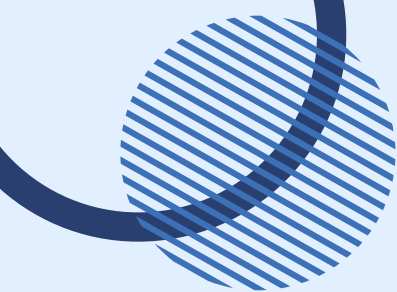


# **Ethiopia Multisectoral Health Security BULLETIN**

**Fourth Edition**



**January 2023**



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# NAPHS

## NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTH SECURITY 2019-2023

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# EDITORIAL

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Respected readers, the Multisectoral Health Security Bulletin is pleased to provide its fourth edition to you. You are all aware that this bulletin is published every three months to highlight noteworthy implementation advancements, achievements, data, and best practices, as well as news, opinions, events, and knowledge-sharing information, highlighting the areas of Ethiopia's National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS). In addition to this, we want to provide you with a clear picture of what is happening in the country with regard to one health and international health regulations, as well as national health security and associated priorities.

The emphasis in this edition is on a variety of multisectorial areas. In this fourth edition, we've covered information on the National Public Health Statistics System (NAPHS) updates progress report, the new flagship initiatives, the national public health emergency management forum, global One Health day, field epidemiology, the International Day of Clear Air, as well as one health activities across the country. Additionally, antimicrobial resistance awareness-raising initiatives, a workshop on situational awareness for health extension workers, the new COVID-19 directive, national environmental protection initiatives, and the SPAR 2022 multisectoral workshop, are given emphasis to be covered.

we need multisectorial health security cooperation between numerous sectors and industrial domains. we must cooperate effectively to accomplish our objectives and promote the greatest potential health for humans, animals, and the environment. In this way, we can reflect on our ability to work together and improve.

Dear readers, please accept our sincere gratitude for your good words and suggestions, with the help of your candid feedback, we made an effort to make the fourth bulletin more readable and interesting than the previous editions.

We, therefore, appreciate your feedback as always. Please email us at [ethionaphs@gmail.com](mailto:ethionaphs@gmail.com) with any questions, concerns, or remarks.

Enjoy your reading.



## Message from the IHR National Focal Person

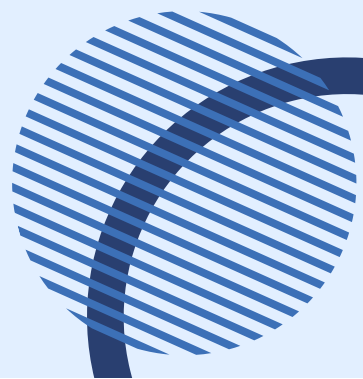
Ethiopia is expected, as a signatory to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), to take the necessary actions to draft and carry out the implementation of National action plans in order to enhance, develop, and sustain essential public health capacities. As a result, a five-year Multi-sectoral National Action Plan for Health Security was created and launched in the nation.

As we can all see, today's health security agendas require multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral collaboration. Additionally, they require concurrent participation through the conceptualization of intricate public health issues. We have seen that multisectoral, multidisciplinary collaborators, as well as partner support, are necessary for the efficient implementation and monitoring of the IHR. This also makes it possible to mobilize and coordinate resources, especially financial resources, which will allow us to execute IHR/NAPHS more successfully.

As has been well remarked, maintaining good health is crucial to maintaining human security because it is both necessary and helpful for maintaining one's life, livelihood, and dignity. A population's overall health is crucial for social stability and cohesion.

Any endeavor we undertake will only be effective if it is carried out in a coordinated and cooperative manner. Since health is a priority for all people, academic fields, and industry sectors, I once again urge all stakeholders to give more concerns to the NAPHS' implementation and oversight the attention they deserve for improved health security outcomes. After all, we can build a safer world if and only if health is everyone's priority agenda.

Dr. Feyesa Regassa  
IHR-National Focal Person  
National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC) Chair Person  
Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI)



## A NEW FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

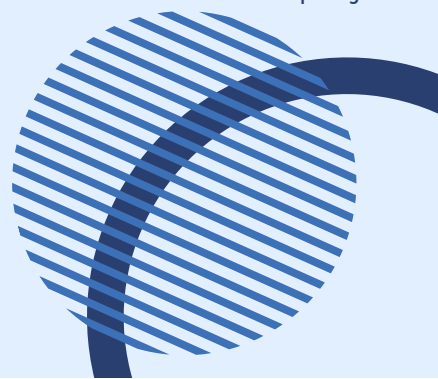
A new flagship initiative that can improve Ethiopia's capacity to prepare, detect and respond to public health emergencies has been launched. The meeting was conducted by the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute in collaboration with the WHO regional office.

H.E. Dr. Liya Tadesse, the Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia at her opening speech of the event, stressed that the government of Ethiopia is implementing a health sector transformation plan along with major activities to achieve bold targets where one of the 14 strategic directions is to "improve health emergencies and disaster risk management"



### H.E. Dr. Liya Tadesse, Minister, Federal Ministry of Health - Ethiopia

H.E. Dr. Liya further stated that it is now timely that WHO-AFRO, WHO-Ethiopia & Africa CDC are jointly working with the member states on this initiative that has proven its effectiveness in the coordination of public health preparedness and response. H.E. also urged all ministries, partners, and concerned bodies to contribute to own the implementation of the project initiatives.



Dr. Mesay Hailu, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Director General on his behalf said that, in today's globalized society, a disease threat anywhere is a disease threat everywhere. Hence, in today's tightly connected world, a disease can spread from any remote village to any major city on all continents within 36 hours. For this, a good example can be the recent disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Dr. Mesay Hailu, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Director General**

The Director General in line with this further expressed that, Ethiopia needs a robust approach against outbreaks with epidemic and pandemic potential. Hence, the coordination of all ministries and stakeholders is key to the overall response to emergencies. Dr. Mesay also said that the EPHI as a technical wing of the MOH will continue to support and work together for the realization of WHO AFRO's scoping mission in member states to full fill some of the gaps exposed in the emergency preparedness and response.

