



# 2010

## POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS

### DISTRICT ANALYTICAL REPORT

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### WEST GONJA DISTRICT



Canada 

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK  
**DANIDA** | INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

No meaningful developmental activity can be undertaken without taking into account the characteristics of the population for whom the activity is targeted. The size of the population and its spatial distribution, growth and change over time, in addition to its socio-economic characteristics are all important in development planning.

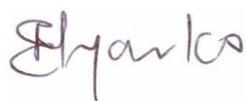
A population census is the most important source of data on the size, composition, growth and distribution of a country's population at the national and sub-national levels. Data from the 2010 Population and Housing Census (PHC) will serve as reference for equitable distribution of national resources and government services, including the allocation of government funds among various regions, district and other sub-national populations to education, health and other social services.

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) is delighted to provide data users, especially the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, with district-level analytical reports based on the 2010 PHC data to facilitate their planning and decision-making.

The District Analytical Report for the West Gonja District is one of the 216 district census reports aimed at making data available to planners and decision makers at the district level. In addition to presenting the district profile, the report discusses the social and economic dimensions of demographic variables and their implications for policy formulation, planning and interventions. The conclusions and recommendations drawn from the district report are expected to serve as a basis for improving the quality of life of Ghanaians through evidence-based decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of developmental goals and intervention programmes.

For ease of accessibility to the census data, the district report and other census reports produced by the GSS will be disseminated widely in both print and electronic formats. The report will also be posted on the GSS website: [www.statsghana.gov.gh](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh).

The GSS wishes to express its profound gratitude to the Government of Ghana for providing the required resources for the conduct of the 2010 PHC. While appreciating the contribution of our Development Partners (DPs) towards the successful implementation of the Census, we wish to specifically acknowledge the Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) formerly the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) for providing resources for the preparation of all the 216 district reports. Our gratitude also goes to the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, the Ministry of Local Government, Consultant Guides, Consultant Editors, Project Steering Committee members and their respective institutions for their invaluable support during the report writing exercise. Finally, we wish to thank all the report writers, including the GSS staff who contributed to the preparation of the reports, for their dedication and diligence in ensuring the timely and successful completion of the district census reports.



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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CBR:	Crude Birth Rate
CDR:	Crude Death Rate
CERSGIS:	Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Survey
CHPS:	Community Health Based Planning Services
CIDA:	Canadian International Development Agency
CWIQ:	Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire
DANIDA:	Danish International Development Agency
DFID:	Department for International Development
EA:	Enumeration Area
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
EU:	European Union
GDHS:	Ghana Demography Health Survey
GDP:	Gross Domestic product
GES:	Ghana Education Service
GPS:	Global Positioning System
GSDP:	Ghana Statistics Development Plan
GSS:	Ghana Statistical Service
ICT:	Information Communication Technology
ICU:	International Communication Union
ISSER:	Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research
IUSSP:	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
JHS:	Junior High School
JSS:	Junior Secondary School
KVIP:	Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
MMDAs:	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
NCA:	National Communication Authority
NCPEC:	The National Census Publicity and Evaluation Committee
NCSC:	National Census Steering Committee
NCTAC:	National Census Technical Advisory Committee
NDC:	National Data Centre
NDPC:	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs:	Non-governmental Organisations

NHIS:	National Health Insurance Scheme
NIPORT:	National Institute of Population Research and Training
PAS:	Population Analysis Spreadsheet
PES:	Post Enumeration Survey
PHC:	Population and Housing Census
PNDC:	Provisional National Defence Council
PPP:	Public-Private Partnerships
PWDs:	Persons with disabilities
RIC:	Regional Innovation Centres
SHS:	Senior High School
SSA:	Sub-Saharan Africa
SSS:	Senior Secondary School
TFR:	Total Fertility Rate
UN:	United Nations
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF:	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
W.C:	Water Closet
WHO:	World Health Organization

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The District census report is the first of its kind since the first post-independence census was conducted in 1960. The report provides basic information about the District. It gives a brief background of the District, describing its physical features, political and administrative structure, socio-cultural structure and economy. Using data from the 2010 Population and Housing Census (2010 PHC), the report discusses the population characteristics of the District, fertility, mortality, migration, marital status, literacy and education, economic activity status, occupation, employment; Information Communication Technology (ICT), disability, agricultural activities and housing conditions of the District. The key findings of the analysis are as follows (references are to the relevant sections of the report):

## Population size, structure and composition

The population of the West Gonja District according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, is 41,180 representing 1.7 percent of the region's total population. Males constitute 50.2 percent and females represent 49.8 percent. Slightly more than fifty percent (50.2%) of the population is urban. The District has a sex ratio of 100.4. The population of the District is youthful (14.6%) of the 0-4 age group, depicting a broad base population pyramid which tapers off with a small number of the 70 plus years (1.7%). The total age dependency ratio for the District is 88.6, the age dependency ratio for males is higher (92.4) than that of females (784.9)

## Fertility, mortality and migration

The Total Fertility Rate for the District 3.3, the General Fertility Rate is 94.2 births per 1000 women aged 15-49 years. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is 22.4 per 1000 population. The crude death rate for the District is 5 per 1000. The death rate for males is highest for the age group 70 plus years representing more than 35 deaths per 1000 population while for the males, the highest death rate of 22 deaths per 1000 population is for the age group 70 plus years. Out of the total deaths in the region of 14,715, there had been 197 cases of deaths in the West Gonja District. Majority of migrants (52.6%) living in the District were born in another region while 47.4 percent were born elsewhere in the Northern Region. For migrants born in another region, those born in Upper west Region constitute 22.3 percent followed by those born outside Ghana with 10.1 percent.

## Household Size, composition and structure

The District has a household population of 40,269 with a total number of 6,255 households. The average household size in the District is 7 persons per household. Children constitute the largest proportion of the household structure accounting for 48.3 percent. Spouses form about 9.5 percent. Extended family system constitutes 68.9 percent of the total number of households in the District.

## Marital status

Almost half (45 %) of the population aged 12 years and older are married, 46 percent have never married, 2 percent are in consensual unions, 5 percent are widowed, one percent are divorced and one percent are separated. By age 25-29 years, more than two thirds of females (69.3%) are married compared to a little over a third of the male population (35.2%). At age 65 and above, widowed females account for as high as 57.8 percent while widowed males

account for only 9.6 percent. Among the married, 72.8 percent have no education while only 20.2 percent of the unmarried have never been to school. More than six out of every ten of the married population (63.2%) are employed, 39.6 percent are unemployed and 22.6 percent are economically not active. A greater proportion of those who have never married (68.0%) are economically not active with 5.7 percent unemployed.

### **Nationality**

The proportion of Ghanaians by birth in the District is 80.2 percent. Those who have naturalised constitute one percent and while the non-Ghanaian population in the District is 10.3 percent.

Proportion of the Muslim population in the West Gonja District is about 75.7percent. Among the Christian groups, the Catholics constitute the majority (15.5%).

### **Literacy and education**

Of the population 11 years and above, 52.3 percent are literate with almost half (47.7%)of the population, not literate. The proportion of literate males is higher (56.0%) than that of females (46.0%). Almost five out of ten people (47.4%) indicated they could read and write both English and Ghanaian languages.

With reference to school attendance, of the population aged 3 years and above, 75.4 percent are currently attending school and 24.6percent have attended in the past.

### **Economic activity status**

More than six out of ten (63.4%) of the population aged 15 years and older are economically active. Of the economically active population, 95.4 percent are employed while 4.6 percent are unemployed. For those who are economically not active, a larger percentage of them are students (52.1%, 29.2 percent perform household duties and 3.4 percent are disabled or too sick to work. Almost half (44.8%) of the unemployed are seeking work for the first time.

### **Occupation**

Of the employed population, about 60.5 percent are engaged as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, 14 percent in craft and related trades workers, 12.2 percent in service and sales, only 8.5 percent engaged as managers, professionals and Technicians.

### **Employment status and sector**

Of the population 15 years and older, 58.6 percent are self-employed without employees, 23.1 percent are contributing family workers, 0.9 percent are casual workers. Only 0.6 percent are domestic employees (house helps). Overall, women constitute the highest proportion in each employment category except employees and self-employed without employees. The private informal sector is the largest employer in the District, employing 87.1 percent of the population followed by the private formal with 10.2 percent.

### **Information Communication Technology**

Of the population 12 years and above, 29.1 percent have mobile phones. Men who own mobile phones constitute 34.2 percent as compared to 24.1 percent of females. A little over two percent of the population 12 years and older use internet facilities in the District. Only 214 households representing 3.4 percent of the total households in the District have desktop/laptop computers.

## **Disability**

About two percent (713) of the District's total population has one form of disability or the other. The proportion of the male population (1.9%) with disability is higher than female (1.5%). The types of disability in the District include sight, hearing, speech, physical, intellect, and emotion. Persons with sight disability recorded the highest of 36.6 percent followed by physical disability (25.8%). The disability trend is the same for both urban and rural localities with physical and sight disabilities remaining the predominant cases. About 45.8 percent of the economically active and employed have various forms of disability with speech disability accounting for the majority of 56.1 percent.

## **Agriculture**

More than six out of ten of the population (65.3%) of households in the District are engaged in agriculture, Crop farming is the main agricultural activity with almost nine out of ten (89.4%) households engaged in it. Those in livestock rearing accounts for (50.1%) and tree planting (0.5%). In the rural localities, slightly over eight out of every ten (82.0%) percent of the households are agricultural households and only 50.2 percent are in the urban localities. Poultry (chicken – 26.6%) is the dominant animal reared in the District.

## **Housing**

The housing stock of West Gonja District is 6,369 with 6,255 households. Households in the rural areas constitute 2,976 and the rest in the urban areas. The population per house in the District is 6.5 compared to 9.6 in the region.

### ***Type, tenancy arrangement and ownership of dwelling units***

Slightly over than two thirds (41.7%) of all dwelling units in the District are compound houses; 33.3 percent are separate houses and 6.3 percent are semi-detached houses. More than seven in ten (77.2%) of the dwelling units in the District are owned by members of the household; 10.8 percent are owned by other private individuals; 3.3 percent are owned by a relative who is not a member of the household and only 7.1 percent are owned by public or government. Less than one percent (0.3%) of the dwelling units is owned through mortgage schemes.

### ***Material for construction of outer wall, floor and roof***

The main construction material for outer walls of dwelling units in the District is Mud bricks or Earth block accounting for 70.5 percent. More than eight in ten (83.1%) outer walls of building in rural localities are constructed with mud bricks or Earth block. More than eight in ten (80.2%) floors are constructed with cement or concrete in the District. Metal sheet is the main roofing material (58.7%) for dwelling units in the District.

### ***Room occupancy***

Two room constitutes the highest percentage (30.9%) of sleeping rooms occupied by households in dwelling units in the District. About 7.9 percent of households with 10 or more members occupy single rooms.

### ***Utilities and household facilities***

The three main sources of lighting in dwelling units in the District are electricity (49.1%), flashlight/torch (22.8%) and kerosene lamp (24.0%). The main source of fuel for cooking for most households in the District is wood (68.7%). The proportion for rural (88.7%) is higher

than that of urban (50.6%). The four main sources of water in the District are borehole, river stream, public tap and pipe borne water (74.6%). Almost five percent of the households drink water from river or stream, while 21.3 percent drink water from Dugout/Pond/Lake/Dam/Canal.

The most common use toilet facility in the District is the public toilet (WC, KVIP, Pit, Pan) accounting for 58 percent followed by pit latrine (54.8%). Almost six percent of the households (5.7%) in the District have no toilet facility. More than a third of the household (31.0%) in the District also share separate bathrooms in the same house while 28.8 percent own bathrooms for their exclusive use and 17.0 percent share open cubicle.

### ***Waste disposal***

The most widely used method of solid waste disposal is by dumping indiscriminately accounting for 33.7 percent. About 33 percent of the households also dump their solid waste by public dump in the open space. House to house waste collection accounts for 8.7 percent. For liquid waste disposal, throwing waste onto the compound (46.0 %) and thrown into onto the street/outside (40.9%) are the two most common methods used by households in the District.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The West Gonja District is one of the 26 administrative districts in the Northern region of Ghana and was established on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1988 by PNDC Law 207. In 2004 however, the Central Gonja District was carved out of it with the passage of a new legislative instrument (L.I.1775) and also the North Gonja District was carved out of the West Gonja District in 2012 by (L.I. 2069). The capital of the district has nonetheless remained at Damongo which is also the seat of the Overlord of the Gonjaland.

### 1.2 Physical Features

The physical features of the West Gonja District is made up of natural environment namely climate, vegetation, relief and drainage, location and size, the social and cultural environment in which the people live. The physical features are therefore essential elements or factors affecting the socio-economic development of the District.

#### 1.2.1 Location and size.

As shown in Figure 1.1, West Gonja District is located to the west of Tamale, the Northern Regional capital of Ghana and it lays within longitude  $1^{\circ} 5^{\prime}$  and  $2^{\circ} 58^{\prime}$  West and latitude  $8^{\circ} 32^{\prime}$  and  $10^{\circ} 2^{\prime}$  North. It also shares boundaries to the south with Central Gonja District, Bole and Sawla-Tuna-Kalba Districts to the west, Wa East District to the north-west and North Gonja District to the east. The district has a total land area of 4715.9sqkm, part of which is occupied by the Mole National Park and Kenikeni Forest Reserves.

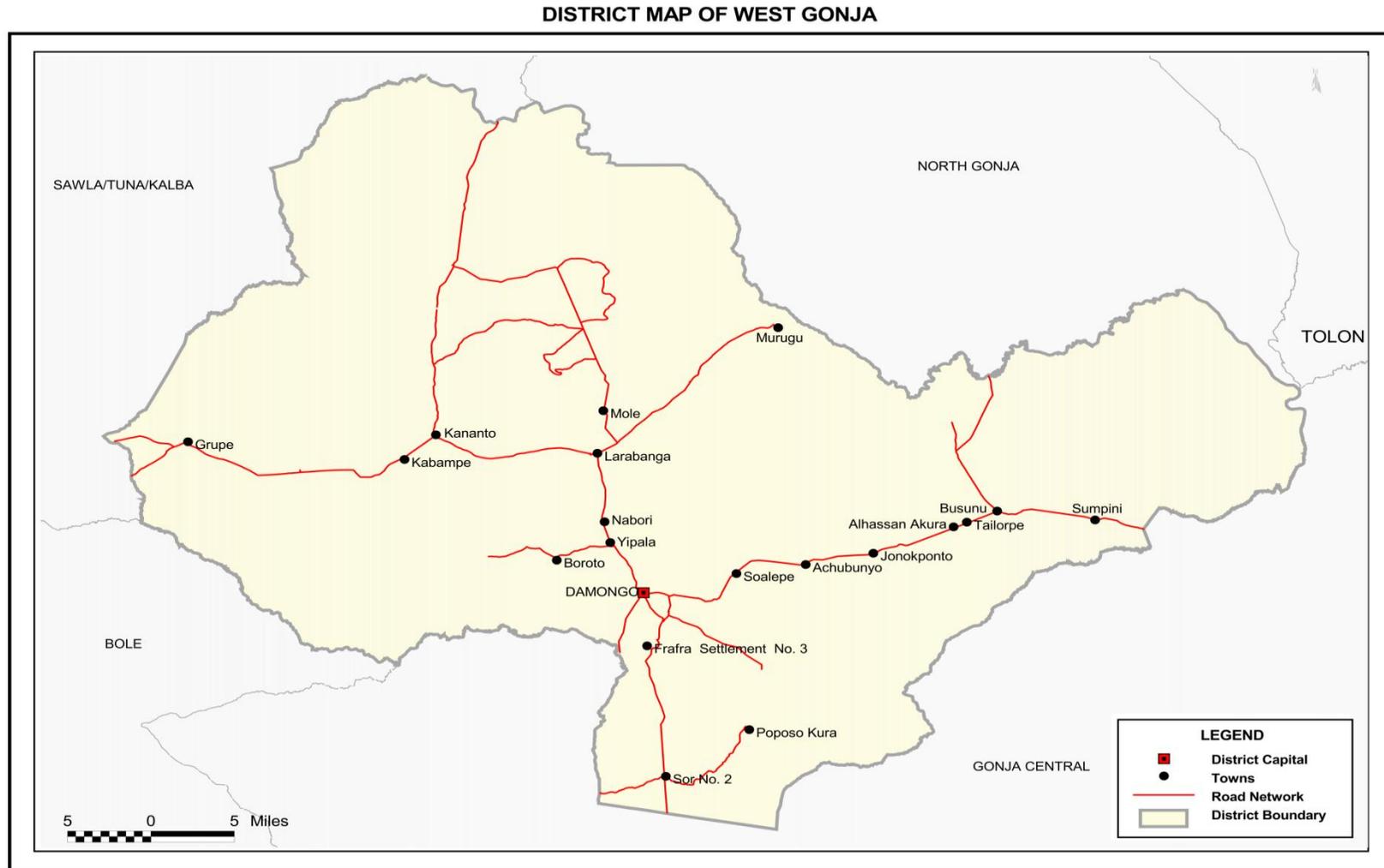
#### 1.2.2 Relief and drainage

The topography is generally undulating with altitude between 150-200 meters above sea level. The only high land is the Damongo Escarpment located north of the district capital. The Mole River from the northern boundary joins the White Volta to the east of the district capital and joins the Black Volta around Tuluwe in the Central Gonja District. The White Volta forms the Eastern boundary of the district.

#### 1.2.3 Climatic conditions

Temperatures are generally high with the maximum occurring in the dry season, between March/April and the lowest between December/January. The mean monthly temperature is 27°C. The dry season is characterized by the Harmattan winds which are dry, dusty and cold in the morning and very hot at noon. Evaporation is very high causing soil moisture deficiency. Humidity is very low resulting in dry skin and cracked lips in humans especially within the Harmattan period. Rainfall is bimodal with the average annual precipitation being 1,144mm. The rainfall pattern is erratic, beginning in late April and ends in late October. The peak of rainfall is in June/July with prolonged dry spell in August. The rains are stormy and torrential up to 300mm per hour. Erosion and floods are common due to the torrential nature of the rains.

Figure 1.1 Map of West Gonja District



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GIS

#### **1.2.4 Soil**

The district is situated in an old geological area. The rocks are mainly of Voltaian gold. There are mudstones and sandstones in the Alluvial Damongo Formations. The extreme western part of Damongo is composed of granite material of low fertility. Rich alluvial sandy deposits occur around Damongo and the Kenikeni Forest Reserves. The soil around Kotito is said to be fertile and suitable for cereals, legumes and root crops including livestock production. Underground water potentials are limited due to the Voltaian Formation.

#### **1.2.5 Vegetation**

The natural vegetation is Guinea Savanna. The vegetative cover of the district is dictated by the soil types and human activities including shifting cultivation, slash and burn method of land preparation and illegal chain-saw operations. The major tree species are shea, dawadawa, baobab, acacia, nim and some ebony. The trees are scattered except in the valleys where isolated woodland or forests are found. Most trees are deciduous, shedding their leaves during the dry season in order to conserve water.

Grass grows in tussocks and may reach a height of 2.7m during the rainy season. This indicates that the area is suitable for crops such as millet, sorghum, maize and groundnuts. The original vegetation in major settlements such as Damongo and Busunu has been destroyed by human activities.

### **1.3 Political and Administrative Structure**

#### **1.3.1 Organizational structure**

The District Assembly as the Legislative Political and Administrative Authority has twelve (12) electoral areas under one constituency. The Assembly consists of twenty (20) Assembly members, twelve (12) elected and eight (8) appointed. In terms of gender, membership of the assembly is made up of three (3) females and seventeen (17) males, representing 15 percent of females and 85 percent of males. The District Chief Executive is the Political Head of the District and also chairs the Executive Committee. Three (3) Town/Area Councils subsist under the Assembly. They include; Damongo Town Council, Busunu Area Council and Larabanga Area Council. There are 11 decentralized departments in the district. These include central administration, works, physical planning, trade and industry, agriculture, social welfare and community development, legal, waste management, urban roads, budgeting and rating, and transport.

#### **1.3.2 Functions of the assembly**

The functions of the Assembly are provided under Article 245 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, which include among other things; the formulation and execution of plans, programmes and strategies for the effective mobilization of the resources necessary for the overall development of the district; the levying and collection of taxes, rates, duties and fees; the Assembly also has the mandate to create and foster a peaceful environment for businesses to thrive and to ensure the overall development of the District.

### **1.4 Social Structure**

#### **1.4.1 Ethnicity**

There are 22 ethnic groups in the District. The major groups in order of magnitude include Gonja, Hanga, Kamara, Dagomba, Tampulma, Frafra and Dagaaba. The lack of ethnic

homogeneity tends to constrain socio-cultural organization and development. However, there is inter-ethnic marriages and peaceful co-existence, which points to unity in diversity.

#### **1.4.2 Festivals**

The West Gonja District share similar festivals with other districts in the Northern Region. Prominent among these are Damba and Fire festival (Jintigi).

#### **1.4.3 Religion**

There are four major religious groups in the District following the 2010 census. These are Islam (41.7%), Catholic (26.3%), Pentecostal (8.0%) and Traditional Worshippers (5.4%). The most dominant religion in the District is therefore Islam. Christianity and Traditional religion then follows.

### **1.5 Economy**

The main economic activities in the District include farming, agro-processing and trading in foodstuff. Farming is the major economic activity and source of income for the people of the District. The crops produced are maize, cassava, rice, yam, beans, groundnuts and others. Animals such as sheep, goats, cattle, pigs and fowls are also reared in the District. The women mainly engage in gari processing and sometimes Shea-butter production. There is a dedicated market day (Saturdays) which comes on weekly, on which day traders from within and adjoining districts and towns including Sawla, Wa, Tamale, Busunu, and Laribanga converge to buy and sell. The District capital is also replete with hair dressing salons, carpentry, electrical, auto mechanics and tailoring shops. Financial institutions in the District include Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd, Buwulonso Rural Bank and Bayport Financial Services.

#### **1.5.1 Transportation**

Roads linking communities of the District are largely feeder roads. The main trunk road in the District which is the Sawla-Damongo-Ffulso road is currently being constructed with bitumen surfacing. Total feeder roads length is 154.1km out of which 81.2km is engineered, and 72.9km remains non-engineered.

#### **1.5.2 Agriculture**

From the 2010 Population and Housing Census, it is found that 60.5 percent of the population engaged in agriculture. The District is a major producer of groundnuts, maize and cassava in the region. Agro-based industrial activities focus on Shea-butter extraction, gari and rice processing.

The type of farming system prevailing is mixed farming. Besides crop production, some farming families also engage in livestock and poultry rearing. With regards to crop production, semi-permanent to shifting cultivation is practiced in the remote areas of the District where land availability is not constraint and population density is low. Mixed cropping dominates the cropping pattern. Monocropping in the District is mostly related to commercial rice and maize farming. Most farming practices involved the traditional labor-intensive type characterized by the use of hoe and cutlass. Tractor services have become the dominant farming practice use by farmers in the District. Some farming population also relies on animal traction. To a greater extent, agriculture in the District is predominantly small holder, subsistence and rain-fed. Major traditional crops cultivates in the District include maize, sorghum, millet, groundnuts, cowpea, cassava, rice and yam.

### **1.5.3 Health facilities.**

The West Gonja District Hospital is the highest level of health care facility in the District. This is supported by Health Centres at Langbonto, Laribanga, Achubunyo, Mole and Busunu. The Tamale Teaching Hospital serves as a referral centre for medical conditions which these facilities are unable to contain. Other people also assist to provide health services to the population, namely, Trained Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), Village health workers and Guinea-worm volunteers.

There is a Health Assistance Training School in the District to augment the human resource needs of the sector.

### **1.5.4 Education**

The District has eighty five (85) basic and second cycle institutions: Thirty-four (34) are kindergarten and nursery, 33 primary schools, 17 Junior High Schools and only three (3) Senior High Schools. The District is also blessed with an Agricultural Training College and a Health Assistants Training School.

