

# **Trip Report to USA on Behalf of the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia**

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**16-26 September 2016**

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# Glossary

EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
HEW	Health Extension Workers
IIfPHC-E	International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia
JHU	Johns Hopkins University
JSI	John Snow Inc
Jhpiego	Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics
MOH	Ministry of Health
P2P	People 2 People
PHC	Primary Health Care
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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# Introduction

On February 1, 2016, the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) launched the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia (IIfPHC-E). This Institute has been established with the vision of revitalizing the Global movement “Health for ALL” through Primary Health Care. The institute is working in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health from whom it receives technical support. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has sponsored the one-year activity plans of IIfPHC-E.

For the First year plan of activities, we have established a temporary office at the Ethiopian Public Health Institute. So far, EPHI has been hosting IIfPHC-E by providing a single office space for staff and by offering administrative support. Due to the delay of the release of the financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the institute was unable to hire the required total core technical staff until very recently. However, meanwhile, we have been doing our very best to undertake some of the tasks that needed to be completed according to the anticipated schedule (one year work plan) regardless of the lack of fund. For instance, we developed three different modules for three different categories of trainees (Health Policy, Primary Health Care and Health Extension Program); we also established term of references for Advisory Board and staff; we communicated with potential partners and stakeholders, and we have trained four different group of delegates from four different countries of Africa and one local group of graduate students.

As of the end of May 2016, shortly after we find out that the fund has been realised, we begun processing the recruitment of three technical staffs out of the total six required. On July 2016, three employees where hired. We are currently in the process of hiring the last three technical workforces.

Dr. Henry Perry, Senior Scientist at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health who is assigned to work with the Institute, joined us here in Addis Ababa, on August 15<sup>th</sup> for a stay of 11 days. During his visit, he met with the staff of IIfPHC and held numerous fruitful and constructive discussions on several occasions. We all shared experiences, and discussed some area of the planed activities with which JHU will be technically helping us accomplish. We also had the chance to discuss about my plans to visit the Johns Hopkins University during which Dr. Henry Perry assured me that he would send me a one-week schedule plan for my trip to JHU, as soon as he returns home.

According to the schedule provided by Dr. Henry, I travelled to the State on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September for a journey of 11 days. During my stay, I introduced the institute to several different organizations and stakeholders. I benefited from different events and occasions such as the P2P annual conference, meeting with JHU staff, gathering with different organisation in New York and Washington DC to share experiences and gather fruitful information.

This trip provided me with the opportunity to meet with many departments, high-level expertise and different individuals with very rich experiences in the development of International Health. After each encounter, I was left astounded by everyone’s eagerness to learn more about IIfPHC. The amount of constructive questions rose by the participants and also their keen interest to work with the institute where overwhelming and highly appreciated. I am very much grateful for the well-planed, very effective journey, unceasing support, and unreserved follow up provided/facilitated by Dr. Henry and his assistant.

## Trip Itinerary (September 15-27, 2016)

### **Thursday Sept. 15:**

Departure from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### **Friday Sept. 16:**

Arrival in Washington DC.

### **Saturday Sept. 17:**

Speech given at P2P conference

### **Sunday Sept. 18:**

Desk works in hotel

Travelled to Baltimore to meet with Dr. Henry

### **Monday Sept. 19:**

Met with:

- Elliot B. Rosen, financial manager International Health System Program at JHU.
- Susan Krenn, executive Director and MwikaliKioko, field Director, Centre for Communication program. Ira Gooding, manager
- SuskonKanchanaraks, Director for Center for teaching and learning, Open education Lab

### **Tuesday Sept. 20:**

Deskwork in Dr. Henry's Office and held meetings with:

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- H.E. Dr.Kesete-BrehaneAdmasu, Dr. Henry Perry and I gave each speech regarding the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia for JHU staff and invited guests.
- Conducted meeting between H.E. Dr.Kesete-BrehaneAdmasu, Dr. Henry Perry, Dr.Tedla and Prof.MengeshaAdmassu.

Wednesday Sept. 21:

H.E. Dr.KeseteBrehaneAdmasu, Dr. Henry Perry and Prof.MengeshaAdmassu travelled to New York together.