Ato. Aschalew Abayneh, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Deputy Director General, on his behalf said that the flagship initiatives are expected collectively to improve Ethiopia's capacity to prepare, detect and respond to public health emergencies, building upon the existing infrastructure to put in place a well-organized partner support system that augments national capacity.



### **Ato. Aschalew Abayneh, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Deputy Director General**

The Deputy Director General also stressed One Health is a mandatory approach for the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines and multiple sectors working at all levels, to attain optimal health for people, animals, and as well as the environment.

Dr. Boureima Hama Sambo, WHO Ethiopia country representative on his behalf stated that the emergency preparedness and response flagship initiative, which will be led by the government of Ethiopia and in collaboration with WHO, Africa CDC & health partners, focuses on the areas of; preparing, detect and respond.

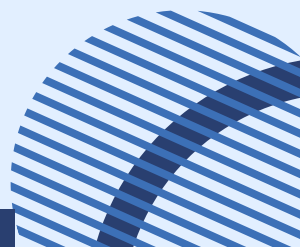
Dr. Boureima further stressed that the One Health collaborating ministries and partners expected to continue to strengthen the endeavor towards building a strong and resilient health system to prevent, protect, detect and respond to public health emergencies.



### **Dr. Boureima Hama Sambo, WHO Ethiopia country representative**

The multisectorial flagship initiative to strengthen the national capacity to prepare, prevent, detect and respond to emergencies in Ethiopia has been organized by the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute & WHO regional office. It has been informed that the organized technical working group of the various government sectors and partners is expected to develop the roadmap and a two-year coasted work plan for the flagship rollout. The event was attended by participants from different ministries, partners, international organizations and ambassadors, and embassies officials.

The WHO-AFRO initiated flagship projects are expected to collectively improve the capacity of member states to prepare, detect and respond to public health emergencies. They will build upon existing infrastructure to put in place a well-organized partner support system that augments national capacity when needed, incorporating lessons learned from COVID-19, Ebola and other health emergencies. It is known that what is initially adopted in a few countries will be expanded out regionally over the course of the next five years.



## GLOBAL ONE HEALTH DAY IS COLORFULLY CELEBRATED

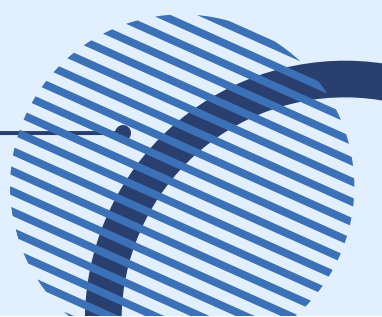
This year's Global One Health Day and Rabies Day commemoration was colorfully celebrated in Hawassa town on December 16, 2022. At the opening of the conference, Dr. Messay Hailu, Director General of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI), declared that our health and the health of animals and our shared environment are today more connected than ever. Hence, it is obvious that the One Health approach is, therefore, a crucial option for all of us, with responsibility for all different sectors, in order to create a healthy world.



### **Dr. Messay Hailu, Director General of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI)**

The director general added that a One Health strategy is a more suitable way in order to be successful and realize our aims and visions in order to achieve the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) and International Health Regulation (IHR 2005). As a result, it is envisioned that all relevant organizations and sectors will cooperate harmoniously and in harmony.

w/r Freniesh Mekuria, the Federal Environmental Agency deputy director also said by linking humans, animals and the environment One Health can help to address the full spectrum of disease control from prevention to detection, preparedness, response and management and contribute to both global and national health security.



The deputy director further stressed, despite the effort of Global health communities and national strategies still there is an increasing tendency of human, animal, and environmental health-related problems, which requires strengthening all sector's cooperation at the global level with stakeholders and coordination and at the national level both horizontally and vertically across regions.



### **W/o. Freniesh Mekuria, the Federal Environmental Agency Deputy Director**

W/r Freniesh Mekuria, further pointed out that the One health is not an option rather it is a must. hence we need a new thinking of addressing the global health security through system thinking by which we can coordinate all our knowledge , recourses and efforts by the One Health platform.

Dr. Feyesa Regassa, IHR-National Focal Person and the National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC) Chair Person, on his behalf said, as we continue to embrace the One Health concept and work for the creation of a more sustainable coordination mechanism amongst sectors, we will honor the global One Health Day in Ethiopia in the presence of high-level government ministers and development partner leaders.



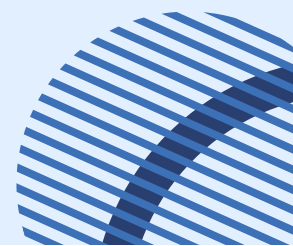


**Dr. Feyesa Regassa, IHR-National Focal Person  
National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC) Chair Person**

Dr. Feyesa added that One Health Day encourages all stakeholders to adopt a trans-disciplinary One Health strategy to early detection, cooperative response to emergencies/outbreaks, and prevention of potential emergencies at the global, regional, national, and subnational levels.

According to the IHR-National Focal Person, "One Health" is based on the knowledge that animal health, human health, and our shared environment are all integral parts of a system that is intricately intertwined; anything that affects one will inevitably affect the others. The idea offers a crucial foundation for addressing common health issues and supporting international programs like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr Sisay Getachew, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, OH delegate, said that now a days global health risks are increasing with trade globalization, global warming and changes in human behavior, all of which provide multiple opportunities for pathogens to colonize new territories and evolve in to new forms endangering human, animal and environmental health. There are also emerging and reemerging potential pathogens that can affect all lives on the Earth, circulating among animals, humans and the environment. These emerging and reemerging disease often needs multi-sectorial approach and use of multi-disciplinary efforts to prevent and control their occurrences.





