

Country Achievements

Capacity Building

1,500+

Health workers trained in Long Acting Reversible Contraception

140

National facilitators trained for Mid-Level Management and Immunization in Practice modules

Noncommunicable Diseases

Ghana onboarded onto the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines (GPACCM) to enhance access to essential, life-saving medicines for children diagnosed with cancer.

Pandemic Fund

\$16.3 M

National Steering Committee for Pandemic Fund Jaunched

Mental Health

500

young people reached with information on perinatal mental health

253

people screened for mental and physical health conditions

30

people linked to care



\$300,000

Additional funding secured from GAVI to support the management of Ghana's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan under the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Programme.

40 individuals

Trained to enhance equity-focused data analysis and advocacy.

60 stakeholders

Brought together for a WASH and Health Advocacy Dialogue, resulting in a draft communiqué to guide future collaboration.



\$42,100 worth laboratory equipment and supplies donated to Ministry of Health to enhance rotavirus and Mpox diagnostics capacity



High level Advocacy for Sustainable Immunization Financing

High-level mission of the CEO of Gavi, to Ghana, facilitating strategic engagements with national leaders, including the President, for sustainable financing.





29 leaders from the health sector completed leadership training

Successfully completed and graduated from the 6th Cohort of the WHO Pathways to Leadership for Health Transformation in Africa (PLHTA) Program for senior leaders within the health sector.









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Message from WHO Ghana Representative

As I began my role as WHO Representative to Ghana on May 1, 2025, I was immediately encouraged by the country's strong commitment to health, anchored in a bold vision, decisive leadership, and a commitment to sustainability. This commitment demonstrated through two landmark initiatives: the launch of the Free Primary Health Care Policy and the Mahama Care Initiative (officially the Ghana Medical Trust Fund) unveiled by His Excellency the President this year. The latter introduces an innovative financing mechanism to expand access to chronic disease care, particularly for non-communicable diseases, marking a significant step toward equitable, specialist-level healthcare for all.

In May, I joined Dr. Sania Nishtar, CEO of Gavi, for a series of high-level engagements with the Government of Ghana and key stakeholders. The government reaffirmed its commitment to meeting its full financial obligations by 2030, as part of its accelerated transition phase from Gavi support. This dedication was further underscored when His Excellency the President led a national delegation to Brussels for the Global Health Summit, where Ghana's commitment to immunization targets and broader health goals was strongly affirmed.

This edition of our quarterly newsletter offers a glimpse into the breadth of support WHO Ghana has provided to the people and Government of Ghana over the past three months. It has been a quarter marked by renewed collaboration, strategic prioritization to meet the prevailing context, and steady progress toward Universal Health Coverage.

WHO worked side by side with the Ghana Health Service to expand access to essential services and to strengthen local capacities for quality delivery. With support from FCDO, we facilitated the training of over 1,500 midwives and community health nurses in the delivery of Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs). Furthermore, we supported a nationwide training programme for 140 health managers/ national facilitators to enhance immunization planning and delivery. In our effort to strengthen leadership for health transformation, working in collaboration with Ashesi University, we facilitated the completion of cohort 6 of the Pathways to Leadership for Health Transformation in Africa course for senior leaders in the health sector. A total of 29 successfully completed the four-month long leadership training.

Support was provided for generating evidence on geographic accessibility to essential health services across four levels of care, enhancing planning for equitable service delivery.



Dr Fiona Braka WHO Ghana Representative

Towards digital transformation in health, a major step was made in strengthening the country's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system through the successful scale up of the use of ICD-11 and DORIS (Digital Open Rule Integrated Selection) for mortality reporting across all required inpatient hospitals.

In health emergencies, WHO supported the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) to equip frontline responders with the tools and knowledge needed to respond more effectively. We donated essential equipment and supplies to enhance rotavirus surveillance and Mpox diagnostics worth nearly USD 42,100. The formal inauguration of the National Steering Committee for Ghana's Pandemic Fund Grant totaling USD 16.3 million also marked an important milestone this quarter, as we supported the country's efforts to build coordinated, multisectoral preparedness for future health threats.

We continue to promote inter-sectoral collaboration for better health outcomes. Working closely with the health and education sectors to promote healthier school environments, we supported the training of survey teams in preparation for the 2025 Global School Health Survey. Our engagement in the United for Health initiative saw WHO working alongside government and partners to improve WASH and electricity infrastructure in health facilities, in recognition that the foundation of quality care begins with clean water, reliable power, and safe environments for both patients and providers.

