SEND GHANA
(A Subsidiary of SEND Foundation of West Africa)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2027 Budget: Increased Social Sector Allocations Welcome, but Gaps in Financing and Service Delivery Persist.

SEND GHANA welcomes the increased allocations to health, education and social protection in the 2027 National Budget. We recognise Government's efforts to address some longstanding social sector challenges. The 2027 Budget have included some of the priorities we have consistently raised through our pre-budget engagements and citizen consultations. These include increased funding for the Domestic Violence Fund, improved incentives for teachers serving in deprived communities, continued investment in completing existing health infrastructure under Agenda 111 and the introduction of a dedicated Social Protection Fund.

While these commitments are welcome, important financing and implementation gaps remain. Our analysis of the 2027 Budget examines how funding has changed across these sectors compared with 2026, the priorities reflected in the new allocations and the gaps that we call on parliament to pay attention to while they review the budget for approval. The following sections present our findings and recommendations on health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, social protection, education, and water, sanitation and hygiene, highlighting where the Budget has made progress and where further action is needed to improve service delivery and outcomes for citizens.

HEALTH

The health sector has recorded an increase in its share of the national budget, rising nominally from 8.2 percent (GH¢22.8 billion) in 2026 to 10.7 percent (GH¢40.3 billion) in 2027. While we welcome this improvement, the allocation remains below the 15 percent Abuja Declaration target, leaving a financing gap of approximately GH¢16.7 billion and any economic shocks can affect the budget to provide the needed services. We therefore urge Government to increase health financing and prioritise investments in primary healthcare and maternal health services particularly emergency obstetric care in underserved communities as the target for maternal health is far from been attained. We also commend Government's continued investment in completing existing health infrastructure under Agenda 111. However, despite approximately GH¢4.5–4.8 billion already invested in the programme, none of the hospitals is currently operational. Parliament should realign funds to prioritise the completion of the 20 hospitals scheduled for completion in 2027 before commencing new projects. Furthermore, each completed hospital should incorporate fully equipped Adolescent Health Corner to provide young people with confidential access to HIV and STI testing, contraception, sexual and reproductive health information and other essential services.

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SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)

The 2027 Budget presents opportunities to strengthen access to sexual and reproductive health services, particularly for women and young people. However, persistent financing and supply challenges threaten the sustainability of these services. Although family planning services have been included in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) benefits package since 2022, access remains constrained by inadequate and unreliable supplies of contraceptive commodities. A 2024 family planning expenditure tracking assessment found that Ghana spent approximately GH¢104.6 million (US$7.2 million) on family planning, with the Government of Ghana financing only 9.48 per cent, while development partners contributed more than 90 per cent. This high dependence on external financing, particularly at a time of declining donor support, raises concerns about the sustainability of commodity supplies. These concerns are further underscored by reports that family planning commodities worth US$500,000 were held up at the ports in April 2026.

We therefore call on Parliament to increase and protect domestic budgetary allocations for family planning commodities, establish a dedicated and protected NHIS financing arrangement for family planning services, and ensure full financing of the US$114 million Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (2024–2030). Government must also ensure that young people can access contraception, condoms and HIV testing under Free Primary Healthcare, particularly as young people aged 15–24 accounted for 27.5 per cent of new HIV infections in 2025, while teenage pregnancy remains a concern.

Beyond access to reproductive health services, adequate investment in menstrual health is equally important. We commend Government for maintaining the GH¢292 million allocation for the free sanitary pad distribution programme. However, the allocation has remained unchanged since 2025, raising concerns about its purchasing power amid rising costs and whether it can guarantee adequate quantities and quality of sanitary pads. Our analysis estimates that the current allocation can provide only about six to nine packs of sanitary pads per girl annually, falling short of the intended provision of 12 pads per girl. We therefore recommend increasing the allocation to between GH¢333 million and GH¢450 million, adjusting it annually for inflation and ensuring that only certified products are procured. Government must also make the findings of the 2026 sanitary pad quality audit publicly available to strengthen transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, access to sexual and reproductive health services must be accompanied by stronger prevention and support systems for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. In this regard, we welcome the increase in the Domestic Violence Fund from GH¢1 million in 2026 to GH¢10 million in 2027. However, increased allocations must be matched with clear spending priorities and timely releases. We recommend that Parliament ensure that at least 30 per cent of the Fund is allocated and released for SRHR education and prevention, while at least 20 per cent is dedicated to establishing and supporting the operations of shelters for survivors. These shelters must have appropriate arrangements to accommodate young survivors and adults separately, taking into account their distinct protection and support needs.

