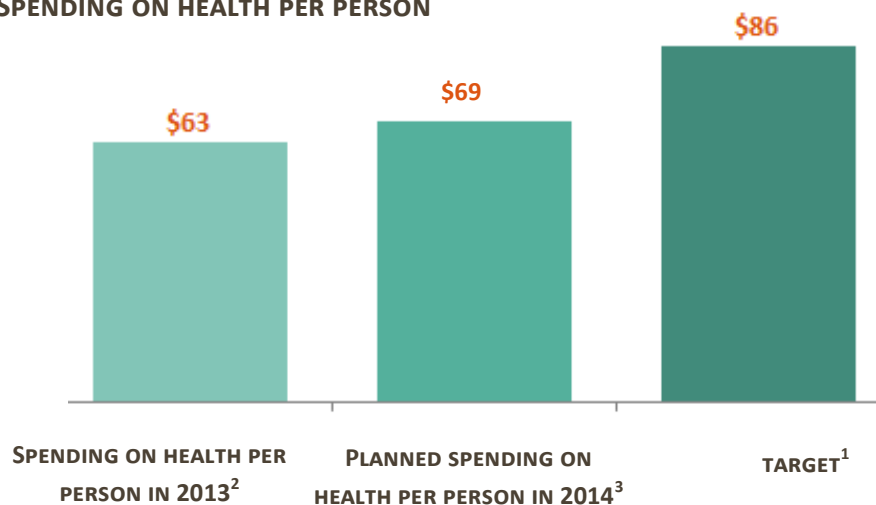


GOVERNMENT SPENDS LESS THAN WHAT IS NEEDED ON EACH PERSON'S HEALTH

Governments need to spend **at least US\$86** per person in order to provide basic health services.¹ In 2013, the Government of Ghana only spent **US\$63** on each person's health.² While the planned 2014 budget increased this to **US\$69**,³ this is still below target.

SPENDING ON HEALTH PER PERSON



INADEQUATE AND DELAYED FUNDING FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH

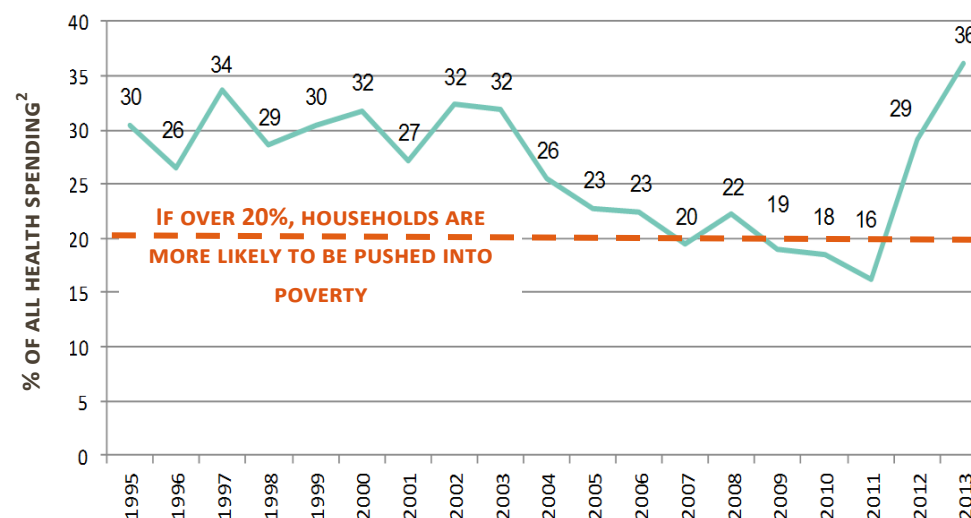
In the years 2009-2012, **less than 30%** of the approved funds for health were actually received by the health sector.⁴ Since 2010, **50%** of the District Health Directorates (DHDs) have not received funds from government or assembly level to provide maternal healthcare.⁴ When they are released, government funds for DHDs are often delayed.⁴

HOUSEHOLDS BEAR THE HEAVIEST HEALTH SPENDING BURDEN

Because the government does not spend enough, the burden of paying for health falls heavily on households. Despite the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) aiming to achieve universal health insurance coverage in Ghana,⁵ **36%** of all health spending in the country was spent by households up-front, without insurance, in 2013.² This has more than **doubled** since 2011.² As 36% is over the recommended top limit of **20%**, the poorest in Ghana are likely to be excluded from care or pushed further into poverty by unsustainable payments.

In addition, despite subsidised health insurance for pregnant women in Ghana⁶, a recent report has found that pregnant and postpartum women registered with the NHIS **continue to pay for services** including medicines, ultrasound scans and some laboratory tests.⁴

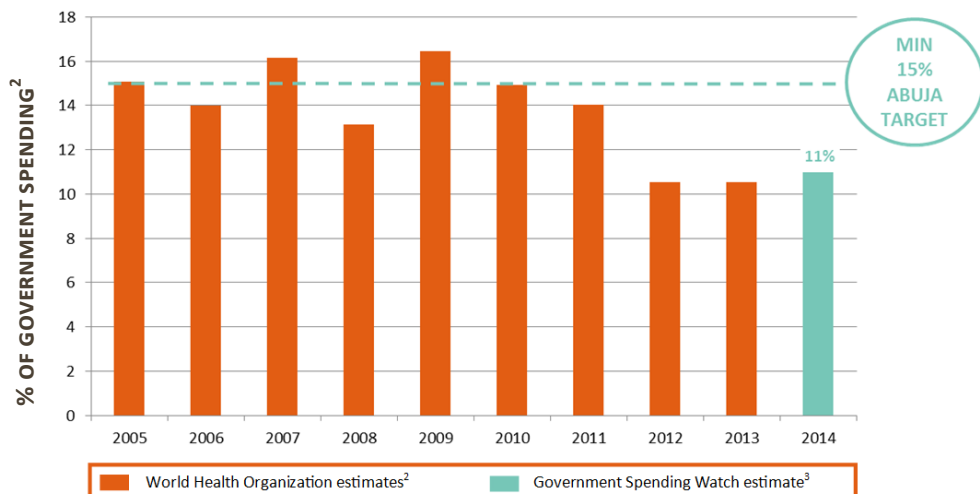
SHARE SPENT DIRECTLY BY HOUSEHOLDS (OUT-OF-POCKET)



PROGRESS HAS STALLED ON THE ABUJA PROMISE

The Government of Ghana has signed up to the Abuja Declaration, committing to spend **at least 15%** of its government budget on health.⁴ However, the 2014 planned government expenditure only allocated **11%**³ to health—a figure which has hardly risen since 2012.²

GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON HEALTH



COULD GHANA DO MORE?

Governments can and should spend **at least 5%** of their country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on health.¹ However in 2013, the Ghanaian government only spent **3.3%** of Ghana's GDP on health,² and this figure dropped to **2.9%** in the 2014 planned budget.³ Using the GDP measure is important as it shows where governments can do more relative to their country's wealth.

Part of the reason for Ghana's low performance is that its total government revenue is only **18.4%** of GDP.⁷ This compares to a minimum target of **20%** which will be recommended at the International Conference for Financing in Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015.⁸ Currently, Ghana is **one of only 32** countries in the world with total government revenue below 20% of GDP.⁷

It has been estimated that if taxes were increased to full capacity in Ghana, the government would be able to spend a **further \$3** per person on health, increasing Ghana's health spending per person from **US\$69 to US\$72**.⁹ This demonstrates the importance of advocacy for stronger tax systems.



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