What connects all these efforts is a clear vision: to build a resilient health system that serves everyone, everywhere —especially the most vulnerable. I extend my appreciation to our national counterparts, partners, and the WHO Ghana team, who continue to work tirelessly to make this vision a reality. Together, we are making health happen.





New WHO Representative to Ghana Presents Letter of Credence to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Accra, Ghana - The newly appointed Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Ghana, Dr. Fiona Braka, has today presented her letter of credence to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Honourable Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, marking the official start of her tour of duty in Ghana.

Dr. Braka assumes leadership of WHO's operations and technical cooperation in Ghana at a time of growing momentum towards health systems strengthening, universal health coverage, and health security. In her new role, she will coordinate WHO's strategic support to the Government of Ghana and partners to achieve national health priorities and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More



"It is an honour to serve in Ghana, a country recognized for its public health leadership and innovation"

Dr Fiona BrakaWHO Ghana Representative







A Journey Of Partnership: Ghana And Gavi, Side By Side for Every Child



Accra, Ghana - When Dr. Sania Nishtar, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, touched down in Ghana on May 3rd, it wasn't just another high-level visit. It felt like the continuation of a long-standing partnership—one rooted in a shared mission: that every child, everywhere, deserves protection from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Alongside teams from the Ministry of Health, the Ghana Health Service, WHO and other partners, Dr Nishtar and the Gavi delegation embarked on a field visit to Gomoa East in the Central Region to observe immunization service delivery with a focus on malaria vaccination — an intervention at the heart of Ghana's public health priorities. **More**





"I congratulate Ghana for its strong immunization system, which continues to be recognized as one of the best in Africa"

> **Dr Fiona Braka** WHO Ghana Representative



Ghana Strengthens Immunization Capacity For A Nationwide Training For Health Managers

Tutu, Ghana - Vaccines remain one of the most effective public health tools used to protect individuals and communities from life-threatening preventable diseases. However, ensuring their impact depends heavily on the capacity and readiness of the health workforce. As Ghana's immunization landscape evolves, with new technologies and innovations, shifting disease patterns, and the introduction of new vaccines, timely and continuous training for midlevel immunization managers has become more essential than ever.

In response, the Ghana Health Service (GHS), with funding from Gavi and working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other key partners, is finalizing preparations for a Mid-Level Management (MLM) training programme for managers of the EPI Programme at All level and Immunization in Practice (IIP) training for personnel at the peripheral levels. <u>More</u>





Ghana Strengthens New Vaccine Rollout with Strategic Communication Guidelines

Accra, Ghana - As Ghana prepares to introduce the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Hepatitis B birth dose (HepB-BD) vaccines into its routine immunization schedule by the end of 2025, efforts are underway to ensure the public is not only informed but also confident in these life-saving interventions.

The new vaccines hold promise to significantly reduce the burden of cervical cancer and chronic liver disease in the country. Yet, experience has shown that medical breakthroughs alone are not enough. Clear, consistent, and culturally sensitive communication is key to building public trust and ensuring high uptake —especially in the face of growing misinformation and vaccine hesitancy. **More**





WHO Donates Laboratory Equipment to Strengthen Rotavirus Sentinel Surveillance in Ghana

Kumasi, Ghana - In 2024, fewer than half of the samples collected at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) rotavirus sentinel site were tested due to resource constraints, threatening the quality and reliability of surveillance data. In a continued effort to reduce this burden, World Health Organization (WHO) has donated a Microplate Photometer and rotavirus rapid diagnostic test kits to the site in Kumasi. The donation is expected to significantly strengthen laboratory capacity and improve results turnaround time. The donation, part of WHO's broader commitment to health system strengthening, was warmly received by the KATH surveillance team. More





Ghana Rallies Stakeholders on Measures to prevent Non-Communicable Disease and Control

Accra, Ghana - With Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) now responsible for nearly half of all deaths in Ghana, efforts to prevent and reduce the growing health and economic burden have never been more urgent. From unhealthy food environments and aggressive marketing to limited access to infrastructure for physical activity, the drivers of poor health outcomes are often systemic — requiring strong laws, strategic fiscal policies, and sustained cross-sectoral collaboration.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Health with support from WHO, convened a stakeholder engagement bringing over 50 stakeholders from government ministries, regulatory agencies, academia, civil society, and UN partners to galvanize support for legal and fiscal reforms that promote healthy diets and physical activity — two key pillars in the prevention and control of NCDs. This multisectoral engagement forms part of the country's programme of work on the Phase II of the Global Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme (Global RECAP). Read more







WHO Supports Training of Field Officers to conduct Poliovirus Containment Activities in Ghana

Accra, Ghana - Ghana continues to make impressive strides in the fight against poliovirus, with the last confirmed case of Wild Poliovirus (WPV) recorded in 2008 and the most recent Variant Poliovirus (VDPV) detected in 2024. As the number of confirmed polio cases and detection of the virus in the environment decline steadily, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners remain committed in minimizing the risk of reintroduction of poliovirus.

