



Residual Capacity and Pandemic Response in Ghana

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Covid-19 and the State Contributors' Workshop

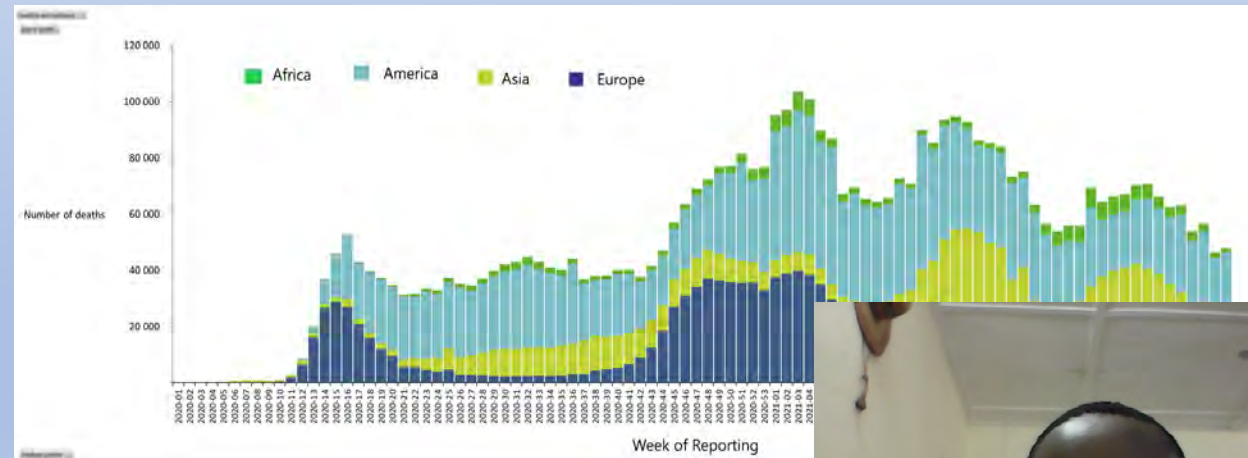
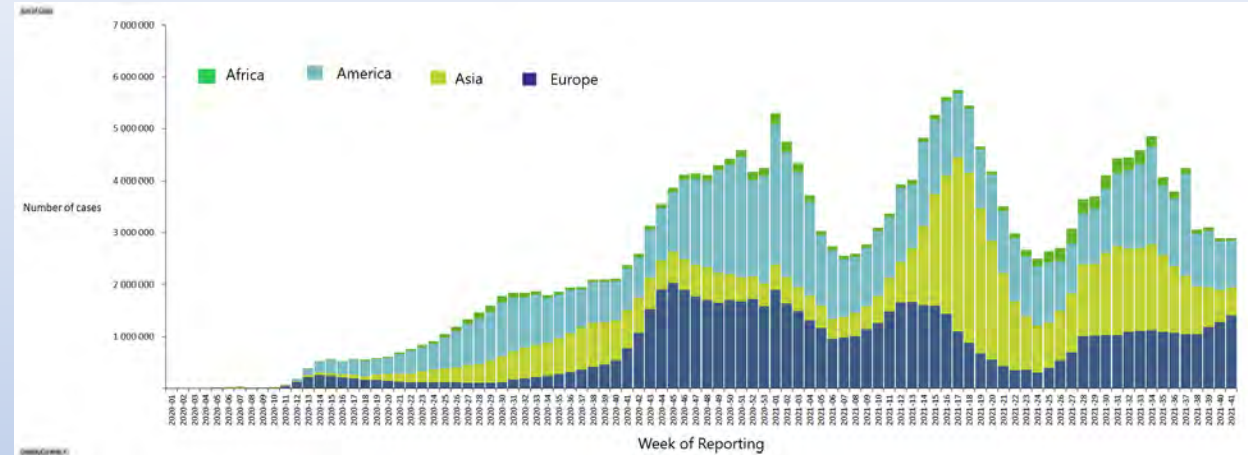
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Introduction

