

# PHONIC – Public Health Operations for climate action

## Development of a framework to identify priority operations

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### Background

Climate change along with loss of biodiversity and pollution constitutes the biggest threat to human health in the 21st century. Effective climate change adaptation and mitigation require dedicated action from public health services, in addressing health problems as well as their underlying determinants. It is important to prioritize those public health functions resulting in the greatest benefit for population health, keeping in mind the vulnerabilities of different groups. To date, no framework exists to support decision-makers in systematically assessing the status quo and in identifying priority public health operations for climate change action in a given setting. However, there are frameworks existing to systematically operationalize public health functions working together to provide public health systems, such as the essential public health functions (EPHF) defined by the WHO (see figure 1). The EPHF framework has been continuously adopted based on international scientific findings as well as adapted to different WHO regions.

### Aim and objectives

The project's aim is

- to assess required and existing climate change adaptation and mitigation measures related to public health operations
- making them resilient to current and future challenges
- develop a practical guidance for decision makers to identify priorities public health functions for climate change action.

### Call for Good Practice examples and expertise

You're also working on the nexus of climate action and public health (services)?

You know good practice examples on public health functions for climate action?

You have thoughts on how and what public health functions to prioritize for climate action?

Please feel free to reach out to us!



### Methods

The project's aim will be fulfilled by:

- (1) identifying linkages between public health functions and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures by conducting a **scoping review**;
- (2) developing an **umbrella framework** that allows overall classification of public health functions addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation. The EPHF framework serves as a starting point for systematically doing so;
- (3) identifying priority public health functions for climate change action through **online expert consultation**;
- (4) developing a tool for the prioritized functions with tangible indicators for each of the operations based on the scoping review, the focus group discussions and international good practices;
- (5) piloting the developed tool in Germany and Kenya by performing a **desk review** and conducting a **stakeholder workshop**;
- (6) disseminating the project's results by webinars, policy briefs and academic articles.

All steps will be done in close cooperation with experts across multiple disciplines, institutions and countries, e.g., in consultation with the PHONIC Project Advisory Board.

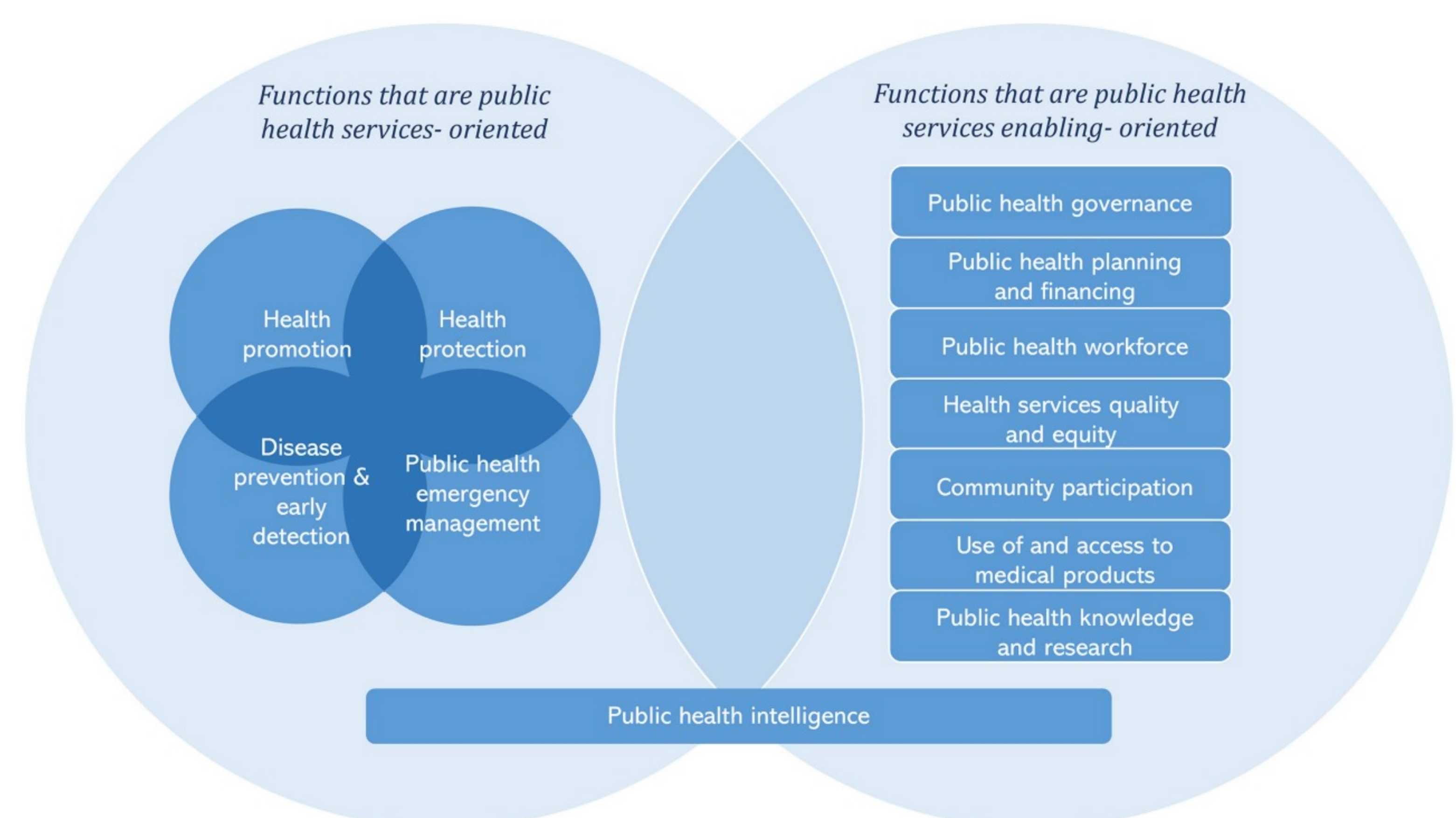


Figure 1: Interlinked public health functions working together to provide public health systems