

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



REPORT

of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

on the

2023 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

of the

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

for the

2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

DECEMBER, 2022

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON THE
ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
FOR THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2023 Financial Year on Tuesday, 24th November, 2022 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 2023 Financial Year to the Committee on Health for consideration and report.

1.2 The Committee met from Wednesday, 14th December, to Monday, 19th December, 2022 and considered the annual budget estimates of the Ministry of Health. The Hon. Minister for Health, Mr. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, and the Chief Director of the Ministry, Mr. Kwabena Boadu Oku-Afari, as well as officials of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, and the under-listed Agencies under the Ministry were in attendance:

i. The Ministry

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

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

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 expresses its appreciation to the Hon. Minister, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Health, Heads of the Agencies and officials of the Ministries of Health and Finance for attending upon the Committee to assist in its deliberations.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee availed itself of the following documents during its deliberations:

- 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 2022 Financial Year.
- vi. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Financial Year.
- vii. The Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921)

3.0 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.

4.0 GOAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Goal of the Ministry of is to have a healthy and productive population that reproduces itself safely.

5.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry is responsible for the formulation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and resources mobilisation in the health sector. 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;
- vi. Provide pre-hospital care during accidents, emergencies and disasters.

6.0 PERFORMANCE FOR 2022

6.1. NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

6.1.1 Management and Administration Programme

As part of the oversight responsibilities of the Ministry, a number of policies were developed and disseminated in 2022. Some policies developed include the introduction of the Nursing and Midwifery Mentorship Policy Guidelines to improve the regulation of nurses and midwives, and the National Medicine Pricing Strategy to aid in the control and regulation of pharmaceutical products in Ghana. The Universal Health Coverage Roadmap (2020-2030) and Health Sector Medium Term Development Plan (HSMTDP) 2022-2025 were disseminated.

The Committee was informed that the development and review of the following policies are ongoing; Health Financing Strategy, Referral Policy, Essential Health Services Package, Medical Tourism Policy, National Medical Oxygen Policy, Health Information System Strategy (2022-2025) and Policy Guidelines for COVID-19 Management at Community Pharmacies.

The Ministry is undertaking a number of projects in support of Government's drive to increase access to and improve quality of care,. They include the construction and equipping of an 80-bed district hospitals at Osiem, Assin Kuyea and Kutre and a 40-bed hospital at Dormaa Akwamu; the upgrading of Wamfie Polyclinic to a 60-bed district hospital; construction of three district hospitals at Ayensuano, Offinso and Effiduase; completion of maternity blocks at Tafo and Kumasi South Hospitals; construction of residential facility at Abrepo for Kumasi South Hospital and supply and installation of medical equipment for eight selected district hospitals.

The Committee noted that a total of 122 nurses were transferred to Barbados as part of the bilateral agreement between the governments of Ghana and Barbados. As at September 2022, a total of 4,126 health professionals sought clearance to practice outside the country. Government is also working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Kingdom (UK) Government to regulate migration of health workers from Ghana to the UK.

6.1.2 Health Service Delivery Programme

To improve access to specialist services across the country, some new services were introduced at the teaching hospitals. Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital introduced the Cardiac Angiography and Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry.

The Tamale Teaching Hospital, with funding from a philanthropist, established a radiotherapy centre to improve oncology services in the northern part of the country and introduced cardiology, colposcopy, urogynecology, endoscopy and CT-Scan services. The Ho Teaching Hospital also introduced CT-Scan and endoscopy services and acquired a mobile clinic van to support outreach services.

As part of the Universal Health Coverage Roadmap target of strengthening primary health care services at the lower levels, the Ghana Health Service is reorganising service delivery at the lower level through the Network of Practice concept, which makes the health center the hub of service delivery. Guidelines

for the operation of the Network of Practice were developed and stakeholder consultations are ongoing.

As part of government efforts to eliminate malaria, an application (LSM Implement app) for mapping and treatment of mosquito breeding sites in the districts was developed and is being implemented.