On 5 June 2025, the Ghana Health Service, with funding and technical assistance from WHO, organized a training for field officers for a nationwide survey on poliovirus containment and risk assessment. The exercise was designed to ensure that biomedical laboratories handling poliovirus infectious or Potentially Infectious Materials (PIMs) are not inadvertently creating pathways for virus reintroduction.

Participants at the orientation were trained on the use of the WHO Open Data Kit (ODK) toolkit for conducting surveys, assessing risks in biomedical laboratories, and supporting facilities to implement appropriate biosafety and decontamination measures in line with WHO's containment guidelines (GAPIII and GAPIV). Discussions also covered survey methodologies, biosafety and biosecurity practices. *Read more*



Ghana Trains Survey Teams for the 2025 Global School Health Survey to Build the Foundation for Heathier Schools

Ho, Ghana - As Ghana faces a rising tide of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), the need for early prevention and evidence-based interventions has never been more urgent. In recent years, conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and some cancers have been on the rise — many linked to unhealthy behaviours that begin in childhood and adolescence. Poor dietary habits, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and harmful use of alcohol among children and adolescents are contributing to this growing burden of disease, threatening the long-term wellbeing of the nation's youth.

In response to this growing challenge, Ghana is preparing to roll out the 2025 Global School Health Survey (GSHS) — a nationally representative initiative designed to gather critical data on the health behaviours and protective factors among school-going adolescents. The survey, jointly led by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ghana Education Service with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNESCO, aims to provide the evidence needed to inform policy and shape responsive, school-based interventions.

To ensure the successful rollout of the survey, a national training programme has been held in Kumasi for 20 data collectors and survey administrators. Participants were equipped with technical knowledge, ethical guidance, and practical tools to administer the survey effectively and responsibly in schools across the country. **Read more**

FRAMES FROM THE FIELD







Ho Dome, Ghana - In the serene community of Ho-Dome in Ghana's Volta Region lives 20-year-old Pamela—a young woman with a radiant smile, a soft voice, and quiet strength. Pamela also lives with a physical disability (Osteogenesis imperfecta also known as brittle bone disease, a genetic disorder characterized by bones that are weak and break easily), but for most of her life, that has not defined her. What has shaped her story, however, is a mix of love, loss, and the resilience to carry on through unimaginable odds.

When Pamela was in her teens, her mother guided her to make a decision rooted in deep concern and maternal foresight. Noticing that Pamela had become sexually active and fearing that her vulnerable daughter could fall prey to sexual exploitation, unplanned teenage pregnancies and its associated complications, her mother sent Pamela to a health facility where a contraceptive implant was inserted to protect her from unintended pregnancy. Her mother was her caregiver, guide, and protector—the one who tracked her medical appointments and ensured she received the right healthcare. **Read more**

When Women Find Their Voice, Families Gain Strength



Sang, Ghana - Osman Wazifatu lives in a rural community in the Mion District of Ghana's Northern Region. At 34 years old, she has given birth to six children—none of them planned, and most spaced barely a year apart. With each pregnancy, her strength waned, and her anxiety grew. She knew she needed to limit childbirth, but convincing her husband, Osman, was a herculean task. Every attempt to discuss family planning with him was met with resistance. He believed her role was to bear children, and he saw no reason to interfere with what he considered God's will for couples to procreate to fill the earth. For years, Wazifatu battled silently torn between her deteriorating health and the cultural expectations placed upon her. Read more





"After my last pregnancy, the midwife said my health was at risk. That's when I knew it wasn't just a choice—it was a necessity"

Wazifatu Mother of 6



Empowering Frontline Providers Through Innovation: How Hybrid Training is Expanding Access to Family Planning in Ghana



Cape Coast, Ghana - In many parts of Ghana, especially in underserved regions, the decision to start a family—or delay one—still hinges more on access than on choice. While awareness of family planning has grown in recent years, the availability of skilled providers remains a pressing issue. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 218 million women in low- and middle-income countries want to avoid pregnancy but are not using a modern method of contraception. Bridging this gap requires skill, reach, and systems that work smarter.

