Journalists sensitised to domestic health financing

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A two-day training aimed at equipping journalists to hold the government accountable on domestic health financing, has been held in Accra, on Wednesday.

It was organized by Healthy Black Communities Promotions Ghana, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses on health, to train participants in Domestic Health Financing, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Budget Advocacy.

The Chief Executive Officer of the NGO, Evans La Mor Montoe, said it was important to train journalists to be able to hold government accountable for monies secured from donor countries.

According to him, the UHC roadmap showed the commitment of government to shaping the future of health care delivery in the country, from 2020 to 2030.

"Ghana showed in 2002 commitment to the implementation of the UHC roadmap by developing Prioritized Operation Plan (POP) to serve as the basis for the determination of health sector funding and health investments for 2021 to 2030," he said.

Mr Montoe explained that the POP constituted a set of prioritized impact services and health financing and systems, adding that there was the need to strengthen reforms to accelerate progress of achieving UHC results.

These proven interventions, he said, contributed to the steady decline in the total number of maternal deaths and unintentional maternal mortality from 251.1 per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 177.6 per 100,000 live births in 2019.

Mr Montoe said there was immense improvement despite the country’s efforts.

He called on government to ensure measures to ensure that funds were generated internally to address health issues.

A representative of the People’s Health Movement, a health advocacy group, Mr Elvisu Mahaana, said the group intended to work with the government to advance its agenda on funding for health facilities.

He appealed to journalists to increase coverage on health issues, ranging from infrastructure to universal health coverage.