## **1.6 Census Methodology, Concepts and Definitions**

### **1.6.1 Introduction**

Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) was guided by the principle of international comparability and the need to obtain accurate information in the 2010 Population and Housing Census (2010 PHC). The Census was, therefore, conducted using all the essential features of a modern census as contained in the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for countries taking part in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

Experience from previous post independence censuses of Ghana (1960, 1970, 1984 and 2000) was taken into consideration in developing the methodologies for conducting the 2010 PHC. The primary objective of the 2010 PHC was to provide information on the number, distribution and social, economic and demographic characteristics of the population of Ghana necessary to facilitate the socio-economic development of the country.

### **1.6.2 Pre-enumeration activities**

#### **Development of census project document and work plans**

A large scale statistical operation, such as the 2010 Population and Housing Census required meticulous planning for its successful implementation. A working group of the Ghana Statistical Service prepared the census project document with the assistance of two consultants. The document contains the rationale and objectives of the census, census organisation, a work plan as well as a budget. The project document was launched in November 2008 as part of the Ghana Statistics Development Plan (GSDP) and reviewed in November 2009.

#### **Census secretariat and committees**

A well-structured management and supervisory framework that outlines the responsibilities of the various stakeholders is essential for the effective implementation of a population and housing census. To implement the 2010 PHC, a National Census Secretariat was set up in January 2008 and comprised professional and technical staff of GSS as well as staff of other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) seconded to GSS. The Census Secretariat was primarily responsible for the day-to-day planning and implementation of the census activities.

The Secretariat had seven units, namely; census administration, cartography, recruitment and training, publicity and education, field operations and logistics management, data processing, and data analysis and dissemination.

The Census Secretariat was initially headed by an acting Census Coordinator engaged by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2008 to support GSS in the planning of the Census. In 2009, the Census Secretariat was re-organised with the Government Statistician as the National Chief Census Officer and overall Coordinator, assisted by a Census Management Team and a Census Coordinating Team. The Census Management Team had oversight responsibility for the implementation of the Census. It also had the responsibility of taking critical decisions on the census in consultation with other national committees. The Census Coordinating Team, on the other hand, was responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Census programme.

A number of census committees were also set up at both national and sub-national levels to provide guidance and assistance with respect to resource mobilization and technical advice. At the national level, the committees were the National Census Steering Committee (NCSC), the National Census Technical Advisory Committee (NCTAC) and the National Census Publicity and Education Committee (NCPEC). At the regional and district levels, the committees were the Regional Census Implementation Committee and the District Census Implementation Committee, respectively.

The Regional and District Census Implementation Committees were inter-sectoral in their composition. Members of the Committees were mainly from decentralized departments with the Regional and District Coordinating Directors chairing the Regional Census Implementation Committee and District Census Implementation Committee, respectively. The Committees contributed to the planning of district, community and locality level activities in areas of publicity and field operations. They supported the Regional and District Census Officers in the recruitment and training of field personnel (enumerators and supervisors), as well as mobilizing logistical support for the census.

### **Selection of census topics**

The topics selected for the 2010 Population and Housing Census were based on recommendations contained in the UN Principles and Recommendations for 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the African Addendum to that document as well as the needs of data users. All the core topics recommended at the global level, i.e., geographical and internal migration characteristics, international migration, household characteristics, demographic and social characteristics such as age, date of birth, sex, and marital status, fertility and mortality, educational and economic characteristics, issues relating to disability and housing conditions and amenities were included in the census.

Some topics that were not considered core by the UN recommendations but which were found to be of great interest and importance to Ghana and were, therefore, included in the 2010 PHC are religion, ethnicity, employment sector and place of work, agricultural activity, as well as housing topics, such as, type of dwelling, materials for outer wall, floor and roof, tenure/holding arrangement, number of sleeping rooms, cooking fuel, cooking space and Information Communication Technology (ICT).

## **Census mapping**

A timely and well implemented census mapping is pivotal to the success of any population and housing census. Mapping delineates the country into enumeration areas to facilitate smooth enumeration of the population. The updating of the 2000 Census Enumeration Area (EA) maps started in the last quarter of 2007 with the acquisition of topographic sheets of all indices from the Survey and Mapping Division of the Lands Commission. In addition, digital sheets were also procured for the Geographical Information System Unit.

The Cartography Unit of the Census Secretariat collaborated with the Survey and Mapping Division of the Lands Commission and the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS) of the Department of Geography and Resource Development, University of Ghana, to determine the viability of migrating from analog to digital mapping for the 2010 PHC, as recommended in the 2000 PHC Administrative Report. Field cartographic work started in March 2008 and was completed in February 2010.

## **Development of questionnaire and manuals**

For effective data collection, there is the need to design appropriate documents to solicit the required information from respondents. GSS consulted widely with main data users in the process of the questionnaire development. Data users including MDAs, research institutions, civil society organisations and development partners were given the opportunity to indicate the type of questions they wanted to be included in the census questionnaire.

Documents developed for the census included the questionnaire and manuals, and field operation documents. The field operation documents included Enumerator's Visitation Record Book, Supervisor's Record Book, and other operational control forms. These record books served as operational and quality control tools to assist enumerators and supervisors to control and monitor their field duties respectively.

## **Pre-tests and trial census**

It is internationally recognized that an essential element in census planning is the pre-testing of the questionnaire and related instructions. The objective of the pre-test is to test the questionnaire, the definition of its concepts and the instructions for filling out the questionnaire.

The census questionnaire was pre-tested twice in the course of its development. The first pre-test was carried out in March 2009 to find out the suitability of the questions and the instructions provided. It also tested the adequacy and completeness of the responses and how respondents understood the questions. The second pre-test was done in 10 selected enumeration areas in August, 2009. The objective of the second pre-test was to examine the sequence of the questions, test the new questions, such as, date of birth and migration, and assess how the introduction of 'date of birth' could help to reduce 'age heaping'. With regard to questions on fertility, the pre-tests sought to find out the difference, if any, between proxy responses and responses by the respondents themselves. Both pre-tests were carried in the Greater Accra Region. Experience from the pre-tests was used to improve the final census questionnaire.

A trial census which is a dress rehearsal of all the activities and procedures that are planned for the main census was carried out in October/November 2009. These included recruitment and training, distribution of census materials, administration of the questionnaire and other census forms, enumeration of the various categories of the population (household,

institutional and floating population), and data processing. The trial census was held in six selected districts across the country namely; Saboba (Northern Region), Chereponi (Northern Region), Sene (Brong Ahafo Region), Bia (Western Region), Awutu Senya (Central Region), and Osu Klottey Sub-Metro (Greater Accra Region). A number of factors were considered in selecting the trial census districts. These included: administrative boundary issues, ecological zone, and accessibility, enumeration of floating population/outdoor-sleepers, fast growing areas, institutional population, and enumeration areas with scattered settlements.

The trial census provided GSS with an opportunity to assess its plans and procedures as well as the state of preparedness for the conduct of the 2010 PHC. The common errors found during editing of the completed questionnaires resulted in modifications to the census questionnaire, enumerator manuals and other documents. The results of the trial census assisted GSS to arrive at technically sound decisions on the ideal number of persons per questionnaire, number of persons in the household roster, migration questions, placement of the mortality question, serial numbering of houses/housing structures and method of collection of information on community facilities. Lessons learnt from the trial census also guided the planning of the recruitment process, the procedures for training of census field staff and the publicity and education interventions.

### **1.6.3 Census Enumeration**

#### **Method of enumeration and field work**

All post- independence censuses (1960, 1970, 1984, and 2000) conducted in Ghana used the de facto method of enumeration where people are enumerated at where they were on census night and not where they usually reside. The same method was adopted for the 2010 PHC. The de facto count is preferred because it provides a simple and straight forward way of counting the population since it is based on a physical fact of presence and can hardly be misinterpreted. It is thought that the method also minimizes the risks of under-enumeration and over enumeration. The canvasser method, which involves trained field personnel visiting houses and households identified in their respective enumeration areas, was adopted for the 2010 PHC.

The main census enumeration involved the canvassing of all categories of the population by trained enumerators, using questionnaires prepared and tested during the pre-enumeration phase. Specific arrangements were made for the coverage of special population groups, such as the homeless and the floating population. The fieldwork began on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 with the identification of EA boundaries, listing of structures, enumeration of institutional population and floating population.

The week preceding the Census Night was used by field personnel to list houses and other structures in their enumeration areas. Enumerators were also mobilized to enumerate residents/inmates of institutions, such as, schools and prisons. They returned to the institutions during the enumeration period to reconcile the information they obtained from individuals and also to cross out names of those who were absent from the institutions on Census Night. Out-door sleepers (floating population) were also enumerated on the Census Night.

Enumeration of the household population started on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. Enumerators visited houses, compounds and structures in their enumeration areas and started enumerating all households including visitors who spent the Census Night in the households. Enumeration was carried out in the order in which houses/structures were listed and where

the members of the household were absent, the enumerator left a call-back-card indicating when he/she would come back to enumerate the household. The enumeration process took off smoothly with enumerators poised on completing their assignments on schedule since many of them were teachers and had to return to school. However, many enumerators ran short of questionnaires after a few days' work.

Enumeration resumed in all districts when the questionnaire shortage was resolved and by 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, enumeration was completed in most districts. Enumerators who had finished their work were mobilized to assist in the enumeration of localities that were yet to be enumerated in some regional capitals and other fast growing areas. Flooded areas and other inaccessible localities were also enumerated after the end of the official enumeration period. Because some enumeration areas in fast growing cities and towns, such as, Accra Metropolitan Area, Kumasi, Kasafo and Techiman were not properly demarcated and some were characterized by large Eas, some enumerators were unable to complete their assigned tasks within the stipulated time.

#### **1.6.4 Post enumeration survey**

In line with United Nations recommendations, GSS conducted a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) in April, 2011 to check content and coverage error. The PES was also to serve as an important tool in providing feedback regarding operational matters such as concepts and procedures in order to help improve future census operations. The PES field work was carried out for 21 days in April 2011 and was closely monitored and supervised to ensure quality output. The main findings of the PES were that:

- 97.0 percent of all household residents who were in the country on Census Night (26<sup>th</sup> September, 2010) were enumerated.
- 1.3 percent of the population was erroneously included in the census.
- Regional differentials are observed. Upper East region recorded the highest coverage rate of 98.2 percent while the Volta region had the lowest coverage rate of 95.7 percent.
- Males (3.3%) were more likely than females (2.8%) to be omitted in the census. The coverage rate for males was 96.7 percent and the coverage rate for females was 97.2 percent. Also, the coverage rates (94.1%) for those within the 20-29 and 30-39 age groups are relatively lower compared to the coverage rates of the other age groups.
- There was a high rate of agreement between the 2010 PHC data and the PES data for sex (98.8%), marital status (94.6%), relationship to head of household (90.5%) and age (83.0%).

#### **1.6.5 Release and dissemination of results**

The provisional results of the census were released in February 2011 and the final results in May 2012. A National Analytical report, six thematic reports, a Census Atlas, 10 Regional Reports and a report on Demographic, Social, Economic and Housing were prepared and disseminated in 2013.

## **1.6.6 Concepts and definitions**

### **Introduction**

The 2010 Population and Housing Census of Ghana followed the essential concepts and definitions of a modern Population and Housing Census as recommended by the United Nations (UN). It is important that the concepts, definitions and recommendations are adhered to since they form the basis upon which Ghana could compare her data with that of other countries.

The concepts and definitions in this report cover all sections of the 2010 Population and Housing Census questionnaires (PHC1A and PHC1B). The sections were: geographical location of the population, Household and Non-household population, Literacy and Education, Emigration, Demographic and Economic Characteristics, Disability, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Fertility, Mortality, Agricultural Activity and Housing Conditions.

The concepts and definitions are provided to facilitate understanding and use of the data presented in this report. Users are therefore advised to use the results of the census within the context of these concepts and definitions.

### **Region**

There were ten (10) administrative regions in Ghana during the 2010 Population and Housing Census as they were in 1984 and 2000.

### **District**

In 1988, Ghana changed from the local authority system of administration to the district assembly system. In that year, the then existing 140 local authorities were demarcated into 110 districts. In 2004, 28 new districts were created; this increased the number of districts in the country to 138. In 2008, 32 additional districts were created bringing the total number of districts to 170. The 2010 Population and Housing Census was conducted in these 170 administrative districts (these are made-up of 164 districts/municipals and 6 metropolitan areas). In 2012, 46 new districts were created to bring the total number of districts to 216. There was urgent need for data for the 46 newly created districts for planning and decision-making. To meet this demand, the 2010 Census data was re-programmed into 216 districts after carrying out additional fieldwork and consultations with stakeholders in the districts affected by the creation of the new districts.

### **Locality**

A locality was defined as a distinct population cluster (also designated as inhabited place, populated centre, settlement) which has a NAME or LOCALLY RECOGNISED STATUS. It included fishing hamlets, mining camps, ranches, farms, market towns, villages, towns, cities and many other types of population clusters, which meet the above criteria. There were two main types of localities, rural and urban. As in previous censuses, the classification of localities into 'urban' and 'rural' was based on population size. Localities with 5,000 or more persons were classified as urban while localities with less than 5,000 persons were classified as rural.

## **Population**

The 2010 Census was a “de facto” count and each person present in Ghana, irrespective of nationality, was enumerated at the place where he/she spent the midnight of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

## **Household**

A household was defined as a person or a group of persons, who lived together in the same house or compound and shared the same house-keeping arrangements. In general, a household consisted of a man, his wife, children and some other relatives or a house help who may be living with them. However, it is important to remember that members of a household are not necessarily related (by blood or marriage) because non-relatives (e.g. house helps) may form part of a household.

## **Head of household**

The household head was defined as a male or female member of the household recognised as such by the other household members. The head of household is generally the person who has economic and social responsibility for the household. All relationships are defined with reference to the head.

## **Household and non-household population**

Household population comprised of all persons who spent the census night in a household setting. All persons who did not spend the census night in a household setting (except otherwise stated) were classified as non-household population. Persons who spent census night in any of the under listed institutions and locations were classified as non-household population:

- (a) Educational Institutions
- (b) Children’s and Old People’s Homes
- (c) Hospitals and Healing Centres
- (d) Hotels
- (e) Prisons
- (f) Service Barracks
- (g) Soldiers on field exercise
- (h) Floating Population: The following are examples of persons in this category:
  - i. All persons who slept in lorry parks, markets, in front of stores and offices, public bathrooms, petrol filling stations, railway stations, verandas, pavements, and all such places which are not houses or compounds.
  - ii. Hunting and fishing camps.
  - iii. Beggars and vagrants (mentally sick or otherwise).

## **Age**

The age of every person was recorded in completed years disregarding fractions of days and months. For those persons who did not know their birthdays, the enumerator estimated their ages using a list of district, regional and national historical events.

## **Nationality**

Nationality is defined as the country to which a person belongs. A distinction is made between Ghanaians and other nationals. Ghanaian nationals are grouped into Ghanaian by birth, Ghanaian with dual nationality and Ghanaian by naturalization. Other nationals are grouped into ECOWAS nationals, Africans other than ECOWAS nationals, and non-Africans.

## **Ethnicity**

Ethnicity refers to the ethnic group that a person belonged to. This information is collected only from Ghanaians by birth and Ghanaians with dual nationality. The classification of ethnic groups in Ghana is that officially provided by the Bureau of Ghana Languages and which has been in use since the 1960 census.

## **Birthplace**

The birthplace of a person refers to the locality of usual residence of the mother at the time of birth. If after delivery a mother stayed outside her locality of usual residence for six months or more or had the intention of staying in the new place for six or more months, then the actual town/village of physical birth becomes the birthplace of the child.

## **Duration of residence**

Duration of residence refers to the number of years a person has lived in a particular place. This question is only asked of persons not born in the place where enumeration took place. Breaks in duration of residence lasting less than 12 months are disregarded. The duration of residence of persons who made multiple movements of one (1) year or more is assumed to be the number of years lived in the locality (town or village) since the last movement.

## **Religion**

Religion refers to the individual's religious affiliation as reported by the respondent, irrespective of the religion of the household head or the head's spouse or the name of the person. No attempt was made to find out if respondents actually practiced the faith they professed.

## **Marital status**

Marital status refers to the respondent's marital status as at Census Night. The question on marital status was asked only of persons 12 years and older. The selection of the age limit of 12 years was based on the average age at menarche and also on the practice in some parts of the country where girls as young as 12 years old could be given in marriage.

## **Literacy**

The question on literacy referred to the respondent's ability to read and write in any language. A person was considered literate if he/she could read and write a simple statement with understanding. The question on literacy was asked only of persons 11 years and older.

## **Education**

### ***School Attendance***

Data was collected on school attendance for all persons three (3) years and older. School attendance refers to whether a person has ever attended, was currently attending or has never attended school. In the census, school meant an educational institution where a person received at least four hours of formal education.

Although the lower age limit of formal education is six years for primary one, eligibility for the school attendance question was lowered to three years because pre-school education has become an important phenomenon in the country.

### ***Level of Education***

Level of education refers to the highest level of formal school that a person ever attended or was attending. This information was obtained for persons 3 years and older.

### **Activity status**

Activity status refers to economic or non-economic activity of respondents during the 7 days preceding census night. Information on type of activity was collected on persons 5 years and older. A person was regarded as economically active if he/she:

- a. Worked for pay or profit or family gain for at least 1 hour within the 7 days preceding Census Night. This included persons who were in paid employment or self-employment or contributing family workers.
- b. Did not work, but had jobs to return to.
- c. Were unemployed.

The economically not active were persons who did not work and were not seeking for work. They were classified by reasons for not being economically active. Economically not active persons included homemakers, students, retired persons, the disabled and persons who were unable to work due to their age or ill-health.

### **Occupation**

This referred to the type of work the person was engaged in at the establishment where he/she worked. This was asked only of persons 5 years and older who worked 7 days before the census night, and those who did not work but had a job to return to as well as those unemployed who had worked before. All persons who worked during the 7 days before the census night were classified by the kind of work they were engaged in. The emphasis was on the work the person did during the reference period and not what he/she was trained to do. For those who did not work but had a job to return to, their occupation was the job they would go back to after the period of absence. Also, for persons who had worked before and were seeking for work and available for work, their occupation was on the last work they did before becoming unemployed. If a person was engaged in more than one occupation, only the main one was considered.

### **Industry**

Industry referred to the type of product produced or service rendered at the respondent's work place. Information was collected only on the main product produced or service rendered in the establishment during the reference period.

## **Employment status**

Employment status refers to the status of a person in the establishment where he/she currently works or previously worked. Eight employment status categories were provided: employee, self-employed without employees, self-employed with employees, casual worker, contributing family worker, apprentice, domestic employee (house help). Persons who could not be classified under any of the above categories were classified as “other”.

## **Employment sector**

This refers to the sector in which a person worked. The employment sectors covered in the census were public, private formal, private informal, semi-public/parastatal, NGOs and international organizations.

## **Disability**

Persons with disability were defined as those who were unable to or were restricted in the performance of specific tasks/activities due to loss of function of some part of the body as a result of impairment or malformation. Information was collected on persons with visual/sight impairment, hearing impairment, mental retardation, emotional or behavioural disorders and other physical challenges.

## **Information Communication Technology (ICT)**

ICT questions were asked for both individuals and households. Persons having mobile phones refer to respondents 12 years and older who owned mobile phones (irrespective of the number of mobile phones owned by each person). Persons using internet facility refers to those who had access to internet facility at home, internet cafe, on mobile phone or other mobile device. Internet access is assumed to be not only via computer, but also by mobile phones, PDA, game machine and digital television.

Households having Personal Computers/Laptops refer to households who own desktops/laptop computers. The fixed telephone line refers to a telephone line connecting a customer’s terminal equipment (e.g. telephone set, facsimile machine) to the public switch telephone network.

## **Fertility**

Two types of fertility data were collected: lifetime fertility and current fertility. Lifetime fertility refers to the total number of live births that females 12 years and older had ever had during their life time. Current fertility refers to the number of live births that females 12-54 years old had in the 12 months preceding the Census Night.

## **Mortality**

Mortality refers to all deaths that occurred in the household during the 12 months preceding the Census Night. The report presents information on deaths due to accidents, violence, homicide and suicide. In addition, data were collected on pregnancy-related deaths of females 12-54 years.

## **Agriculture**

The census sought information on household members who are engaged in agricultural activities, including the cultivation of crops or tree planting, rearing of livestock or breeding of fish for sale or family consumption. Information was also collected on their farms, types of crops and number and type of livestock.

## **Housing conditions and facilities**

The UN recommended definition of a house as “a structurally separate and independent place of abode such that a person or group of persons can isolate themselves from the hazards of climate such as storms and the sun” was adopted. The definition, therefore, covered any type of shelter used as living quarters, such as separate houses, semi-detached houses, flats/apartments, compound houses, huts, tents, kiosks and containers.

Living quarters or dwelling units refer to a specific area or space occupied by a particular household and therefore need not necessarily be the same as the house of which the dwelling unit may be a part.

Information collected on housing conditions included the type of dwelling unit, main construction materials for walls, floor and roof, holding/tenure arrangement, ownership type, type of lighting, source of water supply and toilet facilities. Data was also collected on method of disposal of solid and liquid waste.

## **1.7 Organization of the Report**

The report consists of nine chapters. Chapter one provides basic information about the District. It gives a brief background of the District, describing its physical features, political and administrative structure, social and cultural structure, economy and the methodology and concepts used in the report. Chapter two discusses the population size, composition and age structure. It further discusses the migratory pattern in the District as well as fertility and mortality.

In chapter three, the focus is on household size, composition and headship as well as the marital characteristics and nationality of the inhabitants of the District. The chapter also discusses the religious affiliations and the educational statuses of the members of the District. Chapter four focuses on economic characteristics such as economic activity status, occupation, industries and the employment status and sectors that the people are employed.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is discussed in chapter five. It analyses mobile phone ownership, internet use and ownership of desktop/laptop computers while chapter six is devoted to Persons living with disabilities (PWDs) and their socio-demographic characteristics. Chapter seven concentrates on the agricultural activities of the households, describing the types of farming activities, livestock rearing and numbers of livestock reared.

In chapter eight, housing conditions such as housing stock, type of dwelling and construction materials, room occupancy, holding and tenancy, lighting and cooking facilities, bathing and toilet facilities, waste disposal and source of water for drinking or for other domestic use in the District are discussed and analyzed in detail. The final chapter, Chapter nine presents the summary of findings and conclusions. It also discusses the policy implications of the findings for the District.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

A country's population size, age and sex composition have a wide range of consequences for the provision of social and economic infrastructure among others. These indicators are largely influenced directly and indirectly by changes in fertility, mortality, migration, and other factors. The 2010 population and housing census, like all other Censuses in the country is a "de facto" count of each person present in Ghana irrespective of nationality. The objective of this chapter is to discuss the population size, age composition and sex structure, fertility, mortality and migration.

#### **2.2 Population Size and Distribution**

Table 2.1 shows the population distribution by age, sex and type of locality in the West Gonja District. The total population of the District is 41,180, comprising 50.2 percent of males and 49.8 percent of females. Along the urban-rural divide, the populations are 21,188 persons and 19,992 persons respectively. It is observed that, the male dominate in the District which is at variance with the national and regional pattern have females outnumbering males. Nonetheless, this is not peculiar to the West Gonja District as districts such as Bole, East Gonja and Kpandai have demonstrated similar patterns.

#### **2.3 Age-Sex Structure, Sex Ratio and Population Pyramid**

Data in Table 2.1 further shows that, the District generally depicts a youthful population with 42.9percent of the population aged below 15 years. Persons within the age group of 15-64, that is the working age population, forms 53.0 percent of the population. The District's population generally declines with increasing age, with persons aged 65 and older constituting only 4.1 percent of the population. The table further shows that the age groups 20-24 to 45-49 and 65—69 to 75-79, the proportion of females are higher than that of males.

##### **2.3.1 Sex ratio**

Again, with respect to sex ratio, the Table shows that, the District records a ratio of 100.9, this implies that for every 100 females there are about 1001 males. This ratio is higher than the regional ratio of 95.2. The highest sex ratio in the District is 200 and is found in age group 95-99 while the least 78.3 is found in 30-34 years. Also, the sex ratio for persons age 65 years and older is 95.0 while those between ages 15-64 years is 97.0. This means that there are fewer males per 100 females at ages 65 year and older than those between 15-64 years. The sex ratio for the 0-14 year's age group is 106.5.

