



# WEST GONJA

Feed the Future Ghana District Profile Series - February 2017 - Issue 1

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West Gonja is a district in Ghana's Northern Region. It shares boundaries to the south with Central Gonja District, Bole and Sawla-Tuna-Kalba Districts to the west, Wa East District to the north-west and North Gonja to the east. It has a total land area of 4,715.9 square kilometers part of which is occupied by the Mole National Park and Kenikeni Forest Reserves. The district has a total population of 47,048 out of which 23,420 are females and 23,628 males. The average household size in the District is seven(7) persons. The boxes below show the values of some development indicators as measured by Population Based Survey in 2015.

Poverty Prevalence 10.5%

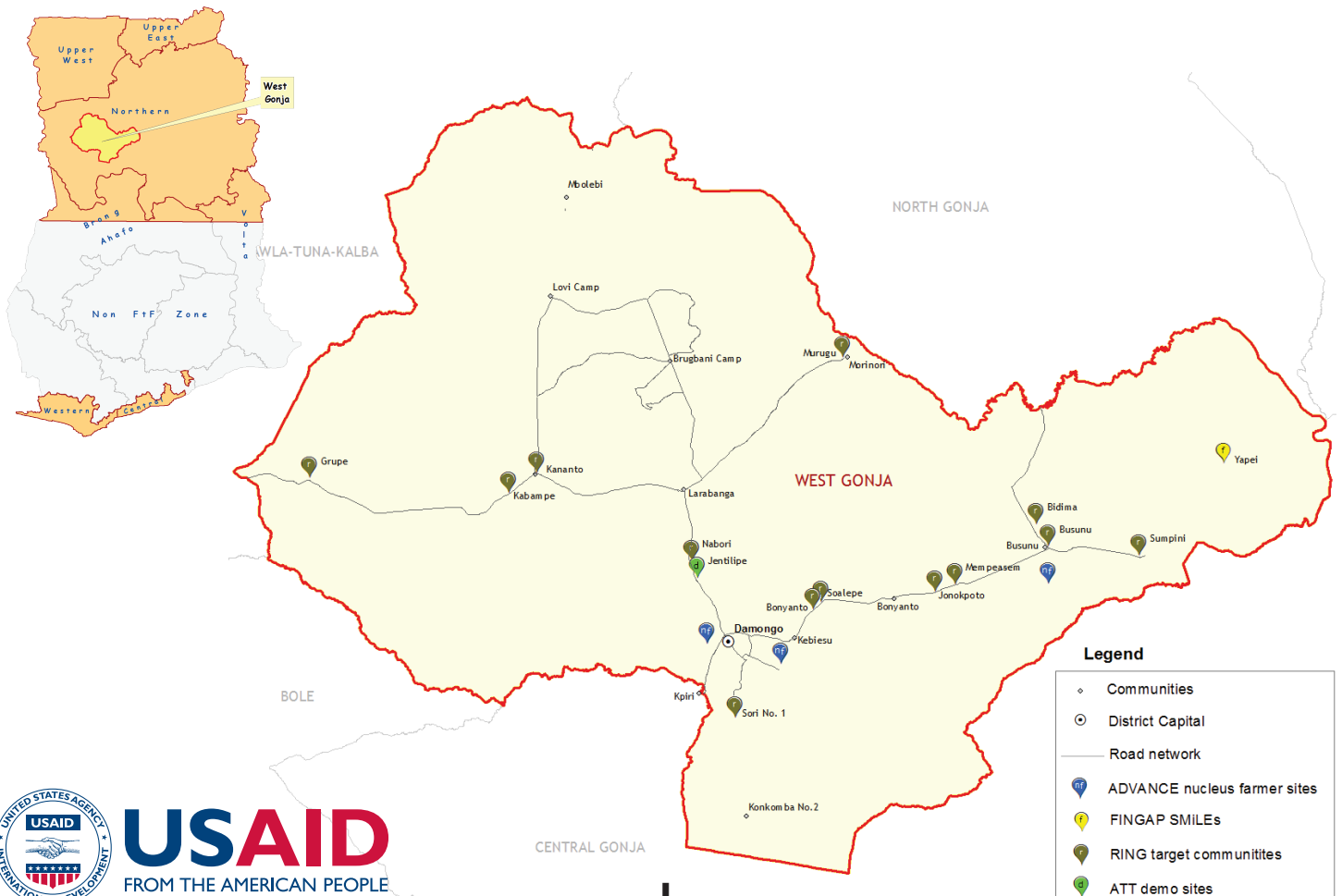
Households with moderate or severe hunger 20.9%

