**Ghana Health Service**

**Bono Regional Health Directorate**



**Implementation Status of the 2024 Action Plan in the Bono Region**

**July – December 2024**

**Introduction**

The Bono Regional Health Directorate (BRHD) undertook various health initiatives from July to December 2024 as part of the 2024 Action Plan. These interventions aimed to enhance healthcare delivery, improve data quality, and strengthen healthcare systems across the region. Key areas of focus included disease control, capacity building, community engagement, and workforce development. This report highlights the key activities carried out during this period, their impact on healthcare delivery, and the challenges faced.

**Disease Control and Surveillance**

As part of efforts to improve disease monitoring and control, the BRHD conducted regional monitoring visits to Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS), Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB), and Microscopy/GeneXpert centers. These visits covered all 12 districts and included seven GeneXpert sites, such as Dormaa West District Hospital, St. Matthew’s Hospital, Wenchi Methodist Hospital, and Sunyani Teaching Hospital. These monitoring exercises ensured that TB treatment protocols were properly implemented and diagnostic services were strengthened.

In addition, malaria data quality support visits were conducted in 12 districts and 24 health facilities. On-the-job training was provided to midwives, nurses, disease control officers, and health information officers to enhance malaria data reporting. These efforts aimed at improving the accuracy of malaria data and strengthening disease surveillance mechanisms.

**Training on Laboratory Quality Management Systems**

To ensure the quality of laboratory services, training on laboratory quality management systems was provided for 12 hospital laboratories. A total of 25 medical laboratory managers and quality managers were trained on the latest ISO 15189:2022 standards. This training was essential in ensuring that laboratory services met international standards and contributed to accurate disease diagnosis.

**Data Quality Improvement and Validation**

Data quality improvement remained a priority during this period. A regional data quality review meeting was held on August 30, 2024, bringing together district directors, health information officers, and regional health officers. This meeting focused on improving data accuracy and reducing discrepancies in health service delivery reports.

Quarterly Human Resource Information System (HRIMS) validation exercises were conducted to ensure the accuracy of staff records in all districts and hospitals. Due to funding constraints, physical validation exercises were not possible, and alternative methods such as desktop data validation, online meetings via Zoom, and feedback sessions were used. Additionally, 100 healthcare workers, including midwives and community health nurses, received training in family planning data management across 10 districts.

**Community Engagement and Health Promotion**

Public health education played a critical role in improving healthcare awareness. Radio talk shows on tuberculosis (TB) and HIV prevention were organized through Nimde3 FM, Service Radio, and Ark FM to educate the public on early diagnosis and treatment.

A regional stakeholder engagement meeting was also held to address declining outpatient department (OPD) attendance and low immunization coverage. Strategies were discussed to enhance healthcare accessibility and improve vaccine uptake. Community engagement sessions on Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) were conducted in Nsuatre and Antwikrom, targeting key opinion leaders to promote understanding and acceptance of these services.

Additionally, adolescent health engagement activities were carried out in collaboration with the Global Media Foundation. Peer mentors were trained to support adolescent health promotion in schools, ensuring that young people had access to relevant health information.

**Networks of Practice (NoP)**

The BRHD also focused on strengthening healthcare networks. A total of 267 Network of Practice (NoP) champions were trained, including representatives from the Regional Health Directorate, district health offices, the National Ambulance Service, and the National Health Insurance Authority.

A baseline assessment of NoP was also conducted across the region’s 23 healthcare networks. The purpose of the baseline assessment was to establish the level of preparedness of the various networks for the implementation of the NoP in the Bono Region.

**Training of Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Sub-Committee**

To improve emergency response strategies, 100 RCCE sub-committee members were trained in Wenchi, Banda, Berekum West, and Dormaa East. This training enhanced risk communication skills and community engagement approaches, particularly during health crises.

**Supportive Supervision on Maternal and Child Health**

The BRHD placed strong emphasis on maternal and child health services. The Maternal Audit Taskforce, including the District Director of Clinical Care (DDCC), Chief Nursing Officer, Regional Public Health Nurse (RPHN), and Regional Health Information Officer (RHIO), conducted follow-up visits to the Holy Family Hospital to assess the implementation of recommendations from maternal death audits.

Additionally, training on Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) was provided to midwives, community health nurses, and public health nurses across all 12 districts. Urban immunization mop-up campaigns were conducted to increase vaccine coverage, and 600 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) service providers received training on micro-planning for immunization services.

**Breast Cancer Awareness and Wellness Screening**

Breast cancer awareness programs were conducted in the Sunyani Central Market, Cathedral, and Central Mosque. A total of 655 individuals were screened, with 55 referred for further medical attention. These screenings helped in early detection and intervention for breast cancer cases.

**National Immunization Campaigns**

The region actively participated in nationwide immunization campaigns, including the Measles-Rubella and Polio vaccination campaigns. Supportive supervision was provided to ensure the effectiveness of these programs. Additionally, Intermittent Preventive Treatment in pregnancy (IPTp) monitoring was conducted in 12 districts and 24 health facilities to support malaria prevention efforts among pregnant women.

**Workforce Development and Human Resource Management**

Workforce development was a key focus area. A total of 758 health workers participated in biannual promotion interviews, and special out-of-turn promotions were granted in certain districts. An orientation program was conducted for newly recruited staff, which included two medical officers, 15 physician assistants, and 43 support staff.

The region also received 357 nurses and midwives from headquarters, who were subsequently posted to different health facilities. To enhance staff performance, a new Ghana Health Service (GHS) performance appraisal tool was introduced, and various cadres of health professionals received training. Additionally, promotion interviews were conducted for 297 eligible staff members in December 2024.

**Challenges Encountered**

Despite these achievements, several challenges hindered full implementation of planned activities.

Limited funding affected key programs, particularly physical data validation exercises.

Logistical constraints impacted the timely execution of certain health campaigns, and gaps in data reporting and validation required continuous improvement efforts.

**Recommendations and Next Steps**

To address these challenges, the BRHD recommends seeking additional funding to ensure the continuity of essential health interventions. Strengthening collaboration with stakeholders will also be critical in improving data quality and service delivery. Additionally, continuous capacity-building initiatives for healthcare providers are necessary to enhance maternal and child health outcomes. Increased community engagement will also help raise awareness and improve the uptake of essential health services.

**Conclusion**

The Bono Regional Health Directorate made significant progress in implementing the 2024 Action Plan during the July–December period. Key interventions in disease surveillance, data quality improvement, community engagement, and workforce development contributed to enhanced healthcare service delivery. However, addressing challenges such as funding constraints and logistical limitations will be crucial for sustaining these improvements. The Directorate remains committed to strengthening healthcare services and achieving regional health targets for the benefit of the population.