



World Health
Organization

Ghana

1ST QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2026

January - March 2026





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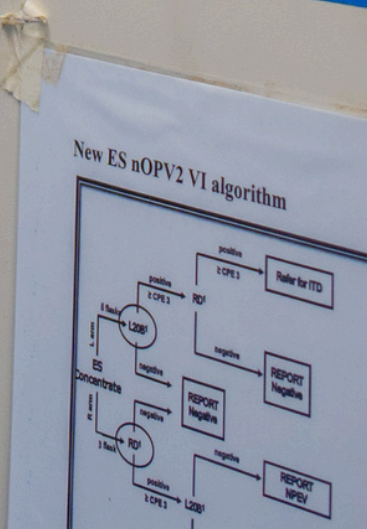


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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

HEALTH PROMOTION, DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL



Maternal Mental Health Policy finalised and launched



Maternal mental health interventions piloted in 5 facilities across 5 regions



Close to USD 200 million secured from The Global Fund for Ghana's Malaria, HIV & TB programmes



2025 National HIV & AIDS estimates produced using SPECTRUM and NAOMI, improving data-driven targeting, planning, and resource allocation.



Led the joint HIV, TB, and Malaria programme review, ensuring evidence-based planning and integration across major disease programmes.



Immunization programme governance supported, including orientation of the NITAG and development of TORs for the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee for Immunization.



National protocol for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) surveillance developed in collaboration with GHS and NMIMR, generating evidence for decision-making on maternal RSV vaccines.

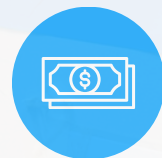
HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES (HSS)



Ghana's first Health Inequality Report (2025) launched to guide equitable health policy and service delivery.



Six regulatory inspectors trained on GMP inspections aligned to international standards, strengthening regulatory oversight of medical products.



Secured nearly USD 500,000 for AMR activities under the AMR MPTF phase 2 for sustained antimicrobial resistance programming.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Impact assessment completed for training 1,510 CHNs and midwives on Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) provision.



Kick-off of the WHO-UNDP AI for Health Programme, advancing Ghana's digital health strategy, data governance, digital literacy, and resilience to climate-sensitive diseases.



45 regulatory officers trained on risk-based approaches for enhanced market surveillance



Social behaviour change materials on contraceptive use and family planning for adolescents adapted.



South - South collaboration and learning facilitated between MOH Ghana and MOH Kenya to understudy Kenya's UHC journey

HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (HEPR)



Costed and validated National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS).



Validated national Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines with support from the Global Task Force for Cholera Control.



Priority areas for multisectoral cholera interventions, (PAMI) identified, guiding more coordinated national cholera control efforts.



Joint Risk Assessments supported at Aflao, Elubo and Paga Points of Entry, improving cross-border disease surveillance.



Establishment and handover of a sample reception center at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) to enhance the safe receipt, documentation, management, and tracking of biological samples from Ghana and neighboring countries.

MESSAGE FROM WHO GHANA REPRESENTATIVE



Dr Fiona Braka
WHO Representative, Ghana

Over the past quarter, WHO Ghana focused on supporting national priorities through strategic engagement, technical leadership and partnerships. The visit of the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohammed Janabi, to Ghana in January 2026, reaffirmed our strong partnership with the government and highlighted the country's bold vision for Free Primary Health Care (PHC), a critical step towards expanding access and reducing financial barriers to care.

As Ghana prepares to launch and roll out the Free PHC initiative in April 2026, WHO is working closely with the government by providing technical assistance and policy guidance. A high level learning exchange visit between Ghana and Kenya Ministries of Health, facilitated by WHO, provided practical lessons in advancing PHC reforms and reaffirmed a collective resolve to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

Our collaboration with the Parliament of Ghana continues to be strengthened. A Parliamentary Caucus on Immunization was launched under the coordination of the Ministry of Health and with support from the Hope for Future Generations (HFFG). The caucus comprised of 15 Members of Parliament aims to advocate for adequate and predictable funding to safeguard immunization services, particularly critical as the country works towards transition from Gavi funding by 2030. Further engagements with the Parliamentary Select Committees on Health and Finance provided a platform to share evidence on the impact of health taxes for policy decisions, budgeting and accountability.