##### **2.3.2 Age dependency ratio**

The age dependency ratio is explained as the ratio of the dependent (0-14years) and economically inactive (65+years) age groups to the working population (15-64years) age group. Table 2.1 further shows that the age dependency ratio of the District is 88.6 which mean that every 100 working population have approximately 89 dependents population. The male dependency ratio (92.4) is higher than that for females (84.9). Across the rural-urban localities, rural dependency ratio (103) exceeds that in urban locality (76.7) and this could be attributed to survival of the extended family system in the rural communities.

**Table 2.1: Population distribution by age, sex and type of locality**

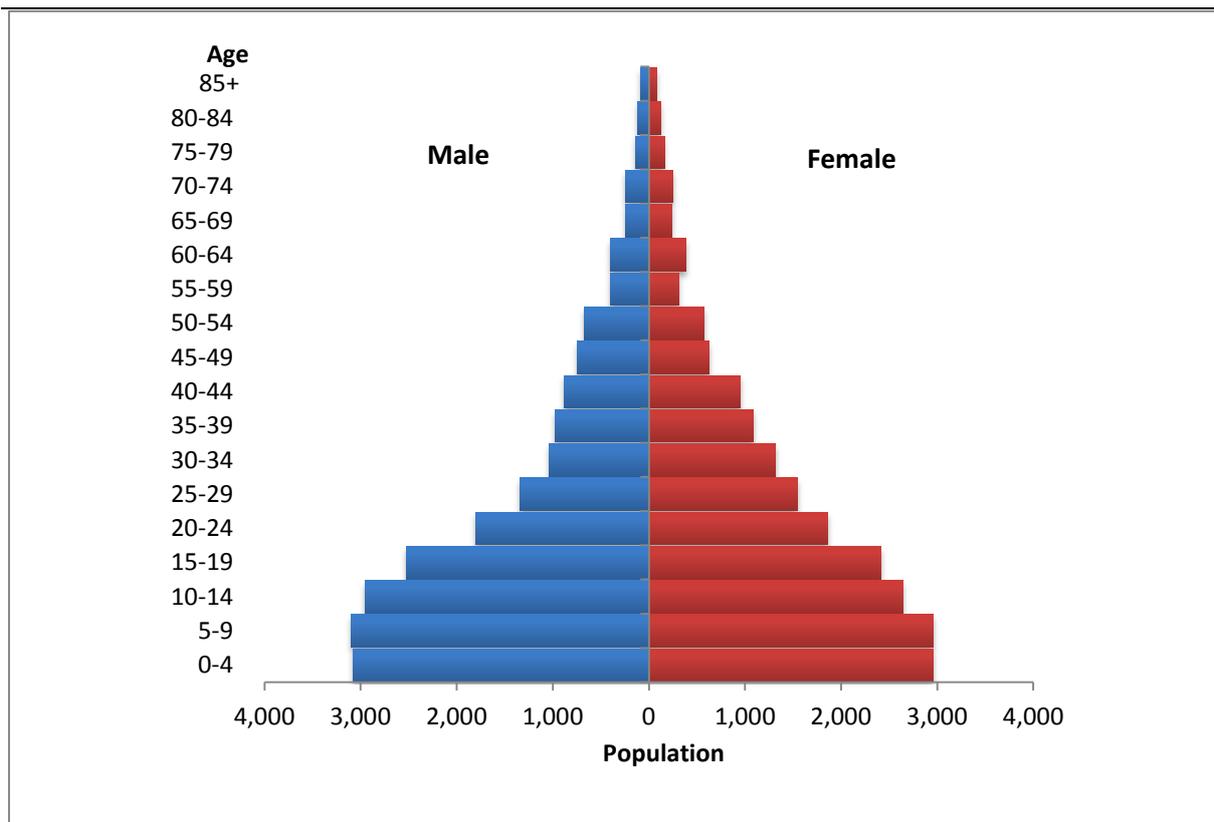
Age Group	Sex			Sex ratio	Type of locality	
	Both Sexes	Male	Female		Urban	Rural
All Ages	41,180	20,681	20,499	100.9	21,188	19,992
0 – 4	6,030	3,076	2,954	104.1	2,717	3,313
5 – 9	6,057	3,094	2,963	104.4	2,751	3,306
10 – 14	5,587	2,947	2,640	111.6	2,822	2,765
15 – 19	4,931	2,517	2,414	104.3	2,808	2,123
20 – 24	3,656	1,798	1,858	96.8	2,131	1,525
25 – 29	2,889	1,343	1,546	86.9	1,584	1,305
30 – 34	2,353	1,033	1,320	78.3	1,292	1,061
35 – 39	2,065	974	1,091	89.3	1,107	958
40 – 44	1,831	883	948	93.1	896	935
45 – 49	1,368	739	629	117.5	680	688
50 – 54	1,246	670	576	116.3	648	598
55 – 59	708	394	314	125.5	401	307
60 – 64	788	399	389	102.6	442	346
65 – 69	484	240	244	98.4	249	235
70 – 74	488	239	249	96	251	237
75 – 79	295	133	162	82.1	175	120
80 – 84	236	116	120	96.7	144	92
85 – 89	97	43	54	79.6	49	48
90 – 94	47	27	20	135	28	19
95 – 99	24	16	8	200	13	11
<b>All Ages</b>	41,180	20,681	20,499	100.9	21,188	19,992
0-14	17,674	9,117	8,557	106.5	8,290	9,384
15-64	21,835	10,750	11,085	97	11,989	9,846
65+	1,671	814	857	95	909	762
<b>Age-dependency ratio</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>84.9</b>		<b>76.7</b>	<b>103</b>

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 2.3.3 Population Pyramid

Figure 2.1 shows the population pyramid of West Gonja District by age and sex. The pyramid shows a broad-based structure which is an indication of a youthful population. The proportion of children (0-9 years) is very high and reduces as the age advances, signifying a small number of adults 35 years and older.

**Figure 2.1: Population pyramid by age and sex**



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 2.4 Fertility, Mortality and Migration

Fertility, mortality and migration are factors that influence population growth at a particular point in time. Data on these three components are critical for planning the overall socio-economic development of the District.

In this section, we examine the components of population change – fertility, mortality and migration. The interactions of these components determine the size and structure of population. While fertility causes an increase in the size of the population through births, mortality on the other hand leads to a reduction in the size of the population through deaths. Unlike fertility which causes an increase at only one point – births of persons aged zero, deaths can occur at any age, although the force of mortality is greater at the very young and older ages. Similarly, migration can occur at any age, but it is usually young adult males who move first and are often joined by their families. However, unlike fertility and mortality, migration affects the population size and structure of two Regions, the area of in-migration as well as the area of out-migration.

### 2.4.1 Fertility

Fertility refers to the actual birth performance that is frequency of childbearing among a female population (IUSSP, 1982). In other words, it is the number of live births a woman gives to by the end of her reproductive period. Table 2.2 depicts the total fertility rate (TFR), general fertility rate (GFR) and crude birth rate (CBR) in the West Gonja District.

The TFR is the average number of children that would be born to a woman by the time she completes child bearing if she were to experience the prevailing age-specific fertility rate. The West Gonja District records a TFR of 3.3 which is below the regional rate of 3.5.

General fertility rate is the number of live births per 1000 women age 15-49 years. The GFR of the District is 94.2. Again, this is lower than the regional average of 101.9. Crude birth rate is the number of live births per 1000 population. The District records a CBR of 22.4 as shows in table 2.2. In general, the factors responsible for fertility differentials of the District are among others include differences in access to and use of contraceptives, education and age at marriage.

**Table 2.2: Reported total fertility rate, general fertility rate and crude birth rate**

District	Population	Number of women 15-49 years	Number of births in last 12 months	Total Fertility Rate	*General Fertility Rate	**Crude Birth Rate
All Districts	2,479,461	582,897	59,391	3.54	101.9	24.0
Bole	61,593	14,471	1,663	3.8	114.9	27.0
Sawla-Tuna-Kalba	99,863	22,207	2,230	3.6	100.4	22.3
<b>West Gonja</b>	<b>41,180</b>	<b>9,806</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>
Gonja Central	87,877	20,555	2,086	3.6	101.5	23.7
East Gonja	135,450	31,216	3,071	3.6	98.4	22.7
Kpandai	108,816	24,066	2,959	4.3	123.0	27.2
Nanumba South	93,464	21,210	2,542	4.2	119.8	27.2
Nanumba North	141,584	32,246	3,143	3.4	97.5	22.2
Zabzugu	63,815	15,591	1,016	2.4	65.2	15.9
Yendi Municipal	117,780	27,686	2,355	3.0	85.1	20.0
Tamale Metropolis	223,252	59,341	4,743	2.8	79.9	21.2
Tolon	72,990	17,028	1,585	3.2	93.1	21.7
Savelugu Nanton	139,283	33,942	4,300	4.3	126.7	30.9
Karaga	77,706	18,666	1,621	2.9	86.8	20.9
Gushiegu	111,259	26,349	2,868	3.7	108.8	25.8
Saboba	65,706	14,519	1,871	4.2	128.9	28.5
Chereponi	53,394	11,652	1,495	4.3	128.3	28.0
Bunkpurugu Yonyo	122,591	26,725	2,893	3.8	108.3	23.6
Mamprusi East	121,009	27,145	2,785	3.6	102.6	23.0
Mamprusi West	121,117	27,528	3,080	3.8	111.9	25.4
North Gonja	43,547	9,935	1,349	5.3	135.8	31.0
Kumbungu	39,341	8,851	920	3.6	103.9	23.4
Sagnerigu Municipal	148,099	38,548	3,579	3.3	92.8	24.2
Mion	81,812	18,812	1,935	3.4	102.9	23.7
Tatale	60,039	14,108	1,307	3.5	92.6	21.8
Mamprugu Moagduri	46,894	10,694	1,071	3.4	100.1	22.8

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## Children ever born and children surviving

Table 2.3 shows population of females 12 years and older by age, children ever born, children surviving and sex of child for the West Gonja District. The Table indicates that a total of 36,684 children were ever born in the District by females 12 years and older, out of which 18,499 are males while 18,185 are females, with both male and female recording a survival rate of 83.1 for males and 84.8 for females. The survival rate for both sexes is however 83.9, which implies that for every 100 children born in the District an average of 83.9 of them survive. The table further reveals that males have the highest survival rate.

Generally, the survival rate of both sexes reaches a maximum of 90.8 surviving children out of every 100 children born to females of ages 30-34 years. Also, Table 2.3 shows that beyond ages 30-34, the survival rate of all children assumes a declining pattern and females children ever born generally have a higher likelihood of surviving compared to their male counterparts.

**Table 2.3: Female population 12 years and older by age, children ever born, children surviving and sex of child**

Age	Number of Females	Children Ever Born			Children Surviving			Survival rate		
		Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
All ages	13,463	36,684	18,499	18,185	30,780	15,366	15,414	83.9	83.1	84.8
12 – 14	1,521	5	1	4	3	1	2	60.0	100.0	50.0
15 – 19	2,414	262	132	130	219	97	122	83.6	73.5	93.8
20 – 24	1,858	1,491	750	741	1,333	653	680	89.4	87.1	91.8
25 – 29	1,546	3,048	1,550	1,498	2,694	1,352	1,342	88.4	87.2	89.6
30 – 34	1,320	4,614	2,382	2,232	4,189	2,137	2,052	90.8	89.7	91.9
35 – 39	1,091	4,869	2,417	2,452	4,375	2,183	2,192	89.9	90.3	89.4
40 – 44	948	5,319	2,722	2,597	4,621	2,362	2,259	86.9	86.8	87.0
45 – 49	629	3,703	1,873	1,830	3,161	1,568	1,593	85.4	83.7	87.0
50 – 54	576	3,648	1,855	1,793	2,985	1,514	1,471	81.8	81.6	82.0
55 – 59	314	2,065	1,037	1,028	1,644	804	840	79.6	77.5	81.7
60 +	1,246	7,660	3,780	3,880	5,556	2,695	2,861	72.5	71.3	73.7

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 2.4.2 Mortality

The level and pattern of mortality is a reflection of the health status of a population. Death rates are calculated for specific age groups in order to compare mortality at different ages or at the same age over time.

Table 2.4 presents the total population, deaths in households and crude death rate (CDR) by districts in Northern Region. The West Gonja District recorded a total of 197 household deaths with a CDR of 4.8 per 1000. The crude death rate of the District is lower than that of the region of 5.9 per 1000 population.

**Table 2.4: Total population, deaths in households and crude death rate by district**

District	Total Population	Deaths in households	*Crude death rate (per 1000)
All Districts	2,479,461	14,715	5.9
Bole	61,593	450	7.3
Sawla-Tuna-Kalba	99,863	722	7.2
<b>West Gonja</b>	<b>41,180</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Gonja Central	87,877	334	3.8
East Gonja	135,450	761	5.6
Kpandai	108,816	554	5.1
Nanumba South	93,464	542	5.8
Nanumba North	141,584	653	4.6
Zabzugu	63,815	196	3.1
Yendi Municipal	117,780	737	6.3
Tamale Metropolis	223,252	1,257	5.6
Tolon	72,990	502	6.9
SaveluguNanton	139,283	1,413	10.1
Karaga	77,706	501	6.4
Gushiegu	111,259	744	6.7
Saboba	65,706	235	3.6
Chereponi	53,394	288	5.4
BunkpuruguYonyo	122,591	575	4.7
Mamprusi East	121,009	619	5.1
Mamprusi West	121,117	955	7.9
North Gonja	43,547	247	5.7
Kumbungu	39,341	343	8.7
Sagnerigu Municipal	148,099	847	5.7
Mion	81,812	556	6.8
Tatale	60,039	210	3.5
Mamprugu Moagduri	46,894	277	5.9

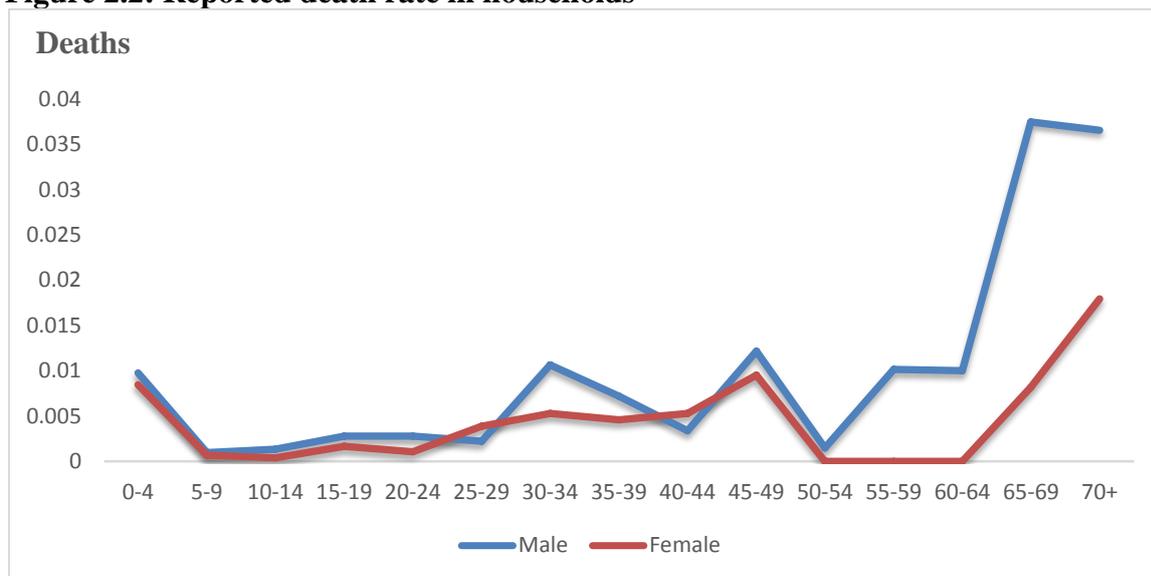
Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### Age-specific death rates (ASDR)

Age-specific death rate by sex is the number of deaths per age group by male and female populations. Figure 2.2 depicts the pattern of age specific death rate by sex in the West Gonja District. The Figure shows that, the pattern of mortality declines steadily from age group 0-4 and reach the lowest at age group 5-9 years, beyond which the rate of mortality increases. The mortality rate of males is found to be higher relative to females at all age groups except between age groups 20-24 and 25-29 and again between age groups 35-39 and 40-44. The trend could be attributed to the risky life style and occupational hazards of males compared to females. The highest male mortality rate is recorded at age group 65-69. Some stability in the death rate among males is also children between age group 10-14 and 20-24. From age group 25-29 it gradually rises till age 30-34 where it began to decline again.

In respect of female mortality, Figure 2.2 shows that the pattern of mortality among females increases from age group 5-9; it however, reached its peak between age group 40-44 and 45-49, after which it plateau at its lowest point for about 10 years and climb up to reach the highest point at age 70 and older..A critical observation of the figure shows that steady increase is observed at the child bearing ages of 25-49 years.

**Figure 2.2: Reported death rate in households**



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### Causes of death

From Table 2.5, it is observed that the District records a total of 197 household deaths, 21 of which emanates from accidents/violence/homicide/suicide while other causes accounts for the remainder of 176 deaths. This implies that 10.7 percent of total deaths in the District are explained by accidents/violence/homicide/suicide rather than natural causes. Again, the Table suggests that, the proportion of total deaths due to accidents/violence/homicide/suicide is higher in the District than in the region (9.7%) where a total death population of 14,715 is recorded, but lower relative to the national average of 11.6 percent of the total death of 163,534.

**Table 2.5: Cause of deaths in households**

District	Total deaths	Death due to	
		Accident/ violence/ homicide/suicide	All other causes
All Districts	14,715	1,434	13,281
Bole	450	29	421
Sawla-Tuna-Kalba	722	65	657
<b>West Gonja</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>176</b>
Gonja Central	334	44	290
East Gonja	761	77	684
Kpandai	554	124	430
Nanumba South	542	49	493
Nanumba North	653	62	591
Zabzugu	196	25	171
Yendi Municipal	738	97	641
Tamale Metropolis	1,257	119	1,138
<i>Tamale South</i>	384	31	353
<i>Tamale Central</i>	873	88	785
Tolon	503	33	470
Savelugu Nanton	1,413	139	1,274
Karaga	501	67	434
Gushiegu	744	31	713
Saboba	235	23	212
Chereponi	288	25	263
Bunkpurugu Yonyo	575	62	513
Mamprusi East	619	59	560
Mamprusi West	955	74	881
North Gonja	247	36	211
Kumbungu	342	14	328
Sagnerigu Municipal	847	62	785
Mion	555	52	503
Tatale	210	28	182
Mamprugu Moagduri	277	17	260

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 2.4.3 Migration

The process of distribution of a population occurs through natural growth and migration. This section provides information on persons who were not born in the locality of enumeration together with the duration of their residence.

Table 2.6 shows the migrant population in the West Gonja District of Northern Region measured by birthplace and duration of residence of migrants. The Table shows that, 20.7 percent of the total populations of the District are migrants. Out of this migrant population about four in ten (42.4%) are born in another region, 47.4 percent are born elsewhere in the Northern region and 10.2 percent are born outside Ghana. Considering the migrants from other regions, the highest proportion 22.3 percent are from Upper West Region. This could be due to the fact that the District shares a common border with the region. Those born outside Ghana contribute the second highest migrants' population into the District (10.1%).

**Table 2.6: Birthplace by duration of residence of migrants**

Birthplace	Number	Percent	Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-19 years	20+ years
Total	8,532	100.0	14.6	28.0	15.0	19.8	22.6
Born elsewhere in the region	4,046	47.4	15.3	28.2	15.6	19.6	21.3
Born elsewhere in another region:							
Western	34	0.4	11.8	20.6	8.8	17.6	41.2
Central	52	0.6	13.5	46.2	23.1	5.8	11.5
Greater Accra	79	0.9	15.2	31.6	20.3	15.2	17.7
Volta	99	1.2	35.4	33.3	16.2	7.1	8.1
Eastern	48	0.6	37.5	25.0	6.3	12.5	18.8
Ashanti	268	3.1	29.5	26.9	10.8	12.3	20.5
BrongAhafo	324	3.8	14.8	37.3	17.6	18.2	12.0
Northern	-						
Upper East	814	9.5	15.1	11.2	10.9	20.3	42.5
Upper West	1,903	22.3	11.9	19.9	17.7	24.5	26.0
Outside Ghana	865	10.1	8.7	56.1	10.2	15.5	9.6

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## CHAPTER THREE

### SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### 3.1 Introduction

Understanding the dynamics of households is fundamental to understanding the characteristics of units in social and economic planning. The size, composition, and structure of households are influenced by socio-economic, and demographic factors such as age at first marriage and birth, length of time spent in school, occupation, material or financial abilities, capabilities of parents and couples, fertility and mortality rates, and migration. The total size of the population and its characteristics are, therefore, largely a reflection of what pertains within households. Households constitute important units in planning and as such knowledge of household structure, composition, and headship provides an important statistical tool for social and economic planning. Analysis of households also provides the basis for a reasonable projection of the future size of population, and planning of housing needs and indirectly leads to the unraveling of the dynamics of household formation and disintegration.

This chapter is focused on discussing household size, composition, structure and headships of the population of West Gonja District using data from the 2010 Population and Housing Census. In addition, analysis of household headship is carried out on the basis of age-sex structure, marital status, literacy and education, occupation and other social and economic characteristics.

#### 3.2 Household Size, Composition and Structure

Household population provides important information to policy makers and planners with regard to resource allocation for social services such as shelter, health and education. A household normally consists of a head, with or without spouse, children, in-laws, parents, grandchildren, and other relatives

##### 3.2.1 Household size

Table 3.1 reveals that the total population in households in West Gonja District is 40,269. While 51.0 percent of the household population lives in urban localities, 49.0 percent live in rural localities. There are 6,255 households in the District with majority of the being in urban areas (52.4%) than rural areas (47.6%). The average household size (6.6) in the District is lower than the regional average of 7.8. Table also reveals that the average household size in rural areas (6.7) is slightly higher compared to households in the urban areas (6.5).

**Table 3.1: Household size by type of locality**

Categories	Total		District		
	Country	Region	Total	Urban	Rural
Total household population	24,076,327	2,445,061	40,269	20,521	19,748
Number of households	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	3,279	2,976
Average household size	4.5	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.7

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.2.2 Household composition

The kind of living arrangement prevalent in any community, to a large extent finds expression in some socio-cultural behaviours of the people. Hence, there is usually a connection between the type of family or household composition and the prevailing social and cultural practices. This usually reflects in the type of kinship ties that hold people together and therefore account for the differentials in household arrangements all across the country, depending on the ethnic group concern. This section therefore discusses the kinds of family ties and living arrangements that exist in the West Gonja District.

Household composition refers to the pattern of relationships between the head of household and other members of the household. This includes relationships such as spouse (wife/husband), child (son/daughter), grandchild, parent/parent-in-law, brother/sister and other relatives and non-relatives.

Data on household population by composition and sex are presented in table 3.2. household heads account for 15.5 percent of the household population in the District. The Table also shows that, there are corresponding 23.9 percent of male heads and 7.1 percent of female heads for the male and female household populations. In all households in the District, biological children constitute the largest proportion of households' population (48.3%). The proportion of biological children (51.5%) in male headed households is higher than female headed households (45.1%). Household head, spouse and children altogether represent almost three-quarters (73.3%) of the household population.

**Table 3.2: Household population by composition and sex**

Household composition	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	40,269	100.0	20,217	100.0	20,052	100.0
Head	6,255	15.5	4,835	23.9	1,420	7.1
Spouse (wife/husband)	3,840	9.5	90	0.4	3,750	18.7
Child (son/daughter)	19,453	48.3	10,404	51.5	9,049	45.1
Parent/Parent in-law	307	0.8	42	0.2	265	1.3
Son/Daughter in-law	466	1.2	83	0.4	383	1.9
Grandchild	3,578	8.9	1,804	8.9	1,774	8.8
Brother/Sister	1,630	4.0	953	4.7	677	3.4
Step child	321	0.8	177	0.9	144	0.7
Adopted/Foster child	286	0.7	149	0.7	137	0.7
Other relative	3,841	9.5	1,496	7.4	2,345	11.7
Non-relative	292	0.7	184	0.9	108	0.5

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.2.3 Household structure

Household structure refers to the type of relationship (whether related or unrelated) between household members who were present on census night. Table 3.3 shows the household structure by sex for the West Gonja District. The table suggests that extended family households (head, spouse, children, and head's relatives) constitute the highest proportion (44.6%) of household population in the district. Nuclear households (head, spouse and children) on the other hand constitute 24.0 percent. The preceding point therefore highlights a

clear dominance of the extended family system in the District. Where only heads make constitute the entire household, the proportion is only 1.3 percent. However, nuclear family households constitute 31.1 percent while that of extended family households constitute 68.9 percent in the District. This shows that extended type of family system is predominant in the District.

Table 3.3 further shows that the proportion of extended (head, spouse, children and head's relatives) households is slightly higher in female headed households (44.8%) than that of the male headed households (44.4). In the nuclear households, the proportion of household population is higher for male headed households (25.3%) than that of females headed households (22.6%).

**Table 3.3: Household population by structure and sex**

Household Structure	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	40,269	100.0	20,217	100.0	20,052	100.0
<b>Nuclear family</b>	<b>12,512</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>6,599</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>5,913</b>	<b>29.4</b>
Head only	542	1.3	438	2.2	104	0.5
Head and a spouse only	236	0.6	116	0.6	120	0.6
Nuclear (Head spouse(s) children)	9,660	24.0	5,122	25.3	4,538	22.6
Single parent Nuclear	2,074	5.2	923	4.6	1,151	5.7
<b>Extended family</b>	<b>27,757</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>13,618</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>14,139</b>	<b>70.6</b>
Extended (Head spouse(s) children Head's relatives)	17,950	44.6	8,972	44.4	8,978	44.8
Extended + non relatives	823	2.0	428	2.1	395	2.0
Head spouse(s) and other composition	1,054	2.6	553	2.7	501	2.5
Single parent Extended	5,402	13.4	2,408	11.9	2,994	14.9
Single parent Extended + non relative	236	0.6	118	0.6	118	0.6
Head and other composition but no spouse	2,292	5.7	1,139	5.6	1,153	5.8

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

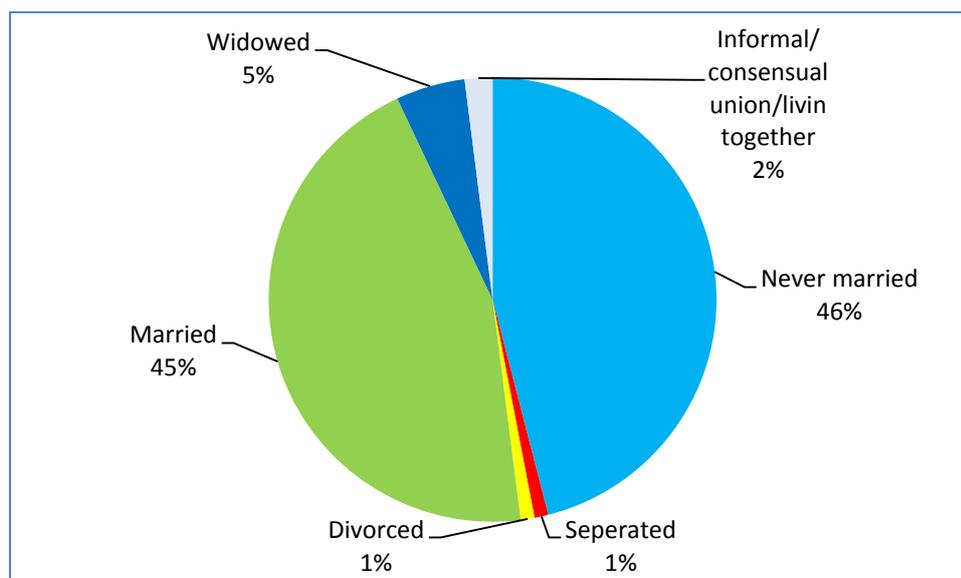
### 3.3 Marital Status

Marriage has demographic, economic, socio-cultural and health implications as it sets the context for reproductive activities such as legitimizing entry into sexual activities and childbirth (Braun, 2005). Marital status is also use as one of the determinants of social status and an indicator of social responsibility, trust and other achievements in some societies (Animasahun & Fatile, 2011). Marital status has implications for other demographic events such as family formation.

#### 3.3.1 Marital status of persons 12 years and older by sex

Figure 3.1 show that 46 percent of the population in the district have never married compare to the regional average of 38.9 percent. Also, the proportion of married persons in the District (45.0%) is lower than the regional average of 54.3 percent. Similarly, this implies that 4.5 out of every 10 people, 12 years and older are married in the district as compare to 5.4 out of every 10 persons in the region. In respect of the widowed and divorced populations, it is found that 5.0 percent of the population 12 years and older in District are widowed, while 1.0 percent is divorced.

**Figure 3.1: Marital status of persons 12 years and older**



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.3.2 Marital status of persons 12 years and older by sex and age-group

From Table 3.4, it is observed that, the proportion of married persons in the District generally increases with increasing age group until age group 45-49 years beyond which it declines. A reverse pattern is witness in the case of never married; the proportion of the never married population decreases with increasing age group except from age groups 55-65 years and older. In the case of widowed, it can be observed that the widowed population increases with increasing age groups with the highest widowed percentage (34.3%) recorded at age group 65 years and older. No definite trend is observed in the cases of separated, divorced and informal consensual union categories of marital status as mixed proportions are observe for the varying age groups.

The Table further shows that, a lower percentage (38.4%) of females in the District never married compare to the proportion of male population 12 years and older constituting 53.4 percent. However, more females are married (48.7%) in the District than their male counterparts (42.2%). In terms of the age of marriage, females marry earlier than males. As indicated in the Table, 41.6 percent of females had married by age 20-24 years compare to only 11.4 percent of males of the same age group. It is also observe that the married female population peaked (86.7%) at age groups 35-39 and 40-44, whereas the male proportion peaked (90.4%) at age group 55-59. The divorce rate among females (1.5%) was higher than that of males (1.0%). The percentage of the widowed population is 8.0 percent among female population and 1.4 percent among males, signifying a higher female widowed population. The widowed population trend depicts a situation where male spouses are likely to die earlier than their female partners. The common reason accounting for early death among men may be due to their adventurous nature, who most often engages in risky activities in order to meet the economic needs of the family.

**Table 3.4: Persons 12 years and older by sex, age-group and marital status**

Sex/Age-group	Number	Total	Never married	Informal/ Consensual union/ Living together	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
<b>Both Sexes</b>								
Total	26,716	100.0	45.9	1.5	45.5	1.3	1.3	4.7
12 – 14	3,210	100.0	96.1	0.1	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 – 19	4,931	100.0	91.9	1.0	6.6	0.2	0.1	0.1
20 – 24	3,656	100.0	69.4	2.9	26.8	0.5	0.2	0.3
25 – 29	2,889	100.0	40.5	3.7	53.5	1.0	0.8	0.5
30 – 34	2,353	100.0	16.6	2.2	76.5	1.7	1.6	1.3
35 – 39	2,065	100.0	7.7	1.7	84.4	2.0	1.6	2.6
40 – 44	1,831	100.0	4.3	0.5	86.8	2.6	1.9	3.9
45 – 49	1,368	100.0	4.4	0.7	82.5	2.8	3.7	5.9
50 – 54	1,246	100.0	4.0	0.3	79.1	2.8	3.5	10.3
55 – 59	708	100.0	1.4	0.1	76.0	3.7	3.1	15.7
65+	1,671	100.0	8.3	0.6	52.2	1.5	3.2	34.3
<b>Male</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,253</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>
12 – 14	1,689	100.0	96.0	0.1	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 – 19	2,517	100.0	95.2	0.4	4.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
20 – 24	1,798	100.0	86.7	1.7	11.4	0.2	0.0	0.0
25 – 29	1,343	100.0	60.0	3.4	35.2	0.6	0.5	0.2
30 – 34	1,033	100.0	29.6	2.1	66.0	1.2	0.9	0.2
35 – 39	974	100.0	12.5	2.1	81.7	1.6	0.9	1.1
40 – 44	883	100.0	7.4	0.8	86.9	2.5	1.4	1.1
45 – 49	739	100.0	6.1	0.9	84.6	2.4	3.7	2.3
50 – 54	670	100.0	6.1	0.3	87.0	1.3	3.1	2.1
55 – 59	394	100.0	1.0	0.3	90.4	2.5	1.0	4.8
60 – 64	399	100.0	8.8	0.3	78.9	2.0	2.8	7.3
65+	814	100.0	10.3	0.7	75.8	0.9	2.7	9.6
<b>Female</b>								
Total	13,463	100.0	38.4	1.7	48.7	1.6	1.5	8.0
12 – 14	1,521	100.0	96.3	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 – 19	2,414	100.0	88.6	1.7	9.2	0.4	0.0	0.2
20 – 24	1,858	100.0	52.6	4.0	41.6	0.8	0.4	0.6
25 – 29	1,546	100.0	23.5	4.0	69.3	1.4	1.0	0.8
30 – 34	1,320	100.0	6.4	2.3	84.8	2.1	2.2	2.2
35 – 39	1,091	100.0	3.3	1.5	86.7	2.4	2.2	3.9
40 – 44	948	100.0	1.5	0.3	86.7	2.6	2.3	6.5
45 – 49	629	100.0	2.4	0.3	80.1	3.2	3.8	10.2
50 – 54	576	100.0	1.6	0.3	69.8	4.5	4.0	19.8
55 – 59	314	100.0	1.9	0.0	58.0	5.1	5.7	29.3
60 – 64	389	100.0	3.1	0.0	52.2	3.9	3.6	37.3
65+	857	100.0	6.3	0.5	29.8	2.1	3.6	57.8

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.3.3 Marital status and level of education

In Table 3.5, it is inferred that a little below fifty percent (48.8%) of persons 12 years and older in the District have no education. This implies that 51.2 percent of all persons 12 years and older must have received some level of education. Nevertheless, significant variations pertain in the actual levels of education obtained. The population with basic level education (33.7%) is about a third of level of education obtained in the District. The educational levels of persons 12 years and older declines sharply after basic education to 10.9 percent for

secondary and 1.0 percent for tertiary. This is could be due to early marriages and the absence of technical and tertiary educational institutions in the District. In fact, able 3.5 buttresses the argument relating to early marriage since out of the proportion of persons with no education, 72.8 percent are found to be married compared to 20.2 percent never married population. Stated differently, it implies that education has the tendency of lengthening the waiting time before marriage in the District.

Generally, it is observed from the table below that the level of education attain by persons 12 years and older decreases at higher levels of education in the District, that is, from basic, secondary and to the institutions of higher learning. Distributed along the sexes, Table 3.5 shows that the proportion of persons with no education among males (42.2%) is less than that of females (55.4%). This pattern reflects in all the levels of education. Also, among the married population, it is observe that females have the highest proportion of no education (77.8%) compare to males (67.0%). Thus female dominance, in the proportion of those with no education, is explained by some socio-cultural practices, which includes the practice of girl child fostering and early betrothal marriages, which is reinforce by the misconception that the place of the girl child is the kitchen.

**Table 3.5: Marital status of persons 12 years and older by sex and level of education**

Sex/marital Status	Number	All levels	No Education	Basic <sup>1</sup>	Secondary <sup>2</sup>	Vocational/ Technical/ Commercial	Post Middle/ Secondary Certificate/ Diploma <sup>3</sup>	Tertiary <sup>4</sup>
<b>Both Sexes</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,716</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Never married	12,258	100.0	20.2	56.2	17.0	0.9	5.0	0.8
Informal/Consensual union/Living together	388	100.0	37.4	37.4	16.2	0.8	6.2	2.1
Married	12,143	100.0	72.8	14.5	5.8	1.1	4.4	1.4
Separated	336	100.0	65.2	22.3	7.1	2.7	2.4	0.3
Divorced	334	100.0	77.2	14.4	3.6	1.2	3.6	0.0
Widowed	1,257	100.0	88.3	7.5	1.7	0.5	2.0	0.1
<b>Male</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,253</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Never married	7,082	100.0	21.0	52.7	18.4	0.8	6.3	0.9
Informal/Consensual union/Living together	155	100.0	30.3	32.3	20.0	1.9	11.0	4.5
Married	5,588	100.0	67.0	15.0	7.2	1.4	6.6	2.9
Separated	116	100.0	63.8	21.6	8.6	2.6	2.6	0.9
Divorced	127	100.0	74.0	17.3	4.7	0.0	3.9	0.0
Widowed	185	100.0	76.8	15.7	2.7	1.1	3.8	0.0
<b>Female</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,463</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Never married	5,176	100.0	19.0	61.0	15.1	1.0	3.2	0.6
Informal/Consensual union/Living together	233	100.0	42.1	40.8	13.7	0.0	3.0	0.4
Married	6,555	100.0	77.8	14.0	4.6	0.9	2.6	0.1
Separated	220	100.0	65.9	22.7	6.4	2.7	2.3	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.3.4 Marital status and economic activity

Table 3.6 depicts the population 12 years and older by sex and activity status in the District. The table suggests that more than half (58.9%) of the population 12 years and older are economically active, while 41.1 percent are economically not active. More than half (56.4%) of the persons 12 years and older are employed in the District, as against 2.5 percent of unemployed in the District. It also indicates that out of 12,143 married persons 78.7 percent are employed, 2.5 percent are unemployed and 18.9 percent are economically not active... For never married persons, 33.9 percent are employed and 63.6 percent are economically not active. Persons in informal consensual union, constitute the highest proportions of the unemployed (5.4%) and persons never married (63.6%) constitute highest proportion of economically not active population in the District. This high proportion could be explained by the fact that a significant number of the economically not active population in the District are in full time education.

**Table 3.6: Marital status of persons 12 years and older by sex and economic activity**

Sex/ Marital Status	Total		Employed		Unemployed		Economically inactive	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Both Sexes</b>								
Total	26,716	100.0	15,070	56.4	678	2.5	10,968	41.1
Never married	12,258	100.0	4,153	33.9	306	2.5	7,799	63.6
Informal/Consensual union/Living together	388	100.0	259	66.8	21	5.4	108	27.8
Married	12,143	100.0	9,554	78.7	300	2.5	2,289	18.9
Separated	336	100.0	248	73.8	17	5.1	71	21.1
Divorced	334	100.0	255	76.3	7	2.1	72	21.6
Widowed	1,257	100.0	601	47.8	27	2.1	629	50.0
<b>Male</b>								
Total	13,253	100.0	7,959	60.1	281	2.1	5,013	37.8
Never married	7,082	100.0	2,661	37.6	173	2.4	4,248	60.0
Informal/Consensual union/Living together	155	100.0	121	78.1	6	3.9	28	18.1
Married	5,588	100.0	4,870	87.2	92	1.6	626	11.2
Separated	116	100.0	94	81.0	7	6	15	12.9
Divorced	127	100.0	108	85.0	1	0.8	18	14.2
Widowed	185	100.0	105	56.8	2	1.1	78	42.2
<b>Female</b>								
Total	13,463	100.0	7,111	52.8	397	2.9	5,955	44.2
Never married	5,176	100.0	1,492	28.8	133	2.6	3,551	68.6
Informal/Consensual union/Living together	233	100.0	138	59.2	15	6.4	80	34.3
Married	6,555	100.0	4,684	71.5	208	3.2	1,663	25.4
Separated	220	100.0	154	70.0	10	4.5	56	25.5
Divorced	207	100.0	147	71.0	6	2.9	54	26.1
Widowed	1,072	100.0	496	46.3	25	2.3	551	51.4

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

According to Table 3.6 about six in ten (60.1%) of the male population 12 years and older are employed in the District compare to a little over half (52.8%) of the female population 12 years and older. The Table further reveals that, 2.9 percent and 44.2 percent of the female population 12 years and older is respectively unemployed and economically not active,

compare to 2.1 percent and 37.8 percent of the male counterparts. In line with the established trend of the District, it is also observed that the proportions of married males (87.2%) and females (71.5%) are employed. Also, proportion of never married males (60.0%) and females (68.6%) constitute the highest proportions of economically not active populations 12 years and older in the District.

### 3.4 Nationality

Nationality is defined as the country to which a person belongs to and Ghanaian nationals are classified as Ghanaian by birth and by naturalization. Table 3.7 shows the population distribution by nationality and sex in the West Gonja District. From the Table, it is shown that 80.2 percent of the population in the District is Ghanaians by birth. This implies that four out of every five persons in the District are born in Ghana. ECOWAS nationals constitute the second largest population of 9.5 percent in the District followed by Ghanaians with dual nationality whose population stands at 8.6 percent. Similar pattern is observed along the male-female divides as Ghanaians by birth constitute 80.5 percent of the male population and 79.9 percent of the female population. Ghanaian nationals (by birth, dual nationality and by naturalization) altogether constitute 89.8 percent.

**Table 3.7: Population by nationality and sex**

Nationality	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,180</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,681</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,499</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Ghanaian by birth	33,014	80.2	16,643	80.5	16,371	79.9
Dual nationality (Ghanaian & Other)	3,527	8.6	1,705	8.2	1,822	8.9
Ghanaian by naturalisation	393	1.0	191	0.9	202	1.0
ECOWAS	3,909	9.5	1,987	9.6	1,922	9.4
African other than ECOWAS	201	0.5	93	0.4	108	0.5
Other	136	0.3	62	0.3	74	0.4

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.5 Religious Affiliation

Table 3.8 shows the population by religious affiliation and sex in the West Gonja District. Islam constitutes the highest religious practice (75.7%) follows by Christianity (Catholic, Protestants, Pentecostals and Other Christians) which forms 21.1 percent. Traditional worship (1.4%) constitutes the least form of religious practice in the District while persons with no religious affiliation are 1.5 percent of the total population in the District. From the table, it is evident that three out of every four people in the District practice Islamic religion, while only one out of every five people in the District belong to the Christian faith.

In terms of religious affiliation by sex, it is observed that there are more females than males in Islam, and the number of male atheist exceed those of females. This suggests that females in the District generally show commitment to religious practice than their male counterparts.

**Table 3.8: Population by religion and sex**

Religion	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	41,180	100.0	20,681	100.0	20,499	100.0
No religion	610	1.5	328	1.6	282	1.4
Catholic	6,403	15.5	3,237	15.7	3,166	15.4
Protestants (Anglican Lutheran etc.)	952	2.3	500	2.4	452	2.2
Pentecostal/Charismatic	1,146	2.8	596	2.9	550	2.7
Other Christian	217	0.5	132	0.6	85	0.4
Islam	31,188	75.7	15,524	75.1	15,664	76.4
Traditionalist	585	1.4	320	1.5	265	1.3
Other	79	0.2	44	0.2	35	0.2

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.6 Literacy and education

In general, education contributes to the process of developing and molding technical and attitudinal skills and also increases the ability to understand and respond to new ideas. The 2010 Population and Housing Census classify a literate person as someone who can read and write a simple statement with understanding. If a person can only read but cannot write or can write but cannot read, he or she cannot be considered as literate. The objective of this section is to analyse the relationship between age, sex and literacy and education in the West Gonja District.

#### 3.6.1 Population 11years and older by sex, age and literacy

Table 3.9 presents information on the literacy status of persons 11 years and older by age and sex in the West Gonja District. The Table indicates that 52.3 percent of the population 11 years and older are literate. This implies that almost half (47.7%) of the population in the District are not literate compare to the national average of 25.9 percent. It is also observed that persons literate in English only (51.0%) form the highest proportion of literate categories as indicated in the Table and this is followed by persons literate in both English and Ghanaian language (47.5%). Person literate in Ghanaian language only forms an insignificant proportion of 1.2 percent which appears to be very worrying. Thus, literacy in the District is largely limited to two main languages: English and Ghanaian language, with English literacy as the major.

In terms of the varying age groups, it can be observed that persons literate in English only generally increases with increasing age group from age groups 20-24 to 55-59, even though some slight dip is observed at age group 45-49. With Ghanaian language only, no definite pattern is observed in terms of the specific age groups as mixed and very low proportions are experienced with the least being 0.5 percent at age group 40-44. This is could be attributed to the unavailability of a structured system of impacting Ghanaian language in our schools compare to English language or is explain by lack of interest in its teaching and learning. Together, literacy in English and Ghanaian language increases with increasing age group particularly from age groups 11-14 to 35-39 with the highest proportion of 57.9 percent records at age group 20-24.

With respect to literacy among the sexes, it is observed that a little lower than half of males in the District are literate in both English only (49.5%) and Ghanaian language and English (49.0%) compare to females who records more than half (53.0%) for English only, and 45.6 percent for Ghanaian language and English. Literacy in French and English and also in French, English and Ghanaian Languages combined remain insignificant even across the sexes.

**Table 3.9: Literacy status of persons 11 years and older by age and sex**

Sex/ Age	None (Not literate)	Literate	Total	English only	Ghanaian language only	English and Ghanaian language	English and French	English, French and Ghanaian Language
<b>Both sexes</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,176</b>	<b>14,439</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
11-14	669	3,440	100.0	62.9	1.3	35.8	0.1	0.0
15-19	895	4,036	100.0	51.5	1.0	47.4	0.0	0.1
20-24	1,263	2,393	100.0	40.9	1.0	57.9	0.0	0.1
25-29	1,448	1,441	100.0	44.1	1.3	54.3	0.1	0.1
30-34	1,485	868	100.0	47.8	0.8	51.0	0.0	0.3
35-39	1,428	637	100.0	46.9	1.9	51.0	0.2	0.0
40-44	1,429	402	100.0	50.5	0.5	47.3	0.5	1.2
45-49	1,032	336	100.0	47.9	2.7	48.8	0.0	0.6
50-54	949	297	100.0	52.5	1.0	46.1	0.0	0.3
55-59	522	186	100.0	52.7	2.2	44.1	0.5	0.5
60-64	626	162	100.0	42.6	3.7	53.7	0.0	0.0
65+	1,430	241	100.0	47.7	1.2	51.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Male</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,659</b>	<b>8,088</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
11-14	376	1,807	100.0	63.5	1.1	35.3	0.1	0.0
15-19	423	2,094	100.0	53.0	1.2	45.8	0.0	0.0
20-24	438	1,360	100.0	38.8	0.7	60.3	0.1	0.1
25-29	508	835	100.0	40.1	1.6	58.0	0.1	0.2
30-34	530	503	100.0	42.7	0.8	56.1	0.0	0.4
35-39	576	398	100.0	44.7	1.3	54.0	0.0	0.0
40-44	614	269	100.0	46.5	0.4	51.3	0.0	1.9
45-49	523	216	100.0	40.3	2.3	56.5	0.0	0.9
50-54	477	193	100.0	48.2	1.0	50.3	0.0	0.5
55-59	257	137	100.0	53.3	2.9	43.8	0.0	0.0
60-64	282	117	100.0	35.9	5.1	59.0	0.0	0.0
65+	655	159	100.0	45.3	1.9	52.8	0.0	0.0
<b>Female</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,517</b>	<b>6,351</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
11-14	293	1,633	100.0	62.2	1.5	36.4	0.0	0.0
15-19	472	1,942	100.0	49.8	0.9	49.1	0.1	0.2
20-24	825	1,033	100.0	43.8	1.5	54.7	0.0	0.1
25-29	940	606	100.0	49.5	1.0	49.3	0.2	0.0
30-34	955	365	100.0	54.8	0.8	44.1	0.0	0.3
35-39	852	239	100.0	50.6	2.9	46.0	0.4	0.0
40-44	815	133	100.0	58.6	0.8	39.1	1.5	0.0
45-49	509	120	100.0	61.7	3.3	35.0	0.0	0.0
50-54	472	104	100.0	60.6	1.0	38.5	0.0	0.0
55-59	265	49	100.0	51.0	0.0	44.9	2.0	2.0
60-64	344	45	100.0	60.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0
65+	775	82	100.0	52.4	0.0	47.6	0.0	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 3.6.2 School attendance and sex

Table 3.10 shows the level of education by school attendance and sex in the West Gonja District for persons 3 years and older. From table 3.10, it is found that the male population currently attending school in the District forms more than half (53.1%) of persons 3 years and older. This is higher compare to the female proportion of 46.9 percent. It is generally observed that a large proportion of persons currently attending school in the District are found at the primary level (45.4%), out of which the male constitute 44.7 percent and 46.1 percent for the female population. Vocational, technical and commercial education receives the least level of attendance in the District with a proportion of 0.4 percent and this pattern pertains for both males (0.3%) and females (0.4%).

