

IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF
THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA



REPORT

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OF THE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

ON THE

2024 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

OF THE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

FOR THE

2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

DECEMBER, 2023

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON THE ANNUAL
BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR THE 2024
FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2023 Financial Year was presented on Wednesday, 15th November, 2023, by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Article 130 of the 1992 Constitution and Orders 140(4) and 186 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Rt. Hon Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the 2024 Financial Year to the Committee on Health for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee subsequently met from Monday, 11th December, to Wednesday, 13th December, 2023 and considered the 2024 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health. Present at the Committee's sittings were the Hon. Minister for Health, Mr. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, and the Chief Director of the Ministry, Alhaji Hafiz, as well as officials of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, and the under-listed Agencies of the Ministry were in attendance:

i. The Ministry

- a. Headquarters
- b. Ghana Health Service (Health Facilities other than teaching hospitals)
- c. Biological Engineering Unit

ii. Teaching Hospitals

- a. Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital-Main
 - i. Blood Bank*
 - ii. Ghana Radiotherapy*
 - iii. National Cardiothoracic Centre*
- b. Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital
- c. Cape Coast Teaching Hospital

- d. Tamale Teaching Hospital
- e. Ho Teaching Hospital

iii. Regulatory Bodies

- a. Food and Drugs Authority
- b. Medical and Dental Council
- c. Pharmacy Council
- d. Nursing and Midwifery Council for Ghana
- e. Allied Health Professionals Council
- f. Traditional Medicine Practice Council
- g. Health Facilities Regulatory Agency
- h. Ghana Psychology Council
- i. Mental Health Authority
- j. Mortuaries and Funeral Facilities Agency

iv. Subvented Agencies

- a. Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine
- b. Ghana College of Pharmacists
- c. Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons
- d. Ghana Institute of Clinical Genetics
- e. College of Nurses and Midwives
- f. National Ambulance Service
- g. St. Johns Ambulance
- h. Christian Health Association of Ghana
- i. Ahmadiyya Muslim Health Service Ghana

v. Psychiatric Hospitals

- a. Pantang Hospital
- b. Accra Psychiatric Hospital
- c. Ankaful Hospital

vi. Other Establishments under the Ministry

- a. Health Training Institutions

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Health, Heads of the Agencies and Officials of the Ministry of Health, and Officials of the Ministry of Finance for attending upon the Committee.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee availed itself of the following documents during the consideration of the Estimates:

- i. The 1992 Constitution
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year
- iv. The Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the 2023 Financial Year
- v. The Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the 2024 Financial Year
- vi. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2024 Financial Year
- vii. The Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921)

4.0 MISSION OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The mission of the Ministry is to continue socio-economic development by promoting health and vitality through access to quality healthcare for all people living in Ghana using well-motivated personnel.

5.0 GOAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The goal of the Ministry is to increase access to quality healthcare and population-based services for all by 2030.

6.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The core functions of the Ministry include the following:

- i. Formulate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of sector policies and programmes,

- ii. Provide public health and clinical services at primary, secondary and tertiary levels,
- iii. Regulate registration and accreditation of health service delivery facilities as well as the training and practice of various health professions regarding standards and professional conduct,
- iv. Regulate the manufacture, implementation, exportation, distribution, use and advertisement of all food, medicines, cosmetics, medical devices and house hold chemical substances as well as the marketing and utilisation of traditional medicinal products in the Country,
- v. Conduct and promote scientific research into plant/herbal medicine, and
- vi. Provide pre-hospital care during accidents, emergencies and disasters.

7.0 PERFORMANCE FOR 2023

7.1 NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

7.1.1 Management and Administration Programme

As part of the Ministry's oversight responsibilities, a number of policies were developed and disseminated. Policies developed include the Health Financing Strategy to ensure efficient management and sustainability of financing for healthcare, the Pharmaceutical Traceability Strategy to increase visibility within the supply chain and ensure efficient tracking of medicines, and the National Policy Guidelines for the Nursing and Midwifery Mentorship Programme to improve career pathways for nurses and midwives.

The Ministry has contracted a loan of USD\$ 181,000,000.00 under the Primary Healthcare Improvement Programme to improve access and quality of care at the district level. In line with the Programme, the Ministry has reviewed the Essential Health Services Package to focus on primary healthcare including preventive services. In addition, the Ministry generated evidence to support possible inclusion in the NHIS Benefit Package, screening of cervical cancer, diabetes, treatment of anaemia and malaria, and prostate cancer services to improve access.