### **Dr Sisay Getachew, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture**

Dr Sisay, further said that, the Ministry of Agriculture has been closely working with the Ministry of Health in combating some of the zoonotic diseases in one health approach. The currently on-going Rabies control campaign coordinated and being run the Ministry of Agriculture is a good example that needs One health approach.



### **Mr. Behailu Goshemie, Ethiopian Wild Life Conservation Authority representative**

Mr. Behailu Teshome, Ethiopian Wild Life Authority conservation representative, on his behalf said that, Ethiopia is a country endowed with a diverse range of wild fauna and flora in all corners of the country. These natural recourses have enormous value and benefits for the Ethiopian citizen as well as the entire world. -

However, because of population growth, climate change, encroachment into wildlife-protected areas, and the interaction of wild, domestic animals and humans at the interface, natural resources are under serious threat than ever before. The representative stressed rabies as one of the foremost challenge and it needs a coordinated collaboration of all stakeholders and partners

Dr. Chenjarai Njagu, FAO, Ethiopia representative also stressed One health is central to FAO's contribution to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development and the related sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Dr. Chenjarai also said that FAO is actively participating in the implementation of the Global Health Security Agenda(GASH) Action Packages (APs) in Ethiopia through the emergency center for transboundary animal disease unit.



**Dr. Chenjarai Njagu, FAO, Ethiopia representative**

Dr. Desmond Williams, CDC Ethiopia program director, said as they have been working in close collaboration with the different sectors from the inception of One Health in Ethiopia. The director promised to support and implements this program with support for ongoing surveillance.



**Dr. Desmond Williams, CDC Ethiopia program director**

In addition to this, the ongoing support will continue in the areas of in-country laboratory diagnostics support workforce to detect these diseases, workforce development to produce the fit-for-purpose workforce to respond to these diseases and conditions, and research to expand our understanding of these issues



# THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM

The South West Ethiopia Region and Mizan Aman town successfully hosted the National Public Health Emergency Management Forum (PHEM) from December 16–19, 2022.

The Honorable Ato Tsegaye Mamo, the region's government representative, stated at the forum's opening that the government today is giving health and health-related issues the right attention to safeguard societal welfare. He continued to expand on his points as the region made great efforts to improve the surveillance, early warning, and response functions for public health issues. Furthermore, in order to be effective at the societal level, the region is attempting to address societal and event health surveillance.

Dr. Mesay Hailu, the Director General of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute, said on his behalf that, as the Ethiopia Public Health Institute is a technical research wing of the Federal Ministry of Health, the institute works to strengthen the overall national public health emergency control activities in an effective and standard manner. Hence, the director expressed the institute's plan to establish a strong and effective public health emergency management system through robust early warning, preparedness, and recovery from various public health emergencies throughout the country.

Dr. Messay added that one of the institute's top priorities is to upgrade the existing public health management and surveillance system. According to the director general, the institute is now working on different projects with various government and non-government organizations and local and international partners.

Ato. Aschalew Abaynehe, the Deputy Director General of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute, expressed his hope that the two-day national public health emergency management forum would thoroughly evaluate regional performances, share experiences, and conclude with the development of a plan for the future. The Deputy Director General added that the institution would coordinate and support all initiatives to increase the health sector's readiness to prevent or reduce the negative effects of disease outbreaks and other emergency or crisis circumstances on public health.

Prior to the meeting, the forum member visited regional laboratory constructions in South West Ethiopia, the Kefa Zone, Gebre Tasadike Shoa General Hospital, and Mizan Tapie University Teaching Hospitals. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute and the health bureau for the South West Ethiopia Region worked together to organize the forum. The next PHEM forum will take place in the Afar region.

## SAVING the ENVIRONMENT from CONTAMINATION



The Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority held a consultation with a select group of manufacturers, service providers, industrial parks, and companies that operate close to lakes and other bodies of water.

It has been emphasized among many other things that the industrial sector is one of the main causes of environmental contamination. Because so many new factories are launching each year, the authority wants to carry out regular assessments and inspections every year.

At the beginning of the consultative meeting, Dr. Getahun Garedew, the General Director of the Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority, emphasized that one of the duties and mandates of the authority is raising awareness among the relevant organizations so that they can safeguard and maintain the environment to be safe and free from various toxins. Dr. Getahun made the point that it is preferable to take all necessary precautions before any form of damage occurs.

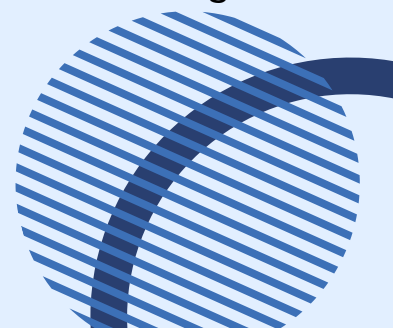
The Deputy General Director of the Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority, W/o. Frenesh Mekuriya, noted that thanks to the authority's ongoing evaluation, citizens are now much more aware of safeguarding the environment and properly disposing of wastewater from numerous sectors and plants.

It has been known that ten of the factories under the Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority's continuous review and monitoring of 72 factories and plants at the federal level are compelled to close, while 15 facilities receive final warnings.

The Ethiopia Environmental Protection Policy was approved by Ethiopia in 1989. Since that time, all relevant bodies have successfully implemented the policy.

The strategy primarily prioritized preventing environmental pollution and promoting responsible environmental use.

The federal agency in charge of overseeing Ethiopia's environment is the Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority. The Constitution commits the EEPA to upholding the environmental rights, aims, goals, and fundamental values. The Ethiopian government's environmental policy promotes the welfare of people and environmental security by putting in place structures, devising programs and mechanisms, and coordinating the necessary actions.



# Highlight on the status of the national action plan for health security (NAPHS) implementation: “Addressing Disease Threats and Improving Country Capacity”

## I. Overview

Although strengthening IHR capabilities based on the four pillars is essential to guarantee health security and prevent public health concerns in a nation, many nations, including Ethiopia, find it difficult to do so. Because of this, the nation has been putting the NAHPS into practice for the past four years in an effort to increase the IHR capacity through a well-structured approach using the four main thematic areas (pillars) and 19 technical areas that are also detailed further into action-based activities and assigned to different sectors in the nation.

