop future cooperation and to build the system for stronger package
- Strengthen relations with various partners based on strong scientific knowledge,
- Strengthen network and special cooperation with global network in Europe (seven universities and three international organizations) in north America, India, Australia and Africa
- Promote knowledge-based practical projects adding to the MDG to improve quality of life of human beings.

Asked about the critical elements that make a difference in BEA, Dr. Getachew said the most critical elements that make a difference and can be replicated by others are:

- 1) Promoting demonstration models that speak louder. “If people see they will strive to make it”.
- 2) Strong commitment of partnership and culture of cooperation, trust as well as confidence of individuals and institutions to win the people and community and share ideas with beneficiaries.

Supplement

Supplementing the issue of establishing demonstration models, Dr. Selamawit said one model is the organization of women’s groups that used to walk more than one kilometer to collect fuel wood that is used for commercial and household purposes. In due course the women used to be attacked by robbers and were exposed to sexual harassment exposing them to HIV AIDS. Thus about 400 women were organized and were given training in:

- Environmental protection
- Income Generating Activities
- Horticulture
- Apiary
- Biogas

The women participated in experience sharing visits to other organizations and they have also managed to run a cafeteria and secure improved livelihood and food security for their families. They have also benefited in FP/RH services next to their cafeteria using the government structure thus showing that PHE is successfully demonstrated.

Dr. Selamawit said it is this kind of real success story that needs to be demonstrated. Her recommendation is that “people will take ideas if theories are demonstrated in real life”.

(For more details please refer Annex 7)

2.1.3. Specialties in LEM Ethiopia

Ato Moges Worku, Executive Director

Defining the LEM Ethiopia logo as “Where there is no tree there is no Colobus Monkey”, Ato Moges said mankind should take care of forests for the sake of his livelihood.

Ato Moges said LEM has intervention in capacity building, supporting community based tree nursery sites, promotion of appropriate technologies, participatory urban waste management and research.

LEM Ethiopia achievements in integrating PHE focused on training of women’s group in income generating, appropriate technology and RH/FP; appropriate technology training for model farmers, agriculture and health extension workers. The training is conducted in cooperation with research institutions to meet diversified needs of the community.



Ato Moges Worku

Ato Moges said LEM Ethiopia was successful in achieving its programs and this could be attributed to:

- Cost effectiveness
- A system designed and integrated from community to higher level to sell the concept of PHE (conceptualization of PHE from the community to the higher level)
- RH/FP information dissemination with the active participation of selected women’s groups, agriculture and health extension workers
- Application of a multi-disciplinary approach that meets the basic needs of the community
- PHE integration in sectoral programs like education
- Strong networking and collaboration with different development actors.

Ato Moges pointed out that working modality with government institutions and partners involve use of focal persons in government offices and that there is no LEM office per se. The decision makers from the government and community leaders are involved in the development of a project and there is shared responsibility amongst partners. Ato Moges said there are strong networking and communication and involvement of the media in promoting LEM programs.

(For more details please refer Annex 8)

2.1.4. PHE Intervention in GPSDO

W/ro Tigist Aklilu, Program Officer

W/ro Tigist presented organizational profile of GYPSDO, intervention areas and the major problems encountered in program implementation. She cited high population pressure, inadequate health services, high natural resources degradation, poor sanitation, HIV and STD, HTP, food insecurity and poor infrastructure as the major determinants in project sites.

The strategy used by GPSDO is awareness raising on PHE, IEC Community sensitization, training for students, teachers and extension workers, organizations of PHE clubs which is highly engaged in bio physical environment work and improve livelihood of the community. School retention of girls , avoiding HTP, income generating activities for women’s groups, provision of FP/RH services, vegetable gardening, information dissemination through wearing gowns are the strategies used to integrate PHE. In this progress the major challenges encountered is financial limitation.



W/ro Tigist Aklilu

Success behind PHE integration is attributed to rehabilitating environment management through capacity building, horticulture in closed areas for IGA, enhanced health services and improved CPR (115.46%). “Success story for family service providers, seedling

protection and holistic development has brought about the recognition of the organization amongst the community”, Ms Tigist concluded.

(For more details please refer to Annex 9)

Discussion session on the papers presented

Ato Haddis Mulugeta, Facilitator of the afternoon session, summarized commonalities of project activities as follows:

- Strong partnership and collaboration
- Enhancing the capacity of partners and stakeholders
- Effective utilization of different technology
- PHE intervention which proved to be cost effective
- Presence of gender based program to meet the needs of women
- All succeeded in reducing environmental degradation
- Developed system based approach

Summary of Comments, Questions and suggestions as suggested by Ato Haddis

Comment 1

It is easy to see that PHE is cost effective, but that we should be careful in PHE approach since it must be evidence-based and there should be bench mark information, and that it requires rigorous critical approach for accountability, result oriented and quantified statements.

Comment 2

The presentations proved that beneficiaries were also service providers which contributed to improvement in community livelihood. The LEM Ethiopia approach of using the government structure and government employees as a focal person within a government structure should also be replicated by partners and network members.

Comment 3

Some improvement is shown in the livelihoods, but there is a need for baseline study supported by statistical figure, before and after PHE integration to measure and show the development and to measure improvement and increase in livelihood.

- Have the presentations demonstrated how the question of scaling up PHE integration should be dealt with?
- What kind of fertilizer is used in all the activities cited?
- How do you do M&E and conduct baseline study, and how do you measure the increased livelihood?
- Why is main focus made for improvement in the survival of women in some projects and how do they relate activist to PHE intervention?
- How can we work for more integration of the approach both in urban and rural areas?
- Have the presenters considered training as another possible intervention in their sites for PHE integration? (BEA another possible intervention in the site and approach is organization of training)
- How did LEM succeeded in using the government structure (personnel and office space)?
- What is that encourage people to be part of the PHE program?

Summary of Discussions

Ato Moges said LEM Ethiopia makes a baseline study to measure impact and LEM has already started an M&E process to see initial services in FP/RH and percentage in improvisation of services for all LEM programs.

Regarding the use of government structure he shares government resources (human and material) and cover fuel cost or per diem. LEM also provides skill upgrading training for government employees and also involve them in experience sharing visits organized by LEM Ethiopia. Regarding the use of pesticide he said “Our main insecticide is the indigenous agro-forestry system”. He said farmers are provided with various

trainings in organic fertilization methods.

The issue of mainstreaming gender in all programs is aimed at household improvement in general and the livelihood of women in particular. According to EWNRA experiences money secured through Income Generating Activities (IGA) such as seed money for organized women, vegetable gardening, poultry as well as provision of fuel saving stove and building water points instills confidence while provision of fuel saving stove and building water points saves time for women's education. House-to-House provision of FP/RH services also saves time for women since they do not have to travel to health posts.