Poverty Depth 3.9%

Daily per capita expenditure 4.23 USD

Household Size 7 members

Total Population of the Poor 4,940





*This section contains data and information related to USAID sponsored interventions in Savelugu Nanton*

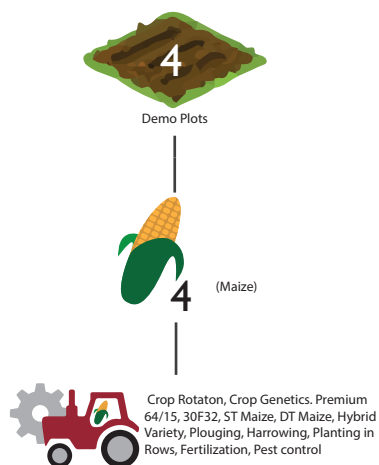
Table I: USAID Projects Info, West Gonja, 2014-2016

Beneficiaries Data	2014	2015	2016
Direct Beneficiaries	712	784	1,012
Male	130	30	23
Female	582	754	989
Undefined	0	0	0
Nucleus Farmers	4	2	
Male	4	2	
Female	-	-	
Undefined			
Demoplots	4	0	0
Male			
Female			
Undefined	4		
Production			
Maize Gross Margin USD/ha		779.43	
Maize Yield MT/ha	n/a	3.81	n/a
Rice Gross Margin USD/ha	n/a	n/a	
Rice Yield MT/ha	n/a	n/a	
Soybean Gross Margin USD/ha	n/a	n/a	
Soybean Yield MT/ha	n/a	n/a	
Investment and Impact			
Ag. Rural loans*	0	4,817	
Projects Presence			5
Beneficiaries Score	1	1	1
Presence Score		0.7	
District Flag		White	

Source: Project Reporting 2014-2016

The number of direct USAID beneficiaries\* experienced an increment from 712 in 2014 to 1,012 in 2016. In 2015, there were two nucleus farmer in the district compared to four in 2014. No demonstration plots were set up in 2015 compared to four in 2014. The district experienced a clear decrease in intervention in 2015. The low presence of USAID development work as compared to other districts resulted in a relatively low USAID presence score\*\* of 0.7. The district is flagged White\*\*\* indicating that the diminishing project intervention is accompanied by a worsening situation in the district; values of the impact indicators have regressed. Find more details on USAID Presence v. Impact scoring on page 7.

Infographic 1: Demo Plots in West Gonja, 2014-2015



Source: USAID Project Reporting, 2014, 2015

*The presence calculation includes the number of direct beneficiaries and Agricultural Rural Loans.*

\* Number of demos by commodity does not match the total because of crop rotation \*\* "Direct Beneficiary, an individual who comes in direct contact with a set of interventions" FTF Handbook, 2016, \*\*\* and \*\*\*\* See page 7 for more detail

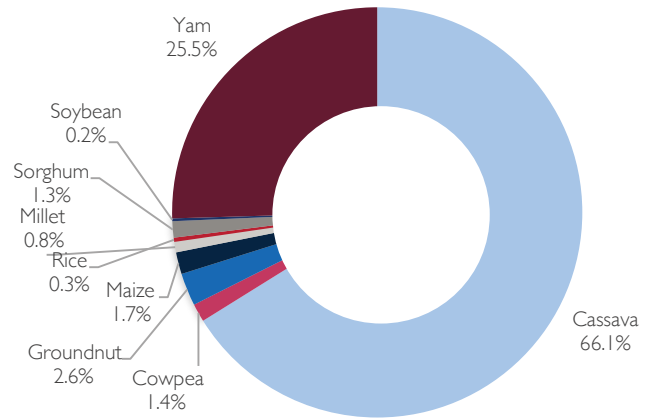


This section contains agricultural data for West Gonja, such as production by commodity, gross margins and yields.

