Setting Priorities Fairly
Sustainable policies for effective resource allocation decisions in Africa

A first-of-its-kind sub-Saharan Africa event
26th & 27th September 2018

Participants’
Evaluation & Feedback

Hosted by Ghana Ministry of Health
A joint partnership between iDSI and HTAi
The **International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)** is a global partnership of leading government institutes, universities, and think tanks that provides policy makers with coordinated support in priority-setting for universal health coverage. iDSI provides demand-driven practical support and knowledge products to help both policymakers and funders make better decisions for better health.

We support countries to make **better decisions** about how much **public money** to spend on **healthcare** and how to make that money go further. We believe everyone should have fair access to health, receiving the right treatment and the right medicines at the right time.

**iDSI Network members:**

**Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi)** is a **global, non-profit, scientific** and professional **society** for all those who produce, use or encounter health technology assessment (**HTA**). HTAi represents 82 organisations and over 2,500 individual members from 65 countries around the world.

HTAi is a member-driven organisation, representing a variety of stakeholders who have interests in HTA. These stakeholders include researchers, policy makers, industry, academia, health service providers, agencies and patients, and they contribute to balanced conversation around HTA across different areas of practice and jurisdictions.
BACKGROUND

In September 2018 the iDSI network and Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) co-organised a first of its kind Sub-Saharan African (SSA) HTA event. The two-day event focused on sustainable resource allocation policies; set out to address difficulties that low and middle income countries (LMICs) face with UHC attainment; and put the spotlight specifically on how HTA can provide solutions.

The Accra-based-event was hosted by the Ghana Ministry of Health, endorsed by the Minister for Health, Mr Kwaku Agyemang-Manu and officially opened by Deputy Minister for Health Mr Kingsley Aboagye-Gyedu. The main objectives were to increase the local stakeholders' understanding of the potential role of HTA in resource allocation decisions; coordinate health policy priorities in the SSA region; and establishing sustainable networks regionally and globally.

Almost 100 policy representatives from across Africa and Europe attended workshops that provided an overview of HTA, covering core technical components and how HTA could be integrated within a broader decision-making process. Speakers presented on their experiences of HTA in SSA nations in plenary and parallel sessions covering a wide array of issues pertinent to HTA. We attempt to assess how well this event has met it's pre-set objectives based on overall participants experience as recorded in structured and open-ended answers in a hand out feedback survey.

This report provides an account on participants feedback and views, surveying instrument used, the event programme, structure, and keynote speakers. We conclude by providing brief recommendations based on the findings of the feedback analysis and outputs in relation to event’s main themes and recorded discussions.

For more details on the event program, content, including key messages and presentation slides please refer to the event page on our website.

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STRUCTURE

The developed questionnaire comprises 17 structured and 3 open ended questions. The questions are thematically arranged in Two main parts.

The first part is ‘About participant’ segment where the participant can fill out their primary professional discipline, role, and area of expertise. Participants are also invited to provide their name and contact details in case they are willing to be contacted in the future for follow up surveying activities.

The second part of the survey is ‘About the event’, where participants can select attended sessions and provide response about sessions’ quality and relevance to meeting objectives. In this part participants can rate elements of the session on a scale of 1 – 5, denoting Strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, and strongly agree, respectively. A copy of the survey is available upon request.

ANALYSIS

The responses were analysed to present a frequency distribution of the answers. We typically consolidated the high-end and low-end scores in the 1-5 point scale, e.g. strongly disagree and disagree, for ease of analysis.

The same approach was followed for questions with binary answers (i.e. yes or no) and multi-select questions. Finally, the open-answers, where the participants stated possible ways to improve the event or actions and networks created as a result of attending the event, were grouped coded and analysed. A word cloud of most frequently used words described by respondents as general impressions on the event were generated and provided in page 13 of this report.