Ato Tilahun Giday pointed that one way of encouraging the community to be part of PHE integration is involving the community to be part of the PHE program from the very beginning. Going out and reaching government officials and discuss with them possible ways of working with them for sustainability of projects rather than avoiding them and widening the gap between GO-NGO. Options like establishment of parallel treasury, taxation system, and training for refunding could also be entertained. He said NGOs should also show timely expenditure of funds to get trust from the donor community and other sectors like education should also be embraced in PHE integration program as part of the program.

Summary of core values of PHE integration

- Look for survival of humanity in the planet and the components which are part of us, harmonize them for survival, and realize the logic that the rational and logic of PHE is how to make people part of it and make it appealing for the different aspects in the planet.
- Look for impact that does not take more time for improvement of the environment and livelihood of beneficiaries. People would like to see immediate results that go beyond organizational objectives.
- Demonstrate holistic approach as a practical solution to make a difference in the livelihood of the community and survival of human kind
- Show the impact of PHE movement for donors with provision of evidence-based data, reports with three or four indicators in chart to feed the donor, be powerful and galvanize for more support

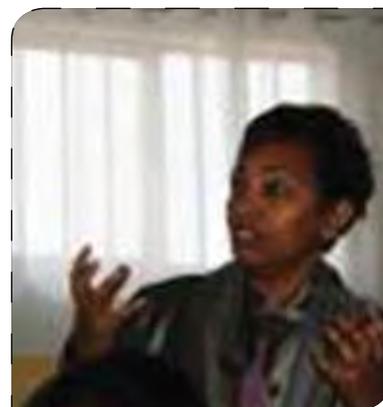
2.1.5. REST

Southern zone Raya Azebo PHE site, Sister Tsehaynesh Abay, Program Officer

The REST watershed model that has been implemented since 2005 in Raya-Azebo Productive Safety Net Woreda located in Southern zone of Tigray was selected to implement and learn on the integration of Population Health and Environment Integrated Environmental Conservation Family planning and HIV/AIDS activities in Raya-Azebo

The watershed approach to PHE integration model uses Woreda-level watershed plan(s) that guides implementation of the health, family planning, livelihood, conservation, water and agriculture activities.

The approach is done through Implementers Committee which comprises Implementers Committee of Development Agent, Health Extension Worker, Education and Community representative, Peer Educators and Kebele Chairperson. The Committee is responsible to develop the Watershed Plan which includes health, family planning, conservation, agriculture, etc. and send it to the woreda technical committee. The Technical Committee compile, approve, and sends the Watershed Plan to Woreda Council for final approval, showing that representation allows more understanding, cooperation and partnership.



Sr. Tsehaynesh Abay

These projects have maximized efforts to improve natural resource management, deliver greater reproductive health services, and enhance food security and livelihood options for food insecure households.

Challenges

- Difficulty integrating various components of PHE due to single sector approaches
- Less fund for PHE integrated set of project delivery mechanisms

Lessons learned

- Focusing on awareness training and local capacity building to PHE integration
- Creating synergy among government sectors and NGOs working on Population Health and Environment to promote integration
- Involve schools on integration of PHE activities
- Strengthen Kebele level integration team (Agricultural Development Agent, HEW, community and associations representatives, and Kebele chairperson)
- Close monitoring and follow up to strengthen PHE integration at Woreda and Kebele level and among programs

The way forward

- Increase awareness and local capacity on PHE integration
- Encourage schools to be model for PHE integration promotion activities
- Strengthen woreda and kebele level integration team /committee /
- Local and International NGOs focus on PHE integration at woreda and kebele level than sectoral approach

(For more details please refer Annex 10)

2.1.6. PHE in MELCA Ethiopia, Befekadu Refera, Programme Coordinator

MELCA is an Oromiffa word which means a crossing point on a river and it is used to show the need for narrowing the gap between the youth and older generation through the PHE integration approach.

PHE Activities

MELCA has implemented PHE activities since March 2008 in school and community level. Based on baseline data assessment, eight pilot projects were selected. The criteria for selection is proximity of schools to the park, population growth, level of awareness about biodiversity and FP. Activities involved awareness raising for DA and agricultural workers, health education for students; development of action plan to PHE from three Woredas of Bale Zone and schools directors from selected schools, and use of mini media.

Results

- Formation and collaboration of various clubs to pass information through Q&A programs, drama , mini media
- Inter-sectoral collaboration (school, government education)
- PHE activities in schools is increasing
- Presence of a voluntary committee with the involvement of women and religious leaders
- Uniqueness of the program is the use of community influential leaders, gate keepers, to convince the community on the use of FP/RH issues excluding abortion issues
- Short and long time FP/RH programs like sanitation have improved
- Seedling plantation through five days Segni program has shown tremendous result

Positive outcomes

- School mini media as tools in integrating PHE to the local community around the school
- Joint venture with stakeholders

(For more details please refer Annex 11)

2.1.7. CCRDA/Packard/PHE Program, W/o Senait Yilma, Program Officer Presenting the review of the Second Phase to ARH/SR

Program in partnership with Packard. W/o Senait, said the CCRDA PHE integrated approach was conducted involving the community, government offices and students in-and out-of schools.

The activities involve awareness creation, improved access to knowledge, skills and practices on PHE linked to government facilities (schools, clinics) and services. The community also contributes and participates in Woreda and Kebele Advisory Committees and clubs. It was pointed out that the program was carried out with approved budget of USD 1 million (Birr 12,346,736.00) and has ensured public understanding of PHE and the up-graded skill to implement the program.

The approach involved meeting with zonal selected partners and stakeholders, holding introductory induction meetings to create clear understanding of the program, signing an MoU with the Regional Finance and Economic Development Bureau for smooth government and NGO relations and conducting joint proposal review to enrich and how best to implement PHE.



W/o Senait Yilma

Major accomplishments included, among others, conducting basic baseline survey, development of PHE manuals in local languages for easy understanding and communication, production of standard IEC materials, organization of skill upgrading trainings, organizations of partners networking meeting, formation of clubs, tree plantation in degraded areas, improved FP services to clients, conducting monitoring and mentoring visits, etc.

