Scaling Up Cataract Services in Ghana: Systems that Work and those that Don’t

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GHANA
Introduction

- Located in West Africa
- Size of United Kingdom
- Population of 25m
- Stable democracy for the last 22 years
Economy

- Middle income country since 2008
- GDP growing at average 7% per annum
- Highest growth rate in 2011 (11.4%), surpassing India and China
Health Care

- Comprehensive national insurance since 2005.
- Covers most diseases and accessible to all service providers.
- Government pays for all workers except those in private practices.
- Life expectancy (2011): 64.22 years.
- Nigeria: 51.86
- Kenya: 57.08
- Ivory Coast: 55.42
- South Africa: 49.48
• 72 ophthalmologists
• Population Ratio of 1:361,111
• More than half in and around the national capital
The Burden Cataract Blindness

• Blindness prevalence 0.75%
• Blindness burden: 187,500
• 50% due to cataract
• Cataract blindness burden: 93,750

• Current number of cataract surgeries done: 23,350 (2012)
Key Players

• Government Hospitals
• Mission Hospitals
• Private Hospitals
• NGO-Government Partnerships
  • Sightsavers
  • Swiss Red Cross
• NGO-Mission Hospital Partnerships
  • Christian Blinden Mission International
• NGO-Private Hospital Partnerships
  • Unite for Sight
Christian Blind Mission International

- Oldest NGO in Ghana
- Partnership with the Presbyterian Church
- Provides financial and material support
- Two hospitals and two ophthalmologists
- POLICY:
- Partner eye clinics maintain financial autonomy but accountable to hospital and to CBM
Sight Savers

- Started operations in 1991
- Works in partnership with Government
- Provides material and operational funding
- Focus on middle level manpower
- Adopted the Eastern Region in 2006 to support cataract surgeries
- 4 ophthalmologists supported to scale up cataract output
Unite for Sight

- Started operations in Ghana, 2004
- Works in partnership with private individuals
- Provides equipment support and pays base-cost of surgery for patients living in extreme poverty
- Currently supports 5 ophthalmologists
Government Hospitals

• Includes the:
  • Teaching Hospitals (4)
  • Ghana Health Service
    • regional hospitals
    • district hospitals
• Has the largest number of ophthalmologists
The Private Sector

• A reasonable proportion
• Usually small in sizes
• Limited surgical capacity
• Group practices uncommon
• Shared practices uncommon
Distribution of Ophthalmologists by Settings
Cataract Surgical Output
Distribution of cataract surgeries per institution

- Others: 1184
- Teaching Hospitals: 1220
- Gov't Hospitals: 3065
- Church Hospitals: 5966
- Private Hospitals: 11915
- Total: 23350
Cataract Surgery Output per MD

Chart Title

- Private Hospitals: 745
- Mission Hospitals: 542
- Gov't Hospitals: 236
- Teaching Hospitals: 64
- Other: 91

Series1 vs. Series2

Bar Chart:
- Teaching Hospitals: 19
- Church Hospitals: 11
- Gov't Hospitals: 13
- Private Hospitals: 16
- Others: 13
Unite for Sight and the Private Sector

No. of Surgeries done in the Private Sector

- Non UFS-assisted: 799
- UFS-assisted: 11,116
- Total Surgeries: 11,915
Adjusted No. of Surgeries per MD

- Others: 91
- UFS-assisted Hosp.: 2,223
- Mission Hosp.: 542
- Gov't Hosp.: 236
- Private Hosp.: 73
- Teaching Hosp.: 64
Output Among NGO-Assisted Hospitals
Surgeries in NGO-assisted Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGOs</th>
<th>No. of MDs</th>
<th>Total Output</th>
<th>Av. Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sight Savers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBM</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2748</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UFS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11,116</td>
<td>2223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sight Savers

- End of funding cycle evaluation done in 2010
- Average no. of surgeries per MD: 211

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>MEAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CBM: Bawku Hospital (Northern Ghana)
Unite for Sight: Friends Eye Centre
Unite for Sight: Crystal Eye Clinic
SUSTAINABILITY
Sustaining the Momentum?

• Can NGO’S provide funding forever?
  • Answer: NO

• Can the programs sustain themselves when funding ends
  • Answer: YES/NO
CBM: Bawku Hospital (Northern Ghana)
Sightsavers/CBM/UFS
CONCLUSION

• The private sector in Ghana is generally weak despite enormous opportunity
• Government hospitals hardly consider cataract services as a priority
• NGO funded projects have produced mixed outputs depending on the arrangements
• NGO Partnership with the private sector appears to be the most effective in terms of productivity
THANK YOU

2010 World Cup: Ghana-2: USA-1