*In addition, as one of the rationales of the bulletin is to advocate for a better result concerning its implementation, emphasis will be given to indicate some of the issues that can affect the quality of report preparation regarding its implementation and status.*

This section provides a quick summary of the accomplishments that have been reported thus far, the areas that need improvement, and the direction that NAPHS implementation and planning will take in 2015 and over the following five years, respectively. Furthermore, it is anticipated that various sectors, supporting partners, and other interested parties will use the report to update and revise the status of their individual operations and mobilize resources as required.

## II. NAPHS implementation Status

As shown in the graph below, the NAPHS implementation has shown improvement in most of the reporting periods including the “current” one which is updated based on the findings from the prioritization processes, and the data quality checks conducted (Figure 1).

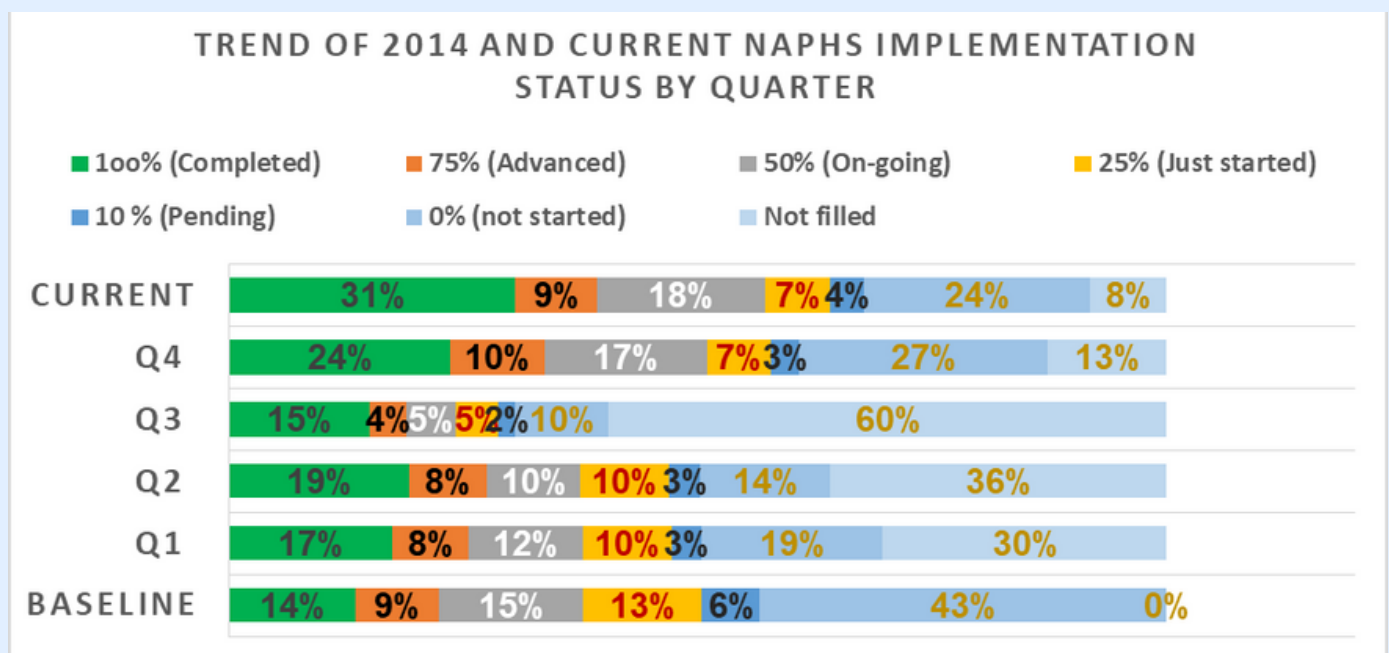


Figure 1: Trend of NPAHS performances in the last quarters

However, the graph has also depicted, the data quality problems, particularly data inconsistency, and incompleteness in all the reporting periods for the same status. Therefore, data quality problem is found to be one of the factors that can affect, as in any other interventions, the planning and implementation of NAPHS and there by the decision-making processes.

From this quick assessment, it is possible to identify some of the factors that could affect the data quality of the data entered and used in relation the related to NAPHS implementation. Some of these factors include not assigning a lead sector where there is more than one responsible sector, duplication of activities, activities with no responsible sector or directorate, not correctly assigning activities to the sector, not or partially aligning the activities to the sector-specific plan, and other factors. Furthermore, the data representing “Not-filled” and “Not-Started” is not demarcated during the data entry process for some quarters, and hence need attention in the future as they could affect the monitoring and decision-making processes.

III. 2015 (2022/2023) NAPHS plan

Recently, EPHI in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives has prepared a NAPHS operational plan for the year 2015 E.C (2022/2023) by revisiting and re-prioritizing more than 560 activities. This re-prioritization process has implemented findings from the 7-1-7 metrics and AARs/IARs assessments, and WHO’S benchmark recommendations, including other sector-specific criteria. As shown below, in figure 3, this exercise has also identified and helped to flag the activities that are not aligned with sector plan that may need additional resource mobilization and allocation.