Meeting venue: Swiss Spirit Hotel & Suites (Dr Isert Road, North ridge, Accra, Ghana),
Photos from Plenary session in Main conference room, and parallel sessions in subsidiary rooms.
26th September
Pre conference Day - Training Workshop

Training Workshop I
Introduction to HTA

Training Workshop II
Methods for HTA Institutionalisation

27th September
Conference Day - Panel discussion

Parallel Session I
Developing effective HTA governance structures within healthcare systems

Parallel Session II
Aligning interests - How can the private sector support explicit priority setting in countries transitioning from aid

Parallel Session III
Technology & innovation in health information systems - a lever for health system strengthening

Parallel Session IV
Incorporating HTA and economic evidence into health benefits package design

Plenary I
Historical development and current practice of HTA in Africa: successes, failures & opportunities. What are the next steps?

Plenary II
Sustainable Transition from Aid: towards value for money for equitable outcomes and moving beyond disease silos

MAIN FEATURED COUNTRIES

Ghana
Nigeria
Kenya
Tanzania
Zambia
Ethiopia
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Lydia Dsane Selby
Chief Executive, Ghana National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA)

David Njuguna
Senior Health Economist, Kenya Ministry of Health

Solomon Memirie
Senior Researcher, Centre for Medical Ethics & Priority setting. Addis Ababa University

Michael Castro
Programme Manager, The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI)

Sarah Garner
Chief Economist, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria

Martha Gyanso-Lutterodt
Director of Technical Coordination, Ghana Ministry of Health

Koku Awonoor
Director, Policy Planning Monitoring & Evaluation, Ghana Health Service

Kalipso Chalkidou
Director, International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)

Michael Borowitz
Chief Economist, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria

Iñaki Gutiérrez
President, Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)
ATTENDANCE PROFILE

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 93

(ATTENDANCE IS BY INVITATION ONLY)

20% African Academics

7% International organisations & funders

18% iDSI & other technical experts

27% African MoHs & policy makers

21% Industry & Civil society

7% HTAi & AfHEA networks

Participants by region:
- 70% Africa
- 15% Asia
- 5% North America
- 7% South America
- 5% Oceania
- 1% Europe
- 2% Europe

By professional background:
- 20% by professional background

By geographical distribution:
- 70% Africa
RESPONDENTS’ PROFILE

RESPONSE RATE 42%

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

- Policymaker: 17%
- Researcher: 43%
- Industry: 7%
- International Donors: 4%
- Knowledge broker: 10%
- Civil Society: 5%
- Others: 14%

Geographical Heat-map

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We asked respondents about their views on the aims, objectives, and organisation of the event:

- **Aims and objectives were clear & well-defined**
  - Strongly agree or agree: 92%
  - Neutral: 5%
  - Strongly disagree or disagree: 3%

- **Aims and objectives were successfully met**
  - Strongly agree or agree: 82%
  - Neutral: 15%
  - Strongly disagree or disagree: 3%

- **The event was well organised**
  - Strongly agree or agree: 89%
  - Neutral: 8%
  - Strongly disagree or disagree: 3%

We asked respondents about the programme and overall content of the event:

- **The overall content of the event met my expectation of quality**
  - Strongly agree or agree: 87%
  - Neutral: 8%
  - Strongly disagree or disagree: 5%

- **The overall content matched to my needs & level of understanding of HTA**
  - Strongly agree or agree: 89%
  - Neutral: 8%
  - Strongly disagree or disagree: 3%
We asked respondents whether their knowledge or understanding of HTA has increased as a result of attending this event:

- Increased knowledge of potential for using HTA in resource allocation decisions: 3% strongly disagree or disagree, 3% neutral, 87% agree or strongly agree.
- Increased knowledge of roles of HTA governance structures: 3% strongly disagree or disagree, 3% neutral, 87% agree or strongly agree.
- Increased understanding of the role of iDSI in supporting countries to work towards UHC: 3% strongly disagree or disagree, 3% neutral, 74% agree or strongly agree.