To improve adolescent health and counselling services for the youth, the Ghana Health Service developed a mobile application called “You Must Know (YMK) Mobile App” to address adolescent and youth challenges online, and facilitate referral for further needs or specialised care.

Access to quality of blood remain a challenge. To help address this, the National Blood Service launched and disseminated the national strategy for screening of donated blood and immune-haematological testing. The Ministry also collaborated with Zipline Drone Services to distribute blood and blood products to hard-to-reach facilities.

The Ministry disseminated the Non-Communicable Diseases Policy to help deal with emerging non-communicable diseases.

As part of the implementation of the policy, the Christian Health Association of Ghana is carrying out research dubbed “Akoma Pa” to understand emerging non-communicable diseases in 85 facilities across six regions with a targeted enrolment of 70,000 clients.

To support the development of traditional medicines, the Centre for Plant Medicine Research analysed 334 herbal products, and conducted toxicity tests and efficacy studies on four and six herbal medicines, respectively.

6.1.3 Health Infrastructure

In 2022, Government completed the following projects: construction of CHPS compounds at Debiso, Nsutam, and Tiawia; a district hospital at Konongo; treatment and holding centres at Aflao, Elubo, Keta, Kumasi South, and Sawua; and Fevers Unit and COVID-19 Isolation Centre at Korle Bu. The

following projects are nearing completion; construction of regional hospital at Sawua; one district hospital and five polyclinics in Western Region at Akontombra, Bogoso, Elubo, Mpohor, Nsuaem, and Wassa Dunkwa; expansion and equipping of four selected facilities at Aburi (Kom), Akwapim Mampong (Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital), Atibie and Kibi; Bolgatanga Regional Hospital Phase II; and treatment and holding centres at Asawinso, Cape Coast, Goaso, Pantang, and Zebilla.

6.1.4 Human Resource Development for Health Development Programme

To improve quality of care, the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons developed guidelines for postgraduate training. The Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives also introduced specialty training in 22 areas and enrolled 643 trainees. The Tamale Teaching Hospital was also accredited as a post graduate training centre by the West African College of Physicians and Surgeons (WACPS).

6.1.5 Health Sector Regulation Programme

To strengthen the mandate of health regulatory agencies, the Ghana Psychology Council developed Legislative Instruments for Part V of the Health Professions Regulatory Bodies Act, 2013 (Act 857), and Health Facilities Regulatory Agency for Health Institutions and Facilities Act, 2011 (Act 829). As part of international collaboration, the Food and Drugs Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority to achieve Maturity Level 3 and collaborate on mRNA vaccine manufacture.

6.1.6 COVID-19

As at 20th November, 2022, the cumulated total confirmed cases of COVID-19 was 171,008 with an active case count of 23 and 1,461 unfortunate deaths. A total of 2,521,580 tests have been conducted since the outbreak of COVID-19 with a positivity rate of 6.8. Government has placed vaccination as the major COVID-19 prevention strategy with 12,034,108 persons (37.9 percent of the total population) receiving at least 1 dose, 8,977,750 persons (28.3percent of total population) fully vaccinated and 2,544,214 persons receiving at least one Booster dose.

6.1.7 National Health Insurance Authority

Active membership under the NHIS as at 30th September, 2022 is 15.5 million representing 49.3 percent of Ghana's population. The mobile renewal system continues to improve the re-enrolment fortunes of the National Health Insurance Scheme since the nationwide rollout, with cumulative mobile renewals of 23.9 million from January 2019 to August 2022. The National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) improved its claims management processes with emphasis on e-claims and paperless systems at all four Claims Processing Centres.

6.1.8 Agenda 111 Health Infrastructure Project

As part of the Government's goal to provide affordable universal access to health services for all Ghanaians, and in line with the plan to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 111 project, comprising 101 district hospitals, 7 regional hospitals and 3 psychiatric hospitals, work commenced on 89 out of the 101 district hospital sites, and 2 regional psychiatric hospitals in Kumasi and Tamale.

