Paper 1. The grand convergence agenda: Implications of the report of the Commission on Investing in Health for Ghana and Kenya

**Overview:** This presentation will provide an overview of the report of the Commission on Investing in Health, highlighting the key conclusions of the Commission and discussing the primary implications for health financing in Ghana and Kenya. This presentation highlights the substantial health improvements that are possible for Ghana and Kenya to achieve in the coming years, if the countries prioritize health sector investments that build the capacity of the health system and expand delivery of high impact and cost-effective health interventions for maternal, child, and infectious conditions.

**Session Objectives:**

* To outline the health investments – both levels and priorities – needed from now through 2035 to achieve convergence in Ghana and Kenya, and the estimated returns on these investments
* To outline the health improvements that could be realized in the coming 20 years through targeted investment
* To discuss the key roles that various stakeholders (i.e. country governments, international funding agencies and development partners, civil society groups) could play in ensuring progress towards the grand convergence.

**Methods:** The researchers used the World Health Organization OneHealth Tool to project the estimated costs and benefits of achieving convergence. Benefit:Cost analysis was then completed to assess returns on investment. All analysis was done replicating the methodology used in the CIH’s Global Health 2035 report.

**Key Findings:** Increased strategic health investments could result in rapid health improvements.

By increasing public spending on health by about $US 566 million annually, Ghana could avert an average of over 55,000 deaths annually from now through 2035, with sustained reductions in the future. In the case of Kenya, the estimates suggest that a $US 18.6 billion annual investments in the health sector could avert an average of over 80,000 deaths annually from now through 2035. These investments would also positively impact economic growth. For every dollar invested in convergence in Ghana and Kenya, about $US 10 – 14 would be returned over the years 2016 to 2035, indicating a significant economic returns on health investment. These very high returns to investment make a powerful case for increasing domestic resource allocation to health.

**Presenter:** CIH Commissioner Dr. Helen Saxenian