Dr. Henry Perry and Prof.MengeshaAdmassu met with:

- Dr.GiftyAddico, Chief Community Security Branch Technical Division and Benoit Kalasa, Director Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund.
- financial alliance group and ASEP group travelled to Baltimore

Thursday Sept.22:

Dr. Henry and Prof.MengeshaAdmassu meet with:

- Dr. Kate Tulenko, Vice President, for Health System Innovation.
- Dr. Dennis Cherian, Senior Director for Health , HIV and AIDS and Charles E. Owubah, Partnership Leader for Evidence and Learning, World Vision at Washington DC
- Patrica A. Taylor, Director of Country Program John Snow, Inc. (JSI), Jim Ricca, Implementation Science and Learning Team Leader, Jhpiego, Koki Agarwal, Director, MCSP, Vice President Jhpiego, Melanie Morrow, Community Health

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Team Manager, ICT International and Anita Gibson, Deputy Director Save the Children at Washington DC.

Friday Sept. 23:

Prof.MengeshaAdmassu met with:

- Patrica A. Taylor, Director of country Programs John Snow, INC (JSI), Edward Wilson, Director of Centre for Logistics, Robert Stelass, Director, Immunization centre, A. Carnell, Senior Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Advisor, AsnakewYigzaw, Senior Technical Officer Immunization Centre Hiwot T. Belay, M&E/ RHIS Advisor.
- Prof.MengeshaAdmassu had a telephone conversation with the World Bank staff and discussed about means and possibilities of supporting both accommodation and transport fee of delegates/trainees from African countries who are interested in coming to Ethiopia and benefiting from the services provided by IIfPHC-E.

Saturday Sept. 24: Desk works in hotel

Sunday Sept. 25: Desk works in hotel

Monday Sept.26: Return to Ethiopia

Tuesday Sept. 27: Arrival in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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## Main Findings/Issues

### P2P (People to People) Conference, 17 September 2016

P2P is an organization formed by the Ethiopian diaspora health professionals who are currently working and living in the USA. Since its establishment, five years ago, P2P has been conducting annual conferences. These conferences invite all interested health individuals as well as institutions to either present their research findings or share best practices, as active participants of the conference. It also recognizes “star awards” for young, senior researchers with long year services in the area of health services in Ethiopia and beyond.

The fifth year P2P annual conference entitled “Triangular Partnership” was held on September 17, 2016, in Washington DC. I was invited to present a paper based on the theme of the year, particularly on different experiences among African diaspora, Western institutes and African institutes. During this fifth annual conference, I gave a 15 minutes speech followed by 30 minutes of questions and discussions. The discussions mainly focused on how to strengthen the partnerships among Western Institutions, African Institutes and African Diasporas. Some of the underlining points discussed during this conference included the interest of African Diasporas, particularly health professionals to support their country of origin in the area of technology transfer, services deliverance and researches. Although western institutes are benefiting from African diaspora’s labour and brain gain; they are also a mean for the capacity development and resource for other opportunities for most of the African diaspora and African institutes. Working with African Institutes has been experienced with other innovations in the tropical diseases practice area and rural community health practice area.

Through my presentation, I tried to share lesson learnt from my experiences working with Ethiopian diaspora and Western institutes at the University of Gondar. I also benefitted of this opportunity to address the establishment of the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia, its purpose and objectives, institutional vision and what has been done so far. Following my presentation about IfPHC-E, constructive questions were raised and discussion was held about means of further working in collaboration with the institute for its future sustainability.

In conclusion, speaking at the P2P annual conference was a great opportunity to further spread the word about the newly launched International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia, a mean for promoting it as well as inviting potential partners to work with us.



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### 3. Meetings with different JHU departments representative, 19 September 2016

According to the prescheduled meetings by Dr. Henry before my arrival to the US, on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, Henry and I held a meeting with Elliot B. Rosen and Joc Zolonas finance managers for the International Health System and discussed about the release of the first month fund for IIfPHC in order for the institute to start functioning with full capacity. We also raised the concern on how the delay of the first month budget period of financial support by Bill Melinda Gates Foundation through JHU to arrive to EPHI account could cause a delay in meeting our first year goals. We suggested that from this point forward, the second budget of allocated fund should be transferred as soon as we utilise the fund of the first budget period, in order to be able to use the assigned fund effectively in a timely manner and meet our set one-year goal for the Institute.

Following our meeting with the finance managers for the International Health System, Henry and I met with Susan Krenn, Executive Director and Mwikali Kioko, field Director of Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Program. Their rich experience in the area of communication is certainly something that our institute could learn from. Their positive outlook and readiness to support us through the local office based in Addis Ababa was highly appreciated.

Henry and I then continued our visit of JHU and met with Ira Gooding, Education Resources Coordinator and Sukon Kanchanaraksa, Director of JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Teaching and Learning. This department has a long year experience in the area of training and teaching both locally and internationally, which would make it a good asset to IIfHC-E if they worked with us and help us grow further in some area. Thus, we asked how we could work in collaboration with their good office in further developing and strengthening IIfPHC in the area of teaching and training. They answered by indicating that as long as they would be given a clear guidance from Dr. Henry they would be more than happy to assist and support the establishment and further strengthen both the training and the resource center facilities.

