

REGULATION: What changes do we need to make after COVID-19 to build and sustain a resilient health system

Dr Augustina Koduah

University of Ghana School of Pharmacy



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

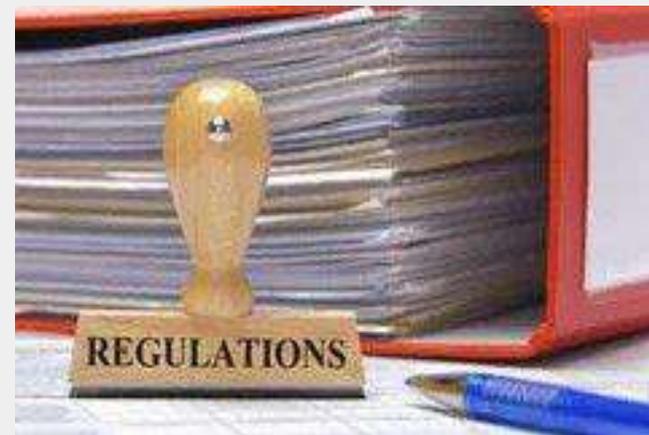
Outline

- Health system regulation
- Health regulatory agencies response to COVID-19
- Lessons through the lens of resilient health system framework



Health System Regulation

- Regulation are key implementation mechanisms for translating major health policy objectives into action through the setting of standards and requirements and the use of sanctions and incentives to exert leverage over the health system and its stakeholders.



Health System regulators

- Product regulators – Food and Drugs Authority (Public Health Act 851)
- Practice Regulators (Health Professions Regulatory Bodies Act 857)
- Health facility regulators – HeFRA (Health Institutions and Facilities Act 829)



Regulatory agencies COVID 19 response

- Capacity and functioning of Ministry of Health regulatory agencies *have been tested during the COVID -19 pandemic.*
- *Responded in three broad ways:*
 - *Adapting*
 - *Collaborating with other regulators and sectors, and*
 - *Investing in tools and systems*



Adapting

- Regulatory bodies responded and adapted to cope with the demands by amending existing regulatory mechanisms

E.g.

- Emergency use authorization of medical products
- Joint COVID-19 vaccine safety review committee



Collaborating

- Working with other regulators and sectors to enforce COVID-19 related standards and requirements

E.g.

- Licensing Laboratory for COVID testing (3 regulators – HeFRA, FDA, Allied Health)
- Working with Academia
- Industry – Face mask, sanitizers



Investing

- Investing in capacity and skills building, tools and systems
- E.g.
 - Systems and processes to facilitate the adaptive and collaborative drive