In response to this, the WHO Country Office in Ghana, with funding from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK-FCDO), has been implementing the Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage (HSS4UHC) project. **Read more**



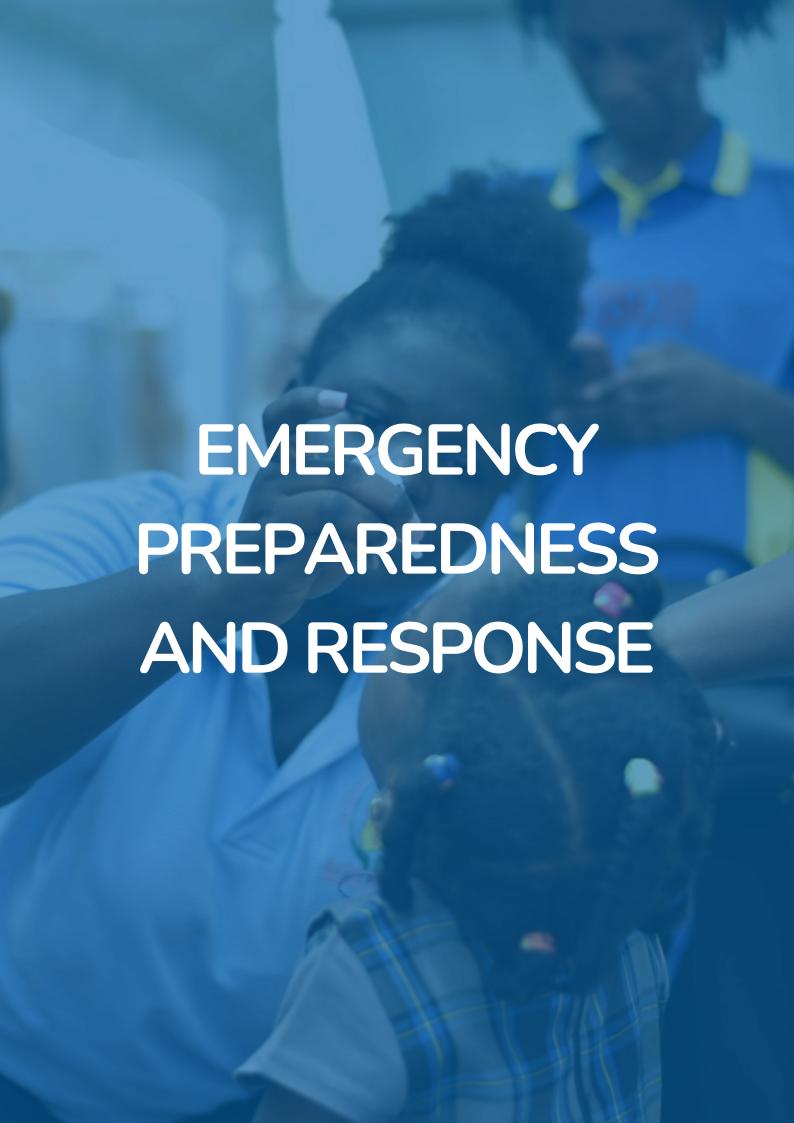


WHO Supports Ghana's Ministry of Health to Strengthen Access to Medicines through the Review of the National Medicines Policy

Accra, Ghana - Access to safe, effective, affordable quality-assured, and medicines critical for achieving is Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and improving public health outcomes. A strong National Medicines Policy (NMP) provides the framework to guide the regulation, selection, supply, and use of medicines — ensuring that no one is left behind. It shapes how countries like Ghana manage pharmaceutical services, from procurement and pricing to rational use and local production, making it a key tool for health systems strengthening. Ghana's commitment to ensurina equitable access to safe, effective, and affordable medicines marked a new 25. milestone on April 2025. stakeholders validated assessment tools methodologies durina technical engagement with the consultant leading the review of the National country's Medicines **Policy** (NMP). Read more

FRAMES FROM THE FIELD







From Outbreak to Containment: How Ghana Beat the 2024 Cholera Surge

Takoradi, Ghana - When cholera broke out in Ghana in August 2024, it swept rapidly across communities, leaving families grieving, lives lost, and the health system under immense strain. Within weeks, the outbreak had affected five regions. As the waterborne disease spread through contaminated food and water, treatment centres were overwhelmed. In some areas, patients arrived too late to be saved. Entire households mourned loved ones, and communities were left anxious and exposed.

