

1st Quarter Newsletter



World Health
Organization
Ghana

JANUARY – MARCH 2025



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Everyone
Everywhere

HEALTH FOR ALL



World Health
Organization



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A photograph of two men shaking hands in an office setting. The man on the right is wearing a blue World Health Organization (WHO) vest with a logo and the text 'World Health Organization' and 'UNITED NATIONS' visible. The man on the left is wearing a brown shirt and a patterned tie. The background shows office furniture and a door. The entire image has a blue tint.

**Committed to
Health For
Everyone
Everywhere**

Message from the Officer In Charge

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you the latest updates from WHO Ghana in our recent newsletter.

During this quarter, we supported the WHO Regional Office in hosting a consultative meeting in Accra, bringing together key stakeholders to align the Africa Region's perspectives on the Emergency Preparedness and Response capabilities framework for National Public Health Agencies.

We also collaborated with the Ministry of Health on the Joint External Evaluation (JEE), where approximately 120 experts from government, academia, and research institutions are evaluating Ghana's health security capacities.

In response to the meningitis outbreak, we provided critical logistical support, including the donation of 10,600 vials of Ceftriaxone—an antibiotic used in treatment—valued at around \$23,000. This contribution will support ongoing treatment efforts, save lives, and strengthen Ghana's public health response.

We are also equipping regional clinicians and health information officers with the essential skills needed to assess healthcare service delivery accurately and consistently. These are just a few of the many impactful efforts highlighted in the newsletter. I encourage you to explore the full edition to learn more about the progress we are making together.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. We look forward to doing even more—together—for health for all in Ghana and across the region.



Dr Frank Lule
Officer In Charge
WHO Ghana

A photograph of two healthcare workers in a clinical setting, wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE) including white gowns, hairnets, and face masks. The worker on the left is a Black man, and the worker on the right is a woman with glasses. They are standing in front of a white table with medical equipment. The background shows a shelf with various items. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



How WHO is Strengthening Coordination and Flood Response in Ghana

Quick, efficient, and coordinated responses are critical to saving lives in the aftermath of such events. The Akosombo dam spillage floods underscored the importance of having a unified plan in place that can be activated immediately to address health, sanitation, shelter, and other critical needs. This lesson became the foundation for the partnership between WHO, the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), and local authorities, with funding support from the UK in Ghana, to develop comprehensive flood contingency plans for all nine districts downstream of the Akosombo Dam which were impacted by the flooding. [**More**](#)



Winning Trust: A Reluctant Father's Change of Heart on Vaccination for His Child

In the Ketu North District of Ghana, Erica Doe Hormeku, a passionate Community Health Nurse (CHN) at the Kasu Health Centre, dedicates herself to ensuring every child receives their routine immunization. Brimming with enthusiasm and commitment, Erica tirelessly follows up with caregivers, even those hesitant about vaccinating their children. Despite her best efforts, there are a few who remain adamant, which worries her deeply. At three years old, Dennis had only received the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine at birth. Under Ghana's national immunization schedule, Dennis should have completed his routine vaccinations by 18 months. However, missed doses can still be administered until age five. **More**

Ghana Hosts Consultative Meeting to Strengthen Africa's Health Security Through National Public Health Agencies

Africa's ability to effectively prepare for and respond to health emergencies took a significant step forward as public health leaders, technical experts, and key stakeholders convened for a high-level regional consultation on strengthening National Public Health Agencies (NPHAs).

Hosted in Ghana by the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region, the meeting brought together representatives from across the continent to assess and refine the core framework that will enhance Africa's health security architecture. [**More**](#)



Building Health Resilience: The Impact of Risk Communication and Community Engagement in Ghana's Public Health Response

In 2024, as Ghana navigated multiple public health threats, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) remained a cornerstone of WHO Ghana's efforts, working alongside the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ghana Health Service (GHS), and other partners to protect lives and foster resilience. From cholera and polio to the reemerging threats of Mpox, Dengue, Lassa fever, and Marburg, the timely exchange of information and active community involvement proved critical in safeguarding public health. In response to these health threats, the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Unit of the WHO Ghana played a crucial role by collaborating closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ghana Health Service and various partners to implement comprehensive risk communication and health promotion activities to mitigate the situation. [More](#)





WHO Supports Ghana’s Second Joint External Evaluation to Strengthen Health Security

Ghana has successfully completed its second Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of core capacities under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), marking a significant milestone in the country’s efforts to enhance health security. This assessment, which took place from February 10 to 14, 2025, follows Ghana’s first JEE in 2017 and the subsequent implementation of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) between 2019 and 2023. The evaluation was conducted with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and funding from the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO) in Ghana. [More](#)

