



PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION  
OF INDIA

# Building Capacity for Public Health in India

# Overview

- Introduction to PHFI
- Setting up Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPH)
- An innovative model for capacity building
- Strategic International support

# Addressing Barriers

## **Barriers**

**Insufficient Public Health Expertise in areas of:**  
Program Design, Monitoring And Evaluation  
Health System Management  
Public Health Research  
Policy Development

## **PHFI's approach**

### **Strengthening Institutional Capacity**

- Achieving critical mass of qualified personnel
- Training for Improved Quality and Delivery

# Public Health Education in India: Achievements and Challenges

- **M.D. (Community Medicine)**
  - Training in preventive and social medicine
  - Open only to medical doctors
  - Inadequate coverage
  - Specialist training not available
- **Masters in Public Health/M.Sc (Epidemiology)**
  - Addresses need for broader public health education, but:
    - Small number of students
    - Small faculty size
    - Gaps in course content

# Public Health Education in India: Achievements and Challenges

- **PhD programs**
  - Offer advanced research training in certain areas
  - Small in number
  - Inadequate to develop a national cadre of public health researchers
  
- **Training programs**
  - Offer training on a variety of public health issues,
  - Limited coverage of present & potential public health functionaries
  - Lack an integrated approach in terms of content

# Establishing the Public Health Foundation of India

- Launched by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on March 28, 2006



# Governing Board of Public Health Foundation of India

- Chaired by Mr. Rajat Kumar Gupta, former MD, McKinsey & Co.
- includes senior government officials,
- eminent Indian and international academic and scientific leaders,
- representatives of civil society & corporate heads.

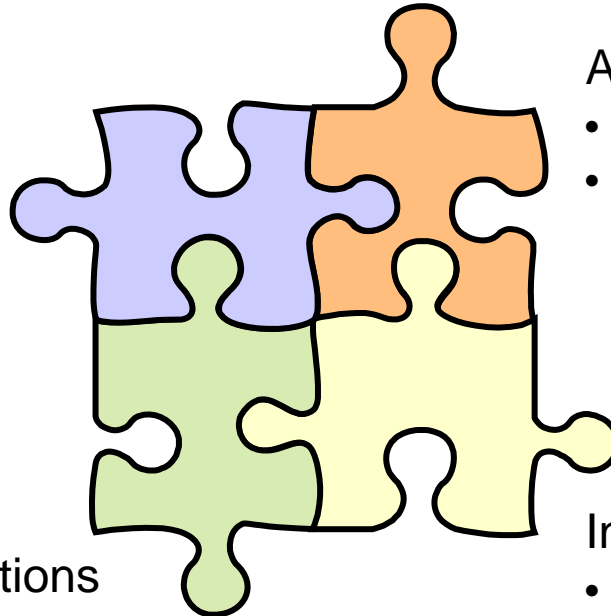
# A Collaborative Effort: Bringing Together Stakeholders

## Government of India

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- Various State Governments
- Government Health Services

## Civil Society Organizations

- CSO associations
- Individual organizations



## Academia

- National experts in PH
- International PH schools

## Industry leaders

- Local industry heads
- Global philanthropists

# Charter of PHFI reflects the Comprehensive Approach

- Establish 5 -8 new institutes of public health over the next 6 years (IIPH)
- Assist the growth of existing public health training institutions/departments
- Establish a strong national research network with suitable international partnerships where appropriate
- Generate policy recommendations and developing a vigorous advocacy platform
- Facilitate establishment of an independent accreditation body for degrees

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# Significant Progress In Setting Up Indian Institutes of Public Health

## State

## Progress

Andhra Pradesh  
(Hyderabad)

- Foundation Stone laid on 7<sup>th</sup> Apr'07
- IIPH to be operational from Jul'08

Delhi

- MoU with State Government
- IIPH to be operational from 2009

Gujarat  
(Gandhi Nagar)

- Foundation Stone laid in Aug'07
- IIPH to be operational from 2009

Discussions with West Bengal,  
Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil  
Nadu & Meghalaya in progress