- Unexpectedly lower toll in Ghana and other low-capacity African countries
- It is important to understand the institutional and political contexts



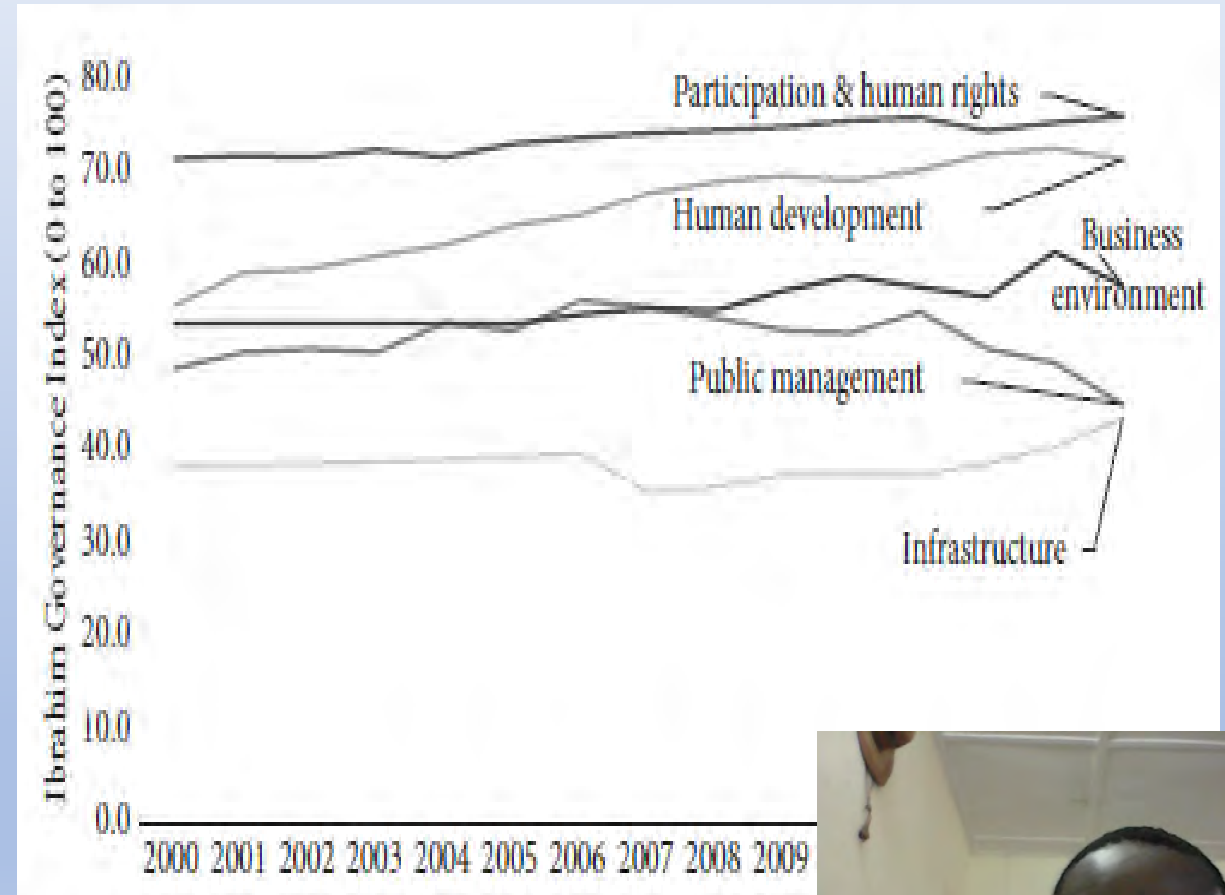
Concept of state capacity and infrastructural power

- Ability to discharge functions effectively and to drive economic development
 - Michael Mann's 'infrastructural power'
- A few caveats:
 - Potential vs reality
 - Homogenous vs pockets of effectiveness
 - Stability: core vs episodic
 - Location: embedded vs diffused