Major challenges observed

- Staff turnover in stakeholder offices
- Heavy rain and over engagement of local officials
- Price change to purchase materials and services
- Closure of Youth Clubs
- Weak linkages to health institution
- Absence of timely RH/FP reports from nearby Health Centers

Some of the lessons learned include

- Boys joined Girls clubs
- Broken taboo that improved children and parent discussion
- Presence of young women in environment clubs
- Merger of various school clubs into PHE
- Improved library service, utilization,
- In-school nursery, public toilet, hand washing practice
- Joint monitoring by WAC and KAC
- Experience sharing for positive supportive attitude by trained officials
- Joint planning and execution at CCRDA

Cases from the Field

- Increased male involvement in the use of FP/RH services
- Improved nutrition for the family with support from the agricultural sector
- Increased self-confidence and empowerment for women through women's education

(For more details please refer Annex 12)

2.1.8. Oromo Development Association (ODA)

The Oromo Development Association (ODA), since its establishment in 1993, worked in Oromia National Regional State with focus areas being:

- Provision of FP/RH services
- Adolescent reproductive health education
- Construction of schools for provision of alternative basic and girls' education
- Improvised agriculture
- Rural water supply

PHE in health program is implemented in 110 Woredas comprising 40-47% of the region by working with 30,000 voluntary health workers in 3,000 kebeles. ODA has provided services to more than one million women on FP methods, covering 70% of the services in the region.

PHE Approach

ODA works in Wonchi, SW Shoa in land degradation. The community is involved in discussions on how best to protect the lake and the existing forest by arranging afforestation program and carrying out environmentally friendly activities. Two schools are involved in the afforestation program, development of nursery sites and planting of indigenous trees like Kosso. They were provided with 70,000 seedlings per year.

Youth pressure group is formed to protect the forest site and there is provision of community nursery site for plantation programs.

Income Generating Activities (IGA)

IGA involves:

- Provision of apple seedling to be managed by the youth pressure group
- Mobilizing the community discussions, facilitating communication on the environment, production of Vetiver grass for environmental and economic value (a commercial tree for sell and income)

Achievements

- Working with local administration to smooth relations between Go and NGO
- Working with rural land management and agricultural bureaus and CORHA for more results.

2.1.9. Public Private Partnership Project (PPP) Best Practice from the South Western Part of Ethiopia

Nigus Simon, DSW

The PPP Project came into being with a partnership of eight German based, two private and six public, organizations in Bonga & Mana in SW Ethiopia.

Objectives:

- To develop a sustainable coffee production and marketing using the natural sustainable resources in Ethiopia.
- To conserve the forest and maintain the genetic diversity of Ethiopian coffee
- To improve the living conditions of coffee farmers

Results

- PFM developed and implemented



Nigus Simon

- Forest rights and responsibilities established
- Increased productivity of agricultural products, forest, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for target groups
- Capacities of partner organizations developed through trainings
- Increased RH knowledge (esp. 10-24 years) of target groups through youth RH clubs
- Increased RH service utilization

Major Achievements

The PPP Project Reproductive Health component aims at improving the living conditions of the coffee communities around the project through RH measures and has, among others, resulted in the following achievements.

- Thirteen clubs were established to provide young people with quality and up to date RH information & services and to distribute more than 200,000 condoms through social marketing
- The clubs have reached more than 40,000 people through IEC materials with various information including HIV, Gender & HTPs
- The youth clubs are also involved in IGA creating alternative source of income for the youth, reducing the pressure on the forest
- Networking was created with relevant government and non-government organs to ensure sustainability and secure local support.
- Intensive capacity building was provided to traditional birth attendants and extension workers to ensure quality services
- FP service reached about 52% from 1%

(For more details please refer Annex 13)

2.2. Interactive discussion on the presentations

Roger Mark De Souza, facilitator of the session, told participants to put themselves in the position of a donor that has to choose a project for funding, based on the best approach used to implement its program. Accordingly the following collective impressions were forwarded from participants:

- All over the projects the programs should be selective
- Projects should look for exit strategy
- There is a need for more statistical facts
- There should be better understanding of issues to facilitate results on the ground
- Involve different sector of the population on the process
- Develop achievable strategies
- Conduct baseline study on targets and sub-targets
- Look for added value
- Promote coordination among stakeholders and consortiums to avoid duplication of effort
- Look for projects that could have a multiplier effect

2.3. Concluding remark

WOW for very COOL and very innovative activities done so passionately through diversified approaches

In his concluding remarks, Roger Mark De Souza said that he was impressed on the passion that the projects have shown to the community that they are serving and stressed that there is a need to do more coordination as a network. He said he was also impressed on the urgency and importance of the activities done so passionately and diversity of approaches. He was also “WOWED” by the volume of the work done, and that urgent and passionate, innovative and relevant PHE movement is going on in Ethiopia.

More effort should be made to impress donors, partners, the community and stakeholders, to know and involve them, to get government support and involvement, and use its structure to maximize PHE approach.

Mr. De Souza finally stressed that the consortium should be ready for more challenges and that they should rest assured to achieve what they aspired for since they have Ato Negash Teklu, who is whole heartedly spearheading the PHE Movement in Ethiopia.

All network members acknowledged the need to work hard for better PHE integration, improved partnerships, use mechanisms to impress the donors and get more funding, undertake more awareness raising activities and research based advocacy campaigns, bring about better government involvement and use of its structure.

First session of the meeting wound up with a commitment of member organizations to maximize the Consortium and get ready for more challenges.

Assuring Sustainability of PHE Integration In Ethiopia

Day Two:

Afternoon Session

Part III: Annual General Assembly Meeting of PHE Ethiopia-Consortium (AGAM)

The formal Annual General Assembly Meeting of PHE Ethiopia-Consortium (AGAM) was held on March 18, 2011 at the Conference Hall of Bio-Economy Ethiopia Conference Hall starting from 1:30 p.m. local time. PHE Ethiopia voting members were present during the meeting, fulfilling the quorum with the presence of 21 voting members, enabling to conduct the AGAM.

3.1. The 5th AGAM agendas

This session of the 5th AGAM focused on discussions and approval of the following agendas:

1. PHE Board Report for the fiscal year 2010
2. Fiscal Year 2010 Activity and financial report
3. Audit report for the fiscal year 2010
4. Activity plan and budget for the year 2011
5. Three years strategic plan of PHE Ethiopia Consortium
6. PHE Ethiopia manuals
7. Request for membership submitted by eight organizations

Ato Haddis Mulugeta, Chairman of the Office Bearers of the AGM, presided over the meeting and the agenda for the 5th AGAM was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

3.1.1. PHE Board Report for the Fiscal Year 2010

Ato Moges Worku Board Vice Chairman

Ato Moges Worku, Board Vice Chairman, highlighted activities of the Board in 2010 with his presentation of the Board report on behalf of Dr. Yetinayet Asfaw, Board Chairperson, who could not make it to the meeting due to other commitments.

Ato Moges presented a brief report of the activities undertaken by the Board in the fiscal year 2010. Ato Moges said remarkable achievement was registered during the fiscal year.