As part of the government's commitment to boost the local manufacturing of vaccines, the National Vaccine Institute has been established. To improve stewardship and

oversight, the Boards for the National Vaccines Institute, National Blood Service, and the National Ambulance Service were inaugurated to improve governance.

7.1.2 National Health Insurance

As part of the NHIA's plan to increase coverage and provide financial protection for the poor, the NHIS Mobile App was updated to include additional modules such as the group enrollment and messaging. Active membership as of 30th September 2023 stood at 14.4 million representing 45% of a targeted population of 20 million and active card holding indigents was 1.7 million representing 73.91% of a targeted 2.3 million indigent population.

7.1.3 Health Infrastructure

The Ministry has completed the following projects:

- i. Construction of five (5) health facilities in Elubo, Bogoso, Mpohor, Nsuaem and Wassa Dunkwa,
- ii. Upgrading of one (1) public health facility in Akontombra in the Western North Region,
- iii. Construction of one (1) Regional Hospital at Sewua,
- iv. Construction of District Hospital at Konongo,
- v. Modernization and equipping of Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital, Kibi District Hospital, Aburi and Atibie Hospitals,
- vi. Reactivation of hospital project sites in Fomena and Takoradi European Flats Staff Accommodation projects,
- vii. Construction of Treatment and Holding Centres in Dodowa, Cape Coast, Adaklu, Sewua, Kumasi South, Aflao, Elubo and Keta,
- viii. Rehabilitation of Fevers Unit at Korle Bu,
- ix. Construction of COVID-19 Isolation and Treatment Facilities at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, and
- x. Construction of CHPS Compounds in Debiso, Tiawia and Nsutam.

7.1.4 Health Service Delivery

The Ministry continues to pursue its Universal Health Coverage goal of increasing access to quality essential health care and population-based services for by all 2030. In view of this, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) successfully conducted 915 cataract outreach surgeries, restoring vision to individuals across the country, new oxygen plants and a CT Scan machine were acquired and installed at the Cape Coast, Tamale and Ho Teaching Hospitals to increase access to specialised services.

The Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) also acquired a new MRI Chiller System for Radiology to enhance imaging services. KBTH also initiated the manufacturing of Hypertonic Saline, a critical resource for surgeries and Hyponatremia treatment, making it the sole manufacturing site in Ghana. Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) established a special operating room for children (Kids OR) to care for the unique medical needs of pediatric patients.

As part of efforts to improve the quality of healthcare to the population, the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) has institutionalised the SafeCare Quality Improvement Programme and 34 healthcare facilities are on level four (4) accreditation. The Ho and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospitals have attained ISO 15189 accreditation for Laboratory and ISO 15189:2012 accreditation for virology.

7.1.5 Human Resource for Health Development

Human Resource remains an important pillar towards the attainment of the Sector's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goal.

The Ministry has completed the 2023 admissions process for various Programmes into the Health Training Institutions. Eighteen (18) Nursing and Midwifery Training Schools have been accredited to run degree Programmes and the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives (GCNM) developed five (5) new curricula and commenced the fellowship Programme in six (6) specialty areas (Oncology, Palliative, Emergency, Neonatal Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health) and drafted a 10-year strategic plan. The Ghana College of Pharmacists established collaboration with Tata Memorial Hospital, India, for training in Pediatric Oncology and collaborated with Auteurs Afrique to trained twelve (12) Pharmacist in the area of Non – Communicable Diseases (Diabetes and

Hypertension). In addition, the College collaborated with Empower School of Health to train three hundred (300) Pharmacists on handling pharmaceutical waste.

Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS) commenced partnership activities with the Royal Colleges, UK, in the training of doctors and accredited Techiman Holy Family Hospital for Fellowship training.



7.1.6 Health Sector Regulation

Health regulation remains a major function of the Ministry to improve quality of care and protect public safety. In view of this, Health Facilities Regulatory Agency (HeFRA) licensed and certified primary health facilities in Greater Accra and Central region as part of preparations towards the NoP implementation. HeFRA and Traditional and Alternative Medicine Practice Council (TMPC) digitized operations to increase access and improve efficiency.

