



World Health
Organization
Ghana



The
Pandemic
Fund
FOR A RESILIENT WORLD

2ND QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2025



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INTRODUCTION

Ghana is a recipient of Pandemic Fund Grant under the second call for proposals. At the core of the project is strengthening three critical components of health system resilience disease surveillance, laboratory capacity, and the health workforce for pandemic preparedness and response, expand and train the health workforce, including field epidemiologists and community responders.

This maiden quarterly newsletter covering (April-June 2025) highlights the preliminary activities that have been undertaken in the three areas and project management since the grant kick-off from 1 April 2025.



LABORATORY

- Through Pandemic Fund, Ghana intends to upgrade laboratory infrastructure and standardize practices to support quality assured timely and accurate disease diagnosis.
- The Pandemic Fund Laboratory Technical Working Group has been established with representation from the National Public Health and Reference Laboratory, Veterinary Laboratory, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Center for Scientific and Industrial Research, Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine, and the Association of Private Laboratories. The technical working group has been meeting biweekly to plan, provide updates on progress of implementation and discuss remedial actions to ensure smooth project execution.

Building Resilient Blood System for health Security

- The National Blood Service conducted practical training for ten (10) regional officers from two regional blood centres in Ashanti and Volta Regions equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge for site assessment and training leading to the enrollment of regional blood centres into the Stepwise Accreditation and External Quality Assurance (EQA) Program mechanisms.
- These efforts aim to improve the reliability and safety of blood services, thereby strengthening the ability of regional centres to support clinical care and public health emergencies effectively.

Bioinformatics Training for One Health Laboratory Personnel

- Ten laboratory personnel have been selected from various health institutions and are being processed for MSc bioinformatics program at the University of Ghana. The selection was based on the One-Health approach with personnel drawn from human, animal, and environmental health laboratories. Personnel were drawn from the National Public Health and Reference Laboratory, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine, Veterinary Services Laboratory, and the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research laboratory.
- The training is part of strengthening laboratory capacity for genomic surveillance of priority pathogens. The training program includes both wet (sequencing library preparation) and dry laboratory techniques (sequencing, sequence analysis and bioinformatics).



A photograph of two men in an office environment. The man on the left is looking at a laptop screen, resting his chin on his hand. The man on the right, wearing glasses and a white shirt, is pointing at the screen. The image has a light blue overlay.

SURVEILLANCE



- In the bid to strengthen surveillance systems to detect and respond to health threats across human, animal, and environmental sectors. The surveillance arm is dedicated to enhancing systems that detect and respond to health threats across the human, animal, and environmental sectors, in alignment with the One Health approach. Through multisectoral collaboration, its core activities focus on strengthening digital surveillance, improving event-based and community-based surveillance, fostering cross-border coordination, and leveraging advanced tools and methodologies to improve early warning and rapid response capabilities across all sectors.

Key actions undertaken include:

- Technical and coordination meetings to set up the Surveillance Group
- One-Health oriented consultations with FAO on implementation plans

A woman wearing a white headscarf and glasses is looking up at shelves filled with boxes of medicine. She is holding a clipboard and a pen, suggesting she is a pharmacist or healthcare worker. The shelves are labeled with various medications, including AZITRO-DEVA and AZITR. The image has a blue tint.

HEALTH WORKFORCE



AFENET'S ENGAGEMENT IN GHANA'S PANDEMIC FUND PROJECT

The African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) is one of the delivery partners in Ghana's Pandemic Fund Project, with a focus on workforce development and laboratory capacity strengthening. AFENET as a Being not-for-profit Non-Governmental Organisation was comprehensively taken through the Framework of Engagement of Non-State Actors (FENSA) as laid down by WHO guidelines and cleared as being suitable to implement key activities in the project. WHO will continue to work closely with AFENET as laid down in the signed agreement and ensure the project is executed as planned.

BUILDING EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CAPACITY TO STRENGTHEN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

- Five health personnel (1 female and 4 males) have been enrolled in a 2-year advanced training in field epidemiology and laboratory. The background of the personnel includes a Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Laboratory Scientist, Public Health Officer, Research Scientist, And Principal Nursing Officer and were strategically selected across the country.
- The training, conducted by AFENET Africa is designed to equip them with advanced competencies in public health surveillance, outbreak investigation, data analysis, and epidemic management among others. The training was formally launched with an orientation session for the residents by AFENET Africa faculty members and WHO Ghana. The orientation highlighted the training structure, content, mentorship arrangements, clarification of roles and key expectations of the trainees over the course of the programme.

A group of people are seated in a room, possibly during a meeting or conference. In the foreground, a man and a woman are seated next to each other. The man is wearing a white shirt and a dark vest, and the woman is wearing a patterned dress and a dark vest with a World Health Organization logo. They are both looking towards the camera. In the background, other people are visible, some standing and some sitting. The image has a blue tint.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

PANDEMIC FUND PROJECT LAUNCH AND INAUGURATION OF THE PANDEMIC FUND NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Ghana officially launched its Pandemic Fund Project on the 13th of June 2025 at the Ministry of Health Headquarters in Accra, Ghana.

Attendees included senior government officials, development partners, civil society organizations, technical health experts, academics, and implementing agencies demonstrating Ghana's commitment to inclusive and multisectoral governance of pandemic preparedness.

The National Steering Committee (NSC)—a strategic 13-member oversight body was inaugurated to ensure effective governance, transparency, and accountability throughout the implementation of the Pandemic Fund Project.

The committee is chaired by the Minister for Health and by the Implementing Entities of the project, World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Co-chaired by the Minister of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), the NSC embodies strong national and international collaboration.

