

Enhancing the Health System in Ghana

The Institute for Health Policy and Research

The Institutional brochure about the operations of the Institute for Health Policy & Research- IHPR, Ghana

ihpr

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BACKGROUND

The Institute for Health Policy and Research (IHPR), Ghana was founded in 2012 and became duly incorporated in March, 2013 as a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation to facilitate the development of health policies and programmes by working with Government institutions¹, Industry² and the community³.

Mission

The operational objective of the Institute is to provide the forum for academics and researchers, professional practitioners, executive policy makers and state actors to evaluate health policy concepts and health programme outcomes and review their economic and social implications in Ghana by drawing on the theoretical frame of reference and practical experiences in other parts of Africa and the world at large.

Vision

The Institute seeks to be Ghana's prominent center for improving our national health outcomes through operational research and collaborative policy dialogue.

To this end the Institute aims to:

- 1. Establish a depository of health information and documentations on Ghana to serve as a primary source to facilitate progressive and continuous research.*
- 2. Provide a medium to stimulate periodic discussion and debates to inform public policy on health*
- 3. Promote the dissemination and use of knowledge to improve the performance of health systems*
- 4. Facilitate the cooperation and sharing of experiences within the health sector as a means for capacity building and continuous professional development*
- 5. Enhance the use of health research outcomes in decision making and policy formulation*

¹ Public and Statutory Agencies for Health

² Healthcare & Service Industry (Public & Private)

³ International and local community (International Health Agencies, NGO's and Civil Society)

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ABOUT US

The Institute provides independent perspectives and analysis on trends affecting the health sector and all the health-related industries. The IHPR provides a forum for Ghanaian public Institutions of health and other stakeholders to work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. In doing so

- i. We evaluate national health policies and monitor programmes with the view of assisting to streamline the set agenda and communicating their rationale for effective actions.
- ii. We evaluate public investments and measure productivity in the health sector with the view to helping to increase outcomes.

Our views and positions on matters are shaped by a network of professionals and academic executives with hands-on experience in the health industry who form part of this policy think-tank. Drawing on statistics and experiences we can recommend policies designed to make lives of the ordinary Ghanaian better. It is to these ends that we analyse and compare health data to predict future trends.

Beneficiaries of our work

IHPR address our opinions to government to understand what changes drives the health service and health industry in order to improve the healthcare outcomes to the benefit of the ordinary citizen.

IHPR maintain contacts with other civil society organizations and together set national guidelines on a range of health issues.

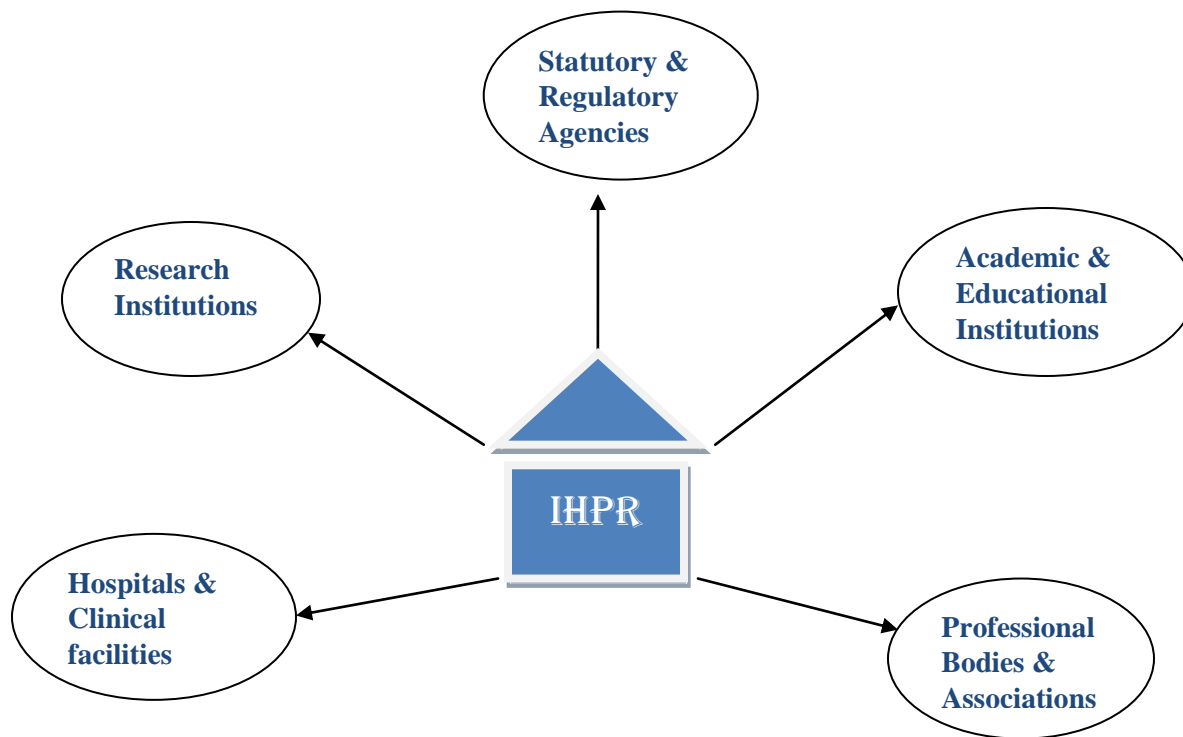
We can be contacted for a variety of reasons, depending upon an organization's needs:

