

ASHANTI REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL



PROFILE OF THE REGION

**EXTRACTED FROM THE 2021 PHC GENERAL REPORT AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATED PLAN**

BY

STATISTICAL UNIT, ARCC

2023

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CHAPTER ONE

Background Characteristics

1. INTRODUCTION

Ashanti Region is a unique region possessing abundant natural and human resources which can be exploited for the progress of the Region as well as the country as a whole. With the Region possessing abundant and human resources, there cannot be any meaningful developmental activity without taking into account the characteristics of the population for whom the activity is targeted. The size of the population and its spatial distribution, growth and change over time, and socio-economic characteristics are all important in development planning. Details of such characteristics in the region have been elaborated below.

1.2. HISTORY

The Ashanti region is a core area of the Asante nation whose boundary in the 18th and 19th centuries stretched southwards towards the Atlantic Ocean (except the Anlo enclave), and northwards to the Gonja and Dagomba lands. To the east and west, the Asante nation stretched beyond the current borders of the country. It was initially smaller than the boundary of the Ashanti region today. The territorial expansion was through wars and annexation of lands of other ethnic groups. The Asante nation in the early 20th century contracted in area through defeat in wars and agitation of some ethnic groups for separation. It currently extends beyond the Ashanti Region in that some of the people of the Asante nation are in the Bono, Ahafo, Eastern, Bono East, Western North and Central regions.

History has it that the people of Asante originated from eight clans, namely, Oyoko, Bretuo, Aduana, Asona, Asene, Ekuona, Agona and Asakyiri. A clan is said to be the children of one woman and therefore it is a taboo to marry within a clan. The result was inter-marriage among the clans, creating alliances and the nucleus of the Asante nation which was born with the reign of Nana Osei Tutu (1697-1718), the first King of Asante.

The Asante nation's symbol of unity is the Golden Stool which is said to have descended from the sky through the incantations of Okomfo Anokye, a fetish priest. The population of Asante is the largest among the Akan ethnic group that includes Akwamu, Guan, Fante, Denkyira, Brong, Akyem, Kwahu, Sefwi, Wassa, Akwapim and Assin (Osei Kwadwo, 1994).