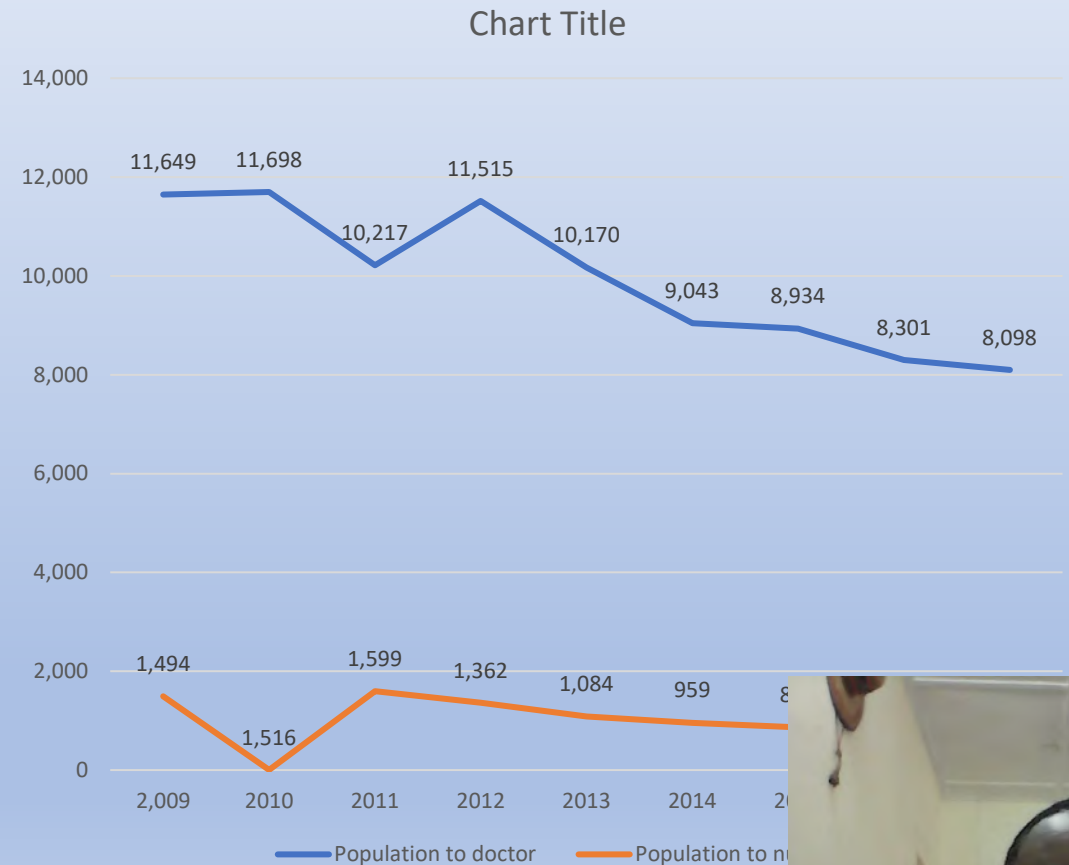
State capacity in Ghana

- A political economy perspective
 - Growth without economic transformation
 - Strong democracy, weak state
 - Competitive clientelism



Capacity of healthcare delivery in Ghana

- Emergency care
 - Ambulances [... and roads]
 - Drone
- Health personnel
 - Doctor to patient ratio
 - Nurses to patient ratio
- Other structural issues
 - Ill-equipped Community-based health planning services (CHPS) compounds
 - Inequitable distribution of health resources
 - Inadequate health infrastructure (0.5 ICU beds per 100,000 people)