The Pharmacy Council deployed nationwide, the National Electronic Pharmacy Platform to improve access to medicines. This Electronic Platform has been recommended for use by ECOWAS at a Regional Meeting held in Dakar to improve access to medicines and quality pharmaceutical care.

The Medical and Dental Council initiated processes to redesign restructure, and harmonize the curricula of medical & dental training. The Food and Drugs Authority has been designated as a Regional Center of Regulatory Excellence for Vaccines Regulatory Oversight by the AUDA-NEPAD.

7.1.7 Agenda 111 Health Infrastructure Project

The Ghana Priority Health Infrastructure Project (GPHIP) referred to as Agenda 111 involves the construction of One Hundred and Four (104) District hospitals, Two (2) Regional Psychiatric hospitals, Five (5) Regional hospitals and One (1) Accra Psychiatric Hospital. Out of this number, 90 District Hospitals and 2 Regional Psychiatric Hospitals are active while 12 District Hospitals are inactive. Six (6) of these inactive sites are expected to commence shortly subject to confirmation of land transfer at Borteyman now Texpo, Baatsona, deployment of contractors to Wadie,

Abetifi and Nyamesumyede and signing of contracts Stacked Scheme for Bantama and Ashaiman. Six (6) sites namely, Agbogbloshie, Adeiso, Nima, Accra (AMA), Dzorwulu and Osino are also under review due to issues such as demolition of temporary structures, high cost of grading, requiring extra land for decanting and high cost of construction.

7.2 Financial Performance for 2023

The Ministry had an approved budget of ***Fifteen Billion, Two Hundred and Eighty-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,284,915,255.00)***. Out of this amount, ***Eight Billion, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Four Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢8,764,670,893.00)*** was allocated for Compensation, ***Three Billion, Ninety-Five Million, Eighty-One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,095,081,950.00)*** was allocated for Goods and Services and ***Three Billion, Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Million, One Hundred and Sixty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,425,162,413.00)*** was allocated for the Ministry's Capital Expenditure.

The Ministry's major source of funding for 2023 was the Government of Ghana (GoG) with an allocation of ***Eight Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢8,270,974,958.00)***. ***Three Billion, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,886,926,154)*** was allocated from the Ministry's Internally Generated Funds (IGF) whilst Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) and Donor Support accumulated to ***One Hundred and Thirty Million, Four Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢130,474,624.00)*** and ***Two Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, Five Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,996,539,520.00)*** respectively.

The breakdown of the Ministry's 2023 Approved Budget is shown in Table 1 below

Table 1: Ministry's Approved Budget for 2023

Economic Classification	GOG (GHC)	ABFA (GHC)	IGF (GHC)	DONOR (GHC)	TOTAL (GHC)	%
Compensation	8,240,574,381	-	524,096,512	-	8,764,670,893	57.34
Goods and Services	26,373,510	-	2,790,770,640	277,937,800	3,095,081,950	20.25
Capex	4,027,067	130,474,624	572,059,002	2,718,601,720	3,425,162,413	22.41
Total	8,270,974,958	130,474,624	3,886,926,154	2,996,539,520	15,284,915,255	100
%	54.1	0.9	25.43	20	100	

Source: The Ministry's 2023 Budget Performance Presentation

In the course of the financial year, the Ministry's Budget was revised and increased to **Fifteen Billion, Nine Hundred and Forty-Four Million, Five Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 15,944,536,813.00)**, signifying a 1.9 % increase. Comparing the revised budget to the earlier approved budget (**GH¢15,284,915,255.00**) leaves a variance of **Six Hundred and Fifty-Nine Million, Six Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢659,621,558.00)**

The table below shows a breakdown of the Ministry's revised budget.