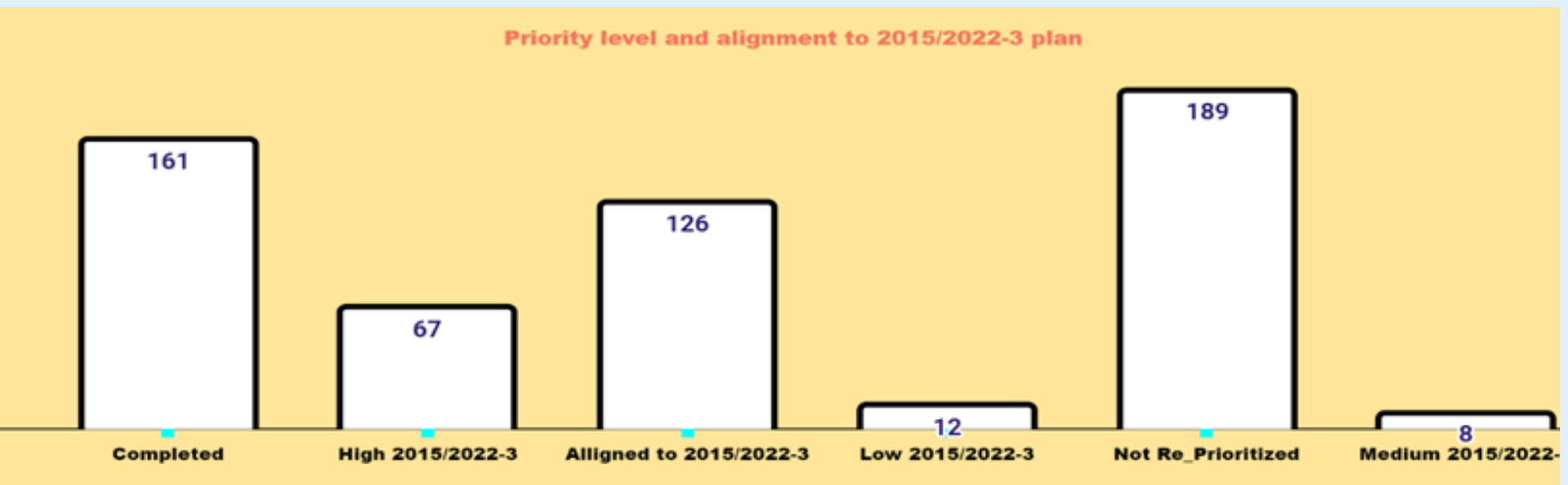


FIGURE 2: status of activities that flags the need for prioritizing for planning purpose and budget mobilization

Accordingly, the figure below has presented the alignment and re-prioritization of activities in line with their respective technical areas. It is good news that most of the activities are currently categorized as either completed, aligned, or prioritized. However, some activities are not prioritized, or their status is not known yet. Out of these activities, as reported by the responsible bodies, all or some have already been postponed to the next year including the activities related to immunization, biosafety and biosecurity technical areas.



## Alignment of NAPHS activities to 2015/2022-23

### annual plan and level of priority

■ Completed ■ Aligned to 2015/2022-3 ■ High 2015/2022-3  
■ Low 2015/2022-3 ■ Medium 2015/2022-3 ■ Not Re\_Prioritized

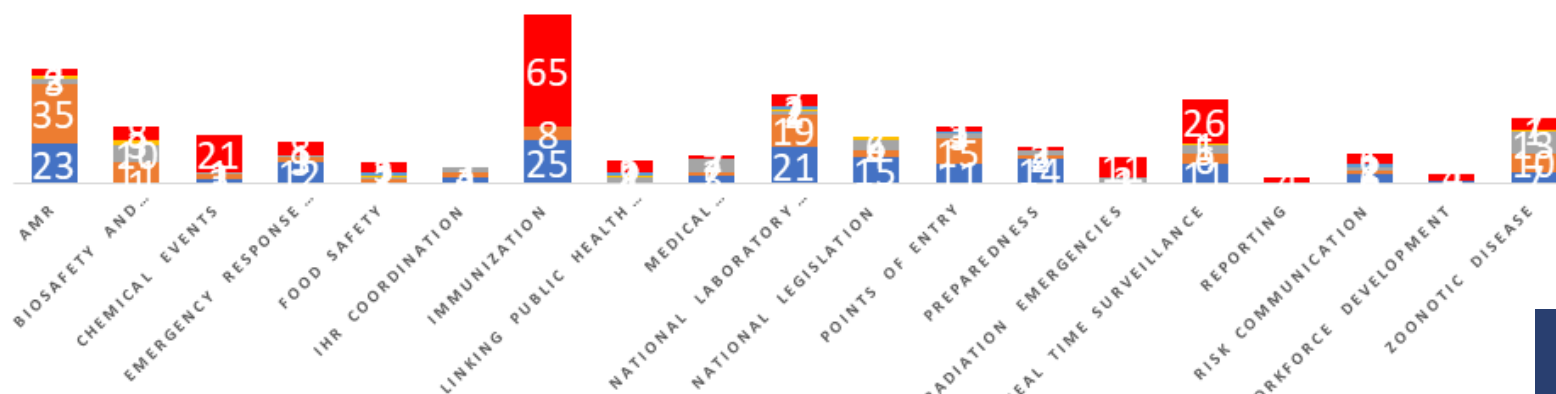


Figure 3: Alignment of NAPHS activities and the finding from the re-prioritization processes

Overall, up-to-date implementation is promising, and it is hoped that factors affecting the implementation will be addressed through working collaboratively in the 2015 (2022/23) implementation year.

However, ensuring data quality plays a central role to ensure effective monitoring and implementation of NAPHS. Therefore, attention to data entry and regular use of findings from the tracker during sector or directorate-level implementation reviews and other platforms will be crucial.

It is also worth noting that most of the activities whose status is not known (Data not filled or started) and "Completed" need further analysis such as assessing against the activities that fall under the "Not-re-prioritized" category to understand the situation better.

Also, provided this is a quick reminder, it is believed to induce further assessment and refining of the implementation status independently and collaboratively to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of NAPHS.

# TOGETHER, LET'S PREVENT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The threat posed by antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to ecology, food safety and security, human and animal health, and economic success is tremendous. The Sustainable Development Goals continue to be in danger because of it. The improper use of antibiotics in the livestock sector is one of the causes of the onset and persistence of this threat. AMR is brought on by several causes, including the improper prescribing of antibiotics in the healthcare industry, the overuse or abuse of antibiotics in humans and animals, and the release of antibiotic residues into the environment, all of which cannot be handled by a single industry. To prevent or treat diseases that are resistant to treatment and lessen their impact, the world urgently needs to take action.

