

**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC
OF GHANA**

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

ON THE

**2014 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, the Minister of Finance Mr. Seth Tekper, on 19th November, 2013 presented to the House, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 financial year.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 140(4) and 159 of the House, Mr. Speaker referred the Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the year 2014 to the Committee on Health for consideration and report.

In considering the Annual Estimates, the Committee met with the Hon. Minister of Health, Hon. Hanny-Sherry Ayittey, Deputy Minister for Health, Hon. Dr. Sugri Tia, the Chief Director, Mrs. Salamata Abdul-Salem and the technical team from the Ministry and its agencies. The Committee reports as follows:

2. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee in its deliberations referred to the following:-

1. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
2. The Standing Orders of the House.
3. The 2014 Budget Statement and Economic Policy
4. The 2014 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Health
5. The 2013 Budget Statement and Economic Policy
6. The 2013 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Health

3. MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY

The Mission Statement of the Ministry is to continue to improve the health status of all people living in Ghana through the development and promotion of proactive policies for good health and longevity as well as the provision of universal access to basic health services.

The Mission Statement is in line with the achievements of the Health related MDGs by 2015, with concentration on improving health outcomes targeting resources towards the health of women and children,

prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases

5. PERFORMANCE FOR 2013

For the financial year 2013, the Ministry was allocated GH¢**3,529.45 million**. Budget outturn for the Ministry to undertake its program of activities amounted to **GH¢3,115.81 million**. The breakdown is as follows:

SOURCE OF FUND	APPROVED BUDGET in Million	BUDGET OUTTURN in Million	EXECUTION (%)
GOG	508.98	1,264.99	248.5
IGF	1,831.40	921.64	50.3
DONOR	194.46	195.55	100.6
ABFA	29.9	0	0
SIP	46.84	12.14	25.9
TOTAL (DISCRETIONARY)	2,611.59	2,394.32	91.7
NHIF	917.86	721.49	78.6
OVERALL TOTAL	3,529.45	3,115.81	88.3

6.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR 2014

A sum of **GH¢ 3,353,707,814** has been allocated to the Ministry and its agencies for the implementation of its programmes and policies in the 2014 fiscal year.

The breakdown for this allocation is as follows:

	GOG	IGF	External	TOTAL
COMP of EMP	1,122,792,776	-	-	1,122,792,776
GOODS/ SERVICES	70,586,640	1,204,377,564	156,252,400	1,431,216,604
Capex	15,443,598	159,245,236	625,009,600	799,698,434
TOTAL	1,208,823,014	1,363,622,800	781,262,000	3,353,707,814

B. DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATIONS

The breakdown of the Estimates to the various departments under the Ministry is as follows:

BUDGET PROGRAMME	Government of Ghana		DONOR	TOTAL	SHARE (%)
	GOG	IGF			
Management and Administration	100.14	9.86	87.34	197.34	5.9
Health Service Delivery	852.3	1,050.14	477.99	2,380.43	71
Tertiary and Specialized Services	175.32	137.75	196.75	509.82	15.2
Human Resource Development and Management	66.84	116.28	15.19	198.32	5.9
Health Sector Regulation	14.22	49.59	3.99	67.8	2
Total	1,208.82	1,363.62	781.26	3,353.71	100

C. Agencies under the Ministry

The Agencies under the Ministry to implement the program based budget for 2014 are as follows:-

1. Management and Administration
 - MoH Health Headquarters
 - Subvented Organizations

2. Health Service Delivery
 - Ghana Health Service
 - Christian Health Association of Ghana

3. Tertiary and Specialized Service
 - MoH Health Headquarters
 - Psychiatric Hospitals
 - Teaching Hospitals
 - Subvented Organization
4. Human Resource Development and Management
 - Training Institutions
 - Subvented Organization
5. Health Sector Regulation
 - Regulatory Agencies

7.0 OUTLOOK OF THE MINISTRY FOR 2014

For the year 2014, the Ministry proposed the following activities under the two priority program areas namely programs and investment areas.