Table 2: 2023 Revised Budget for the Ministry

Source of Funds	Compensation of Employees (GHC)	Goods and Services (GHC)	Capex (GHC)	Total (GHC)	%
GOG	8,900,715,972	23,853,476	75,454,229	9,000,023,677	56.45
IGF	524,06,512	2,790,770,640	572,059,002	3,886,926,154	24.38
Donor	-	277,937,800	2,718,601,720	2,996,536,520	18.76
ABFA			61,047,462	61,047,462	0.38
Total	9,424,812,484	3,092,561,916	3,427,162,413	15,944,536,813	100

Source: The Ministry's 2023 Budget Performance Presentation

Table 3: 2023 Budget Execution as at September

Sources Of Fund	Approved Budget (GHC)	Actual Expend. (Jan-Sep) (GHC)	Variance (GHC)	(%)
GoG	9,000,023,677	6,755,395,240	2,244,628,437	75%
IGF	3,886,926,154	2,280,864,743	1,606,061,411	59%
ABFA	61,047,462	37,229,176	23,818,286	61%
Donor	2,996,539,520	489,610,488	2,506,929,032	16%
Total	15,944,536,813	9,563,099,647	6,381,437,166	60%

Source: The Ministry's 2023 Budget Performance Presentation

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2024

8.1 NON-FINANCAL

8.1.1 Main Priorities for 2024

The Ministry looks forward to achieve the following objectives:

- i. Scale up digitalization through the expansion of LHIMS to district level;
- ii. Implementation of Network of Practice;
- iii. Continuous strengthening of Health Regulation;
- iv. Establishment of the Ghana Health Security Centre to coordinate health emergency preparedness and response;
- v. Production, deployment and retention of health work force through Labour market analysis;
- vi. Develop IGF guidelines- to improve revenue collection and utilization;
- vii. Local production of anti-snake venom and other vaccines (private sector collaboration) with the newly created National Vaccine Institute as its first step towards local vaccine production in Ghana and Sub-Saharan Africa;
- viii. Operationalise the newly established Bioequivalent Centre in Ghana for the production and export of herbal medicines which would be clinically tested for efficacy in Ghana;
- ix. The Ministry will work with NHIA to implement the Revised Essential Service Package;

- x. Upgrade of the Sunyani Regional Hospital to a Teaching Hospital following Cabinet approval and its launch; and
- xi. Complete and commission of capital projects.

8.1.2 Capex Outlook for 2024

The Ministry intends to focus on progressing and completing ongoing projects to attain 100% completion as indicated below:

- i. Construction of 100-bed Urology and Nephrology Centre of Excellence at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital
- ii. Construction of 2 Regional and 6 District Hospitals: Sewua and Salaga would be completed and handed over
- iii. Reactivated 3 sites at Kumawu, Fomena and Tarkoradi European Flat Projects: Kumawu would be completed and handed over
- iv. Construction of 12 Hospitals in Eastern, Ashanti, Ahafo and Greater Accra, Manso NKwanta, Twedie, Drobonoso, Sabronum, Kpone Katamanso, Kwabeng, Achiase, Jumapo, Adukrom, Nkwatia and Mim
- v. Refurbishment of Asawinso Health Centre as treatment and Holding Centre, Asawinso Western North Region
- vi. Complete the construction, remodelling and refurbishment of the Treatment and Holding Centre, at Goaso, Ahafo Region Nalerigu North East, Tarkoradi Western Region and Sunyani, Bono Region.

8.2 ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION AND DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATION FOR 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

8.2.1 2024 Sector Budget

To enable the Ministry executive its mandate, an amount of ***Fifteen Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-Seven Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,577,237,278.00)*** has been allocated for the 2023 fiscal year. Out of the total amount, ***Eleven Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Nine Ghana***

Cedis (GH¢11,278,236,499.00) was allocated for Compensation, **Three Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,576,990,285.00)** was allocated Goods and Services and **Seven Hundred and Twenty-Two Million, Ten Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Four Ghana Cedis** was allocated for Capital Expenditure.

The table below shows a breakdown of the Ministry's budget.

Table 4: Ministry's financial projections for 2023

SOURCE OF FUNDS	COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES (GH¢)	GOODS & SERVICES (GH¢)	CAPEX (GH¢)	TOTAL (GH¢)	%
GOG	10,709,685,455	73,031,179	145,000,000	10,927,716,634	70.15
IGF	568,551,004	3,026,123,356	451,301,445	4,045,975,845	25.97
ABFA	-	-	-	-	
DONOR	-	477,835,750	125,70,049	603,544,799	3.8
TOTAL	11,278,236,499	3,576,990,285	722,010,494	15,577,237,278	100
%	72.4	23	4.6	100	

Source: 2023 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government

- In terms of sources of funding, GoG is the major source of funding of the Ministry with 70.15 percent, followed by the Ministry's IGF constituting 25.98 percent and Donor Support making 3.875 percent.
- By Economic Classifications or Items, Compensation takes 72.4 percent of the Ministry's Budget whilst Capex and Goods and Services constitute 4.6 percent and 23 percent respectively.