Efforts to bolster health security and resilient systems advanced with development of the National Action Plan for Health Security, investments in laboratory systems including the establishment of a new Sample Reception Center at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, and ongoing work to improve disease surveillance.

As the global health landscape evolves with fiscal shifts, WHO will continue to prioritize and advance Health for All, aligning with the government priorities and working with our partners to build a more resilient, people-centered health system that leaves no one behind.

A woman with braided hair, wearing a patterned top and a light-colored vest, is smiling and talking to a man. The man is wearing a blue and yellow striped headwrap and glasses. They are in a modern office setting with large windows and a grid ceiling. The image has a blue tint.

LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION



WHO REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR ACCRA RESET AND HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY AGENDA DURING VISIT OF AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Ghana's commitment to building a resilient, self-determined health system received renewed momentum following the visit of the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohammed Janabi, to the country during 26-27 January 2026. The visit built on high-level engagements held in August 2025, when Dr Janabi and the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, visited Ghana for the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit. [Read more](#)





SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING: KENYA AND GHANA SHARE STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE REFORMS

Senior health leaders from Ghana and Kenya have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening health systems across Africa following a week-long high-level learning exchange held in Nairobi from 2-7 March 2026. Facilitated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the mission brought together policymakers, health financing experts and senior health officials from both countries to share practical lessons on advancing Primary Health Care (PHC) reforms, scaling digital health innovations, and accelerating progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). [Read more](#)





**HEALTH PROMOTION,
DISEASE PREVENTION
AND CONTROL (HPDPC)**



GHANA LAUNCHES MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY TO ADDRESS CRITICAL CARE GAP

Ghana has taken a significant step to address a long-standing gap in its health system with the official launch of the Maternal Mental Health Policy (MMHP). Led by the Mental Health Authority in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and key national stakeholders, the policy was launched alongside the dissemination of findings from a Maternal Mental Health Pilot Project implemented across five regions, with funding support from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO). [Read more](#)





SUSTAINING VACCINE GAINS THROUGH STRONGER ROTAVIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN GHANA

Rotavirus surveillance continues to demonstrate the positive impact of vaccination in Ghana. The World Health Organization (WHO) convened a rotavirus surveillance review meeting in Koforidua that brought together surveillance focal points from collaborating health facilities, the sentinel site at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), the Regional Reference Laboratory at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), and the Ghana Health Service (GHS). [Read more](#)



PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON IMMUNIZATION LAUNCHED TO STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE VACCINE FINANCING IN GHANA

Immunization remains one of the most cost-effective public health interventions and a cornerstone of strong primary health care systems. In Ghana, sustained investments -in immunization have contributed significantly to improved child survival, reduced morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases, and strengthened community trust in health services. However, sustaining these gains is becoming increasingly challenging. Having attained a middle-income status, Ghana is currently in the accelerated transition phase of Gavi support.

[Read more](#)





WHO AND GATES FOUNDATION SUPPORT GHANA TO BOOST DISEASE SURVEILLANCE WITH NEW SAMPLE RECEIPT CENTRE

Ghana has officially inaugurated a newly constructed Sample Reception Centre at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), University of Ghana, marking a significant milestone in strengthening laboratory systems and public-health surveillance in the country and across the African region.

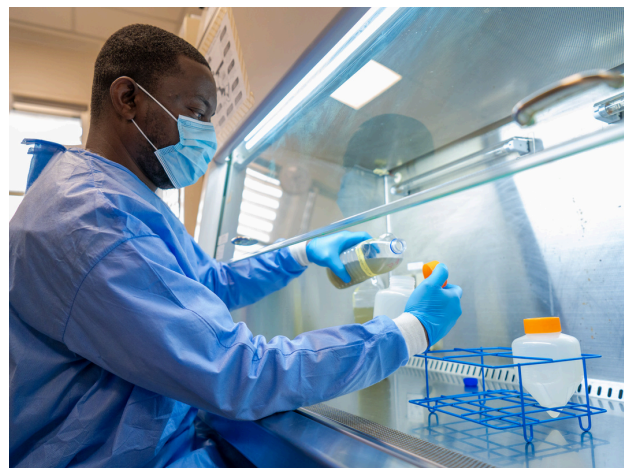
The Centre, established with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and funding from Gates Foundation, will improve the safe receipt, documentation, management and temporary storage of biological samples from across Ghana and neighbouring countries. [Read more](#)