WHO Provides Urgent Medical Support to Ghana to Combat Meningitis Outbreak

Ghana is experiencing a worsening bacterial meningitis outbreak in the Upper West Region, straining the country's healthcare system as cases continue to climb. With limited resources and rising fatalities, health authorities are racing against time to contain the disease and provide critical treatment to those affected. In response to the escalating crisis, the World Health Organization (WHO) has stepped in to provide much-needed technical and logistical support. As cases increased from 42 to 60, with 14 reported deaths, WHO donated 10,600 vials of Ceftriaxone, a potent antibiotic used in meningitis treatment. The donation, valued at approximately \$23,000, was officially received by the Minister of Health, Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, at a brief ceremony in Accra. The Minister immediately handed over the vials to the Director-General of the Ghana Health Service (GHS), Prof. Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, for swift deployment to affected communities.

More



A woman in a dark polo shirt and jeans carries a blue vaccine cooler labeled 'VACCINE' and 'RUSH' on her shoulder. A man in a blue WHO vest and patterned shirt holds a blue and white checkered umbrella over them. They are walking on a wet street in the rain. The background shows residential buildings and a car.

COMMUNICABLE AND NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

WHO and Partners Advance Healthcare Training in Ghana Through Managed Education Partnership



From March 10–14, 2025, a team from NHS England was in Ghana for a Managed Education Partnership (MEP) scoping mission. In collaboration with the Mental Health Authority (MHA), World Health Organization (WHO) Ghana, and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UKFCDO), the mission aimed to decentralize healthcare training beyond Accra and Kumasi, enhance service delivery, and improve Ghana's health outcomes. [More](#)



Addressing Mental Health Challenges for Akosombo Dam Flood Victims

Public health emergencies like the floods caused by the Akosombo dam spillage often expose a significant yet overlooked consequence of such disasters—the strain on mental health. Left unaddressed, these challenges can hinder recovery efforts and leave long-term scars on the affected populations. Recognizing this, the World Health Organization (WHO), with funding from UK in Ghana, stepped in to address the urgent need for mental health and psychosocial support services. [**More**](#)



United Against Tuberculosis: Ghana's Private and Public Health Sectors Join Forces

For weeks, Mansah, a resident of a suburb of Kumasi, Ghana's second-largest city, had been battling a persistent cough, fever, and unexplained weight loss. Fear gnawed at her— she suspected Tuberculosis (TB), a disease she knew could have serious consequences. Seeking a diagnosis and treatment at a public health facility would have meant spending nearly an entire day navigating long queues, a challenge given her demanding job. Like many others, she preferred seeking medical care at a private facility, even though TB services were traditionally not readily available there. **More**

WHO coordinates Ghana's enrolment on the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines (GPACCM)



Every year, an estimated 1,200 children in Ghana develop cancer, yet only about 20–30% are diagnosed and treated. The rest often go undetected or face life-threatening delays due to high costs, misdiagnosis, or lack of access to essential cancer medicines. The result is devastating: more than half of these children do not survive, despite the fact that many childhood cancers are highly curable when diagnosed early and treated effectively.

To address this silent crisis, Ghana has joined the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines (GPACCM)—a transformative global initiative designed to ensure that all children, no matter where they live, have access to safe, effective, and quality-assured cancer medicines.

More





From Diagnosis to Action – WHO’s Efforts to Strengthen Ghana’s Health Workforce Against Cutaneous Leishmaniasis

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) continue to burden some of the most vulnerable populations globally, and Ghana is no exception. Among these diseases, Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (CL) remains a pressing public health concern, particularly in the Volta and Oti Regions. A significant number of cases were diagnosed in three districts in 2003 and the disease is still endemic in several municipalities today, underscoring the urgent need for a strengthened health response. Recognizing this, the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with Ghana Health Service (GHS), Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research (NMIMR) and Kumasi Center for Collaborative research (KCCR), organized a training workshop in June 2024 to build the capacity of frontline healthcare workers in diagnosing, managing, and reporting CL and other skin related NTDs. **[More](#)**



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LIFE COURSE





WHO Ghana's Officer-in-Charge Leads Field Visit to Ashanti Region: Enhancing Healthcare Through UKFCDO Partnership

