

The Philippines PHE network is set to hold the 9th national conference.

The Philippines PHE Network will hold its 9th National PHE Conference in Iloilo City on October 25-26. The conference, convened every two years by the [PHE Network in the Philippines](#), will explore dimensions of applying the concept of demographic dividend in sustaining and increasing the impact of integrated population, health, and environment (PHED) initiatives to address development priorities, such as poverty reduction, improved health, livelihood, disaster mitigation, food security, and natural resource management. Since 2004, the PHE Network has successfully held eight (8) conferences, including the virtual one held during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in October 2021.

PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PFPI), a consortium partner of the USAID-funded BUILD project, is part of the PHE Network planning the conference, and heads the communications committee besides co-leading other committees for the conference. The PFPI team will also serve as resource persons and moderators in several sessions. The BUILD Project Director, Clive Mutunga, will facilitate a plenary session on PHED and a parallel session on SMART Advocacy. The BUILD project has supported the participation of a select number of delegates.

⁺ *Themed From Crisis to Opportunity: Re-Engineering the PHE Approach for Resilience and Economic Growth in the New Normal*, the conference will bring together close to 300 participants from a wide range of PHE practitioners, program managers, advocates, policymakers, educators, faith-based groups, indigenous people's organizations, and health service providers. Also participating will be policymakers, local government (LGU) officials, and members of the academia experts in PHE-related fields, as well as multilateral and bilateral donors at the regional and international levels..

Among others, the conference aims to identify the best conditions for scaling up integrated PHE strategies to maximize the gains of demographic dividend/transition among the most vulnerable sectors of society using resources from public and private partnerships (investments in child health, education, gender equality, etc.) at the national and local levels.

At the end of the conference, it is expected that the participants will use new knowledge to:

- i. develop new strategies for feasible PHE integration from of assessing vulnerabilities; and
- ii. address the Philippine society's most pressing and constantly evolving needs using cross sectoral approaches.

The BUILD Project is a USAID-funded global program designed to leverage the interconnectedness of Population, Environment and Development, to spur strong political commitment, sustained financial resources, and accountability for voluntary family planning and reproductive health in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs).

BUILD project is led by the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) (prime) in partnership with Leadership for Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa (LEAD SEA); PATH Foundation Philippines Inc. (PFPI); FHI 360; and Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

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