# IIPH Will be Centers of Quality Education and Research

## Educational Programs at IIPH

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- Masters in Public Health (MPH)
  - Two year degree program
  - Includes course work, field work and internships
  - Subjects include Health Program Management, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Social & Behavioral Health, Research Methods
- Diploma in Public Health (DPH)
  - One year program for mid-career professionals
  - Can lead to MPH through modular/distance education

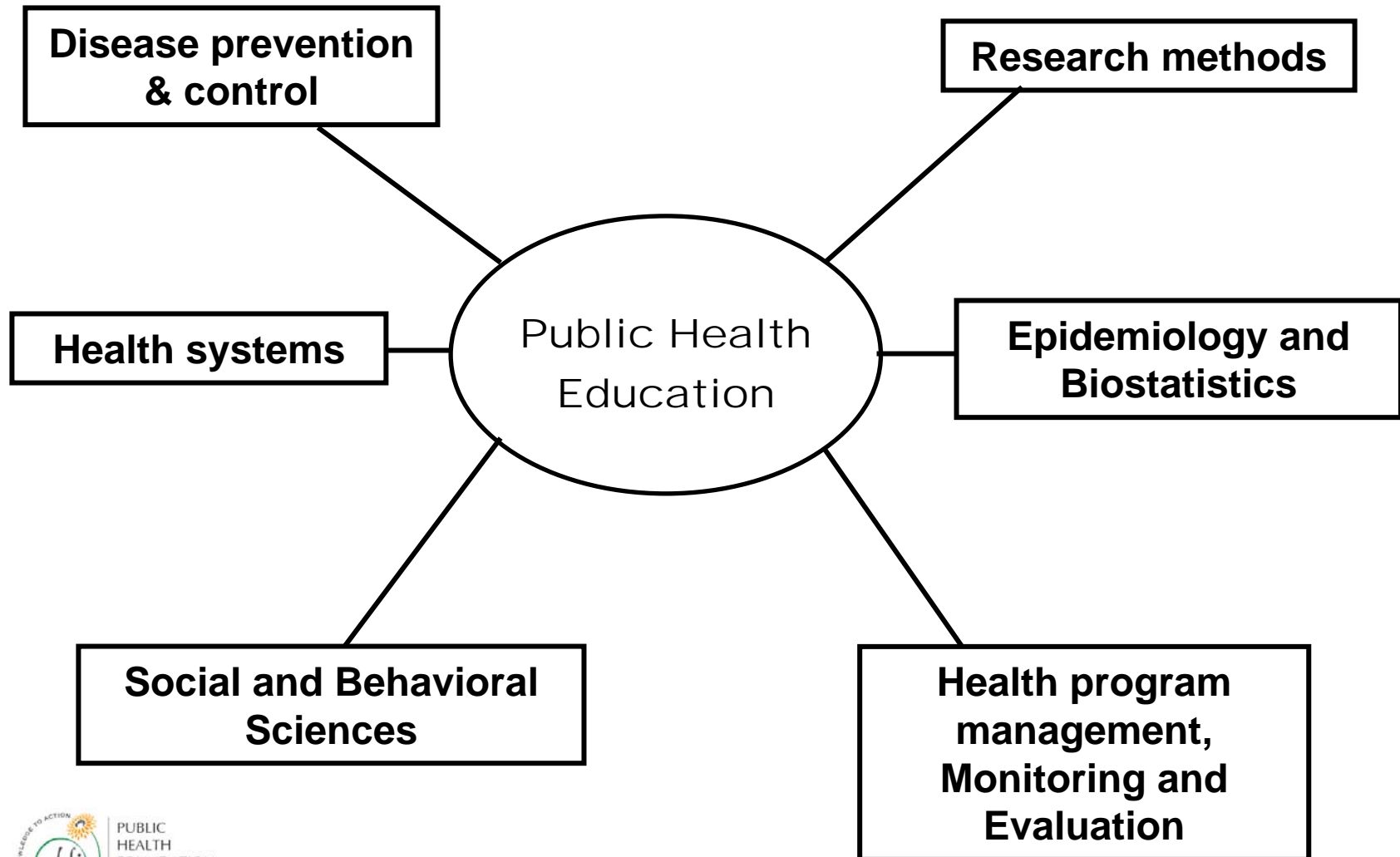
# IIPH Will be Centers of Quality Education and Research

