



SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS UPR CYCLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

At the 3rd UPR cycle, Ghana received and accepted 13 recommendations on the rights of citizens to health. Ghana also noted a recommendation (A/HRC/37/7: 147.39: Canada) to ‘Scale-up and expand youth-friendly and gender-sensitive programmes on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual reproductive health and rights’. Following some of the recommendations made in the third cycle, Ghana took steps to expand adolescents’ and young people’s access to sexual and reproductive health education.

Ghana has also launched the HIV fund in 2021 but the Fund remains non-functional as the government is yet to allocate funds to the HIV and AIDS Fund. The current government has promised to invest in the health sector emphasising infrastructure as well as the provision of incentive packages for health workers. The government has also committed to building 111 district hospitals across the country¹.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

In addition to the 1992 Constitution which mandates the protection of the human rights of the citizenry, Ghana is a state party to several international instruments that protect the rights of persons including the right to Health. These include the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)², the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)³, the Convention against Torture (CAT)⁴, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)⁵ and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)⁶. Others are the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁷, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁸, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁹.

Ghana has also expressed commitment to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)¹⁰, the Beijing Platform for Action¹¹, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the Universal Health Coverage and its related promotion of Primary Health Care for All as stipulated by the WHO guidelines.

Additionally in the case of HIV the government through Parliament passed the Ghana AIDS Commission Act 2016, Act 938¹². The law amongst other things seeks to provide protection for Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). The law also makes room for a Fund to be established to coordinate HIV and AIDS response in the country. However, since the launch of the fund in 2021 by the President of Ghana, the Fund remains nonfunctional, the government is yet to allocate funds to the HIV and AIDS Fund. The HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2021-2025 have also been developed to replace the outdated 2015-2020 National Strategic Plan.

CURRENT ISSUES , CHALLENGES / IMPACT

Access to and use of healthcare in the remote communities

A lot of progress has been made by successive governments in Ghana regarding the promotion of quality healthcare and services for all 31 million Ghanaians. In 2020, the ‘‘Doctor-to-population ratio is 1:6,355’’ however, the WHO standard is 1:1000’’¹³. The government made an explicit commitment in the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (MTNDPF 2022–2025) to allocate 15% of health expenditure as a percentage of the GDP in the 2022 budget¹⁴. However, analysis reveals that the projected health expenditure as a percentage of the GDP is only 2.19%. This not only shows a significant deviation from the set target but also falls far below the World Bank and WHO averages for Lower Middle-Income Countries¹⁵.

The National Health Insurance Scheme which is proposed to absorb the financial risks of poor persons and do away with the situation where people are compelled to make out-of-pocket payments at the point of need, currently covers only 36% of the population in 2018; a decline from 2016. This means over 64% of the population are exposed to out of pocket expenditure or are simply not accessing normative care¹⁶. Thereby making access to healthcare difficult for the poor and most people in remote communities. Key among these bottlenecks is the case of delayed payment for the Health Insurance Scheme to private health providers enrolled on the scheme. Furthermore, the current NHIS benefit package does not adequately address all

emerging and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Issues arising from HIV and AIDS funding for education

Since the launch of the fund in 2021 by the President of Ghana, the Fund remains nonfunctional, the government is yet to allocate funds to the HIV and AIDS Fund. The COVID -19 pandemic has worsened the difficulties in funds mobilisation, therefore affecting HIV and AIDS domestic funding. This has impacted treatment, care and support for persons living with the disease. There is also a generalised health system challenge as a result of COVID-19. HIV and Aids funding has been very limited and dependent on the usual global fund support. Domestic funding for HIV and AIDS has remained at 0.5% for HIV and Malaria activities at the district level¹⁷. This is hampering education, logistics for HIV/AIDS treatments, care and support.

RECOMMENDATION

- Government must take steps to expand the current NHIS benefits to include emerging and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- The Government should increase and maintain its health sector budgetary allocation to 15 per cent or more as agreed in the Abuja Declaration.
- Government must operationalise the AIDS Fund by creating a structure for mobilising resources for in-country work in HIV and AIDS.

ABOUT THIS FACTSHEET	REFERENCE	
<p><i>This fact sheet was developed and submitted for the fourth cycle of the UPR by the following organisations:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divine Group International 2. Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) 3. Curious Minds Ghana 4. Klikgold Association 5. Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana (YHFG) 6. Concern Health Education Project 7. Lost Talent Foundation Ghana 8. Marie Stopes International Ghana 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://www.myjoyonline.com/agenda-111-87-hospitals-at-different-stages-of-completion-ken-ofori-atta/ 2. https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/ 3. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights 4. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading 5. https://www.achpr.org/legalinstruments/detail?id=49 6. https://addis.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MPOA%20English_A5_%20Version%205.pdf 7. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child 8. https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights 9. https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html 10. https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/ICPD+25%20Nairobi%20Summit_Main%20Report_ENG.pdf 11. https://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/about 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/data/sdg-indicator-371-contraceptive-use 13. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812958/Ghana_-_Medical_and_Healthcare_-_CPIN_-_v1.0__GOV.UK_.pdf 14. https://sendwestafrica.org/nu/gh/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/01/SEND-GHANA-assesses-2022-budget-statement-and-economic-policy.pdf 15. https://www.moh.gov.gh/covid-19-government-to-begin-construction-of-8-district-hospitals-this-year-nanaado/ and 16. https://www.moh.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/UHC-Roadmap-2020-2030.pdf 17. https://www.ghanaims.gov.gh/pages/validation-of-national-aids-spending-assessment-nasa-