GHANA'S SILENT SHIELD PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM POLIO BEFORE IT STRIKES

Ghana's last wild polio case was reported in 2008. For many, that might seem like the end of the story. But in public health, victory is never final. Polio can circulate silently, often without causing visible illness, and a single missed case could threaten thousands of children. Therefore, vigilance remains essential and that can be achieved through sustained quality surveillance. Environmental Surveillance (ES), one of the cornerstones in Ghana's fight against poliovirus. [**Read more**](#)



WHO STRENGTHENS RESPONSIBLE SUICIDE REPORTING TO ADVANCE GHANA'S MENTAL HEALTH AGENDA

The World Health Organization (WHO), together with the Association for Suicide Prevention Ghana (GASP), organised regional workshops to strengthen the capacity of media professionals in reporting responsibly and ethically on suicide and mental health issues. The trainings, held for 69 male and 21 female journalists in the southern, middle and northern belts of Ghana, align with WHO's global guidance on suicide prevention and risk communication, while also supporting Ghana's broader mental health reform agenda following the decriminalisation of attempted suicide. [Read more](#)



A woman in a colorful, patterned top stands and gestures with her right hand, appearing to be in the middle of a presentation or discussion. A man in a white shirt is seated at a desk with two laptops, looking towards the woman. The scene is set in a modern office or meeting room with large windows in the background. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES (HSS)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WHO ENGAGE PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HEALTH TAXES TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH FINANCING



As Ghana faces a rising burden of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and increasing pressure on the health system, policy decisions taken in Parliament are becoming more critical in shaping the country's health future. To support evidence-informed policymaking, Ministry of Health (MOH) with support from World Health Organization (WHO), convened an important engagement with Members of Parliament of Ghana, particularly those serving on the Health and Finance Committees. [Read more](#)





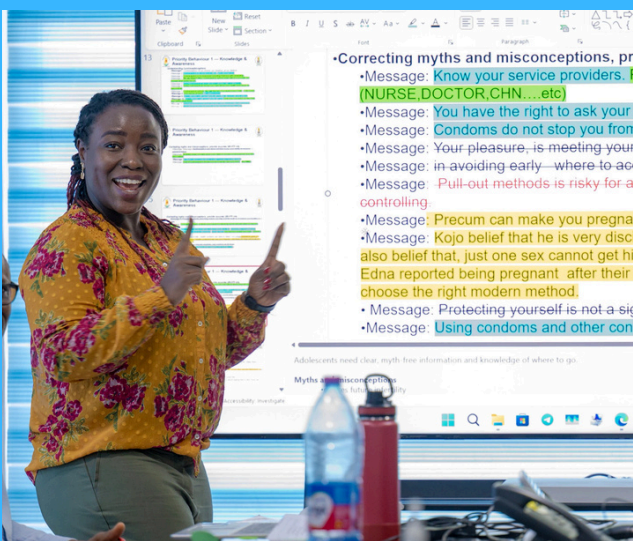
GHANA LEADS AFRICA IN ADVANCING A PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH TO ADDRESS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