## Educational Programs at IIPH

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- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
  - Four to five year program
  - Research to focus on India relevant issues
  - Subjects include Health Program Management, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Social & Behavioral Health, Research Methods
- Short to Medium term training programs
  - One to twelve week programs
  - Customized to meet the needs of Policy makers, health managers, health workers, Civil Society Organizations, and advocacy groups amongst others

# Public Health Education: An integrated approach



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# Building Capacity in a Developing Country

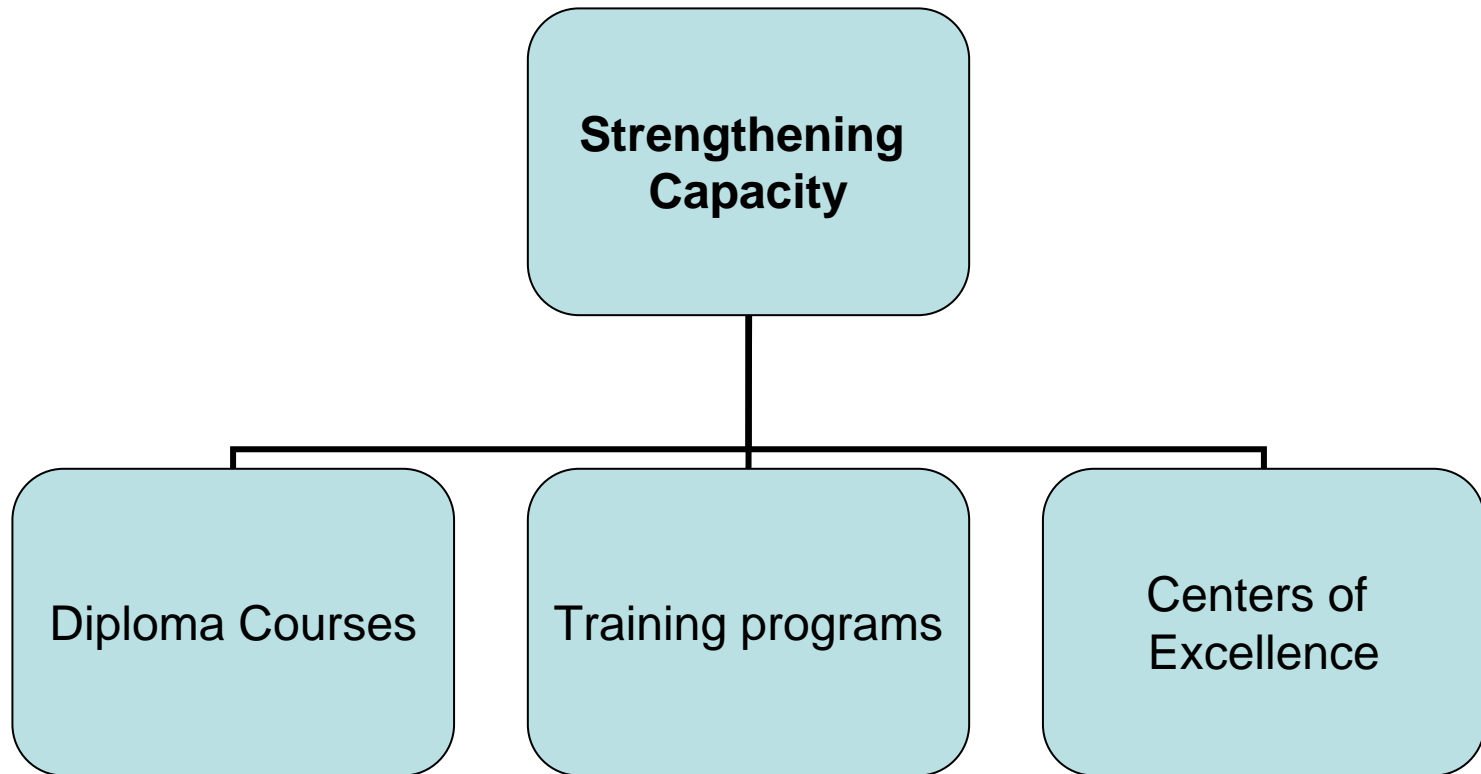
## **Challenges**

- High out-of-pocket spending by individuals on health despite a huge health system managed by the Government
- Growing burden of non-communicable diseases in addition to an unfinished agenda of infectious diseases

## **PHFI's approach**

- Engage key stakeholders (Government, national and international academia, CSO, as well as private industry)
- PHFI as well as all IIPs are structured as Public Private Partnerships
- Inform policy makers and advocacy groups through research conducted at IIPs

# Strengthening Capacity of Stakeholders



# Focus on Areas Needing Special Attention: Centers of Excellence

## Concept:

- Develop a high level of expertise
- Region and discipline specific research
- Dedicated to the task of solving specific health system challenges
- Attract academicians and researchers through dedicated funding
- Nurtured by PHFI
- Sustainable stream of expertise from IIPHS

# Proposed Centers of Excellence

## Upcoming Centers:

- Health Communication / Promotion
- Chronic Diseases
- Social Determinants
- Health IT/Metrics
- Health Systems & Management
- Nutrition
- Environmental and Occupational Health

# Training Programs

## **Gujarat Government:**

- Held short training programs for Block Health Officers
- Similar programs to be held for District health officers

## **Andhra Pradesh Government:**

- Training programs in hospital management
- Design, Monitoring & Execution of action plan for prevention of Vector borne diseases (VBDs)
- Training of key government personnel for VBD Control Program

## **Teaching Seminar on Research Methods in Nutrition:**

- Week long training by national & international faculty

## **Health@work:**

- Series of courses – occupational health issues- started with call centers

