

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE PROGRAM

CREATING SUSTAINABLE HOMES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) are CDC-like government or government-aligned agencies that provide science-based leadership and coordination for public health.

Nigeria CDC leadership and staff in the EOC for the daily review of COVID-19 data and response duties. Photo: Jeremiah Agenyi

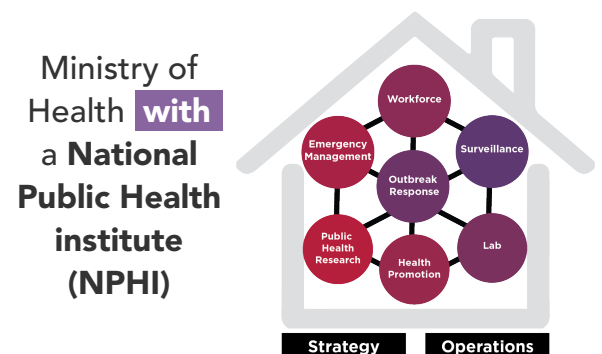
CDC’s Division of Global Health Protection (DGHP) works with countries around the world to develop and strengthen public health capacities and organize their public health activities into sustainable NPHIs.

WHY ARE NPHIs IMPORTANT?

NPHIs serve as a home to organize and link a country’s public health activities to facilitate collaboration. Having an NPHI enables a country to more effectively prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats that can cost lives, cause political and economic instability, and spread to neighboring countries. Strong NPHIs can help sustain partner investments, as well as minimize reliance on U.S. and other external assistance.

NPHIs are focal points that:

- Generate and share knowledge, data, and scientific evidence
- Assess and track the public’s health, including during emergencies
- Improve policies and delivery of public health services
- Use limited resources more efficiently and effectively
- Serve as the sustainable home for planning and the long-term management of resources
- Lead action to address public health issues serve as strong collaborative partners for global health security activities





HOW WE WORK

DGHP leverages technical expertise from across CDC and international partners to tailor programming to the specific country context. Since 2011, CDC's DGHP has worked with over 30 countries strengthening NPHIs where they do exist, helping develop NPHIs where none exist, and supporting early discussions when countries are considering NPHI development.

DGHP and partners provide technical guidance and support to help countries:

- Develop strategic and operational plans aligned with public health priorities
- Map existing public health functions to identify gaps or ways to improve coordination
- Prioritize public health activities to more effectively utilize limited resources
- Strengthen essential public health capacities such as surveillance, lab, workforce, and emergency management
- Demonstrate NPHI value by identifying quick wins
- Utilize the NPHI Staged Development Tool to identify and prioritize areas for NPHI strengthening



National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) engineers participating in a biosafety cabinet certification program. The training was supported by CDC's NPHI Program in partnership with the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Eagleson Institute. Photo: National Public Health Institute of Liberia

OUR IMPACT

The value of DGHP's efforts to establish new or strengthen existing NPHIs often becomes clear in emergencies, when coordination is in the spotlight. Government leaders and partners know who to call when communications are consolidated. NPHIs can activate rapid response teams, implement mass vaccination campaigns, institute emergency surveillance systems, and communicate with the public.

DGHP's support helps NPHIs around the world build the organizational and technical capacities that help them to quickly pivot when disaster strikes.

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The individual components of an outbreak response, whether an emergency operation center, laboratory, surveillance system, or risk communication – none of these components would lead to greater preparedness if they did not operate within an institution with a mandate to act.

Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, former Director General, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

CLOSING THE GAP: MOVING FORWARD



Countries are increasingly identifying the need for NPHIs as public health emergencies underscore the importance of collaboration and leadership. **DGHP will continue to work with individual countries and coordinate regionally to strengthen the NPHI network so countries can improve their public health systems.**

DIVISION OF GLOBAL HEALTH PROTECTION

To learn more about DGHP visit:
www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection