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Integrated Development in Population, Health, and Environment: Updates from Ethiopia and the Philippines

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Edited Transcript – Negash Teklu

Thank you, Geoff. Good afternoon, colleagues. Thank you for the information and introduction. I will present some of our PHE successes in country. And, as you know, our consortium is almost a three years old institution so you should expect, based on our age -- How we started, as you can see, the starting point is the international conference we had in 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. That was sponsored by USAID and Packard and PRB and LEME are responsible for organizing that conference. In that conference we were able to establish our East African Network which Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda are organized within that network. At that conference we were able to establish a our ad hoc committee where seven organizations like Engender Health Ethiopia, Addis Ababa University, Arba Minch University, LEM Ethiopia, Horn of Africa Environmental Center were organized to take the initiative to establish the PHE in country in Ethiopia '11. At that time, they were looking for a coordinator and I was starting that time as a coordinator for the ad hoc committee and for the consortium.

With the ad hoc committee we had a one year action plan but we were able to achieve in six months, as we had secured from the beginning funds from the Secretariat's office and even for establishing our consortium. So we were able to have a General Assembly meeting where around 51 organizations were ready to be part of the process. And, in that first General Assembly, we had established our consortium with the vision to coordinate PHE activities in country, promote PHE integration approaches, efforts, information sharing, networking, capacity building and fundraising.

So, since the first General Assembly that was held in May 2008, we had strong members from small to big and almost all the networks were existing in country. Like CRBA, PANA, NEWA, different on women, Pastoralist Forum, all were ready to become members of this consortium as they understand that they have value by being part of this consortium.



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Other results. We were able to have different projects sites in country. As you can see, we have around 26 now, project sites within the country. You can see we are having in different parts of the country. Some of the sites are older, even around five years like the Ethio-Wetland that is in western Ethiopia. Some are new, that are established after the international conference, mainly with the support of Packard funds. In addition, we had support from SIDA, Sweden, Irish Aid and others.

So, these are the organizations that are implementing in different parts and basically the support is coming from SIDA Noroyen development fund. They've been balanced from USAID and strongly from Packard.

What we do in country for PHE awareness activities, one is, we have the National ERISA Day events for two years, in the last two years. And we've raised issues of integration in addition to climate change issues. We have the World Environment Day, the World Population Day, and we also organize field visits to all our PHE sites, not only to see success stories, even to the challenges we have in country built on the climate change impacts we have in country or deforestation, degradation of land, anything related to our activity. We have also presented on PHE approaches, locally and internationally, these are the activities we have for awareness creation in country.

In information sharing and networking, you might have seen our website. We have a PHE Ethiopia Website which -- it's coming -- we have also a newsletter we publish every four months. We have also a spotlight where we highlights success stories and challenges of individual project sites and organizations. You can access them in our website. They are in the front homepage. We also produce brochures on PHE in the consortium that addresses the concept, the approach, everything. We also participate in different networks and partnerships like the Vetiver Grass Network, the Wetlands Network, Family Planning Group, and the Climate Change Civil Society Network and different forums.

This is our website which starts by defining the concept of PHE. And we have publications, we have every time new publications. For example, about [unintelligible] related, you can see the latest documents that address about the [unintelligible] 16 what was agreed on the different discussion points concerning the Kyoto Protocol and others.

We also facilitated capacity building activities for our members and partners like PHE project design. How do we integrate PHE? How do we design it? What are the methodologies? How do we monitor and evaluate integrated projects? Do we use the same indicators like the family planning, the environment, or do we use the integrated or



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value added? So we had a monitoring and evaluation, capacity building training, policy communications. How do we develop evidence that could convince our policy makers? How do we collect data?

In addition, we are sharing resources that we can generate from the Internet. Because many of our members, they may not be aware what kind of resources they have to use or to integrate. So we have training in these four categories in the last two years.