Under the **Program area**, a number of programs have been lined up which include:-

- Sustained implementation of the Maternal Health Support Programme (MAF)
- Scale up of CHPS programme.
- Institutional and organizational restructuring of MOH and its Agencies in line with the ongoing national decentralization programme
- Scaling up screening and improving case management of lifestyle diseases
- Strengthening of the sector's Public Financial Management systems
- Intensifying public health interventions particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, NTDs, etc
- Intensifying mental health services and emergency care
- Implementing the staffing norms for optimum human resource deployment
- Scale up NHIA implementation of enhanced NHIS membership authentication and the e-claims systems
- Strengthening of health data collection, analysis and management as well as implement the digital e-health solution project

- Leadership and financial management training for 23 hospital administrators
- Improve monitoring and supervision systems and structures
- Expand coverage of clinical specialist outreach programme in district and regional hospitals
- Sustain diagnostic activities and operational research into emerging diseases
- Expand access to safe blood products
- Implement the mental health strategic document
- Control and regulate tobacco and substance abuse as well as conduct safety monitoring of drugs
- Implement the National Nutrition Policy targeted at children, adolescents and the aged

Under **Investments/Projects area**, the following projects have been earmarked:-

- Completion of 20% upgrading of Ridge Hospital and 50% maternal facility at Tema General Hospital
- Construction of National Blood Transfusion centres at Accra and Kumasi
- Completion of 80% of civil works of the University of Ghana Teaching Hospital project and construct 15-30% of the Emergency Trauma and Acute Care centre at Korle Bu Teaching hospital
- Completion of 50% of rehabilitation works at Accra and Pantang Psychiatry hospitals
- Refurbishment of 65% of the children's block at KBTH and complete/equip the maternity and children's block at KATH

8.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee noted that by the end of the year 2014, the Ministry, among others, expects to

- Train 23 hospital administrators in leadership and financial management
- Accelerate the uptake of family planning programme from 1.4 million in the year 2013 to 1.5 million Couple Years Protection (CYP)
- Increase Skilled Delivery coverage from 60% in 2013 to 65%

- Increase the number of functional Infant Incubators by an additional 560 in public hospitals
- Reduce under-5 malaria case fatality rate from 1% (2013) to 0.75%
- Vaccinate 35,000 girls in classes 4 & 5 against cervical cancer
- Increase the membership of the NHIS by 9% to reach 10.15 million with Ghanaians in the informal sector constituting 35% of the NHIS Population
- Expand access to safe blood and blood products by 60%
- Train 20% additional community mental health officers for deployment

The Committee further noted that the Ministry was facing a number of challenges some of which include:

- Continuing inequities in access to essential health services especially in deprived areas
- Persistent high levels of maternal and child mortality
- Slow progress in dealing with issues of nutrition
- Inadequate leadership capacity, governance and management structures at all levels of the sector
- Weak systems and structures for performance monitoring, supervision and management
- Untimely reimbursement for services rendered especially from the NHIF.

For year 2013, the Committee observed that, the Ministry was able to complete the drafting of a Legislative Instrument to operationalize the Health Facilities Regulatory Agency, Mortuaries and Funeral Facilities Agency and Ambulance Council under the Health Institutions and Facilities Act, Act 829, 2011.

Again, the Committee noted that for the year 2013 a total amount of GH¢29.9 million was allocated to the Ministry under the ABFA budgetary

source. No money was released to the Ministry. This affected the Ministry's ability to fulfill some of its obligations for 2013.

The Committee further noted that there was delay in the release of funds to NHIA. Due to the delay in the releases of funds, the Authority could only make payment to service providers up to June, this year. There is also a funding gap of GH¢1.18 million which is required to meet part of the 2013 expenditure under the NHIS.

The Committee was informed that as part of efforts to improve upon service delivery, the Ministry plans to make Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, a complete referral and specialist hospital. As a result of this policy, the Ministry would upgrade a number of polyclinics in the peri-urban centres into hospitals to handle OPD cases among others.

The Committee took notice that Government was exploring the possibility to wean off some agencies from the Consolidated Fund and make them autonomous. As indicated in the Budget, the affected Ministries will liaise with the Ministry of Finance to come up with a document on the modalities to implement the weaning successfully. The identified agencies would include some institutions under the Ministry, such as the Teaching Hospitals and Food and Drugs Authority.

The Committee noted that there is the need to regulate specialized services in the country. The specialized services include renal transplantations, fertility services among others.