He said though the Board usually meets once every three months in a year, four regular and extra-ordinary meetings were held to discuss issues that should be decided within the Board's mandate. Ato Moges said the Consortium was registered as an Ethiopian resident's charity organization with support from the Board. The Board has always had smooth relations with the management and its member organizations; it is committed and has made efforts to support activities of the consortium which proved to be popular for its role in PHE movement in Ethiopia. It also had active attendance and deliberations with international partners at national and globally.

(For more details please refer to Annex 14)

Discussion on the Board report

A question arose as to why Dr. Habtemariam from SLUF was evoked from his post. It was pointed out that if an association has grown into a network that network could not become a member of another consortium. And he is not allowed to be within the PHE Board in accordance with the new NGO law.

Having heard the report and deliberated on it the board report was unanimously approved by the AGAM.

3.1.2. PHE Activity Report for the Fiscal Year 2010

Ato Negash Teklu Executive Director of PHE Ethiopia Consortium

Ato Negash Teklu, Executive Director of PHE Ethiopia Consortium, presented what has been achieved during the reporting period and the financial report for the fiscal year 2010.

3.1.2.1. Main report areas

a) Capacity Building

Ato Negash said the consortium had submitted projects to funding organizations and has been successful in most of them while some projects had limited or no success at all since the Consortium was considered to be a new organization. He said there is a smooth working relation and most organizations have proved to be good partners.

b) Mapping PHE sites and documentation

He said PHE mapping was undertaken to identify activities and geographical locations of member organizations with support and discussions conducted with seven member organizations working in 30 woredas. He said professional mapping was not done due to budgetary reasons. Similarly, video documentation of events and programs was not done again due to budget constraints.

c) Field visits

Training and a field visit to EWNRA's Metu PHE site was organized for the media people.

d) GTP briefing

PHE has also attended the two days briefing on the Ethiopian Government Transformation Plan (GTP)

e) Staffing

Ato Negash said the-once-two-staff-project has now grown to five staff members as there is a need for more staffing pursuant to the improvement that PHE integration is showing and the level of activities that needs to be done.

f) Development of manuals

Ato Negash said manuals and guidelines were finalized and that they will be presented by the concerned personnel for approval by the AGAM.

g) Reports

PHE has also made timely reports which, Ato Negash, said were appreciated by donors.

h) Communication and publication

Communication activities were well underway and as a result brochures, newsletters, proceedings and booklets were published and distributed. With support from the Global Health Fellows Program, the website was up-scaled and made more user-friendly and interactive and was linked to websites of partner/member

organizations, research centers and international organizations. Ato Negash added on-line networking and capacity building workshops were organized in five regions, adding that speaker series events were also organized. He said a three year strategy for on-line capacity building was also developed.

i) Research related activities

Discussions were made on demographic data for development in consultation with the Central Statistical Agency (CSA), and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) while research was conducted on climate vulnerability in North Shoa. Research on benefits of meeting women's contraceptive needs in Ethiopia was also publicized.

A research-based advocacy workshop on integrated watershed management for Gilgel Gibe I was organized as part of the national taskforce which was proved to be successful in upgrading the advocacy initiatives that were undertaken by the PHE Consortium

j) Participation in environmental movements

PHE-Ethiopia Consortium has participated in various national and international environmental movements like the 2nd National Earth Day celebration and National Population Day. It has also participated in the Vetiver Grass Forum and has advocated for the inclusion of "use of Vetiver grass" in the action plan of Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Corporation (EELPCO) and Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA). The Consortium has participated in the Core Group Consultative Meeting on Awash National Park Integrated Development.

Sierra Club members have also visited PHE sites in Ethiopia and have conducted interactive fruitful discussions, which resulted in an agreement to use Ethiopia as a learning PHE site with knowledgeable active leaders.

PHE Ethiopia Consortium has also participated in COP 16 in Cancun, in Mexico not as a civil society but as a government partner.

k) Membership

The Consortium has become member of international organizations like Africa Adopt and Climate Action Network, Pan African Justice Climate change Alliance (PAJCA) and Members of Africa Adopt will visit Ethiopia next year. The Consortium is also in the waiting list for membership to IIED

l) Presentation

Ato Negash has made presentation on Population Health and Environment in the field to more than 50 participants at the Environmental Change and Security Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC. It was his presentation that resulted in the attendance to the 5th AGAM by members of the Center and make such a tremendous contribution to the AGAM.

m) Monitoring and Evaluation

Ato Negash said effort is being made to develop appropriate formats to monitor and evaluate Integrated PHE interventions and strengthen the M& E process which he said is at its fledgling stage.

n) The major challenges were

- Magnitude of the gap between the demand and the service provided
- Limitation of capacity within implementing members and the consortium
- Highly entrenched attitude towards sector approach
- The high demand for scaling up
- Demand for M&E

Conclusion

Ato Negash said 2010 was challenging but successful with encouraging progress in PHE integration in the field with the support of all concerned especially Packard foundation and Engender Health. He said

more local and international support is needed to bring in more development that also might demand the revisiting of PHE strategy, which he said, should be revised in such a way that it will enable members to be ready to tackle more challenges with in development.

(For more details please refer to Annex 15)

3.1.2.2. Discussion on the presentation

Ato Haddis said a tremendous amount of work was done and forwarded vote of thanks to Ato Negash and the staff for performing such commendable tasks to strengthen the establishment and institutionalization of the PHE movement in Ethiopia. He added that more is expected from members in supporting the office to achieve its goal. He opened the discussion regarding the report for the fiscal year 2010. Accordingly comments, questions and suggestions were raised from the AGAM participants.



Ato Haddis Mulugeta

- It is to be recalled that a media coverage was given to the meeting on the Gilgel Gibe advocacy forum and what has happened to the activities that were supposedly to be conducted for advocacy purposes to reach government officials? There should be follow-up on media coverage on such national and other environmental issues.
- Is it wise to attend international meeting as past of the government delegation? We are not expected to be part of the government as we are here to play the role of civil society.
- Is PHE mapping just for identifying PHE approach or is it to show/record/identify impact, type, area, collaboration, and opportunities?
- Rather than concentrating on issues “አይነት አፍጥጦ በመጣ ጉዳይ ላይ ብቻ ከማተኮር” there is a need to concentrate on felt need issues and forums like the Gilgel Gibe to get the attention of government officials
- Publication of story-based booklets as “spotlights” should be concise

Comment

Responding to the questions and comments forwarded from the AGAM participants Ato Negash pointed out that:

Though there is concern that PHE should be representing the civil society, PHE should be able to use such opportunities and be part of the government’s negotiation group in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, and support negotiation processes and fill the gap observed and highlight civil society contributions to climate change activities.

Mapping is not only for members but it should include mapping for the government, individuals, entrepreneurs, it should be used to create the opportunity and link those who could be potential contributors for PHE integration.

