



**GLOBAL HEALTH  
LEADERSHIP FORUM  
and  
MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED  
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM**

*Strengthening Health Systems through  
Leadership and Management*

Center for Global Health

Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development



# HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

To build a robust health infrastructure and improve public health outcomes, Ministries of Health require strong leadership and management expertise.

In 2010, in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) mission to improve health worldwide, the Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) within the Center for Global Health launched the Global Health Leadership Forum (Forum). In 2011, SMDP linked the Forum and its long-established Management for Improved Public Health program (MIPH) to create an integrated, efficient, tiered approach to leadership and management capacity development in low- and middle-income countries.



“The health of the people is directly related to effective health systems.”

Strong Ministries for Strong Health Systems, 2010.

## Here's How It Works

The CDC country office works with the country Ministry of Health (MOH) or other relevant ministry to specify a health systems problem, identify core strategies and a leadership team to address the health systems problem. That team attends the Forum in Atlanta in late fall, and creates a vision and general action plan. Participating with other country leadership teams provides opportunities to discuss issues, share experiences, examine new ideas, and develop more effective strategies for strengthening health systems.

After the Forum, senior leaders work with CDC to identify a management

team that will further refine and carry out the plan. The management team attends MIPH in the spring/summer (about six months after the Forum), in a location outside of the United States. MIPH is designed to improve the management team's skills base and build organizational capacity by working with teams to:

- develop objectives, deliverables, and activities for their systems strengthening plan
- create a specific timeline to monitor progress
- identify resources required to implement the plan and achieve set objectives.

The management teams return to their countries to implement the system strengthening plan with regular communication and guidance from the leadership team that attended the Forum. CDC in-country staff and CDC Atlanta staff assist with requests for technical assistance, support, and mentoring throughout the implementation process. Program implementation and monitoring is enhanced through various communication channels, such as webinars, on-line tutorials, and a monthly newsletter.

## Overview of Health System Strengthening Process

### Planning and Development

- CDC country office engages Ministries
- Identify target problems
- Identify Forum delegates

### Global Health Leadership Forum

- Atlanta, GA & Washington DC
- Engage CDC subject matter experts (SMEs) as mentors
- Identify MIPH participants

### Intervening Period

- Further development of Action Plan
- Forum delegates work with CDC SMEs and identified MIPH participants

### Management for Improved Public Health

- Skill building
- Refinement of Action Plan to include project objectives, timeline, roles and responsibilities and budget

### Outcomes

- Improvements in health infrastructure
- Strengthened management systems



# GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

## Who

The Global Health Leadership Forum (Forum) is designed for senior and executive-level health leaders from the Ministry of Health and other health-related organizations with a mission of improving human and/or veterinary public health issues.

Examples of the types of leadership positions that would benefit from the Forum are:

- Directors in the Ministry of Health
- Senior Management in Ministries
- Elected Officials
- NGO or community leaders
- Vice Ministers of Health, Public Health Directors or Deputy Directors



## What

The Forum is designed for senior leaders to create a comprehensive vision, establish objectives, and develop strategies for health systems strengthening in their country.

## When/Where

The Forum is held in late fall every year. The first week takes place in Atlanta, GA, USA with two additional days in Washington, D.C., USA.

## Registration Fee

The registration fee includes enrollment, program materials, mentoring on development of an initial work plan for in-country implementation, and lunch during weekdays.

## Testimonials from Former Delegates:

- ▶ *“It was enlightening to see that we have similar challenges and issues across borders...”*
- ▶ *“The time together with our teams to plan without distractions of daily responsibility was valuable”*
- ▶ *“The Forum highlighted key aspects of what priorities leaders in health should be focusing on as well as exposed participants to ‘modern’ leadership concepts and approaches.”*
- ▶ *“There were so many new ideas; it makes me think what I can do in my country, I experienced a broader way of thinking.”*

# MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH

## Who

Management For Improved Public Health (MIPH) Program is an applied management program designed for managers who will be responsible for developing and implementing a detailed systems strengthening plan related to the public health priority identified by their senior leaders. Managers participating in the MIPH program should be experienced managers who will be capable of supervising others as necessary to implement these plans while regularly communicating with senior leadership.

Examples of the types of management positions that would benefit from MIPH are:

- Project/Program Officers at the district or national level
- Program Managers in the Ministry
- Program Coordinators
- Hospital Administrators
- Managers of academic institutions or NGOs



## What

MIPH is a highly interactive and applied program, designed to develop and enhance individual management skills.

## When/Where

MIPH is held in the spring or summer of each year in different regions of the world.

## Registration fee

The registration fee includes enrollment, program materials, mentoring on creation of a detailed implementation plan, and lunch during weekdays.

## Testimonials from Former Participants:

- ▶ *"I have been in the public health field for almost 5 years now and I think this course is critical to achieving improvements in the workplace."*
- ▶ *"In addition to improving my management performance at my work, I will share concepts and skills learned at MIPH with my colleagues, thus improving the pool of trained managers in my country."*
- ▶ *"The course content (process improvement, project management, conflict management, etc) was highly interactive and can be applied to any setting"*
- ▶ *"I have a clear idea on how I am going to institute change..."*

**"Lack of management skills appears to be the single most important barrier to improving health throughout the world"**

**William H. Foege**, 2010, former CDC Director and Senior Advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



“Capacity development feeds into helping people live longer, happier, and healthier lives.”

**Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH**, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

## OUTCOMES AND SUPPORT

### Action Learning Projects

Action learning projects are a central aspect of the leadership and management development program. Participants in each of the programs work on an Action Plan. In the Forum, a high level Action Plan is developed. This plan will be operationalized by managers attending MIPH with a timeline, specific objectives, and a project budget. Examples of action plan outcomes implemented by the 2010-2011 Forum-MIPH participants include:

- Developed and implemented a national laboratory policy
- Instituted safe blood donation guidelines and policies
- Initiated planning for a National Public Health Institute
- Improved tuberculosis screening and follow-up processes
- Established an institutional home for management development
- Developed standard operating procedures and identified process improvements for PMTCT

### Role of CDC country offices

Communication and on-the-ground support are critical to the success of health systems capacity building efforts. CDC Atlanta works with CDC country offices and other government partners to identify an in-country advocate in the initial phase of the program. The CDC country office coordinates with relevant Ministries' leadership to explain the multi-tiered approach to health systems strengthening, determine priority health systems issues, and assist in the selection of Forum delegates and the MIPH management team.

### Application Process

Applications and selection criteria will be available six months prior to each event. SMDP will send applications to CDC presence countries and circulate through the Center for Global Health. We will work with in-country CDC offices to assist with the selection of leadership delegations and management teams for the Forum and MIPH. While the application process is separate for each event, we encourage our partners to think of these as complementary events aimed at achieving a single outcome.

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