# Programs In Partnership

## University of Melbourne

- Development of Pandemic Preparedness training program

## Karuna Trust

- Cross-training of staff
- Joint research proposals

## Global Forum for Health Research:

- Global Consultation – research for improved policy-
- PHFI will prioritize action on media facilitation, specialized courses for journalists, training researchers in media engagement

## Programs In Partnership (2)

### **Asian Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAH) & PHFI**

- PHFI is the nodal coordinating agency for technical papers and agenda development for AAAH meeting 'Globalisation and Human Resource in Health Challenges'

### **United Kingdom India Education & Research Initiative**

- Support for 2 projects- smoke free Delhi, inhalant use by street children

### **Center of Excellence for chronic diseases**

- Emory University, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Aga Khan University, Karachi

## Programs to Inform Policy

- Worked with WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative
- Initiated steps towards incorporation of WHO's TFI into National Rural Health Mission for India
- Polio re-emergence study undertaken for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- Workshop on school-based interventions to promote youth health in India
- Center for advancement of Rural Health

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# PHFI is building a strong global academic network for IIPH

## United States of America

- Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) of the US
- Over 15 schools have direct partnerships, including
  - Harvard
  - Johns Hopkins
  - Emory

## United Kingdom

- 5 schools have committed support
  - London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
  - University College, London
  - Edinburgh
  - Oxford
  - Cambridge

## Europe

- Over 6 schools in mainland Europe, including
  - National Public Health Institute, Finland
  - Centre for International Health, Norway
  - Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands

## Australia

- Discussions to set up partnerships with 4-5 schools in Australia, with confirmations from
  - University of Sydney
  - University of Melbourne

# Our international partners are partners in our success

## Initial years

## Steady state

### Research

- Develop joint proposals

- Conduct joint projects
- Develop joint proposals

### Faculty Development

- Train faculty for IIPHS as per need
- Encourage visiting faculty programs

- Faculty exchange programs

Discussions with ASPH to play an important role in these partnerships