In the heart of the Ashanti Region, a quiet revolution in healthcare delivery is taking place. Through a partnership between the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (UKFCDO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), health systems are being strengthened to serve communities better, one innovative solution at a time. Recently, Dr. Frank Lule, Officer-in-Charge of WHO Ghana, joined UKFCDO representatives and the Ghana Health Service (GHS) on a two-day visit to the region. The aim was clear: to see firsthand how the support from the UKFCDO-WHO collaboration is transforming healthcare delivery and making universal health coverage (UHC) a reality for the people of Ghana. **[More](#)**



Bridging the Health Inequality Gap through improving Access to essential health services in Bono East

In Bono East, a region characterized by sprawling landscapes, remote communities, and bustling highways, access to healthcare has always been a challenge. With a population of 1.2 million spread across 25,000 km², the vast distance to health facilities, coupled with high rates of road traffic accidents, paints a complex picture of healthcare delivery. Yet, amid these challenges, a story of resilience, innovation, and transformation is emerging –thanks to the partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (UKFCDO) and Ghana Health Service (GHS). **[More](#)**



Delivery for Impact - Strengthening Ghana's Health System by Using Data to Improve Quality Healthcare

Ghana has made great strides in ensuring healthcare services are available to its citizens. However, access alone is not enough—quality matters just as much. To bridge this gap, the Ghana Health Service (GHS), with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UKFCDO), launched the Quality of Care (QoC) assessment as part of the Harmonized Health Facility Assessment (HHFA). [**More**](#)

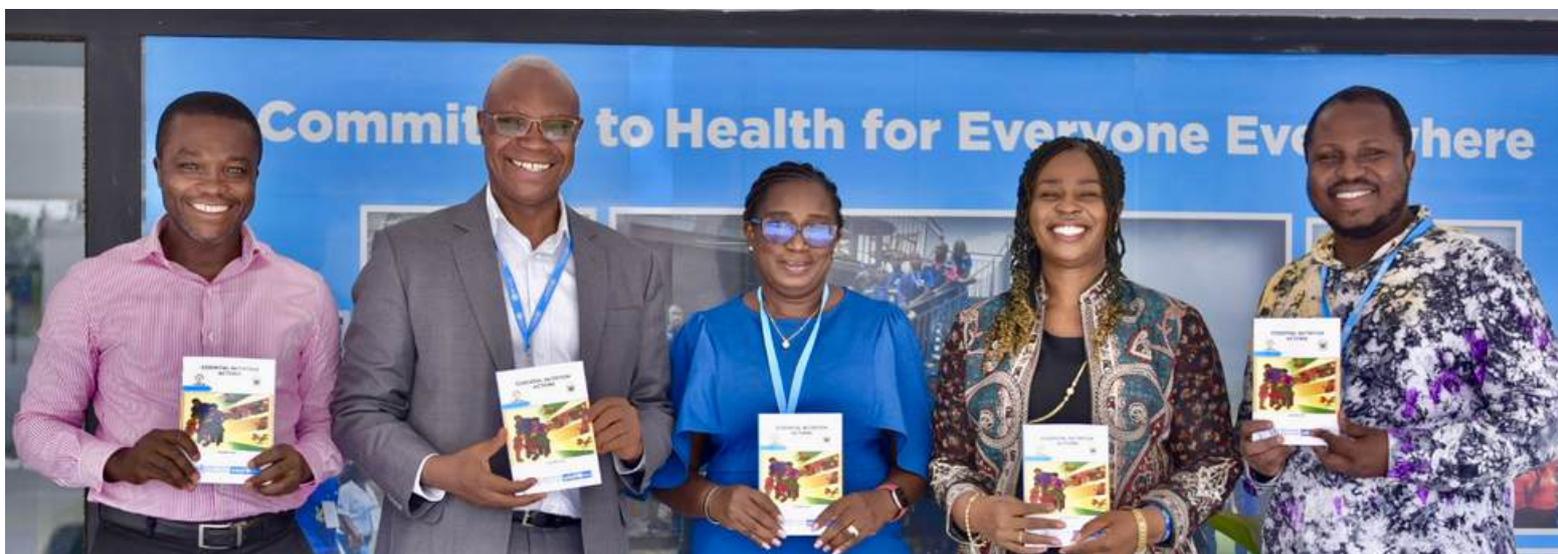
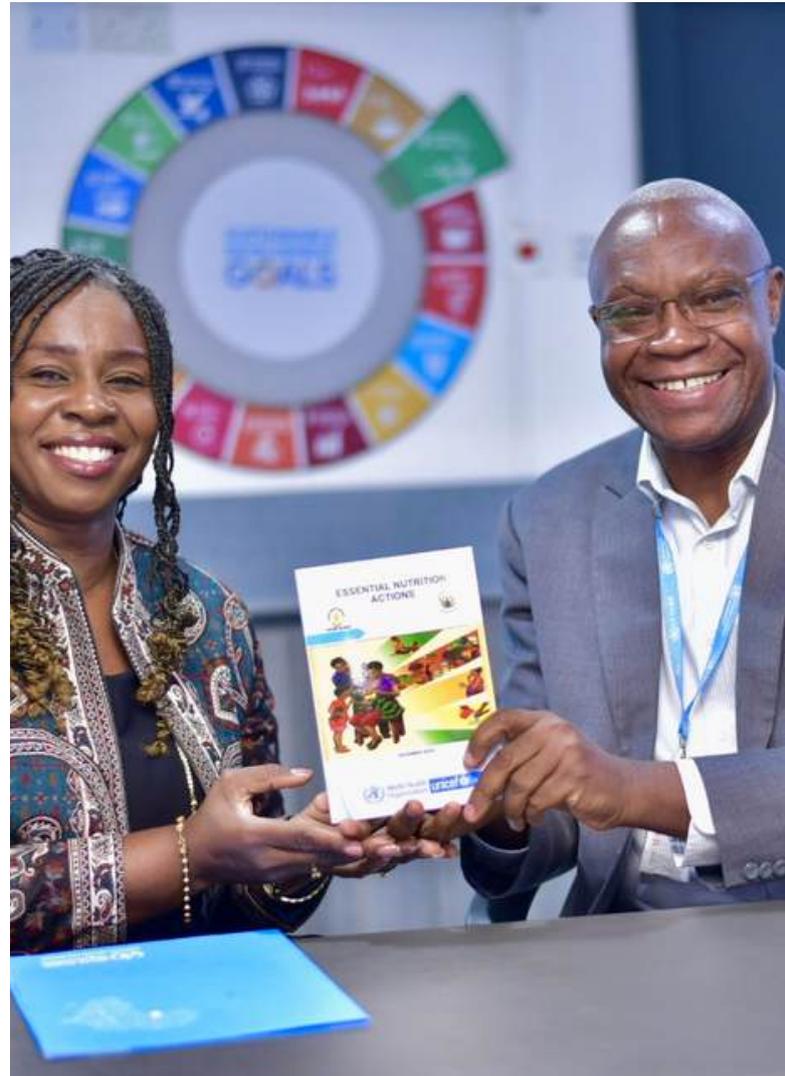
HEALTHIER POPULATIONS