We asked respondents about whether the event helped them with networking and collaboration:

- I have made new connections with colleagues &/or org. Which will support my HTA-related work: 3% strongly disagree or disagree, 5% neutral, 92% agree or strongly agree.
- I will take action as a direct result of my participation in this event: 5% strongly disagree or disagree, 5% neutral, 79% agree or strongly agree.
### Sessions’ Popularity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parallel Session I</th>
<th>Parallel Session II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing effective HTA</td>
<td>Aligning interests - How can the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>governance structures</td>
<td>private sector support explicit</td>
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<tr>
<td>within healthcare systems</td>
<td>priority setting in countries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>transitioning from aid</td>
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<tr>
<th>Parallel Session III</th>
<th>Parallel Session IV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology &amp; innovation in</td>
<td>Incorporating HTA and economic</td>
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<tr>
<td>health information systems</td>
<td>evidence into health benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>- a leaver for</td>
<td>package design</td>
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<td>health system strengthening</td>
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Out of the **39 survey respondents**, attendance preferences for parallel sessions were as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
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<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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We attempted to position the event as a multi-stakeholder networking event which raises awareness of the ongoing HTA activities regionally and worldwide, understand activities’ applicability and relevance to the African context, and to gauge enough interest for coordination to reduce fragmentation and encourage future collaborations.

We asked respondents open ended questions to inquire on their views of how to improve the event further for future reproducibility, and to provide examples of one or more things they would do as a result of participating in this event. We have coded the answers and provided an overview below.

### Please provide an example of an improvement you would like to see to future iDSI events:

- Structure of the event: Increase duration 15%
- Structure of the event: Include further hands on practical training 15%
- Content of the event: Cover more political aspects of HTA 20%
- Content of the event: Increasing regional perspective in discussions 15%
- Others 10%

### Please provide an example of one or more things you will do as a result of participating in this event:

- Networking & sharing in or across countries and organisations 83%
- Engage further with iDSI in International HTA related projects 26%
- Apply learnings from event in research and/or teaching 9%
- Support development of in-country HTA mechanisms 9%
- Others 13%
PRESS AND MEDIA LINKS

EVENT DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL
▶ Key messages from Setting Priorities Fairly event
▶ All presentations from the event proceedings
▶ Blogs
  • Health Technology Assessment proves a hit as almost 100 delegates attend sustainable resource allocation event in Accra
  • Setting Priorities Fairly: Sustainable Policies for Effective Resources Allocation decision
  • HITAP heads to Ghana: Setting Priorities Fairly conference
▶ Ghana’s first national hypertension Economic Evaluation report

PRESS COVERAGE:
▶ Ghana News Agency: Ghana hosts conference on sustainable resource allocation policies (27 September 2018)
▶ Business Ghana: Ghana hosts conference on sustainable resource allocation policies (1 October 2018)
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Providing an effective accessible platform for stakeholder engagement and collaboration on HTA & priority setting is in high demand by African stakeholders

The notion of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in sub-Saharan Africa seems to be on the trajectory of developing from forming stage to storming and norming stages. Respondents’ views reflect good understanding of purpose for priority setting in healthcare; request for coaching new generations of healthcare professionals; and encourages new ideas relevant to the African context and healthcare eco-systems. Engagement efforts similar to Setting Priorities Fairly event are instrumental in bringing these issues under discussion. Examples suggested by respondents include regular regional multi-stakeholder events, policy seminars, and further strengthening of HTA networks in the region. Political economy for priority setting seems to be on top of subsidiary topics needed for discussion.

2. Exploring further national contexts, opportunities, and champions for introducing HTA mechanisms

HTA systems require extensive technical and financial resources. Mechanisms for HTA institutionalisation in LMICs may differ slightly from common practice in Europe. This is why south-south information sharing is of great importance. To link evidence with decision making, more efforts are needed to explore national systems and inter-country cooperation, and identify local champions for potential support. This includes identifying necessary system reforms that can accommodate effective capacity building strategies.

