CHALLENGES IN REGULATING HERBAL MEDICINES IN GHANA

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INTRODUCTION

- Ghana is located in the West African sub-region with a population of about 23m.
- Boarded to the North by Burkina Faso, the East by Togo, West by Ivory Coast and South by the Gulf of Guinea.
- System of government – Democratic with ten administrative regions.
- Herbal Medicines play very important role in the healthcare delivery system.
- Used widely both in rural and urban areas.
INTRODUCTION

- The Drug division of the FDB currently has five departments.
- Before April 2010, there were three with Herbal medicine unit under Drug Evaluation & Registration (DER) Department.
- The Herbal Medicine unit elevated to a department, independent of DER
Activities and Progress

- Considerable improvement in the use of appropriate packaging materials and labeling
- Herbal medicinal products manufactured from designated facilities
- Training of Traditional medicine practitioners who prepare extemporaneous preparations under hygienic conditions
- Product evaluated based on long use and safety
Challenges

- Sudden increase in the number of Herbal Clinics/Centres

- Most are into preparation of herbal preparation for use within herbal facility, but eventually ends into the Market

- Facilities regulated by the Traditional Medicine Practice Council with jurisdiction over activities within Clinic
Challenges

- Increase use of medical diagnostic devices in herbal centres and data generated from these devices may not be properly understood by practitioners.
- Most of the devices have not been evaluated by regulatory body to assess their suitability or otherwise.
- Inflow of foreign unapproved herbal medicines through unapproved routes.
Interventions

○ Working closely with Traditional Medicine Practitioners Associations and the Agency regulating their activities to restrict the use of extemporaneous preparations within their facilities.

○ Begun assessing the suitability of diagnostic medical devices used by practitioners.
Interventions

- Working closely with customs and other state institution to minimize the inflow of unapproved products.

- Issue of disclaimers and public education on safety and efficacy status of unapproved medicines.
Thank you