Effort is being made to follow the Gilgel Gibe advocacy approach and PHE intervention is requested in Gilgel Gibe and other basins, 13 protected areas, rift valley lakes for contribution as an advocacy task force at the national level. The question remains do we have the capacity to involve in many areas. Our focus should also be to bring in more impact.

The Consortium is working not only on the environment but it is also working on RH/FP as to what is the gap observed in RH in relation to the GTP? The effort made to conduct regional assessment in cooperation with the government has failed and we are trying to do the assessment with support from donors and international organizations.

It is true that story-based success stories should be available for reading and we have accepted the comment

that it should be concise.

Individuals are not allowed to be Consortium members, but they could join as associate or honorary members and Networks or Consortiums can become partners. In both cases they are without voting rights.

To provide capacity building support to members, we will rely and ask support from members and international partners like Pathfinder International Ethiopia who have the technical capacity and financial resources.

It is true that the Consortium has more inclination towards environmental issues since there are more global organizations that focus more on RH/FP. But, we have accepted the critics and we will also try to link to more organizations linked with health and focus on RH issues. Training on media and publicity will continue and during the coming month there will be two more training. The Consortium will stay with Engender Health as far as they do not evict us. We will move out only if there is a need to move out because of the need for more office space resulting from additional projects that require additional staffing and more office space.

Interesting issues such as the Gambella investment issue, wetland forested areas, etc. need more attention and advocacy work. The Consortium is informed but it needs more budget, professional staff and the power to conduct evidence-based research and act accordingly to support the government before it is too late.

A field visit to Northern Ethiopia will be organized to visit REST and CCRDA PHE sites that are engaged in rehabilitation activities. Journalists will be invited to attend the site visit.

National Earth Day will be celebrated with the theme focusing on forests. Thus organizations working on forestry projects were invited to join the celebration.

3.1.3. PHE Audit Report

***Ato Meles Woldehanna
ALETA & Co. Chartered Certified Accountants***

Financial and audit reports were presented for information purposes, approval and endorsement. The reports also included sources of finance and budget utilization. Ato Meles presented the audit report for 2010, and confirmed that PHE Ethiopia Consortium financial statement was accurate and meets auditing principles.

3.1.4. PHE Activity plan and budget for the year 2011

Ato Mesfin Kassa, PHE Program Officer

Ato Mesfin said budget was secured from local, regional and international partner organizations as well as member organizations. Out of the Birr 7,700,837.00 total budget planned for the fiscal year 2011, 4.1 million Birr is secured while 46% is expected. The current budget status stands at 5.5 million Birr. Ato Mesfin said more activities such as capacity building, training, and documentation, experience sharing visits, workshops, communication, media and publicity will be conducted during the fiscal year thanks to the increase in the number of PHE staff and annual commitment of funding from partner organizations.



Ato Mesfin Kassa

Discussion on the presentations

- Show membership contribution in the plan
- Budget excess of income is shown in the plan. Is the funding and budget only for 2011 or beyond the fiscal year? If that is the case we should not show the budget specifically in the year 2011.
- There is no Monitoring and Evaluation, and research staff
- Include activity plan for youth engagement in PHE activities

Discussions on the presentations

Ato Negash said member contribution is Birr 500.00, adding that M&E system will soon be in place and

PHE will consider using 50% of intern time for activities that will soon be commenced with the availability of funding. Regarding budget excess of income, there will be activities that will go beyond 2011 and such activities will be mentioned in the action plan. He stressed that active participation of member organizations is required for the PHE integration program and the success thereof. With the understanding that the above mentioned amendments will be included in the action plan, it was unanimously approved by the AGAM.

Following the discussions the audit, financial and activity plan reports were unanimously approved by the AGAM.

3.1.5. The 3-Year Strategic Plan of PHE-Ethiopia Consortium Prof. Zerihun Woldu, Addis Ababa University

Prof. Zerihun started with the question “how does the Consortium perceive the PHE definition”? He pointed out that the PHE integration, as a question/demand of underdeveloped countries with biodiversity hotspots, its definition should be clearly understood to avoid bias on PHE integration.

Prof. Zerihun said the vision, missions and objective of PHE Ethiopia Consortium, that was revised by Board and Committee members “are consistent with the vision, strategic directions, objective and implementation strategies stipulated in the Sectors Development Plan of the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) and Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP)”.



Prof. Zerihun Woldu

In revising the strategy he said integration was given more emphasis and a qualitative change was proposed to bring about inter-organizational integration, as there is a need for a leap forward by member organizations.

New Opportunities for PHE-Ethiopia

- Paradigm shift in research Policy in the Universities and research Institutions
- Thematic researches with active participation of stakeholders and development partners
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation fund
- Development partners more interested than ever to support PHE Activities
- PASEP and GTP supportive to PHE Approach

Challenges for PHE Ethiopia Consortium

- The need to build more capacity to make use of the new opportunities through training and experience sharing and inter-organizational integration
- Reluctance for inter-organizational integration and engage in conceptually linked and operationally coordinated interventions

Enhancement of the Action Plan

- Establish training Center for PHE Ethiopia consortium to be learning platform
- More focus on fewer and larger projects
- Establish a system of getting pertinent advice from a panel of experts
- Introduce Monitoring and evaluation as mandatory
- Engage in evidence based advocacy in as much as possible

Prof. Zerihun concluded his presentation by saying that the “the strategy is open for change since we are living in a dynamic world”.

(For more details please refer to Annex 16)

Discussion on the presentation

- More clarification needed on the phrase “establishing training centers
- The strategy should include soliciting diversified fund and providing capacity building for members
- More emphasis should be given to media and publicity for more impact
- Networking and partnership should also be emphasized in the strategy
- Try to shorten the Vision statement and Object 5
- The coordination role of PHE should be emphasized and as the role of the youth in PHE integration is a great concern, a strategy on how best to involve the youth should also be included

Prof. Zerihun said the vision statement and all those areas which need improvement will be revised with support from members. Accordingly, Ato Bekele, Ato Jemal, and Ato Fekadu, in Consultation with Prof. Zerihun, and Ato Negash, will make the required amendments.

Establishing a training centre is related to capacity building. The Center should be a learning platform wherein member organizations will be trained to be competent and centers of excellence. The trainers will be from organizations which have the capacity to do so.

Regarding enhancing the coordination role of PHE and the issue of involving the youth in PHE integration, Prof. Zerihun said the strategy encompasses many issues and members should revisit the document for more understanding.

The strategy document, that was approved during the 2nd Annual General Assembly Meeting was shaped and refined with participation of member organizations and was unanimously endorsed by the AGAM.

3.1.6. PHE Ethiopia Consortium manuals
W/o Emebet Wario, Finance and Administration Officer

W/o Emebet Wario presented summary of three manuals - Human Resources, Financial/Accounting and Procurement- for endorsement by the AGAM. W/o Emebet said the manuals were developed in consultation with members of the Board and PHE staff.

