NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES (NPHIS) DEVELOPMENT STATUS IN AFRICA

HAFTOM TAAME, MPH,
PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL OFFICER: NPHI
AFRICA CDC
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Definition of NPHI Types

- **Autonomous/semiautonomous NPHI** is defined as a *single institution* established with a national *legal framework* by an *Act of Parliament, Presidential decree or Ministerial/Cabinet decree* to *nationally coordinate* and *lead* at least the following functions:

- A *Network of Institutions* is an institution or unit that is established with a *legal framework* to *coordinate public health functions falling under or being conducted by other parastatal institutions* at the national level.

- The network of institutions is different from autonomous/semiautonomous institutions in such a way that the *public health functions* for the network of institutions fall into *more than one operationally and technically independent* institution.
Role of National Public Health Institutes for a Stronger Health System in Africa

**Article Information**

Haftom Taame Desta1, Natalie Maya2, Alex Ricolnus Ariso2, Raji Tajudeen1

1Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), African Union Commission
2National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), South Africa

*Corresponding author: Haftom Taame Desta, Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), African Union Commission.

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Map of NPHI establishment status in Africa. This map depicts the NPHI development status in Africa as of May 2022 from 40 countries that participated in this study. Status of 15 countries is unknown as there was no response to the survey.

- Fully-established: 12(30%)
- Advanced Stage: 17(42.5%)
- Process Started: 6(15%)
- Process not yet started: 5 (12.5%)
Types of Legal Frameworks used to establish NPHIs

Among the NPHIs that are fully established and at an advanced stage of development, 12 were established by an Act of Parliament, 12 by a Presidential decree, and 5 by a Ministerial decree.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>NPHIs Established by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act of Parliament</td>
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<td>Djibouti</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>South Sudan</td>
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Models of NPHIs

Three models of NPHIs were identified:

• Autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions (17),

• Networks of institutions (04), and

• Departments under the Ministry of Health (08).

• Of the well-established and developing NPHIs, 19 have strategic plans partially funded by governments.

• Government covers on average 40% (range: 1-95%) of the total NPHI’s annual budget, although it varies from country to country.
The most common functions of NPHs are

- Research (26),
- Surveillance and disease intelligence (24),
- Epidemic preparedness and response (24),
- Workforce development (19),
- Public health informatics (15), and
- Health promotion (10),
The data generated on the status of NPHIs showed that

- 19(35%) of the assessed 55 MS have established NPHIs
- 21(38%) have no NPHIs but are in the process of establishing one
- 15(27%) have no NPHIs and have not indicated an interest in doing so
- 13 of the 19 established NPHIs are empowered with commensurate or corresponding legal instruments
- Of the 19 established NPHIs, only 9 have a current strategic plan.
Key recommendation for NPHIs development in Africa

- Review **existing public health acts** in respective countries for those planning to establish a new NPHI
- Ensure **political buy-in** for NPHI development using existing tools including AU Head of States and Governments declarations and decisions and conduct an NPHI investment case study.
- Identify a **national champion** to drive the NPHI agenda in the countries planning to establish a new NPHI
- Facilitate a **peer-to-peer collaboration** and **staff exchange programmes** among NPHIs in Africa and globally
- Set up a **partners’ forum** for NPHIs to map out who is doing what and where and to harmonize efforts, avoid duplication of efforts, and address critical gaps
- **Engage key stakeholders** to create consensus and have a shared vision about the need for NPHIs
- Conduct **continuous assessment and monitoring** of NPHI development and share finding with relevant stakeholders
- **Build NPHIs capacity** for essential public health functions
Thank You!