1.3 Physical features of the Region

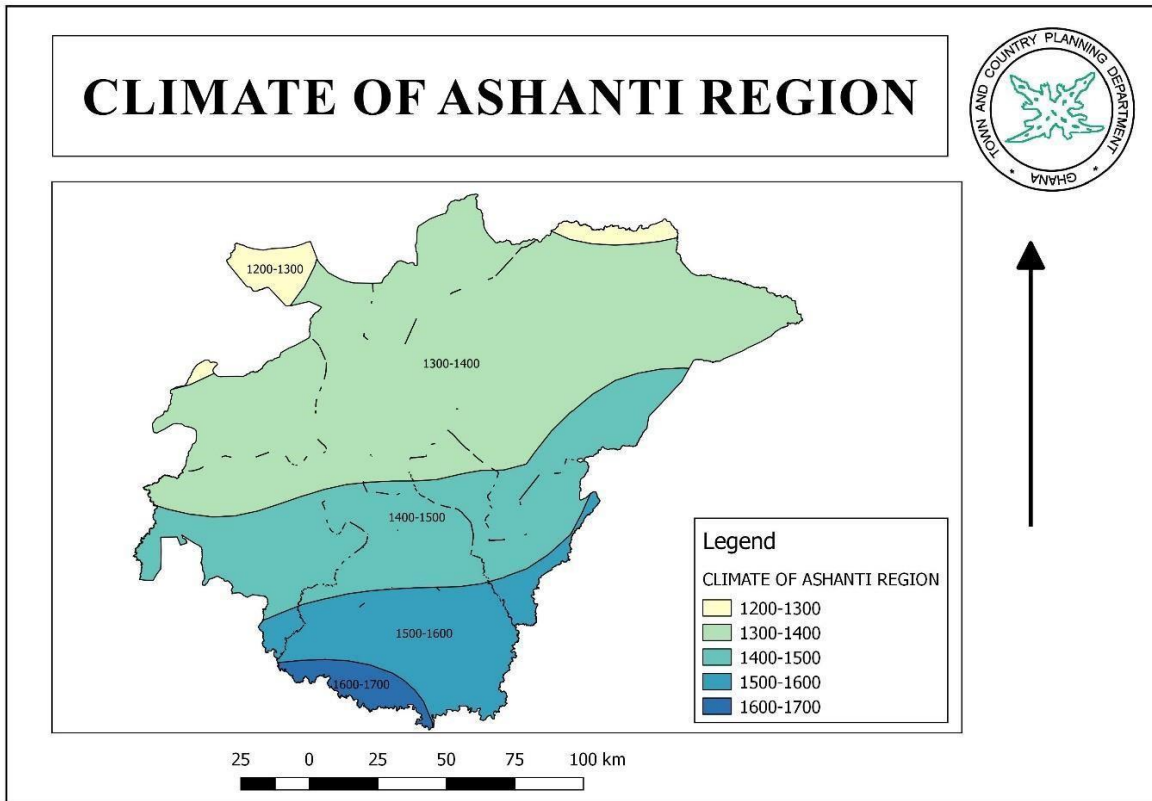
1.3.1 Location and Size

Ashanti Region is one of the sixteen (16) administrative Regions in Ghana. The Region is located in the middle belt of Ghana and shares boundaries with Bono, Ahafo, and Bono East to the North, Eastern to the South-East and Central to the South, Western-North Region to the South-West. It lies between longitudes 0.15°W and 2.25°W , and latitudes 5.50°N and 7.46°N . The Region occupies a total land surface area of $24,389 \text{ Km}^2$ constituting 10.2% of the total land surface of Ghana.

Administratively, Ashanti Region is divided into Forty-Three (43) Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies and has Kumasi as its capital. The Region is politically headed by the Regional Minister who is the President's representative of the Regional Co-ordinating Council and who also chairs the Region's Security Committee.

just before the major wet season. The minimum temperature is usually recorded during the minor wet season as shown in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2: Climatic Zones of Ashanti Region



Source: ARCC-RPCU, 2022

1.3.3 Vegetation Cover of the Region

When it comes to vegetation cover, the Region lies within the moist semi-deciduous forest and guinea savannah zone in the northern part of Ghana. In other words, the Region occupies the transitional belt of forest zones and that of savannah in Ghana. The over-bearing vegetation in the southern part of the Region is moisture laden semi-deciduous. About 3180 sq km representing 22.5 percent of Ghana’s forest reserves are in the Ashanti Region. The forest areas are endowed with tropical hardwoods like Wawa, Esa, Kyenkyen, Odum, Ofram, Sapele and many more. For some time now, this natural vegetation cover is fast going into extinction. This is as a result of human activities such as indiscriminate felling of trees especially for farming purposes, illegal

chain- saw for lumbering, firewood and charcoal. There are also illegal mining activities and sand winning for construction purposes. These and other compelling factors have rendered the vegetation and for that matter the forest resources in the Region undergoing drastic extermination.