Architectural and engineering designs, and tender evaluation were completed for the redevelopment of the Accra Psychiatric Hospital and 5 new regional hospitals. Construction of these hospitals will commence on completion of all necessary approvals. The Agenda 111 project implementation experienced some challenges, notable among them include; land acquisition and documentation, and limited site suitability (size and topography) in some selected districts particularly in urban areas, necessitating the re-design of the hospitals.

6.2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR 2022

The Ministry had an approved Budget of **Ten Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, Five Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Cedis (GH¢10,996,595,000.00)**. Out of this amount, **Six Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Twenty-One Thousand Cedis (GH¢ 6,573,021,000.00)** was allocated for Compensation, **Two Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight**

Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand Cedis (GH¢2,578,238,000.00) was allocated for Goods and Services and **One Billion, Eight Hundred and Forty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Cedis (GH¢1,845,336,000.00)** was allocated for the Ministry's Capital Expenditure vote.

The Ministry's major Source of Funding for 2022 was the Government of Ghana (GoG) with an allocation of **Six Billion, Seven Hundred and Eleven Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand Cedis (GH¢6,711,827,000.00)**. **Two Billion, Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand Cedis (GH¢2,948,128,000.00)** was allocated from Internally Generated Fund (IGF) whilst Donor Support and Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) accumulated to **One Billion, Three Hundred and Four Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Cedis (GH¢ 1,304,216,000.00)** and **Thirty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand Cedis (GH¢ 32,424,000.00)** respectively.

The breakdown of the Ministry's 2022 Approved Budget is shown in Table 1 below

Table 1: 2022 Approved Budget for the Ministry

ITEM	SOURCE OF FUNDING				TOTAL (GH¢)
	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	DONOR (GH¢)	ABFA (GH¢)	
EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION	6,165,200,000	407,821,000	-	-	6,573,021,000
GOODS AND SERVICES	336,932,000	2,162,824,000	78,482,000	-	2,578,238,000
CAPEX (ASSETS)	209,695,000	377,483,000	1,225,734,000	32,424,000	1,845,336,000
TOTAL	6,711,827,000	2,948,128,000	1,304,216,000	32,424,000	10,996,595,000

Source: Ministry's 2022 Annual Budget Performance Presentation

During the course of the financial year, the Ministry's Budget was revised. The earlier approved total Budget of **Ten Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, Five Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Cedis (GH¢10,996,595,000.00)** was reduced to **Ten Billion, Seven Hundred and Forty-**

Five Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixteen Cedis (GH¢10,745,793,716.00), creating a variance of Two hundred and Fifty Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Cedis (GH¢250,771,287.00).

Table 2 below shows the breakdown of the revised Budget.

Table 2: 2022 Revised Budget for the Ministry

ITEM	SOURCE OF FUNDING				TOTAL (GH¢)
	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	DONOR (GH¢)	ABFA (GH¢)	
EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION	6,165,200,000	407,821,000	-	-	6,573,021,000
GOODS AND SERVICES	186,810,116	2,162,824,000	78,482,000	-	2,428,116,116
CAPEX (ASSETS)	109,015,600	377,483,000	1,225,734,000	32,424,000	1,744,656,600
TOTAL	6,461,025,716	2,948,128,000	1,304,216,000	32,424,000	10,745,793,716

Source: Ministry's 2022 Budget Performance Presentation

Table 3: 2022 Government of Ghana (GoG) Budget vs Budget Allotment Ceiling as at September, 2022

Item	Approved Budget (GH¢)	Allotment as at September (GH¢)	Variance (GH¢)
COMPENSATION	6,165,200,000.00	5,026,580,716.91	1,138,619,283.09
GOODS & SERVICES	186,810,116.00	11,193,182.90	175,616,933.10
CAPEX (GOG & ABFA)	109,015,600.00	39,030,275.85	69,985,324.15
TOTAL	6,461,025,716.00	5,076,804,175.66	1,384,221,540.34

Source: Ministry's 2022 Budget Performance Presentation

With regards to GoG funds allocated to the Ministry, the Ministry had an amount of *Five Billion, Seventy-Six Million, Eight Hundred and four Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy-Five Cedis Sixty-Six (GH¢ 5,076,804,175.66)* out of the *Six Billion, Four Hundred and Sixty-One Million, Twenty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixteen Cedis (GH¢ 6,461,025,716.00)* allocated for the Ministry's 2022 Budget leading to a variance of *One Billion, Three Hundred and Eighty-Four Million, Two Hundred and Twenty- One Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty Cedis Thirty-Four Peswas (GH¢ 1,384,221,540.34)*.