The committee is tasked with:

- Providing strategic direction for project activities
- Facilitating multi-sectoral coordination among partners
- Overseeing resource allocation and performance monitoring
- Supporting policy alignment with the One Health framework and national development goals

Committee membership is composed of representatives from:

- Ministry of Health (Hon Minister for Health, the Chief Director and the Director PPME)
- Ghana Health Service
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
- Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The World Bank
- Coalition of NGOs in Health (Civil Society Organization)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



WHO COUNTRY OFFICE ACTIVITIES

* FENSA CLEARANCE FOR AFENET

In line with WHO's Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA), the WHO Country Office conducted a formal due diligence and risk assessment according to the provision of FENSA. AFENET has received clearance with a framework in place for periodic review, monitoring and documentation of deliverables to ensure transparency and alignment with WHO's public health mandate, and Pandemic Fund.

* WEEKLY UPDATE MEETINGS ON PANDEMIC FUND PROJECT

To strengthen internal communication and foster shared understanding, the WHO Country Office (WCO) holds weekly Pandemic Fund update meetings with all staff. Overall, a total of six weekly meetings have been held, with these sessions providing briefings on the Pandemic Fund Project, including progress updates, milestones, challenges, and planned activities. Thematic leads also use the platform to share implementation efforts and achievements.

* STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT ON PANDEMIC FUND PROJECT

WHO convened a strategic session with key partners including MoH, GHS, FAO, AFENET, and other stakeholders to brief and orient them on the implementation modalities of the Pandemic Fund Project in Ghana. The meeting aimed to align stakeholders on the operational framework, expectations, and collaboration mechanisms essential for successful execution.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Official inauguration of a high-level steering committee comprising representatives from multiple sectors.



Activity Implementation Micro-plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, Publicity and Communications Strategy



10 Pull up banners



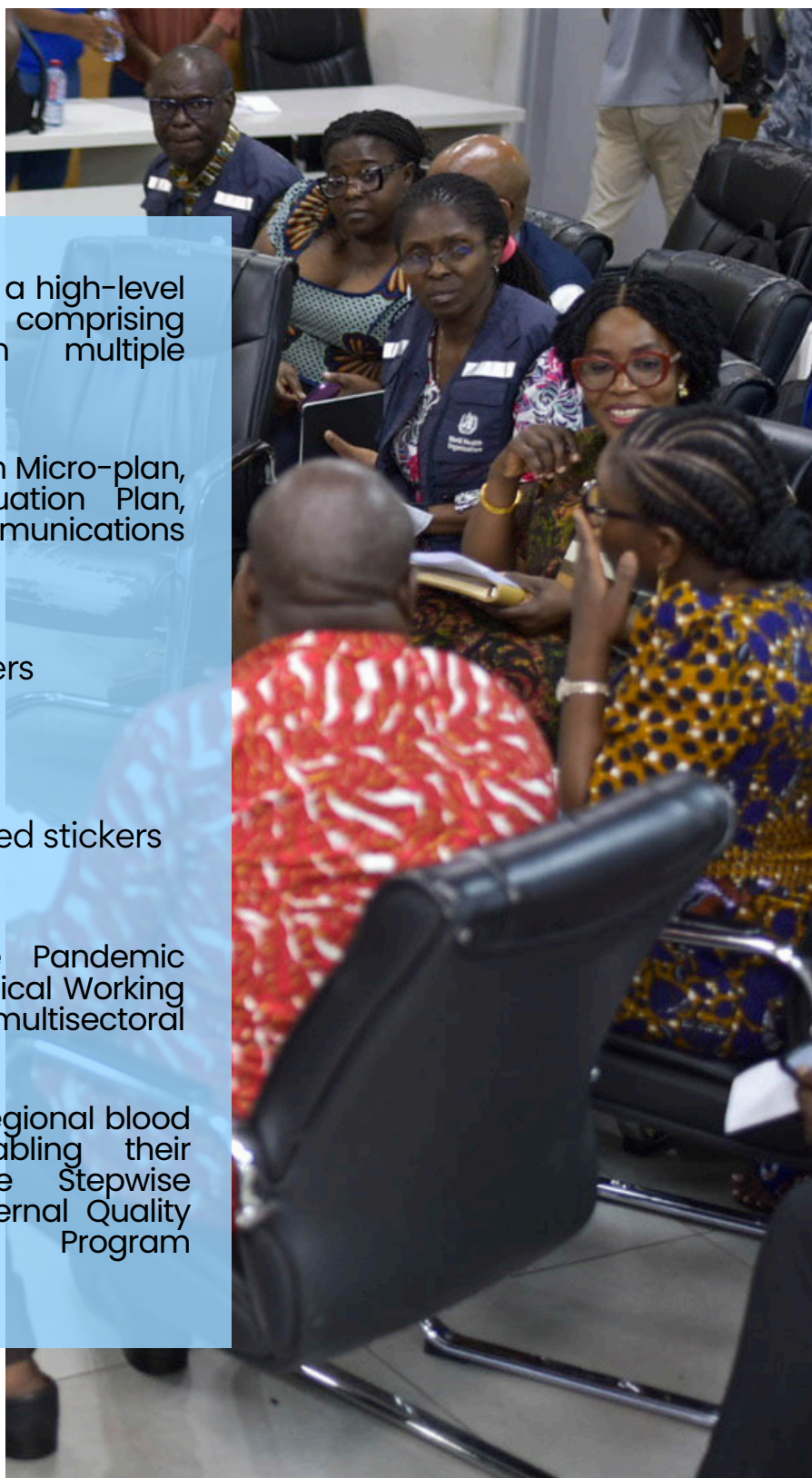
1,500 branded stickers



Establishment of the Pandemic Fund Laboratory Technical Working Group with broad, multisectoral representation.



Capacity building of regional blood centre officers, enabling their enrollment into the Stepwise Accreditation and External Quality Assurance (EQA) Program mechanisms.





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