

Ghana Ministry of Health Policy Brief Improving Inter-Agency Cooperation and Coordination

Introduction

The Health Sector of Ghana covers a wide geographic area and is comprised of numerous agencies. The need for improved communication and collaboration between these agencies has regularly been highlighted in annual assessment reports/reviews. While a 'Heads of Agencies Committee' exists, irregular meetings have undermined their ability to provide adequate leadership for the health sector. There is widespread consensus among the agencies and other stakeholders of the Health Sector that revitalizing this committee, articulating its purpose, and increasing its effectiveness as a strategic leadership team would provide significant value and ultimately contribute to accelerating the overall health sector goal: achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

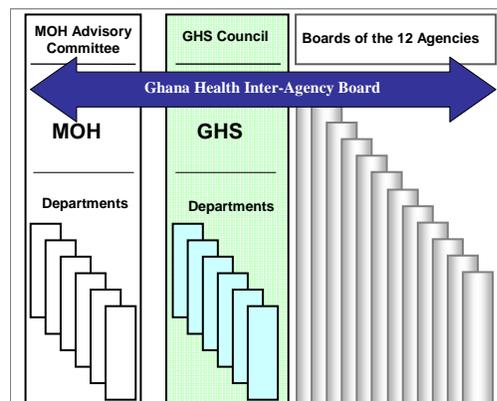
The Honorable Minister of Health, Honourable Major Courage Quashigah (Rtd) is committed to convening the Inter-Agency Board on a regular basis and providing the impetus for this important group of leaders to develop a shared agenda, agree on common goals, improve communication, and effectively collaborate for the overall benefit of the Health Sector and the people of Ghana.

Vision for the Inter-Agency Board

The Heads of Agency Committee will be revitalized as the Ghana Health Inter-Agency Board. The primary purpose of this board will be to improve communication and collaboration across the multiple agencies within the Ghana Health Sector. The Inter-Agency Board will be convened regularly four times per year for ongoing strategic planning and implementation oversight. The Board may also be convened on an emergency basis to address significant issues. The Board will determine its agenda with an emphasis on areas best addressed through improved inter-agency collaboration. It will develop corresponding milestones and metrics to assess progress versus objectives. To ensure sustainability, the Board will develop documented processes and procedures, while also evolving to meet the changing needs of the Health Sector. Board members will ensure alignment of their agencies with the critical goals determined by the board.

Ghana Health Inter-Agency Board

- Facilitate horizontal communication, coordination, and collaboration
- Increase institutional management capacity
- Develop horizontal leadership skills



A Public-Private Partnership with the World Economic Forum

As an illustration of the commitment to making this significant improvement in the effective administration of the health sector, Honourable Major Courage Quashigah (Rtd) has identified an opportunity to engage World Economic Forum (Forum) partners in an innovative Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for Team Management and Leadership Development in Health Systems. This PPP will serve primarily as **a catalyst** for the revitalization of the Inter-Agency Board through dialogue with the Forum's partners on the challenges and benefits of developing highly effective horizontal teams across complex organizations.

About the World Economic Forum (Forum)

The World Economic Forum is committed to improving the state of the world by engaging leaders in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Incorporated as a foundation in 1971, and based in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Economic Forum is impartial and not-for-profit; it is tied to no political, partisan or national interest. (www.weforum.org)

Process (Work Plan)

The Honourable Minister of Health will convene an inaugural meeting of the new Inter-Agency Board within 4 months. Prior to this meeting an informational survey will be distributed to the Heads of each Agency requesting feedback on a number of important topics related to the Health Sector and the goals of the Board. The results of this situation analysis will be shared at the first meeting as a starting point for establishing the agenda and team effectiveness goals of the Board. The Forum's partners to be engaged in the PPP for Team Management and Leadership Development in Health Systems will be invited to attend the meeting for the purpose of learning about the Ghana Health Sector and the current dynamics between the heads of agencies. The Board, in dialogue with Forum partners, will determine priorities for improving its communication efficiency and effectiveness. The Forum partners will work with the board to share ideas and develop customized processes and team development approaches.