It was a stark reminder of the devastating impact of infectious diseases—especially in settings where access to clean water, sanitation, and timely healthcare remains a challenge. The outbreak tested the limits of Ghana's health system and underscored the need for rapid, coordinated action. **Read more**



WHO supports NADMO to Equip Frontline Responders to Improve Disaster Response

Ho, Ghana - Public Health Emergencies are increasingly becoming complex and frequent and complex, often driven by a convergence of factors including disease outbreaks, climate-related events, technological hazards, and environmental degradation. In such a landscape, effective emergency response depends on coordinated, multi-sectoral efforts grounded in accurate, real-time information.

Thanks to a joint initiative by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), over 150 multi-sectoral personnel from nine districts in the Volta, Eastern and Greater Accra Regions have been trained in the use of the Multi-sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) tool—a globally recognized framework for conducting joint assessments within the first 72 hours of an emergency. **Read More**



FRAMES FROM THE FIELD







Ghana Advances Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment

Accra Ghana - Climate Change is increasingly recognized as one of the greatest health threats of the 21st century. Climate risks are increasing and Ghana is no exception. From deadly heatwaves, erratic rainfall, flooding to rising cases of climate-sensitive diseases, the climate crisis will exert additional pressures on the country's health and social care systems. Climate change is directly contributing to humanitarian emergencies from heatwaves, wildfire, floods drought, tropical storms and gurricans and they are increasing in scale and frequency and intensity.

Research shows that 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress alone.

In response to these compounding risks, World Health Organization (WHO) with support from the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO) and partners supported the Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Service to undertake a health vulnerability to health risks, health system capacities and adaptive capacities to response to climate related disease risk. **Read more**







Accra Ghana - Climate Change is increasingly

Accra Ghana - The World Health Organization joined the Ministry of Health (MoH) and partners to commemorate World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD), reinforcing the critical role of hand hygiene in preventing infections and ensuring patient safety within healthcare settings.

This year's theme "It may be gloves, it is always hand hygiene" highlights the ongoing need for proper hand hygiene practices—even when gloves are used.

While gloves are essential personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, their overuse can significantly contribute to healthcare waste. The message emphasizes appropriate glove use only when indicated, and consistent hand hygiene as an effective and sustainable measure to reduce infection and protect health workers and patients.

Read more



United for Health: Multi-Sector Push to Strengthen WASH and Electricity in Ghana's Health Facilities

Accra, Ghana - In many health facilities across Ghana, a safe birth, a sterile surgery or even a clean pair of hands may not be guaranteed—not because of a lack of expertise, but because of lack of adequate water, sanitation, and electricity.

Despite progress in improving access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, too many healthcare facilities across Ghana still lack the basics needed for safe and quality care. A recent Harmonised Health Facility Assessment indicates, 81% of health facilities have basic water and 56% have basic hygiene. Rural areas are far worse, with facilities lacking reliable electricity and clean water, undermining health care delivery, infection prevention, and patient safety. **Read more**



FRAMES FROM THE FIELD



PARTNER ENGAGEMENTS



MESSAGE TO OUR PARTNERS



The past quarter has reminded us that real impact is rarely achieved alone. It takes shared vision, mutual trust, and the kind of steadfast collaboration we're privileged to have with you our partners.

Thanks to your continued support, WHO Ghana has been able to respond more swiftly, reach more people, and drive forward initiatives that strengthen health systems and protect lives. Whether it's championing equitable access to vaccines, supporting national health priorities, or scaling up preparedness, your partnership has been the difference between ideas and outcomes.

In an increasingly complex global environment, you've helped ensure that health remains at the heart of development. For that, and so much more, we say thank you.

We look forward to deepening this collaboration as we work together to build a healthier, more resilient Ghana.







































In times of uncertainty, true character shines. And over the past few months, yours has been unmistakably clear.

Amid global shifts, organizational restructuring, and questions about what lies ahead, you have remained anchored, focused and committed. You've continued to show up—whether in offices, health facilities, remote communities or across partner platforms—bringing your full selves to the work of protecting and improving lives.

It has not been easy. Yet your resilience has been unwavering. Your ability to adapt, support one another, and keep moving forward has reminded us that while change is inevitable, purpose endures.

This newsletter captures milestones and momentum, but it cannot fully capture the quiet courage behind them. You continue to be the force behind our impact, the heartbeat of WHO Ghana.

Thank you—for your professionalism, your patience, and your unshakable belief in what we do.







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