We have international partners, which many of you are part of this list, our strong supporters, Packard Foundation, OAK Foundation, Henerisch-Boll Foundation, some European and American organizations, Eastern African PHE group. USAID Washington. Thanks to Heather, she is our strong supporter. PIE, PAI, Global Health Fellows Program, Woodrow Wilson Center, which they have invited me for the second time. Balance Project, the Sierra Club, The Population Climate Change Alliance Group which is from U.S. and from Europe and from the south, our consortium. So we want to make a meaningful partnership and it's a good start for us.

So what are the lessons up to now learned from the PHE approach we have in country. One thing we are very sure is, Ethiopia has the potential of integrating projects. There is a big demand. There is a big interest on the integration approach because it has added value to what every organization is doing. Committee ownership and participation are very, very critical and essential things we need to follow. And that is why it is giving us strength and support within our members and partners. The international support is very significant and important. Without that, the development we secured up to now cannot be achieved. So that should be also well recognized.

The population and climate connection are easily seen in Ethiopia. Why? We have 85 million people, which is fast growth. In addition, we have the most degraded, the most deforested, maternal mortality high and everything. So you can see the climate impact in addition, how it is being aggravated. It was ugly. When it is added through the effects of the climate change. It is highly aggravated. So you can easily see how climate and population is inter-related in Ethiopia. And, when we raise the population issue in relation to climate, we're not really concerned is it useful for mitigation. Our concern is, in relation to adaptation, how to build resilience considering the population issue is very important and critical.

In addition, well, this is not easily achieved in country. It is through the networks' initiative and work. So the PHE Ethiopia consortium capacity still needs support to strengthen it so that we can maintain the achievement we have in country.



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In addition, we have promising policy developments in country at this moment. Ethiopia, just last week has endorsed through its parliament a five-year growth and transformation plan. This is -- that is replacing the positive program we had in country. And in that strategy, we have a very ambitious plan, like family planning's goal is to have CPR coverage to reach after five years, 65 persons which is a big, big, big ambitious target. And this is a big success for us even to target that way.

Take maternal and child mortality seriously, so to minimize to the maximum. If possible, even to minimize it to the level of 300, 400 within 100,000. Calls for zero emissions in 2025 and green economy, and you know, some of those results are the results of the hard work of all civil society organizations who are lobbying and advocating to this kind of change. The government has taken it seriously and incorporated almost, almost all issues we were raising. Now it is time how we can support in the implementation area. And we are part of this process even in the discussions we have participated, we have contributed in injecting some of the issues we want to be incorporated in the DTP plan.

Major challenges we face in pushing our principles and cause. One is limited capacity and funding, implementing organizations including the consortium. For example, some of the big organizations in country like CRDA, they have reached to the level they get a big amount of funds, even 50 million or something, they could channel it to member organizations. We are not at that level. Even for our existence, we are bringing from different stakeholders or donors I listed before, and our existence is very challenging.

Still, we need, big need for monitoring and evaluation. We are starting but it is time to strongly gather data that could show our success on the ground so that we can have strong evidence to convince that PHE approach is really workable and it adds value in country. We need to sustain the opportunity and the expectation created in country and this is, with your support, we can achieve that. In addition, we need the eastern African PHE network that was established in 2007 in Addis Ababa to be organized and contribute its role by having existence, strong existence.

What can you do? I think you can do a lot. One, you can help us capitalize on the good opportunities created in Ethiopia. Beat on how we are creating resilience in climate change adaptation by community based adaptation mechanisms. How our PHE is contributing to the resilience, how our PHE approach is contributing to the growth plan in country, to development, to poverty evaluation. So your help is very important. We are planning to have our 5th General Assembly in mid March. We need you to join us, to be





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part of our General Assembly and we are organizing it in a way we can share the experience, what's happening in PHE internationally.

How is our PHE approach by the different organizations who are implementing on the ground, what is their specialty, each organization, in implementing the PHE approach? And how is PHE incorporating the issue of youth, gender, climate change, and livelihood, practically? And we are also planning to have fields visits to LEM site and ... site decide within the radius of 100 kilometers. So please join us. You will benefit, you will learn a lot from us. Let us discuss in this session how to realize the vision of the eastern Africa PHE network practically? Is it possible? What can you support to make it practical? Lastly, come visit us and learn in Ethiopia. I thank you.



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