- **Leadership**: IHPR's Health Reports and papers focus on wide health issues including industry-wide developments and trends and scientific improvements in the health delivery sector. Our reports provide meaningful information and best practices to practitioners, policy makers and industry players.
- **Consultation**: IHPR can be consulted to provide a comprehensive perspective on the health sector and current issues driving the health industry.
- **Presentations**: IHPR management team can be invited to present and speak at industry and organization conferences on health related issues.

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The role of the Institute

IHPR serves the needs of all major players in the health sector. While maintaining our independence we collaborate with the major sectors and disciplines of the health sector to deliver on its activities.



As an Institute we have identified four areas which in our considered opinion need attention for which we shall focus in helping the Government of Ghana work towards:

- 1. The government needs to restore confidence in the public health care institutions and the statutory regulatory agencies in order to make them function as expected. That will require improved regulation and more effective corporate governance at the levels of institutional governing boards.*
- 2. The government must periodically review our health care financing options and budgetary investments in order to increase access to quality care for the vulnerable population through sustainable growth of the National Health Insurance Scheme.*
- 3. The government must provide the enabling environment for development of local health technologies and biotechnological practices aimed at expanding the health care market.*
- 4. The government must review medical education curricula with the view to developing the health workforce needed to meet the country's health needs from time to time*

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As a Policy Think-Tank

IHPR operates a membership based policy institute bringing together people and organizations with an interest in Health Matters. We provide our members with an independent forum which allows them to interact in an open and impartial environment with political leaders, academics, health organizations, the media, non-governmental organizations, policy-makers and researchers.

As a policy think-tank, our mission is to be a leading source of independent analysis, informed debate and influential ideas on how to build a responsive and secure health service for all.

Membership

IHPR offers a number of tailored membership packages:

Individual Membership

Individual Members represent a diverse and influential network. Members have the opportunity to participate in open debate about significant developments on Health Issues in a personal capacity. They also have access to the independent and rigorous analysis and research published by IHPR.

Corporate Membership

Corporate Members of IHPR receive a wide range of benefits according to their level of engagement. These include all Individual Membership benefits, exclusive invitations to corporate events, and a greater degree of exposure as an active player in the health community. IHPR also offer membership packages specifically tailored towards Academic Institutions and NGOs.

Our Scope of health

Our view

While health certainly includes “medical care” it is in reality much more comprehensive and varied than that. We understand the interdisciplinary and continually expanding nature of health. At IHPR, we keep with the developments in science and technology of health. We observe the health service and health care industry as a whole.

Our Philosophy

Many factors affect the health of individuals and communities in Ghana. Whether people of Ghana are healthy or not, is determined by our circumstances and environment as an emerging middle income economy. To a large measure, the state of our environment, education level, income and social status and Social support systems have considerable impacts on our health. Other factors include food security and industrial safety mechanism. Above all the legal regimes in place at all times regulate the conduct of health care systems in a country.

What we discuss

The topics researched by this Institute and discussed by our Memberships are extremely varied, including issues such as ethical and legal issues pertaining to medical practice and patients’ rights, health system operations, mental health, Biosafety and biotechnology, genetics, questions of health care policy/reform, pharmaceuticals and drugs, medicine and nursing, Maternal and Child Health, adolescent and sexual health, medical confidentiality, bioinformatics, Disease Control and Prevention, Health Education and Promotion, biomedical practice, Forensic Medicine, Occupational Health and Safety, healthcare financing and insurance, environmental health, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and the Law.

