Appendix 3: Interview guide

According to the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), these national public health institutes (NPHI) are a government agency, or closely networked group of agencies, that provides science-based leadership, expertise, and coordination for a country’s public health activities.

**Topic guide**

1. According to the IANPHI’s definition above, is there a national public health institute (NPHI) in your country? Please elaborate as much as possible.
   - If so, please provide their name and describe their mandate?

2. Please describe the governance arrangements (internal and external) of the identified NPHI(s) or organization/agency/institute(s)? Please elaborate as much as possible.
   - What is their affiliation to the Ministry of Health (MOH) in your country?

3. Delegation of authority from the Federal to Governorate level? Working with other ministries?

4. Strategic health information and data is essential for public health priority setting and evidence-based decision-making.
   - Does the identified NPHI(s) or organization/agency/ institute(s) have the authority to access relevant public health data and information? Fragmentation...Integrated
   - Are they able to share this data and information with relevant stakeholders?
   - Do they share this data and information? Please elaborate as much as possible.

5. Does the identified NPHI(s) or organization/agency/institute(s), engage with the private health sector (profit or non-profit) in your country? Please elaborate as much as possible.

6. Does the identified NPHI(s) or organization/agency/institute(s) have the authority to propose and enforce public health-related legislations (e.g., COVID-19 mask wearing mandates, smoke free public places, etc.) in your country? Please elaborate as much as possible. (How does the NPHI contribute to public health policies?)

7. Is the identified NPHI(s) or organization/agency/institute(s) funded through sustainable domestic financing sources to fulfill its mandate in your country? Please elaborate as much as possible.

8. Please describe the role of the identified NPHI(s) or organization/agency/institute(s) during the COVID-19 pandemic in your country.

9. Do you have any other recommendations regarding a NPHI or similar entity going forward (include any relevant governance arrangements, core functions, and/or roles and responsibilities)
   - What should be the reporting line, participatory structure, and relationship with the MOH, should the “head” be a higher level or independent from MOH structure, etc.?
• Is there opportunity and political readiness/appetite to move this forward? What are the challenges?

10. Do you have any final comments or questions?