Every country needs a national public health institute that can save lives by quickly and effectively responding to health threats.

IANPHI links and strengthens the government agencies responsible for public health. It improves the world’s health by leveraging the experience and expertise of its member institutes to build robust public health systems.
What NPHIs Do

More than 77 countries around the world have established national public health institutes (NPHIs) to coordinate and lead public health systems. Some, such as the U.S. CDC, Ethiopian EHNRI, Dutch RIVM, South African NICD, and Brazilian FIOCRUZ, have developed over time while others—including institutes in Canada and the United Kingdom—were created in response to more recent global public health threats such as SARS and BSE.

NPHIs vary in scope and size from fledgling institutes focusing only on infectious diseases to those with comprehensive responsibility for research, programs and policy for almost all public health threats.

NPHIs:

- Have a national scope of influence and recognition and focus on the major public health problems affecting the country
- Use scientific evidence as the basis for policy implementation and resource allocation and are accountable to national governments and the public
- Lead key functions including disease surveillance, detection and monitoring; outbreak investigation and control; health information analysis for policy development; research; training; health promotion and health education; and, laboratory science
- A focal point for developing and strengthening their national public health system
- Increased technical capacity to better respond to major causes of disease, death and disability
- Skills to deliver public health programs for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, vaccine-preventable diseases and chronic diseases
- A long-term strategic plan for an evidence-based, sustainable system that addresses major public health challenges
- More organized and efficient use of existing resources, and a plan to fill the gaps moving forward, including leveraging vertical resources from the donor community around a central national strategy in a coordinated manner
- A strategic approach to meeting the requirements of the International Health Regulations and national and regional regulations, and increased capacity to respond decisively to public health threats and opportunities including avian influenza, SARS and other emerging infections
- A career home for a cadre of locally educated public health experts: the workforce needed to prevent and control disease outbreaks
- Evidence-informed policy development and public health program execution

A ROBUST ADVOCACY AND POLICY COMMUNITY

IANPHI helps the world’s NPHIs by advocating for strong and well-supported national public health institutes.

Our “toolkit” for NPHI development includes the Framework for the Creation and Development of National Public Health Institutes, which is a road map for countries thinking of creating or expanding an NPHI.

Through IANPHI annual and regional meetings and other networking opportunities, and our NPHI-to-NPHI project partnerships, NPHI directors learn from each other’s experiences and share resources and solutions.

IANPHI supports mentorship opportunities through a generous grant from David Heymann.

CREATING NPHIs GIVES COUNTRIES:

- A focal point for developing and strengthening their national public health system
- Increased technical capacity to better respond to major causes of disease, death and disability
- Skills to deliver public health programs for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, vaccine-preventable diseases and chronic diseases
- A long-term strategic plan for an evidence-based, sustainable system that addresses major public health challenges
- More organized and efficient use of existing resources, and a plan to fill the gaps moving forward, including leveraging vertical resources from the donor community around a central national strategy in a coordinated manner
- A strategic approach to meeting the requirements of the International Health Regulations and national and regional regulations, and increased capacity to respond decisively to public health threats and opportunities including avian influenza, SARS and other emerging infections
- A career home for a cadre of locally educated public health experts: the workforce needed to prevent and control disease outbreaks
- Evidence-informed policy development and public health program execution

ADVANCING THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES OF THE WORLD

UNIQUE PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

IANPHI is the only organization that creates and strengthens public health institutes using a unique NPHI to NPHI “twinning” model and an evidence-based international framework for NPHI development.

IANPHI helps countries establish self-sufficient national public health capacity at NPHIs. Since 2006, IANPHI investments have measurably improved capacity at NPHIs in 45 countries, leveraging over $50 million in funds and pro-bono technical assistance from IANPHI members, private sector partners, governments, and other donors. For example:

MOZAMBIQUE

Investment: $400,000 - Partner NPHIs: FIOCRUZ Brazil, U.S. CDC - Project focus: Improved disease surveillance, national laboratory capacity, and evidence-based policy - Funds leveraged: $14 million

UGANDA

Investment: $150,000 - Partner NPHIs: NIMR Nigeria, Public Health England - Project focus: Business planning, evidence-based policy, health communications - Funds leveraged: $16 million

GUINEA-BISSAU

Investment: $650,000 - Partner NPHIs: FIOCRUZ Brazil, NIH Portugal, NIMR Nigeria - Project focus: Creation of a new NPHI - Funds leveraged: $15 million

TOGO

Investment: $400,000 - Partner NPHIs: Institute Pasteur Morocco, InVS France - Project focus: Disease detection and outbreak investigation - Funds leveraged: $600,000