Table 5: Allocation to Sub-Programmes

Sub-programme	Source of Fund				Total (GH¢)	%
	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	DONOR (GH¢)	ABFA (GH¢)		
Management & Administration	3,059,760,658	23,666,050	-	-	4,796,178,693	28
Health Service Delivery	7,212,292,978		603,544,799	-	9,882,637,036	66
Human Resource for Development	437,108,665	161,839,034	-	-	598,947,699	4
Health Sector Regulation	218,554,333	80,919,517	-	-	299,473,850	2
Total	10,927,716,634	4,045,975,845	603,544,799	-	15,577,237,278	100%

Source: 2023 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government

- By Sub-programme allocation, a greater share is allocated to Health Service Delivery (66%).
- 28 percent is allocated for Management and Administration programme whereas 4 percent and 2 percent are allocated for Human Resource for Development and Health Sector Regulation programmes respectively.

Table 6: Budget Annual % Change by Sources of Fund

Sources of Funds	2023 (GHC)	2024 (GHC)	Variance	Percentage Change
GOG	8,270,974,958	10,927,716,634	10,927,716,634	32.12%
IGF	3,886,926,154	4,045,975,845	4,045,975,845	4.09%
Donor	2,996,539,520	603,544,799	603,544,799	-79.86%
ABFA	130,474,624	-	-	-
TOTAL	15,284,915,256	15,577,237,278	15,577,237,278	1.91%

Source: The Ministry's 2023 Budget Performance Presentation

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY (FDA)– 100% RETENTION OF IGF

The Committee observed that the primary source of funding for the FDA is Government of Ghana (GoG) subvention which is used for staff compensation and the internally generated funds (IGF) is used for all other operational expenses such staff compensation, goods and services and capital expenditure. The FDA currently retains 70% of revenue for its operations. This notwithstanding is woefully inadequate to meet the operational expenditure obligations required to protect public health.

The FDA in its submission to the Committee informed the Committee that they are unable to perform their mandate due to lack of adequate logistics and resources. There is a backlog of inspections which has led to inspection waiting time of up to 5 months thus negatively affecting operational efficiency and exposing consumers to the risk of unsafe products.

The Committee therefore recommends that the FDA be decapped of the 30% IGF as has been done for the teaching hospitals. This will enable the FDA to procure new and replace aged laboratory and field equipment required to monitor substandard and falsified (SF) products on the market, increase their presence at porous borders to prevent influx of SF products, procure additional vehicles to clear backlog of inspections, and prevent food poisoning incidents and street vended foods. It will also enable the FDA to improve technology to effectively carry out critical regulatory functions required to protect public health and safety. The Committee is of the view that if FDA is allowed to retain 100% of its IGF, Government will only pay compensation of staff of FDA.

Furthermore, allowing FDA to retain 100% of its revenue would grant the Authority financial autonomy and flexibility in resource allocation. With complete control over their funds, FDA can streamline its operations, invest in advanced infrastructure, and adopt modern technologies to improve regulatory processes. This would lead to enhanced operational efficiency, reduced bureaucracy, and expedited services, ultimately benefiting consumers, businesses, and the overall economy.

9.2 STAFF ATTRITION AND BRAIN DRAIN

The Committee observed that one of the key challenges in the health delivery sector including the Ghana Health Service (GHS) as the increasing levels of staff attrition and brain drain. The Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH) and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) recorded attrition rates of 64 and 81 respectively in 2023, mainly as a result of staff vacating posts in search of better opportunities. The other health institutions facing the same problem are Cape coast Teaching Hospital (CTH), Ho Teaching Hospital (HTH), Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) and the Ahmadiyya Mission Hospital (AMH) who presented their budget to the Committee for the first time.

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) indicated that staff leaving to seek greener pastures abroad do not inform their institutions so these health delivery institutions classify all those who have either vacated posts or embarked on leave without pay or resigned as having migrated abroad. Using this classification, the GHS puts the total number of

personnel who have left the country to seek greener pastures at 3688 in the last three years.