In term of the persons who attended school in the past, it is observed that not a single person in the District, both male and female, attended Kindergarten or nursery in the past. This could be due to the unavailability of these facilities even though a disaggregated analysis of this in terms of the age group of respondents could paint a clearer picture. Similar to current school attendance, the dominant proportion of the population who have attended school in the past (22.7%) ends at the primary school while the least ends at the vocational, technical and commercial level of 3.7 percent (Table 3.10).

In respect of the distribution of school attendance in the past by sex, table 3.10 shows that a relatively large proportion (19.8%) of the male population ends at Senior Secondary School/ Senior High School (SSS/SHS). In contrast, it is found that majority (26.9%) of females end school at the primary level. This implies that the dropout rate for females is higher than that of males. On the whole, only 10.8 percent of the population 3 years and older who attended school in the past in the District are found to end school at the tertiary level, which implies that nearly 90 percent of all persons who had attended school in the past in the District ends at levels lower than tertiary. It is observed that only 4.8 percent of the female populations in the District who attended school in the past actually obtain tertiary education compare to 15.3 percent of the male population.

**Table 3.10: Population 3 years and older by level of education, school attendance and sex**

Level of Education	Currently Attending						Attended in the Past					
	Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	16,754	100.0	8,899	100.0	7,855	100.0	5,464	100.0	3,128	100.0	2,336	100.0
Nursery	1,968	11.7	978	11.0	990	12.6	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Kindergarten	1,253	7.5	635	7.1	618	7.9	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Primary	7,599	45.4	3,975	44.7	3,624	46.1	1,239	22.7	611	19.5	628	26.9
JSS/JHS	3,815	22.8	1,978	22.2	1,837	23.4	1,012	18.5	463	14.8	549	23.5
Middle	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	665	12.2	413	13.2	252	10.8
SSS/SHS	1,532	9.1	931	10.5	601	7.7	1,078	19.7	620	19.8	458	19.6
Secondary	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	294	5.4	202	6.5	92	3.9
Voc./Tech./Com.	64	0.4	31	0.3	33	0.4	204	3.7	110	3.5	94	4.0
Post middle/ Secondary certificate	183	1.1	132	1.5	51	0.6	381	7.0	231	7.4	150	6.4
Tertiary	340	2.0	239	2.7	101	1.3	591	10.8	478	15.3	113	4.8

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## CHAPTER FOUR

### ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

#### 4.1 Introduction

Generally, development of a country is based on the production of goods and services. Essential to this production process is the human capital of the country. Although all persons irrespective of age and sex consume goods and services produced, only a section of the total population produces them: a working population often referred to as the “employed”. The type of economic activity pursued is influenced by the nature of the economy and level of socio-economic development (Hull, 2009). Generally, the larger the employed population with the right attitude, the more wealth is created leading to the general well-being of the population.

Contributing to employment opportunities in any country or area depends on factors such as the structure of the population, proportion of the economically active population and the labour market. A detail study of the dynamics of the population and the labour market helps to identify the employment opportunities available and the structure of the economy. This chapter presents the economic status of persons within the West Gonja District along the lines of economically active and economically not active population by sex.

#### 4.2 Economic Activity Status

Economic activity status of persons fifteen years and older in West Gonja District is discuss in this section. The 2010 population and housing census defined the economically active population as the employed and unemployed populations 15 years and older.

**Table 4.1: Population 15 years and older by activity status and sex**

Activity status	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,506</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,564</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,942</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Economically active</b>	<b>14,893</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>7,753</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>7,140</b>	<b>59.8</b>
<i>Employed</i>	<b>14,215</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>7,472</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>94.4</b>
<i>Worked</i>	13,896	93.3	7,301	97.7	6,595	92.4
<i>Did not work but had job to go back to</i>	283	1.9	162	2.2	121	1.7
<i>Did voluntary work without pay</i>	36	0.2	9	0.1	27	0.4
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<i>Worked before, seeking work and available</i>	374	55.2	141	50.2	233	58.7
<i>Seeking work for the first time and available</i>	304	44.8	140	49.8	164	41.3
<b>Economically not active</b>	<b>8,613</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>4,802</b>	<b>40.2</b>
Did home duties (household chore)	2,514	29.2	557	14.6	1,957	40.8
Full time education	4,486	52.1	2,586	67.9	1,900	39.6
Pensioner/Retired	134	1.6	88	2.3	46	1.0
Disabled/Sick	291	3.4	151	4.0	140	2.9
Too old/young	964	11.2	323	8.5	641	13.3
Other	224	2.6	106	2.8	118	2.5

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 4.1 indicates that a total 63.4 percent are economical active of which 95.4 are employed. Of the employed population, 95.4 percent are employed. Also, it is observed that a large proportion (55.2%) of the unemployed population in the District actually worked before in the last seven days to census night, while 44.8 percent are seeking work for the first time.

The economically not active population of the District constitutes 36.6 percent of population 15 years and older. A significant portion of this group is made up of persons in full time education (52.1%). Persons with some form of disability or who are sick and cannot work, together with persons who are too old or too young to work, also form about 14.6 percent

#### **4.2.2 Employed population 15 years and older by sex, age and activity status**

The Table 4.2 presents the characteristics of the employed population and activity status by age cohorts in the District. It is realized that, between the age groups 15-19 and 40-44, the proportion of the employed population increases but decline thereafter. On the other hand, the proportion of the economically not active population decreases with increasing age till age group 45-49 where it starts to decline though with some variations. The table further shows that less than half (48.2%) of the employed population 15 years and older are found between the age groups 15-19 and 30-34. This same age group records the highest proportion of unemployed population of 68.6 percent. This phenomenon is explained by a myriad of factors such as the age structure of the population and students leaving school and searching for jobs. This situation renders them unemployed for a while and economically not active as at the time of pursuing education. In terms of sex distribution, there exist significant variations between the age groups 15-19 and 30-34 among males and females. Males record the highest proportion of employed population of 64.6 percent than females 56.5 percent. Conversely, the proportion of the economically not active population for females of 40.2 percent exceeds that of males (33.0%). This is explained by the situation of higher school attendance for males than females.

**Table 4.2: Economic activity status of population 15 years and older by sex and age**

Age group	All Status		Employed		Unemployed		Economically not active	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Both sexes</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,506</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,215</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>8,613</b>	<b>36.6</b>
15-19	4,931	100.0	1,446	29.3	70	1.4	3,415	69.3
20-24	3,656	100.0	1,678	45.9	157	4.3	1,821	49.8
25-29	2,889	100.0	1,879	65.0	154	5.3	856	29.6
30-34	2,353	100.0	1,845	78.4	84	3.6	424	18.0
35-39	2,065	100.0	1,723	83.4	51	2.5	291	14.1
40-44	1,831	100.0	1,606	87.7	38	2.1	187	10.2
45-49	1,368	100.0	1,188	86.8	29	2.1	151	11.0
50-54	1,246	100.0	1,047	84	27	2.2	172	13.8
55-59	708	100.0	586	82.8	9	1.3	113	16.0
60-64	788	100.0	492	62.4	45	5.7	251	31.9
65+	1,671	100.0	725	43.4	14	0.8	932	55.8
<b>Male</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,564</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,472</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>33.0</b>
15-19	2,517	100.0	778	30.9	33	1.3	1,706	67.8
20-24	1,798	100.0	753	41.9	49	2.7	996	55.4
25-29	1,343	100.0	892	66.4	74	5.5	377	28.1
30-34	1,033	100.0	879	85.1	35	3.4	119	11.5
35-39	974	100.0	894	91.8	26	2.7	54	5.5
40-44	883	100.0	828	93.8	15	1.7	40	4.5
45-49	739	100.0	695	94.0	12	1.6	32	4.3
50-54	670	100.0	628	93.7	6	0.9	36	5.4
55-59	394	100.0	365	92.6	4	1.0	25	6.3
60-64	399	100.0	294	73.7	22	5.5	83	20.8
65+	814	100.0	466	57.2	5	0.6	343	42.1
<b>Female</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,942</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4,802</b>	<b>40.2</b>
15-19	2,414	100.0	668	27.7	37	1.5	1,709	70.8
20-24	1,858	100.0	925	49.8	108	5.8	825	44.4
25-29	1,546	100.0	987	63.8	80	5.2	479	31.0
30-34	1,320	100.0	966	73.2	49	3.7	305	23.1
35-39	1,091	100.0	829	76.0	25	2.3	237	21.7
40-44	948	100.0	778	82.1	23	2.4	147	15.5
45-49	629	100.0	493	78.4	17	2.7	119	18.9
50-54	576	100.0	419	72.7	21	3.6	136	23.6
55-59	314	100.0	221	70.4	5	1.6	88	28.0
60-64	389	100.0	198	50.9	23	5.9	168	43.2
65+	857	100.0	259	30.2	9	1.1	589	68.7

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 4.3 Occupation

Table 4.3 shows the distribution of type of occupation by employed population 15 years and older by sex. The Table shows a total employed population of 14,215 persons with a male proportion of 52.6 percent and a female proportion of 47.4 percent. Skilled agricultural forestry and fishery workers forms the largest number (8,602) of the employed population 15 years and older with a male proportion of 62.0 percent and a female proportion of 38.0

percent. This implies that three out of every five persons engaged in this forms of occupation are males compared to two out of five persons for females.

Craft and related trades workers and services and sales workers successively follow with either one of them having male-female proportions 23.2 percent and 76.8 percent, and 28.7 percent and 71.3 percent of males and females respectively. With the exception of service and sales workers, craft and related trades workers and elementary occupations, male dominance is found in all occupations in the District. The occupation with the least number of persons (108) in the District is found to be clerical support services, which has a male proportion 63.0 percent and a female proportion of 37.0 percent.

**Table 4.3: Employed population 15 years and older by occupation and sex**

Occupation	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	14,215	100.0	7,472	100.0	6,743	100.0
Managers	246	1.7	125	1.7	121	1.8
Professionals	836	5.9	562	7.5	274	4.1
Technicians and associate professionals	135	0.9	104	1.4	31	0.5
Clerical support workers	108	0.8	68	0.9	40	0.6
Service and sales workers	1,734	12.2	498	6.7	1,236	18.3
Skilled agricultural forestry and fishery workers	8,602	60.5	5,331	71.3	3,271	48.5
Craft and related trades workers	1,994	14.0	462	6.2	1,532	22.7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	180	1.3	152	2.0	28	0.4
Elementary occupations	378	2.7	169	2.3	209	3.1
Other occupations	2	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

#### 4.4 Industry

Industry refers to that type of services offered or products produced by an institution or company. Table 4.4 presents employed population 15 years and older by industry and sex. The workforce of the District is employed in three major industries: agriculture, forestry and fishing (60.5%), manufacturing (10.1%) and wholesale and retail, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (9.6%). Table 4.4 indicates that 5 percent of the workforce is engaged in the education and 3.6 percent in the accommodation and food services industry.

This is an indication that eight in every ten males (70.9%) and five in every ten females (48.9%) are engage in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry in the District. Also, about 4.0 percent of males and 16.8 percent of females are employed in the manufacturing. However, there are no persons engaged in real estate activities. This is due to the large rural nature of the District.

**Table 4.4: Employed population 15 years and older by industry and sex**

Industry	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	14,215	100.0	7,472	100.0	6,743	100.0
Agriculture forestry and fishing	8,594	60.5	5,297	70.9	3,297	48.9
Mining and quarrying	27	0.2	26	0.3	1	0.0
Manufacturing	1,436	10.1	302	4.0	1,134	16.8
Electricity gas steam and air conditioning supply	7	0.0	7	0.1	0	0.0
Water supply; sewerage waste management and remediation activities	16	0.1	10	0.1	6	0.1
Construction	95	0.7	92	1.2	3	0.0
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,371	9.6	353	4.7	1,018	15.1
Transportation and storage	81	0.6	73	1.0	8	0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	515	3.6	48	0.6	467	6.9
Information and communication	23	0.2	18	0.2	5	0.1
Financial and insurance activities	38	0.3	34	0.5	4	0.1
Real estate activities	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Professional scientific and technical activities	78	0.5	51	0.7	27	0.4
Administrative and support service activities	107	0.8	70	0.9	37	0.5
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	229	1.6	188	2.5	41	0.6
Education	768	5.4	531	7.1	237	3.5
Human health and social work activities	206	1.4	112	1.5	94	1.4
Arts entertainment and recreation	116	0.8	101	1.4	15	0.2
Other service activities	250	1.8	84	1.1	166	2.5
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods – and services – producing activities of households for own use	255	1.8	74	1.0	181	2.7
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	3	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 4.5 Employment Status

The position of a person in the establishment where he/she currently works or previously worked is termed the employment status. Eight employment status categories are provided: Thus employee, self-employed without employees, self-employed with employees, casual worker, contributing family worker, apprentice and domestic employee (house-help). Persons who could not be classified under any of the above categories are classified as “other”.

#### 4.5.1 Employed population 15 years and older by employment status and sex

The employed status data in Table 4.5 indicates that 58.6 percent of the entire workforce is self-employed without employees and 23.1 percent are contributing family workers. The corresponding sex distribution has 61.9 percent males and females (55.0%) being self-employed without employees. In contrast, 30.1 percent of females and 16.7 percent of males are contributing family workers due to their engagement in household or family chores.

**Table 4.5: Employed population 15 years and older by employment status and sex**

Employment Sector	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	14,215	100.0	7,472	100.0	6,743	100.0
Employee	1,823	12.8	1,276	17.1	547	8.1
Self-employed without employee(s)	8,331	58.6	4,624	61.9	3,707	55.0
Self-employed with employee(s)	355	2.5	171	2.3	184	2.7
Casual worker	130	0.9	60	0.8	70	1.0
Contributing family worker	3,278	23.1	1,251	16.7	2,027	30.1
Apprentice	177	1.2	36	0.5	141	2.1
Domestic employee (House help)	88	0.6	43	0.6	45	0.7
Other	33	0.2	11	0.1	22	0.3

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

#### 4.6 Employment Sector

Table 4.6 shows the sector of employment of employed population and persons who have worked before and are seeking work. There are five categories, namely: public, private formal, private informal, semi-public and NGO's. The table also indicates that the highest proportions of employed persons in the District are engage in the private informal sector (87.1%) follow by public (10.2%), while private formal (2.0%) and NGO's accounts for 0.6 percent. The relatively low levels of educational and professional training among the employed population, account for the high proportions in the informal sector.

Generally, the proportions of males 7,472 (52.6%) in all the employment sectors dominate females 6,743 (47.4%), except in the public sector. The proportion of males and females employed in the public sector are 14.0 percent and 6.1 percent respectively.

**Table 4.6: Employed population 15 years and older by employment sector and sex**

Employment Sector	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	14,215	100.0	7,472	100.0	6,743	100.0
Public (Government)	1,457	10.2	1,047	14.0	410	6.1
Private Formal	281	2.0	136	1.8	145	2.2
Private Informal	12,387	87.1	6,237	83.5	6,150	91.2
Semi-Public/Parastatal	5	0.0	5	0.1	0	0.0
NGOs (Local and International)	85	0.6	47	0.6	38	0.6
Other International Organisations	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

# **CHAPTER FIVE**

## **INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **5.1 Introduction**

Information Communications Technology (ICT) has become important tools in today's knowledge-based information society and economies, and is now generally considered as a factor rather than a consequence of growth and development. This shift in consciousness appears to have inspired a riveting growth in the promotion of ICT across the developing world with different applications. In countries such as Botswana and Egypt, ICT has been used in tracking livestock and in the management of irrigation respectively, and in Malawi, Senegal and Uganda, ICT is being adopted in the mitigation of the effects of climate change (Deloitte, 2012; International Institute for Development, 2012). The role of ICT in a transition economy such as Ghana's, has been widely recognised at various levels. This recognition is reflected in actions such as the development and deployment of a national ICT infrastructure, the design of an institutional and regulatory framework for managing the sector, the promotion of ICT use in all sectors of the economy, the implementation e-governance in all government institutions and in the construction of a national data centre (NDC) as well as regional innovation centers (RIC) among others. This chapter is therefore devoted to discussing access to ICT facilities in the West Gonja District.

For the first time, in the 2010 population and housing census data has been collected on access to and use of ICT by individuals and households. This kind of information was precisely sought from persons 12 years and older on access to and use of mobile phones and internet facilities, either at homes, in internet café's, on mobile phones or on any other internet enabled device. Again, information on households with desktops/laptop computers, and access to fixed telephone lines were also included.

### **5.2 Ownership of Mobile Phones**

In a study conducted by Delloite (2012), it is reported that the growth in mobile connections since 2000 stood at 44.0 percent for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in contrast with 34.0 percent for developing regions generally. Developed regions recorded a relative marginal increase of 10.0 percent over the same period (2000-2012). In Ghana, it is asserted that mobile phones became the primary source of social and business communication for the majority of Ghanaians in 2003 (Ayensu, 2003). The Delloite report rates Ghana as the nation with the second highest mobile phone penetration rate in SSA in 2012 with a spread rate of 84 percent coming after South Africa which recorded a rate of 123 percent. Nonetheless, recent data from the National Communications Authority of Ghana (NCA) showed an improved diffusion rate of 107.2 percent with a corresponding subscriber base of 28,296,904 in 2013.

Table 5.1 presents data on mobile phone ownership and internet facility usage by sex. Overall, a little over twenty-nine percent (29.1%) of the 26,716 population 12 years and older have access to mobile phones within the District. This is higher than the Northern regional average of 22.3 percent but lower compared to the national average of 47.7% (GSS, 2013). Although there is nearly a balance in the sex distribution of the population 12 years and older within the District, it is observed that male ownership of mobile phones (58.2%) outpaced that of females (41.8%) by some 16.4 percentage points. This falls in line with the findings of

the National Analytical Report of the 2010 Population and Housing Census where male dominance in mobile phone ownership is found to exist in all regions of Ghana (GSS, 2013).

### 5.3 Use of Internet

The Internet has become a very useful communication facility for people, businesses and organizations. Some of the common uses of the Internet include electronic mailing, accessing information, conducting business transactions, social networking and shopping. According to the International Communication Union (2012), the percentage of individuals using the internet continues to grow worldwide and by the end of 2011, about 2.3 billion people were using the Internet. However, there is a wide gap in access to Internet between the developed and developing countries. By the end of 2011, 70 percent of households in developed countries used the Internet compare to only 20 percent of households in developing countries (ICU, 2012). Delloite (2012) however point to the fact that desktop computers remain the leading internet access platform around the world with a percentage of 89.99 percent in 2012 relative to a mobile internet access of 10.01 percent. The same can however not be said of Africa and the developing regions as mobile internet browsing is quickly becoming the main platform for internet connectivity which is ascribed to the limited coverage of fixed lines and the associated cost of computers in these regions. Zimbabwe and Nigeria are reported to be the global leaders in mobile web browsing with 58.1 percent and 57.9 percent of web traffic being mobile based in these countries respectively (Delloite, 2012).

In Ghana, the utilization of mobile phones for internet connectivity (21.8%) is yet to rival the rate of access with desktop computers (78.2 %) which concurs with the findings of Delloite (2012). On average, access to internet facilities in Ghana currently stands at 7.8 percent for the population 12 years and older. Northern region has the third least access of 2.7 percent (GSS, 2013). As shown in Table 5.1, the 2010 Population and Housing Census recorded 597 users of internet facilities out of 26,716 persons 12 years and above in the West Gonja District. This translates into a lower internet facility user rate of 2.2 percent compared to the regional average. In terms of the sexes, (Table 5.1) usage of the Internet among males is 3.2 percent and that of females is 1.2 percent. Thus, nearly three quarters of all internet users within the District are males compared to one third of females. Therefore, relating this to the preceding discussions (Section 5.2) on mobile phone ownership, it is observed that the disparity of usage or ownership between the sexes is far greater with internet usage than with mobile phone ownership but remains in favour of males.

**Table 5.1: Population 12 years and older by mobile phone ownership, internet facility usage and sex**

Sex	Population 12 years and older		Population having mobile phones		Population using internet facility	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Both sexes	26,716	100.0	7,776	29.1	597	2.2
Male	13,253	100.0	4,527	34.2	430	3.2
Female	13,463	100.0	3,249	24.1	167	1.2

Source: Ghana statistical service, 2010 population and housing census

### 5.4 Household Ownership of Desktop or Laptop Computer

Desktop and laptop computers are useful for accessing and processing information, including the use of the internet, electronic mail and other services. For the country as a whole, only 7.9

percent of households owned a desktop/laptop computer. With regards to the regions, the highest proportion (42.0%) of households with a desktop/laptop is resident in Greater Accra while the Upper West had the least of 0.9 percent. For the Northern region, households with desktop/laptop computers stood at 2.2 percent (GSS, 2013).

As shown in Table 5.2 only 214 out of 6, 255 households owned either a desktop or laptop computer within the West Gonja District. This translates to 3.4% of all households in the district. While this is obviously small, it should be noted that laptop or desktop ownership within the District surpasses the regional average by some 1.2 percentage points. Nonetheless, Tamale Metropolis tops the region with the highest percentage (69.7%) of laptop or desktop ownership with the least (0.4%) recorded in the Karaga District (GSS, 2013). Male headed households have access to desktop or laptop computers than females in the West Gonja District. This stood at 3.7% for male headed households and 2.3% for female headed households. Again, albeit some disparities, it is 45 children that this conforms to the observed national and regional paradigm (GSS, 2013).

**Table 5.2: Households having laptop/desktop computers and sex of head**

Sex	Number of households		Households having desktop/laptop	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,255	100.0	214	3.4
Male	4,835	77.3	181	3.7
Female	1,420	22.7	33	2.3

Source: Ghana Statistical service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

# CHAPTER SIX

## DISABILITY

### 6.1 Introduction

Persons with Disabilities (PWD) have been defined as those who are unable to or are restricted in the performance of specific tasks/activities due to loss of function of some part of the body as a result of impairment or malformation (GSS, 2013). As a result, PWDs face a wide range of life challenges because disability, in whatever form or type, can reduce an individual's ability to function to his/her full potential. Estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are more than 600 million PWDs in the world, of which approximately 80 percent lives in low-income countries (Ayiku, 2012).

Disability has become a societal development issue because of its direct relationship to poverty. The development of a nation depends on the important contributions of not only a segment of the population but on the collective contributions of every individual, including PWDs.

To this regard, Government and Civil Society Organizations in recent years have made progress in addressing disability issues, resulting in some positive gains in improving the lives of PWDs in Ghana. Notable among these is the Persons with Disability Act, 2006, (Act 715). The Act deals with issues such as rights, employment, education, transportation, housing facilities, effective health care, generation and dissemination of relevant information and participation of PWDs in decision making.

Constitutionally, activities concerning PWDs in Ghana are allocated a three percent share of the District Assembly Common Fund. This has brought some relief to PWDs, particularly those outside the formal sector of employment. The National Council on Persons with Disability, among other things, is mandated to propose and enact policies and programmes to enable PWDs to contribute towards national development. With limited success, the concerns of PWDs have been integrated in some programmes of national interest with their issues gradually being highlighted in society (GSS, 2013).

This chapter looks at the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of PWDs from the 2010 PHC data. It describes PWDs with respect to age and sex, locality of residence, educational and literacy levels, and economic activity status.

### 6.2 Population with Disability

Table 6.1 shows the disability status of the population by locality and sex in the West Gonja District. A little beyond 98 percent (98.3%) of the population is without disability, while 1.7percent had some form of disabilities. Among the five common forms of disabilities are sight (36.6%), physical (25.8%), hearing (14.0%) and emotion (9.8%). It is important to also note that there can be PWDs with multiple disabilities in the District.