The Human Resources has 10 major sections, while Financial/Accounting Manual comprises 14 major sections. The third is Procurement Manual with, a guideline to implement PHE-Ethiopia standard operating procedure for procurement of goods and equipment.



W/o Emebet Wario

(For more details please refer to Annex 17)

Discussion of the presentation

Comment 1

- There is no need to mention the number of members of the Consortium in the human resources manual since members are not your employees. In fact they are your bosses.
- Thus amend the nomenclature and redefine in such a way that staff members of the PHE office can be members of another consortium i.e. employees of the office are allowed to be a member of another consortium.

Comment 2

- Problem resolution procedure mentioned in the in the human resources manual should be re-written as “disciplinary measure”

Comment 3

- Make sure that financial transactions are handled procedurally and that the consortium is cost effective in all its activities, and that there is internal control.

Comment 4

- Include a monthly and quarterly report in the procurement manual. It is essential to have timely reports by employees to monitor their performance and make sure that Consortium also abides by government rule and regulations.

Comment 5

- Use a uniform and latest accounting package

Following the discussion session, amendments were included in the manuals and were unanimously approved by the AGAM.

3.1.7. Request for Membership Submitted by Eight Organizations

Eight organizations have applied for membership to the PHE Ethiopia Consortium. Organizational profile of the organizations which applied for membership was presented to the AGAM. Prior to the discussion forum organizational profile of Agri-Service Ethiopia, ICEDA, Selam Integrated Development, SEPDA, Health limited, Save Your Generation Ethiopia, Greener Ethiopia, Tsinat Social & Development Organization was presented to the AGAM.

It was pointed that most of the applicants have fulfilled the requirements that makes them eligible to join the Consortium, such as having activities that can add value to PHE integration. Some participants also gave testimonials on the activities of the applicants that could add value in contributing for PHE integration. It was stressed that the Consortium should consider quality rather than quantity in accepting membership and it should not exceed the agreed upon number of the consortium to be not more than 50 members. Representatives of the applicants were present during the discussion and also gave briefings on the activities of their respective organizations.

Following discussions the eight organizations were unanimously accepted by the AGAM to be members of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium.

Concluding Remarks

Ato Haddis said PHE integration was successful in Ethiopia within a short span of time. He attributed the success to the effort exerted by its member organizations and PHE Executive Director, Ato Negash Teklu, an influential figurehead who devoted his time and talents to encourage, motivate and promote the noble cause of environmental protection, population and health and sustainable development in Ethiopia.

Ato Haddis also commended the contribution of member organizations and expressed his strong belief that effort will be made to uphold and promote the ideals of PHE integration in Ethiopia. The AGAM participants said “members of the Consortium will strive and advocate for bringing in population, health and environment in the government agenda”.

The 5th Annual General Assembly Meeting of PHE Ethiopia Consortium (AGAM) was adjourned at 5:30p.m.

Ethiopia- a good learning university for integrated PHE approach and sustainability

Day Three:

Part IV: The Field Visit to Projects in LEM and GPSDO Sites

The third day of the 5th Annual General Assembly Meeting was devoted to a field trip to visit projects which are striving to “contribute to the realization of sustainable livelihoods in the targeted communities and to guarantee economic efficiency, ecological integrity and social equitability through the PHE approach”.

Accordingly, field visits were conducted at the LEM Ethiopia project sites in Girar Jarso Woreda (North Shoa, Oromia Regional State) and GPSDO sites in Guraghe Zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS).

The visits demonstrated the achievements in “addressing the complex problems of high population growth, poor provision of basic health services and inadequate natural resources management with PHE integration”.

4.1. Field Visit to project areas

4.1.1. Project contribution to PHE activities

Place Visited:

Oromia Regional State, North Shoa Zone, Girar Jarso Woreda Girar Ber Kebele Peasants Association

People Met: Government officials

Issues Discussed: Stakeholder composition and use of government structure to reach the people

LEM Ethiopia plans and works together with the government and different sectors to help implement the 17 health packages. The woreda has better infrastructure and there are primary schools, agricultural service centers and health posts to help undertake PHE integrated activities and fill the gap observed in PHE integration program.

Encouraging project activities are done in collaboration with agriculture and education offices and model farmers. The activities include capacity building for model farmers and agricultural and health extension workers. LEM also undertakes awareness programs on food security and FP/RH with government partnership using government structure.

How to talk to the community

There will always be a house to house mobilization to bring the community to the health center and get the required services. There is enough medical apparatus to give the service. Some prefer traditional birth attendants who are trusted by the community.

Measurable indicators

Achievement depends on the community and they are the indicators.

Reporting mechanism

There is detailed data book, report, weekly, monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual reporting system.

Training

TOT is provided to farmers and they benefit from the training. The other method is neighbors teach and

convince each other for multiplier effect. Quality of service is improved with support from trained models farmers who have a critical role to play in disseminating information and ownership of the whole program. Training is provided for three hours training per day for three months.

Availability and provision of supplies

There is no problem at the Woreda level and the district office and health centers are also well equipped and provide the required services. Visiting is done through two development agents and peer educators to reach various groups.

Open discussion on issues regarding HIV/AIDS

There are about seven people who have voluntarily identified themselves as HIV positive and there are volunteers who usually go to other kebeles and teach the community.

4.1.2. Education and PHE integration

Place Visited:

Oromia Regional State, North Shoa Zone, Girar Jarso Woreda Girar Geber Kebele Peasants Association

**People Met: Ato Merid Oda, Director, District Education Office
Ato Beneberu Demissie, Ejersa Kacoo**

Issues Discussed

The role of school environmental clubs is vital to contribute in PHE integration. Capacity building skills to members of school environmental clubs is given in seedlings production, afforestation, soil conservation, apiary, awareness raising on global environmental issues such as climate change, training in the production of energy saving stoves and compost preparation. Planting sites for learning by doing programs are provided to school environmental clubs and extension workers are also trained for knowledge transfer purposes

a) Horticulture

Horticultural activities are undertaken as income generating activities to support orphans from the sale of vegetables. School drop-outs are also supported from the income secured.