Agricultural production in West Gonja is largely focused on Cassava and Yam, which are major staple foods grown by farmers and constituted 91.8 percent of overall production during 2010-2015. Other commodities produced include groundnuts, maize, sorghum, rice, millet, cowpea and soybean but at much smaller scale, see Figure 1.

This district accounts for the largest agricultural production in the Northern Region with 15% share to the overall agricultural produce. Data presented in Figure 3 below contains yield values for all commodities produced in West Gonja collected from MOFA surveys and values of maize yields from direct USAID beneficiaries in 2015. Yields of maize for USAID direct beneficiaries are more than double the district average reported by MOFA in 2015. Figure 2 shows that a moderate majority of household income in West Gonja comes from the agricultural sector, particularly farming. The sale of crop produce is a source of income for 58% of the sample, followed by petty trading, 26%.

Figure 1: Share Of Agriculture Production By Commodity, 2010 - 2014 In %, West Gonja



Source: Agriculture Production Reports 2011 - 2015, MOFA

Figure 2: Income Source in West Gonja, in %, 2015

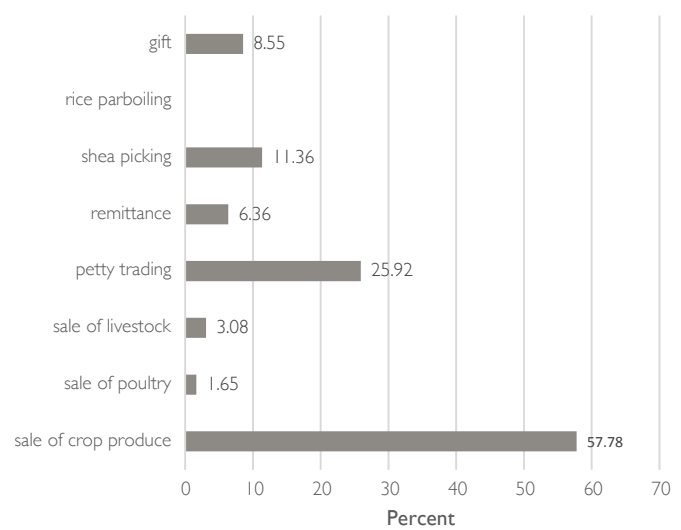
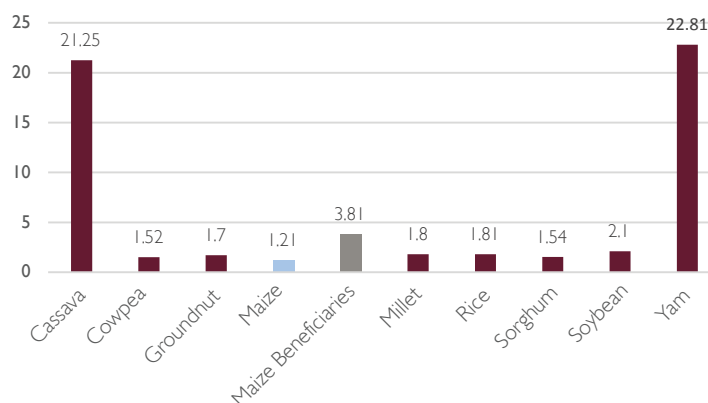


Figure 3: Yields Of Ag. Commodities Produced In West Gonja, 2014 And Yields Of Beneficiaries 2015, In Mt/ha



Source: USAID Project reporting 2015, Agriculture Report, 2014 MOFA.