The sex distribution of PWDs as shown in Table 6.1 indicates that 1.9 percent of all males and 1.5 percent of all females in the District are PWDs. Generally, males dominate females in all forms of disability in the District. Sight disability is the highest form of disability amongst both males (34.8%) and females (39.0%). Intellectual disability is the least type of disability amongst both males (0.2%) and females (0.1%).

### 6.3 Type of disability

Table 6.1 shows six common forms of disabilities that are responding to by the population of the District, including other forms of disabilities and they include emotions, sight, intellect, physical, speech, and hearing.

### 6.4 Distribution by type of locality

Disability is common in urban localities (1.9%) than in rural localities (1.6). Sight disability is the highest among the disabled population in both rural (34.0%) and the urban (39.0%) areas. The reason accounting for the higher sight disability in the District is attributed to the closeness of some communities to the White Volta, which is a breeding ground for the black flies, the causative agent of onchocerciasis (River blindness).

**Table 6.1: Population by type of locality, disability type and sex**

Disability Type	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>All Localities</b>						
<b>Total</b>	41,180	100.0	20,681	100.0	20,499	100.0
No disability	40,467	98.3	20,281	98.1	20,186	98.5
<b>With a disability</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Sight	261	36.6	139	34.8	122	39.0
Hearing	100	14.0	55	13.8	45	14.4
Speech	99	13.9	64	16.0	35	11.2
Physical	184	25.8	107	26.8	77	24.6
Intellectual	59	8.3	35	0.2	24	0.1
Emotional	70	9.8	44	11.0	26	8.3
Other	56	7.9	28	7.0	28	8.9
<b>Urban</b>						
<b>Total</b>	21,188	100.0	10,550	100.0	10,638	100.0
No disability	20,791	98.1	10,322	97.8	10,469	98.4
<b>With a disability</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Sight	154	38.8	84	36.8	70	41.4
Hearing	59	14.9	33	14.5	26	15.4
Speech	52	13.1	35	15.4	17	10.1
Physical	85	21.4	50	21.9	35	20.7
Intellectual	38	9.6	27	0.3	11	0.1
Emotional	43	10.8	31	13.6	12	7.1
Other	35	8.8	15	6.6	20	11.8
<b>Rural</b>						
<b>Total</b>	19,992	100.0	10,131	100.0	9,861	100.0
No disability	19,676	98.4	9,959	98.3	9,717	98.5
<b>With a disability</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Sight	107	33.9	55	32.0	52	36.1
Hearing	41	13.0	22	12.8	19	13.2
Speech	47	14.9	29	16.9	18	12.5
Physical	99	31.3	57	33.1	42	29.2
Intellectual	21	6.6	8	0.1	13	0.1
Emotional	27	8.5	13	7.6	14	9.7
Other	21	6.6	13	7.6	8	5.6

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 6.5 Disability and Activity

Table 6.2 shows persons 15 years and older with Disabilities by economic status and sex. The proportion of employed PWDs in the District is 45.8 percent while that of the economically inactive is 53.3 percent. This is an indication that a little above half of PWDs in the District are economically not active. There exist a wide disparity between employed PWDs (45.8%) and non-PWDs (60.8%).

Some 40.1 percent of persons with sight disability in the District are employed while about six out of every ten (59.4%) of them are not economically active. Similarly, 47.5 percent of the physically disabled are employed compared to 52.5 percent who are economically not active.

**Table 6.2: Persons 15 years and older with disability by economic activity and sex**

Disability Type	All status		Employed		Unemployed		Economically Not Active	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Both Sexes</b>								
<b>Total</b>	23,506	100.0	14,215	60.5	678	2.9	8,613	36.6
No disability	22,953	100.0	13,962	60.8	673	2.9	8,318	36.2
With a disability	553	100.0	253	45.8	5	0.9	295	53.3
Sight	207	100.0	83	40.1	1	0.5	123	59.4
Hearing	78	100.0	41	52.6	0	0.0	37	47.4
Speech	66	100.0	37	56.1	1	1.5	28	42.4
Physical	158	100.0	75	47.5	0	0.0	83	52.5
Intellectual	42	100.0	14	33.3	1	2.4	27	64.3
Emotional	42	100.0	20	47.6	0	0.0	22	52.4
Other	43	100.0	16	37.2	2	4.7	25	58.1
<b>Male</b>								
<b>Total</b>	11,564	100.0	7,472	64.6	281	2.4	3,811	33.0
No disability	11,251	100.0	7,309	65.0	277	2.5	3,665	32.6
With a disability	313	100.0	163	52.1	4	1.3	146	46.6
Sight	108	100.0	48	44.4	1	0.9	59	54.6
Hearing	45	100.0	24	53.3	0	0.0	21	46.7
Speech	45	100.0	30	66.7	1	2.2	14	31.1
Physical	92	100.0	46	50.0	0	0.0	46	50.0
Intellectual	25	100.0	12	48.0	1	4.0	12	48.0
Emotional	25	100.0	12	48.0	0	0.0	13	52.0
Other	22	100.0	12	54.5	1	4.5	9	40.9
<b>Female</b>								
<b>Total</b>	11,942	100.0	6,743	56.5	397	3.3	4,802	40.2
No disability	11,702	100.0	6,653	56.9	396	3.4	4,653	39.8
With a disability	240	100.0	90	37.5	1	0.4	149	62.1
Sight	99	100.0	35	35.4	0	0.0	64	64.6
Hearing	33	100.0	17	51.5	0	0.0	16	48.5
Speech	21	100.0	7	33.3	0	0.0	14	66.7
Physical	66	100.0	29	43.9	0	0.0	37	56.1
Intellectual	17	100.0	2	11.8	0	0.0	15	88.2
Emotional	17	100.0	8	47.1	0	0.0	9	52.9
Other	21	100.0	4	19.0	1	4.8	16	76.2

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

In terms of sex distribution, the proportion of males who are visually impaired and employed is 44.4 percent as against 0.9 percent unemployed and 54.6 percent not economically active. In addition, 35.4 percent of female visually impaired in the District are employed while 64.6 percent are economically not active. About four out of ten (43.9%) of physically challenged females in the District are employed while 56.1 percent are inactive economically.

Generally, among the economically active PWDs in the District, those employed constitute 45.8 percent and unemployed constitute only 0.9 percent. A similar pattern is observed for all forms of disability along the male female divide.

## **6.6 Disability, Education and Literacy**

Table 6.3 presents discusses persons 3 years and older by sex, disability type and level of education. The West Gonja District records a population 37,781 persons, 3 years and older in the 2010 Population and Housing Census out of which 691 are PWDs. Some 59.5 percent of the PWDs never attended school which signifies that six out of every ten PWDs never attended school in the District. Also, 13.2 percent of the PWDs ended school at the primary level and none attained postgraduate degree or certificate.

In terms of the level of education among the various disability groups, 63.6 percent of the sight impaired never attended school, implying that only 36.4 percent actually attended to school, ranging from Nursery to the bachelor degree level. This calls for policy intervention to increase enrolment and retention of this group of individual into formal education. Furthermore, 66.9 percent of the physically challenged never attended school while the highest level education for those who attended school ended at post-secondary diploma level.

Generally, majority of PWDs age 3 years and older in the District ended their education at the primary level. In line with this, the proportions for the dominant disability groups for females are 11.0 percent and 15.6 percent for sight and hearing impaired and 21.2 percent and 9.1 percent for speech and physically impaired respectively. With respect to males, the respective shares are 12.6 percent and 20.8 percent for sight and hearing and 10.0 percent and 7.7 percent for speech and physically challenged.

**Table 6.3: Population 3 years and older by sex, disability type and level of education**

	Total	Percent	Never attended school	Nursery	Kindergarten	Primary	JSS/JHS	Middle	SSS/SHS	Secondary	Voc/Tech/Com	Post middle/sec. cert.	Post secondary diploma	Bachelor degree	Post graduate (cert. dip. masters, PHD, etc)
<b>Both sexes</b>															
<b>Total</b>	37,781	100.0	41.2	5.2	3.3	23.4	12.8	1.8	6.9	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.7	0.6	0.1
No disability	37,090	100.0	40.9	5.2	3.4	23.6	12.9	1.7	6.9	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.7	0.6	0.1
With a disability	691	100.0	59.5	3.3	1.2	13.2	7.5	2.7	5.4	1.2	1.4	2.7	1.6	0.3	0.0
Sight	253	100.0	63.6	2.4	0.8	11.9	7.1	3.2	4.0	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
Hearing	98	100.0	66.3	4.1	1.0	18.4	4.1	0.0	4.1	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Speech	93	100.0	55.9	2.2	2.2	14.0	14.0	0.0	7.5	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physical	181	100.0	66.9	0.6	1.1	8.3	6.1	2.8	6.1	0.6	2.2	3.3	2.2	0.0	0.0
Intellectual	58	100.0	63.8	5.2	0.0	8.6	6.9	5.2	5.2	1.7	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emotional	66	100.0	48.5	9.1	3.0	15.2	10.6	3.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	55	100.0	47.3	5.5	1.8	16.4	1.8	3.6	1.8	1.8	0.0	10.9	5.5	3.6	0.0
<b>Male</b>															
Total	18,920	100.0	36.4	5.2	3.4	24.2	12.9	2.2	8.2	1.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	1.0	0.2
No disability	18,534	100.0	36.0	5.2	3.4	24.5	13.0	2.2	8.2	1.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	1.1	0.2
With a disability	386	100.0	56.7	3.6	1.3	11.7	7.3	3.1	7.0	1.3	1.3	3.6	2.6	0.5	0.0
Sight	135	100.0	61.5	3.7	0.7	12.6	5.9	1.5	5.2	1.5	0.7	3.7	3.0	0.0	0.0
Hearing	53	100.0	64.2	3.8	0.0	20.8	3.8	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Speech	60	100.0	66.7	1.7	1.7	10.0	10.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physical	104	100.0	62.5	0.0	1.0	7.7	7.7	3.8	7.7	1.0	1.9	3.8	2.9	0.0	0.0
Intellectual	34	100.0	58.8	2.9	0.0	5.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	2.9	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emotional	42	100.0	40.5	11.9	4.8	16.7	9.5	4.8	9.5	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	27	100.0	33.3	7.4	3.7	7.4	3.7	7.4	0.0	3.7	0.0	14.8	11.1	7.4	0.0

**Table 6.3: Population 3 years and older by sex, disability type and level of education (cont'd)**

Sex/ disability type	Total	Percent	Never attended school	Nursery	Kinder-garten	Primary	JSS/ JHS	Middle	SSS/ SHS	Seco-nary	Voc/ Tech/ Com	Post middle/ sec. cert.	Post secondary diploma	Bachelor degree	Post graduate (cert. dip. masters, PHD, etc)
<b>Female</b>															
<b>Total</b>	18,861	100.0	46.0	5.2	3.3	22.5	12.7	1.3	5.6	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.0
No disability	18,556	100.0	45.7	5.3	3.3	22.7	12.7	1.3	5.7	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.0
With a disability	305	100.0	63.0	3.0	1.0	15.1	7.9	2.3	3.3	1.0	1.6	1.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Sight	118	100.0	66.1	0.8	0.8	11.0	8.5	5.1	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hearing	45	100.0	68.9	4.4	2.2	15.6	4.4	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Speech	33	100.0	36.4	3.0	3.0	21.2	21.2	0.0	9.1	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physical	77	100.0	72.7	1.3	1.3	9.1	3.9	1.3	3.9	0.0	2.6	2.6	1.3	0.0	0.0
Intellectual	24	100.0	70.8	8.3	0.0	12.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emotional	24	100.0	62.5	4.2	0.0	12.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	28	100.0	60.7	3.6	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

# **CHAPTER SEVEN**

## **AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

### **7.1 Introduction**

The effect of agriculture on Ghana's economic growth remains significant notwithstanding the changing composition of agricultural labour force and the declining trends in its contribution in recent times. Specifically, agriculture still plays a crucial role in areas such as food security, gross domestic product (GDP), employment and foreign exchange earnings. On a national scale, it is shown that agricultural contribution to GDP and foreign exchange earnings averaged 40 and 45 percent and 30 and 40 percent in the 1990s and 2000s respectively (ISSER, 2000, 2011).

The 2010 Population and Housing Census reveals that in the Northern region where the West Gonja District is located, 75.5 percent of all households in the region (318,119) are engaged in agriculture, making it the region with the third highest proportion of agricultural households (GSS, 2013). Greater Accra records the least percentage (6.6%) of agricultural households while the highest (83.7%) sprang from Upper East. On average, all regions maintained a 50 percent share of agricultural households in the country (GSS, 2013).

This chapter seeks to discuss the distribution of households in the West Gonja District relative to agricultural and non-agricultural households, and would as well analyze the kinds of farming activities engaged in by the agricultural households.

### **7.2 Households in Agricultural Activities**

In the summary report of the 2010 Population and Housing Census, agricultural households are defined as households within which at least one person was engaged in any type of farming activity, namely crop farming, tree growing, livestock rearing and fish farming (GSS, 2012). By this definition, all other households are then categorized as non-agricultural households.

Table 7.1 presents information pertaining to the West Gonja District, on households by agricultural activities and localities. From the table, it is observed that 4,085 households, representing 65.3 percent of all households within the District are engaged in agriculture which is higher than the national average of 45.8 percent but lower compared to the regional average of 75.5 percent (GSS, 2013). This implies that more than one third (34.7%) of total households in the District engage in other economic activities rather than agriculture. On average, 82.0 percent of total households in rural areas engage in farming activities compared to an urban proportion of 50.2 percent. Thus, only 18 percent of rural households are not into agricultural activities in contrast with an urban proportion of nearly half (49.8%) of its households. Following the above, it can be concluded that agricultural households in the District are predominantly rural inhabitants and this conforms to the existing national and regional trends albeit some variations.

### **7.3 Type of Farming Activities**

From Table 7.1, it is observed that agricultural activities mainly practiced in the District are crop farming and livestock rearing. Crop farming maintained the largest share of 89.4 percent of households, whereas a little over half (50.1%) of households in the District engage in

livestock rearing. Fish farming appears to be virtually non-existent within the Districts as it maintained a minute share of 0.1 percent in the District. This is however not an exception as the practice of fish farming across the Northern region averaged an equal share of 0.1 percent (GSS, 2013). Greater Accra recorded the largest practice of fish farming activities in the country which stood at only 0.5 percent (GSS, 2013). It is not surprising that Ghana relies heavily on imports for its fish needs.

Viewed along the rural-urban divides, it is observed that the shares of households engaged in crop farming and livestock rearing in urban and rural communities, respectively constitute 85.2 percent and 92.3 percent for crop farming and 45.7 percent and 53.0 percent for livestock rearing. On average, 82.0 percent of total households in rural areas engage in farming activities compared to an urban proportion of 50.2 percent. This phenomenon may be explained by the fact that a large section of the District's localities are remotely rural with their residents mainly engaged in agriculture rather than other economic activities.

**Table 7.1: Households by agricultural activities and locality**

Farming Activity	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	6,255	100.0	3,279	100.0	2,976	100.0
Households engaged in Agriculture	4,085	65.3	1,645	50.2	2,440	82.0
Crop Farming	3,652	89.4	1,401	85.2	2,251	92.3
Tree Planting	19	0.5	3	0.2	16	0.7
Livestock Rearing	2,045	50.1	752	45.7	1,293	53.0
Fish Farming	3	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.1

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 7.4 Type of livestock numbers and keepers

Livestock rearing is the second most important agricultural activity in the three Northern regions as pointed to in the national analytical report (GSS, 2013). This is well demonstrated also in Table 7.1, precisely for the West Gonja District. Table 7.2 presents the distribution of livestock and its keepers in the West Gonja District. From the table, it is shown that the 2010 PHC counted a total livestock of 75,305 for the District. The table indicates that there are five major holdings of livestock within the District, namely goat, chicken, sheep, cattle and guinea fowl. Dove and pig breeding also receive some level of attention. In the ruminant category, cattle (19,802) constitute the highest number of livestock holdings with chicken (19,999) as the highest for birds.

The number of keepers of all livestock within the District summed up to 3,871. Goats recorded the highest number of keepers (1,173) followed by chicken (1,007). Sheep, cattle, guinea fowl and pig, then successively follow with 533, 479, 351, and 204 numbers of keepers. In terms of the numbers of each livestock kept by farmers, it is observed that cattle and doves are kept in larger flocks per keeper than any other animal as their numbers per keepers averaged 41 and 40 animals. This is so because the spread of farmers rearing these animals appears to be relatively small.

**Table 7.2: Distribution of livestock and keepers**

Livestock	Animals		Keepers	Average animals per keeper
	Number	Percent		
Total	75,305	100	3,871	19
Beehives	42	0.1	3	14
Cattle	19,802	26.3	479	41
Chicken	19,999	26.6	1,007	20
Dove	1,152	1.5	29	40
Duck	731	1	44	17
Goat	14,243	18.9	1,173	12
Grass-cutter	179	0.2	9	20
Guinea fowl	8,131	10.8	351	23
Ostrich	110	0.1	6	18
Pig	2,615	3.5	204	13
Rabbit	118	0.2	5	24
Sheep	7,980	10.6	533	15
Silk worm	74	0.1	7	11
Snail	8	0	1	8
Turkey	14	0	3	5
Other	64	0.1	14	5
Fish farming	43	0.1	3	14
Inland fishing	0	0	0	0
Marine fishing	0	0	0	0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

# CHAPTER EIGHT

## HOUSING CONDITIONS

### 8.1 Introduction

The periodic update of information on housing, a human need, is important in assessing human wellbeing to plan ahead. According to the United Nations, a house is a structurally separate and an independent place of abode such that a person or group of persons can isolate themselves from the hazards of the climate, such as storms and sun (GSS, 2013). The achievement of health objectives is linked, among others, to the provision of improved housing, and well planned settlements since large household sizes may lead to overcrowding which could also lead to the spread of communicable diseases.

### 8.2 Housing stock

Data on the stock of household and housing is available in Table 8.1 with the number of housing units and households. The total housing stock in the District is 6,369. There exist marked differences between the country and region as well as urban and rural locality in the District in terms of proportions of number of houses and household.

On an average, the number of households per house for the country is 1.6 which is higher than both the regional (1.2) and district (1.0) averages. The average household size for the District is higher at 6.6 persons per household compared to national average of 4.5 persons but lower than the regional average of 7.8 persons. This pattern reflects larger household size in rural settings, though cultural and religious factors may differ. In terms of locality of residence, average household per house and average household size in urban localities are higher in both instances at 1.2 and 6.5 respectively than in rural localities, 0.8 and 6.7.

**Table 8.1: Stock of houses and households by type of locality**

Categories	Total		District		
	Country	Region	Total	Urban	Rural
Total population	24,658,823	2,479,461	41,180	21,188	19,992
Total household population	24,076,327	2,445,061	40,269	20,521	19,748
Number of houses	3,392,745	257,311	6,369	2,824	3,545
Number of households	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	3,279	2,976
Average households per house	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.8
Population per house	7.3	9.6	6.5	7.5	5.6
Average household size	4.5	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.7

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 8.3 Type of Dwelling, Holding and Tenancy Arrangement

#### 8.3.1 Ownership status of dwelling by sex of household head and type of locality

Table 8.2 shows the ownership status of dwellings by sex of household head and type of locality in the District. The table suggests that dwellings owned by members of the household constitute the highest, (4,829), of the number in the District, followed by dwellings owned by

other private individuals (677). Dwellings owned by the Government/Public (446) and relatives but not a household member then successively follow with 446 and 208 units. The pattern of household ownership in the District virtually conforms to the national and regional ownership trends, particularly in the case of the first five largest forms of ownership though with some slight variations.

Also, disparities in ownership status by sex and type of locality exist in the District. Male headed ownerships clearly dominate all forms of ownership statuses in the District. In fact, in not a single form of ownership are females found to dominate their male counterparts as shown in table 8.2. Yet, females dominate males in the District. This could be explained by the fact that most females are married and so live in their husband's houses rather than theirs. Besides, in accordance with northern cultural practices, males are more likely to be named heirs to the house of a deceased father or mother than females.

In terms of the different localities, it is observed that dwellings in urban localities (3,279) are more than those in rural settings (2,976). Generally, the pattern of ownership in urban areas conforms to the District trends but some variations are witnessed in the case of the rural settings. While ownership by other private individuals takes second place (635) in the urban areas, it is observed that in rural localities, it becomes the fourth highest (42) kind of ownership. This suggests that more people live in rental houses in the urban areas than in rural areas in the District.

**Table 8.2: Ownership status of dwelling by sex of household head and type of locality**

Ownership Status	Region	District				
		Total	Male headed	Female Headed	Urban	Rural
Total	318,119	6,255	4,835	1,420	3,279	2,976
Owned by household member	267,538	4,829	3,830	999	2,207	2,622
Being purchased (e.g. mortgage)	1,352	20	14	6	20	0
Relative not a household member	16,460	208	128	80	118	90
Other private individual	24,310	677	434	243	635	42
Private employer	1,248	40	28	12	32	8
Other private agency	431	23	16	7	21	2
Public/Government ownership	5,863	446	378	68	240	206
Other	917	12	7	5	6	6

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 8.3.2 Type of occupied dwelling unit by sex of household head and type of locality

This section discusses information on type of occupied dwelling unit by locality and sex distribution in table 8.3. Table 8.3 shows that the West Gonja District accounts for only 2.0 percent that is 6,255 dwelling units in the Northern Region (318,119). Among the dwelling units, the four main dwelling units were; compound house (41.7%), huts/buildings (same compound) (15.8%), separate houses (33.3%), semi-detached houses (6.3%).

Compound dwellings are the major dwelling unit in the District with 45.1 percent of female headed households and males (40.7%). Separate housing units and semi-detached housing

units also had more female headed dwellings than males. However, huts and buildings had higher male headed dwelling (17.9%) than females (8.4%). Across the varying localities, compound houses (rooms) are higher in urban (48.2%) than in rural localities (34.5%). This may be as a result of the higher demand for housing in urban areas. As expected, the proportion of Huts/Buildings (same compound) was higher in rural areas (27.0%) than in urban areas (5.6%). Contrary, separate houses were more in urban localities (34.6%) than rural (32.0%).

**Table 8.3: Type of occupied dwelling unit by sex of household head and type of locality**

Type of dwelling	Total		District					
			Total		Male headed	Female headed	Urban	Rural
			Country	Region				
Total	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Separate house	1,471,391	51,622	2,085	33.3	32.0	37.8	34.6	32.0
Semi-detached house	391,548	12,761	394	6.3	6.2	6.7	8.3	4.1
Flat/Apartment	256,355	3,360	87	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.9	0.9
Compound house (rooms)	2,942,147	208,934	2,608	41.7	40.7	45.1	48.2	34.5
Huts/Buildings (same compound)	170,957	34,405	986	15.8	17.9	8.4	5.6	27.0
Huts/Buildings (different compound)	36,410	3,374	35	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.8
Tent	10,343	818	33	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4
Improvised home (kiosk/container etc)	90,934	404	5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Living quarters attached to office/shop	20,499	619	21	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Uncompleted building	66,624	1,428	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	9,846	394	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 8.4 Construction Materials

The materials used in the construction of a dwelling have a direct relationship with the income level of the dweller. This discussion deals with the main construction material for outer wall of dwelling unit, main construction materials for the floor of dwelling unit and main construction material for roofing of dwelling unit.

### 8.4.1 Construction materials for outer wall

Table 8.4 provides information on the main construction materials for the outer walls of dwelling units in the District. The main construction materials for outer walls were mud brick /earth and cement blocks /concrete. A little below three – quarters (70.5%) of the construction materials of the outer walls of dwelling was made of mud brick / earth and 19.8 percent constructed with cement blocks/concrete. Mud brick/Earth was used in rural areas (83.1%) than urban areas (56.2%). Cement blocks/ concrete is however used in urban areas (31.9%) than rural (9.1%).