They further indicated that, in absolute figures, if they compare the number of nurses recruited in the last three years to the number that have left, the latter is small; however, what makes it worrying is the fact that it is the professional and critical nurses who have vacated their positions.

Regardless, the Committee expressed concern because the numbers keep doubling year on year and cautioned the GHS to as a matter of urgency find ways of addressing this challenge. The Service assuaged the fears of the Committee by indicating that they are taking steps to salvage the situation. For example, they have revised and doubled their study leave for unprofessional nurses as far back as 2021 and anticipate that by the middle of next year, most of these unprofessional nurses that took advantage would have qualified to fill the gap created.

The Ministry acknowledged this concern and explained that efforts are made to improve the remuneration and working conditions of majority of the health delivery institutions with the aim of maintaining their personnel. The Tamale Teaching Hospital in an attempt to reduce their attrition rate, train and nurtures their own specialists and doctors with the aim to foster their commitment to the hospital.

The Committee commended Tamale Teaching Hospital for their initiative and encouraged all health delivery institutions and especially the teaching hospitals to apply the mechanism employed by the Tamale Teaching Hospital to reduce the level of attrition.

9.3 LEGAL REGIME FOR SOME HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

The Committee identified a critical challenge in certain health institutions, specifically the absence of Legislative Instruments (L.I) and amendments to the Health Professionals and Regulatory Bodies Act, 2013 still for pending submission to Parliament. Notably affected are entities such as the Medical and Dental Council, Health Facilities Regulatory Agency (HeFRA), the Traditional Medicine Practice Centre, Allied Health Professionals Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The Ministry acknowledged this concern and assured the Committee that steps are underway to address it. According to the Ministry, the required groundwork for the LIs have been completed, pending approval by Cabinet and the respective institutions before submission to the Attorney-General's Department and subsequent presentation to Parliament.

Owing to the relevance of L.I to the regulatory bodies, the Committee urged the Ministry to expedite the process to enable the victim institutions operate fully without any role conflicts with other health institutions.

9.4 FUNDING GAP AND ENCROACHMENT OF PROPERTY OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

The Committee observed that the allocated budget for the Mental Health Authority in the upcoming fiscal year (2024) is woefully inadequate, especially given the Authority's responsibility for directly treating individuals with disabilities.

Owing to of this concern, the Committee suggested that the Mental Health Authority advocates for individuals with severe mental health conditions to be recognized as disabled. This recognition would enable them to benefit from allocations from the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF), specifically designated for the National Council on Persons with Disability.

Additionally, the Committee recommended an augmentation in the allocation formula from the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) to both the Mental Health Authority and Psychiatric Hospitals. This increase is deemed crucial to effectively address the growing needs and challenges within the mental health sector.

The Committee also recognised that one of the key challenges of the Authority has to do with the encroachment of the properties of the Psychiatric Hospitals. The Ankaful and Pantang Hospital are victims of the issue of encroachment.

In this regard, the Ministry explained that it has put in measures to resolve the issue of encroachment, which include leasing with the Police Service and Military and also seeking for the increase of the budgetary allocations of the Authority to enable the psychiatric hospitals to put up walls to help safeguard the properties.

The Committee recommended that in the interim the psychiatric hospitals should plant trees as boundary or fence as an alternate mechanism.

9.5 DIGITALISATION OF PHARMACY SERVICES

The Committee was informed that the Pharmacy Council in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority commences a 3-month pilot rollout of the national electronic pharmacy (e-pharmacy) platform. The National Electronic Pharmacy Platform (NEPP) is a technological platform commissioned by the Pharmacy Council of Ghana to facilitate safe and secure access to medications and pharmaceutical services in Ghana while protecting the consumers. The platform offers subscribers unlimited access to online Pharmacies and Pharmacists for medicine purchases or enquiry, and a courier service to deliver medications within a limited time frame to individuals who make requests.

The platform, the first of its kind on a national scale in Africa is an initiative of the Pharmacy Council with support from the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Ghana Health Service (GHS), National Identification Authority (NIA), Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (PSGH), Food and Drug Authority (FDA), Health Facility Regulatory Authority (HEFRA), Medical and Dental Council (MDC), Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), private pharmaceutical sector among others.

