

Financing Healthcare In Africa

DANIEL OSEI



General overview of the Health System

- Ghana's health system is organised along four main thematic areas
 - Management and Administration
 - Involves national level institutions like the MoH headquarters and its agencies that are involved in the management and administration of the sector
 - Health Service Service Delivery
 - Cover all the service delivery agencies for both tertiary, secondary and primary care
 - These include the Ghana Health Service, teaching hospitals, mental hospitals
 - Human Resource for Health Development
 - HRHD relates to the training school responsible for the training of professional health staff (excluding the medical schools)
 - Health Sector regulation
 - These are the regulatory bodies and include the regulation of pharmaceuticals, health products, food and non medicinal health products

General overview of the Health System

- Each of the thematic areas operate across single or multiple levels of the health structure
 - National
 - Regional
 - District
 - Subdistrict
 - community

Previous Experience with Health Epidemics

- Cholera is endemic in Ghana with cyclical epidemics. The epidemics are now predictable
- Despite its predictability, cholera epidemics continue to occur each year
- Challenges still exist in collaboration with other stakeholders for
 - Portable water
 - Sanitation
 - Environmental hygiene
 - Waste disposal and
 - Food hygiene

Lessons Learned

- The current EVD outbreak in West Africa is a call for action to investments in health systems including surveillance and emergency preparedness
- The economic and social implication can be very devastating to any country
- Existence of inequalities in a country's health systems must be addressed
- Increased awareness for the creation of a sustainable funding for emergency preparedness
 - Establish a sustainable emergency preparedness system within the health sector
 - Ghana has setup a “One health” emergency preparedness and response system bringing together all the stakeholders
 - Create a sustainable financing mechanism for emergencies and epidemic
- Paying attention to communication and societal and traditional norms

Measures (e.g. policy, capacity, surveillance) Put in Place to Respond to Future Epidemics

- At the central level, there is a unit responsible for surveillance which is also responsible for emergencies and epidemics
- All the regions have responsibilities for ensuring prompt reporting of diseases and have an established weekly news bulletin on surveillance
- There is a national bulleting (released weekly) on epidemiological situation in Ghana, focusing on epidemic prone diseases and other priority conditions/events of national and international importance within the framework of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)
- Established an Emergency Operational Centre (EOC) with the Deputy Minister as the Incidence Commander and plans for construction of an infectious Disease Centre

Funding mechanisms currently in place to respond to future epidemics

- The government of Ghana has emergency funds earmarked in the central budget and managed by the Ministry of Finance
 - This is for all emergencies and amount available to the health sector is unknown
- The health sector budget earmarks funds to address emergencies
 - but was more focused on health commodities

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[Buseh AG1, Stevens PE2, Bromberg M3, Kelber ST2](#)