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2023

In 2023, the Ministry will continue to focus on the following Policy objectives:

8.1 Management and Administration

8.1.1 Essential services for the population

- Increase the availability of essential health service packages across the continuum of care at all levels
- Improve EPI coverage in urban centres
- Continue the implementation of the policy on HIV Test, Treat and Track (90 90 90), Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Option and B plus and reduction of Mother to Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV
- Eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Improve school health and nutrition services
- Establish the Ghana CDC
- Establish the Vaccine Manufacturing Institute
- Introduce the Malaria Vaccine

8.1.2 Management of clinical and public health emergencies

- Strengthen institutions to deliver responsive pre-hospital and clinical emergency services
- Set up and strengthen institutions to deliver responsive public health emergency services

8.1.3 Quality of care and information management

- Institutionalise quality standards and practices in the delivery of health services

- Strengthen the management and quality assurance of national laboratories and infectious disease centers
- Set up and make functional health systems research and innovation framework

8.1.4 Human resource performance

- Ensure the production, equitable deployment and retention of health workforce
- Increase the pre-service and in-service training of healthcare workers in management of NCDs
- Increase the national capacity of delivery of mental health services
- Enhance human resource capacity for public health emergencies and medical emergency services

8.1.5 Health policy, financing and system strengthening

- Advocate for increased GOG revenue collection and allocation to the health sector
- Increase population coverage and sustainability of health insurance
- Strengthen the capacity of Ministry of Health and its agencies to mobilise resources
- Increase active coverage of the NHIS, particularly indigent categories

8.1.6 Sector effectiveness

- Establish sustainable programmes for prevention, screening and early detection of NCDs and cancers focusing on wellness and geriatric care
- Strengthen and ensure compliance with referral processes and procedures between all levels of care
- Increase partnerships for better access to health services through the One-Health approach
- Strengthen the health regulatory bodies for improved efficiency
- Improving health infrastructure at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary facilities including Health Information Systems
- Continue the implementation of the Supply Chain Master Plan

- Improve and harmonise provider payment systems to increase the efficiency of spending
- Scale up the establishment of Network of Practice (NoP) of Service Providers in all Districts

8.2 COVID-19 and other pandemics

In 2023, the Ministry of Health and its Agencies will continue to place vaccination as the major COVID-19 strategy while implementing the proven interventions adopted since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic i.e.

- Surveillance
- Risk Communication
- Containment and Case Management
- Testing and Laboratory Services
- Vaccination

The Ministry and its Agencies will continue to improve the surveillance systems and education to help identify and promptly address pandemics.

The Ministry also intends to undertake the following:

- Work with partners
- Establish the National Vaccine Institute
- Establish the Ghana Centre for Disease Control

8.4 Health Infrastructure

The Ministry intends to achieve the following:

- Completion and equipping of KATH Maternity and Children's Block
- Construction of new Eastern Regional Hospital, new Western Regional Hospital, new District Hospital in Obuasi, Anyinam and Enyiresi,
- Rehabilitation of Effia Nkwanta Hospital and Obuasi Old Hospital
- Construction of District Hospital at Salaga which is ongoing and at 68percent completion.
- Completion of the Reactivated 3 sites at Kumawu, Fomena and Takoradi European Quarters
- Construction of Urology and Nephrology Centre of Excellence at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital

- Construction of 12 Hospitals in Eastern, Ashanti, Ahafo and Suame, Manso Nkwanta, Twedie, Drobonoso, Sabronum, Kpone Katamanso, Kwabeng, Achiase, Jumapo, Adukrom, Nkwatia and Mim
- Bolga Regional Hospital (Phase II)
- Completion of the New 400-Bed Maternity Block Korle Bu Teaching Hospital
- Construction and equipping of Five district hospitals in Osiem, Assin Kuyeha and Kutre, 40-Bed Hospital Dormaa Akwamu and upgrade Wamfie Polyclinic to a 60-bed District Hospital
- Construction of 3 District Hospitals Ayensuano, Offinso and Effiduase and Completion of Maternity Blocks Tafo Hospital & Kumasi South Hospital and Residential Facility Abrepo for Kumasi South Hospital
- Supply and Installation of Medical Equipment for Eight (8) Selected District Hospitals
- Supply of Ambulances and Related Training and Maintenance Services

8.5 2023 SECTOR BUDGET

To enable the Ministry execute its mandate, an amount 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)** have been allocated for the 2023 fiscal year.

Table 4: Financial Projections for 2023

MINISTRY OF HEALTH BUDGET 2023						
Economic Classification	GOG	ABFA	IGF	DONOR	TOTAL	percent
Compensation	8,240,574,381	-	524,096,512	-	8,764,670,893	57.34
Goods & 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	100.0
%	54.1	0.9	25.43	20	100.0	

Source: 2023 Budget Statement

- In terms of sources of funding, GoG constitutes the largest source of funding of the Ministry with 54 percent, followed by IGF 25.43 percent and Donor 20 percent.
- By Economic Classification, Compensation has a larger share of 57 percent followed by Capex 22.4 percent and Goods and Services with 20.25 percent.

Table 5: The MOH Budget as a Share of the National Budget

Year	National Budget (GH¢)	Ministry Budget (GH¢)	Ministry as percent of National Budget
2018	67,279,955,085	4,422,348,243	6.57
2019	78,771,833,602	6,037,506,718	7.66
2020	98,036,692,358	6,587,092,478	6.72
2021	129,032,804,201	8,533,590,223	6.61
2022	145,472,347,866	10,996,595,000	7.56
2023	227,805,332,781	15,284,915,256	6.71

Source: National Budget Statements

- The Ministry's budget reduced from 7.56percent to 6.71percent.
- The Abuja Declaration of 2001 recommends that governments allocate 15percent of their budgets to the health sector.
- Nominally, MOH budget for 2023 increased by 40percent when compared with the allocation for 2022.

Table 6: Allocation to Sub-Programmes

BUDGET ALLOCATION TO SUBPROGRAMMES- MOH 2023						
SUBPROGRAMMES	GOG	IGF	ABFA	DONOR	GRANDTOTAL	percent
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	1,428,763,472	26,387,468	114,474,624	2,718,601,720	4,288,227,284	28.1
HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY	5,987,116,856	1,742,887,157	16,000,000	277,937,800	8,023,941,813	52.5
TERTIARY AND SPECIALISED SERVICES	628,029,113	1,424,094,032			2,052,123,145	13.4
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT	170,564,191	478,592,514			649,156,705	4.2
HEALTH SECTOR REGULATION	56,497,327	214,964,983			271,462,310	1.8
GRAND TOTAL	8,270,970,959	3,886,926,154	130,474,624	2,996,539,520	15,284,911,257	100.0

Source: 2023 PBB Estimates, MOH

- By Sub programme allocations, a greater share of MOH's 2023 budget is allocated to Health Service delivery. (52.5 percent)
- 25.1 percent of the budget of MOH is allocated to Management and Administration and 13.4 percent goes to Tertiary and Specialised Services.

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the consideration of the 2023 Budget Estimates, the Committee made the following observations and recommendations:

9.1 PROGRESS REPORT ON AGENDA 111

The Committee requested for a status report on the government’s flagship project on health; the Agenda 111 which includes the construction of 111 hospitals across the country. This comprises of 101 District Hospitals, 2 No. Regional Psychiatric Hospitals, 7 No Regional Hospitals including the rehabilitation of Effia-Nkwanta hospital and 1 Accra Psychiatric Hospital.