With this initiative, NHIA card-bearing members visiting the selected public hospitals (Korle Bu Polyclinic, Police Hospital, and Lekma Hospital) will be able to request for their prescription medications to be served online through either the hospital's pharmacy or other licensed electronic pharmacies where they can have their medications delivered to them and be assured of quality products and services. The tiered rollout of the National Electronic Pharmacy Platform (NEPP) commenced in January 2023 in all Private Health Insurance Association of Ghana facilities nationwide and is part of plans to enforce standards, improve access to pharmaceutical services, and ensure that consumers can purchase medications without having to visit a physical pharmacy

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9.6 FIVE-YEAR REBRANDING STRATEGIC PLAN

The Committee was informed that the GHS has developed a Five-Year rebranding strategic plan (2022-2026) to improve quality of care as part of efforts to make quality healthcare services available and accessible to the Ghanaian populace, as well as improve clients' experiences.

The key strategies and activities of the Plan over a five-year period (2022-2026), aims to among other things:

1. Improve engagements with the public, through the establishment of social media pages, on issues of public health concern, misinformation, disinformation, and infodemic management.
2. Revitalise and bring to the doorstep of the citizenry routine (i.e., monthly) health promotion and education programmes on disease conditions and burdens in the country and also ensure the visibility and proper signature/identification of GHS facilities, services, and staff to increase access to healthcare.
3. Collaborate with stakeholders for the expansion of health services to deprived and hard-to-reach areas.
4. Advocate for the provision of state-of-the-art equipment and improvement of existing ones for improved service delivery, establish and ensure effective implementation of client feedback systems, and adopt and use innovative medical and health interventions for improved health outcomes.

The plan intends to raise the needed financial resources from Development Partners, the communities served by the GHS, corporate bodies, civil society organisations, public-private partnerships, and internally generated funds.

Ultimately, the rebranding drive should bring about visibility, create more awareness about the services the GHS provides, increase client care and loyalty, as well as improve and maintain service quality.

9.7 NETWORK OF PRACTICE

The Committee identified that the Ghana Health Service as part of its key achievement for 2023 has put in efforts to roll out an approach called Networks of Practice (NoPS), to increase access to quality essential health care and population-based service. According to the GHS, the Network of Practice is a group of public-private health

service delivery sites deliberately interconnected through an administrative and clinical management model.

The existing Health centres will be upgraded to become Model Health Centres in a phased approach. The Networks of Practice with Model Health Centre as the hub is an approach that is going to strengthen the already existing PHC system. The NoPS will include private facilities as well as faith-based facilities at sub district level and support them better work optimally to strengthen primary health care services in the country. This includes more staff to run a 24-hour Service as well as expansion of scope of services. The health centres will be retooled and some infrastructure improvement as well.

Staff capacity building in technical areas as well as for leadership and governance will also be prioritized. The CHPS and clinics, maternity homes and others shall form spokes of these upgraded or model Health Centres. They will also continue to receive the needed support to ensure that they perform optimally and will receive more support from the Hub

The Committee was impressed at this approach and applauded the GHS for this initiative. The GHS appealed to the Committee and Parliament as a whole to spearhead the advocacy to ensure maximum support by all and sundry as well as the successful implementation of the NoPS.

9.8 FUNDING SITUATION AT GHANA COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (GCPS)

The Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons is a postgraduate medical college with the function to promote specialist education, postgraduate education and continuous development in medicine, surgery and related disciplines.

The Committee observed that the Ghana the College had an estimated budget of GH¢20,683,869.00, which constituted an IGF projection of GH¢18,950,230. Scholarship Secretariate is indebted to the College to the tune of GH¢19 million. The Committee was concerned about the funding situation of the GCPS. The Committee therefore inquired from the College how this debt came about and the College indicated that this debt is as result of examination fees. The Committee noted that the funding of postgraduate medical education is the responsibility of the Government

of Ghana, however, the initial funding arrangement was to be funded through NHIA but it was later decided that the funding would be through the Ghana Scholarships Secretariat with support from NHIA.

They explained that their fees are regulated by the Fees and Charges Act and are not allowed to charge trainees the full cost of examination. The difference what is supposed to be covered by Government and the Government Scholarship Secretariate. The Committee identified that the College raised a sum of GH¢12,602,083.00 out of the total IGF projections as a result of the no release of funds from the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat for the training of residents and fellows for 2023. This payment from the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat according to the College, constitutes a fair percentage of the College's IGF.