All data and information including full citations can be accessed at [www.ghanalinks.org](http://www.ghanalinks.org)



*This section contains agricultural data for West Gonja including production by commodity (MT/ha), yields (MT/ha) and average land size*

Table 2: Agricultural Production and Yields by commodity, in MT and MT/ha, 2010-2015, West Gonja

Commodity	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	Total
Cassava	477,561	451,563	454,961	430,955	418,000	409,160	2,642,200
Cowpea	7,653	7,429	8,205	10,672	11,344	9,110	54,412
Groundnut	15,856	15,896	14,444	16,506	16,453	21,032	100,187
Maize	10,564	9,871	9,404	11,180	10,620	15,330	66,968
Millet	5,100	4,952	5,273	5,846	5,672	5,296	32,139
Rice	2,566	2,379	1,988	1,897	2,091	2,500	13,420
Sorghum	6,115	6,931	7,072	9,588	9,576	8,857	48,139
Soybean	1,411	1,346	1,219	1,734	1,555	1,316	8,581
Yam	148,213	143,825	177,351	179,604	177,603	155,000	981,596
Yields in MT/Ha	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	
Cassava	22.47	21.25	20.54	20.01	19.00	19.30	
Cowpea	1.57	1.52	1.65	1.95	2.00	1.93	
Groundnut	1.69	1.70	1.65	1.78	1.74	2.20	
Maize	1.71	1.21	1.30	1.34	1.20	1.75	
Millet	1.86	1.80	1.82	1.85	1.74	1.82	
Rice	1.91	1.81	1.65	1.85	1.70	2.00	
Sorghum	1.35	1.54	1.67	1.91	1.80	1.70	
Soybean	2.21	2.10	2.15	2.64	2.23	1.88	
Yam	23.43	22.81	23.78	23.45	22.34	20.00	
<i>Source: Agriculture Report 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, MOFA</i>							

Table 2 above provides detailed information on specific commodities in regard to overall production in West Gonja, as well as average yields for the years 2010-2015.



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## AGRICULTURAL DATA

This section contains information on domains of empowerment of Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index for West Gonja

### What is the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index?

Women play a prominent role in agriculture. Yet they face persistent economic and social constraints. Women's empowerment is a main focus of Feed the Future in order to achieve its objectives of inclusive agriculture sector growth and improved nutritional status. The WEAI is comprised of two weighted sub-indexes: Domains Empowerment Index (5DE) and Gender Parity Index (GPI). The 5DE examines the five domains of empowerment: production, resources, income, leadership and time. The GPI compares the empowerment of women to the empowerment of their male counterpart in the household. This section presents the results from these empowerment indicators of the 5DE for West Gonja, part of a bigger survey conducted by Kansas State University.

#### The Domains: What Do They Represent?

The *Production domain* assesses the ability of individuals to provide input and autonomously make decisions about agricultural production. The *Resources domain* reflects individuals' control over and access to productive resources. The *Income domain* monitors individuals' ability to direct the financial resources derived from agricultural production or other sources. The *Leadership domain* reflects individuals' social capital and comfort speaking in public within their community. The *Time domain* reflects individuals' workload and satisfaction with leisure time.

### West Gonja Results

The results of both male and female respondents on the four(4) domains are displayed in Figure 4.

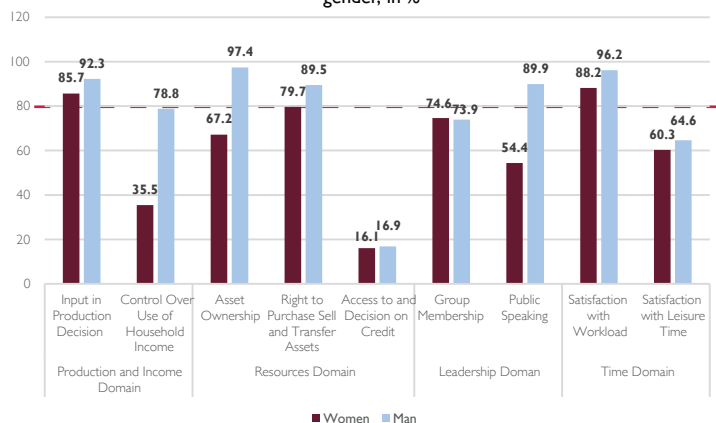
**Production Domain:** women feel comfortable with providing input related to production decisions as indicated by 85.7% of the women of the survey sample. However, they have much less control over the use of household income than men- 35.4% of women vs 78.8% of the male respondents. This is a reoccurring situation in most districts in the Northern Region.