Our last meeting at JHU was held with Stuart Merkel, Director Corporate and Foundation Partnerships and Chandrakant S. Ruparelia, Senior Technical Advisor, HIV-Infections diseases unit at Jhpiego (Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics).

Considering Jhpiego's rich experiences in providing training on clinical skill delivery methodology and pre services health practices, and also the organizations long years experiences of working in Ethiopia, Jhpiego would be a good asset to IIfPHC if they will be willing to work together during the curriculum development, case development and also when conducting researches on Primary Health Care. A very interactive discussions was conducted, which I believe helped them see clearly IIfPHC's objectives and thus further increased their interest in working together.

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## 4. Inauguration of the IIfPHC at Johns Hopkins, 20 September 2016

Dr. Henry's started out by an opening brief summary speech about the IIfPHC-E and outlined the upcoming programs for the day. Then, H.E. Dr.Kesete-BrehaneAdmasu, gave a speech on the importance of establishing the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia (IIfPHC-E) and how this would create an opportunity to provide short course trainings and field visits in order to share Ethiopia's best practices in the implementation of successful Primary Health Care program with African countries and beyond. He also mentioned about the best experiences gained from community-based health practices by the Health Extension Workers (HEW). He stated his vision through the great efforts of the health extension workers and how the Ethiopian population health has improved and will continue to do so. I then gave a speech about the tasks that have been accomplished so far and further mentioned about the different group of trainees to whom we had the opportunity of providing trainings. Shortly after all the presentations, a Q&A was conducted. Some of the questions raised where the followings:

- What would be the mechanism to have relevant data and reliability in having some information about the implementation of the Primary Health Care in order to conduct researches?
- How Health Extension Workers are selected before they get trained?
- How Health Extension Workers are retained in their assigned task?

The participants showed eagerness to lean about IIfPHC-E by asking many more questions during the Q&A as well as during break, and by being very interactive. Shortly after the inauguration ceremony, H.E. Dr.Kesete-BrehaneAdmasu, Dr. Henry Perry, Dr.Tedela and I held a short meeting in Dr. Henry's office where we also set a tentative date for the Advisory Board meetings in Ethiopia, which will be held either before or after the annual review meeting of the Federal Ministry of Health. We also discussed how to promote and bring in more trainees from the other African countries. The idea of perhaps starting with local trainees at first was also one the point raised during this short meeting. Dr.Kesete-BrehaneAdmassu suggested that it would be wise to try and perform the activities as initially scheduled and also effectively use the budget in the planned one year time frame despite all challenges including delay of the allocated fund release. He also mentioned that a letter of invitation addressed to different Minister of Health of different African countries and signed by him should be sent out to the respective Ministry of Health of the African countries, inviting delegates to benefit from the training packages that IIfPHC has to offer.

## 5. Meetings held in New York, 21 September 2016

Dr. Henry and I had a meeting with Dr.GiftyAddico, Chief Community Security Branchial division and Benoit Kalasa, Director Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund. During this meeting, we brought to their attention the possibility of their institutes for supporting African countries in covering the expenses of accommodations and transportation when delegates travel to Ethiopia for short course training at the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia.

We also mentioned how South Sudan planned to come to Ethiopia for the training on PHC, however due to the political instability in the country, they were unable to travel. Dr.Gifty replied by suggesting communicating with South Sudan, because financial support is already allocated for this purpose. He also added that the timing of the meeting couldn't be any more perfect as UNFPA is at the virtue of programming budget and they also promised to consider in their budgetary program the support for African's trainees of the IIfPHC-E. Right after the meeting Dr.Gifty sent a message to the respective African UNFPA representatives asking for their proactive engagement.

After UNFPA, we had meetings with Finance Alliance and also ASPEN (ASPEN Management Partnership for Health, based at Washington DC.) group, during which the financial support and sustainability of fund raising issues were mentioned as an important factor for Community based health practices. We discussed on how their support and subsequently that of their representatives in the African countries and regions would be a key asset in achieving IIfPHC goal by facilitating travel and accommodation for African trainees who will be benefiting from IIfPHC to learn about implementing effective PHC in their country. ASPEN group also mentioned about their plans to come to Ethiopia, in November 2016, in order to further understand the Health Extension Program and the work conducted by Health Extension Workers in the rural area of Ethiopia.