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Our Activities

EDUCATION

Health Promotion

We administer various educational programs that seek to expose practitioners to real-world knowledge expansion and development in the health sector. The Institute provides continuous health education to a diverse audience, including health care professionals, academics, and students, members of the public and policy makers.

Training

Our short courses training are structured to update practitioners on current development in the health sector and meet requirements of professional regulatory councils and agencies. We organize periodic continuous professional development programs in selected topics to meet specific training needs.

Workshops/Seminars

We provide public lectures, organize and/or support seminar, workshops and other educational events. These are aimed at broadening knowledge and sharing sectorial experiences.

Conferences

The Institute hopes to invite health researchers and policy makers from their respective endeavors as guest speaker to bring their approaches to engage the wider health community as audience to deepen knowledge and understanding.

As a membership-based policy institute, individual and corporate members whose papers are accepted for stakeholder deliberation may be invited to present their policy opinion to the wider audience.

Members may well nominate accomplished or innovative individuals from the health fraternity to brief the audience and spark new focal areas for research.

RESEARCH / ANALYSIS

IHPR independently or with its collaborative partners conduct research aimed at informing or improving the policy formulation in relevant areas of the health and social system.

RESEARCH

Primary research

The Institute conducts its own targeted research mostly at government and state-sponsored initiatives to independently inform national policy-making agendas.

Collaborative research

The Institute has capacity and resource to partner both local and foreign agencies who have identified research interest in Ghana. In this light we can render feasibility opinions on various initiatives.

Operational research

We can be invited to do a systematic assessment of the efficiency or effectiveness of institutional health systems in order to improve operations.

We can as well do an analysis of identified problems that exist in a view to giving a scientific basis to inform decision-making aimed at their resolution.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The Institute has strong capacity to independently analyse health data of both public and private institutions of health to reveal reasoned findings and trends to inform policy. We can evaluate programs and monitor on-going projects to refocus them or forecast their intended outcome

PUBLICATIONS

The Institute seeks to contribute to, promote and publish innovative policy and interdisciplinary research on current and emerging issues in health in response to significant developments in legislation, policy, and other related issues.

Much of such publications are aimed at policy reform and regime compliance. Additionally, we disseminate information through our publications, the **Ghana Health Review (GHR)** and the **Ghana Journal of Health Sciences (GJHS)**, as well as our **Health Community Newsletter** and **Press Release**.

Ghana Health Review (GHR) is a quarterly journal that reviews health policies and programs. Individuals or corporate institutions may submit relevant articles for publication

Ghana Journal of Health Sciences (GJHS) is an annual scholarly publication of researched piece of high academic value. Papers can be submitted by Graduate Students, research fellows and lecturers and professors. We do accept undergraduate thesis of exceptional quality.

Health Community Newsletter is a monthly newsletter containing general news of health developments and events throughout the country and beyond. It is intended to get all health practitioners informed about trends in the health sector.

IHPR Press Releases are issued to state the position and opinion of the Institute on topical matters of national interest.

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Gallery of Activities

The Institute shared our perspective on the trends in the Ghana health Industry with an Analyst of the Oxford Business Group (OBG) for the 2013.



The Institutes helps deepens the understanding and methodologies in health research analysis to wider audience. We are in a capacity to assist postgraduate research candidates.



IHPR assesses the effectiveness of the School Health education program of Ghana Education Service at the Tano North District of the Brong Ahafo Region.



IHPR acquaints itself with the activities of the Radiation Protection Institute at the National Health and Safety conference (NAHES) 2013.



Official of IHPR partakes in a short course on Medical law and Ethics by the Medical Defence Union (MDU) in Manchester, United Kingdom



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PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Collaboration

The Institute welcomes partners from International and local research councils, academic & training institutions, hospitals and clinical health centers, public and private agencies for health, professional groups in the health sector and charitable foundations for health who wishes to contribute to improving the health service in Ghana.

Volunteering & Internships

The Institute has a community of volunteers who assist in field work activities of the organization. Students and health practitioners in particular are encouraged to volunteer some period to support our activities and appreciate the dynamics of the Ghana Health Systems and the healthcare industry and contribute to its improvement.

Funding

The Institute is funded by the contributions from individual and co-operate members. We welcome support from both local and foreign agencies, NGO's and philanthropists to help us expand our activities to reach out to a wider audience.

CONTACT US

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