

# KEY ISSUES AND OBSERVATIONS

# Outline

- Opening – key messages
- Holistic assessment
- Monitoring and reporting
- Decentralization
- National Health Account
- Increasing access to quality of care to the poor and vulnerable
- Attitudes of Health workers
- Regulation of sub-standard Medicines
- Update on Staffing norms
- Proposed agenda (BM)

# KEY MESSAGES

- Good health for all Ghanaians within reach
  - Top priority is to ensure everyone has adequate basic care
  - Clear understanding of what it takes to meet the MDG targets
- Not enough public money to fund every health demand and need
  - Need for careful look and discussion on what the state can provide and what individuals will need to cover.
  - Filling gaps should be priority on public resources
- Need to maximise efficiencies
  - Ensure full value for money
    - Significant weaknesses in accountability
- Expertise, experience and financial resources available under the partnership
  - Deployment requires positive and constructive engagement

# KEY MESSAGES

- Despite strong political will and significant investment the health sector not showing commensurate performance, especially in the area of reproductive health care.

# KEY MESSAGES-Decentralization

- The issue of two services, Ghana Health Service and the Local Government Service. Where would health workers belong?
- Agreeing on what services are to be devolved.
- The headship of the merged department of health of the District Assembly
- Division of Assets between the GHS and the DAs as some aspects of the functions of the GHS will continue at the district level
- Which union will health workers belong to LGWU or HSWU
- Who will be responsible for Training and capacity building of health workers countrywide and who will be in charge of the institutions?
- Capacity and capabilities of the district leadership in relation to that of health professionals
- What will be the role of the regional level in the decentralized health system.

# HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT

- Need for a more holistic perspective of what constitute quality of care
  - absence of a core indicator set for measuring quality
  - Definition a framework for improving quality of care
- Learning from places of best performance – UER to support LPR
- More sustainable funding approaches - six key activities not funded
- Need coordinate activities of partners at the district - synergy
- Dependence on DHIMS means private sector largely missing
- Traditional medicine missing from assessment

# Monitoring and Reporting

The M&E context:

- What does the data mean?
- How do we assess the observed trends?
- What concrete actions do we need to take?
- With inequality widening what are the implications for policy?
- What is the wider picture and how does the monitoring and reporting system lead to the wider picture?
- Use of data !!! b

# MONITORING AND REPORTING

- Need for improvement of standards and simplification of tools
- Maximize the vast potential of DHIMS
- Commitment to the review process – performance hearing needs review and restructuring – improve use of data
- Build capacity at district level
- Restructure national level coordination
- Expand coverage of DHIMS



# Decentralization: Policy implications

- Expand dialogue to cover all stakeholders
- Need for clarity on sector agenda on:
  - Managing the process
  - what happens to agencies
  - Role of the regions
  - full fiscal decentralization including HR
  - managing relationships
- Need to agree on institutional framework on the process (based on the 8 challenge?)
- More consultations with the districts

# NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNT

- Provided more clarity on expenditure pattern
- Concerns on limited funding for RH despite sector policy focus need for further explanation on reported performance
- Need to link this with the health financing strategy
- NHA a progressive agenda for resource planning and management in the health sector
- Need to align to accounting system
- Exercise expensive and time consuming - how do we use it –
  - what happened to last recommendations
  - Need to expand to cover all financing sources

# INCREASING FINANCIAL ACCESS - SUSTAINING INITIATIVES

- Showed huge increases in coverage for the poor.
- Need to sort out administrative bottleneck (reimbursements)
- Pro-poor or pro-pregnant?
- Need to work towards a target
- Provision for mental health

# QUALITY OF ANTIBACTERIAL AGENTS

- Exposed issues with supply chain and gaps in regulation
- Identified need for policy intervention in
  - Antibiotic control and use
  - Use of antibiotics in animal husbandry
- Need for a systems approach ranging from diagnosis including Lab, prescription, storage and handling
- Road map and a definitive course of action required
  - MoH leadership and collaboration develop the appropriate frame work to tighten regulation and examine enforcement gaps at FDA andPharmacy council and take decision on SCMP

# QUALITY OF CARE-mystery client

- Significant improvements but challenges exist
  - Staff attitude
  - Long waiting time
  - Weak internal supervision
  - Weak enforcement of sanctions
- Institutionalize PSS and customer care training
- Need to be responsive to people with disability
- Work with training institutions
- Restructure internal supervision in health facilities
  - Study workflow and realign responsibilities

# UPDATE ON STAFFING NORMS

- Useful planning tool (long overdue)
- Needs tweaking and qualitative alignment
- Highlights need for serious consideration for cost effective outsourcing of non core services
- Need for a programmed approach towards ensuring equitable distribution of skills
- Will work if work conditions and performance management are tackled along side.
- Areas for discussion and decision
  - Institutional framework for decentralization
  - Investment in preventive health
  - Human resource - consequences of current strategies – production and distribution
  - Budget performance and credibility
  - More transparency in resource allocation
  - Stagnating performance in key areas EPI, Skilled deliveries , institutional mortality
  - Internal supervision and accountability and customer care
  - Use of data
  - Measuring performance in Mental Health
  - Medicines, Supply Chain and regulation
  - Review of 2013 Aidememore –what has changed?
  - Donor coordination at the district level