3. Sustainability amidst a transitioning global agenda

Many countries will eventually transition from aid and HTA can be used to inform decisions to help allocate scarce resources, now fully under the responsibility of these countries. Development partners have an important role in appreciating the full implications this will have on local decision making and should take into account all measures that can help manage this transition to domestic financing.

“It’s a good start on the African continent. I hope to see it develop into a regular policy forum for Africa”

“The event is timely for Ghana’s work on HTA, particularly efforts in institutionalisation...”

Sampled respondents’ testimonials

IDSI DIRECTOR KALIPSO CHALKIDOU COMMUNICATING KEY MESSAGES TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, September 2018
During our two-day event meeting, iDSI conducted side meetings in the form of roundtable discussions with Ghanaian and international stakeholders participants. As the event enjoyed a high level representation by Ministry of Health, committed ministerial actions shortly followed. This includes key messages that were timely communicated to wider lay audience and focus groups were formed by specialists in Ghana to take up discussions for HTA institutionalisation to the next level. Accordingly, the iDSI has furnished a ‘next steps’ concept document. That laid out plans for instigating the HTA institutionalisation process in Ghana.

On Friday 4th October 2019, exactly a year after the Setting Priorities Fairly Event in Ghana, members of the International Decision Support initiative (iDSI) were invited to the Ministerial Inauguration meeting of Ghana’s first National Health Technology Assessment (HTA) steering and technical committees for HTA. The invitation acknowledged iDSI’s 11 years of active involvement in the country advocating for prioritising evidence-informed decision making in Ghana. We are currently working with Ghanaian and international partners to see this positive change through, and encourage collective efforts, leaving no one behind. See our blog covering inauguration event [here](#).

A key measure of success for HTA institutionalisation in Ghana relates to developing effective partnerships and facilitating cooperation between the stakeholder groups. Such partnership is an important feature of the iDSI network’s theory of Change (see our [recent publication](#) about building relationships that focus on people, policy, and process for implementing HTA in Ghana).
## Organising Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalipso Chalkidou</td>
<td>Director, International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt</td>
<td>Director of Technical Coordination, Ghana Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Grainger</td>
<td>Director, Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabia Kahveci</td>
<td>Director, Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Tunis</td>
<td>President, Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamed Gad</td>
<td>Advisor - International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice Nonvignon</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Ghana</td>
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## Supporting and event organisation team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Francis Ruiz</td>
<td>Senior Advisor, International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Else Kryjenbrink</td>
<td>Project Manager, International Decision Support Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeleine Stewart</td>
<td>Communications Manager, International Decision Support Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Trowman</td>
<td>Director, Scientific Initiatives, Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Akon</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Ghana Ministry of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Asare</td>
<td>Programme Officer, Ghana Ministry of Health</td>
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The Global Health and Development Group is a nonprofit, fee-for-service unit based within the School of Public Health, Imperial College London. Its team of health economists and global health experts contributes to better health around the world through more effective and equitable use of resources.

The team provides advice and practical support to governments, healthcare payers, clinicians, academics, and other local agencies overseas to build capacity for evidence-informed health policy and to design and use methods and processes to apply such capacity to their local country setting.

The Center for Global Development works to reduce global poverty and inequality through rigorous research and active engagement with the policy community to make the world a more prosperous, just, and safe place for us all.

The policies and practices of the rich and the powerful—in rich nations, as well as in the emerging powers, international institutions, and global corporations—have significant impacts on the world’s poor people. We aim to improve these policies and practices through research and policy engagement to expand opportunities, reduce inequalities, and improve lives everywhere.
We respond to country demands and working with governments and researchers to influence policymaking, including through government-to-government links.

Our multidisciplinary global network brings research rigour, knowledge translation and real policy and political expertise.

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We bring global, regional and country partners to share knowledge and work together towards common objectives.