

# Learning from the Ghanaian Experience: The CHESPOR Case

Regional Consultation on the implementation of SGDs for better Health Outcomes in Eastern Africa



Kampala, 13-14<sup>th</sup> October, 2016





# Outline

- How is the SDG doing in Ghana so far
- About CHESPOR and our experiences
- Think tank contribution and challenges



# How is SDG playing out in Ghana

## **Enablers, Constraints and Gaps**

- Capacity vs willingness to achieve
- Funding vs. funding withdrawal
- Government priorities vs. funded projects
- Independence Vs external dependence
- Sustainability vs short term development plans
- Leaderships Accountability vs. performance
- Fragmentations vs integrations & systems approach



## Where are the areas of focus

- Poverty reduction strategies (politicize)
- Selective health programs and interventions
  - MCAH, NHIS (UHC), Diseases and programs, etc.
- Selective educational interventions and programs
  - Improvement in tertiary education
- Improved gender and female empowerment

# Which areas are most neglected?

- Aligning the SDG goals to key political agendas or vice versa
- Pursuing multi-sectoral approach to addressing institutional challenges
- Strengthening implementation through accountability mechanisms
- Financing and resources sustainability to support the programs initiated under SGD
- Adapting policies to support different contextual needs
- Adopting a systems approach to health & other social indicators – limiting vertical ways of achieving the SDG
- Harnessing health, educational, social and environmental improvements to poverty reduction

# Which goals need strengthening?

Goals: 3, 4, 9, 11, 12??, 13, 16, 17



# Centre for Health Systems and Policy Research (CHESPOR)



## Contact Details

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# About CHESPOR

- Centre for Health Systems and Policy Research (CHESPOR) is does
  - Training, capacity building and teaching
  - Research and Consultancy
  - Advocacy and Community engagement
  - Policy engagement
- Research
  - Working in collaboration with other institutions locally (but mostly around health)
  - Regional and sub regional collaboration





# Some of Our Current Activities

- Capacity Development of Health Managers
  - Improving governance in the health systems
- Optimizing knowledge to Policy translation
  - Strengthening the policy making process
- Developing West African Health Systems Consortium
  - Strengthen Health Policy and Systems and MNCAH research capacity in West and Central Africa
- Disaster Management and Emergency Response
  - Multi-Sectoral Action towards Disaster and Emergency Response



# Strengths of CHESPOR

- It is the main educational centre dedicated to health systems and policy research
- We are a multi-disciplinary team
- We are collaborative in our initiatives and programs (co-production)
- We are financially independent
- We are flexible although trying to keep to our identity
- Provoke and lead debates
- Practitioners willing and interested in supporting our training



# Challenges we are facing

- Small group still developing our profile
- Projects initiated and built around funding sources (sustainability issues)
- Capacity development needs & assessments limited
- We are still not reaching out to other sectors adequately
- Institutional vs. CHESPOR needs & priorities
- Context based development (constraining and enabling)
- Training



# Future of Think Tanks in Supporting SDGs

- Significant develop partnership
  - negotiate for co-production, multi-disciplinary & multi-sectoral action
- Collaboratively define the agendas for policies, training and practice
- Use evidence to drive policies, interventions and initiatives
- Serve as brokers and catalyst for ideas, action and development and provide multiple perspectives
- Leverage for change by supporting and driving policy debates



## What position do we require to adopt?

- Systems or integrative approach
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Greater sense of autonomy and accountability
- Provide multiple perspectives
- Go beyond evidence generation...
- Create platforms for dialogue

# What support do we require?

- Address fragmentation in research and selected/vertical interventions must be reconsidered for multi-sectoral action
- Collaboration and partnership
  - Working with the Communities and local government
  - working with policymakers and practitioners
  - Private sector & other sectors
  - Research institutions locally and regionally
- Research funding to encourage multi-disciplinary and actual lessons
- Support required for flexible and innovative



Moving Forward...