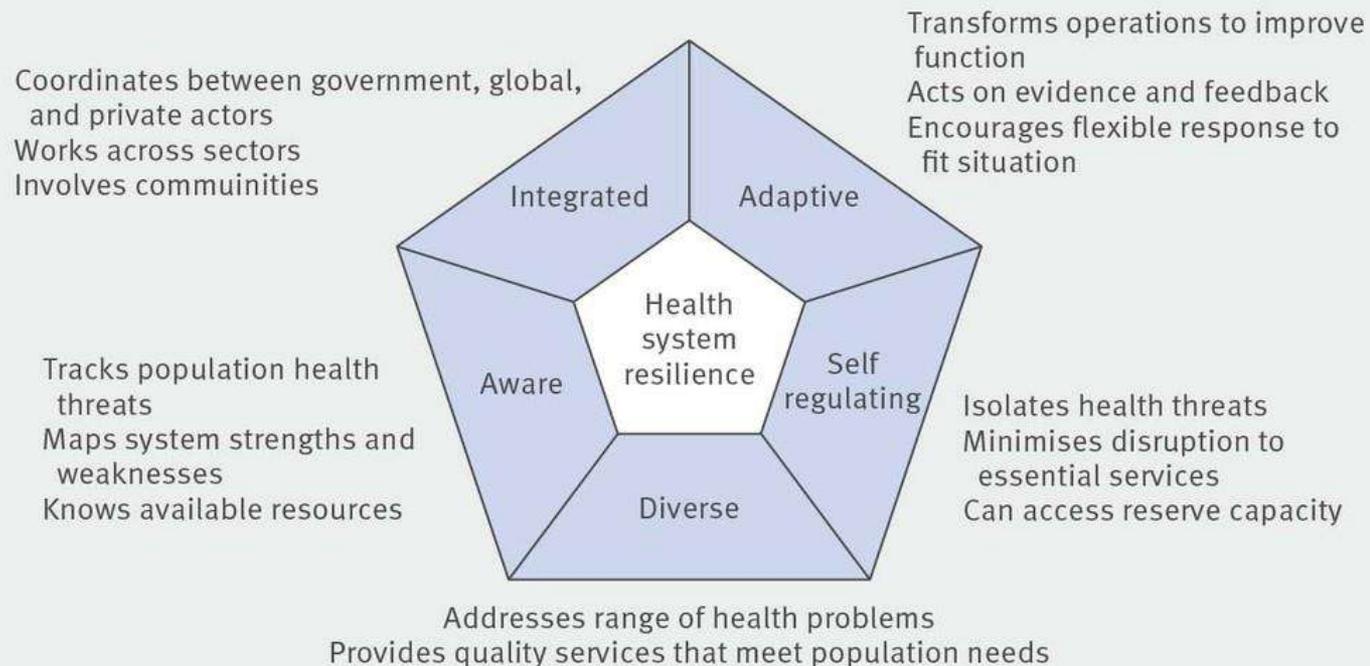


Lessons

- There is the need to probe further the response of regulatory agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic, its contribution to how Ghana has successfully managed it to date, and how the associated shocks of the pandemic impacted performance of its core functions as mandated by law.
- Through the *Resilient Health System Framework*



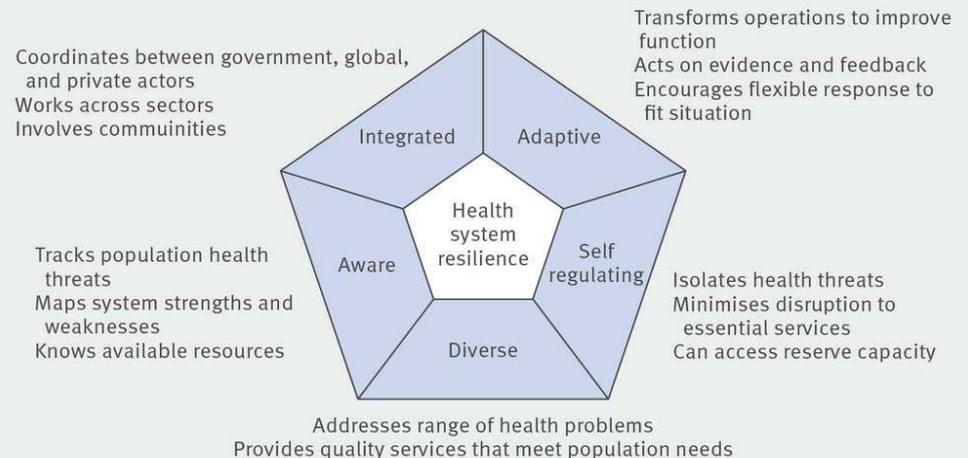
Resilient Health System Framework



National leadership and policy • Public health and health system infrastructure
Committed workforce • Global coordination and support

Aware

- Regulatory bodies must know their strengths and weakness and resources

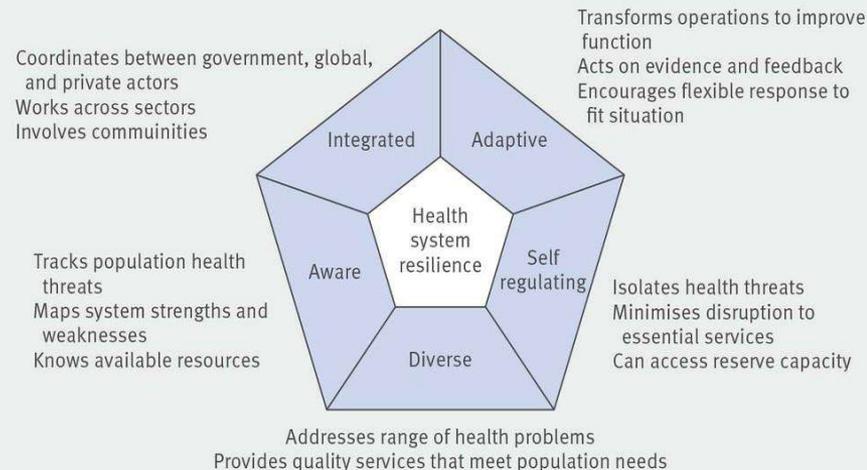


National leadership and policy • Public health and health system infrastructure
Committed workforce • Global coordination and support



