

# GHANA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICAL OFFICERS

In case of the reply, the number and the date of this letter should be quoted.

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6<sup>th</sup> July,2026

An Amalgam of Field Technicians, Health Records Assistants, and Technical officers  
(Nutrition, Disease Control, Community Health, and Health Information)

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**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE RAINY SEASON, FLOODING, AND PUBLIC HEALTH: GAPHTO URGES HEIGHTENED DISEASE PREVENTION AND OUTBREAK VIGILANCE**

*Accra, Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026...*The Ghana Association of Public Health Technical Officers (GAPHTO) issues this statement in the wake of the devastating floods of 29th June 2026 in Accra and similar flooding events reported across the country, including Samrabo in the Western Region, to draw the attention of the general public and all relevant authorities to the urgent public health implications of the ongoing rainy season.

2. GAPHTO extends its heartfelt condolences to the families of all those who lost their lives in the recent flooding, and expresses deep sympathy to the many survivors who are counting the cost of years of effort washed away in a single night. In the face of such adversity, we are reminded that life itself is our most irreplaceable asset. It is in that spirit that GAPHTO calls upon every Ghanaian to take the measures necessary to preserve life, for it is with life that greater things are yet to be achieved.

3. GAPHTO wishes to remind the general public that the major rainy season is ongoing. The effects of climate change continue to intensify weather events across Ghana, and further episodes of torrential rainfall, strong winds, and associated flooding are to be anticipated. The public health consequences of these conditions are significant and demand immediate, sustained preventive action.

4. Flooding and poor drainage conditions create the conditions for the rapid spread of multiple categories of communicable diseases, including:

#### **Water-borne Diseases**

Cholera, dysentery, rotavirus, typhoid fever

#### **Water-based Diseases**

Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia)

#### **Water-related Diseases**

Malaria, yellow fever, dengue fever, worm infestations

5. In view of the foregoing, GAPHTO issues the following public health advisories to all citizens and relevant institutions across the country:

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY — GENERAL PUBLIC**

##### **I. Monitor Weather Updates Regularly**

Members of the public are strongly advised to obtain up-to-date weather forecasts from the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) before venturing out, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. GAPHTO also calls upon all media houses to broadcast regular weather updates as a public service to help citizens make informed decisions about their safety.

## II. Urgent Clearance of Waterways and Drainage Channels

The clearance and maintenance of drains, waterways, and gutters is critical as further heavy rainfall is anticipated. GAPHTO urges all District Assemblies, Metropolitan Authorities, and community groups to expedite this work without delay.

## III. Food Safety and Hand Hygiene

All households and food vendors are advised to consume food whilst it is hot, store food under hygienic conditions, and maintain a high standard of hand hygiene at all times. Handwashing facilities with soap and running water should be installed and maintained at homes, food preparation areas, schools, and public spaces as was successfully demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Frequent and thorough handwashing remains one of the most effective means of breaking the chain of disease transmission.

## IV. Personal Warmth and Immune Health

Citizens are encouraged to keep themselves adequately warm, particularly children and the elderly, to support optimal immune function during this period. Adequate nutrition, rest, and hydration are important complementary measures for maintaining good health.

## V. Prompt Reporting of Illness

Any person experiencing signs of ill health — including fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, skin rashes, or respiratory symptoms — should report to the nearest health facility without delay, even where referral may be necessary. Early reporting is essential for timely case management and provides geo-epidemiological data critical for outbreak detection, disease mapping, and the mobilisation of public health responses.

### CALL TO ACTION: GAPHTO MEMBERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

6. GAPHTO calls upon all its members: **Disease Control Officers, Nutrition Officers, Health Information Officers, and Health Promotion Officers**; to intensify their presence in communities, temporary shelter facilities, schools, and across all available media platforms during this period. Specifically, members are called upon to:

- Provide consistent, evidence-based public health reminders on disease prevention and outbreak control measures;
- Direct members of the public to available local health services, temporary medical facilities, and community resources as applicable;
- Ensure immunization services to eligible population – children under 5 years.
- Promote immune-strengthening nutrition, particularly amongst displaced persons and children in temporary shelter; ensuring vitamin A supplementation for eligible children under 5 years.
- Identify and report suspected cases of outbreak-prone diseases early to the District Disease Surveillance Officers and relevant authorities;
- Maintain meticulous and accurate disease surveillance records as these constitute the scientific evidence that defines the practice of public health and guides the response of national authorities;
- Engage robustly with radio, television, and community platforms to sustain public health messaging at this critical time.

7. GAPHTO calls upon each member to demonstrate, through action, their commitment to the health and welfare of the Ghanaian people in these challenging times. The measure of a public health professional is not only in what is already known and practised, it is in the willingness to rise to what the moment demands,

even where no established precedent exists. Ghana is watching; let us be found worthy of the trust placed in us.

**8. GAPHTO reaffirms its commitment to working in partnership with the Ghana Health Service, the Ministry of Health, District Assemblies, and all relevant stakeholders to protect the health of all Ghanaians. We stand ready to support all ongoing public health emergency response activities across the country. *GAPHTO, public health, our concern***

**END**

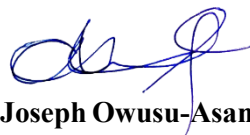
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