

NEWS

7th General Assembly Meeting of PHE EC

PHE EC conducted its 7th General Assembly (GA) meeting in the Consortium for Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) conference hall from 12-13 March 2013. More than 93 participants gathered from government, civil society and the media. International guests came from the US, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, including Hope for People and Environment in the Lake Victoria Basin (HOPE LVB) project representatives. The first day was for thematic discussions. It began with the welcoming address of the Executive Director of the Consortium, Ato Negash Teklu, followed by the successive key note addresses of W/ro Yemeserach Belayneh, Country Advisor, Packard Foundation and Dr. Yetinayet Asfaw, Director of Engender Health and PHE EC Board Chair.



After the introductory session, CCRDA shared their experience with using the Integrated PHE (IPHE) approach to tackle multi-faceted community challenges in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region. The results of two recent evaluation studies were then shared: an impact evaluation of the Guraghe People's Self-help Development Organization and a qualitative process evaluation of the Relief Society of Tigray and Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association PHE projects. According to the studies, the impacts and processes of PHE integration in the project show promising outcomes. Recommendations were made to adopt the IPHE approach as a means of achieving sustainable development.

Following this, PHE's contribution to Ethiopia's national plan and MDGs was discussed by participants. Representatives from federal government offices actively discussed the importance of integration to achieve the national targets in all sectors of the development. The international guests presented on the HOPE LVB project in Uganda and Kenya, Blue Ventures' PHE project in Madagascar and the Tuungane project in Tanzania.

On the second day, the legal GA meeting was conducted with member organizations. The Board Leader, Ato Afework Hailu, facilitated this session and Dr Yetinayet Asfaw, the Board Chair, presented the board report for 2012. Ato Negash then delivered the activity and financial report for 2012, followed by the audit report by the external auditor. A number of questions were discussed during the GA, including the detailed 2013 activity plan and the endorsement of new member organizations. At the end of the meeting, the GA heard the minutes and approved them unanimously. The legal GA meeting was followed by a capacity building session on the PHE Shared Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit to assist directors and managers to strengthen data collection in their respective organizations.

Meeting Ethiopia's Development Goals: the contributions of multisectoral approaches

Meeting Ethiopia's Development Goals: the contributions of multisectoral approaches discussion was conducted on 14th March 2013 at the Radisson Blu Hotel with the objective of updating donors new to PHE on the contribution of multi-sectoral approaches in meeting Ethiopia's development goals. The forum commenced with a presentation from the USAID/Washington PHE Technical Advisor, Matthew Erdman, who addressed why USAID supports the PHE approach. Kristen Stelljes, Packard Foundation Ethiopia PHE Advisor, then presented global lessons from PHE projects in Asia and Africa. Negash Teklu and Ahmed Mohammed presented on the role PHE is playing in Ethiopia's development along with Sam Donovan and Lianne Gonsalves from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The forum was concluded with extensive discussions, facilitated by Yemeserach Belayneh, Packard Foundation, Dr Mengistu Asnake, Pathfinder Ethiopia, and Dr Million Bellay, MELCA Ethiopia, where all participants agreed that multi-sectoral approaches have much to contribute to Ethiopia's development as well as to achieving the MDGs globally.

East Africa PHE Network Meeting

In continuation, a regional meeting was conducted with representatives from the PHE working groups in Kenya and Uganda, USAID/Washington and Packard Foundation. The objective of the meeting was for members share and update each other on the PHE activities being implemented in each country and plan for the International PHE Conference which will be conducted from 10-11 November 2013 in Addis Ababa, just before the International Family Planning Conference. Working groups and participants have shared their readiness to contribute to the conference and assigned roles and responsibilities. PHE EC will oversee and coordinate the program and logistics of the conferences in partnership with the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and the PHE African Working Groups.

Field Visit

A field visit was organized for international visitors and special guests on March 15, 2013 by the PHE Ethiopia Consortium. The group travelled to the GPSDO PHE integrated site at Cheza kebele, Muhirna Aklil woreda. The participants of the visit were PHE community members from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, USA and from USAID Ethiopia. In Cheza, the participants talked with beneficiaries of the project about how the PHE project is increasing family planning use, gully restoration and agricultural productivity. The guests appreciated seeing for themselves how the integration approach has benefited the beneficiaries. The international participants also shared that they learned several lessons that they will take back home with them from their time in Ethiopia.