**Resource Domain:** a majority of the women have the right to asset ownership and to purchase and move assets, 67.2% and 79.7% respectively; these figures are however lower than the figures of the male respondents. Only 16.1% of women have the right to decide or have access to credit, followed by 16.9% of the male respondents. Nonetheless, Access to credit is equally low for both genders.

**Leadership Domain:** West Gonja accounts for one of the lowest values of women involved in public speaking in the Northern Region; 54.4% of the women interviewed feel entitled to public speaking as opposed to 89.9% of men. Group membership values are similar to the male respondents.

**Time Domain:** The majority of women and men in West Gonja are satisfied with the workload in their everyday life, 88.2% and 96.2% respectively, the values drop with respect to satisfaction with leisure time; only 60.3% of women and 64.6% of men are happy in this aspect.

Figure 4: West Gonja: Results on Domains of Empowerment of WEAI 2015, by gender, in %



Source: PBS 2015, Kansas State University

### { Adequacy & Differences }

Highest differences between male and female respondents observed with production domain: the control over use of household income and in the leadership domain: the right to public speaking.

All data and information including full citations can be accessed at [www.ghanalinks.org](http://www.ghanalinks.org)

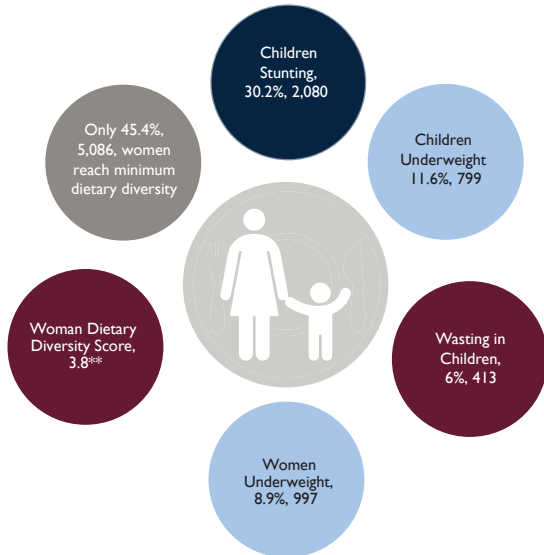


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## HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SANITATION

*This section contains facts and figures related to Health, Nutrition and Sanitation in West Gonja*

Infographic 3: Health and Nutrition Figures, West Gonja, 2015



Sources: \* from PBS 2015, Kansas State University, \*\* from Ring & Spring Survey, 2015

Infographic 2 focuses on the health and nutrition of women and children in the district. Percentages and absolute numbers are revealed in the respective circles for stunting, wasting, children and women underweight as well as Women Dietary Diversity: The WDDS is based on nine food groups. A woman's score is based on the sum of different food groups consumed in the 24 hours prior to the interview. Women's Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD-W) represents the proportion of women consuming a minimum of five food groups out of the possible ten food groups based on their dietary intake. The Dietary diversity score in West Gonja is 3.8, which means that women consume on average 3 to 4 types of food out of 10. Less than half of women (45.4%) reach the minimum dietary diversity of 5 food groups. The district accounts for a high rate of stunting among children (30.2%) Figure 5 displays specifics of household dwelling, evaluated based on sources of water, energy, waste disposal, cooking fuel source, and the number of people per sleep room as measured from the PBS Survey 2015. West Gonja together with some other districts accounts for the highest level of access to fuel source (100%) in the Northern Region. PBS and Ring & Spring Survey have measured same sanitation indicators: access to improved water source, improved sanitation, both present in Figure 5 and 6. Access to improved water source ranges from 77.4 to 89.7% according to both sources. Sanitation access ranges from 7.6% to 26.2%. For more details refer to Figures 5 and 6.