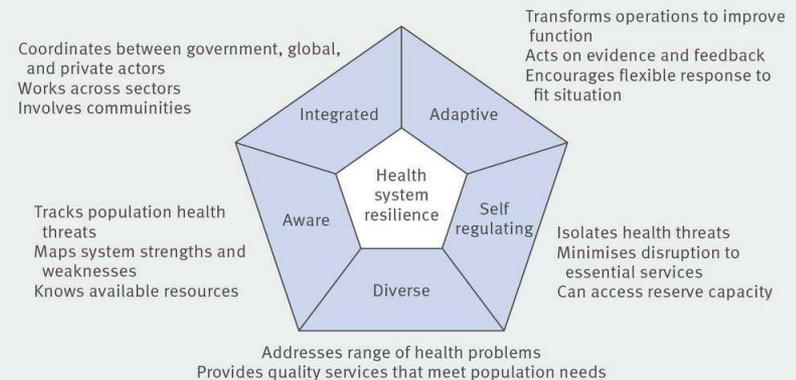
Diverse

- Effectively response to its core mandate and range of regulatory issues
- Adequately finance its operations; prevent financial harm



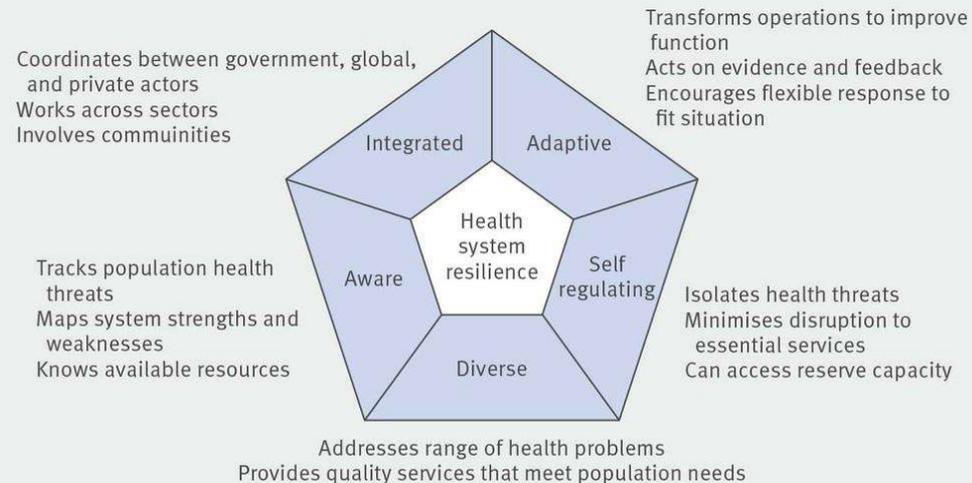
Self-regulating

- Maintain core function and minimise disruptions to existing services
- Leverage outside capacity
- Lessons learnt working with other regulators and sectors



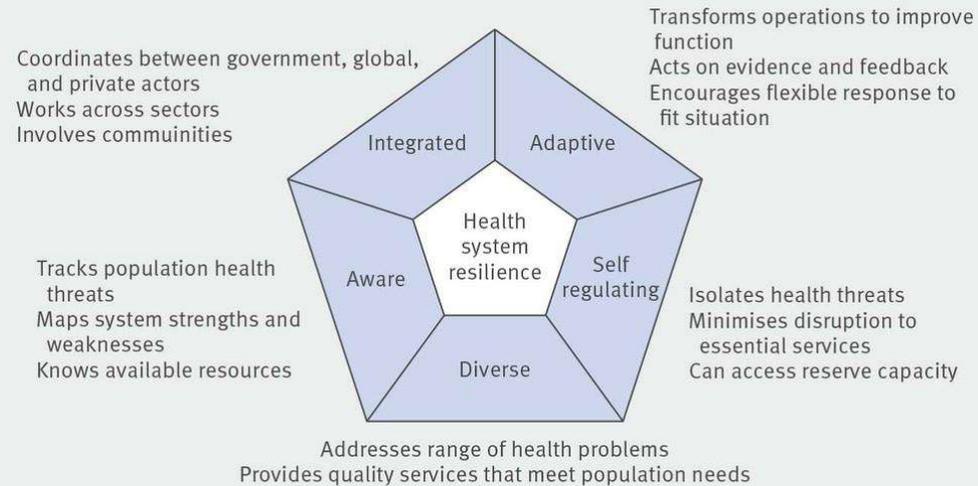
Adaptive

- What operations and systems were transformed to improve functions
 - What resources were shifted?
 - What decision making processes were put in place for rapid response?



Integrated

- Coordinate with non-health actors
- Systems in place to engage citizens and communities to build trust
- Leveraging training and education to support to regulatory actions



- What changes do we need to make after COVID-19 to build and sustain a resilient health system?



Thank you