Therefore, relevant sectors must share responsibility. There have been some initiatives to date. One of these is the World AMR Week (WAAW) event, which runs from November 18 to 24. With the topic "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together," this year's remembrance day was observed between November 18 and November 24, 2022, for the eighth and seventh times in the world and Ethiopia, respectively.

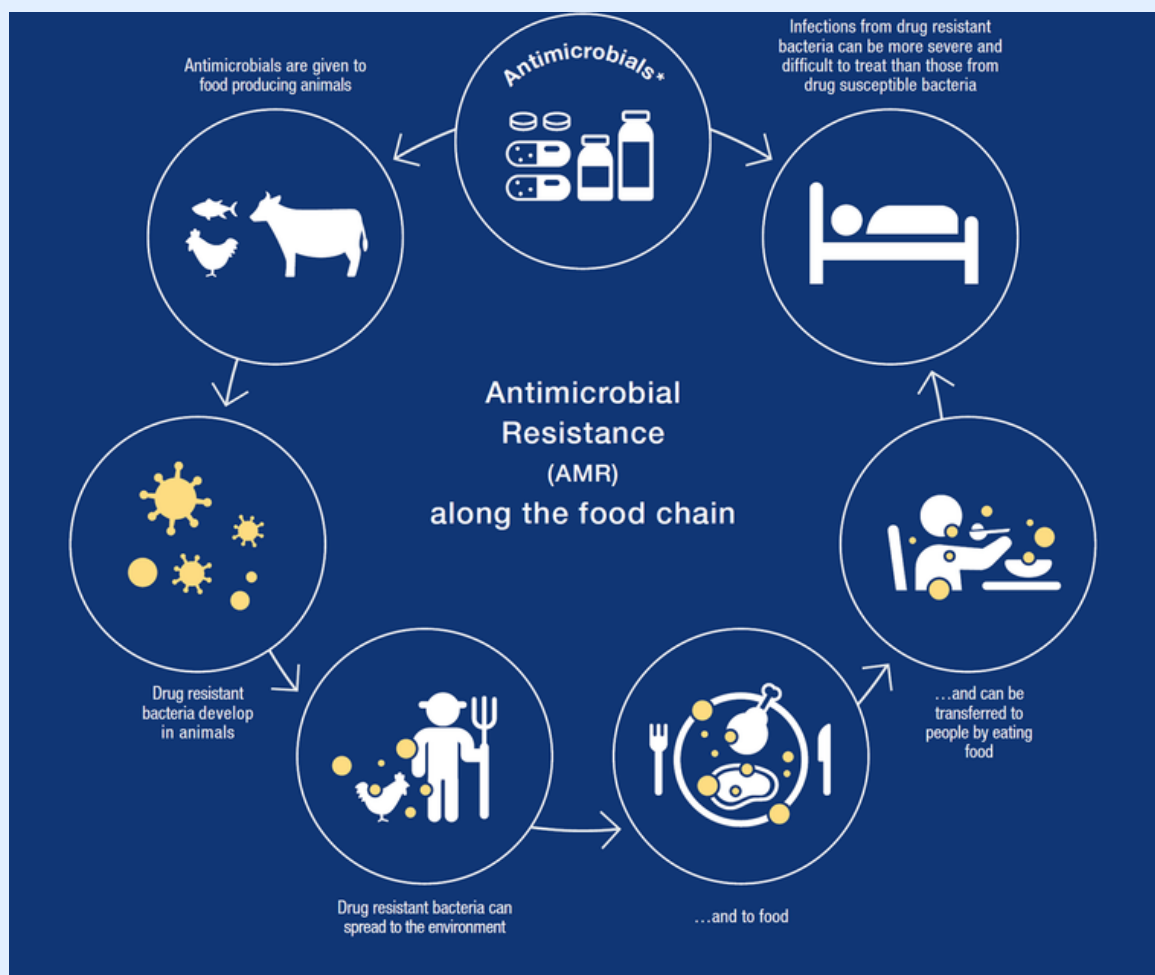
A lot has been done by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to reduce the danger of AMR. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has taken many steps to lower the risk of drug abuse, including working with the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority to develop guidelines for food safety, AMR, good dispensing practices, guidelines for the disposal of unfit veterinary drugs, and guidelines for the treatment of veterinary drug manuals (EAA). However, there are still gaps in the front of raising awareness for professionals, such as veterinarians working in veterinary clinics, independent veterinary shops, and other stakeholders.

Therefore, from November 24–25, 2022, at Adama Town, the Ministry, in coordination with its accountable institutions, held a sector-specific World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) commemoration and AMR Prevention and Containment Plan Launching Workshop. It sought to increase the knowledge of experts, veterinary clinic practitioners, private veterinary retailers, and other stakeholders to promote the responsible use of antibiotics.

Dr. Tesfaye Rufael, Director of Animal Health Institute, gave the opening remarks at the WAAW workshop. He briefly reviewed the national and international threat posed by AMR as well as the pressing need for professional commitment and leadership to realize the responsible use of antibiotics and address the issue. Dr. Tesfaye continued by saying that his organization is dedicated to not just cooperating with stakeholders but also assisting in the execution of the sector-specific AMR plan.

Dr. Wubishet Zewdie, the director of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health at the Ministry of Agriculture, emphasized the significance of increasing awareness about AMR prevention and containment, AMU and RMU in humans, animals, and the environment, and strengthening infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities, farms, and community settings (for professionals, veterinary clinic practitioners, private veterinary retailers, communities, and other stakeholders). The director further emphasized the significance of multi-sectoral cooperation in combating AMR.