Figure 5: Household Dwelling Characteristics West Gonja 2015

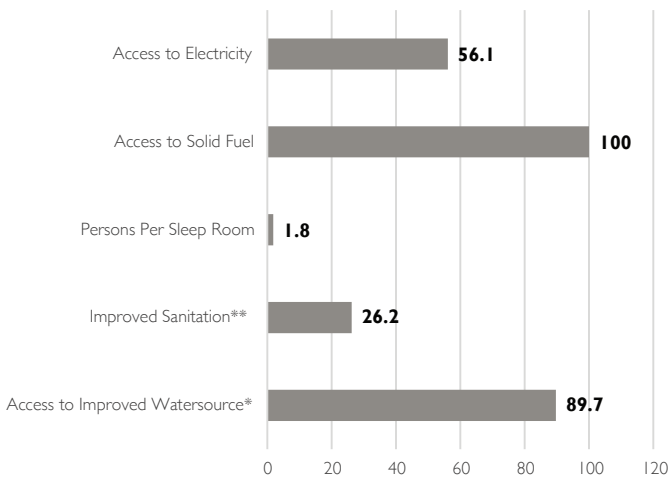
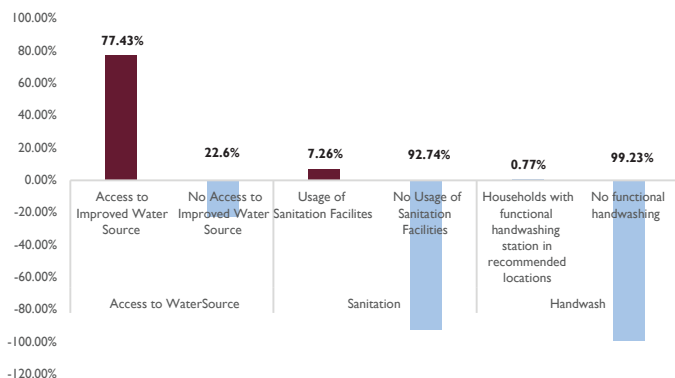


Figure 6: Access to Water and Sanitation in West Gonja, 2015, in %



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## PRESENCE VS. IMPACT MATRIX

This section provides an analysis of USAID presence vis-a-vis impact indicators in West Gonja

Presence vs. Impact reveals in more detail the presence of the Feed the Future Implementing Partners in the field, in combination with impact indicators measured by the Population Based Survey in 2012 and 2015: per capita expenditure & prevalence of poverty. This combination aims to show relevance of the presence of key indicators measuring progress/regress in the area. The following graphs are a print screen of the Presence vs. Impact Dashboard focusing on West Gonja. In 2015, poverty increased by 12.9 percentage points to 10.5% compared to the 2012 figure. In addition, the 2015 per capita expenditure decreased by 10.8 percent to 4.23 USD. West Gonja's population calculated to be living under the poverty line is 4,940 persons. Both impact indicators have moved in the wrong direction, indicating regress in the area. This is interestingly accompanied by a decreasing project intervention and a low USAID presence score of 0.6 in a range from 0 to 4. This score in combination with movement of impact indicators signifies characteristics of a WHITE district (low presence and regressing indicators). That said, the presence of other development partners and GOG interventions have not been taken into account. Even though the drop of impact indicators is very small, both poverty and per capita expenditure signal regress in West Gonja. Increased support and project interventions in relevant areas will most likely yield change in the right direction in this district.

### USAID District Presence Score

- 0** NO USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE
- 0.1 - 1** LOW USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE
- 1.1 - 1.9** BELOW AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE
- 2** AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE
- 2.1 - 3** ABOVE AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE
- 3.1 - 4** HIGH USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE

### USAID District Presence Vs. Impact Flag

- BELOW AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE AND CONTRADICTING IMPACT INDICATORS
- ABOVE AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE AND CONTRADICTING IMPACT INDICATORS
- BELOW AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE AND REGRESSING IMPACT INDICATORS
- ABOVE AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE AND IMPROVING IMPACT INDICATORS
- BELOW AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE AND IMPROVING IMPACT INDICATORS
- ABOVE AVERAGE USAID DISTRICT PRESENCE AND REGRESSING IMPACT INDICATORS

Figure 7: Poverty in % and Poverty Change in percentage points, 2012,2015, West Gonja