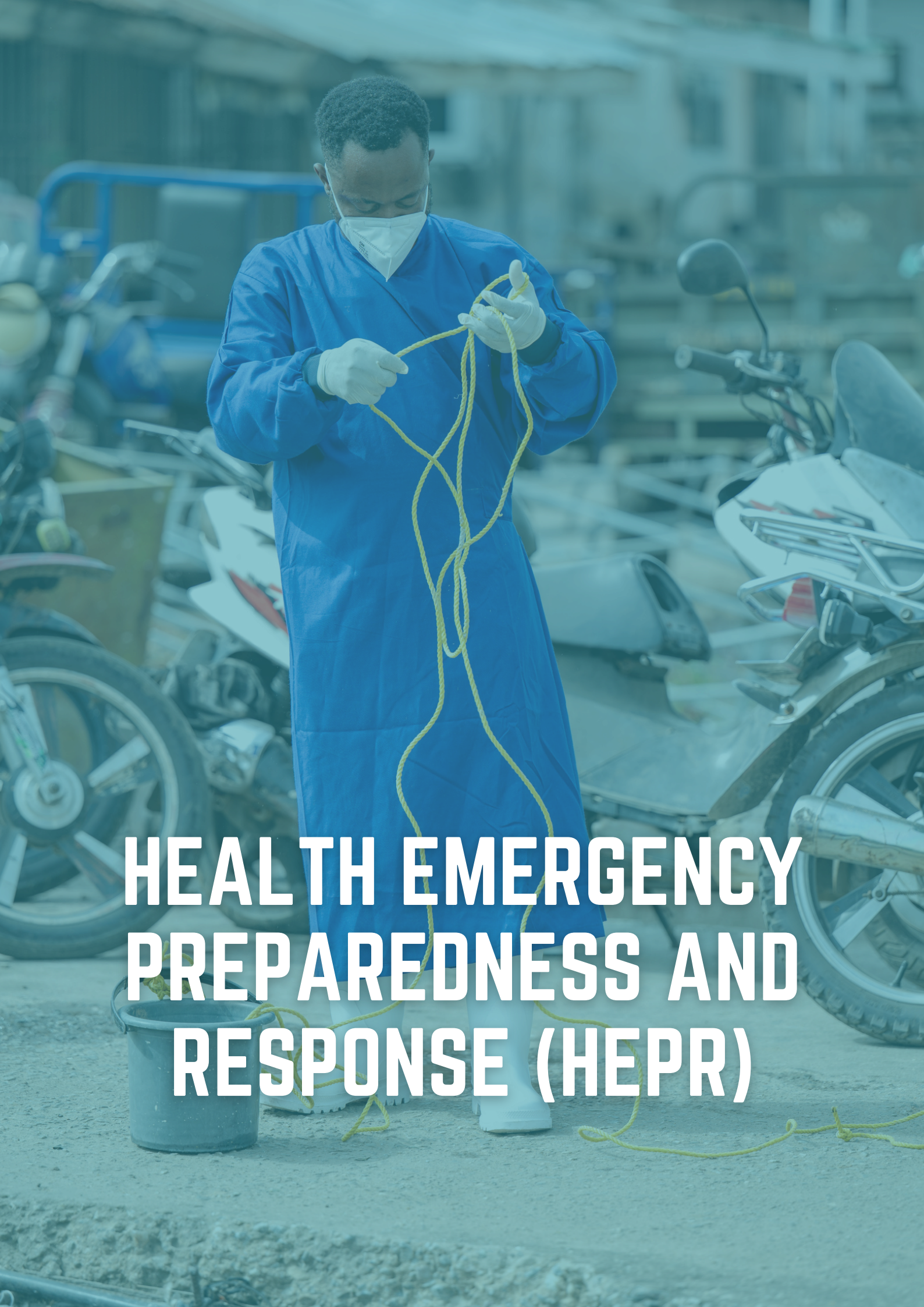
When a child's bloodstream infection no longer responds to prescribed antibiotics, or a mother's minor wound turns life-threatening despite treatment, it is not because the medicines are no longer working but the germs causing the infection have changed and the antibiotics are no longer effective. This silent crisis, known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), is one of the world's top ten global health threats. [Read more](#)



GHANA PUSHES FOR TAILORED ADOLESCENT-RESPONSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS COMMUNICATION

In Ghana, conversations about sex and contraceptives remain sensitive, particularly when they involve adolescents. Cultural expectations, religious beliefs and stigma often limit young people's access to accurate, age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Yet the consequences of silence are evident in persistent teenage pregnancies, unsafe sexual practices and low utilization of adolescent-friendly health services. [Read more](#)



A person wearing a blue protective suit, white gloves, and a white face mask is focused on handling a thick yellow rope. They are standing in an outdoor area that appears to be a storage yard or a cluttered street, with several motorcycles and other vehicles visible in the background. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (HEPR)' is prominently displayed in white, bold, uppercase letters across the lower half of the image.

**HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE (HEPR)**



STRENGTHENING PARTNER COORDINATION FOR HEALTH SECURITY

Ghana, like many countries in the WHO Africa Region, remains vulnerable to public health emergencies due to underlying vulnerabilities and challenging health systems. Between 2022 to 2025, the country has responded to several disease outbreaks including meningitis, dengue fever, cholera, Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever and mpox. These outbreaks placed considerable pressure on the public health system, often disrupting the delivery of essential health care in the most affected areas. [Read more](#)



GHANA ADVANCES HEALTH SECURITY WITH COMPLETION OF NAPHS PRIORITISATION WORKSHOP

Ghana has taken a major step forward in strengthening its health security with the completion of its National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) Prioritisation Workshop. The exercise, led by the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service in collaboration with other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, was supported by the UK Government through the Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa Programme Phase 2 (TDDAP 2), implemented by Palladium and its consortium partner IDI, with technical support from WHO. [Read more](#)





GHANA IDENTIFIES PRIORITY AREAS TO STRENGTHEN CHOLERA PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Ghana has taken a major step toward preventing and controlling cholera by identifying high-risk districts for targeted, multi-sectoral interventions. With technical support from the World Health Organization and funding from Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC), the country conducted a Priority Areas for Multi-sectoral Interventions (PAMI) exercise in March 2026, aligned with the GTFCC Roadmap to End Cholera. [Read more](#)





COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Communication Statistics

Social Media

Facebook

309.4K Reach

78.0K Engagement

2.5K New Followers

Twitter (X)

121K Reach

31.5K Engagement

121 New Followers

Story Telling & Multimedia

2

impact stories

2

videos produced

Traditional Media

30

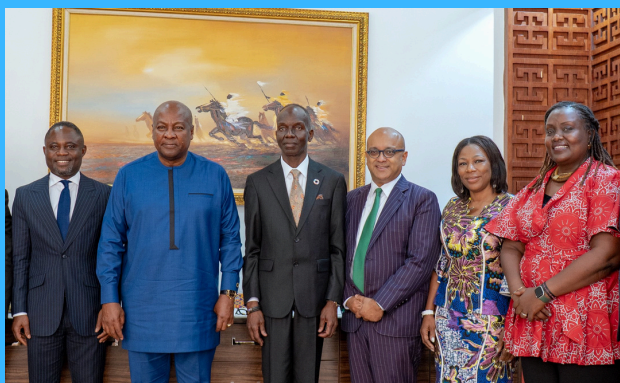
media mentions

1

interview secured



PARTNER ENGAGEMENTS



WHO Team led by RD with the UN Resident Coordinator meets President Mahama



WR welcomes Rotary International President to WCO Ghana



WHO engages Canada Embassy



WHO joins Egypt Embassy donation of HEP C meds



WR meets new Gavi Senior Country Manager



WR engages European Union Commission delegation



WR engages CEO of Result for Development



WHO engages Egypt Embassy



WHO engages Japan Ambassador to Ghana



WR hosts a team from Fleming Fund



WR leads WHO to meet Ghana's Parliamentary Select Committee on Health and Finance

MESSAGE TO PARTNERS

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners for your continued trust, collaboration, and commitment to advancing health in Ghana. In a global environment marked by evolving priorities and constrained resources, your support has been instrumental in sustaining progress and driving impact where it matters most.

Through our collective efforts with the government, we are strengthening health systems, expanding access to essential services, and building a more resilient future for all. From advancing primary health care to reinforcing health security and supporting evidence-based decision-making, these achievements reflect the power of partnership.

As we look ahead, we remain hopeful and encouraged by what we can accomplish together. By continuing to align our efforts, invest strategically, and innovate, we can accelerate progress toward #HealthForAll and ensure that no one is left behind.



DRIVEN BY PURPOSE, UNITED FOR IMPACT

To all colleagues at WHO Ghana, thank you for your unwavering dedication and professionalism. Your commitment to delivering impact, often in complex and demanding environments, continues to make a real difference in the lives of the people we serve.

In a time of evolving global health priorities and constrained resources, your resilience, innovation, and teamwork have ensured that we remain focused on what matters most, supporting national priorities, strengthening systems, and advancing #HealthForAll.

Every mission undertaken, every partnership strengthened, and every result achieved reflects your hard work and shared purpose. You are the driving force behind our impact.

As we move forward, let us continue to support one another, stay inspired, and build on the progress we have made together. The work we do matters, and together, we will continue to make a difference.





World Health Organization

Ghana

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New ES nOPV2 VI algorithm





**World Health
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Ghana

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