**Table 8.4: Main construction material for outer wall of dwelling unit by type of locality**

Material for outer wall	District					
	Total		Total		Urban	Rural
	Country	Region	Number	Percent		
Total	5,817,607	339,874	7,847	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mud brick/Earth	1,991,540	247,754	5,535	70.5	56.2	83.1
Wood	200,594	5,389	95	1.2	0.5	1.8
Metal sheet/Slate/Asbestos	43,708	1,984	34	0.4	0.2	0.6
Stone	11,330	1,077	9	0.1	0.2	0.1
Burnt bricks	38,237	647	9	0.1	0.2	0.1
Cement blocks/Concrete	3,342,462	64,863	1,550	19.8	31.9	9.1
Landcrete	104,270	10,609	400	5.1	9.5	1.2
Bamboo	8,206	285	4	0.1	0	0.1
Palm leaf/Thatch (grass)/Raffia	38,054	5,894	170	2.2	0.6	3.5
Other	39,206	1,372	41	0.5	0.7	0.4

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

#### 8.4.2 Construction material for floor

Table 8.5 discusses the main construction material for floor of dwelling units by type of locality in the District. The floors of dwelling units in the District are largely made of cement/concrete (80.2%) and earth/mud (17.9%). This is similar to what pertains at the regional and national levels. Urban communities are however found to dominate rural communities in the use of cement/concrete for the floors of dwelling units. The proportion of urban dwelling unit floors constructed with cement/concrete stands at 85.9 percent compared to a rural proportion of 73.9 percent. In contrast, rural dwellings (25.0%) dominate in the use of earth/mud for the floors of dwellings compared to urban dwellings (11.4%). This may be a reflection of poverty status of persons resident in rural areas as cement/concrete is obviously more expensive compared to earth/mud. Only 0.6 percent of floors in the District are made of ceramic tiles compared to a national average of 1.6 percent and a regional average 0.7 percent. This yet again point to the likelihood of low income levels in the District as many household owners are unable to afford this type of floor material.

**Table 8.5: Main construction material for the floor of dwelling unit by type of locality**

Materials for Floor	District					
	Total		Total		Urban	Rural
	Country	Region	Number	Percent		
Total	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	100.0	100.0	100.0
Earth/Mud	872,161	97,678	1,118	17.9	11.4	25.0
Cement/Concrete	4,255,611	214,535	5,017	80.2	85.9	73.9
Stone	32,817	1,358	12	0.2	0.4	0.0
Burnt brick	6,537	277	3	0.0	0.1	0.0
Wood	52,856	195	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vinyl tiles	57,032	510	5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Ceramic/Porcelain/Granite/Marble tiles	88,500	2,091	37	0.6	0.7	0.5
Terrazzo/Terrazzo tiles	85,973	365	4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other	15,567	1,110	58	0.9	1.4	0.4

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

Table 8.6 shows the distribution of main material for roofing of dwelling units by type of locality in the District.

About (35.7%) of dwelling units in the District are roofed with thatch/palm leaf or Raffia. The main materials used for roofing in the District are metal sheet (58.7%) while mud bricks/Earth account for 3.1 percent. However, over fifty percent (56.6%) of dwelling units at the regional level had metal sheet roof, while 34.9 percent had thatch/palm leaf or raffia roof.

There were variations in materials used for roofing in rural and urban localities. For instance, 60.8 percent of rural dwelling units are roofed with thatch/palm leaf or raffia compared with 6.9 percent in the urban dwellings. This reflects the use of materials available in the immediate rural environment. Also, 89.4 percent of dwelling units in the urban localities are roofed with metal sheet in contrast with 31.8 percent rural localities. However, the proportion using mud/mud bricks/earth was higher in rural (4.7%) than urban localities (1.3%).

**Table 8.6: Main construction material for roofing of dwelling unit by type of locality**

Type of roofing material	Total		District			
			Total		Urban	Rural
	Country	Region	Number	Percent		
Total	5,817,607	339,874	7,847	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mud/Mud bricks/Earth	80,644	16,434	242	3.1	1.3	4.7
Wood	45,547	3,740	53	0.7	0.4	0.9
Metal sheet	4,152,259	192,412	4,608	58.7	89.4	31.8
Slate/Asbestos	759,039	2,091	38	0.5	0.1	0.8
Cement/Concrete	141,072	1,429	26	0.3	0.5	0.1
Roofing tile	31,456	761	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bamboo	71,049	1,137	12	0.2	0.1	0.2
Thatch/Palm leaf or Raffia	500,606	118,517	2,798	35.7	6.9	60.8
Other	35,935	3,353	69	0.9	1.3	0.6

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 8.5 Room Occupancy

### 8.5.1 Number of sleeping rooms

The number of ‘sleeping rooms’ provides an indication of the extent of crowding in households. Overcrowded rooms have health implications arising from, among others, disturbed sleep. More importantly, crowded living conditions increase the risk of the spread of infectious diseases, such as meningococcal disease, tuberculosis, respiratory infections, etc.

Table 8.7 provides information on Household Size and the number of ‘sleeping rooms’ per the household. The average number of sleeping rooms occupied by households in the District is one. Out of the total dwelling units of sleeping rooms, 27.2 percent lived in one room, 30.9 percent in two rooms, 19.1 percent in three rooms, 10.5 percent in four rooms, 5.3 percent in five rooms, 2.9 percent in six rooms, about 1.4 percent lived in nine or more sleeping rooms. Nearly nine in ten of one sleeping rooms are occupied by one-member household (87.6%), while 57.1 percent and 46.2 of one sleeping room are occupied by two member and three households respectively. The table also indicates that 32.3 percent of two member households live in two rooms, 42.0 percent of four member household sleeps in two rooms, while 44.4 percent of six member household sleep in two rooms. This means that four in ten households with two- to- five households have two sleeping rooms.

**Table 8.7: Household size and number of sleeping rooms occupied in dwelling**

Household size	Total		Number of sleeping rooms								
	Number	Percent	One Room	Two rooms	Three rooms	Four rooms	Five rooms	Six rooms	Seven rooms	Eight Rooms	Nine rooms or more
Total	6,255	100.0	27.2	30.9	19.1	10.5	5.3	2.9	1.6	1.1	1.4
1	542	100.0	87.6	9.2	1.5	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7
2	464	100.0	57.1	32.3	6.3	1.5	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.6
3	517	100.0	46.2	39.5	9.9	2.1	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8
4	660	100.0	37.6	42.0	13.5	3.6	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	1.1
5	682	100.0	27.4	43.0	20.2	5.7	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3
6	705	100.0	20.6	44.4	20.9	8.2	2.4	2.0	0.7	0.3	0.6
7	581	100.0	8.3	38.2	31.0	14.6	5.2	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.0
8	514	100.0	10.1	34.6	28.0	15.8	7.6	2.3	1.0	0.4	0.2
9	337	100.0	3.9	21.7	39.8	19.9	8.6	3.6	1.8	0.9	0.0
10+	1,253	100.0	2.5	13.6	22.1	22.3	15.6	9.8	5.4	3.4	5.1

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 8.6 Access to Utilities and Household Facilities

### 8.6.1 Source of lighting

Nature of the source of lighting in any home is one of the indicators of quality of life. With technological advancement, sources of lighting shifts from use of low quality sources such as lanterns to more efficient ones such as electricity. The main source of lighting for dwelling units in the District is presented in Table 8.6 and Figure 8.1. The three main sources of non-natural lighting in households are; electricity main (49.1%), kerosene lamp (24.0%), flashlight (22.8%). Although there are efforts to introduce renewable energy sources such as solar, at the national-wide, only 2.6 percent of households in the District are using solar as source of light.

At the regional level, the percentage of households using kerosene lamp (42.3%) is higher than electricity main (36.1%). At the national level, the main source of lighting was electricity (64.2%) (GSS, 2013).

Presented in the table is the source of lighting of urban and rural dwelling. Some 73.7 percent of urban dwelling units used electricity as the main source of lighting, compared with only 22.0 percent at the rural localities. About three in ten (30.9%) dwelling units at rural localities used kerosene lamp as their main source of light in contrast with urban (17.7%). The use of torch (40.4%) is also a rural phenomenon than urban (7.0%). Firewood had become one of the least attractive sources of light at the rural areas, accounting for only 0.7 percent. Flashlights/Torch as the second most common source of light (40.4%) for rural areas in the District could be due to the introduction of rechargeable varieties and long-lasting batteries.

**Table 8.8: Main source of lighting of dwelling unit by type of locality**

Main source of light	Total		District			
	Country	Region	Total		Urban	Rural
			Number	Percent		
Total	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	100.0	100.0	100.0
Electricity (mains)	3,511,065	114,889	3,070	49.1	73.7	22.0
Electricity (private generator)	36,142	2,219	21	0.3	0.3	0.4
Kerosene lamp	971,807	134,656	1,501	24.0	17.7	30.9
Gas lamp	9,378	860	12	0.2	0.3	0.1
Solar energy	9,194	1,048	160	2.6	0.2	5.1
Candle	41,214	488	19	0.3	0.5	0.1
Flashlight/Torch	858,651	60,518	1,429	22.8	7.0	40.4
Firewood	13,241	2,257	32	0.5	0.3	0.7
Crop residue	4,623	759	9	0.1	0.0	0.3
Other	11,739	425	2	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

### 8.6.2 Main source of cooking fuel and cooking space

Table 8.6 shows the main sources of cooking fuel and cooking space used by households by type of locality in the District. The three main sources of energy for cooking as identified in the District are firewood (68.7%), charcoal (24.6%) and gas (2.8%). The proportion of firewood usage at the region is 75.6 percent, which is more than the District proportion. Electricity usage as a main source of cooking is only 0.3 percent. This may be due to the increasing cost of electricity and its variable availability.

In terms of the different localities, firewood is the main source of cooking fuel in rural localities (61.4%) than urban (38.6%) localities. Charcoal usage is common in the urban localities for cooking (40.0%) compared with rural localities (7.0%). The use of gas as source of energy for cooking in the District is substantially low because of scarcity and associated cost. No one uses saw dust as energy for cooking in the District.

### 8.6.3 Cooking space

Information on cooking space used by households in the District is also presented in Table 8.6. About six in every ten households (59.6%) in the District cook in the open in their compounds. Some 14.1 percent of households cooked in separate room for exclusive use of household. This implies that less than one-fifth of households in the District have access to a separate room for exclusive use. The proportion of dwelling units in the District with verandah as a cooking space is 16.0 percent and those without cooking space are 3.8 percent.

With the rural and urban divide, households in rural areas with open space in compound for cooking (62.8%) were higher than urban (56.7%). Similarly, a higher proportion of dwelling units in rural localities have separate room exclusive for cooking by the households (17.0%) compared to rural localities (11.6%). The proportion of dwelling units where no cooking is done at all is common in urban (4.9%) than rural (2.5%).

**Table 8.9: Main source of cooking fuel and cooking space used by households by type of locality**

Source of cooking fuel/ cooking space	Total country	Region	District			
			Total		Urban	Rural
			Number	Percent		
<b>Main source of cooking fuel for household</b>						
Total	5,467,054	318,119	11,048	100.0	100.0	100.0
None no cooking	306,118	6,713	242	2.2	3.7	1.3
Wood	2,197,083	243,314	8,800	79.7	56.4	92.9
Gas	996,518	10,584	185	1.7	3.5	0.6
Electricity	29,794	1,396	24	0.2	0.3	0.2
Kerosene	29,868	1,116	24	0.2	0.1	0.3
Charcoal	1,844,290	52,124	1,705	15.4	35.5	4.0
Crop residue	45,292	1,804	62	0.6	0.3	0.7
Saw dust	8,000	515	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Animal waste	2,332	84	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	7,759	469	4	0.0	0.1	0.0
<b>Cooking space used by household</b>						
Total	5,467,054	318,119	11,048	100.0	100.0	100.0
No cooking space	386,883	10,910	309	2.8	4.4	1.9
Separate room for exclusive use of household	1,817,018	82,024	1,604	14.5	9.9	17.2
Separate room shared with other household(s)	410,765	10,877	210	1.9	1.4	2.2
Enclosure without roof	117,614	11,245	390	3.5	1.2	4.9
Structure with roof but without walls (Bedroom/Hall/Living room)	349,832	11,055	441	4.0	1.5	5.4
Verandah	74,525	1,403	39	0.4	0.2	0.5
Open space in compound	1,173,946	34,131	1,160	10.5	20.8	4.7
Other	1,115,464	155,651	6,879	62.3	60.6	63.2
Other	21,007	823	16	0.1	0.1	0.2

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 8.7 Main Source of Water for Drinking and for Other Domestic Use

### 8.7.1 Main source of drinking water

Water is a necessity of life without a substitute. The availability of and accessibility to improved drinking water is an important aspect of the health of household members. The UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Seven aimed at reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015 based on 1990 levels. The source of water supply particularly for drinking has a tremendous effect on human wellbeing. For instance, one of the main health benefits of clean drinking water supply is a reduction or eradication of 62 children.

Water sources are often classified as ‘improved’ or ‘unimproved’: Sources considered as improved are piped public water into homes, public standpipe, borehole, protected (lined) dug well, protected spring, and rainwater collection; unimproved are unprotected wells and springs, vendors, and tanker-trucks (WHO and UNICEF, 2000).

The main sources of drinking water in the District are presented in Table 8.10. Household drinking water is obtained from six main sources as follows: bore-hole/pump/tube well (74.6%), Dugout/Pond/Lake/Dam/Canal (6.7%), river or stream (4.9%), unprotected well (3.8%), pipe-borne water outside the dwelling (2.9%) and pipe-borne water inside the dwelling (2.8%).

There are variations in the region and District with regards to the main source of drinking water. The commonest source of drinking water for the District is borehole/pump/tube well with 4,669 households representing 74.6 percent. Water from rivers and streams constituted the main source of drinking water for 55,470 dwelling units in the region. Variations also exist in the main source of drinking water between dwelling units in urban and rural localities. Borehole/pump/tube well water is the main source drinking water in both rural and urban areas, accounting for proportions of 61.9 percent and 86.2 percent respectively.

### 8.7.2 Main source of water for other domestic use

Table 8.10 shows that almost three quarters of households representing 71.0 percent, use borehole/pump/tube well water for other domestic purposes while 7.3 percent other households use river/stream water for the same purposes in the District. In both urban and rural areas, borehole/pump/tube well remains the dominant sources of water for domestic purposes with shares of 86.8 percent and 53.5 percent respectively. In the urban areas, unprotected well, river /stream and dug-out/pond/dam then successively follow with shares of 3.7 percent, 3.0 percent and 1.8 percent. On the other hand, the rural areas have unprotected wells, rive/stream and pond/dam also following successively with proportions of 5.0 percent, 12.1 percent and 15.5 percent. Hence, next largest source of water for domestic use in the rural areas apart from boreholes is dugout/pond/dam/lake compared to the next best for urban areas which is unprotected well.

**Table 8.10: Main source of water of dwelling unit for drinking and other domestic purposes by type of locality**

Main source of water	Total		District			
			Total		Urban	Rural
	Country	Region	Number	Percent		
<b>Main source of drinking water</b>						
Total	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	100.0	100.0	100.0
Pipe-borne inside dwelling	790,493	27,811	178	2.8	0.2	5.7
Pipe-borne outside dwelling	1,039,667	38,852	183	2.9	0.9	5.1
Public tap/Standpipe	712,375	21,798	20	0.3	0.3	0.3
Bore-hole/Pump/Tube well	1,267,688	111,650	4,669	74.6	86.2	61.9
Protected well	321,091	17,933	93	1.5	1.4	1.6
Rain water	39,438	2,066	19	0.3	0.5	0.1
Protected spring	19,345	1,008	36	0.6	1.1	0.0
Bottled water	20,261	233	4	0.1	0.1	0.0
Satchet water	490,283	1,187	28	0.4	0.8	0.0
Tanker supply/Vendor provided	58,400	942	14	0.2	0.4	0.0
Unprotected well	112,567	13,517	238	3.8	3.6	4.0
Unprotected spring	12,222	1,109	27	0.4	0.1	0.8
River/Stream	502,804	55,470	309	4.9	2.8	7.3
Dugout/Pond/Lake/Dam/Canal	76,448	24,308	418	6.7	1.5	12.4
Other	3,972	235	19	0.3	0.1	0.6

**Table 8.10: Main source of water of dwelling unit for drinking and other domestic purposes by type of locality (Cont'd)**

Main source of water	Total		District			
			Total		Urban	Rural
			Country	Region		
<b>Main source of water for other domestic use</b>						
Total	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	100.0	100.0	100.0
Pipe-borne inside dwelling	905,566	27,698	139	2.2	0.1	4.5
Pipe-borne outside dwelling	1,089,030	37,432	215	3.4	0.9	6.3
Public tap/Standpipe	704,293	19,390	12	0.2	0.2	0.2
Bore-hole/Pump/Tube well	1,280,465	101,815	4,438	71.0	86.8	53.5
Protected well	465,775	19,715	103	1.6	1.5	1.8
Rain water	39,916	2,182	20	0.3	0.5	0.1
Protected spring	18,854	927	41	0.7	1.1	0.2
Tanker supply/Vendor provided	100,048	1,214	13	0.2	0.4	0.0
Unprotected well	152,055	13,349	270	4.3	3.7	5.0
Unprotected spring	15,738	1,002	24	0.4	0.1	0.7
River/Stream	588,590	63,445	457	7.3	3.0	12.1
Dugout/Pond/Lake/Dam/Canal	96,422	29,210	521	8.3	1.8	15.5
Other	10,302	740	2	0.0	0.0	0.1

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 8.8 Bathing and Toilet Facilities

### 8.8.1 Toilet facilities

An efficient and hygienic method of human waste disposal available in a dwelling unit is a critical indicator of the sanitary condition of the unit and an indirect measure of the socio-economic status of a household.

Table 8.11 shows the distribution of toilet facilities in the District. Five main types of toilet facilities are in the District namely public toilet, Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine (KVIP), water closet (WC), pit latrine and bucket/pan. Majority of households in the (4285) have no toilet facilities and therefore resort to the use of bush or open field. This is followed by public toilets (1283), KVIP (327), WC (164) and pit latrine (142). At the regional level, some 230,852 dwelling units with no toilet facility representing seven out of every ten households in the region. Some households still use bucket/ pan latrines even though this method of waste disposal was officially banned, there is quite some minimal usage by 32 households. The ban led to the construction of public toilets by the District authorities as revenue generating outlets in some parts of the District. Besides, there is the need for the District Assembly to enforce the appropriate by-laws so that landlords/ladies provide toilet facilities in their houses for use by tenants.

For the different localities, about 2,655 rural dwelling units have no toilet facilities and resort to the use of bush, beach or open fields while in urban localities 1,630 households do same. Also, public toilet usage which is the second highest toilet facility in both urban and rural localities accounts for 1,118 and 165 households respectively.

### 8.8.2 Bathing facilities

Data on bathing facilities is also presented in Table 8.11. Four main types of bathing facilities available for the use households in dwelling units in the District include: bathroom for exclusive use, shared bathroom in the same house, shared open bathing cubicle, open space around compound and private open cubicle. The number of households with bathrooms

exclusively used by household members is 2,158 representing 34.5percent and this is higher compared to the national average of 28.0 percent.

Also, as much as 992 households in the District use open space around house as their bathing facility. There are more rural households (1,094) with a bathroom for exclusive use compared to urban households (1064). On the other hand, 659 households shared a separate bathroom in the same house compare with 246 households in rural dwelling units. The implication is that less than a quarter (20.1%) of urban households shared a separate bathroom in the house compared to 7.5 percent for rural households. Furthermore, 428 households in rural localities shared open cubicle bathrooms compared to 627 households in urban localities. On the whole, bathroom for exclusive use is the dominant bathing facility in the District and across the rural urban divide.

**Table 8.11: Type of toilet and bathing facilities used by households by type of locality**

Toilet facility/Bathing facility	Total country	Region	District			
			Total		Urban	Rural
			Number	Percent		
<b>Toilet facility used by household</b>						
Total	5,467,054	318,119	11,048	100.0	100.0	100.0
No facilities (bush/beach/field)	1,056,382	230,852	8,700	78.7	55.0	92.3
W.C.	839,611	7,736	168	1.5	2.9	0.7
Pit latrine	1,040,883	9,218	179	1.6	3.3	0.7
KVIP	572,824	14,587	509	4.6	6.5	3.5
Bucket/Pan	40,678	1,248	33	0.3	0.7	0.0
Public toilet (WCKVIPPitPan etc)	1,893,291	52,704	1,425	12.9	31.0	2.6
Other	23,385	1,774	34	0.3	0.5	0.2
<b>Bathing facility used by household</b>						
Total	5,467,054	318,119	11,048	100.0	100.0	100.0
Own bathroom for exclusive use	1,535,392	108,283	3,286	29.7	27.4	31.1
Shared separate bathroom in the same house	1,818,522	95,261	1,985	18.0	18.9	17.4
Private open cubicle	381,979	22,044	1,385	12.5	13.9	11.8
Shared open cubicle	1,000,257	48,531	1,872	16.9	19.4	15.6
Public bath house	140,501	12,409	446	4.0	7.2	2.3
Bathroom in another house	187,337	2,646	100	0.9	1.5	0.6
Open space around house	372,556	27,210	1,859	16.8	9.8	20.8
River/Pond/Lake/Dam	14,234	1,001	26	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other	16,276	734	89	0.8	1.7	0.3

Source: Ghana statistical service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

## 8.9 Method of waste disposal

### 8.9.1 Solid waste disposal

In the West Gonja District and Ghana as a whole, the disposal of solid waste is a challenge to both urban and rural areas hence the need for modern and hygienic solid waste disposal systems. Acceptable waste management helps to prevent the spread of some types of infections and improves the quality of the environment. The main method of solid waste disposal by households in Ghana and the region is by public dump site/open space. At the

District level however, indiscriminate dumping is the main method of solid waste disposal patronized 2,106 households. About 2,056 households dump their solid waste at the public dump site (open) while some other 805 households use public dump (container). Again, 547 households representing 8.7 percent have their solid waste collected by a routine house-to-house collection of waste. Thanks to the activities of Zoomlion, a private waste management firm which operates nationwide.

Table 8.12 further discusses the main methods of solid waste disposal by localities in the District. Indiscriminate dumping is the main method of refuse disposal by both urban (954) and rural (1,152) households. This is however skewed in favour of rural households possibly due inadequate or lack of environmental health workers and waste collection containers. The proportion of households with access to solid waste dumping containers is higher for urban (665) but lower in rural dwelling units (140). The low proportion in rural areas could be due to the limited availability of public containers for waste disposal. Some 81 households in urban localities burn their solid waste while 92 others do same in the rural localities.

### **8.9.2 Disposal of liquid waste**

The two major methods of liquid waste disposal in the District are throwing onto compound and onto the street or any available space outside the house according to Table 8.12. The number of households who throw liquid waste onto the compound is 2,875, while about 2,558 other households dispose their liquid waste throwing it onto the street. These two major liquid waste disposal methods which incidentally happen to be the worse disposal methods are used by 86.9 percent of households in the District. This probably accounts for the appalling environmental sanitation especially the urban localities. Only 69 households are connected to a central sewage system. Increased incidents of malaria are reported at the health facilities daily and this could be attributed to the poor liquid waste management in the District.

Table 8.12 further indicates that in rural localities in the District there are two main methods of liquid waste disposal: throwing waste onto the compounds and throwing waste onto the street/ outside the house. Over five out of ten rural households (1,519) dispose their liquid waste onto streets or open space outside the house and nearly four out of ten households (1,088) throw liquid waste onto the compound. In urban localities, throwing liquid waste onto the compound (1,789) is the dominant liquid waste followed closely by disposal onto the street or open space outside the house (1,039). Also, 191 households connect their liquid waste drainage system into a gutter while, 69 households are connected to a central sewage system. Thus, liquid waste disposal has become a challenge to local authorities and requires urgent attention.

**Table 8.12: Method of solid and liquid waste disposal by type of locality**

Waste disposal method	Total		District					
			Total		Urban		Rural	
	Country	Region	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Method of solid waste disposal</b>								
Total	5,467,054	318,119	6,255	100.0	3,279	100.0	2,976	100.0
Collected	785,889	19,674	547	8.7	256	7.8	291	9.8
Burned by household	584,820	34,594	530	8.5	386	11.8	144	4.8
Public dump (container)	1,299,654	47,222	805	12.9	665	20.3	140	4.7
Public dump (open space)	2,061,403	123,188	2,056	32.9	914	27.9	1,142	38.4
Dumped indiscriminately	498,868	83,889	2,106	33.7	954	29.1	1,152	38.7
Buried by household	182,615	7,140	173	2.8	81	2.5	92	3.1
Other	53,805	2,412	38	0.6	23	0.7	15	0.5
<b>Method of liquid waste disposal</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,467,054</b>	<b>318,119</b>	<b>6,255</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,279</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Through the sewerage system	183,169	6,636	69	1.1	11	0.3	58	1.9
Through drainage system into a gutter	594,404	13,949	191	3.1	126	3.8	65	2.2
Through drainage into a pit (soak away)	167,555	16,152	182	2.9	35	1.1	147	4.9
Thrown onto the street/outside	1,538,550	178,671	2,558	40.9	1,039	31.7	1,519	51.0
Thrown into gutter	1,020,096	19,931	345	5.5	259	7.9	86	2.9
Thrown onto compound	1,924,986	81,195	2,875	46	1,787	54.5	1,088	36.6
Other	38,294	1,585	35	0.6	22	0.7	13	0.4

Source: Ghana statistical service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

# **CHAPTER NINE**

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 Introduction**

Policy formulation and implementation is underpinned by data availability, which explains why the conduct of the 2010 Population and Housing Census has been very crucial. As part of its significance, the census did not only lead to an update of existing data but also captured data which hitherto had not been covered. For instance, the 2010 population and housing census captured issues disability and ICT. Such data will be utilized by private and public interests in the design of policy interventions in areas such as education, housing, transport, medical and social services. This report presents a critical analysis of the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the West Gonja District in the Northern region with the view to ascertain the general well-being of the people of the District.

### **9.2 Summary of Findings**

#### **9.2.1 Demographic characteristics**

The total population of the West Gonja District is 41,180 representing 1.7 percent of the total population of the northern region (GSS, 2013). This is made up of 20,681 males and 20,499 females, representing 50.2 percent and 49.8 percent respectively. The District's urban population (51.1%) is slightly higher than that of rural settings (48.5%).

The District generally depicts a youthful population with 42.9 percent of the population aged below 15 years. Persons within the age group of 15-64, that is the economically active group, forms 53.0 percent of the population. The District's population generally declines with increasing age, with persons aged 65 and older constituting only 4.1 percent of the population. The District has a sex ratio of 100.9 and a dependency ratio of 88.6.

The West Gonja District records a total fertility rate of 3.3 which is lower than the regional rate of 3.5. A general fertility rate of 94.2 persists in the District which is also lower than the regional rate of 101.9. Crude birth rate in the District stands at 22.4 percent.

The survival rate for both sexes is however 83.9 percent, which implies that for every 100 children born in the District an average of 83.9 of them survive. Children born to females of the age cohort 12-14 have the least survival rate of 60.0 percent in the District while the highest survival rate (90.8%) for children ever born is recorded among females aged 30-34 years.

The migrant population in the District is found to be 8,532, 14.6 percent of whom have been residing there for less than one year. The total population of migrants who have been staying in the District for between 1-4 years form the highest proportion of 28.0 percent. Those with the longest stay of over 20 years constitute the second largest proportion of 22.6.

#### **9.2.2 Social characteristics**

About 80.2 percent of the District's population is Ghanaians by birth. Persons from ECOWAS countries form the second highest population (9.5%) in the District while persons

with dual nationality make up 8.6 percent. About 75.7 percent of the population in the District is Muslims, followed by Christians (21.1%). Catholics however dominate the Christian faith with a proportion of 15.5 percent. Literacy in the District (52.3%) is higher compared to the regional average of 37.5 percent but lower than the national average of 74.1 percent. There are 14,439 persons of the population aged 11 years and older who are literate in the District. More than half (51.0%) of the literate are literate in English only while 47.5 percent are literate in English and Ghanaian language combined. The highest level of education attained for most of the population in the District is primary education. However, the highest educational level attained by a large proportion (19.8%) of the male population is SSS/SHS while that for females (26.9%) is primary education.

### **9.2.3 Marital status**

The proportion of married persons in the West Gonja District stands at 45 percent while that for the never married is 46 percent. The female proportion (48.7%) of married persons in the District is greater than that of males (42.2%). Also females in the District are found to marry earlier than their male counterparts. Within the age cohort of 20-24 years, it is observed that 41.6 percent of females had married compared to only 11.4 percent of males. Persons without education are more likely to be married. In terms of economic status, it is observed that 78.7 percent of married persons are employed compared to the never married proportion of 33.9 percent. Male proportions however dominate those of females in either of these.

### **9.2.4 Economic activity status**

The economically active population (14,893) in the District represents 63.4 percent of the population 15 years and older, out of which 14,215 are employed with the remaining 678 being unemployed. Males dominate the economically active population with a share of 52.1 percent while less than half (47.9%) are females. Six out of ten persons (60.5%) in the employed population of the District are skilled agricultural forestry and fishery workers. **Try**

Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (60.5%) employ the highest proportion of the employed population in the District with a male proportion of 70.9 percent and 48.9 percent for females. Out of the total employed population of 14,215 persons in the District, more than half (58.6%) are self-employed without employees. This is followed by contributing family workers which has a share of 23.1 percent. The male proportion of these dominant vulnerable employment forms 78.6 percent compared females (85.1%). Exactly 87.1 percent of the employed persons in the District are in the private informal sector. The region has just 10.2 percent of the employed working in the public sector. These two sectors employ exactly 97.3 percent of the total employed, which means that only 2.3 percent are employed by other sectors (private formal, semi-public/parastatal, NGOs,).

### **9.2.5 Information Communication Technology**

The District records 29.1 percent of the population aged 12 and older owning mobile phones. Mobile phone ownership for males is higher than females in the District with a male proportion 34.2 percent and a female proportion of 24.1 percent.

The Population 12 years and older using internet facilities is 2.2 percent in the District. The male proportion (3.2%) is higher than that for females (1.2%). The proportion of males (75.3%) using internet facility in the District is higher than females (24.7%).

Out of 6,255 households in the District, only 0.5 percent has fixed telephone lines. This may be due to wider coverage of mobile networks in the District. Male headed households

dominate the population with telephone lines with a proportion 0.6 percent while female headed households have a proportion of 0.2 percent.

Exactly 3.4 percent of households in the District have access to desktop or laptop computers. Ownership of desktop/laptop computers is higher for male headed households (3.7%) compared to female headed households (2.3%).

### **9.2.6 Disability**

The District has 1.7 percent of its population to be persons living with disabilities which lower than the regional rate of 2.5 percent. Male proportion of persons with disability is 1.9 percent and the female proportion is 1.5 percent.

The major type of disability within the District is sight disability (36.6%). This is higher compared to the regional share of 28.7 percent. This is successively followed by physical (25.8%), hearing (14.0%) and speech (13.9%) disabilities. All others have proportions less than 10 percent each. The situation of disability pattern is not different across the male-female divide except that speech impairment exceeds hearing impairment among males.

More than half (397) of persons with disabilities in the District (713) are found in urban localities. The proportion of persons with disability in urban areas (1.7%) is slightly higher than that in rural areas (1.6%). The proportion of male disability in the urban areas (2.2) is higher than that for females (1.6%). Similar trend is witnessed in rural localities as the proportion of persons with disability among males (1.7%) in the rural areas is higher than that for females (1.5%).

### **9.2.7 Agricultural activity**

Precisely 65.3 percent of households in the District engage in agriculture. This implies that about three out of every five households in the District engage in agricultural activities. There is an indication of rural dominance in agriculture in the District. The proportion of households engage in agriculture in rural areas stands at 82.0 percent compared to the proportion in urban settings (50.2%). The District has 89.4 percent of households in crop farming, 50.1 percent in livestock rearing, 0.5 percent in tree planting, and 0.1 percent in fish farming and this pattern is observed across the rural-urban divide but with rural dominance in each case except for fish farming where an equal share is observed. These are successively lower compared to the regional shares of 95.9 percent for crop farming, 60.9 percent for livestock rearing, 0.9 percent for tree growing, and 0.2 percent for fish farming.

### **9.2.8 Housing conditions**

The total number of houses in the District is 6,369 with 44.3 percent located in the urban areas while more than half (55.7%) are in rural areas. The number of households in the District is 6,255. The average household size in the District is 6.6, which is lower than the regional average of 7.8 but higher than the national average of 4.5. The population per house in the urban areas of the District is 7.5 which is higher compared to the District average of 6.5 but lower than the rural average of 5.6.

The three main sources of lighting for households are; electricity main (49.1%), kerosene lamp (24.0%), flashlight (22.8%). Some 73.7 percent of urban dwelling units used electricity as the main source of lighting, compared with only 22.0 percent at the rural localities.

About six in every ten households (59.6%) in the District cook in the open of their compounds. Some 14.1 percent of households cook in separate rooms for exclusive use of

household. This implies that less than one-fifth of households in the District have access to a separate room for exclusive use for cooking.

Household drinking water is obtained from six main sources as follows: bore-hole/pump/tube well (74.6%), Dugout/Pond/Lake/Dam/Canal (6.7%), river or stream (4.9%), unprotected well (3.8%), pipe-borne water outside the dwelling (2.9%) and pipe-borne water inside the dwelling (2.8%).

Majority of households in the District (4285) have no toilet facilities and therefore resort to the use of bush or open field. This is followed by the use of public toilets (1283), KVIP (327), WC (164) and pit latrine (142).

About 2,056 households dump their solid waste at the public dump site (open) while some 805 households use public dump containers. Again, 547 households representing 8.7 percent have their solid waste collected by routine house-to-house waste collectors. The number of households who throw liquid waste onto the compound is 2,875, while about 2,558 households dispose their liquid waste by throwing it onto the street. These two major liquid waste disposal methods which incidentally happen to be the worse disposal methods are used by 86.9 percent of households in the District. Only 69 households in the District are connected to a central sewage system.

### **9.3 Conclusion**

A population and housing census is the primary source of information about the number and characteristics of a given population in each locality. It takes stock of the most precious asset of countries; their human capital. In particular, structural changes that occur in the context of rapid population growth have a direct as well as indirect impact on national development. Areas of impact include economic growth, poverty reduction, resource allocation, productivity, and the general well-being of the population. It is therefore absolutely important for Ghana to be able to formulate policies and programmes based on accurate, credible and timely statistics to deal with its objective of becoming a higher middle-income nation. The 2010 PHC have therefore made available the statistics needed for this purpose.

### **9.4 Policy Implications**

Reference to the findings of this review, the following policy guidelines has become apparent:

The District's population is fundamentally a youthful one forming 42.9 percent of the total population of the West Gonja District. With the limited resources in the District, the high population growth rate coupled with its youthful nature could have a negative impact on the living standards of people in the District. Some of the factors responsible for this high population growth rate include cultural practices like early betrothal of young girls which increase the rate of fertility and low education among females in the District. It however portrays a potential increase in the labour force in the near future.

Female dominance in the proportion of those without education is explained by some socio-cultural practices, including the practice girl child fostering, betrothal marriages reinforced by the misconception that the place of the woman is the kitchen. People should therefore be supported and encouraged to enroll their wards at school and ensure they complete. Also, the practices of girl child betrothal and fostering should be a thing of the past.

Some 68.5 percent of the total households in the District use “free range” defecation as a result of lack of toilet facilities in their dwelling units. This could have health implications on the people. Thus, the need to enforce the by-laws which make the provision of toilet facilities in houses mandatory. The District assembly should also consider putting up more public toilet facilities to augment the existing few.

The lack of adequate housing units is not only a burden for many of the poor, but as well harmful to the larger society because of the adverse effects on public health since it could lead to streetism with its social challenges as well as the spread of communicable diseases.

The introduction of disability module in the 2010 PHC could help the 1.7 percent PWD population in the District have their concerns addressed so as to enable them contribute meaningfully to the development of the District and Ghana as a whole. More Special schools should be provided to promote school attendance for people living with disability

The insecurity of jobs in the vulnerable employment sectors which constitute 81.7 percent of employed population 15 years and older, has served as push factors forcing the youth to migrate to the southern part of the country in search of non-existent jobs. The Government and the District Assemblies and the private sector should be encouraged to go into partnership with the private sector to set up agro-based industries and other manufacturing industries to remove the limited opportunities and to help reduce poverty.

In general, the factors responsible for fertility differentials of the District among others include differences in access to and use of contraceptives, education and age at marriage. There is therefore the need to integrate family life education into school curriculum and out-of-school programmes to reduce it further.

The data shows that for every 100 children born in the District, 83.1 of them survive. It is therefore crucial that initiatives aimed at improving maternal and child health is accorded serious priority and attention in the District. Also, promoting healthy living and enhancing of both financial and physical access to health services should be intensified.

Literacy levels in the District stands at 52.3 percent. This could impact negatively on the use of Information Communication Technology especially the use of the internet (only 2.2 percent of persons 12years and older in the region use the internet). The Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders should therefore work together to create an enabling environment for education. People should be encouraged to send their children to school and ensure that they complete at least basic education.

The use of wood as the main source of fuel for domestic purposes especially in the rural areas of the District should be discouraged; otherwise it will be very difficult to stop the desertification going on in the country. More education needs to be carried out to persuade more people to use LPG for cooking instead of wood fuel, so as to reduce pressure on the environment. The constant cutting of trees as fuel for cooking could eventually lead to the depletion of the vegetation cover which will in turn result in desertification, potentially aggravating the prevalent climatic conditions of the District such as drought or erratic rainfall, thereby affecting agricultural productivity and making some 60.5 percent of the employed population redundant.

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## APPENDICES

**Table A1: Household composition by type of locality**

Household Composition	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	40,269	100.0	20,521	100.0	19,748	100.0
Head only	542	1.3	304	1.5	238	1.2
Household with head and a spouse only	236	0.6	116	0.6	120	0.6
Household with head and biological/adopted children only	2,074	5.2	1,308	6.4	766	3.9
Household with head spouse(s) and biological/adopted children only	9,660	24.0	3,728	18.2	5,932	30.0
Household with head spouse(s) biological/adopted children and relatives of the head only	17,950	44.6	8,657	42.2	9,293	47.1
Household with head spouse(s) biological/adopted children relatives and nonrelatives of the head	823	2.0	487	2.4	336	1.7
Household with head spouse(s) and other composition	1,054	2.6	434	2.1	620	3.1
Household with head biological/adopted children and relatives of the head only	5,402	13.4	3,697	18.0	1,705	8.6
Household with head biological/adopted children relatives and nonrelatives of the head	236	0.6	208	1.0	28	0.1
Household with head and other composition but no spouse	2,292	5.7	1,582	7.7	710	3.6

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

**Table A2: Population 3 years and older by sex, disability type and level of education**

Sex/disability type	Educational level attained										
	Total	Never attended	Nursery	Kinder garten	Primary	Middle /JSS/ JHS	Sec. / SSS / SHS	Voc./ Tech./ Comm.	Post sec	Bachelor degree	Post graduate (Cert. Diploma Masters PHD etc)
<b>Both Sexes</b>											
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,781</b>	<b>15,563</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>8,838</b>	<b>5,492</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>42</b>
No disability	37,090	15,152	1,945	1,245	8,747	5,421	2,859	258	1,193	228	42
With a disability	691	411	23	8	91	71	45	10	30	2	0
Sight	253	161	6	2	30	26	15	4	9	0	0
Hearing	98	65	4	1	18	4	5	1	0	0	0
Speech	93	52	2	2	13	13	7	4	0	0	0
Physical	181	121	1	2	15	16	12	4	10	0	0
Intellectual	58	37	3	0	5	7	4	0	2	0	0
Emotional	66	32	6	2	10	9	4	0	3	0	0
Other	55	26	3	1	9	3	2	0	9	2	0
<b>Male</b>											
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,920</b>	<b>6,893</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>4,586</b>	<b>2,854</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>35</b>
No disability	18,534	6,674	964	630	4,541	2,814	1,721	136	823	196	35
With a disability	386	219	14	5	45	40	32	5	24	2	0
Sight	135	83	5	1	17	10	9	1	9	0	0
Hearing	53	34	2	0	11	2	4	0	0	0	0
Speech	60	40	1	1	6	6	4	2	0	0	0
Physical	104	65	0	1	8	12	9	2	7	0	0
Intellectual	34	20	1	0	2	6	4	0	1	0	0
Emotional	42	17	5	2	7	6	4	0	1	0	0
Other	27	9	2	1	2	3	1	0	7	2	0
<b>Female</b>											
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,861</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>4,252</b>	<b>2,638</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>
No disability	18,556	8,478	981	615	4,206	2,607	1,138	122	370	32	7
With a disability	305	192	9	3	46	31	13	5	6	0	0
Sight	118	78	1	1	13	16	6	3	0	0	0
Hearing	45	31	2	1	7	2	1	1	0	0	0
Speech	33	12	1	1	7	7	3	2	0	0	0
Physical	77	56	1	1	7	4	3	2	3	0	0
Intellectual	24	17	2	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
Emotional	24	15	1	0	3	3	0	0	2	0	0
Other	28	17	1	0	7	0	1	0	2	0	0

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

**Table A3: Distribution of households engaged in tree growing or crop farming by type of crop and population engaged**

Households/ Type of crop	Households	Population in occupied units			Population engaged in agricultural activities		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total households in occupied units	6,255	40,269	20,217	20,052	7,650	5,313	2,337
Households engaged in agricultural activities	4,085	29,544	15,103	14,441	7,650	5,313	2,337
Households engaged in crop farming or tree growing	3,654	26,875	13,800	13,075	6,815	4,830	1,985
Households engaged in crop farming	3,652	26,863	13,790	13,073	6,813	4,828	1,985
Households engaged in tree growing	19	138	74	64	38	21	17
Agro forestry (tree planting)	19	138	74	64	38	21	17
Alligator pepper	1	7	5	2	2	1	1
Apples	8	119	48	71	23	15	8
Asian vegetables (e.g. tinda, cauliflower)	9	72	33	39	13	11	2
Banana	25	146	67	79	38	27	11
Beans	329	2,452	1,239	1,213	635	434	201
Black pepper	6	67	24	43	13	9	4
Black berries	5	28	13	15	9	5	4
Cabbage	1	20	9	11	1	1	0
Carrot	12	72	42	30	29	21	8
Cashew	99	792	394	398	181	130	51
Cassava	1,389	10,700	5,595	5,105	2,509	1,889	620
Citronella	5	32	16	16	5	5	0
Cloves	3	17	4	13	9	4	5
Cocoa	3	25	15	10	5	5	0
Coconut	7	46	21	25	16	10	6
Cocoyam	12	73	45	28	23	20	3
Cocoyam / Taro (koko)	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Cotton	3	21	13	8	11	8	3
Cucumber	30	270	145	125	91	57	34
Garden eggs	13	101	44	57	32	18	14
Ginger	1	6	3	3	2	1	1
Groundnut	602	4,709	2,358	2,351	1,475	907	568
Kenaf	3	29	11	18	3	3	0
Lemon grass	2	12	10	2	2	2	0
Lettuce	2	20	9	11	4	3	1
Maize	2,809	20,692	10,619	10,073	5,432	3,821	1,611
Mango	33	252	123	129	61	48	13
Melon (agusi)	28	222	105	117	36	20	16
Millet	418	3,261	1,660	1,601	982	672	310
Mushroom	30	236	105	131	80	53	27
Nut meg	8	53	21	32	12	8	4
Oil palm	1	3	2	1	1	1	0
Okro	171	1,267	586	681	429	221	208
Onion	10	82	39	43	32	18	14
Pawpaw	1	10	5	5	2	1	1

**Table A3: Distribution of households engaged in tree growing or crop farming by type of crop and population engaged (cont'd)**

Households/ Type of crop	Households	Population in occupied units			Population engaged in agricultural activities		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Peas	7	47	19	28	14	6	8
Pepper	112	807	423	384	300	196	104
Plantain	2	18	8	10	4	3	1
Potatoes	3	20	11	9	4	3	1
Rice	46	357	203	154	103	78	25
Shea tree	6	22	11	11	6	6	0
Sorghum	83	495	252	243	122	82	40
Soya beans	28	223	120	103	63	41	22
Sun flower	1	5	3	2	1	1	0
Sweet pepper	3	24	17	7	3	3	0
Sweet potatoes	6	30	16	14	14	10	4
Tiger nut	9	78	36	42	17	12	5
Tobacco	6	32	17	15	15	10	5
Tomatoes	31	217	110	107	72	55	17
Water melon	3	22	9	13	6	5	1
Yam	1,886	14,580	7,649	6,931	3,572	2,660	912
Other (specify)	12	93	47	46	51	27	24

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

**Table A4: Population by sex, number of households and houses in 20 largest communities**

S/No.	Community Name	Sex			House holds	Houses
		Both sexes	Male	Female		
1	Damongo	20,735	10,300	10,435	3,207	2,758
2	Larabanga	3,602	1,710	1,892	467	591
3	Busunu	2,099	1,043	1,056	290	361
4	Alhassan Akura	1,164	583	581	171	124
5	Achubunyo	997	484	513	149	142
6	Jonokponto	916	460	456	105	105
7	Murugu	891	450	441	127	148
8	Sumpini	870	431	439	98	99
9	Soalepe	816	454	362	120	94
10	Sor No.2	795	428	367	182	174
11	Kabampe	671	373	298	105	103
12	Poposo Kura	655	391	264	100	80
13	Frafra Resettlement No.3	638	345	293	126	119
14	Boroto	625	331	294	90	93
15	Nabori	607	297	310	77	78
16	Grupe	584	313	271	70	67
17	Tailorpe	570	275	295	108	101
18	Kananto	490	255	235	63	63
19	Mole	489	247	242	111	42
20	Yipala	467	214	253	68	70

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 Population and Housing Census

**Table A5: Population by age group in the 20 largest communities**

S/No.	Community Name	All ages	Age group															
			0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+
1	Damongo	20,735	2,663	2,664	2,740	2,766	2,110	1,552	1,269	1,068	867	664	639	397	437	245	246	408
2	Larabanga	3,602	618	560	538	388	297	195	176	137	179	123	94	38	65	53	56	85
3	Busunu	2,099	348	368	284	235	148	138	110	107	98	48	54	30	31	28	33	39
4	Alhassan Akura	1,164	262	241	132	86	106	82	80	41	34	37	23	10	14	6	6	4
5	Achubunyo	997	190	172	142	81	58	80	48	47	40	34	30	11	19	11	24	10
6	Jonokponto	916	133	185	135	119	74	75	60	29	38	29	7	9	7	9	4	3
7	Murugu	891	116	124	131	112	73	76	47	56	43	31	26	21	12	7	7	9
8	Sumpini	870	154	132	148	90	66	44	41	47	37	30	43	4	19	0	9	6
9	Soalepe	816	122	142	130	82	55	41	35	37	32	43	21	23	14	19	8	12
10	Sor No.2	795	150	127	72	42	48	44	58	47	61	32	40	13	27	20	3	11
11	Kabampe	671	90	115	63	65	41	72	50	33	25	24	22	12	7	6	17	29
12	Poposo Kura Frafra	655	126	116	78	48	60	46	39	32	44	18	16	12	8	7	1	4
13	Resettlement No.3	638	82	91	92	89	50	42	17	35	34	25	27	16	17	4	10	7
14	Boroto	625	96	110	83	73	46	25	32	42	34	17	21	9	14	8	2	13
15	Nabori	607	76	97	111	95	38	25	27	33	32	12	22	3	12	11	6	7
16	Grupe	584	115	130	90	57	42	43	16	25	21	12	7	6	4	10	5	1
17	Tailorpe	570	104	96	72	61	40	39	18	36	25	21	12	5	13	11	10	7
18	Kananto	490	76	70	62	53	49	30	32	14	22	28	22	8	8	3	6	7
19	Mole	489	55	57	64	52	54	52	28	33	18	29	18	22	2	2	0	3
20	Yipala	467	71	63	75	54	28	29	25	18	22	15	16	15	11	7	6	12

Source: Ghana statistical service, 2010 population and housing census

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