In his presentation of a general overview of the national and global impact and strategic plan of AMR, Dr. Sisay Getachew, the leader of the Veterinary Public Health Desk, briefly explained the terrifying economic and public health impacts of AMR. According to Dr. Sisay, livestock production would decline by 11%, and the current 700,000 human deaths may increase to 10 million by 2050 due to AMR if the world does not combat and prevent the issue. Other related topics were discussed in-depth by workshop participants to reach a consensus, including pharmaceutical waste and AMR, unfit drug disposal techniques, antimicrobial resistance surveillance efforts, infection control to control AMR, and an overview and development of sector-specific AMR prevention and containment plans.



# THE AIR WE SHARE



## **ETHIOPIA HAS COMMEMORATED THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAR AIR**

Ethiopia has observed the International Day of Clear Air for Blue Skies, emphasizing the need to safeguard the environment from various polluting factors that could be hazardous to the survival of humanity. According to numerous studies, air pollution today is one of the leading causes of the deaths of millions of people worldwide.

At the event's beginning, Dr. Getahun, General Director of the Ethiopian Environment Protection Authority, emphasized the significance of paying close attention to safeguarding the air from various contaminants. There are currently about two million vehicles in the nation, 75% of which are in Addis Abeba, the capital city of the country. The general director went on to say that ongoing research into the problem in the capital city indicated that severe air pollution is being recorded, particularly at dawn and dusk. Taking this into consideration, laws and regulations are now in place to safeguard both the environment and air pollution while also reducing the vulnerability of the air. The director further says that for 50,000 Ethiopians, air pollution is currently the leading cause of death.

The Ethiopian Environment Protection Authority inspects 14,000 businesses and service provider facilities each year, and during the fiscal year, it assesses approximately 7,000 project applications. Just last year, the authority conducted a thorough investigation of 19 key cities throughout the nation's air pollution hotspots.

Air pollution continues to be a serious global issue and one of the major threats to human health because of its transnational nature. Poor air quality worldwide causes millions of premature deaths every year, making it one of the most common illnesses and deaths that may be prevented.

## IHR/SPAR

The International Health Regulations (IHR) State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) workshop was conducted by participating key government sectors and stakeholders.

Ato Aschalew Abaynehe, the Ethiopia Public Health Institute Deputy Director General at the opening of the workshop pointed out that, as Ethiopia is a signatory to the world health organization (WHO) international health regulations (IHR), it is expected to conduct State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting. The Deputy Director General also appreciated the WHO for their continued support and also for different sectors for their unreserved collaboration.



Dr Feyessa Regassa Ethiopia's international health regulations (IHR) Focal Point on his behalf said that global health security will be attainable if and only if a workuntries works towards the expectations of the regulations mandate. State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting encourages transparency and mutual accountability amongst States Parties leading towards global public health security.



## **Ethiopia receives international accreditation for the Field Epidemiology Training Program & 19 disease detectives graduate from the program**

Ethiopia's efforts to respond to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies have been strengthened with the graduation of the first cohort of the intermediate tier of the Ethiopia Field Epidemiology Training Program (EFELTP). Members of the cohort were chosen from among the 13 regional states in Ethiopia's several regional health bureaus.

Speaking at the event, the State Minister of Health, HE Dr. Derje Duguma, thanked the institutions and partners that contributed to the TEPHINET recognition and told the graduates, "Ethiopia is a big country, and we have come to a time when our country needs field epidemiology professionals like you because our country has had conflicts, droughts, plagues, and other problems." He advised them to use these difficulties as good opportunities to advance their skills and use them to serve the people.

The graduation event, which took place in Addis Abeba on October 6, also served as a venue to honor organizations and partners who helped the Ethiopia FELTP receives recent certification from the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET).



The African Field Epidemiology Network was also awarded a certificate by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health during the same ceremony in recognition of its commitment and ongoing technical support to the EFELTP, which helped to secure TEPHINET accreditation. Ethiopia had been in charge of the frontline and advanced levels of the field epidemiology training program before this graduation. The three-tiered pyramidal structure of FETP training includes basic, intermediate, and advanced instruction. Three months of part-time training are needed for entry-level FETPs, also referred to as frontline FETPs. For intermediate-level FETPs, nine to twelve months of part-time instruction are needed (as intermediate FETPs aim to keep trainees in their workplaces, trainees receive roughly six to eight weeks of face-to-face modules and complete work-based projects in between), while the majority of advanced-level programs demand two years of full-time, guided master's-level instruction.

EFELTP operates as a collaborative effort among eight universities (Addis Ababa University, Saint Paulos Millennium Medical College, Gondar University, Bahir Dar University, Mekele University, Hawassa University, Haramaya University, and Jimma University), regional health bureaus, and other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In addition to offering epidemiologic services to federal, regional, and zonal government health institutions throughout Ethiopia, the EFELTP intends to train leaders in field epidemiology (human and animal) and public health practice. The ceremony was attended by representatives from AFENET, the Ethiopia Public Health Institute, the Ethiopian Public Health Association, WHO Ethiopia & CDC Ethiopia.

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## **ENHANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS TRAINING WORKSHOP WAS CONDUCTED**

The training program for district PHEM officers, health workers, and community health extension workers which focuses on the areas of enhanced situational awareness, linking risk monitoring with preparedness action was conducted successfully from 13-15 October 2022.

The majority of the participants in the program were health extension workers from the region of Addis Ababa's eleven woredas and health facilities from its eleven sub cities. Most of the participants in the workshop were urban health extension workers (all nurses), PHEM officials from sub-city and woreda offices, and the health centers that the Addis Ababa city health bureau suggested take part in the training.



One of the recommendations and comments made during the consultative meeting for the introduction of the enhanced situational awareness program with the regional, zonal/sub-city, and woreda representatives was to take into account participants from sub-city health offices and health centers who will be a part of the PHEM system, particularly those engaged in preparedness, early warning, and surveillance related functions.

The program was attended by 176 health professionals from 12 Woredas of the Addis Ababa region city government, including 34 PHEM employees from sub-city and woreda health offices and health clinics and 142 health extension workers.