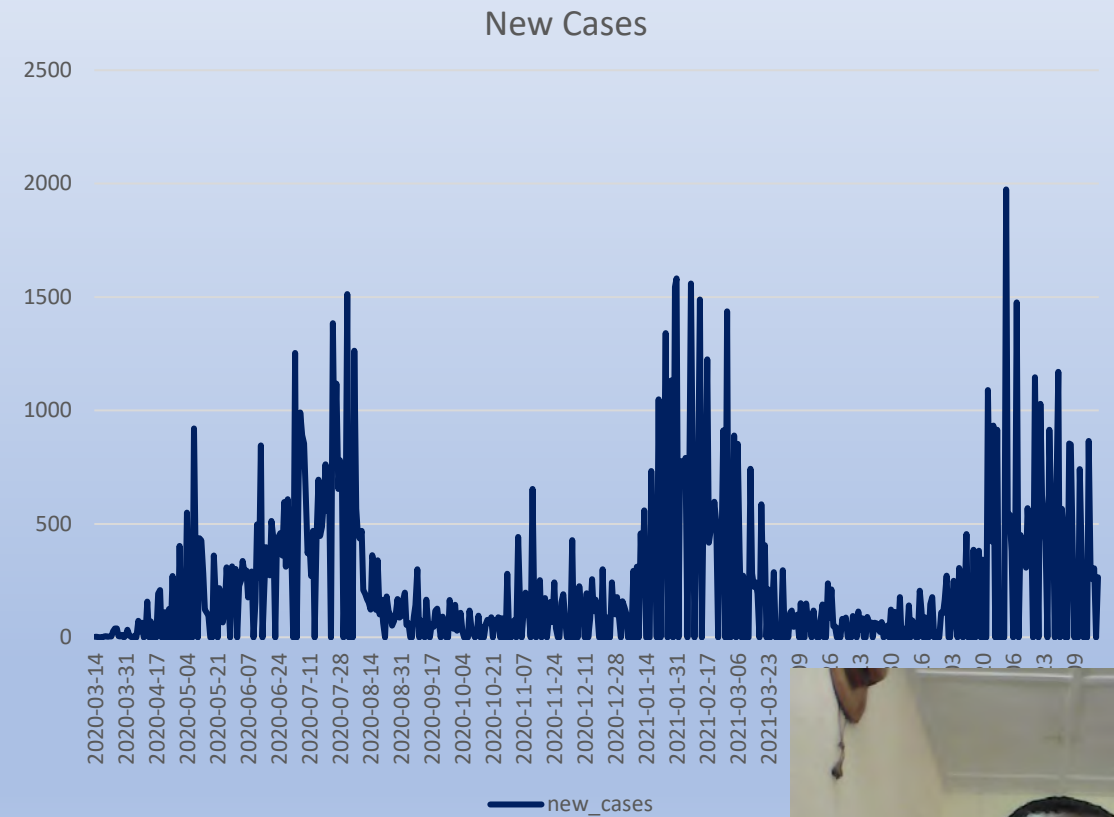
Strong regional response

- Strong early response and coordination
- Africa Joint Continental Strategy adopted in February 2020
- AU supported construction of testing labs
- AU Covid-19 Respond Fund
 - Supported the Partnership to Accelerate Covid-19 Testing (PACT)
- African Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP)
 - Cheap and reliable access to supplies
 - N95 mask: \$30 on open market, \$2 on AMSP