Challenges

- Consider high schools for age-wise active students. Since the environmental clubs are only for students under the age of 15, high schools should be part of the environmental club.
- High rate of school dropouts
- Declining quality of education due to absence of reference materials, laboratory equipment, computers,
- Lack of exposure to new technology

Opportunities

- Participatory process involving the students and the community
- Supportive government structure
- Awareness of environmental issues
- Gender balance in trainings, committees and all activities
- Use of religious and cultural structure to educate the community

b) Integrating HIV/AIDS and environment

Parents are comfortable with the provision of education on sexuality and HIV/AIDS. One can see that the silence regarding HIV/AIDS is broken in the schools and students undergo voluntary HIV/AIDS test every three months. Students give lectures on HIV/AIDS in community meetings such as Idir and in religious rituals in Churches and Mosques. Girls are free to talk about their menstrual cycles and are provided with counseling services by the guidance experts. Girls are empowered, have self confidence thanks to girls' rights clubs. They have girls' latrines and will have rest days during their menstrual cycles, since they could

not be provided with sanitary tampons.

c) Effects of climate change

How do you talk to children about climate change? What do the students think of the change, what do they do and how are they impacted?

There is observation in family crop calendar, weather change and absence of seasonal rains. There is a meeting with elders and ancestors' observation of area coverage of the vegetation in the past, absence of indigenous trees in the area, fuel wood for energy, population pressure, highly degraded landscape all show the impact of climate change. Regular science education in weather such as geography classes will also highlight local and global climate change, to help them engage in environmental conservation activities in their school compounds. The collective poverty observed in the community can tell their vulnerability to climate change.

Lem Ethiopia and the government are undertaking a commendable joint venture in PHE integration with support and joint contribution from different actors.

4.2. Visit to Model Farmers

i. Ato Mulugeta Aberra

“An Apple a Day Drives the Doctor Away”

Ato Mulugeta was provided with fine quality apple trees and has enabled him to make a profit of worth 30,000.00 Birr annually from the 12 apple trees planted in his backyard.

He said commitment to apply what he has learnt has enabled him to be one of the model farmers and changed his way of life. He said “**ሥልጠና ወደቆ የማይሰበርና የማይሰረቅ ገንዘብ ነው**” literally meaning training and knowledge is the determining factor for success.

Ato Mulugeta has also planted false banana for food security, uses energy saving stove to stop use of fuel wood, he uses FP/RH services for family life improvement, promotes personal hygiene and sanitation, engages income generating activities to support his family by involving his wife and ensuring gender equality and equity for economic development.

ii. Ato Fanta Dessie

Model farmer in Gende Tache Kebele Peasants Association

Ato Fanta said his life has improved and he is getting better income from diversified agricultural earning secured from the irrigated land. He said he has an improved life but most of all he was so glad “to send his children to school” hoping to see them change and live in a better condition than his own. He is able to share ideas with his wife and said both have equal decision making powers. He said he is glad to share his knowledge and usually provides fellow farmers with seedlings.

iii. W/o Birhane Fekadu

Model female farmer in Gende Tache Kebele Peasants Association

W/o Birhane practices horticulture, dairy and livestock production thanks to the capacity building programs provided by Lem Ethiopia and government offices. She is well known for applying what she has learnt and transfer of knowledge. She was the award winner in Kebele, Zone, Woreda and regional level, and she has applied water harvesting mechanisms following training in water channeling. She said “though I love my 12 children, I would have been so happy had I been provided with FP/RH services years ago”. Now she advises others not to have a large family.

iv. Ato Ketema Alemu and W/o Elfinesh Mamo

Model Household Farmers

The husband and wife are engaged in animal feed, vegetable gardening, and have established shallow water well to irrigate their land. They said they have put into practice the 17 health packages and have improved and sustained their life.

Following the site visits, transparent discussion was held amongst agricultural extension workers, the woreda government officials and LEM Ethiopia regarding gaps in the implementation of PHE integrated programs. It was suggested to work in consultation with each other, and consider “the system and not individuals” for sustainability of PHE integrated programs and provision of improved services for the felt needs of the farmers.

4.3. End of the field visit

4.3.1 Vote of Thanks

Mr. Roger Mark De Souza said that he was impressed by what he saw and admired the effort, motivation and inspiration of the community in PHE integration. Mr. Mark said that he has visited many communities throughout the world but he said “what I saw today was the best of all”. He promised that they will be provided with all the required resources to support PHE integration in the Woreda. Ato Menor Mamo, Chairman of the Kebele, said thank you for coming and visiting us and motivating us to contribute more. He said they are ready to share their experience with others adding that they are ready to work together for better results.

Ato Moges Worku, Executive Director of LEM Ethiopia said that LEM is proud to work with them. “Though the PHE integration is a challenge, we are sure to see the fruition thanks to the effort made by the community”, he concluded.

4.3.2. Discussion on Lessons Learnt

“One for the Road”

Participants of the visit program had “On the Road Discussion Session” on their way back to Addis Ababa on the lessons learnt and the way forward which could be summarized as follows:

- Visitors have come across new plants namely “beat grass” and “elephant grass” used as animal fodder
- Absence of vertical agriculture in rural areas
- Gap observed between GO and NGO
- Observation on the need for professional alliance for more results
- The need for training to undertake more research
- The need to undertake project impact assessment to scale up PHE integration into other areas
- Cost effectiveness as the pillar of PHE integration
- The need for availability of data to help the government buy-in PHE integration based on evidence based research
- The need for youth involvement since they are young and active, fast learning and aspiring
- Use of well-developed government structure for sustainability of the program
- PHE is in the field on the ground it exists already it was not a-made-up-thing. It is indeed an impressive field visit

4.3.3. Brain storming session on the way forward

- Use strategic planning sessions to capitalize and make a difference
- Facilitate dialogue rather than making more presentations and convince donors to have a donor’s champions
- There is a need for forum of donors for integration and impact for the community
- Avoid single and short term projects
- Document and circulate documents for impact
- Undertake M&E and follow the progress
- Look for a mechanism where countries of the PHE family register for experience sharing, develop a paradigm shift. Rethink for another approach to get well positioned and fill the gap
- The power at the community level is exceptional and can be used as a leverage
- Use local PHE fellows that could be understood by stakeholders as it is cost effective and will

- maximize sustainability to expand program with more understanding
- Promote media and publicity
- PHE Ethiopia approach is young. Though progressing there are challenges to be recognized and faced for implementation. Most of them will be resolved internally but some of them need international support like “East Africa Network for PHE”. International partnership is critical
- Communication is well underway for positive initiation but needs more technical know-how
- Strong partnership with the government is required
- The three years strategy plan should include ways and means on how best to get along with government partners and networks
- Consolidate the Consortium for strong partnership and coordinating role within the NGO
- Be a learning center for sustainability “Ethiopia could be a good learning university for PHE integration”

Annex 1-

Key note Address by Ato Negash Teklu, ED of PHE Ethiopia consortium

Your Excellency, Ato Selish Getahun, State Minister of Agriculture

Dear Members, partners and

Invited guests

This three days GA is a very important meeting bearing unique features in terms of its wide scope of objectives, contest and composition of participants. The goal of this meeting is to update PHE Ethiopia Consortium members, partners, and the donor community on the status of integrated PHE interventions in Ethiopia.