There are 293 contractors engaged through the Public Procurement Authority (PPA) for the construction of the 101 district and 2 psychiatric hospitals. Out of this number, sixteen (16) of the contractors have not been on site because of land related issues and two (2) are yet to submit the required documentation for the process. The Committee noted that an overall site progress made on the entire project as at October 2022 is 14.8 percent complete. Among the reasons adduced for the delay include; site topography-rocky nature of sites require reengineering to make them suitable for the project, delay in lead mobilising to site due to delay in receipt of advance payment, slow progress of some contractors on site, access to materials and long haulage distances, weather conditions – Heavy rainfall and high winds, litigation and compensation issues and delay in renewal of Bonds to facilitate processing of IPCs among others.

The Committee was informed that since the project is being financed by the health component of the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF). At the rate of progress, it was evident that only 20 percent of the District hospitals could be ready in 2024. With respect to the financial report on the project, an amount of **Two Billion, Six Hundred and Forty-One Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Thousand, Seventy-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,641,667,078)** was to be disbursed over three years. As at November 2022, an amount of **One Billion, Four Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,427,761,777)** representing 54 percent of budget allocated have been received. The breakdown is as follows;

Table 7: Total Funding In 3 Years: Budget vrs Actual As At November 2022

YEAR	BUDGETARY AMOUNT(GHS)	ACTUAL RECEIVED(GHS)	VARIANCE(GHS)
2020	600,000,000	600,000,000	-

2021	1,081,914,186	362,697,552	(719,216,634)
2022	959,752,892	465,064,225	(494,688,667)
TOTAL	2,641,667,078	1,427,761,777	(1,213,905,301)

Source: Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund

9.2 INADEQUATE RELEASES OF FUNDS

The Committee observed that Government of Ghana (GoG) allocations to Goods and Services for the Ministry and its agencies were inadequate. In the 2022 budgetary allocations, an amount of **One Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Ten Thousand, One Hundred and Sixteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢186,810,116)** was allocated by GOG for Goods and Services for the MOH headquarters. As at September 2022, **only Nine Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy-three Ghana Cedis (GH¢9,432,973)** (5 %) of Goods and Services had been released. This affected the Ministry's operations to support monitoring payment of accumulated bills and the completion of numerous projects scattered across the country. The Committee urges the Finance Ministry to prioritise the release of funds to the Health Ministry to ensure that the lives of peoples are preserved.

9.3 ROBUST HEALTH SYSTEMS - GHANA HEALTH SERVICE

The Committee noted that the Ghana Health Service remains one of the robust health service delivery on the African continent. The Service was able to effectively manage the COVID 19 pandemic such that the Country's mortality rates were among the lowest recorded globally. This was recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which commended Ghana for its health service delivery. The Committee again noted the swift response of the Service to contain the outbreak of Monkey pox, Marburg and the yellow fever disease. The Committee commended the Ghana Health Service for its efforts to reduce the spread of infectious diseases and urged the Service not to rest on its oars but rather work hard to improve their performance.

9.4 EXODUS OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Committee noted with concern the current exodus of health professionals especially experienced, specialised and critical care nurses to foreign countries.

During the year under review, 4,126 health professionals sought clearance for possible travel abroad. Even those who have recently gained admission into health training institutions are also seeking to leave the jurisdiction. The hardest hit institution is the psychiatric hospitals where experienced and skilled nurses are leaving in droves. The Committee urges the Ministry to institute measures to attract and retain experienced staff. The Committee cautioned the Ministry to be circumspect in the MOUs signed with advanced countries and ensure that critical care nurses are retained in the country.

9.5 MORTUARIES AND FUNERAL FACILITIES AGENCY

The Committee observed that a recent addition to the agencies under the Ministry of Health is the Mortuaries and Funeral Facilities Agency. In its maiden appearance at the budget hearing, the Committee was informed that the agency oversees the registration and licensing of mortuaries and funeral homes nationwide, set regulations for operations, inspect and ensure strict adherence to standards in the industry.