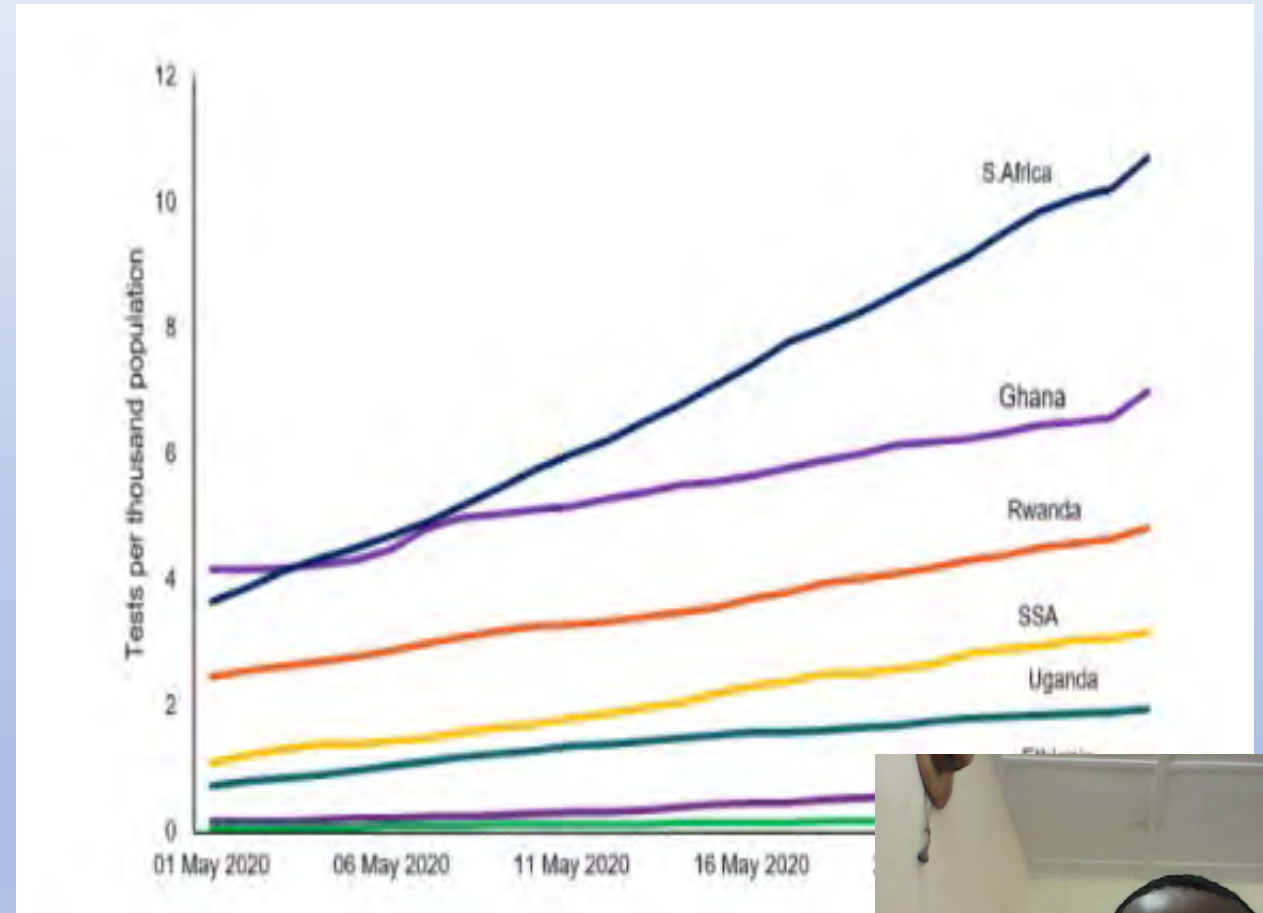
Covid-19 in Ghana

- Outbreak
 - First two cases reported 12 March, three waves since then



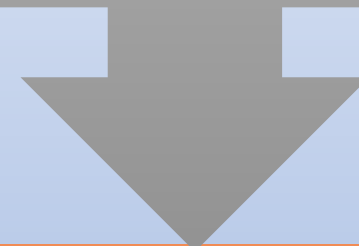
Covid-19 in Ghana

- Strong early response
 - Leveraged on previous public health capacity
 - Lockdown, social restrictions, mitigation packages
 - Vigorous initial testing regime
- Wavering response
 - Compilation of new voters' register
 - Campaign activities
 - Elections



Conclusion

Ghana leveraged on regional response and earlier public health emergency responses



‘Residual capacity’

Episodic

Short-term utility

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Thank you!

