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IANPHI PARTNERS WITH ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE TO  
SUPPORT ITS VISION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Strong national leadership and a vision for the future of public health has made Ethiopia a model of best practices for other members of the International Association of Public Health

Institutes (IANPHI), of which it is a member. IANPHI, with a U.S. Office based at GHI, is an association of the 100+ “CDC’s” of the world.

Under the leadership of Dr. Amha Kebede, an IANPHI Executive Board Member, the

Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) was established in 2014 and serves as the country’s national focal point for public health.

The precursor of EPHI began in 1930 and was formalized in 1986 with the establishment of the National Research Institute of Health (NRIH). A decade later, the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) was established as a result of the merging of three separate organizations: NRIH, Ethiopian Nutrition Institute

(ENI), and the Department of Traditional Medicine Research of Federal Ministry of Health.

During business process reengineering in 2010, EHNRI examined its current activities, uncovered

gaps in services, and defined opportunities for growth. The Institute learned that there was a need to reassess priorities, advance implementation capacity, reorganize monitoring and evaluation efforts, and

improve the dissemination of research outcomes.

EPHI was designed with a more comprehensive focus that allowed the Institute to expand on its existing strengths and develop additional priorities to improve the health of the population. EPHI now serves as the center for public health coordination within Ethiopia, in order to align health priorities nationwide.

Through strategic planning and collaboration, IANPHI helped support Dr. Kebede’s vision for



*Dr. Amha Kebede, Director General of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute*

the establishment of EPHI. IANPHI brought to the table knowledge and experience from member institutes to involve and engage stakeholders, as well as to think through options on how to structure various elements of the Institute.

Established in 2006 and headquartered at the French Institute for Public Health in Paris, IANPHI connects and strengthens public health institutes worldwide. With 100 members from 88 countries, IANPHI has worked to leverage experience and expertise from its member institutes to create and foster a strong and impactful public health network. Since 2006, IANPHI has helped more than 18 countries to create NPHIs and has worked to strengthen 40+ more. Its work has leveraged more than \$65 million in additional donor funds for low-resource NPHIs.

Dr. Kebede noted that “IANPHI supported us in developing critical capacities needed to identify and respond to public health emergencies through partnerships, training, and information technology. Working with IANPHI since 2010 has been critical in EPHI’s development of its first strategic plan, and getting buy-in for the future direction of its new mandate in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.”

IANPHI’s work has aligned closely with the U.S. CDC’s NPHI program, based at the Center for Global Health Protection. In addition to CDC’s NPHI Lead Shelly Bratton and her team, numerous partners connected and collaborated at the direction of Dr. Kebede, including CDC’s

Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP), rabies experts, and emergency preparedness support. In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO), with which IANPHI has a memorandum of understanding for joint work in public health systems strengthening efforts, has offered assistance on emergency response preparedness planning for Ethiopia.

The Ethiopia collaboration has had an impact

throughout the region, according to IANPHI’s U.S. Office Director Courtenay Dusenbury, who noted that the experiences of Dr. Kebede and his colleagues

can now benefit numerous other countries.

“EPHI has been a very important example of best practices for the strategic planning and stakeholder engagement necessary to create NPHIs, one that has been studied and used by many of our members,” she said. “Most recently, Dr. Kebede has volunteered to share his knowledge and experiences with colleagues in other countries including Malawi and Liberia.”

“Dr. Kebede’s leadership has been vital to the 10-year partnership between Emory University and EPHI, and we are grateful for his commitment to improving health in Ethiopia and around the world.”

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*The Ethiopian Public Health Institute*