To improve access to quality tertiary and specialized health services, the Committee noted that the Ministry intends to complete 80 percent of civil works of the University of Ghana Teaching Hospital project, construct 15-30 percent of the Emergency Trauma and Acute Care Centre at KBTH and undertake major rehabilitation and upgrading of the Tamale Teaching Hospital. In addition, the Ministry intends to complete 50 percent of rehabilitation works at Accra and Pantang Psychiatric Hospitals, undertake civil works at the Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Centres at KBTH and KATH as well as complete and equip the Maternity and Children's blocks at KATH.

To improve service delivery at the training institutions, the Ministry is upgrading the department in charge of the Training Institutions into an Agency. The Agency would be in charge of making the necessary improvements in the syllabus, liaising and collaborating with other institutions of higher learning to improve service delivery in these institutions.

The Committee expressed concern about the attitude of some nurses at the hospitals.

On the issue of the procurement of sub- Standard "Be Safe" condoms, the Minister informed the Committee that a Committee was set up to investigate the issue. The Committee had completed its job and the report forwarded to the Attorney-General's Department for advice and possible prosecution.

During the year, the Board for the Mental Health Authority was established. The Committee noted that the establishment of the Board would go a long way to implement the Mental Health Act. Further, the Committee was informed that the drafting of the Legislative Instrument for the Mental Health Act was underway. The Ministry was advised to implement the Mental Health Strategic Document for the establishment of psychiatric wings of regional and district hospitals.

The Committee also noted that the psychiatric hospitals were facing challenges with irregular flow of funds and shortage of medicines.

The Committee noted that a National Food Safety Policy was drafted by the Food and Drugs Authority to serve as a guide in the promotion of food safety in Ghana. A department was therefore established to implement the guidelines.

The Committee was informed efforts by Traditional Medicine Practice Council to rid the nation of charlatans.

It came to the fore that most of the Nursing Training Institutions were charging high fees. The Ministry indicated that the approved fee for the institutions was GH¢1,200 but, the schools were demanding more.

The Committee also observed that the Nurses and Midwives Council is slow to give accreditation to some training colleges. The delay affects the operations of some of these new training institutions. The Committee recommends to the Council to expedite the processes involved in the accreditation of these institutions and be clear about the procedures for accreditation.

The Committee expressed concern on the spate of illegal drug peddling in the country. The Pharmacy Council however informed the Committee that it conducts regular checks on the various pharmacies. It also conducts swoops across the country with the assistance of the police. The Council has also intensified its education. The major challenge it faces, is financing.

Whilst the Committee urges government to make funds available to such key institutions, it also urges the Council should intensify its vigilance in order to stamp out illegal sale of drugs in the country.

The Committee also noted that the provision for IGF for the Ministry in the year 2014 is lower than that of the year 2013. Whilst in 2013 a total amount of GH¢1,831.40 million was for IGF, in 2014, an amount of GH¢1,363.62 million was budgeted for. The Committee was of the view that the amount was low. Parliament recently increased fees and levies that the agencies under the Ministry charge. It therefore expected an increase if not an equivalent in the allocation to IGF.

8.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

On the issue of regulating specialized services, the Committee urges the Ministry to present a bill to the House for approval to regulate these specialized services.

In order to stem out the growing tide of indiscipline among nurses and improve easy identification, the Committee recommends to the Nurses

and Midwives Council to emphasize the wearing of name tags by all nurses to make them easily identifiable. Call centers should also be provided so that the public can easily report recalcitrant nurses for sanctioning. Recalcitrant nurses should be sanctioned.

With respect to the role played by the Traditional Medicine Practice Council, The Committee urged the Ministry to take the required steps to assist the Council to be more effective.

With regard to the issue of the Nursing Training Institutions charging unapproved fees, The Committee urges the House to direct the Minister to investigate the matter and sanction non-complying institutions.

On the issue of the IGF, the Committee recommends to the Ministry of Finance to liaise with the Ministry to look into the matter and come up with a realistic IGF for the Ministry of Health.

9.0 CONCLUSION

After critically considering the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health, the Committee holds the view that the Health sector is key in of improving the lives of Ghanaians.

The Committee recommends to the House to adopt this report and approve the sum of **three billion, three hundred and fifty three million, seven hundred and seven thousand, eight hundred and fourteen Ghana Cedi (GH¢3,353,707,814)** for the activities of the Ministry of Health for the 2014 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted.


HON. JOSEPH YIELEH CHIREH

CHAIRMAN


MR. ASANTE AMOAKO ATTA
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

10 December 2013