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SOCIAL PROTECTION

We welcome the introduction of the GH¢40 million Social Protection Fund in the 2027 Budget as an important step towards strengthening social assistance and providing support to poor and vulnerable households. We call on Parliament to ensure that at least 10 per cent of the Fund is allocated towards establishing and equipping safe shelters for survivors of domestic violence, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities who remain vulnerable to abuse.

However, the effectiveness of social protection interventions depends not only on the resources allocated to them but also on the capacity of the Ministry responsible for their implementation to coordinate, monitor and ensure accountability in service delivery. In this regard, we are concerned that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's 2027 budget allocation leave very limited fiscal space for it to carry out its broader mandate. Of the GH¢3.43 billion allocated to the Ministry, GH¢1.096 billion is earmarked for the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme, GH¢2.095 billion for the School Feeding Programme, and GH¢134.58 million for employee compensation. This leaves approximately GH¢100.24 million, representing just 2.9 per cent of the Ministry's total allocation, for its other programmes and activities.

This limited provision raises concerns about the Ministry's ability to effectively undertake essential functions, including monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes, coordination and supervision of interventions, child protection services, responses to gender-based violence, support for vulnerable groups, policy implementation and enforcement, and monitoring service delivery at the district level. While LEAP and the School Feeding Programme are critical social protection interventions, the Ministry must also have adequate resources to monitor their implementation, ensure accountability and address gaps in service delivery. We therefore call on the Government to review the allocation and provide sufficient operational resources to enable the Ministry to fulfil its broader mandate and ensure that social protection commitments translate into effective support for the people who need them most.

EDUCATION

We acknowledge the nominal increase in the Ministry of Education's allocation from GH¢39.23 billion in 2026 to GH¢48 billion in 2027, representing a **22.28 percent increase** over the 2026 allocation. We also recognise the Government's efforts to address teacher shortages through additional recruitment and incentives for teachers serving in deprived communities. The planned implementation of the 20 percent special allowance for teachers in deprived areas is particularly important in attracting and retaining qualified teachers in underserved communities. Parliament should ensure that these incentives are allocated funds for adequate teacher accommodation, professional development and equitable deployment to schools with the greatest staffing needs.

We note that despite the overall increase in the education budget, the allocation for inclusive education remains unchanged at GH¢50 million. This raises concerns about the adequacy of

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resources available to special schools and learners with disabilities. We ask that parliament would recommend reallocation of the education budget to ensure an increase and targeted financing informed by the actual needs of special schools, including assistive learning materials, disability assessment services and accessible infrastructure so that no child is excluded from quality education because of their circumstances.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The 2027 Budget reflects a significant increase in the compiled WASH sector allocation, from GH¢1.46 billion in 2026 to GH¢4.86 billion in 2027. The allocation of GH¢820 million for the Northern Ghana Water System and GH¢75 million for other water infrastructure is also a positive step towards expanding access to water. However, investments must extend beyond new infrastructure to include the rehabilitation, maintenance and monitoring of existing water systems to ensure reliable access to safe water. We call on parliament to ensure that adequate allocations for maintenance and monitoring of water quality. Furthermore, the provision of free sanitary pads for schoolgirls must be complemented by adequate investments in water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools. Access to safe water, private and accessible toilets, changing facilities and appropriate disposal systems is essential to promoting menstrual health and ensuring that girls can participate fully in education with dignity.tt

CONCLUSION

While the 2027 Budget reflects progress in several areas of social sector financing, increased allocations alone will not guarantee improved outcomes. Persistent gaps in funding adequacy, undermine the effectiveness of essential social interventions.

We therefore urge parliament to reassess the budget lines to ensure that maternal health, family planning, WASH, inclusive education and domestic violence are adequately resourced before the appropriation is passed Government should also strengthen budget credibility, improve transparency in public expenditure and ensure that resources reach the intended programmes and beneficiaries. We remain committed to working with Government, Parliament, civil society organisations and citizens to promote accountable public spending and ensure that national budget commitments translate into tangible improvements in the wellbeing and quality of life of all Ghanaians.

Signed:

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Harriet N. Agyemang
Country Director