WHO Supports Ghana's Efforts to Strengthen Nutrition Services with Essential Nutrition Actions Package



The World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed its commitment to improving nutrition services, working with the Ghana Health Service and partners to adapt and provide printed copies of the revised Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs) Package. The revised ENA marks a significant step in ensuring that frontline health workers have the necessary tools to implement comprehensive nutrition interventions at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level. **More**





PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthening Partnerships for Health: WHO Ghana's Commitment in 1st Quarter of 2025

As 2025 unfolds with new leadership across several government institutions, WHO Ghana remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering strong partnerships with both development and government partners. These collaborations are crucial to advancing Ghana's health agenda, improving healthcare delivery, and achieving sustainable progress in health outcomes. In the first quarter of the year, WHO Ghana engaged in a series of high-level discussions and strategic meetings aimed at reinforcing collaboration, strengthening health systems, and addressing pressing health challenges. **More**





A Note of Gratitude to the WHO Ghana Team

To every WHO Ghana staff member working in offices, in the field, in communities, and across partner networks — thank you. Your dedication, compassion, and unrelenting commitment continue to drive our mission forward.

You've stood firm in the face of challenges, gone above and beyond the call of duty, and poured heart and soul into the work of protecting and improving lives. From coordinating lifesaving responses to quietly supporting systems that hold our health architecture together — you are the reason our vision comes alive.

This newsletter is filled with stories of change — but between every line is your invisible ink. We see you. And we are grateful.

Thank you for being the pulse of WHO Ghana.



WITH HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

At WHO Ghana, we are constantly reminded that progress in public health is never the work of one organization alone — it is the result of strong partnerships, shared purpose, and a collective commitment to improving lives.

To all our partners — from government agencies to UN sister organizations, donors, civil society, academia, health professionals, and the media — thank you. Your collaboration, trust, and tireless support have been vital in driving the impactful work reflected in these pages.

Every successful campaign, every strengthened health system, every life changed, is a reflection of what we can achieve together. You have stood with us through challenges and breakthroughs, and your contributions have helped shape a healthier, more resilient Ghana. We are proud to walk this path with you — and even more excited for what lies ahead.





**World Health
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