And the objectives include:

- To demonstrate population, health and environment (PHE) interventions as reliable, cost effective and innovative responses to diverse community needs by presenting local, regional and international developments in the PHE field
- To visit PHE intervention sites currently in process to learn hands on applications within Ethiopia.
- To establish needs and next steps in research and capacity building towards the existence of well developed, implemented and monitored PHE interventions.
- Lastly, to garner funding for PHE interventions in Ethiopia through the development of partnerships with Government, International partners & donor agencies.

The main theme of the meeting focuses as you can see in the agenda on four areas that meet the goal & the objectives. The first one is how PHE's approach is progressing at global, regional and local level; the second focuses on the relationship of PHE and emerging issues of development (i.e. cross-cutting issues, like FP/RH, gender, youth and climate change) and the third one, is the field integration specialty of implementing member organizations and partners that operates in 30 sites (Districts) of the country and the last, Of course, the official GA meeting will also be undertaken within this time.

The reason we organized this general assembly meeting in this way is taking into consideration what the country, our consortium, its members, partners and the global environment are showing progress and challenges including climate change impacts, that needs discussing conceptually mainly on the linkage of the different social, economic and environmental issues and the importance of integration within the new GTP of the country and MDGs. This will empower and build the capacity of our members, partners locally and internationally and strengthen our partnership so that we can contribute to the development initiatives of Ethiopia. Moreover, we want to take our general assemblies as learning sessions for integrated approach conceptually and practically.

We have government officials, members and partner organizations, prominent individuals and donors from local, regional and international. Generally we are about 100 participants, out of the invited 120. In addition, we have prepared different publications and materials that support the scholarly presentations and the legal General Assembly meeting through soft and hard copies for your reading and use. Of course, Packard Foundation is the major sponsor of this meeting and many thanks for Packard Foundation. From conception to implementation until today, we have devoted a great deal of time and energy to arrange and organize the meeting in collaboration with different members, local and international partners, government bodies, donors. The mosaic of participants from International, Regional and Local level would add tremendous opportunities to share our experiences to each other.

I kindly call our guests from USA, Kenya, Philippines and Uganda to stand up and introduce yourself, please.

Our guests from USA are:

- Jason Bremmer, Program Director of PRB & PHE
- Roger mark, PAI Vice President of Research & Director of the Climate Program
- Linda Bruce, Project Director of BALANCED

Our guest from Kenya:

- Karugu Ngatia

From Uganda:

- Dr. Jladys Kalema-zikusoka

From Philippines:

- Ricky

YOU ARE WELCOME!

WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE YOU IN THIS HISTORICAL MEETING!

Dear participant, the progress and the achievements we had in the last three years, had it not been with the support of our members, local and international partners, government institutions, Media, Higher institutions as well as donors, it was impossible to sustain the approach and initiative we are pursuing. I hope you will enjoy the meeting, the weather, the food and the likes.

Last but not least, I encourage each of you to participate actively in the meeting so that it will produce successful results.

I would like to forward my appreciation to all participants.

Thank you.

Annex 2 -

Opening Remarks

Ato Tigistu G/Maskel, Ministry of Agriculture

Respected guests,

Members of the Consortium,

Dear Participants,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honor to make opening remarks at this important 5th Ethiopian Annual PHE General Assembly Meeting and let me welcome you. Let me also convey the apology of H.E. Ato Seleshi Getahun, State Minister of Ministry of Agriculture who would have been among you, and however, not make it because of other commitments.

Dear participants,

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa and the population is growing fast with current rate at 2.6%. The growing population of the country has put increasing pressure on land and natural resources which has been often described by degradation of the environment. This has impacted the human well-being and health as the capability of ecosystems to provide essential environmental goods and services is being diminished.

In view of this, the GoE from the very beginning, being well aware of these facts has prepared appropriate policies, strategies, and programs that are prerequisites for sustainable development. The policy and legislative frameworks have also provided enough attention to the population, environment and health linkages as an integral part of viable and sustainable development of the country. The constitution of the nation has clearly stated that the people of Ethiopia have the right to live in a clean and healthy environment. Complying with this, the country by now has a comprehensive Environmental Policy that is intended to ensure environmentally friendly and sustainable development in which the interrelations among population, health and environment sectors are the main considerations. Health and population policies of Ethiopia have also similarly noted their continuum to sustainable development in Ethiopia. The health policy emphasizes the importance of achieving access to a basic package of quality primary health care services by segments of the population, using the decentralized governance.

The population policy has for its major goal the harmonization of the rate of population growth and the capacity of the country for the development and rational utilization of the natural resources to the end that the level of welfare of the population is maximized over time. To address environmental problems, degradation and to improve agricultural productivity, a concerted effort has been made based on the country's Community-based participatory Watershed Development.

In response to growing threats of local and global climate change, the GoE has quickly reacted by formulating national mitigation and adaptation plans of action which are nearing now implementation phase.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The issue of policy and legal frameworks with regard to integration population, health and environment has been well dealt although reinforcing guidelines can still be worked on. The question is:

- Are we practically harmonizing programs undertaken in population, health and environment to bring about a meaningful result in reducing and/or avoiding poverty and vulnerable livelihood?
- How can we best integrate people, health and environment themes into our economic development, business and markets?

Contextual linkage and integration of sectors to result in tangible outcomes well recognized in the country's poverty

reduction strategy. With respect to this, the initiative of PHE Ethiopia consortium has significant contribution to mainstream population, health and environment in cross-sectoral development effort of the country and complements towards the effectiveness of policies and strategies .

Ladies and gentlemen,

The GoE and development partners of Ethiopia including PHE Consortium are now part of moment to end poverty and effect sustainable development by playing their respective roles in achieving the 5-year Growth and Transformation Plan, which we are looking forward to record 14.9%. While the of attaining this economic growth are immense, we all can create great opportunities of success by demonstrating our commitment and relentless Thus, let me take this opportunity to urge that all development partners and NGOs in the country to meticulously own the government's Trust of their partnership with us and contribute a coordinated input than piecemeal initiative. Do measure all your efforts and interventions against the set strategic objectives of the country's development plan. The alignment and harmonization of what you are doing with what the country needs at the grass-root level is timely. The synergy we want to form between the people, health and environment shall be perceived in this context.

In the end, let's keep our development relationship active and strong in order that we can move forward to realize sustainable development in Ethiopia.

Wishing you excellent deliberations, I now declare that the assembly is officially open.

Thank you for your attention.

Note :

Dear Readers,

If you want to refer to the Annexies(from 3- 17) mentioned in this document kindly we invite you to visit our website.

With best regards,

PHE ETHIOPIA Consortium



P H E
ETHIOPIA
consortium

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