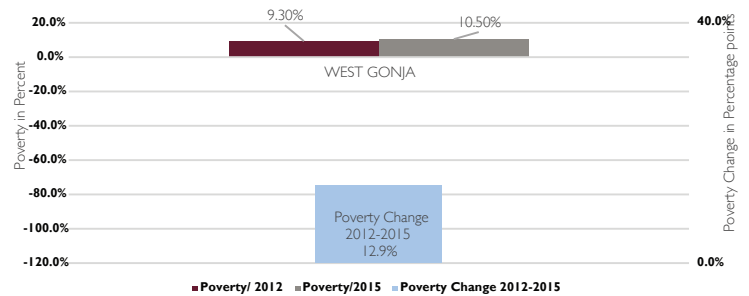


Figure 8: Population of Poor, Non-Poor West Gonja, 2015

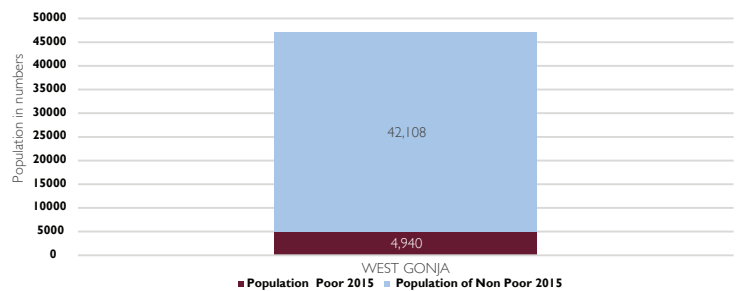
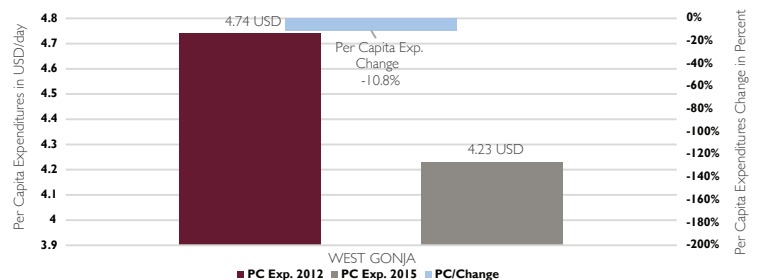


Figure 9: Per Capita Expenditures in 2012 and 2015, in USD/day; Per Capita Expenditures Change in percent, West Gonja



Source: Figure 9,10,11 Population based Survey, 2012,2015, Kansas State University, METSS, USAID Project Reporting 2014,2015

All data and information including full citations can be accessed at [www.ghanalinks.org](http://www.ghanalinks.org)

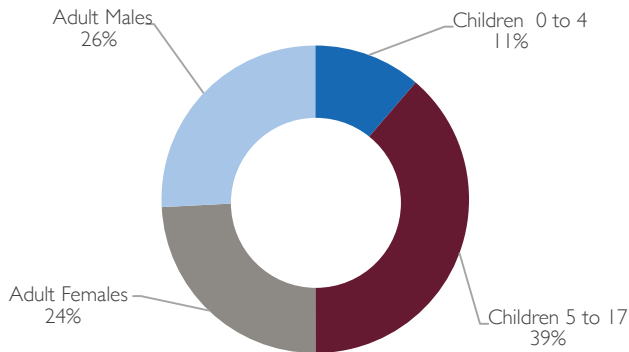


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## DEMOGRAPHICS & WEATHER

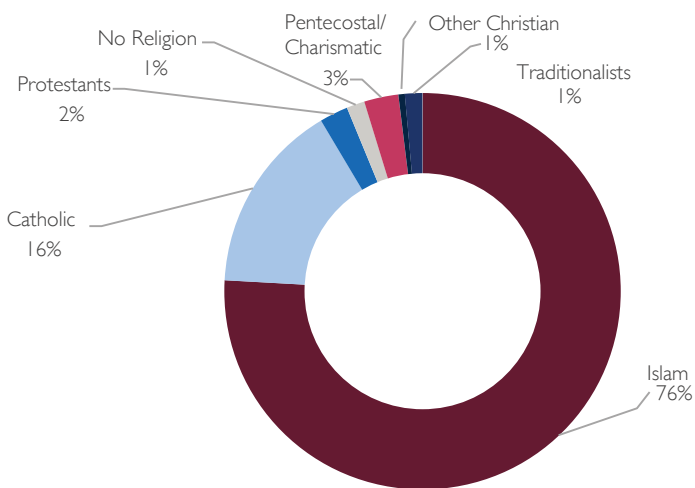
This section contains facts and figures related to West Gonja demographics, religious affiliation, literacy and weather indicators

