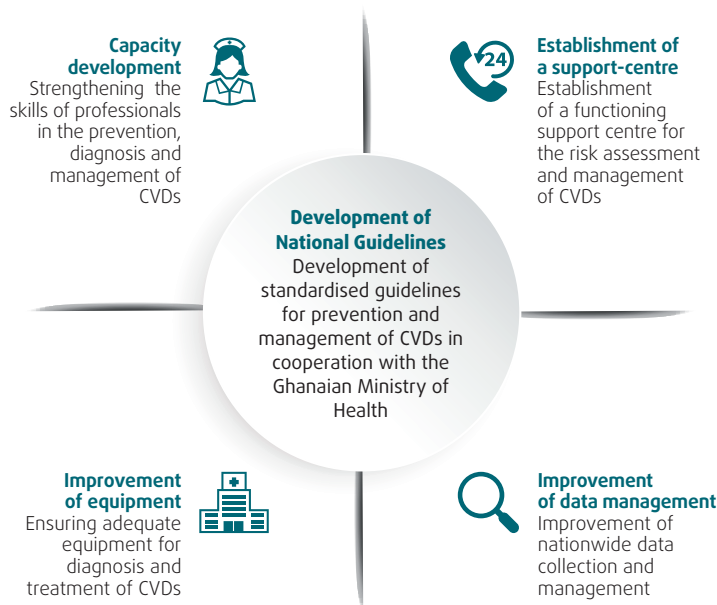




## What is the GHI?

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) present a growing burden for low- and middle-income countries across the globe. To face this challenge, the Bayer AG, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Ghanaian health institutions have joined hands to co-design an integrated diagnosis, treatment, and training pilot project in line with Bayer's strategy to strengthen health care systems. This project, the Ghana Heart Initiative (GHI), aims at improving the prevention, diagnosis and management of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) at tertiary, secondary and primary level of care in Ghana. Implemented in close cooperation with the Ghanaian Ministry of Health as well as the Ghana Health Service, the GHI seeks to sustainably improve the treatment standards, capacity of health professionals as well as data management on CVDs.



## The importance of the GHI?

CVD is a rapidly increasing health challenge in Ghana and has become a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. Stroke, for example, is one of the most common causes of death in the country's adult population.

First results exemplify how early diagnosis, adequate treatment and close monitoring can reduce the fatal consequences of CVDs: After the training and mentoring of health workers through the GHI, the proportion of patients with an elevated blood pressure identified, put on treatment, continued treatment and reached a controlled blood pressure increased. The proportion of those, who have reached a controlled blood pressure, increased from 7% to an average of 77% during the project duration indicating that the management of hypertension improved in the beneficiary health facilities.

However, the public health care system continues to face a critical shortage of resources and capacities, seriously hindering an effective response to this mounting CVD burden. The GHI seeks to rally all important Ghanaian health stakeholders to jointly address this challenge.



## What has been achieved already?

- National Guidelines for the management of CVDs (incl. App for continuous access) have been developed and launched by the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- More than 2200 health professionals are using the developed AkomaCare App facilitating access to the guidelines.
- Facilitator's Guides, manuals for CVD training, have been developed for doctors and physician assistants as well as nurses.
- 6099 health professionals from all levels of care and of more than 205 health facilities have been trained.
- A mentorship network has been established and 26 mentors have been trained to provide supportive supervision on CVD management to all health facilities targeted.
- Equipment worth 700,000€ has been procured and deployed to more than 205 health facilities.
- 9 centres with 74 trained specialists for the diagnosis and treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) have been established in cooperation with the University Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.
- A 24/7 CVD Support & Call Centre has been launched.
- Nationwide data management has been improved.

Overall, the GHI has already reached more than 3 million Ghanaians who needed CVD treatment and benefitted from improved medical services.





## Ghana Heart Initiative: what is next?

Building on the successful implementation of the GHI, we are excited to introduce AYA – Integrated Healthcare Initiative. The Ghanaian Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service continue to be at the core of this initiative, implemented by GIZ and funded by Bayer AG, Panorama, Sanofi, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. AYA's vision for 2030 is to ensure that Ghanaians will have improved access to strengthened healthcare systems, conduct effective screening for selected NCDs, and ensure respective linkage to affordable, state-of-the-art care.

## Scaling up the GHI to AYA - Integrated Healthcare Initiative

Building on the GHI's achievements, AYA seeks to further strengthen the healthcare system in Ghana with a focus on improved detection and management of cardiovascular diseases and Diabetes II.

Through a modular approach and based on the already existing project structures, there is opportunity for further scaling the initiative. Thereby, synergies will be created, and impacts are leveraged to further strengthen the healthcare system in Ghana by focusing the primary care level.

### What AYA aims to achieve:

The main objectives of the AYA Integrated Healthcare Initiative are:

- Improving the quality and integration of NCD service delivery at health facilities through Networks of Practice.
- Enhancing capacity of healthcare providers at all levels of the healthcare system.
- Empowering patient self-management for chronic conditions.
- Improving access to essential medical equipment for diagnosing and management of CVDs and Diabetes II.
- Conducting screening for Obesity, Hypertension, and Diabetes II and ensuring respective linkage to counselling and care.
- Strengthening data collection systems to better monitor NCD prevalence and healthcare outcomes.



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