In 2022, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute's Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Preparedness and Capacity Building directorate agreed to pilot implement epidemic risk monitoring linked with preparedness actions for selected priority health hazards in 23 woredas across four regions with technical support from Resolve to Save Lives.

Enhanced situational awareness (ESA) is an approach that links epidemic risk monitoring with preparedness actions and advances an early warning system that monitors and assesses risks that increase the likelihood of health emergencies. Enhanced situational awareness uses risk factors, seasonality, and contextual vulnerability to develop preparedness plans linked to essential public health functions. Thus, ESA helps to operationalize the STAR tool for priority health hazards.



The World Health Organization's Strategic Toolkit for Assessing Risk is used by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute to undertake annual vulnerability and risk assessments and mapping exercises at the national and regional levels. This exercise has been elevated to the woreda level as of 2021. A total of 36 woredas in five regions had finished the VRAM/STAR assessment and created Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans as of February 2022.

# ONE HEALTH ..... ACTIVITIES & NEWS

## ANNUAL REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT WAS CONDUCTED

The NOHSC 2014 EC annual review and Action plan development for the EFY 2015 (2022-2023) was conducted from October 4-6, 2022, at Adama town. The objectives of the National One Health annual review and the new year annual action plan development workshop was to assess the current situation, performance, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the planned OH activities at national and sub-national one health platforms and to understand the progress to date and lessons learned from regional and national coordination mechanism among key one health sectors and partners.



The workshop also emphasizes identifying the obstacles to the effective operation of the national OH-TWGs, developing the national OH annual action plan for the Ethiopian fiscal year of 2015 E.C. (2022-23), and ensuring that all national and regional stakeholders have a shared understanding of the one health concept, the IHR-2005, and the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS).

The Regional One Health Review workshop, on the other hand, was held in Adama town on October 14 to discuss ways to improve multisectoral communication, coordination, and collaboration at the national and sub-national levels through the One Health approach as well as to inspire subnational one health platforms to make the most of their efforts to do so in their regions.





Creating a forum for experience sharing among regional health taskforces that have varying levels of resources (human, infrastructure, logistics, etc.) and allowing them to learn from others about innovative approaches and best practices as well as identifying the difficulties in ensuring the proper operation of Oh platforms at the sub-national level received due attention from the attendees.

## THE INAUGURATION OF SIDAMA REGION OH MOU

The Sidama regional One Health task force finalized the development of a binding framework, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was endorsed at a colorful inauguration organized on November 12, 2022. The main objectives of the workshop were to raise the awareness of all relevant sectors on multisectoral collaboration through one health approach and also to create a forum for participatory discussion and reach into consciences on the critical need of working together through the establishment of a multisectoral regional platform. Affirm official commitment of relevant sectors by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to play a leading role in the functionality of the regional One Health Taskforce was also one of the priority agendas of the workshop. The inauguration was conducted at Hawassa town in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNOFAO) and Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL).



## **A workshop on Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) was held to raise awareness in the environmental sector**



On November 10–11, 2022, in Adama Town, a workshop on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) lobbying and public awareness was held for the environmental sector. The Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), along with the Ministry of Health (MoH), and USAID-MTaPS, organized the workshop. The goal of the workshop was to increase participation and engagement of the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on AMR activities on one health platform, establish a shared understanding of AMR among various directorates engaged in AMR activities within the sector, and raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among higher officials and experts from relevant directorates of the EPA.

Mrs. Frenesh Mekuria, Deputy Director General of, the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, gave the welcome address (EPA). She also stressed the danger that AMR poses to the environment, social and economic elements, as well as to human and animal health. She also discussed the EPA's role with AMR, which includes promoting awareness, creating regulatory tools, preventing pollution, getting rid of hazardous industrial and hospital waste, and performing an environmental impact assessment before the construction of industries and hospitals for the prevention and containment of AMR. The panel discussion was then formally opened by the moderator after she stated that the EPA is committed to AMR activities and the multi-sectoral effort to tackle AMR.

Presentations on antimicrobial resistance from a global and national viewpoint, as well as other pertinent issues, were presented after the welcome speeches. Each keynote talk was delivered by Mr. Wondossen Shewarega on behalf of the MoH and Mr. Workneh Getahun on behalf of USAID-MTaPS.

The advocacy and sensitization workshop on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for the environment sector drew a total of 35 interdisciplinary participants. After the session, a task force was formed with 10 members, a TOR was created, and the EPA directorates' annual plans for their separate AMR operations were aligned



## A NEW REVISED DIRECTIVE HAS BEEN ISSUED

The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) has issued a newly revised directive No. 993/2022 for the Prevention and Control of the Covid-19 Epidemic. Over the past two + years and after lifting the state of emergency declared during the first phase of the outbreak, various laws have been enacted in Ethiopia to control and prevent the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic. Directive 882/2022 has been in place and has been effective until recently for some time until it is replaced by the newly revised directive No 993/2022.

The directive is revised to reduce the economic and social pressure by relaxing or avoiding the prohibitions and obligations in a situation where public health is not dangerous by taking into consideration of the current level of spread of the disease and the damage it causes. The recent response of other countries to the epidemic is also considered.

The prevalence and distribution of the vaccine, the fact that the supply and distribution of the vaccine are encouraging and the government is giving it free, and new drugs are being found for the epidemic was also among the reasons to revise the directive. Notwithstanding other laws regarding health control at the point of entry, The entry requirement at the point of entry stipulated in article 5 of the repealed directive that any person entering the country must meet has been repealed.

Since the current level of outbreak is reaching the level where it can be handled by regular working conditions, provisions regarding the establishment of the task force and its powers and functions have been canceled. Wearing face masks continues as mandatory in health institutions, whereas it is provided as a recommendation in other institutions and during a meeting and transport services.

# MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



Coverage in the Local and International Media



 **NAPHS** | NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR  
HEALTH SECURITY 2019-2023