## 6. Meetings in Washington DC (September 22-23, 2016)

In Washington D.C., Dr Henry and I met with Dr. Kate Tulenko, Vice President, Health System Innovation and her colleagues. After discussing about IIfPHC and their institution we realized that the health system innovation vision is in line with that of The International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia in that they both focus primarily on the public good interest, and community based PHC. Accordingly, they showed keen interest in working in collaboration with our institute.

We also held a meeting with Dr. Dennis Cherian, Senior Director for Health and, HIV/AIDS and Charles E. Owubah, Partnership Leader for Evidence and Learning, World Vision, at

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Washington DC. The World vision has a long years' experience working throughout the World including in Ethiopia. They are also currently working in both rural and urban areas of Ethiopia. Their community based engagement and experiences would have been a good asset in the training and research areas of IIfPHC if they worked in collaboration with us. They reassured us that a few of World Vision team members are planning to come to Ethiopia and visit the Institute in hope of further establishing a collaboration with IIfPHC.

On September 22, 2016, a meeting composed of high-level expertise was held in Washington DC. Among these expertise, Dr. Henry and I had the privilege to talk and Introduce IIfPHC to:

- Patrica A. Taylor, Director of country Programs John Snow, INC (JSI)
- Jim Ricca, Implementations Science and learning Team Leader, Jhpiego
- Koki Agarwal, Director, MCSP, vice President Jhpiego
- Melanie Morrow, community Health Team manager, ICT International
- Anita Gibson, Deputy Director of Save the Children at Washington DC.

Each and everyone of them, showed strong interest in working with the International Institute for Primary Health Care. Most of the participant had already been in Ethiopia and where knowledgeable about the Health Extension Program, one of the most innovative community-based primary health care programs in Ethiopia.

On Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, I held a meeting with Patrica A. Taylor, Director of country Programs of John Snow, INC (JSI), Edward Wilson, Director centre for logistics, Robert Stelass, Director, Immunization centre, A. Carnell, Senior Maternal, Newborn and child health advisor, AsnakewYigzaw, senior Technical officer Immunization centre Hiwot and T. Belay, M&E/ RHIS Advisor. I was overwhelmed by the warm welcome on my arrival at their office. A few of them spoke some words of Amharic with me and at lunchtime everyone enjoyed a buffet of Ethiopian dish organized by JSI Staff. Right after lunch, I gave a brief presentation about IIfPHC and constructive discussion was conducted. JSI staff where enthusiastic in knowing about the objectives of IIfPHC. They also expressed their admiration of the effectiveness of the Health Extension Program, of its ability to reach the society leaving in the most remote area and delivering health care through the Health Extension workers and of its contribution in reducing the mother and child mortality rate in Ethiopia. They furthermore mentioned that they were highly interested in helping the institute develop curriculum and conduct researches.

## 7. Current Challenges

We are currently facing challenges in the delay for acquiring an office space, furniture's, computers, stationary items and other office supporting materials. Now that we have been provided some office space in EPHI new training facility, we are currently trying to overcome obstacles that would further delay purchases such as the bureaucracies in place for purchasing items and trying to expedite the procurement of good quality office items. With its own training centre and offices, IIfPHC will be able to function at full potential as we will

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be able to avoid some issues that we have encountered in the past when we conducted training for African countries.

### 8. Next steps

- a. Keep in touch with everyone I have met during my trip in the U.S and build strong relationship.
- b. Identify areas of interest to work with and also work out the detail activities with partnerships.
- c. Priorities in further developing training curriculum/training modules.
- d. Plan to conduct Advisory Board meeting
- e. Plan to provide the first set of trainings in our new facility by the end of October 2016

## Appendices

### Photos



Triangular Partnership Conference in Washington DC,  
September 17, 2016



Prof. Ahmed Moe and Prof. Mengeshain  
Washington DC, September 17, 2016

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Meeting with the Communication Centre staff at  
JHU, September 19, 2016



Dr. Henry and Prof.Mengesha in New York,  
September 21, 2016

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Lunchtime meeting with Financial Alliance group in New York, Sep. 21, 2016



Lunchtime Discussion with Johns Snow's staff at Washington DC, September 23, 2016 with a Buffet of Ethiopian dish

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At JHU, Dr. Henry Perry gave an introductory speech about the establishment of IIfPHC in Ethiopia, September 20, 2016.

H.E. Dr. Kesete-Berhane Admasu gave a speech on regarding vision and mission of the IIfPHC at JHU, September 20, 2016.





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At JHU Prof. Mengesha Admassu gave a speech regarding the objectives of IIPH in Ethiopia, September 20, 2016.

H.E. Dr. Kesete-Brehane Admasu and I holding a discussion with the staff of JHU and other invited guests at Johns Hopkins University, on September 20, 2016