When the Committee inquired as to the state of the indebtedness, the Ministry of Health indicated that it was due to fiscal constraint and because the 2023 is about to end, they are unlikely to receive anything.

According to the College, they need to receive these releases from the Ghana Scholarship Secretariate as soon as possible because they are slowly getting to the point where they would be unable to run their examinations. They lamented that without these releases they would have to borrow to organise the March 2024 examinations and are most likely going to be unable to organise the second one in September 2024.

The current financial situation at Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons is such that if the College does not receive any funds by early next year, it would be impossible to conduct the March postgraduate examinations.

The Committee is therefore appealing for support to ensure that training fees which are owed by Government are paid to enable the GCPS run the postgraduate medical training activities smoothly.

9.9 AGENDA 111

The Committee commented on the progress of work and was informed that, currently, 90 out of the 102 district hospitals under the Ghana Priority Health Infrastructure Project (GPHIP) referred to as Agenda 111 which commenced in 2020. Agenda 111 are being funded by a special purpose funding vehicle, Health GIIF. The Committee

observed that as at November, 2023 US\$ 251,439,341.06 has been spent on the project out of the total contract sum of US\$ 1,277,260,553.44 for the project, representing 19.69 percent. Works on the two regional psychiatric hospitals are ongoing, however, the other regional hospitals have been put on hold because of International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities.

The Project Implementation Committee are monitoring the progress of the projects and meet regularly for review, and they indicated that as at the moment, they would require about US\$1.4 billion to complete all the projects.

On their part, Hospital Infrastructure Group, contractor for project management and design consultancy for the Agenda 111 project indicated that 293 contracts are to be executed under the project out of which 287 have been awarded. Of the 287 awarded contracts, 270 are active.

According to the GIIF, the 17 inactive contractors are as a result of unavailability of land, some sites having engineering challenges and other sites proposed for rehabilitation and are currently in the process of being reactivated

9.10 NATIONAL VACCINE INSTITUTE

The Government of Ghana in response to the COVID-19 vaccine supply issues, in February 2021 established a Presidential Committee on Vaccine Development and Manufacturing. After an assessment of the country's capacity and extensive engagements, the Presidential Committee developed a Roadmap for Vaccine Development and Manufacturing in Ghana.

The Government of Ghana adopted the Vaccine Roadmap, National Vaccine Policy and Parliament enacted the National Vaccine Institute Act 1097 in February 2023 with Presidential Assent in April 2023 to establish the legal framework for local vaccine and sera development and manufacturing.

The Committee recognized that the institute will begin full operations in 2024, which will involve the recruitment of personnel with a total budget of GH¢78,800,000.00, solely to be funded by the Government of Ghana.

According to the Institute, it had a total of GH¢282,597.45 as an advance from the Ministry of Health for Compensation and Goods and Services when the Institute commenced operation.

The Committee, while appreciating Government's commitment to the financial needs of the Vaccine Institute because of the immense benefit that the nation and continent stand to gain from the work of the institute, impressed upon the Ministry of Finance to treat the Food and Drugs Authority with similar commitment.

9.11 AMBULANCE SERVICE

The National Ambulance Service indicated to the Committee that despite their vital role, they still struggle to get releases for their budgetary allocation. For example, out of the GH¢67,500,000.00 allocated to them, they only received GH¢20,176,000.00.

They also lamented to the Committee that insufficient fuel supply coupled with frequent fluctuations in fuel prices are impeding the smooth operations of the Service.

They requested that the Service be provided with a dedicated source of funding. This, they believe would go a long way to help the Service undertake its mandate to the people of Ghana.


10.0 CONCLUSION

After carefully examining the 2024 Annual Budget Estimates and 2023 Budget Performance of the Ministry of Health as well as the Ministry's Outlook for 2024, the Committee hereby recommends that this House approves the total sum of ***Fifteen Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-Seven Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,577,237,278.00)*** for the operations of the Ministry of Health. The Committee further requests that the Ministry of Finance will release funds regularly and honour all its commitments to the Ministry of Health to ensure effective performance of their mandate.

Respectfully submitted

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.....
HON. NANA AYEWE AFRIYE
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH


.....
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