GHANA

Special Initiative for Mental Health

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

01 Mental health system monitoring strengthened across six SIMH implementing regions: Western North, Savannah, Oti, Ahafo, Bono-East and Northern Regions

02 153 staff trained on newly developed mental health reporting forms and DHIMS-2 indicators, supporting stronger routine mental health data systems

03 107 primary health care staff trained in selected mhGAP modules, including psychosis, depression, suicide and self-harm, and alcohol and drug use disorders

04 164 health workers trained to support integration of maternal mental health into routine perinatal services across five regions

05 Advocacy advanced for inclusion of depression, psychosis, anxiety and bipolar disorder in the National Health Insurance Scheme benefit package

06 The mhGAP sentinel survey was completed and analysed, with findings prepared for dissemination and publication

ACTIVITIES

STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH DATA AND SURVEILLANCE

- Monitoring and evaluation data on service delivery, capacity building and QualityRights training completed for six SIMH implementing regions.
- 153 data managers, pharmacists and mental health staff trained on newly developed mental health reporting forms and DHIMS-2 indicators.
- Selected mental health indicators piloted in DHIMS-2 in Northern, Bono-East and Western North Regions to inform feasible indicators for low- and middle-income countries.
- WHO supported the development of a mental health e-tracker in partnership with the NCD-CareNet project, contributing to screening, identification, linkage to care and follow-up at primary health care level.

EXPANDING CAPACITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE

- 107 primary health care staff trained on selected mhGAP modules, including psychosis, depression, suicide and self-harm, and alcohol and drug use disorders.
- 120 community mental health staff trained on person-centred, rights-based care to improve the quality of mental health services.
- 164 doctors, midwives, community health staff, mental health staff, clinical psychologists and health information officers trained on maternal mental health integration into routine perinatal services.
- 414 community-based cadres trained in basic psychosocial support skills to support newly diagnosed people living with HIV.

STRENGTHENING RIGHTS, AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 3,000 additional Ghanaians completed the QualityRights e-training, with Ghana Health Service and partners continuing to support its wider integration and sustainability.
- Mental health awareness activities reached diverse groups, including young people, learners and people in institutional settings, as part of Purple Month engagements.
- WHO supported maternal mental health awareness and screening activities, reaching 500 young people, screening 253 people and linking 30 people to care as part of the the Purple Month activities.

GOVERNANCE, PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING

- WHO supported advocacy for the operationalisation of four mental health conditions — depression, psychosis, anxiety and bipolar disorder — under the National Health Insurance Scheme.
- The development of the service package for the Free Primary Health Care Initiative, with technical support provided for the mental health component by the WHO.
- WHO collaborated with the Mental Health Authority, Ghana Health Service, FCDO, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, National AIDS & STI Control Program, BasicNeeds Ghana and other partners to strengthen mental health integration and service delivery.
- Work advanced on suicide prevention, including situational analysis, surveillance system planning, strategy development, and implementation planning for suicide prevention activities in SIMH regions.

PRIORITIES FOR 2026:

- **Complete quarterly monitoring on service delivery and capacity building across all SIMH implementing regions.**
- **Follow up on the operationalisation of depression, psychosis, anxiety and bipolar disorder under the National Health Insurance Scheme and evaluate impact with the Mental Health Authority.**
- **Complete the pilot of selected mental health indicators in DHIMS-2 and support downstream training in SIMH implementing regions.**
- **Continue technical support for integration of maternal mental health into routine perinatal services in selected facilities across five regions.**
- **Support the development of Ghana's suicide prevention situational analysis, strategy and related interventions, including media and socio-emotional learning initiatives.**
- **Strengthen integration of mental health into other programme areas, including NCDs, HIV, TB, neglected tropical diseases, emergency response and primary health care.**
- **Support the implementation of the Free Primary Health Care in the government-focused districts of the SIMH implementing regions.**

WHO SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR **MENTAL HEALTH**

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