9.6 FUNDING OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS BY THE NHIF

The Committee observed that three major psychiatric hospitals are in distress due to inadequate allocations from GOG. The operations of these institutions have become a challenge because suppliers have ceased the supply of the medication in view of non-payment of bills. The feeding cost of inmates of these institutions have become a challenge as a result of the high number of abandoned patients. A peculiar case is the Accra Psychiatric hospital where a number of inmates are prisoners on remand who have been diagnosed with various levels of insanity. As a remedy, the Committee suggests the upward review of the 10 percent NHIS allocation to the MOH to cater for the feeding of inmates of the Psychiatric hospitals. Further, to decongest the Accra psychiatric hospital, the MOH is to liaise with the Ministry of Justice under the “Justice for All Project” to dispose of the cases of the inmates on remand.

9.7. DELAY IN NHIS PAYMENTS

The Committee was informed that NHIS Payments to most health care institutions for the 2022 fiscal year was delayed. The most recent payments were the allocations for January and February 2022. The Authority is in arrears of payments for 10

months. The Committee noted with concern the effect of the delay on the operations of the country's health care institutions. It therefore urges the NHIS Authority to expedite payments to forestall the crippling of the health delivery system.

9.8 DECAPPING OF AGENCIES UNDER THE HEALTH SECTOR

The Committee observed that although some of the agencies under the Ministry retain 100 percent of their IGF, a few of the agencies are still capped and this impedes the expeditious discharge of the mandate of those agencies. Even though the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) retains 70 percent of its IGF, there is the need to decap the remaining 30 percent of the Authority. This is in view of the fact that the Authority is moving towards the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) maturity level four, indicating that the Authority has competitive human resource that are highly sought after globally. Also the Authority is unable to perform its operations in the various regions due to inadequate allocation. Decapping the 30 percent of the IGF of the FDA would enable the Authority to adequately motivate staff and also perform their full operation in the regions. The Committee is also of the conviction that the remaining regulators i.e. Medical and Dental Council, Pharmacy Council and Health Facilities Regulatory Agency, would be better off if decapped and therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to address the issue.

9.9 ALLOCATION TO THE NHIS FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR

The Committee observed that NHIS allocations for 2023 have been reduced. In 2022, the NHIS was allocated **GH¢2919.66** million for its operations however, this amount have been reviewed downwards to **GH¢2,760.73** million in the 2023 fiscal year. The Committee is of the view that this allocation is woefully inadequate due to changing economic conditions where inflation is high and prices of goods and services including drugs have increased. The Committee observed that funds accruing from the NHIL levy are far in excess of what is allocated to the Fund. This stifles the initiative of the NHIS to add on other ailments, open district offices and handling salary agitations of staff and paying claims on time. In addition, SSNIT component of the NHIS is not paid directly to the NHIA causing delays and inability to track allocations. This is in contravention with the provisions on payments of premiums

to the fund as stipulated in the National Health Insurance Act 2012 (Act 852) as amended by the National Health Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Act 888).

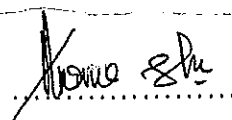
Further, inflationary pressures have necessitated the need for tariff increases and upward adjustment of premiums which when implemented, would increase the funds accruing to the NHIL. After discussions with the Deputy Minister of Finance on the reduction of the allocation, the Leadership of the Committee was assured of an upward adjustment of an additional **Five Hundred Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢500 million)** to support the NHIS in their operations.

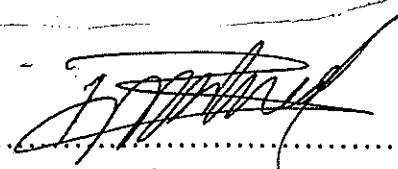
The Committee therefore urges for an upward adjustment in allocation to the NHIS fund by the Ministry of Finance, in order to reduce co-payments, support health delivery and facilitate the achievement of the universal health coverage.

10.0 CONCLUSION

Having thoroughly examined the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the year ended 31st December, 2022 and its activities earmarked for 2023, the Committee hereby recommends that this House approve the total sum 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)** for the operations of the Ministry of Health. The Committee 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.


HON. NANA AYEWE AFRIYE (DR.)
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH


MR. INUSAH MOHAMMED
CLERK
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH