GA WEST MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY

2024 VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW (VLR) REPORT

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063

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Forewords / Opening Statement

Ga West Municipal Assembly is one of the nine Assemblies selected to prepare its Voluntary Local Review (VLR) with the pledge of using the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 to help reduce extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and work to prevent the harmful effects of climate change by 2030. The SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 underpin all developmental actions in the Ga West Municipality. This is evident in the alignment of the Assembly's Medium-Term Development Plan and Budgets to the SDGs.

The VLR report provides an overview of the Assembly's steps and progress towards achieving the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 and brings to the fore inclusivity in the planning process with the goal of bringing development closer to the people. It also serves as a reference for trailing the progress on the various targets in pursuit of the vision of making the Municipality "the most effective and efficient Assembly that serves the interests of its citizens in an environment that promotes development". The report also showcases innovative actions that have been and are being undertaken to help achieve the objectives of the 2 agendas. This maiden report provides a broad overview of the key findings and challenges of the Municipality and reiterates the commitment of duty bearers to work in partnership with stakeholders to implement the next steps stated in the report.

The VLR is recognized by the Municipality as one of the important tools for meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement and resource mobilization to improve the implementation of the aforementioned agendas. This process has enabled Ga West Municipal Assembly to build capacities in monitoring and reporting on the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063. The Assembly would further leverage on opportunities thereof to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Special thanks to Engagement Global, German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu), National Development Planning Commission, Ghana Statistical Service, the office of the Head of Local Government Service, and other local agencies for their support in the preparation of this report.

Acknowledgment

The development of this maiden Voluntary Local Review (VLR) report was coordinated by a team of selected Officers (Voluntary Local Review Report Team) –from the Ga West Municipal Assembly Municipal Planning Coordinating Unit.

The leadership and support received from the Honourable Municipal Chief Executive, the Municipality's General Assembly, Coordinating Director and Heads of Departments and Units cannot be over-emphasised.

Ga West Municipality is very grateful to the Head of the Local Government Service, Ing. Dr. Nana Ato-Arthur for his exemplary leadership and commitment to getting this document prepared. Further, thanks go to the Director General of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Dr. Kodjo Esseim Mensah-Abrampah.

To Engagement Global, we are very grateful for this initiative and immense support in the preparation of this report.

Ghana Statistical Services (GSS), your timely support in the preparation of this Report is very much appreciated. Specific thanks go to Mr. Philip Marfo Acheampong, Ms. Vera Baffoe and Mr. Ashraf Mushin of NDPC, and Mr. Vitus Bobrnuo of GSS for their technical support in the process.

Finally, special thanks go to the traditional authorities, special groups, and civil society organisations (CSOs) for their cooperation and insights.

Executive Summary

The VLR report was prepared by the Assembly in collaboration with the support of technical officers from the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) Engagement Global, and the German Institute of Urban Affairs. This document outlines the Ga West Municipal Assembly's progress towards achievement of the SDGs, including the interventions implemented, means of implementation, investment opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned.

The SDGs and corresponding AU Agenda 2063 targets are integrated into the Municipality's Medium-Term Development Plan, aligning with the objectives of the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework, 2022-2025. The SDG indicators are incorporated into the monitoring and evaluation framework with some modifications that are required to suit the local context's capabilities and aspirations. The SDGs are primarily financed through the Assembly's budget and additional sources from the other stakeholders. All budget lines are mapped to the SDGs targets, facilitating the tracking of budgetary allocations and expenditures.

The preparation process involved a comprehensive review of the Assembly 2022-2025 Medium Term Development Plan, Annual Progress Reports, projects and programmes documents, and information from the Municipal Planning and Coordinating Unit (MPCU).

Some interventions implemented by the Assembly have yielded positive results in various sectors. For instance, the completion rate in senior high school increased from 45.9% in 2018 to 84.2% in 2023 due to positive developments in the senior high school education system. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel rose from 97.9% to 99.5%, reflecting improvements in healthcare access and quality. Additionally, 98.5% of the population now has access to safe drinking water, 96.21% have access to electricity, but only 58% use safely managed sanitation services and hand-washing facilities with soap and water.

The Government of Ghana, through the Assembly is implementing pro-poor interventions such as LEAP, capitation grant, school feeding, free SHS, free NHIS registration and renewal for pregnant women and indegents, 3 percent DACF support for PWDs, etc. to ensure that "no one is left behind". There are also interventions to absorb the teeming unemployed persons such as Ghana Job and Skills Project (G.J.S.P) Sensitization, MasterCard Foundation Young Africa Works, business fora and assisting interested youth to register for the National Vocational Training Institute exams.

Mobilising the financial and technical resources required to accelerate progress towards the SDGs targets is an enormous challenge. Revenue mobilised by the Assembly, combined with resources from central government and development partners, is inadequate to bridge the resource gap and ensure no one is left behind. Access to timely and reliable data at the desired levels of disaggregation is a challenge. Although significant administration data exists; it has not been organised in a systematic manner and in the form that will serve the meta data requirements of the indicators. The report leveraged data from the 2021 Population and Housing Census to compute some population-based indicator values.

With about 6 years left to achieve the SDGs, the municipality would explore opportunities to strengthen the ongoing partnerships with the private sector, Civil Society Organisations, development partners, and forge new partnerships, particularly with academia and Faith-Based Organisations. The focus of these partnerships would be to promote collaborative actions and attract investment to help accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

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List of Acronyms

ANC	Antenatal care
APRs	Annual Progress Reports
ATMs	Automated Teller Machines
AU	African Union
BAC	Business Advisory Centre
BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CHPS	Community-based Health Planning and Services
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease, 2019
CWC	Child Welfare Clinics
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DACF-RFG	District Assemblies Common Fund-Responsiveness Factor Grant
DEAR	Drop Everything And Read
DIFU	German Institute of Urban Affairs
DMTDP	District Medium-Term Development Plans
DOT	Direct Observed Therapy
DPs	Development Partners
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GAMA	Greater Accra Metropolitan Area
GARID	Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development Project
GASSLIP	Greater Accra Sustainable Sanitation and Livelihood Improvement Project
GEA	Ghana Enterprises Agency `
GER	Gross Enrollment Rate
GoG	Government of Ghana
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
GWMA	Ga West Municipal Assembly
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGF	Internally Generated Funds
ISD	Information Service Department
ITN	Improved Treated mosquito Nets
JHS	Junior High School
LI	Legislative Instrument
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty

MAG	Modernizing Agriculture in Ghana
MIS	Management Information System
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
MTDP	Medium-Term Development Plans
MTTD	Motor Transport and Traffic Directorate
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation,
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NICUs	Neonatal Intensive Care Units
NVTI	National Vocational Training Institute
OHLGS	Head of Local Government Service
OPDs	Outpatient Departments
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PWDs	Persons with Disability
QPRs	Quarterly Progress Reports
RIAP	Revenue Improvement Action Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHS	Senior High School
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SKEW	Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World
SWCD	Social Welfare and Community Development
TB	Tuberculosis
Td2+	Tetanus and diphtheria
UN	United Nation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VLRs	Voluntary Local Reviews
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Chapter One: Introduction

Background

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly in New York adopted the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" resolution. The goals in the resolution cover almost all areas of sustainability and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environment. The 2030 Agenda with its 17 global SDGs and 169 targets, is universal, integrated, and indivisible. It is a plan of action for the people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. The goals and targets of the SDGs represent the renewed commitment of global leaders to eradicate poverty, address inequalities, combat climate change and put the world on a sustainable development path with a pledge to "leaving no-one behind".

Prior to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Heads of States and Government of the African Union adopted "Agenda 2063: A Shared Strategic Framework for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development" in January 2015. The agenda was developed through people-driven and extensive consultations with all African countries. It is based on seven aspirations: A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development; an Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law; a Peaceful and Secure Africa; Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity Common Heritage, Values and Ethics; an Africa Whose Development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children; an Africa as A Strong, United, Resilient and Influential Global Player and Partner. Strong democratic institutions and leadership are the enablers for achieving the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063. Five 10-year plans are to be developed for the implementation of Agenda 2063. These plans are intended to accelerate the continent's political, social, economic, and technological transformation while continuing the pan-African drive for self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity.

Both the global agendas offer an opportunity for countries to scale up efforts toward implementing sustainable development, for a resilient, green, and just future.

SDG localization with Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

"Our Struggle for Global Sustainability Will Be Won or Lost in Cities", stated by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in 2012 (UN 2012), continues to gain importance. In adopting the 2030 Agenda, the member states of the United Nations committed to working closely with local and regional governments to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 2015, metropolitan areas, cities, small towns, regions and their associations have been actively localizing the 2030 Agenda to bring the SDGs closer to the people and use the framework as a tool for planning and implementation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also encourages Member States to conduct regular and comprehensive reviews of progress at national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven

In recent times, there has emerged a growing demand for regional and local governing bodies to assess the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within their respective territories. This push for evaluation stems from a recognition of the vital role that local governments play in achieving these global objectives. The call is for these entities to scrutinize their efforts in aligning

with the SDGs, ensuring that their actions contribute effectively to the broader agenda of sustainable development.

To address this need, the city of New York took a pioneering step by introducing the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Declaration in September 2019. The purpose behind this declaration was to serve as a clarion call to local and regional governments worldwide, urging them to formally commit to reporting on their progress towards the SDGs. The initiative also underscores the importance of localizing the 2030 Agenda. Localization involves tailoring global objectives to suit the specific needs and circumstances of local communities. By bringing the SDGs closer to the people they aim to benefit, the framework becomes more actionable and impactful, serving as a practical tool for inclusive planning and decision-making.

One noteworthy example of this localized approach is the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) in Ghana, which became the first local authority in the country to undertake a Voluntary Local Review. This pioneering effort by AMA has sparked interest among other Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in Ghana.

Against this background, "Municipalities for Global Sustainability" - a programme of Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development - supported the localization and strategic anchoring of the SDGs in Ghana by making available experiences and innovative solutions for VLR processes from German municipalities. The German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) was commissioned to carry out a process consultancy based on the GNK and support nine selected Ghanaian MMDAs to develop their VLRs. The project was implemented in collaboration with a number of partner organizations, in particular the Office of the Head of Local Government Service (OHLGS), National Development Planning Commission and Ghana Statistical Service.
The Ga West Municipal Assembly was one of the selected MMDAs to receive support in developing their VLR. This initiative aligns with the assembly's operational priorities, demonstration of keen interest and commitments to tracking and reporting the progress of SDGs implementation within their jurisdiction.
The development of a VLR serves as a strategic tool for the assembly to comprehensively assess their status about the SDGs. By articulating their achievements, challenges, and plans, the assembly can foster transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making processes within their communities.

Brief Profile of the District

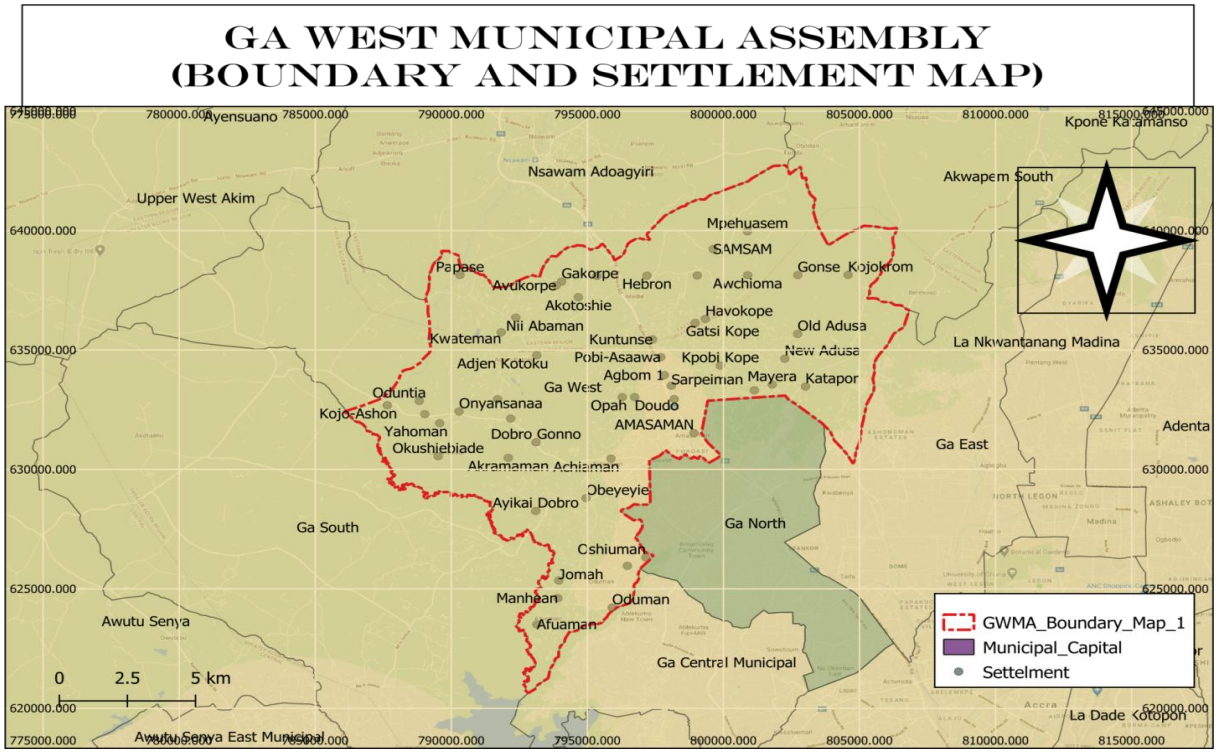
The Ga West Municipal Assembly was carved out of the erstwhile Ga Municipal which was created in 1988 in pursuance of the government decentralization and local government reform policy. It was formerly part of the then-larger Ga District in 1988, until the eastern part of the district was split to create Ga East District in 2004; thus, the remaining part was renamed as Ga West District. On 29 February 2008, the western part of the district was split off to create the first Ga South Municipality. Ga West was later elevated to municipal Assembly status during that same year to become Ga West Municipal Assembly.

However, on 15 March 2018, the eastern part of the district was split off to create Ga North Municipal Assembly, thus the remaining part has been retained as Ga West Municipal Assembly under

Legislative Instrument (LI) 2313. The municipality is located in the western part of Greater Accra Region and has Amasaman as its capital.

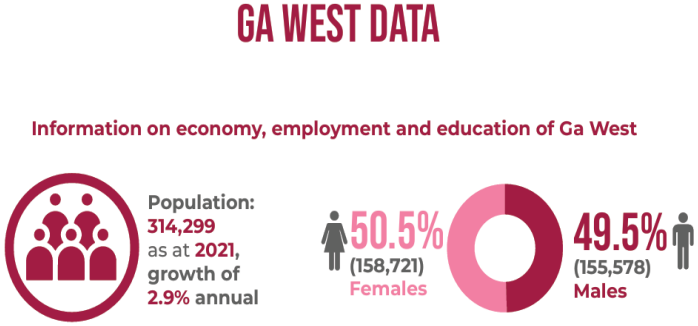
The Municipality lies within latitude 5°35° North, 5°29' North and longitude 0°10' West and 0°24' West. It shares common boundaries with Ga East Municipal Assembly to the east, Ga North Municipal Assembly to the Southeast, Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipal Assembly to the north, Akwapim South to the North East, Ga Central to the South South East and Ga South to the South West. The location of this district is a major potential for investment. It is about 25km west of Accra, the National capital, and has access to all its facilities such as the sea and airport. It occupies a land area of approximately 220 sq km with 72 major communities of which 50 percent are urban, 30 percent peri-urban and the remaining 20 percent being rural. (see figure 1).

FIGURE 1: GA WEST MUNICIPAL MAP



The population of the Municipality according to the 2021 Population and Housing Census stands at 314,299 made up of 155,543 males and 158,756 females. The Municipality is made up of seventeen (17) Electoral Areas divided into four (4) administrative zonal councils.

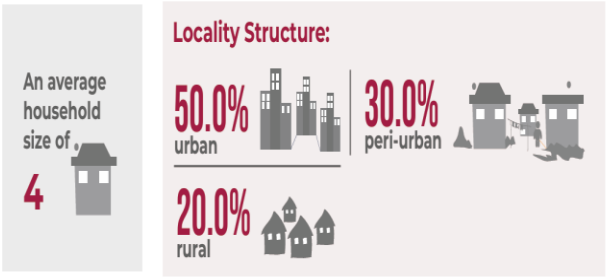
FIGURE 2: POPULATION STATISTICS



The population statistics is concentrated mainly along the urban and peri-urban areas of the municipality, particularly along the border with Ga Central to the south. The estimated population figure indicates a density of 1,430.7 persons per sq. km much higher than the national density of 121

persons per sq. km and a little higher than that of the Greater Accra Region which stands at 1,236 persons per sq. km. The Municipality has a youthful population.

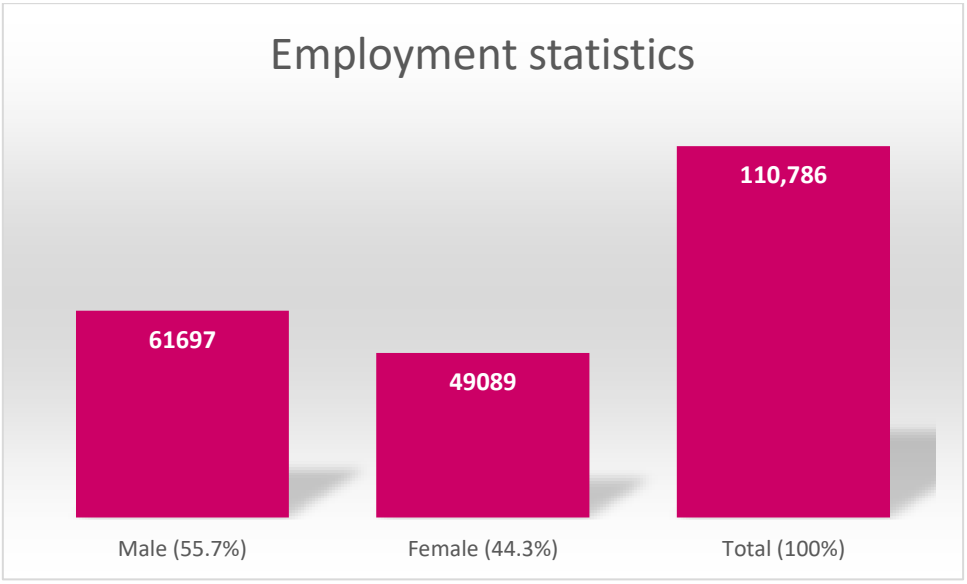
FIGURE 3: SETTLEMENT TYPE



The Municipal capital Amasaman is approximately 25 kilometres from the country's capital city Accra. The major towns within the Municipality include Amasaman, Sapeiman, and Medie which are linked by the Accra-Nsawam trunk road. There are other small communities which are linked to the trunk road via feeder roads.

Employment-disaggregation of businesses (Agriculture, Services Industry)

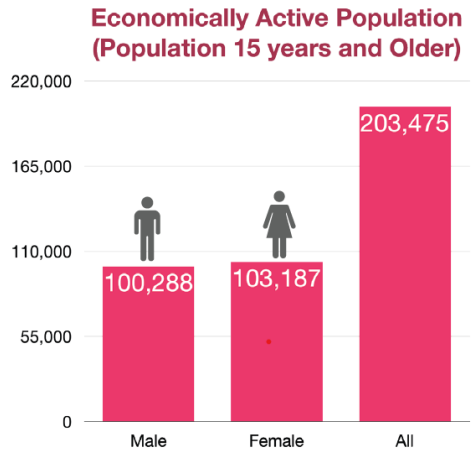
FIGURE 4: EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

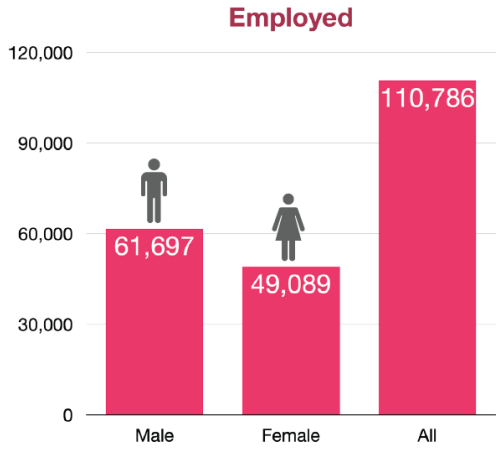


The employment statistics of Ga West shows that out of the total of 110,786 employed Individuals, 61,697 are males (55.7%) and 49,0899 are females944.3%). This shows a noticeable disparity between the number of employed males and females with males outnumbering females by 12,608.

The statistics also suggest that while both genders have significant representation in the workforce, males dominate the employment landscape in the Ga West Municipal.

Potential Implications: This disparity could be due to various factors, including differences in education, skills, or societal norms. Further analysis would be needed to understand the underlying causes and potential implications for the local economy and society (occupational segregation, policy implications and industry-wide distribution).

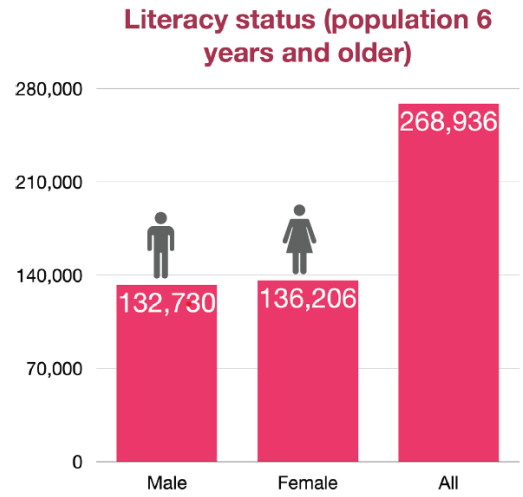


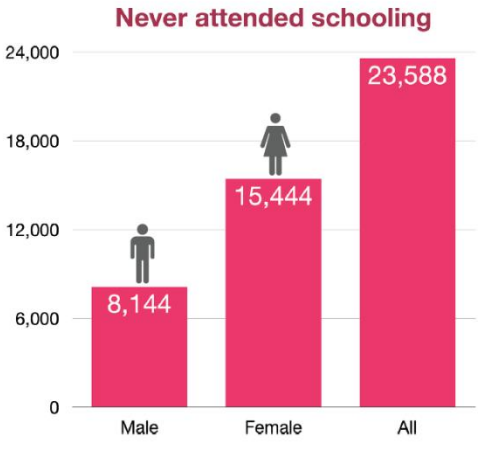


Education – Literacy Status

According to the 2021 PHC, 88.1 percent of the municipality's population are literate. A major characteristic of the education sector in the Ga West municipality is similar to the national situation where there are significant numbers of private educational institutions operating alongside the public institutions. Available statistics show that, there are a total of 235 schools in the Municipality, this consist of 154 private institutions and 81 public institutions at the various levels of education.

In addition to the afore-mentioned observations, it must be emphasized that most of the private educational institutions are in the urban and peri-urban communities whilst very few of these private schools are found in the rural areas.





Health

Health Service Delivery in the Ga West Municipality is provided principally by Public (Government) Health Facilities and several private health facilities including maternity homes. Curative and preventive health services are provided in the health facilities and at the outreach centers/zones.

There are Twenty-three (23) health facilities in the municipality comprising of thirteen (13) government, ten (10) private health facilities including maternity homes and 30 Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) zones. The Ga West Municipal Hospital serves as the main referral centre to the populace.

Top Ten Diseases

From 2018 till date malaria continues to be a major public health issue accounting for majority of reported cases at outpatient departments (OPDs), followed by Acute Urinary Tract Infection (2021 to 2023). Though gynaecological conditions are not part of the top 5 diseases, a significant number of cases are reported annually therefore there is a continuous effort to sensitize women on their health and safety measures. Details of the top ten diseases are given in table below:

Table 1: TOP TEN DISEASES, 2023

Diseases	Number of Reported Cases
Malaria cases	15276
Acute Urinary Tract Infection	9364
Anaemia	5543
Diarrhoea Diseases	5500
Hypertension	2401
Gynaecological conditions	1438
Diabetes Mellitus	1078
Asthma	762
Acute Eye Infection	596
Home Injuries (Home Accidents and Injuries)	495

Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Reproductive Health Service

The following are the reproductive health services in both public and private facilities in the municipality.

- Antenatal care (ANC)
- Supervised delivery
- Post-natal care
- Family Planning
- Adolescent health.

Table below provides information on maternal health coverage from 2018 to 2023

Table 2: TREND OF MATERNAL HEALTH COVERAGES, 2018-2023.

INDICATOR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ANC Coverage	139.6	149.8	166.6	83.4	84.7	77.8
Percentage of ANC clients making 4th visit	60.3	58.5	54.7	65.1	68.2	68.6
Tetanus and diphtheria (Td2+) coverage	98	111.6	118	57.3	60.1	46.2
PNC Coverage	131.5	133.7	126.6	65	62.1	63.8
Percentage of deliveries by C-section	18.3	20.5	24.4	25.3	24.1	25.1
Stillbirth rate	8.9	9.5	9.5	4.3	4.7	5.3
Percentage of severe anaemia at 36 weeks	0.17	0.19	0.09	0.6	1.4	0.31
Institutional Maternal Mortality Ratio	136.3	59.3	82.2	36.7	96.9	143.2

Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Geography and Natural Resources

Vegetation and Climate

The Municipality lies wholly in the coastal savanna agro-ecological zone. The relief is generally undulating at less than 5 percent except the areas around the Samsam hills. Rainfall pattern is bimodal with an annual mean varying between 790mm to about 1,270mm. The annual average temperature ranges between 25.1 degrees Celsius in August and 28.4 degrees Celsius in February and March; April is the hottest month. Humidity is generally high during the year; average figures are about 94 percent and 69 percent at 6:00am and 15:00 hours respectively.

Geology

The land area is underlain by shallow rocky soils and is extensively developed on the steep slopes of the Akwapim range. On the Akwapim Range the soils are mainly pale and sandy with brushy quartzite occurring to the surface in most places. These soils are rich in sandstone and limestone that are good source of material for the construction industry.

The red earths are usually developed in old and thoroughly weathered parent materials.- They are typically loamy in texture near the surface becoming more clay below. -The red soils are porous and well drained and support road development and also provide ample moisture storage at depth for deep-rooting plants. -Nutrients supplies are concentrated in the humus topsoil. -The soil types within the Municipality are suitable for both crops production and livestock keeping. The table below gives a detail description of the various types of soil and the type of crop they support.

Table 3: SOIL TYPE AND CROPS THEY SUPPORT

No.	Type	Location	Characteristics	Suitability

1	Sandy/Gravels	Samsam/Dedeiman	Sandy,Gravels ,Humus	Pineapple, maize, Cassava,Yam, Plantain and vegetables
2	Loam	Pokuase, Amasaman, Adjen Kotoku and Nsakina zones	Mixture of clay and sandy soils	Maize, Cassava and vegetables
3	Clay	Katopor, Kpobikope, Ayikaidoblo, Medie, Kojo Ashong,	Sticky when wet, cracks when dried. Holds water for a long time	Rice, maize, and vegetables

Source Medium Term Development Plan 2022-2025

Relief and Drainage

The relief is generally undulating at less than 76m (250feet) above sea level except for areas around the Samsam hills. The four major rivers that drain the Municipality are the Densu, Nsakyi, Olonto and Doblo. The largest of the four, the Densu drains down from the Eastern Region through the western portion of the Municipality to Weija where it enters the sea. The Olonto, starts from Kutunse satellite through Mayera and joins Nsakyi river at Abensu.

Biodiversity, green economy, and climate change

Biodiversity in Ga West Municipality is declining rapidly. Human activities (sand winning, urbanization, agriculture, overpopulation) threaten biodiversity, proximity to national capital led to 87% native land loss. Again, poor agricultural practices such as slash and burn and sand winning harm species-rich habitats. Rural-urban drift causes overpopulation this is associated with over-burden on biological diversity and other natural resources. Soil erosion is an agricultural problem because natural vegetation has been removed from an area. As a result, surface layer of the soil, that is rich in nutrient and beneficial to micro-organisms. Conversion of lands for construction of structures is also having a devastating toll on biodiversity. This has led to the inevitable conflicts between our efforts to conserve biodiversity and the need to accommodate the ever-increasing population especially the youth.

To conserve biodiversity in Ga West Municipality, hence the following key points

- Implement sustainable agriculture and urban planning.
- Establish protected areas and promote eco-tourism.
- Enforce environmental policies and educate communities.
- Support reforestation and soil conservation efforts.
- Encourage community-led conservation initiatives.

However, the Municipality faces the adverse effect of climate change in the form of health problems, climate induced disruption of agricultural systems, flooding. These adverse effects of climate change facing the municipal economy are due to the inadequate capacity to undertake adaptive measures to address environmental problems and socio-economic costs of climate change.

In addition, frequent flooding around the Nsakyi, Doblo and Densu rivers and its tributaries, windstorm, domestic fires, and drowning in open pits are some of the Disaster issues the Municipality faces. Theses hazards and disasters within the municipality has been managed and

minimized in recent times with support from World Bank funded projects such as Greater Accra Resilience Integrated Development (GARID), Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA) etc.

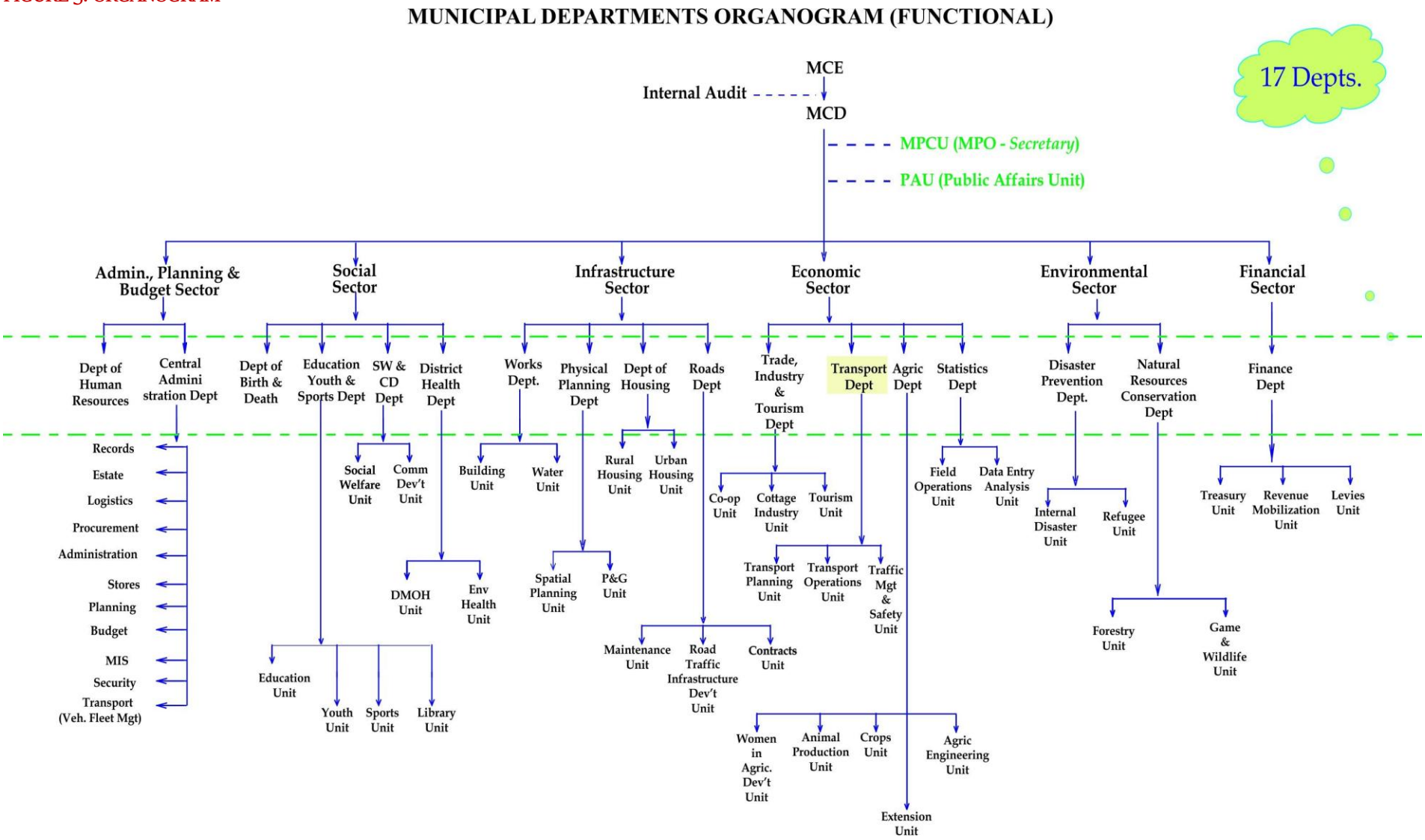
Governance and Administration

The Ga West Municipal Assembly consist of four (4) zonal councils i.e Amasaman, Ayikai Doblo, Mayera and Kotoku with the General Assembly as the apex governing council with 25 members comprising 17 elected members, 8 government appointees, one Member of Parliament and the Municipal Chief Executive who is the political and administrative head of the Municipality (FIGURE).

The Assembly has two main committees in performing its functions. These are the Executive and Public Relations and Complaints Committees. Besides these two main committees, the Assembly is mandated to create five statutory sub-committees of the Executive Committee namely; Development Planning, Social Services, Finance and Administration, Justice and Security as well as Works sub-committees. There are four other sub-committees that have also been constituted to ensure that the vision of the Assembly is met. These committees are Local Economic Development/Micro Small and Medium scale Enterprises, Sanitation, Agriculture and Gender sub-committees. The sub-committees are created for effective formulation and implementation of policies and programmes of the Assembly. The functions, composition, tenure, procedures for the conduct of committee's business are discussed in the model standing orders for MMDAs. All these sub-committees are made up of Assembly members who are representatives of the people as well as technocrats who are heads of the relevant departments operating within the Assembly. The sub-committees report to the Executive committee which is chaired by the Municipal Chief Executive for further deliberation after which the Executive committee also reports to the General Assembly for final decision making.

These sub-committees work through the 17 departments and units of the Assembly which implement the decisions of the General Assembly. The activities of these departments and units are coordinated by the Municipal Planning and Coordinating Unit, chaired by the Municipal Coordinating Director who ultimately reports to the Municipal Chief Executive

FIGURE 5: ORGANOGRAM



Community Engagement – forums/platforms available, level of participation of citizens

Ga West prepares its Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDP) through a participatory and inclusive process involving a wide range of stakeholders and other governmental agencies within the municipality, traditional authorities, civil society organisations, private sector, Federation of Persons living with Disability and Youth Groups, etc. These processes are guided by the planning guidelines issued by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC).

In the first quarter of every year, community engagements are organized to present revenue performance as well as achievements of the previous year. There are again community engagements organised in the third quarter where the public is informed about the projects and programmes the Assembly has planned for the ensuing year all emanating from the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP). Participants are allowed to share their views and make inputs where necessary to the planned activities. The Assembly also gives opportunity for the citizen to request for any information where necessary through the Information Services Department (ISD). The Assembly also engages the people through subcommittee and other statutory meetings.

Again, to strengthen collaboration with other government agencies, the Assembly organises bi annual inter-sectoral engagements where all government agencies working within the Municipality are brought together to collaborate, corporate to ensure a coordinated approach to development and management.

Chapter Two:
Methodology and the Process for Preparation

Introduction

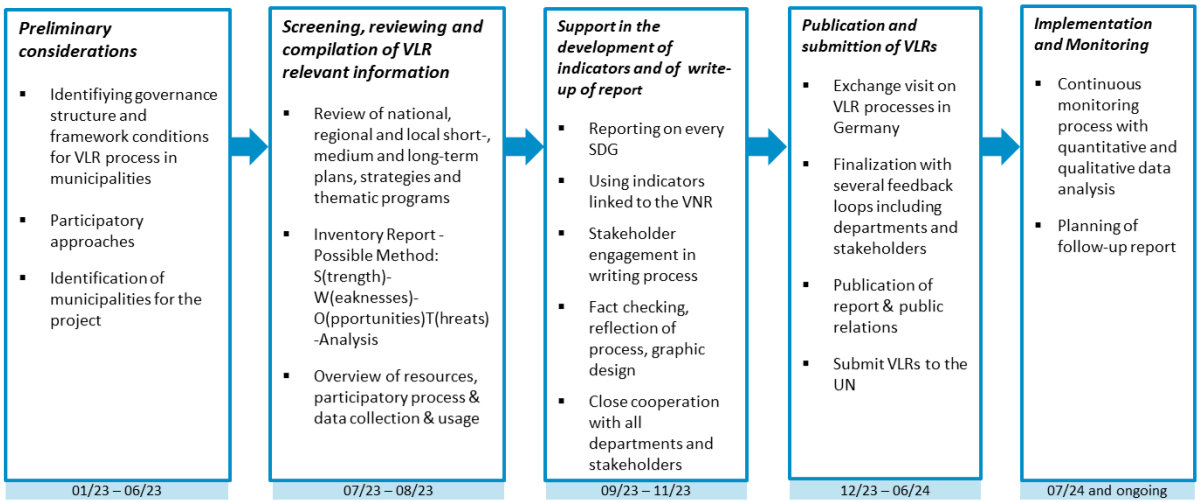
The chapter highlights the methodology and process utilized in the preparation of the VLR report. It discusses the processes used in engaging stakeholders, indicators selection, data collection, analysis and reporting. This section also discusses the data challenges and gaps, and the institutional arrangements for the preparation of VLR.

Process for the Preparation of the VLR

The preparation of this document adopted an inclusive and participatory approach. Key stakeholders including the private sector, academia, civil society organisations, vulnerable groups, traditional rulers as well as local inhabitants of the district were engaged. The German Institute for Urban Affairs (DIFU) assisted in the development of a number of SDGs key performance indicators for local level reporting. Digital tools and open-source data were utilized by DIFU in their support to this VLR. Again, DIFU organized virtual meetings with the assemblies, these meetings were intended to address data requirements and gaps. Network events and exchange visits between Ghana and Germany were organized, together with other local governments from Germany to dialogue on lessons learned, working methods and techniques, innovative planning instruments, as well as data-driven indicators, in order to improve the municipal's strategic development reporting and VLR reporting.

Ga West Municipal Assembly with support from DIFU went through various phases, which essentially comprised researching existing frameworks, analyzing existing reports and strategies, developing supporting tools and the writing process of the VLR with feedback loops (see Fig.6).

FIGURE 6: PROJECT TIMELINE "VLRS GO GHANA"



The development of the VLR entailed a comprehensive process of refinement and collaboration. Initially, the drafting team utilized existing reporting structures, drawing insights from Medium Term Development Plans (MTDPs), Annual Progress Reports (APRs), and Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs). This screening phase illuminated the strengths of the existing framework while identifying areas in need of enhancement.

Stakeholder engagement with DIFU, NDPC, OHLGS and GSS

Upon review by key stakeholders including the NDPC, OHLGS, and GSS, gaps in indicators were discerned. Subsequently, a dialogue was initiated to facilitate a second phase of indicator selection, aimed at ensuring comprehensive coverage of pertinent metrics essential for a robust VLR.

Collaboration with department heads proved instrumental in acquiring relevant data for the selected indicators. This collaborative effort bolstered the initial draft of the VLR, enriching its accuracy and relevance to local contexts. As the draft evolved, it was shared with supporting institutions such as DIFU, NDPC, OHLGS, and Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) for review and feedback.

Engagement with stakeholders within the assembly community was prioritized to ensure alignment with local realities and values. Emphasizing inclusivity, particularly through the lens of "leaving no one behind",

ensured that the VLR captured the diverse needs and experiences of all community members, including vulnerable populations.

Following extensive review and refinement, the VLR underwent a final validation process by NDPC, OHLGS, GSS, and DIFU to ensure adherence to standards. Table 4 shows the number of indicators reported in this VLR per SDGs.

Table 4: LIST OF INDICATORS REPORTED ON

Goals	Indicators Reported	
	Original Indicators	Localised
Goal 1: No Poverty	4	1
Goal 2: Zero Hunger	2	2
Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being	8	2
Goal 4: Quality Education	3	2
Goal 5: Gender Equality	1	2
Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	2	-
Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	2	-
Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	2	-
Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	2	-
Goal 10: Reduced Inequality	-	-
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	1	-

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	1	-
Goal 13: Climate Action	2	1
Goal 14: Life Below Water	-	-
Goal 15: Life on Land	1	-
Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	1	-
Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal	2	-
Total	44	

Addressing data challenges/gaps

To address data challenges encountered during the VLR development process, the following strategies will be implemented:

Intensified Administrative Data Collection: The assembly recognizes the importance of timely and accurate data for effective decision-making. To mitigate the unavailability of data on certain core indicators, administrative data collection efforts will be intensified. This proactive approach will ensure that essential data is accessible without the necessity of waiting for periodic surveys.

Collaboration with GSS: Recognizing the expertise and resources of the GSS, the assembly will collaborate with GSS to centralize all assembly data. By centralizing data, accessibility, and transparency will be enhanced.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement with opinion leaders, Traditional authority, Unit

Chapter Three:— Policy and Enabling Environment

Introduction

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level is influenced by a complex policy environment that involves multiple stakeholders, governance structures, and frameworks at the national, and local levels.

This chapter discusses the policy and enabling environment for the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 within the Ga West Municipal Assembly. It discusses the procedure for integrating the two agendas into the Municipality's development plans and budgets.

Integration of the dimensions of sustainable development and the principle of leaving no one behind

Ghana's national government and its municipalities have been committed to advancing sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda and the African Agenda 2063. Central to Ghana's development planning is the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (MTNDPF), developed through a collaborative effort between the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and Cross-Sectoral Planning Groups. This framework acts as a strategic roadmap, integrating various agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union (AU) objectives, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) agenda. Consequently, the implementation of Ghana's development plans is intrinsically tied to the progress of the SDGs. This approach was designed to streamline efforts and reduce duplication in pursuing multiple development agendas.

Ga West Municipal Assembly formulated its Medium-term Development Plan (MTDP), 2022-2025 which is aligned to the SDGs and AU agenda 2063. The main goal of the Assembly is to "improve upon the quality of life of the people in the Municipality through efficient and effective mobilization of both human and material resources for the provision of socio-economic services.

FIGURE 7A: DECENTRALISED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

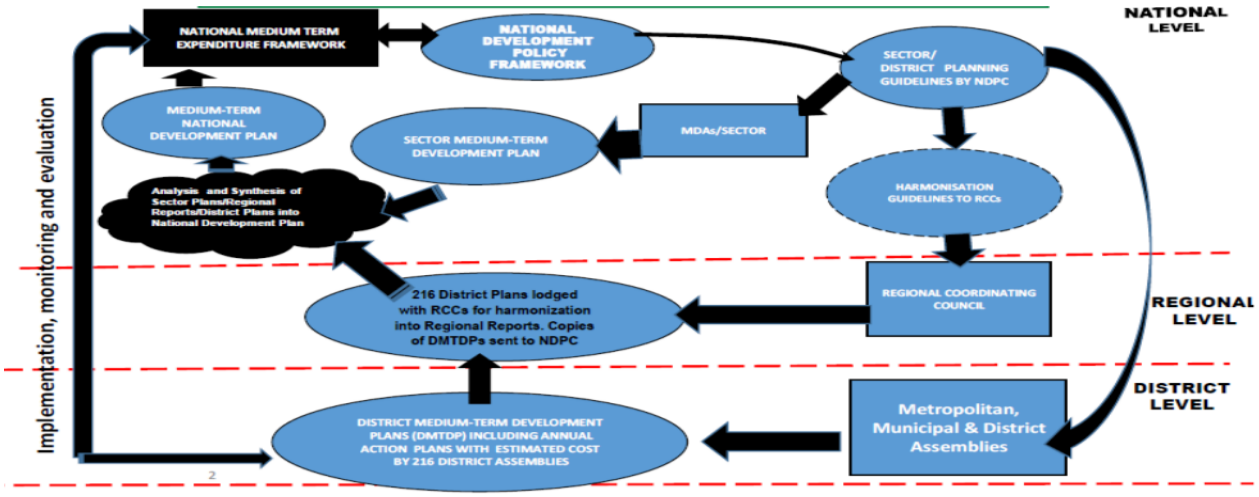
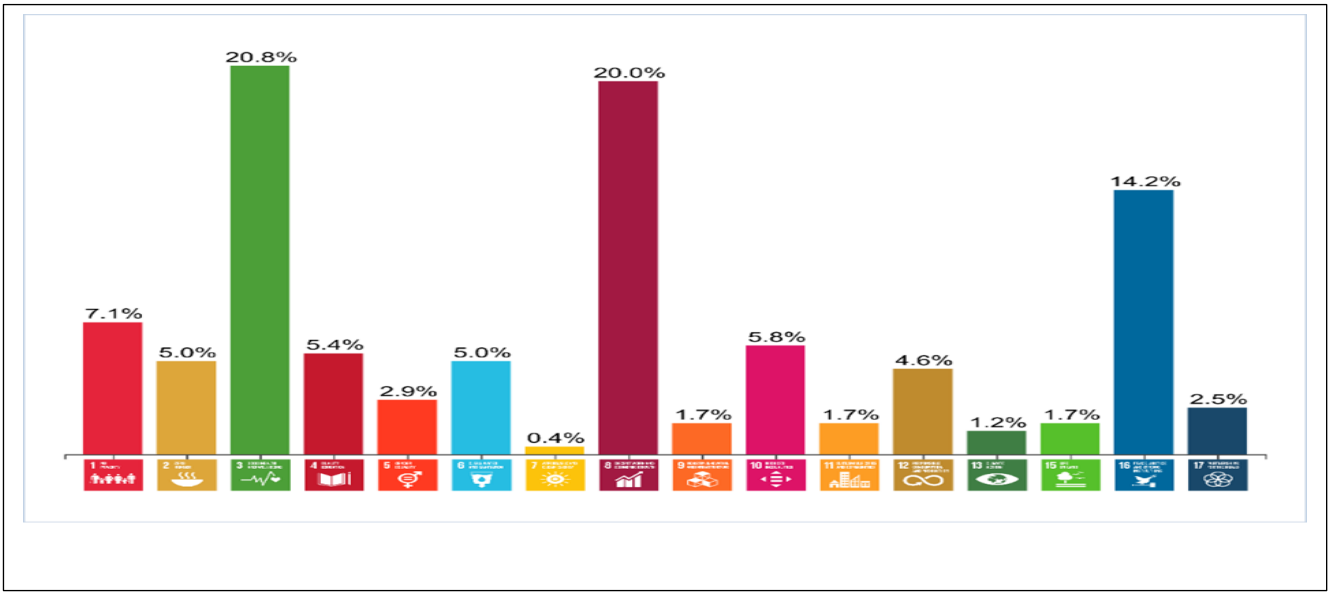


FIGURE 7 shows the share of references of SDGs in the Annual Progress Report (APR) on the implementation of the municipality's MTDP. The assessment was based on the analysis of the progress made in implementing the key activities outlined in the 2022 Annual Action Plan of the MTDP, 2022-2025. By the end of the year under review, the Assembly had implemented 155 activities out of the 158 activities relating to the SDGs. Goal 3 has the most referenced activity in the municipality's APR

FIGURE 7: SHARE OF REFERENCES TO THE SDGS WITHIN THE



Ensuring Ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and the VLR

There is a strong ownership of the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 across the Municipality. In the planning, implementation, and review process of the SDGs, community engagements were key in ensuring that the SDGs were localised and context-specific. Additionally, specific groups such as women, children, youth, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) were engaged. This was to ensure that the SDGs were implemented in a way that is inclusive and addresses the specific challenges of different groups.

Engagement with Hon. Assembly members of Ga West

Staff of SWCD interacting with community members on social interventions

Chapter Four: Progress on Implementation of Goals and Targets

Introduction

This chapter provides insights into the progress made by the Municipality in the implementation of the SDGs. The chapter delves into the successes, challenges, and lessons learned in Ga West Municipal's pursuit of sustainable development. The chapter also highlights specific actions taken by Ga West Municipal to advance each of the 17 SDGs. It also examines local policies and programs that have been instituted, the partnerships forged, and the innovative approaches employed to address complex developmental issues. Additionally, it presents data that illustrate the impact of these initiatives on the ground. FIGURE 8 shows alignment of the development dimensions of the district medium-term plan of the Ga West Municipal Assembly to the SDGs.

FIGURE 8: ALIGNMENT OF DEVELOPMENT DIMENSION TO THE SDGS

Progress on Implementation

SDG 1: end poverty in all its forms everywhere	A63 Goal 1: A high standard of living, quality of life, and well-being for all citizens

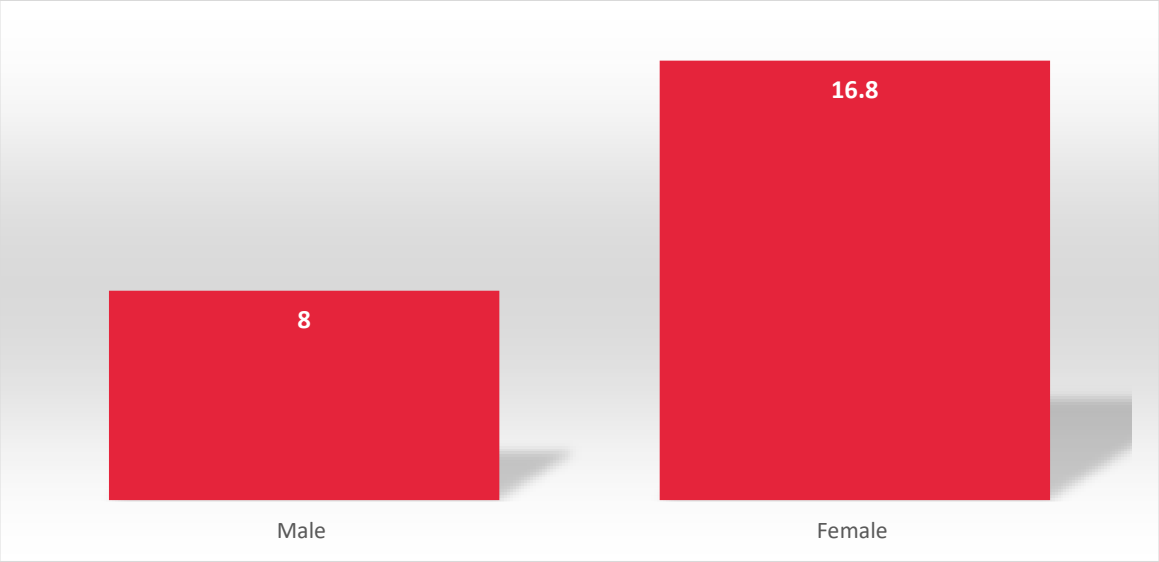
1.2.1 Proportion of households living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

Poverty is considered a multi-dimensional phenomenon, manifesting itself in different forms, with overlapping deprivations in employment, health (health insurance coverage and child mortality) and living conditions (access to toilet facilities, overcrowding, housing, electricity, drinking water, cooking fuels and Assets). In Ga West Municipal, 10.5 per cent of the population are multidimensional poor, lower than the national figure of 24.3 percent. According to the Ghana Statistical Service (2024), the Multidimensional Poverty Index of the Ga West Municipal is estimated at 0.046 suggesting a relatively low poverty rate compared to other areas. Generally, poverty indexes or headcount ratios represent the percentage of the population living below a certain poverty line. If we assume this index is calculated similarly, a value of 0.046 would translate to approximately 4.6% of the population in Ga West living below the poverty line.

Indicator 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definition

According to the Ghana Statistical Service, the percentage of households living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definition in the Ga West Municipality by locality was 12.2 percent in rural areas, compared to 9.8 percent of households in urban areas. Similarly, more females than males are multidimensional poor as shown in Figure 9. The Municipality is placed 24th out of the 261 districts in terms of the percentage of population living in multidimensional poor households, and placed 14th out of 29 districts within the Greater Accra Region. Ga West Municipal is most deprived in the areas of health insurance coverage (60.6%), improved toilet facilities (56.5%), and overcrowding (33.3%).

FIGURE 9: PERCENTAGE OF POOR HOUSEHOLD HEADS, BY SEX, 2021



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2021 Population and Housing Census

Pictures

Support to PWDs

Support to PWDs

The Ga West Municipal Assembly in collaboration with the central government has implemented several interventions to reduce the number of poor people in the municipality. The Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) is one such programme. The LEAP is a cash transfer programme to support very poor people particularly households with orphans, the elderly and people with extreme disabilities. The Municipality currently has 422 households benefitting from this support. Additionally, the School Feeding Programme, Capitation Grant, and Free Exercise Books among others are all interventions been implemented in the municipality.

As part of measures to eradicate poverty, the Business Advisory Centre (BAC) of the Assembly in collaboration with Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA) have been implementing entrepreneurial training for individuals to improve the livelihood and income levels of Micro and Small-scale Entrepreneurs. Some of programmes are: MasterCard Foundation Young Africa Works, Ghana Job and Skills Project, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) High Growth Programme etc. In 2023, 337 individuals benefited from these training. The center has also been assisting interested youth to register for the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) examination. In 2023, 67 individuals (8males and 59 females) were registered for the exams.

The Social Welfare and Community Development Department also uses a portion of the Disability fund to give entrepreneurial training to Persons with Disability (PWDs) as well as startup capital to start businesses. In 2022, 9 PWDs benefited from this training and startup capital.

Indicator 1.3.1L: Number of population covered by key social protection floors/systems, / by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable

The Ga West Municipal Assembly ran several social protection programmes to mitigate the problems associated with vulnerable groups, particularly the poor and persons living with disability. Among these programmes are LEAP, School Feeding, Capitation Grant, Free Senior High School (SHS) policy, and the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Currently, 422 households are benefiting from LEAP support. The capitation grant was also designed to finance the purchase of teaching and learning materials and in some cases pay for small repairs, administration, and examination expenses. There are currently 24,260 beneficiaries of the capitation grant in the Municipality. Additionally, 3,545 secondary school students are benefiting from the government's Free SHS policy

Again, as of 2023 241,164 people registered with the municipal NHIA office which includes people living outside the Municipality. The Municipality is also enjoined by law to allocate 3 percent of the District Assembly Common fund for the use of Persons with Disabilities. This allocation is for the support and improvement of the socio-economic lives of PWDs. There are currently 238 PWDs registered with the Assembly. Some of the support that has been provided for these people include the provision of business startups such as corn millers, chest freezers, water storage equipment, and financial assistance. Error! Reference source not found. shows the interventions and number of beneficiaries.

Table 5: SOCIAL INTERVENTION, 2019 - 2023

SOCIAL INTERVENTION	YEAR				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
LEAP	400 Households	400 Households	422 Households	422 Households	422 Households
PWD				238 Persons	238 Persons
School Feeding	23,789 pupils	23,789 pupils	24,168 pupils	24,168 pupils	24,260 pupils
Capitation Grant	88, 308.00 To all public Schools in Ga West	88, 308.00 To all public Schools in Ga West	44, 997.00 To all public Schools in Ga West	44, 997.00 To all public Schools in Ga West	44, 997.00 To all public Schools in Ga West
Free SHS					3,545 students
NHIS		553,251 Persons	533,918 Persons	428,656 Persons	241,164 Persons

Source: Municipal Education, NHIA and SWCD, 2024

Indicator 1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

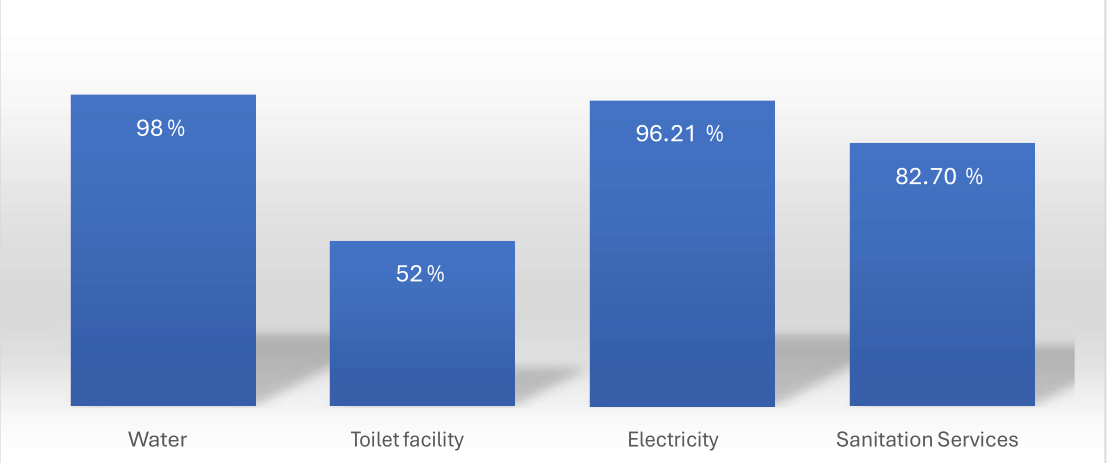
Ga West Municipal Assembly has made great progress in ensuring that its people have access to basic services (electricity, water, sanitation service, toilet facility) with the rapid population growth. Figure 10 indicates that a remarkable 98.5% of people have access to water which is an essential need of every household. Though demonstrating a high degree of coverage for this essential need. In a similar vein, 96.21% of people have access to electricity, which offers a solid base for both economic growth and a high standard of living.

With only 52% of people having access to toilet facility, 5.2% of the population still practice open defecation indicating that there is the need for sensitization to be intensified on the need for toilet facility be included in residential buildings. In previous years, the Assembly implemented the GAMA and GASSLIP

projects that was aimed at eradicating open deification through the provision of toilet facility at discounted cost for individuals and institutional toilet facility for schools.

Although Ga West has made significant strides in granting access to electricity and water as shown in Fig.10 below, the data indicates that more needs to be done to address the sanitation gap. Investing in sanitation infrastructure and services is crucial to ensure the health, well-being, and dignity of the population. Addressing these disparities will be essential to promote equitable access to essential services and improve overall quality of life in the Municipality.

FIGURE 10: PROPORTION OF POPULATION LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

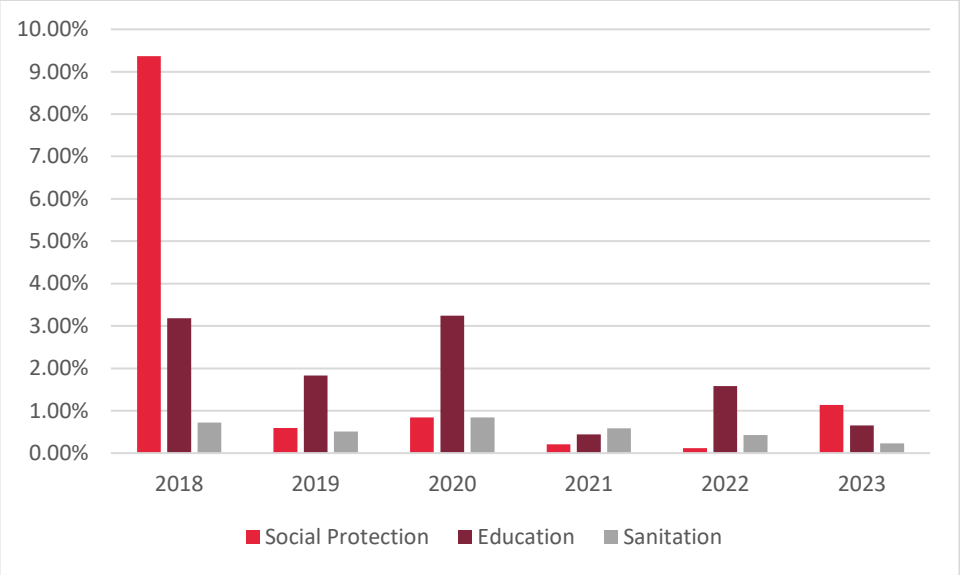


Source: POPULATION &HOUSING CENSUS, 2021

Indicator 1.a.2: Proportion of total Assembly spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

The Assembly has been using part of its budget allocation to support the provision of essential services (Health, Education, Sanitation, and social protection) as mandated by law. However, some major services such as education and health received funding from their sector ministries in addition to augmenting support from the assembly. FIGURE 10 shows the proportion of local assembly's spending on social protection was highest at 9 percent, 3.18 percent for education and 0.72 percent for sanitation in 2018. Subsequently, spending on essential services has drastically shown a downward trend. In 2020 for instance, spending on social protection decreased to 0.60 percent, 1.83 percent for education, and 0.51 for sanitation. Similarly, in 2023, spending on social protection, education and sanitation remained low at 1.14 percent, 0.65 percent and 0.23 percent respectively. This trend could be attributed to the low inflows of the Assembly's Internally Generated Funds.

FIGURE 10: PROPORTION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES, 2018 - 2023



Source: Municipal Finance Office, 2024

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

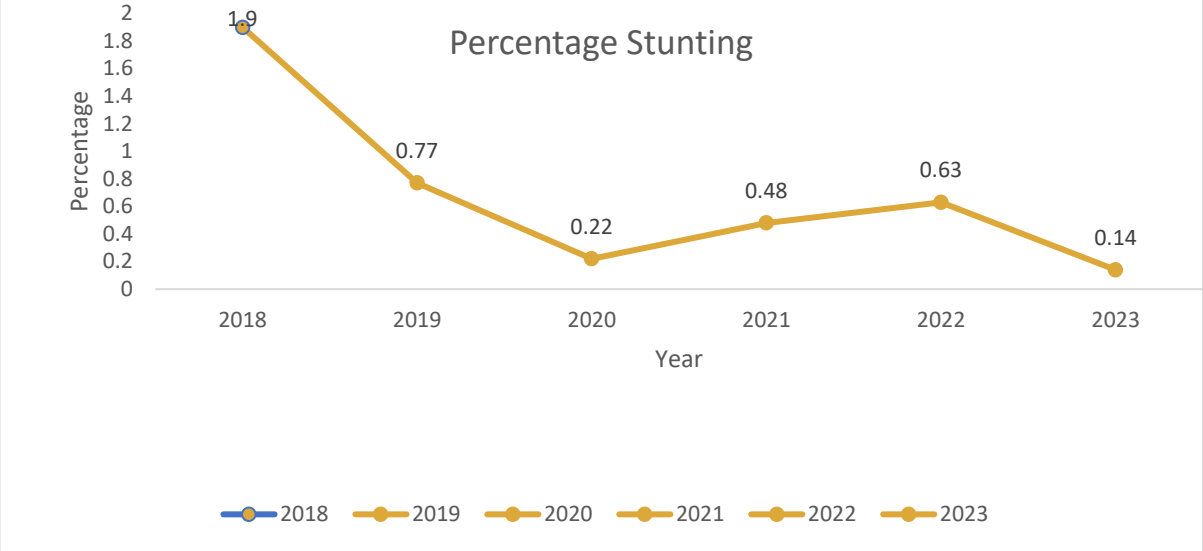
A63 Goal 3: Healthy and well-nourished citizens

Indicator 2.2.1: Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviations from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age

The prevalence of stunting in the municipality has been below the target of 10 percent since 2018. Stunting in children under 5 years declined from 1.9 percent in 2018 to 0.22 percent in 2020, but increased marginally to 0.63 percent in 2022 and then further declined to 0.14 percent in 2023 as depicted in Figure 12. The government's school feeding programme which ensures the provision of one hot adequately nutritious meal to children in public primary and kindergarten on every school attendant day as well as the free health screening conducted for kindergarten entrants are contributory factors. In 2023, 24,260

schoolchildren benefited from the school feeding programme. This programme has contributed to the low prevalence of stunting in the municipality (see Figure 12).

FIGURE 12: PREVELANCE OF STUNTING IN THE MUNICIPALITY, 2018 - 2023



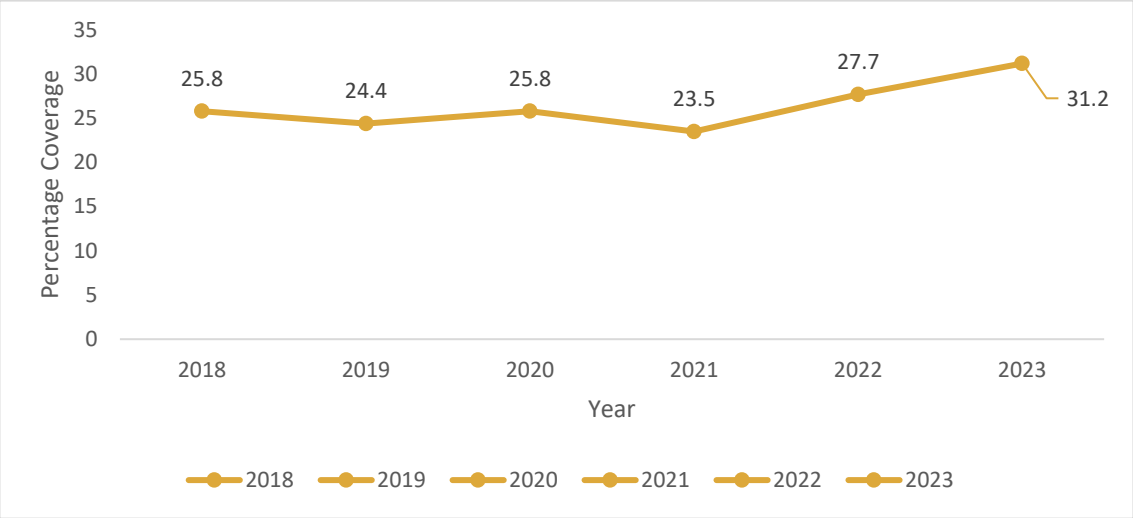
Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 2.2.3L: Prevalence of anaemia in pregnant women

Anaemia, particularly iron-deficiency anaemia, is a common condition during pregnancy, especially during the third trimester at around 36 weeks. The Ga West Municipality experienced undulating levels of anaemia precedence. In 2018, anaemia prevalence in pregnant women was 25.8 percent which decreased slightly to 24.4 percent in 2019 and increased again to 31.2 percent in 2023 (see Figure 13). The reasons are attributed to malaria, the fact that some pregnant women might not be eating sufficient iron-rich foods or iron supplements. There are also women who have low haemoglobin levels due to underlying conditions and as such become susceptible to anaemia when pregnant and not getting the right diet or supplements. Also, increased physiological demand for iron during pregnancy may not be met due to insufficient dietary intake or absorption issues and inconsistent intake of prenatal vitamins and iron supplements, possibly due to financial constraints or non-availability.

The Health Department of the Ga West Municipal Assembly is promoting the consumption of iron-rich foods such as leafy green vegetables, red meat, poultry, fish and legumes, strengthening prenatal care services to ensure regular anaemia screening and timely intervention. The Assembly also conducts periodic education on women's empowerment, the consumption of locally available foods, usage of treated mosquito nets and regular check-up of haemoglobin levels.

FIGURE 13: PREVELANCE OF ANAEMIA, 2018 - 2023

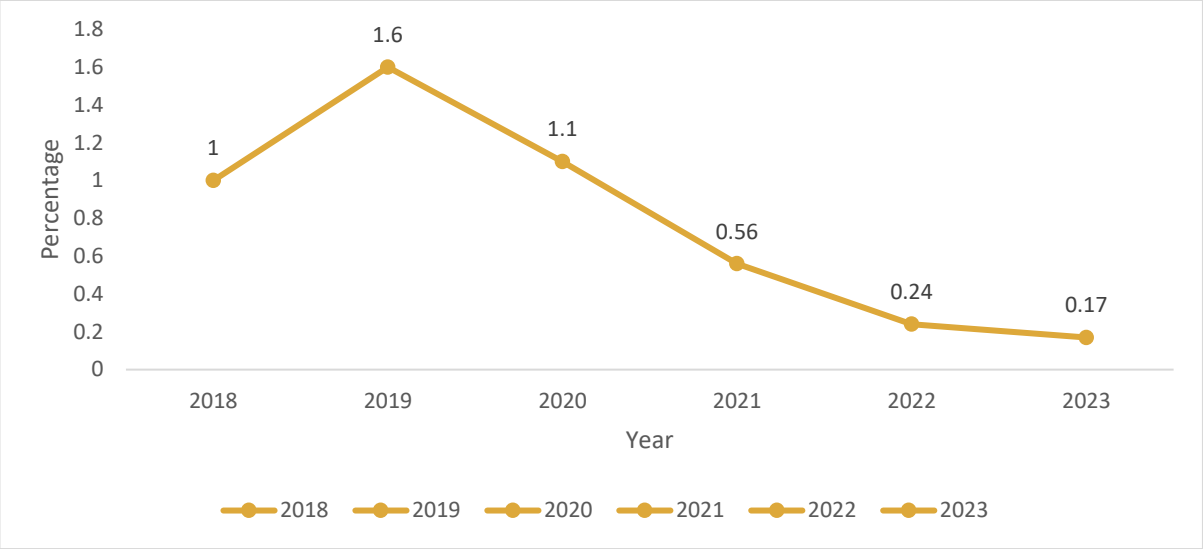


Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 2.2.2: Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

The frequency of malnutrition in children 0 to 59 months has reduced consistently from 2020 to 2023 (FIGURE 14). As of 2023, only 0.17 percent of children 0-59 months were underweight. The Department of health has been advocating for exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months after birth.

FIGURE 14: PREVALENCE OF MALNUTRITION, 2018 - 2023



Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 2.4.1L: Proportion of agricultural area to total land area.

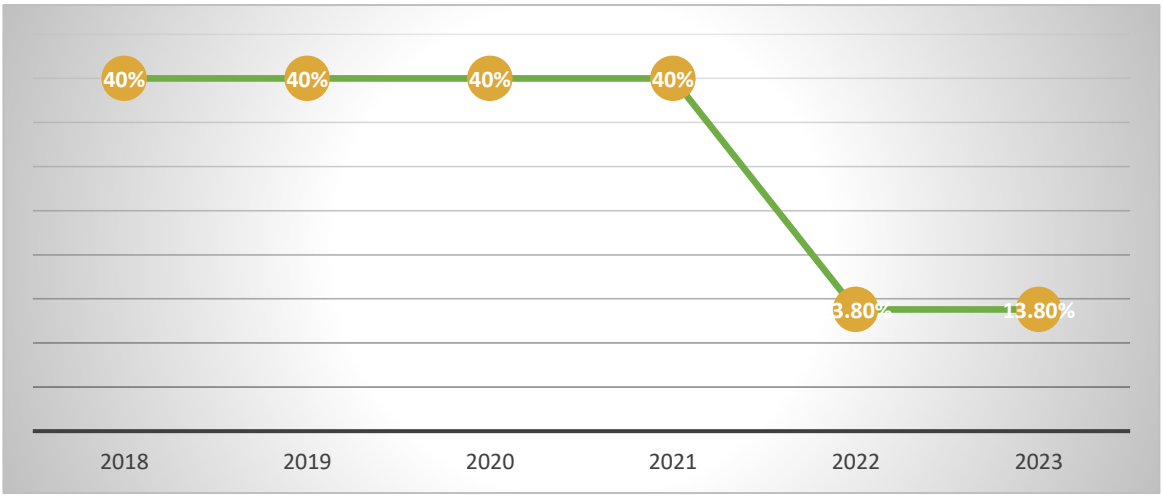
Agriculture supports about 45% of the economically active population in the Municipality, either directly or indirectly. This is through crop farming, animal rearing, fisheries, distribution of agricultural produce, sale of farming inputs, processing, and provision of services to the sector.

The proportion of Farmlands remained at 40 percent of the total land area from 2018-2021, this is no longer the case as the size of farmlands has drastically reduced to 13.8 %. This is attributed to the fast growth of estate development to meet the increasing demand for housing resulting from rapid population increase especially between 2021 and 2022. Sand winning is another human activity causing the loss of farmlands within the Municipality. It has also been observed that returns from lease of lands to private and estate developers are generally higher than for agricultural purposes hence, the preference of landowners to lease out lands for purposes other than agriculture. This development has consequently led to reduction in agricultural productivity and decreased income for farmers. A decrease in farmland size can also lead to reduced employment opportunities in the agricultural sector, potentially increasing unemployment rates and lose of livelihood, especially among rural youth.

This therefore has necessitated the need to change agricultural methods to suit urban and peri urban settings. The agriculture department is promoting home/backyard and container gardening of horticulture crops especially vegetables, whiles areas with arable lands continue to produce roots, tubers, and cereals. The department also continues to provide extension services and training to farmers to promote good practices, improve productivity and add value to their products. Also, to ensure that food consumed by the public is wholesome; regular inspections are carried out at the various markets and the

abattoir as well. Fora are also held to link farmers, marketers and processors to help promote and sustain the food value chain.

FIGURE 15: PROPORTION OF AGRICULTURAL AREA TO TOTAL LAND AREA, 2018 - 2023



Source: Municipal Agriculture Department, 2024

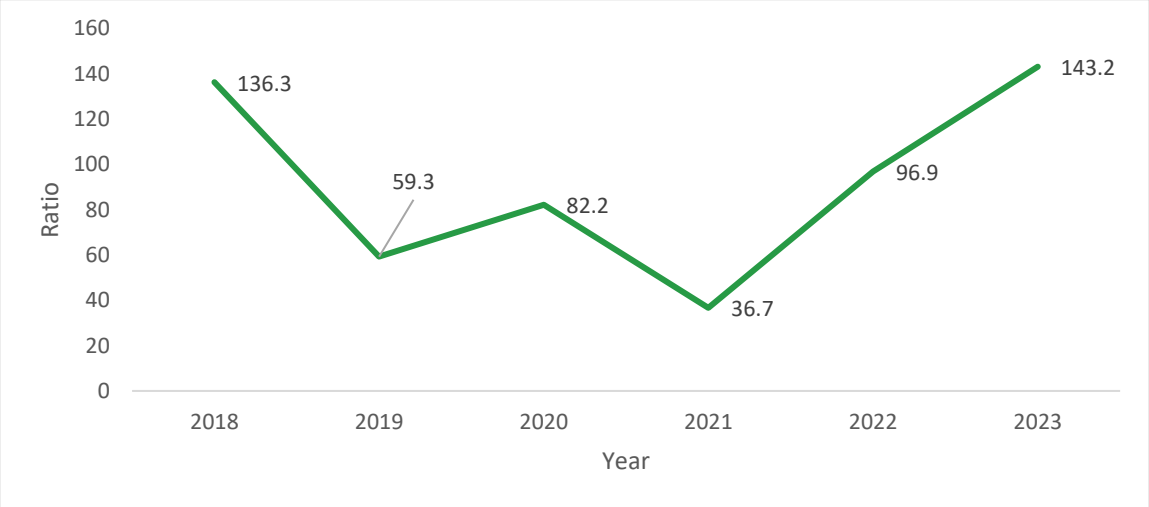
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	A63 Goal 3: Healthy and well-nourished citizens

Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio (MMR)

Maternal mortality has fluctuated in the district over the years. The municipal recorded 136.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018 which dipped to 36.7 in 2021 and then increased to 143.2 in 2023. This trend can be attributed to delays in seeking antenatal care which results in missed opportunities for early detection and management of pregnancy-related complications. Delay in seeking healthcare is also a contributing factor as some women feel reluctant to seek early medical care when pregnant due to financial constraints, religious beliefs, etc and only seek for medical care when their conditions have worsened. Delay in the provision of adequate care at a health facility, timely and appropriate care is crucial to preventing maternal deaths. The health department is expanding access to health care through the

Community -based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) implementation and lobbying for more critical staff to augment the few available ones.

FIGURE 16: INSTITUTIONAL MATERNAL MORTALITY PER 100,000, 2018 - 2023



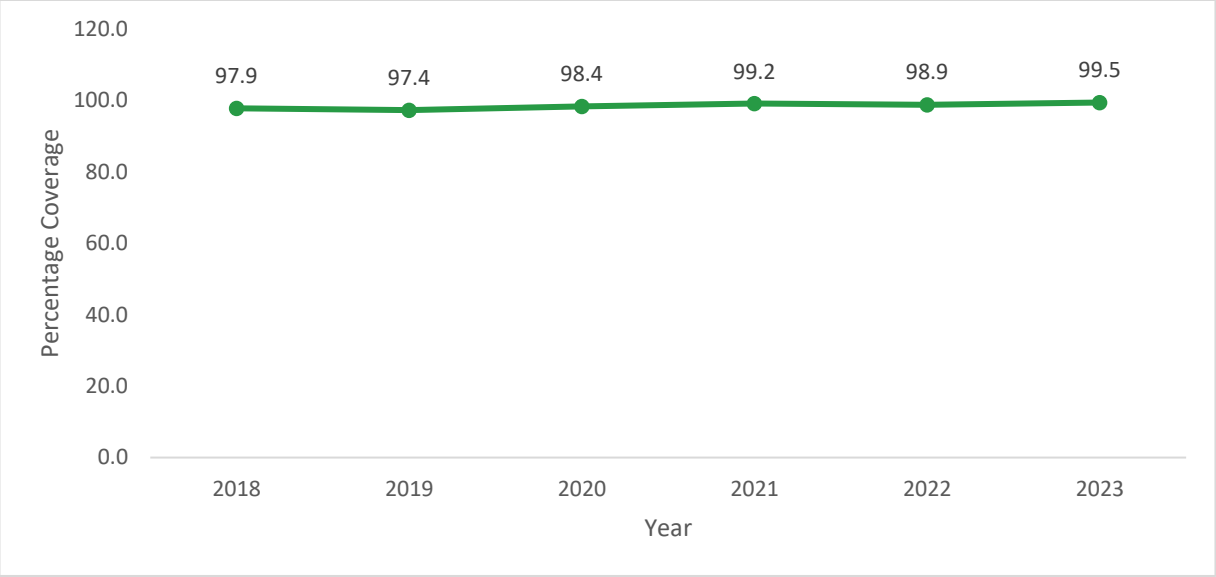
Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Proportion of skilled deliveries showed a gradual increase, indicating ongoing improvements in healthcare access and quality as shown in ~~Figure 147~~. The municipality has consistently performed above 95 percent as a result of sustained efforts in maternal health programs and expansion of Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS). The performance also highlights the effectiveness of healthcare policies, infrastructure improvements, and targeted interventions in promoting maternal health. To sustain and further improve these rates, it is essential to continue addressing barriers to healthcare access, enhancing the quality of maternal health services, and maintaining robust health education and community engagement efforts.

There are community sensitisations that are organised periodically to ensure that the masses are educated on the need for pregnant mothers to attend antenatal clinics, there is a constant presence of at least one skilled worker on duty always. There has also been an improvement in the infrastructure base of health provision.

FIGURE17: PROPORTION OF BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL, 2018 - 2023



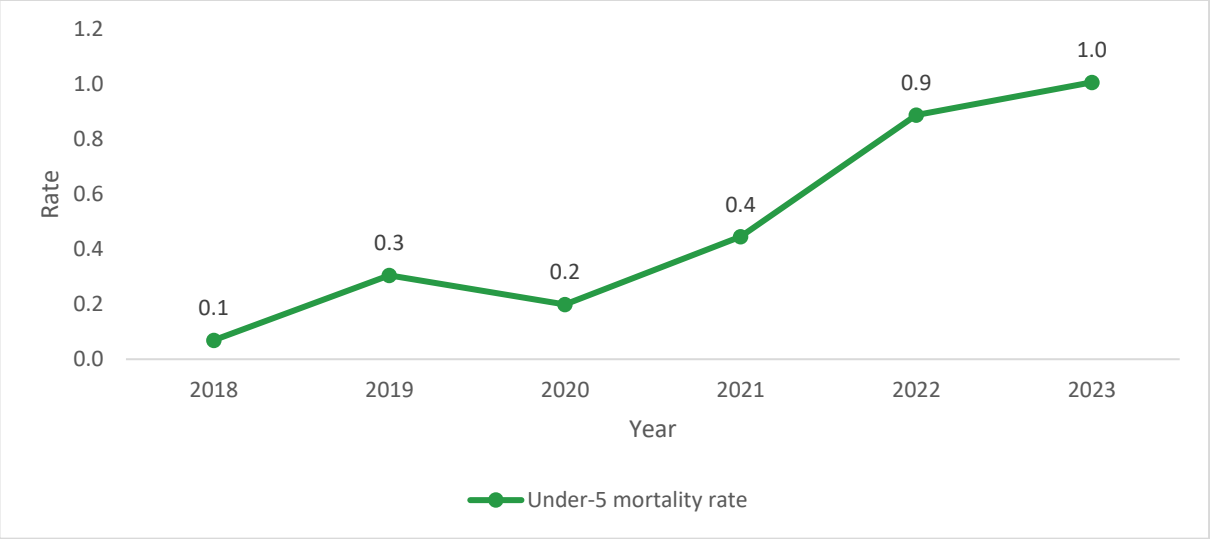
Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 3.2.1: Under-5 mortality rate

The rates for under 5 mortalities within the Municipality has continuously been increasing since 2018, from 0.1 deaths per 1000 live births to 0.4 per 1000 live births in 2021 then to 1.0 deaths per 1000 live births in 2023 (see Figure 18). This could be attributed to the reluctance in assessing public health facilities due to long waiting periods at the centres, illiteracy, and unwillingness on the part of mothers to access child welfare clinics resulting in uncomplete immunization schedules.

A lot of outreach points are being created (from 45 in 2019 to 60 in 2023) to enhance access to health care services, routine vaccination sessions have also been made available in the communities. There is also a lot of awareness creation on the essence of vaccinations and an introduction of weekend vaccination sessions being piloted at the Municipal hospital.

FIGURE 18: UNDER FIVE MORTALITY, 2018 - 2023

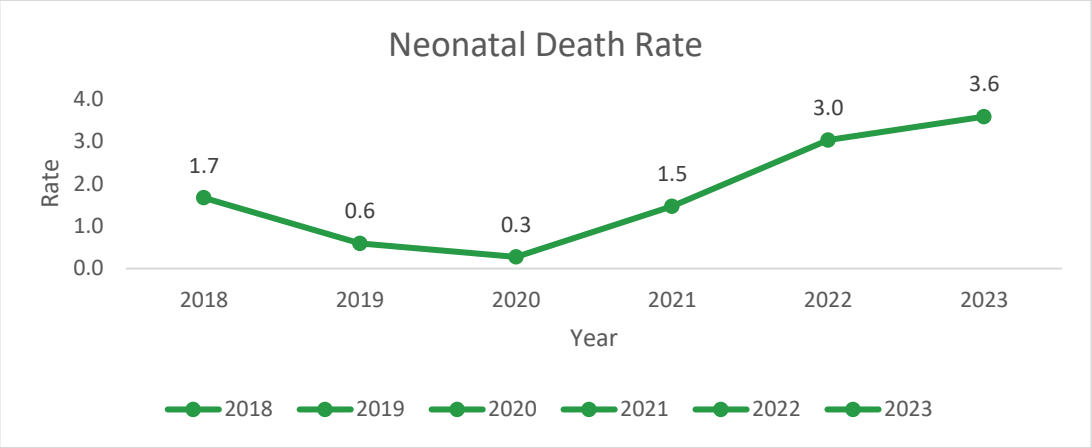


Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate

Neonates are infants less than 28 days old. Neonatal deaths in the Municipality were 1.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018 which reduced to 1.5 in 2021 then rose to 3.0 and finally 3.6 in 2023. This trend is characterized by Insufficient Neonatal Care Facilities, inadequate specialized neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) and neonatal care facilities in hospitals, low birth weights as a result of pregnant mothers defaulting in their routine medications, malnutrition, birth complications, delays in accessing the health facilities, inadequate health care providers and increased cases of congenital anomalies that may not be detected or managed adequately. (Figure 19)

FIGURE 19: NEONATAL DEATH RATE, 2018-2023



Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

A lot of awareness drives are on-going, where the masses are educated on the importance of ante natal care services, improved maternal nutrition through community programmes and interventions, and enhancing data collection and reporting practices to ensure accurate tracking of neonatal deaths and ensuring that pregnant women take their routine medication at Direct Observed Therapy (DOT). The Assembly is currently adding on to the available health care infrastructure by converting and rehabilitating a residential facility into a clinic in the Mayera community.

Indicator 3.3.1L: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 population, by sex, age and key populations

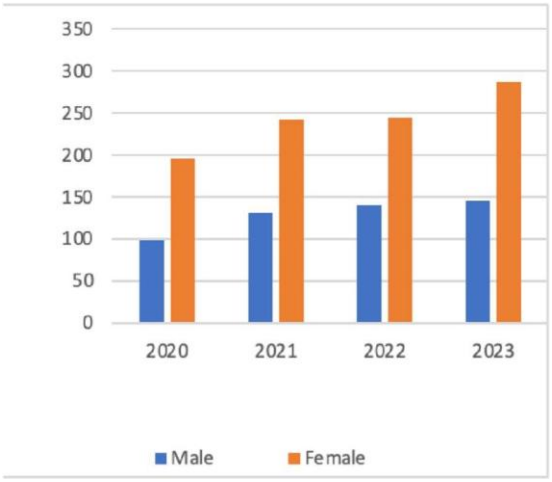
HIV prevalence rate in the Ga West Municipality decreased from 0.5 per 1000 population in 2022 to 0.47 per 1000 population in 2023. A higher number of females (16) than males (5) between 0 – 14 years were infected in 2023. Likewise, more females 15 years and older were infected with HIV in 2023 than males. Generally, there has been a slight decrease in new HIV infections within the municipality (see Figures 20 and 21).

The new HIV cases in the Municipality are due to the influx of people into the Municipality for various reasons such as commercial and residential. The location of the Municipality also makes it a convenient place for adjoining areas that do not have the needed health resources. Referrals made from adjoining Municipalities such as the Ga North Municipality also shore up the numbers in the Municipality. As part of measures to reduce new infections and manage the disease, the Municipality is implementing the "Know Your Status" drives at the various health facility service points i.e. Antenatal Clinics (ANC), Child Welfare Clinics (CWC), and Outpatient Departments (OPDs). Additionally, the Family Planning service units have been critical to ensuring the welfare of HIV patients and reducing their spread in the municipalities.

FIGURE 20 NEW HIV INFECTIONS BY SEX FOR 0-14 YEARS 2020-2023

Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

FIGURE 21: NEW HIV INFECTIONS BY SEX, 2020-2023

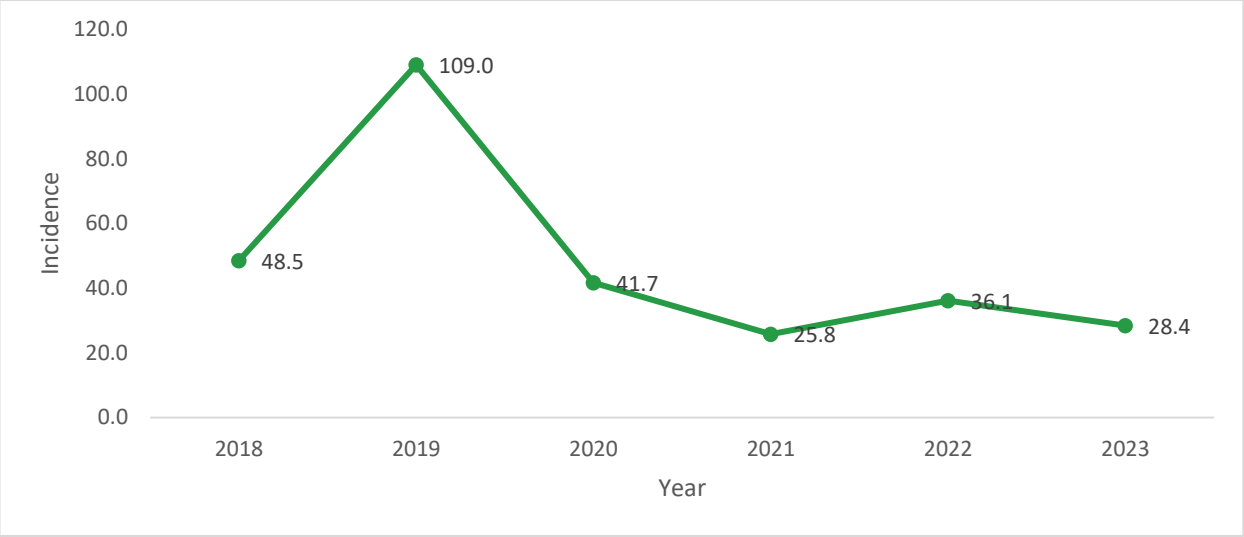


Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 3.3.2: Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

There has been a decline in Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population from 41.7 per 100,000 in 2020 to 28.4 in 2023 (Figure 22). This was because of comprehensive education and awareness campaigns of the public about TB transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures. The Municipality strengthened TB case detection efforts through active case finding, screening programs, and routine TB testing in healthcare facilities. Additionally, integrated TB screening, diagnosis, and treatment services with HIV testing and treatment programs to address the dual burden of TB-HIV co-infection were implemented.

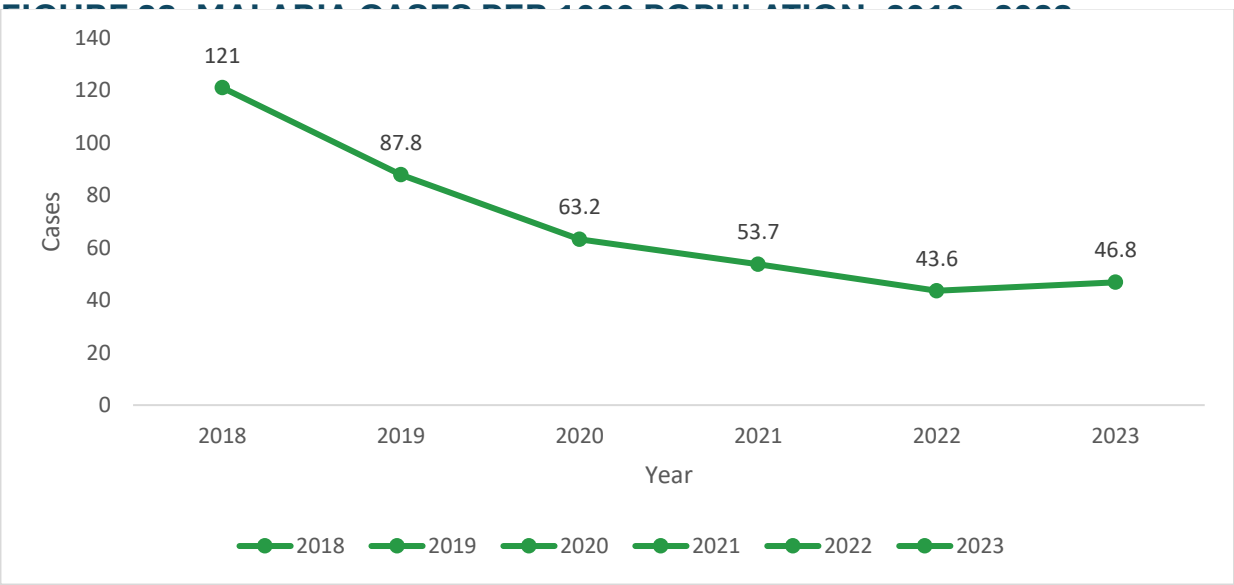
FIGURE 22: TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2018 - 2024



Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 3.3.3: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

Malaria incidence in the municipality has seen a steady decline as shown FIGURE . This decline can be associated with the frequent spraying of mosquito larvae, increased usage of Improved Treated mosquito Nets (ITN), improved treatment and detection protocols where all patients' showings signs of malaria are tested before treatment and tracked as a follow up. Malaria cases per 1000 population reduced from 53.7 in 2021 to 43.6 in 2022 but increased slightly to 46.8 in 2023. Currently, there are interventions such as the free distribution of ITNs, spraying of mosquito breeding sites, sensitization on behavioral change, etc.



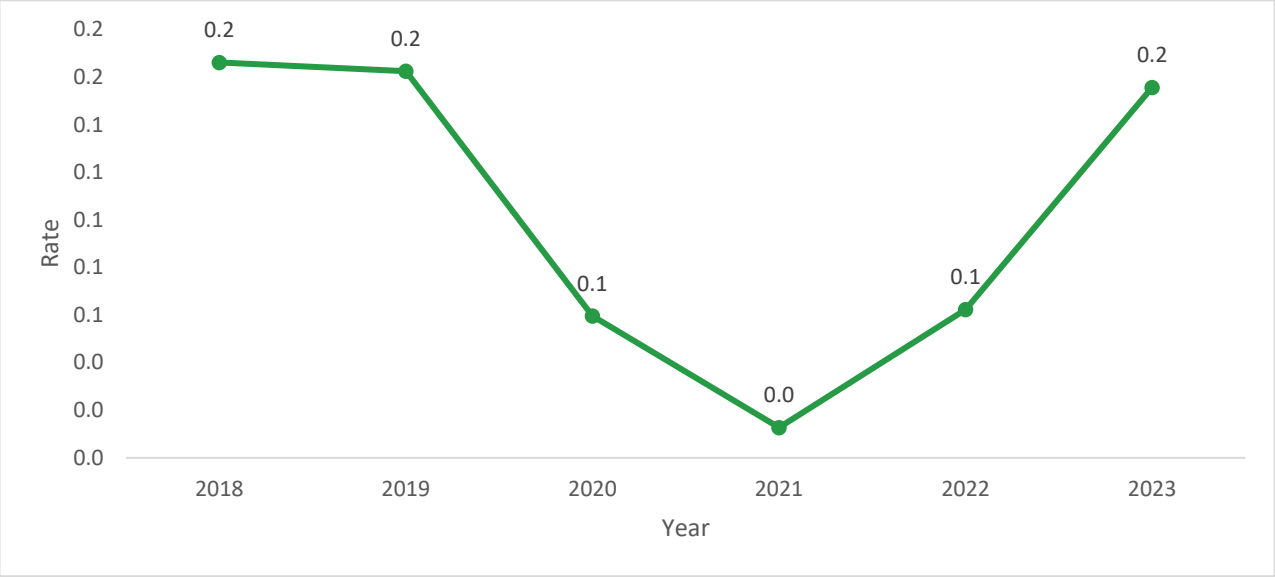
Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 3.3.4: Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population

The incidence of Hepatitis B per 100,000 population decreased from 0.2 in 2019 to 0.1 in 2020 (Figure 24) which was because of increase in vaccination coverages and implementing strict infection control measures in healthcare facilities, including proper sterilization of medical equipment, adherence to standard precautions, and training of healthcare workers on safe injection practices, to prevent healthcare-associated hepatitis infections.

The municipality is seeing a rise in the cases from 2022 and 2023. Its engaging communities, civil society organizations, and key stakeholders in advocacy efforts, awareness campaigns, and community-based initiatives which can raise awareness about hepatitis, reduce stigma, and mobilize support for prevention and control efforts.

FIGURE 24: INCIDENCE OF HEPATITIS CASES, 2018 - 2023

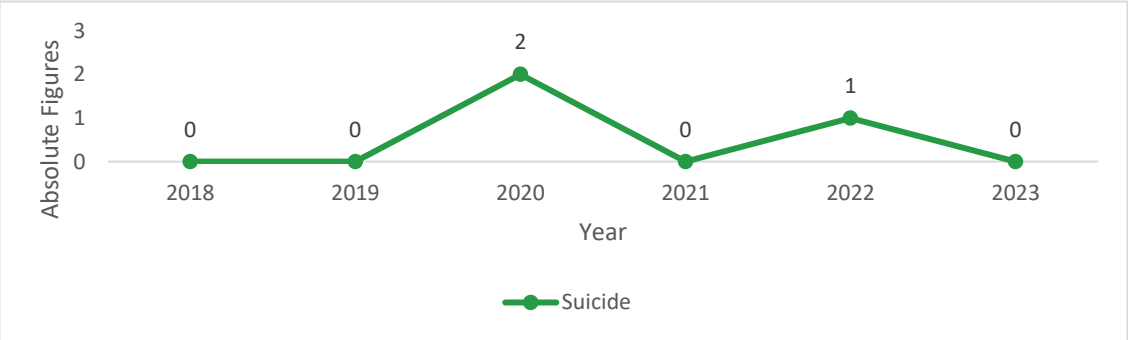


Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

Indicator 3.4.2: Suicide mortality rate

The Municipality recorded a total of 3 suicide cases from 2020 to 2022. The low suicide rate can be attributed to the increased mental health awareness programmes carried out periodically in the Municipality (see figure 25).

FIGURE 25: SUICIDE MORTALITY RATE, 2018-2023



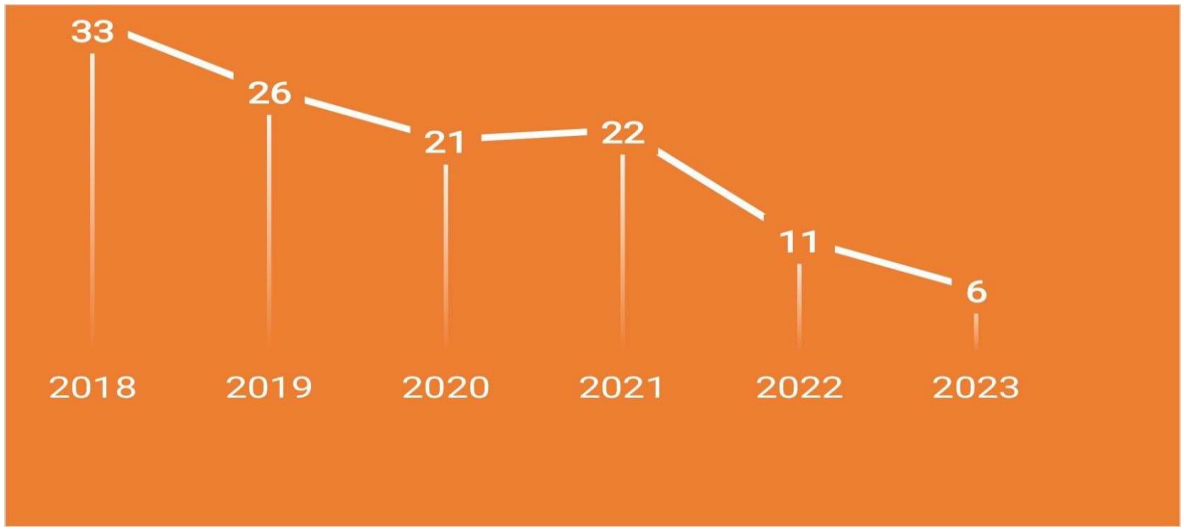
Source: Ghana Police Service, 2024

Indicator 3.6.1L: Death due to road traffic injuries.

Deaths due to road traffic injuries has shown a consistent and significant decrease over the years. Death rates due to road injuries declined by 17 percentage points from 33 deaths in 2018 to 6 deaths in 2023.

This decreasing trend is associated with the effective and successful implementation of road safety measures and education. Currently, several road improvement works are ongoing in the Municipality.

FIGURE 26: DEATHS DUE TO ROAD



Source: Ghana Police Service (MTTD), 2024

4 QUALITY EDUCATION	SDG 4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	A63 Goal 2: Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation A63 Goal 18: Engaged and empowered youth and children

Indicator4.1.1: Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

According to the 2021 PHC, 85.6 percent of the population 6 years and older within the Ga West Municipality are literates. Basic Education Certificate Examination (B.E.C.E) pass rates in Mathematics

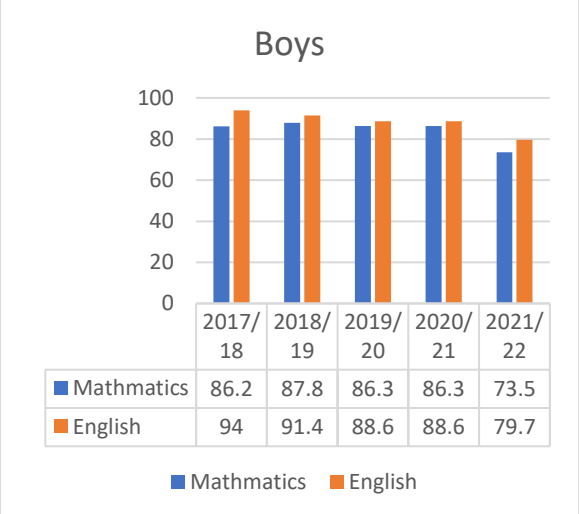
and English, a measure of proficiency at basic school level, shows a declining trend in literacy performance over the years, with literacy rates dropping from 94.0 percent in 2018 to 79.7 percent in 2022 for both males and females (Figure 27s). This downward trajectory indicates potential challenges or setbacks in achieving and maintaining literacy levels within the population.

The declining literacy rates underscore the importance of addressing literacy challenges and implementing effective strategies to improve literacy outcomes. There is continuous monitoring of literacy rates and regular assessments to track progress, identify areas for improvement, and evaluate the effectiveness of literacy initiatives such as reading clinics, and the Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) strategy.

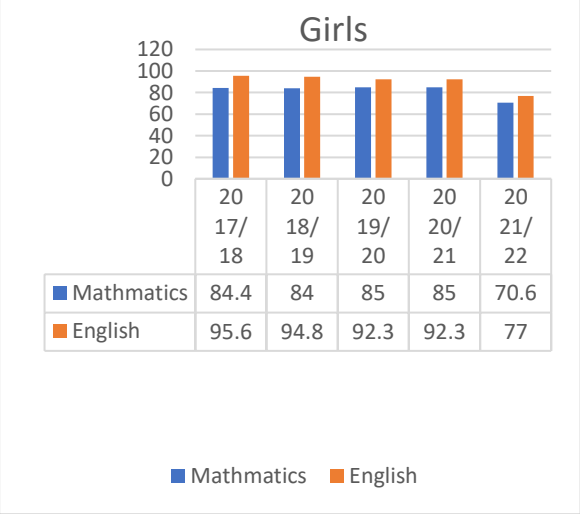
Numeracy performance for boys declined from 86.3 percent in 2020/2021 academic year to 73.5 percent in 2021/2022. Similarly, mathematics pass rate for girls decreased from 85 percent in 2020/2021 academic year to 70.6 percent in 2021/2022 academic year. Generally, boys outperform girls in Mathematics while girls outperform boys in English.

The general decline in B.E.C.E pass rate calls for proactive measures to address underlying issues and ensure sustained improvement in numeracy education. There is an effort to implement targeted intervention programs for students identified as struggling in numeracy. This includes additional tutoring, small group instruction, personalized learning plans, and access to remedial resources to address individual learning gaps and support student progress. There is also the provision of targeted professional development opportunities for teachers to enhance their pedagogical skills in teaching numeracy effectively. This includes workshops, seminars, peer learning sessions, and access to instructional resources and best practices in numeracy education.

FIGURE 27: B.E.C.E PASS RATE FOR MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH, BOYS AND GIRLS (%), 2017/18-2021/22



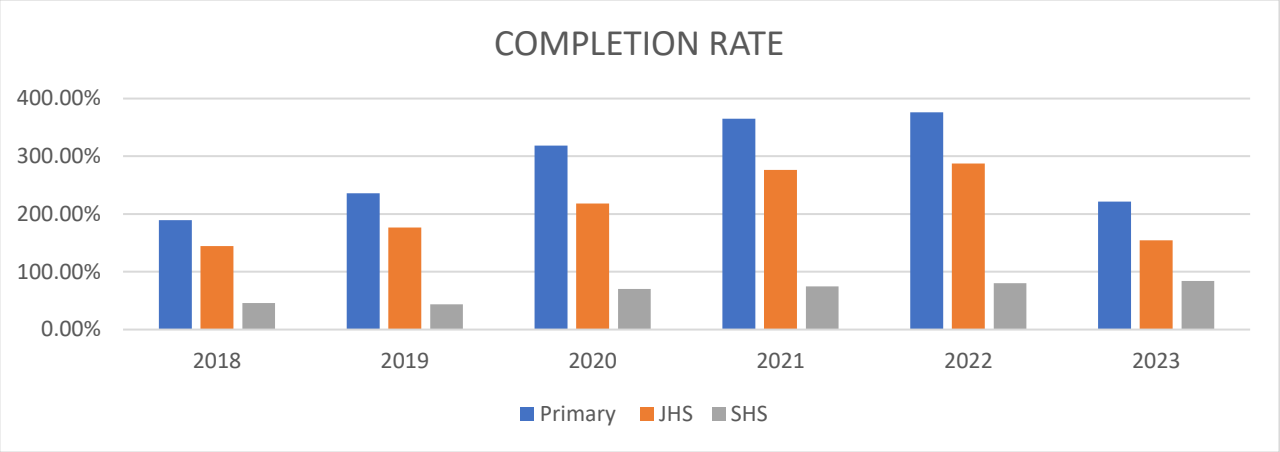
Source: EMIS/DISTRICT EDU. OFFICE, 2024



Source: EMIS/DISTRICT EDU. OFFICE, 2024

Indicator 4.1.2: Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

All children within the Municipality complete Primary and Junior High School. The data reflects Completion rates exceeding 100 percent for Primary and Junior High Schools. This could indicate factors such as students repeating grades, accelerated completion of primary and junior high education, or an influx of learners transferring into the primary school system.



Source: EMIS/DISTRICT EDU. OFFICE, 2024

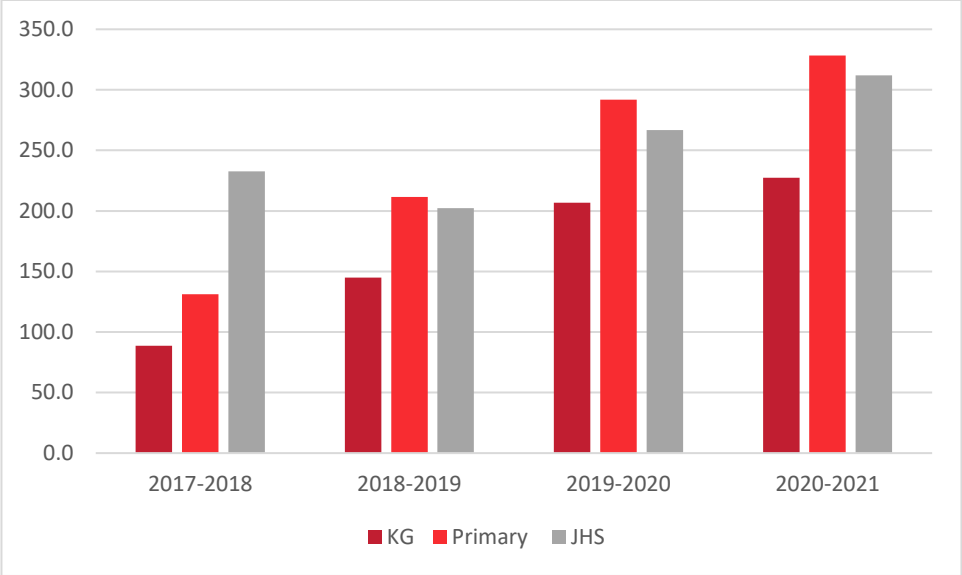
The completion rates show a consistent upward trend from 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 academic years, indicating an improvement in the percentage of students completing Senior High School over the years. The progression from 45.9 percent in 2018 to 84.2 percent in 2023 suggests positive developments in the senior high school education system.

Indicator 4.2.2L: Gross Enrollment for Kindergarten, Primary, and JHS

Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) for kindergarten has increased consistently from 2017-2018 academic year. It increased from 88.6 percent in 2017/2018 academic year to 144.9 percent in the 2018/2019 academic year. It further increased to 206.7 percent in the 2019/2020 academic year and then to 227.3 percent in the 2020/2021 academic year.

In primary, GER increased to 328.3 percent in 2020/2021 academic year from 292.0 percent in the 2019/2020 academic year. GER also increased for JHS from 266.7 percent in 2019/2020 academic year to 312 in the 2020/2021 academic year. (See Figure 29)

FIGURE 29: GROSS ENROLMENT FOR KG, 2018-2023

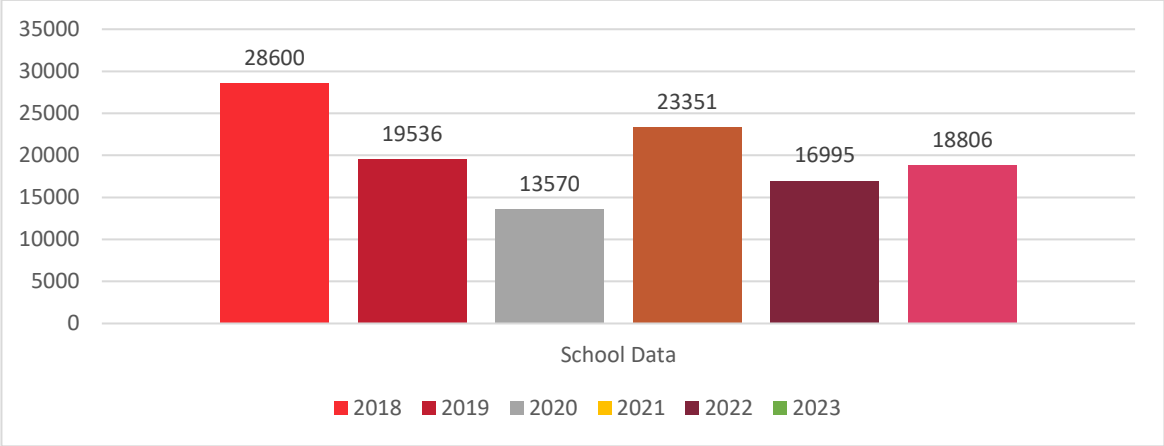


Source: EMIS/DISTRICT EDU. OFFICE, 2024

Indicator 4.4.1L: Number of Youths in school (JHS and SHS) with information and communication technology skills

The number of students in high school who have ICT skills has fluctuated over the years. Students in High School with ICT skills increased from 23,351 in the 2020/2021 academic year to 16,995 in the 2021/2022 academic year. In 2022/2023 academic year, the number increased to 18,806 students. This increase is as a result of ICT course as part of the educational curriculum (Figure 30)

FIGURE30: YOUTH IN SCHOOL WITH ICT SKILLS, 2017/2018-2022/2023

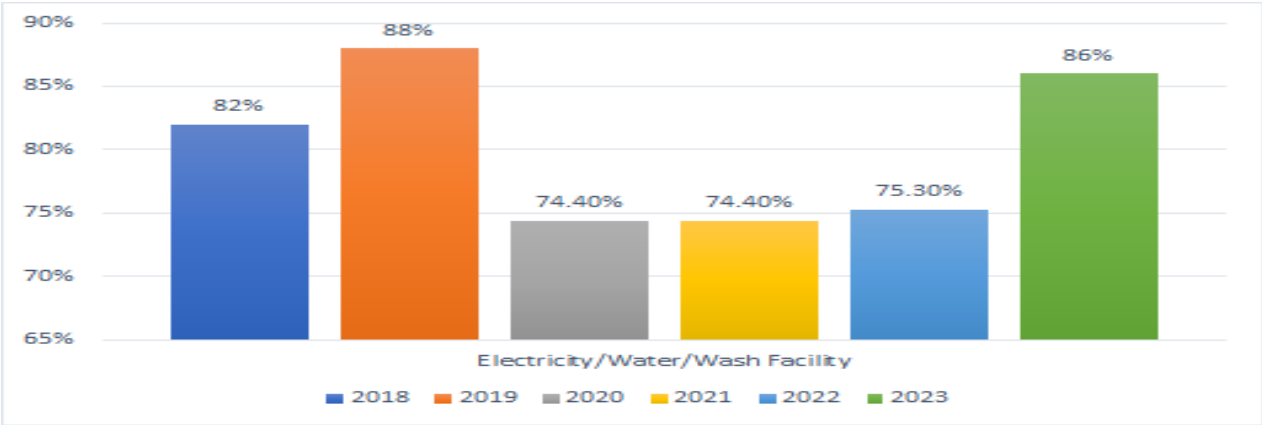


Source: EMIS/DISTRICT EDU. OFFICE, 2024

Indicator 4.a.1: Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service

The proportion of schools providing essential services such as electricity, water and WASH facilities in the Municipality showed some improvements. In 2017/2018 academic year, 82 percent of schools surveyed were equipped with these essential services, reflecting substantial coverage. In 2018/2019, there was an improvement to 88 percent of schools offering these critical amenities, but the coverage decreased sharply to 74.4 percent in 2020. The same percentage was maintained in 2021, suggesting a plateau or sustained challenges in infrastructure development. However, in 2022, there was a slight increase to 75.30%. The trend continued upwards in 2023, with 86 percent of schools now equipped with electricity, water, and WASH facilities, signifying significant progress compared to the preceding years. (Figure 31)

FIGURE 31: SCHOOLS OFFERING BASIC SERVICES, 2018/2019-2022/2023



Source: EMIS/DISTRICT EDU. OFFICE, 2024

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	A63 Goal 18: Engaged and empowered youth and children.

Indicator 5.5.1L: Seats held by women in local government

The district-level election organized in 2019 saw the election of two (2) women and fifteen (15) men as assembly members for the seventeen (17) seats within the municipality. Out of the twenty five (25) membership of the General Assembly three (3) were women (two (2) elected and one (1) government appointee) whiles the remaining twenty two (22) were men.

Currently, the General Assembly has a total membership of twenty-five (25) consisting of four (4) females (three (3) government appointees and one (1) elected Assembly member) and twenty two (22) men. The Unit Committee is also made up of eighty five (85) members consisting of 12 women and seventy three (73) men. This indicates that there is low participation of women in decision making at the local level.

This mainly due to religious and traditional patriarchal perceptions which does not encourage women to take part in the decision making. There have been efforts such as sensitization on women empowerment and inclusion of women in decision-making at the local level all intended to awaken the interest of women.

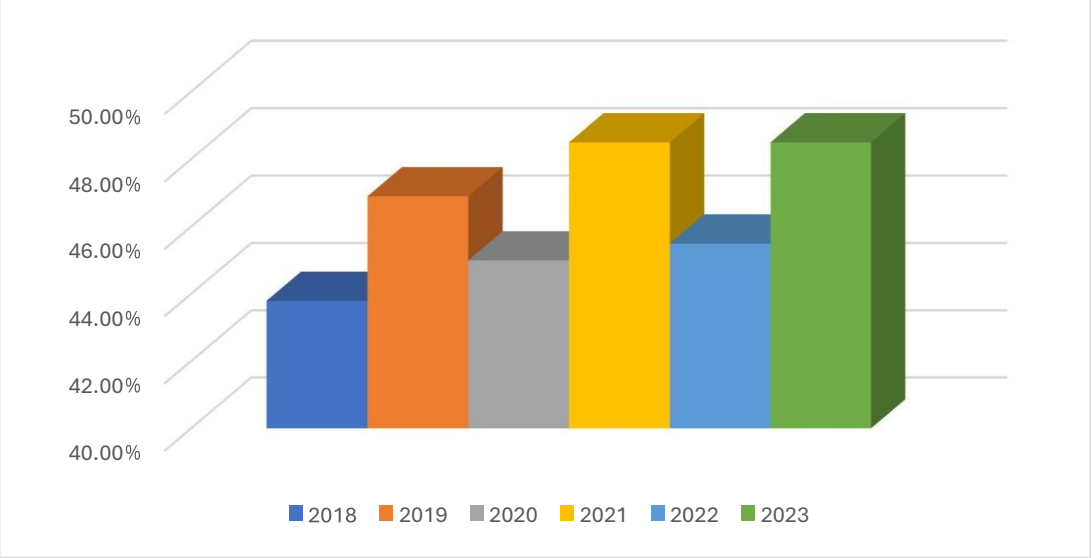
Women and Youth Grant Programme

Indicator 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions

In 2018 and 2019, there were 32 agencies, departments and units within the Ga West Municipal Assembly, 43.8% of heads were females in 2018, which increased to 46.9% in 2019, indicating that more men were in managerial positions than women. However, from 2020 till date the total number of agencies, departments and units have increased to 33. The proportion of heads of departments who are

female decreased to 45% in 2020 then further increased to 48.5% in 2021 but there was a dip to 45.5% in 2022. As at 2023 the percentage increased to 48.5% indicates efforts to promote gender equality are effective (Fig. 32). The Assembly has no control over the composition of staff at any point in time since it is managed centrally by the various head offices of these agencies, departments and units.

FIGURE 32: PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN MANAGERIAL POSITIONS, 2018 -2023



Source: MPCU, 2024

Indicator 5.c.1: Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

The Social Welfare and Community Department of Ga West Municipal Assembly ensures equal access to social services for men and women, provides support and protection to vulnerable groups, including women and children, addresses gender-based violence and exploitation and promotes gender-sensitive policies and programs.

-DOVVSU (Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit) also Investigates and prosecutes cases of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking, provides support and protection to female victims of violence, conducts sensitization programs to prevent gender-based violence and collaborates with other agencies to promote gender equality

Ghana Police Service by their function, enforces laws related to gender-based violence and discrimination, provides training on gender sensitivity and human rights, ensures equal treatment of men and women in policing practices and collaborates with DOVVSU and other agencies to address gender-based violence

The Legal Aid within the Municipality also provides free or affordable legal assistance to women and marginalized groups, promotes access to justice and equality before the law, supports litigation on gender-based discrimination cases and conducts public education on gender equality and human rights

The NIB (National Intelligence Bureau) in addition, monitors and addresses human trafficking and exploitation, investigates and prosecutes cases of gender-based violence and discrimination, provides intelligence on potential threats to national security related to gender-based violence and collaborates with other agencies to promote gender equality and security.

These Departments share the following roles:

1. Data collection and analysis on gender-based violence and discrimination
2. Public education and awareness campaigns on gender equality
3. Capacity building and training for staff on gender sensitivity
4. Collaboration with civil society organizations to promote gender equality 5. Policy advocacy to address gender-based discrimination

Listed below are some Key Laws and Policies backing the operations of these departments and agencies

1. Ghana's Constitution (1992) - Article 17 (equality before the law)
2. Domestic Violence Act (2007)
3. Human Trafficking Act (2005)
4. Women's Manifesto for Ghana (2016)
5. National Gender Policy (2015)

These organizations/Departments play critical roles in promoting and monitoring equality and non-discrimination based on sex within the Ga West Municipality. Their collaborative efforts help ensure that women and marginalized groups have access to justice, protection, and equal opportunities.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	A63 Goal 6: Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

Ga West has made significant strides in providing access to safely managed drinking water services to its population. Almost all communities in the Municipality have access to safe drinking water, courtesy of Ghana Water Company Limited which supplies water to urban areas and Community Water and Sanitation Agency which oversees potable water supply to the rural areas. The municipality has also

benefitted from small town water systems provided by donors. This has led to a remarkable proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services, with a coverage rate of 98.5 percent (GSS, 2024).

Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

The proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services improved from 44 percent in 2018 to 58 percent in 2023. The growth rate has been positive, with an average annual increase of 2.5 percentage points. This increasing trend suggests a successful implementation of sanitation initiatives in the Municipality. This achievement can be attributed to regular sensitization exercises on proper hygiene, cleanliness, and enforcement of the Assembly's byelaws by the Assembly. Based on this trend, it is likely that the proportion will continue to increase, potentially reaching 60-65% by 2025, indicating steady progress towards achieving sustainable development goals.

Enhancing sanitation facilities in public schools

Cleanup exercise at the CBDs

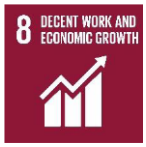
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	A63 Goal 6: Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth

Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity

According to the 2021PHC, 96.21 percent of the total population of Ga West has access to electricity. This indicates that majority of the population have access to the national grid, and the assembly's efforts to increase access has been focused on the remaining marginalized or hard-to-reach areas. The existing electricity infrastructure and supply are meeting the demands of the population. In 2023, the Electricity Company of Ghana installed ViT to help improve supply and reliability. However, the issue of power theft continues to affect the provision of quality services.

Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

According to 2010 PHC, 52.7% of the population had access to clean fuels and technologies but has currently increased to 70.7% as at 2021. This indicates that more than half of the people residing in the Municipality rely on LPG and electricity for cooking as well as accessing technology. Key constraints to the use of LPG include perceived risk of using LPG in homes; high cost of LPG cookers; and high discrete costs associated with LPG as compared to charcoal (even though charcoal is more expensive on an energy basis. Despite, more sensitization and education programs will be organize to educate the public in order to increase the usage of clean fuels.



SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	A63 Goal 1: A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens

Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

According to the 2021 PHC, 12.5 percent of the population 15 years and older within the Ga West Municipality were unemployed. A higher percentage of the population in the rural area (13.7%) were unemployed compared to the urban area (12.0%). Likewise, a higher percentage of females (14.7%) within

the district were unemployed than males (10.7%). Recent developments in addressing unemployment include initiatives like the Job Connects App training program for artisans in Ga West, organized by Business Advisory Centre and the Youth Employment Agency (YEA). This program aims to empower youth to create their own employment opportunities.

Indicator 8.10.1: (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

Commercial bank branches per 100,000 increased from 1.91 in 2022 to 2.23 per 100,000 population in 2023. Likewise, ATMs per 100,000 increased from 0.64 in 2022 to 0.95 in 2023. There is the need to increase the number of ATMs in the Ga West Municipality which will ensure an improvement in the access to banking services and financial inclusion.

FIGURE 11: NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL BANK BRANCHES PER 100,000

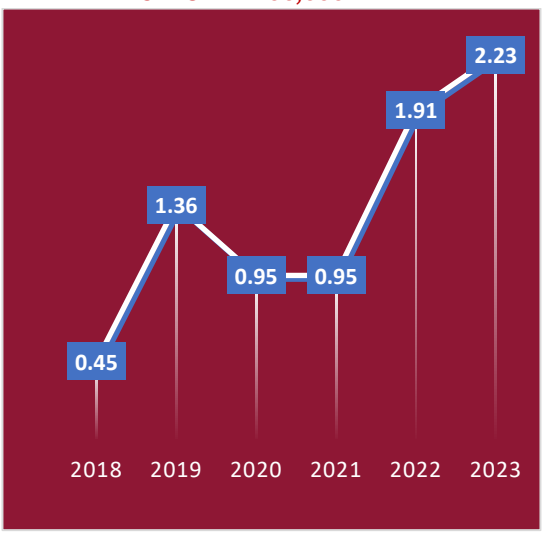
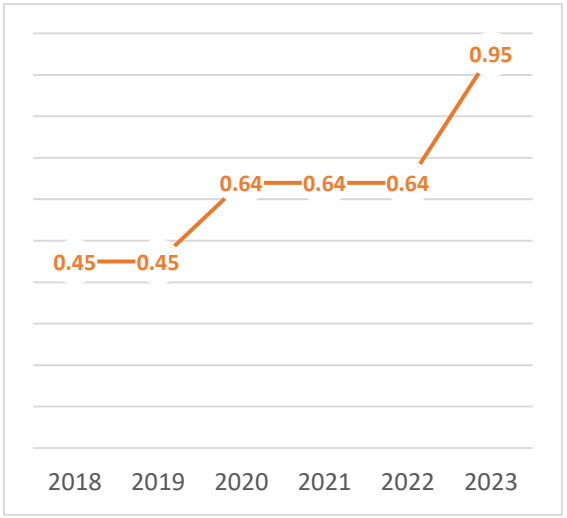


FIGURE 34: NUMBER OF AUTOMATED TELLER



Source: Municipal MIS office, 2024

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	A63 Goal 4: Transformed economies

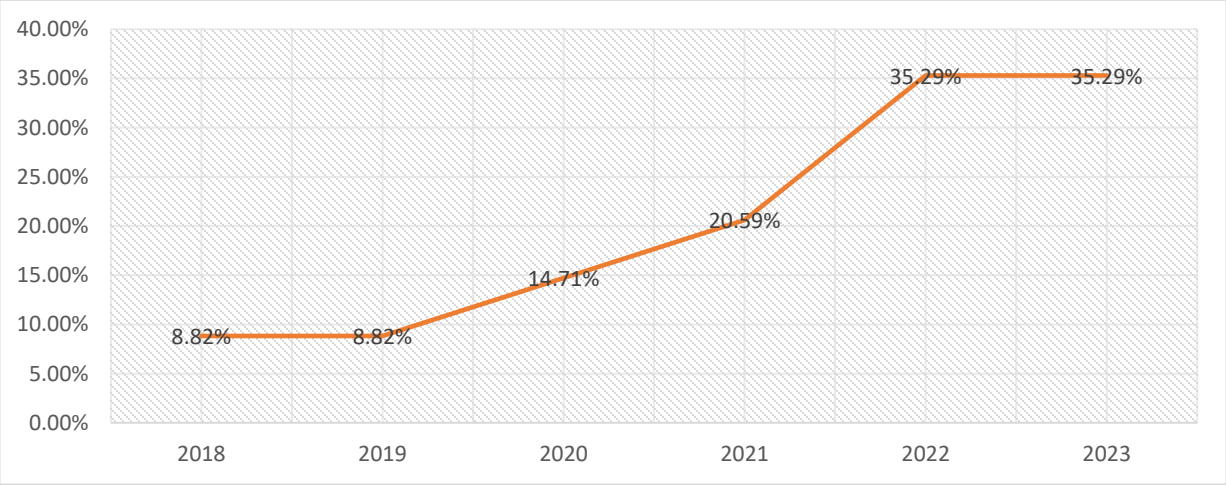
Indicator 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

According to the 2021 PHC, the proportion of manufacturing employment over total employment within the municipality stood at 8.96 percent (GSS 2021). One of the objectives of the municipal assembly is to advance sustainable and inclusive industrialization and increase the industry's contribution to GDP and employment by a substantial margin by 2030. Currently, manufacturing contributes around 11.23% to Ghana's GDP, based on 2023 data from the World Bank. This percentage represents the value added by the manufacturing sector to the country's overall economy. To achieve the objective of Ga West by increasing the industry's contribution to GDP and employment by 2030, the municipal assembly may focus on initiatives such as promoting industrialization, supporting local industries, investing in infrastructure and skills development

Indicator 9.3.2: Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit

The proportion of small-scale industries that have a loan or line of credit increased gradually from 8.82 percent in 2018 to 35.29 percent in 2023. This implies that credit is becoming more accessible to small businesses. There is also an indication that the proportion of small-scale industries that have a loan or line of credit is likely to continue growing in the next years, perhaps reaching 40–50 percent or higher. The Business Advisory Center in collaboration with GEA have over the years been providing loan facility for small scale enterprises through their various interventions.

FIGURE 35: PROPORTION OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES WITH A LOAN OR LINE OF CREDIT, 2018-2023



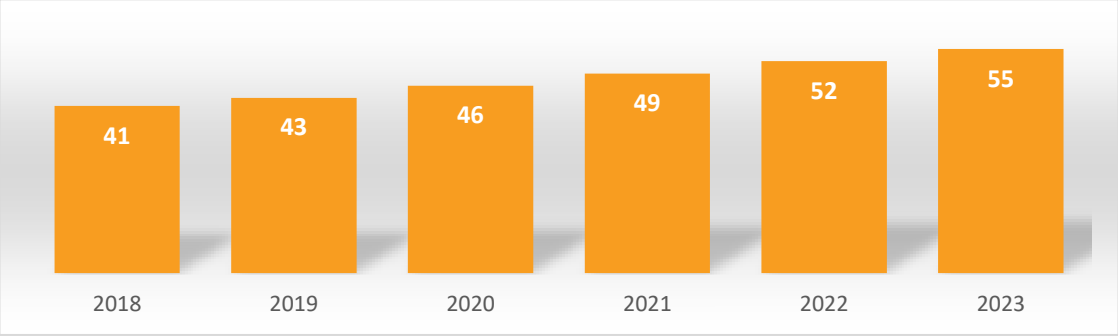
Source: Municipal Information Service, 2024

SDG 11: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	A63 Goal 1: a high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens

Indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated by cities.

The proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities has shown a consistent increase over the years with about an average of 3 percentage points per year. As of 2018, the Assembly was able to collect 41 percent of the total waste generated which has increased to 55 percent as of 2023. This slow progress can be attributed to the low capacity of waste service providers, bad road network, unwillingness to pay for waste collection services, the unavailability of assembly-owned transfer station and final disposal sites. There are also informal collectors (waste tricycle operators) who also collect solid waste from households and deposit at the Sonitra pit within the Municipality. The Assembly depends on Adepa land fill site in Nsawam and the Accra Compost Plant (ACARP) at Adjen Kotoku which makes disposal of solid waste challenging.

FIGURE 36: PROPORTION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTED AND MANAGED, 2018 - 2023



Source: Municipal Environmental Health Office 2024

That notwithstanding, a number of ongoing sensitisation programmes are in place to encourage households to sign up for door-to-door waste collection services as well as educating the public on waste segregation. There is also the need to increase the capacity of solid waste service providers to manage the various streams of waste and market linkages to add value to the various components to ensure proper waste disposal.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	A63 Goal 7: environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities

Indicator
12.4.2: (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita;

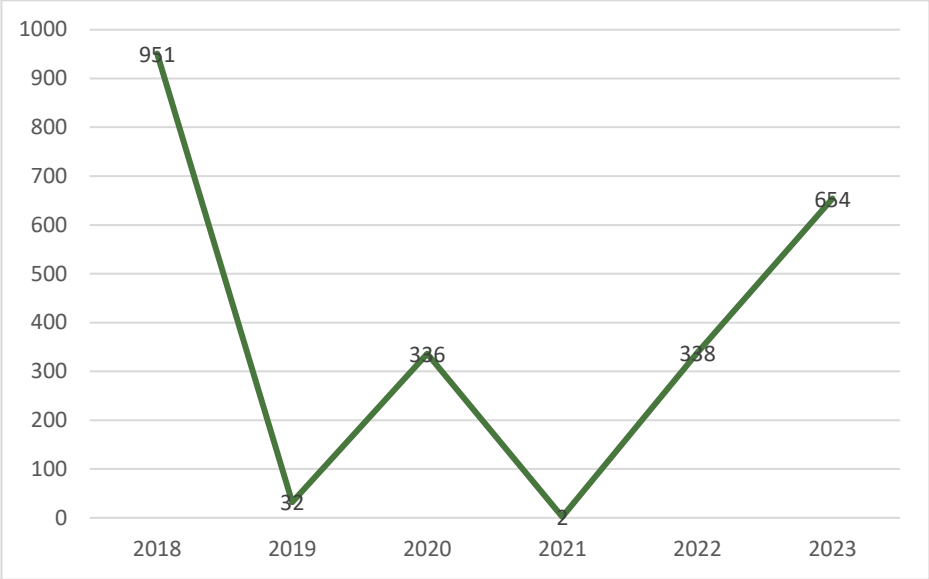
The proportion of hazardous waste treated has increased steadily from 2018 to 2023, with a significant jump from 2021 to 2022 (from 8.32% to 10.1%). The highest proportion of hazardous waste treated was achieved in 2023, at 11%. The growth rate has been increasing over the years, with the highest growth rate (10.9%) observed from 2022 to 2023. This because of stricter Assembly byelaws and regulations, advanced treatment technologies, increased Recycling etc. The enforcement of the Assembly's byelaws plays a major role in ensuring proper waste management within the Municipality.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	A63 Goal 7: environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities

Indicator 13.1.1L: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected people attributed to disasters

Currently, flooding is one of the greatest urban challenges and one of the most critical threats to the development of the municipality. In 2018, nine hundred and fifty-one (951) people were affected by floods, this reduced to thirty-two (32) in 2019 and three hundred and thirty-eight (338) in 2022 to six hundred and fifty-four (654) in 2023 (Figure 37). Relief items such as food items, mattresses, roofing sheets, clothing, etc. are sometimes given out to alleviate the plight of affected persons. To reduce or prevent disasters within the municipality, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) has embarked on periodic sensitization to educate the public on flood and climate change adaptation measures. Also, major drains within the municipality are dredged to ensure easy flow of water, especially during the wet season.

FIGURE 37: NUMBER OF DEATHS, MISSING PERSONS AND DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS ATTRIBUTED TO DISASTER



Source: National Disaster Management Organisation,2024

Indicator 13.1.3: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (Availability of a Disaster Preparedness Plan)

The Ga West Municipal Assembly Disaster Preparedness Plan was prepared in 2021 in line with the National Plan and has been incorporated into the MTDP of the Assembly. There are indications that all the activities in the plan were taken from the national strategies. Some of the strategies include carrying out sensitization programmes, undertaking tree-planting exercises, dredging of major drains etc. The Plan is reviewed yearly for effective and efficient implementation.

Dredging of exercise to reduce flooding

Indicator 13.1.3: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

As part of the municipality's contribution to the national effort of disaster risk reduction, the municipality has developed and is implementing disaster risk management strategies within its medium-term development plan 2022-2025. Some of the interventions being pursued include the following:

- Sensitization programmes on flood mitigation measures, proper waste management, fire outbreaks and climate adaption issues
- Identification and awareness creation of safe havens
- Dredging of major streams and drains within the Municipality
- Organisation of monthly clean-up exercises
- Implementation of "Operation Clean Your Frontage" programme
- Tree planting exercise (Green Ghana)

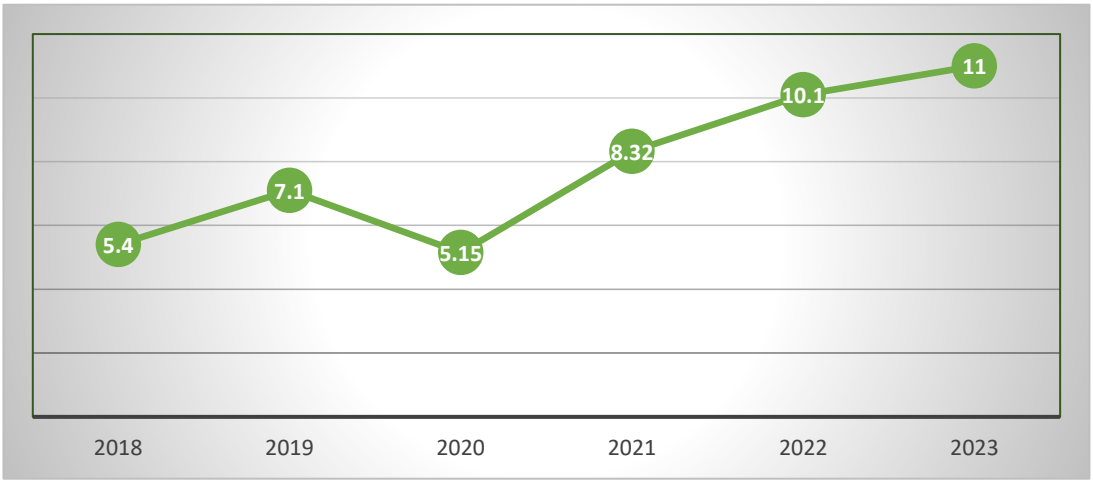
Tree Planting Exercise within The Municipal

15 LIFE ON LAND	SDG 15: protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	A63 Goal 6: blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth

Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area

In 2018, Ga West had 5.4 percent of its total land area being forest but increased to 11 percent. The increase in the proportion is not because of an improvement in the forest land size but rather as a result of a reduction in the total land size of the Municipality due to the carving out of the Ga North Municipal Assembly.

FIGURE 38: FOREST AREA AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL LAND AREA, 2018,-2023



Source: Forestry Commission 2024

The municipality lost vast acres of land under agriculture to residential uses and sand winning within some communities. Land loss due to these intense human activities are geared towards addressing the rapid urbanization needs of the Municipality such as increasing socio-economic amenities and infrastructure development. Enforcement of various laws and undertaking tree planting exercises annually to help protect the forest areas are some of the interventions being undertaken.

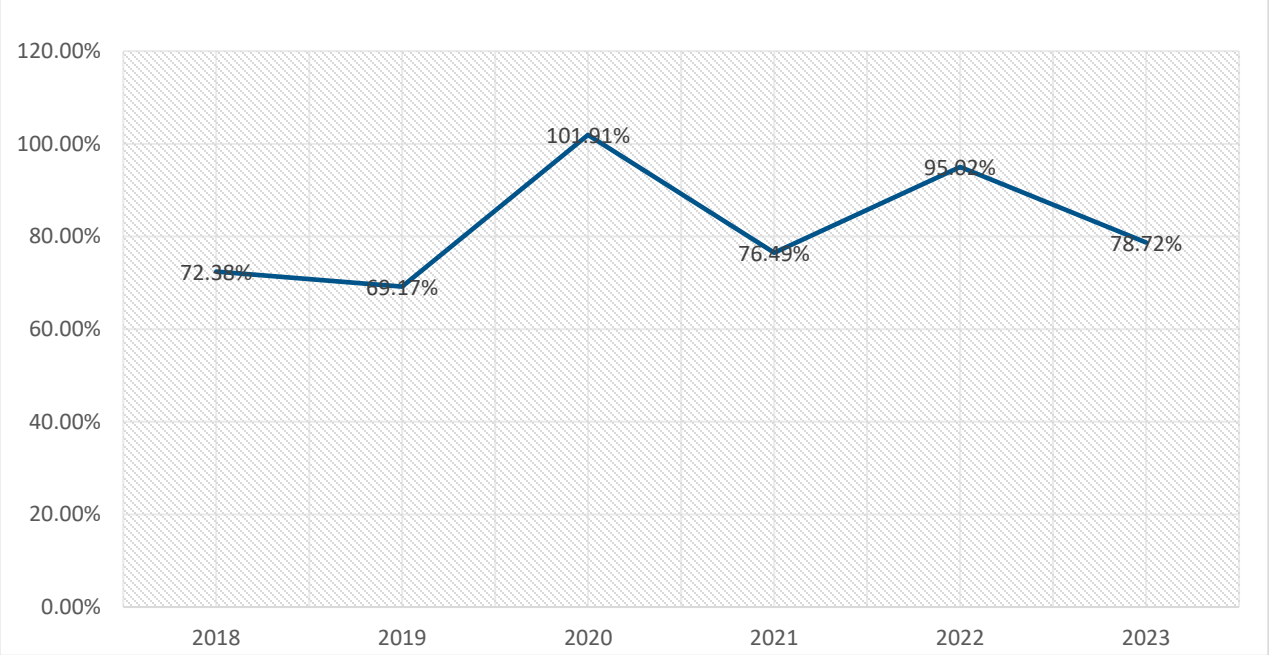
SDG 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	A63 Goal 6: blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth

Indicator 16.6.1: Primary municipal expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget

The Assembly has both internal and external sources of revenue to undertake its programmes and projects within the Municipality. The internal sources of funds make up the Assembly's Internally Generated Funds (IGF) which comprises of Rates, Licences, Land, Fees, Rent and Penalties/forfeits whiles the Grants comprises of Inter-governmental transfers including Compensation of employees (salaries), District Assembly Common Fund and other Donor funds. The Assembly however has full control over the IGF whiles inflows from grants are received as and when transfers to the Assemblies are received. The Assembly however has minimal control over the external releases or grants. This makes estimated budgets higher than inflows that are received thereby affecting the full implementation of programmes and projects budgeted to get funded under grants.

The Municipality's spending has always stayed within budget, with the exception of 2020, when it overspent its budget by 1.91 percent as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Assembly spent 72.38 percent of the allocated budget in 2018, 76.4 percent in 2022, and 78.5 percent in 2023 as shown in Figure 39. This indicates that since the COVID epidemic, there has been a notable improvement in expenditure. Revenue strategies such as engaging more revenue collectors, establishing additional payment points, constant monitoring of revenue collections, etc. were employed to help mobilise more funds.

FIGURE 39: PRIMARY MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES AS A PROPORTION OF ORIGINAL APPROVED BUDGET, 2018-2023



Source: Municipal Finance Department, 2024

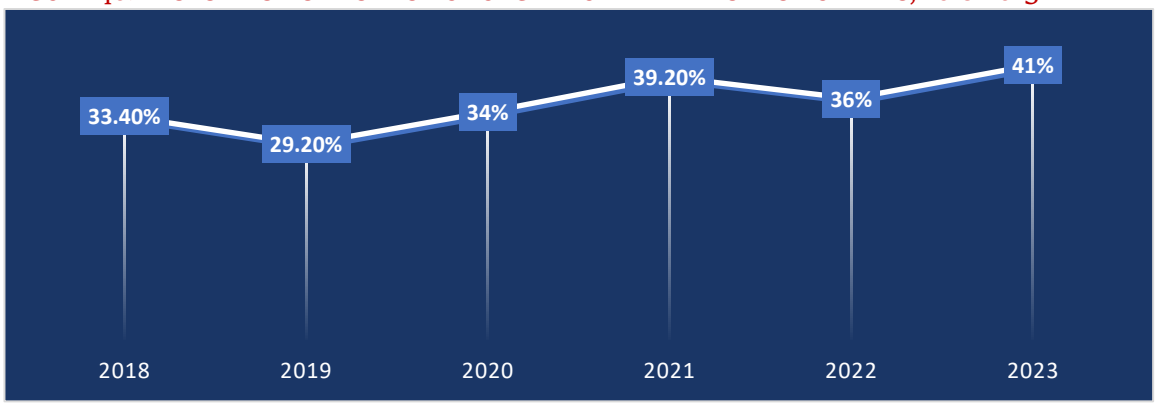
SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

A63 Goal 19: Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence

Indicator 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes.

In the year 2018, 33.4 percent of Ga West budget was funded with domestic taxes (internally generated funds) this dropped slightly to 29.2 percent in 2019 thereafter increasing to 39.2 percent in 2021 and 41 percent in 2023. The continuous increase in the usage of domestic taxes to fund domestic budgets is because of prudent financial management, improvement in domestic tax collection, etc.

FIGURE 40: PROPORTION OF DOMESTIC BUDGET FUNDED BY DOMESTIC TAXES, 2018-2023



Source: Municipal Finance Office, 2024

Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Currently, 85.41 percent of the population in Ga West have access to the internet. This indicates that the municipality has a relatively high internet adoption rate translating into a technologically literate Municipality. Chapter Five: Financing the SDGs and Opportunities for Investments

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present an ambitious global agenda aimed at achieving a sustainable future for all by 2030. For the Ga West Municipal Assembly (GWMA) in Ghana, localising these goals is essential to drive social, economic, and environmental progress within the communities. However, the successful implementation of the SDGs hinges on the availability of adequate financing and strategic investment opportunities. This chapter outlines the current financing mechanisms, identifies gaps, and explores potential investment opportunities to advance the SDGs in the Ga West Municipality.

Chapter Five: Financing the SDGs and Opportunities for Investments

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present an ambitious global agenda aimed at achieving a sustainable future for all by 2030. For the Ga West Municipal Assembly (GWMA) in Ghana, localizing these goals is essential to drive social, economic, and environmental progress within the communities. However, the successful implementation of the SDGs hinges on the availability of adequate financing and strategic investment opportunities. This chapter outlines the current financing mechanisms, identifies gaps, and explores potential investment opportunities to advance the SDGs in the Ga West Municipality.

Means of Implementation

The main sources of revenue for the implementation of programmes and projects of the Municipality as outlined in the Municipality's 2022-2025 Medium-Term Development Plan are:

- Central Government Transfers to MMDAs (GoG) (i.e. GOG transfers including DACF and DACF-RFG)
- Internally Generated Funds (IGF)
- Other grants (UNICEF, GARID, GAMA, LEAP, MAG, GASLIP)

By far resources from the Central Government constitute the major sources of funding for the activities of the Assembly, followed by Internally Generated Funds (IGFs). They constituted about 90 percent of the overall revenue of the Assembly. Donors' resources including grants from UNICEF constitute about 10 percent of total resources of the assembly for financing its activities.

Revenue mobilization continued to be challenged by inadequate logistics to aid effective collection; poor supervision of revenue collectors; interference by politicians in revenue activities; low staff strength for effective collection due to lack of sustainable succession plan; and poor customer relations by some collectors to deal with some rate payers.

Currently the Assembly has in place a Revenue Improvement Action Plan (RIAP) that entails revenue generation strategies that are implemented by the Assembly to enhance local revenue collection through property rates, business licenses, development permits and other taxes and levies. The implementation of these strategies helps to broaden the tax base, streamline the tax processes and combat tax evasion and avoidance.

Financing Gaps and Challenges in the implementation of SDGs

The quantum of funds that is available is always inadequate in addressing the myriad of challenges, the SDGs is no exception. The municipal faces a significant shortfall in the financial resources required to implement SDG-related activities. This includes limited or non-existent budgets for the provision of essential services to some communities within the Municipality. This dilemma has resulted in a number of issues in the districts.

Over-dependence on External Funding: There is also over-reliance on external funding sources such as GOGs, Capitation Grants, District Assembly Common Fund and direct donor support. This also becomes a challenge when expected funds tied to specific projects are not released as expected.

Low Revenue Generation: Inefficient local tax systems and limited economic activities resulted in inadequate revenue generation at the district level hence their inability to support the entire needs of the people. As a result, less than 10 percent of educational needs are met through the local Assembly support.

Poor coordination: Due to the inability of government agencies within the municipality to properly coordinate efforts on the implementation of the SDGs, there are instances where there are wastage or duplication of efforts.

High Costs of Implementation: Some SDG targets require substantial investments in infrastructure, technology, and human capital, which may exceed available budget allocations.

Private Sector Engagement for the Achievement of the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063

There is no coordinated way of engaging the private sector in supporting the SDGs within the Ga West Municipality, however some departments through their central agencies or on their own means have donors assisting. There are also times when the private agencies write to the Assembly to offer their support. The following are some of the support that has been received by the Assembly.

1. Collaborative Projects: The private sector collaborated with the district education directorate and the assembly to fund and implement educational projects, such as the provision of educational materials, and improving infrastructure.
2. Some private sector players have targeted school activities as it relates to their Corporate Social Responsibility and corporate priorities

3. Adopt-a-School Programme: Individuals adopt schools to provide direct financial support, infrastructure, educational resources and scholarships for learners.
4. Continuous Professional Development (Teacher Training) Programs: The private sector provides funding and expertise for training teachers, improving their skills, and enhancing the quality of education.
5. Fundraising Initiatives: Communities organize fundraising events, durbars and campaigns to raise funds for educational programs and infrastructural development.

Collaboration and Engagement of Development Partners and NGO for the Implementation of the SDGs

The Ga West Municipal Assembly collaborates and engages with Development Partners (DPs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the district level to support the implementation of SDGs through various strategies.

These collaborations focus on securing funding, enhancing data collection and utilization, leveraging technology, and mobilizing other necessary resources.

The Assembly currently collaborates with development partners and NGOs such as UNICEF, Action Aid and Plan International to support education. These collaborations include:

- UNICEF: Partnering with district assemblies to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools, ensuring a conducive learning environment, school inclusivity and child protection.
- Plan International: Implementing projects that focus on girls' education, providing scholarships, promoting and creating safe school and learning environments.
- Action Aid in collaboration with the Social Welfare and Community Development(SWCD) Department implement social protection and women empowerment activities.
- Ufeminist's Anyidado for Vulnerable Women and Children works with SWCD in tackling issues pertaining to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence especially among women and children in the Municipality.

Constraints to accelerating the implementation of the SDGs

1. Inadequate Infrastructure: Inadequate roads, health, education, energy, water, and sanitation facilities, as well as energy systems, impede economic growth, make it difficult to access basic services, and undermine the Municipality's efforts to meet several SDGs, including those pertaining to environmental sustainability, health, and poverty reduction.

2. Limited Financial Resources: One of the biggest obstacles to the execution of the SDGs is inadequate financing.
3. Climate Change and Environmental Degradation: Climate change impacts, including extreme weather events, and environmental degradation pose significant challenges to sustainable development efforts.
4. Disaster: Among other disasters that have occurred in the Municipality over the years, floods and fires have been the most common. These led to many disturbances to properties and habitats as well as fatalities. The Municipality is susceptible to floods during periods of high precipitation because of sand wining actitivties within the municipality and the location of some communities beneath the Akuapem mountains.
5. Social and Economic Inequalities: Even with all the awareness-raising and teaching campaigns that the GA West has undertaken, there are still gender disparities, social and economic injustices, and the marginalization of vulnerable groups. These impede progress of initiatives aimed at achieving equal and inclusive development.

The municipality and its stakeholders must work together to mobilize resources, fortify institutions, advance policy consistency, and cultivate inclusive and sustainable development pathways to address these fundamentally binding constraints. The municipality can accelerate progress towards attaining the SDGs and creating a more prosperous, resilient, and equitable world for everyone by removing systemic hurdles, promoting partnerships for collective action, and giving priority to investments in important sectors.

Investment Opportunities

The attainment of the SDGs and 2063 agenda at the local level requires consistent and timely flow of adequate resources for the implementation of planned activities and programmes. The amount of resources required for investing in key sectors of the municipality's economy cannot be met solely by the traditional sources that is Central Government transfer, IGF, Donors and other sources, but through innovative financing arrangements that leverages private sector capital and expertise to accelerate implementation of programmes and projects in a more efficient manner.

Below are a list of major areas that could be invested in to enable the Assembly achieve the 2030 goals:

1. Agriculture: Despite the rapid migration and habitation, the Municipality has about 60 square kilometers of rich terrain that can support a wide range of agricultural activities. Soil found within the Samsam area is rich in nutrients for pineapple production and can be produced on a large scale for both the local and international markets.
2. Waste Management: there is a huge potential in this area, where the assembly currently is unable to manage all wastes especially solid waste produced. An investment in the area of value addition to the waste, etc will be profitable.

3. Real Estate: considering the high volumes of people moving into the Municipality, the development of a Real Estate industry help solve the housing deficit within the Municipality.
4. Tourism: There are some cultural heritage sites such as the Samsam cave, Samsam Falls, the Dagaari cultural center and the Flower Garden within the District that could be developed to boost local economic growth whiles serving as recreational parks.
5. Healthcare: Although the Municipality has 36 public health facilities, there is still the need to improve upon healthcare delivery by improving on facilities, equipment, and personnel to enhance effective and efficient healthcare delivery and outcomes for the growing population. There is a parcel of land earmarked for the construction of a hospital in Ardeyman.
6. Small and Medium Businesses (SMEs) Development: Though over 200 youth have benefitted from entreprenuership training under various programmes organized by the Assembly's Business Advisory Centre in collaboratin with Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA), there is the need to sustain therefore the growth in SMEs through providing support for the development of entrepreneurship, SMEs' capacity building, and their access to credit facilities.
7. Markets upgrade and expansion: The Municipality has 3 markets located within the Municipality, these markets need expansion and upgrading to be able to meet the growing population demands of the Municpality and for local economic development.
8. Transport: The lack of a well planned lorry terminal within the municiaplity has given rise to the indiscriminate parking on the shoulders of roads causing traffic congestion, reckless driving and generally long and tiring travel times. An investment in this area will not only bring sanity into the public transport space but also improve upon the livelihood of people and productivity.
9. Education: Investment in education will improve on learning outcomes and the livelihoods of the people in the Municipality. The learners will be equipped with employable skills whiles preparing them for the world of work. Investment in educational infrastructure, teacher training, and digital learning resources will improve access to sustainability and quality education for overall development.
10. Services: There is a very high demand for the services sector such as financial and other service providers within this fast growing Municipality.
11. Vocational and Artisan Training: There is opportunity for the setting up of vocational and artisanal training centres for the teeming youth that are unemployed.
12. Industrial park: The Assembly has plans of developing an industrial park within the municipality, which when completed will create jobs and economic opportunities.
13. Automative industry: Investors can take advantage of the strategic location as well as comparatively cheaper and vast lands available in the municipality to put up Assembling plants.
14. Other investment opportunities include; renewable energy, waste and sanitation,digital solutions and climate-resilence infrastructure.

Existing Partnerships

The Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture, Employment, Sister Assemblies are just a few of the government organizations with which Ga West collaborates. The Assembly also joins forces with international organizations like the World Bank, African Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as well as non-governmental organizations like Action Aid through projects and programmes that are sometimes managed from the national level.

By leveraging these investment opportunities and partnerships, the Assembly will make significant progress towards achieving the SDGs and ensuring sustainable development for its citizens and beyond.

Chapter Six: Conclusion and Next Steps

Conclusion

This report draws inspiration from the Accra Metropolitan Assembly's Voluntary Local Review (VLR), adopting an approach characterized by extensive consultation and peer learning. This method has shown that comprehensive consultation provides opportunities to leverage data from key stakeholders, thereby enhancing data quality.

The Ga West Municipal Assembly has made significant strides toward achieving the SDGs at the local level. The assessment of progress on the implementation of the SDGs within the Ga West Municipality reveals notable achievements in access to water and electricity. The municipality consistently records high enrollment rates at all levels of education, with high completion rates at primary and junior high school levels. Currently, 98.5 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water, and 96.21 percent has access to electricity. Additionally, a significant portion (85.4%) of the population has internet access. There are also reductions in road traffic injury-related deaths and increased access to loans for small-scale industries.

Despite these impressive achievements, 10.5 percent of the population remains multidimensional poor, with overcrowding being the highest contributor. Furthermore, more women than men are multidimensionally poor. The prevalence of anemia among pregnant women is high at 30.1 percent, with maternal mortality rates at 143.2 per 100,000 live births. Only 58 percent of the population uses safely managed sanitation services, there is also a drastic loss of agricultural land to private residential development and there has been an increase in flood victims in the municipality.

The Assembly has implemented various interventions to ensure access to good health and quality education through the construction of CHPS and classroom blocks for various communities within the municipality. The Education directorate has trained teachers to offer effective teaching and learning processes. In health delivery, there were a lot of sensitisation activities aimed at creating awareness and causing behavioural change. The Social Welfare and Community Development Department continues to sensitize the public on social protection issues such as Child labour, child marriage etc. to ensure the safety of children and women.

Communication Strategy

A detailed work plan for the communication strategy is given in table below. The work plan combines all the issues discussed above also considered in the work plan is the channel of communication and the frequency of interaction and indicators to assess the effectiveness of communication strategy.

Table 6: Communication Plan

Activity	Purpose	Audience	Method / Tool	Timeframe	Responsibility
Community sensitization	To create awareness on the VLR	Community members; TA	Community Durbars	Quarterly	MPCU, Chairman of Dev't. Sub-Committee
MPCU Meeting	To create awareness on the VLR	MPCU	Power point Presentation	First Quarter	MPO
Development Planning Meeting	To create awareness on the VLR	Development Planning	Power point Presentation	Second Quarter	MPCU
Meeting with Political leadership and other Stakeholders	To get the leaders to appreciate the VLR.	MCE; General House	Presentation	First Quarter	MPCU
Town Hall Meeting	To create awareness on the SDGs and VLR	All stakeholders	Power point Presentation	First quarter and third quarter	MPCU
Executive Committee Meetings	To create awareness on the VLR	Executive committee;	Round-table discussion	Prior to each Assembly Meeting	MPCU
Zonal Council Level Public Hearing	To create awareness on the VLR	Zonal Council Community members;	Meeting and ranking for prioritisation	Second Quarter	MPCU
General Public Hearings	To create awareness on the VLR	Stakeholders	PowerPoint presentations/ Open Forum	Third Quarter	MPCU
Community Durbars	To create awareness on the SDGs and VLR	Stakeholders	PowerPoint presentations	Monthly	MPCU

Source: GWMA MPCU 2021

Next Steps

Achieving the SDGs will require deliberate and comprehensive efforts towards enhancing socio-economic development and opportunities, as well as safeguarding the natural environment. This will necessitate the following actions:

- ✓ Strengthen Financial and Resource Mobilization Mechanisms: Achieving the SDGs largely depends on sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms. While the local authorities have shown its commitment to aligning the SDGs with the municipality's Development Plan,

financing gaps remain a significant challenge. Innovative means of generating funds are needed to bridge the financing gaps in the achievement of the SDGs.

- ✓ Intensify and Improve Data Collection Structures and Mechanisms: Data gaps hinder the effective tracking of progress toward achieving the SDGs. These gaps are evident in the quality, relevance, accuracy, and timely release of statistical information. Capacity and funding challenges within the statistical system contribute to these issues, including the long intervals between surveys (typically five years). It is crucial to strengthen the capacity for robust data production and management systems among departments within the municipal assembly.
- ✓ Issues such as unemployment need special attention. There is a need to strengthen investment in the youth and rural populations to address rising unemployment.
- ✓ Promote the building of a livable Ga West Municipality that is inclusive, and addresses the socio-economic and environmental needs of citizens.
- ✓ Strengthen relationship with private sector and CSO: The Ga West Municipal Assembly will explore opportunities to strengthen the ongoing partnerships with the private sector and civil society organisations and also forge new partnerships arrangements particularly with academia and faith-based organisations. The focus of these partnerships would be to promote collaborative actions, and attract financial resources and technology to help accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.


VLRs?
the local level
orting gaps at the national and
analysis for better appreciation of
DAs
cific areas of support for the SDGs
etc.

PICTURES ON SDG IMPLEMENTATIONS

CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM BLOCKS TO ENHANCE EDUCATION

ENTREPRENUERSHIP TRAINING SESSIONS




NVTI EXAMINATION


PROVISION OF WATER


FARM VISIT TO TRAINING FARMERS ON GOOD AGRICULTURE PRACTICES


STUDENTS BEING EDUCATED ON SOCIAL PROTECTION ISSUES


SENSITIZATION EXERCISE ON HEALTH ISSUES

SENSITIZATION ON GOOD SANITATION PRACTICES