Figure 10: Household Composition by groupage in West Gonja 2015, in %



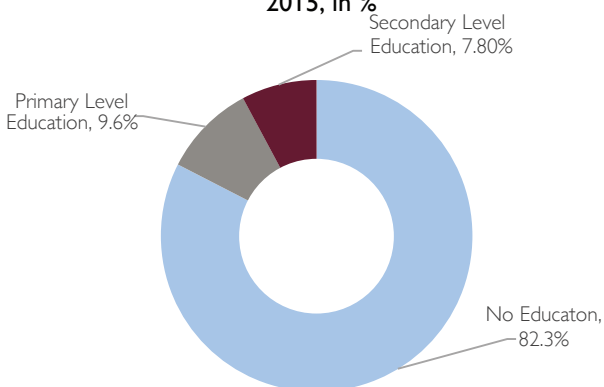
Source: PBS 2015, Kansas State University

Figure 11: Religious Affiliation, West Gonja in %, 2010



Source: East Mamprusi District Analytical Report, GSS, 2014

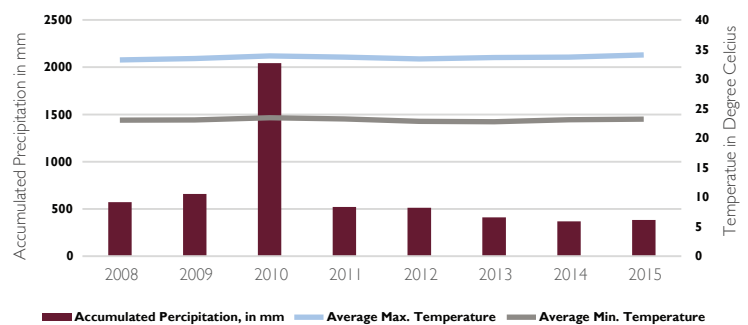
Figure 12: Adult Education Attainment in West Gonja, 2015, in %



Source: PBS 2015, Kansas State University

West Gonja has a total population of 47,048-23,420 females and 23,628 males- in a surface area of 4,517.9 square km. The average household size in the district is 7 members. The district lies in the tropical continental climacteric zone. The average precipitation and temperature are similar to the other districts in the Northern Region. Figure 13 shows the average maximal and minimal temperatures as well as yearly average precipitation. High precipitation values in 2010 were due to heavy rainfall and flooding in the area. West Gonja has a very young population as Figure 10 shows, with more than half of the population, 56%, falling in the age range: 0 to 17 years old. In terms of religious affiliation, majority of the population are Muslims (76%), followed by Christians (22%). For more details refer to Figure 11. The district accounts for a low adult literacy rate with a vast majority of the adults, 82.3%, having received no education. Only 9.6% went through primary school and this accounts for the largest reported value of adults with primary education amongst all the districts in the Northern Region. For more details refer to figure 12.

Average Cumulated Precipitation in mm and Temperature in Celcius Degree, West Gonja, 2008-2015



Source: awhere Weather Platform, AWhere, 2016

All data and information including full citations can be accessed at [www.ghanalinks.org](http://www.ghanalinks.org)





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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*This section contains discussion questions and potential research topics as a result of the data and analysis presented on West Gonja*

### QUESTION 1

How does the presence of the Mole National Park and other reserves help the household economies of the surrounding communities?

### QUESTION 2

Given West Gonja's agricultural production, health and sanitation figures, as well as results from the presence vs impact matrix, where should USAID development work focus on in the next two years? What future development assistance would be helpful for the district?

### QUESTION 3

Why are the quantities of rice, maize and soybean produced in West Gonja and many other districts so low compared to cassava and yam? Is there a link to nutrition patterns or production related challenges?

### QUESTION 4

What other agricultural or nutrition focused development partner or GoG interventions have previously been implemented, are ongoing, and/or are in the pipeline that may impact West Gonja's development?

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