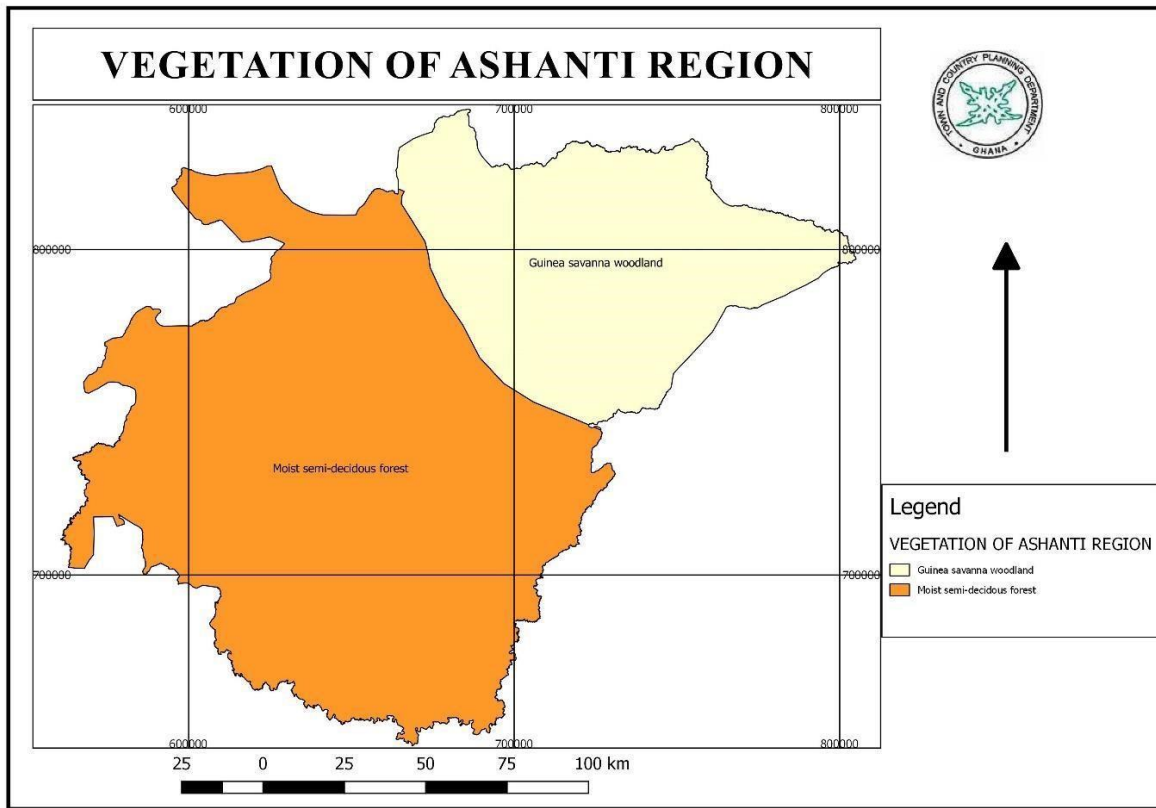
Numerous studies also point to a combination of climate factors such as settlement expansion, developments of artificial water bodies and bushfires are all driving forces of the environmental changes in the Region. The systematic reduction of vegetation cover has resulted in loss of habitats for wildlife and biodiversity, accelerated erosion, drying up of several streams and lowering of water harvested from forest belt.

These developments call for immediate measures to protect this sensitive ecological zone. There are large areas of forest reserves which needs to be protected for future generation. These forest reserves together cover a total of about 20.0 percent of the entire land surface area of the Region.

The Region has a variety of vegetation and land cover types. The predominant among them is the moderately closed canopy forest with dense herb and bush consisting about 15 trees per hectare. The Region holds about 69,0 percent of the countries forest reserves. Some of these reserves are: Tano Offin Reserve; Anwiaso East reserve; Kogyae Strict National Reserve; Bomfobiri Wildlife Sanctuary; Bobiri Forest Reserve; Bomfoun Reserve; Apamprama Forest Reserve (Amansie Central and West Districts) and Kunsimoa Bepo Shelter Belt Forest Reserve.

In total, there are fifty-nine (59) forest reserves in the region being supervised by eight forest districts namely Nkawie, Mankranso, New Edubiase, Juaso, Kumawu, Bekwai, Offinso and Mampong as presented in Figure 1.3.

Figure 1.3: Vegetation Cover of Ashanti Region



Source: ARCC-RPCU, 2022

1.3.4 Soils of the Region

Soils in Ashanti Region are mainly of two types, forest ochrosols found in the southern part of the Region and the savanna ochrosols which are confined in the northern part of the Region. The forest ochrosols are mostly laterite in nature, red, brown, yellowish brown and relatively well-drained soils. With the savanna ochrosols, the top-soils are usually thin (about 20cm), greyish- brown sandy loam, and weak granular and friable. The subsoils range from red in summits to brownish yellow middle slope soils. Because they are low in nutrients, savanna ochrosols are heavily dependent upon the humus supplied by the vegetation cover. This type of soil is relatively found stretching from Sekyere Afram Plains and part of Asante Akim North through to Ejura Sekyedumase and north of Offinso.

1.3.5 Relief and Drainage of the Region

The Region lies within Ashanti uplands and Kwahu plateau. The southern part of Ashanti uplands extends from the foot of the Kwahu plateau in the north to the lowlands in the south. This slopes gently from an elevation of about 300 meters in the north to about 150 meters in the south. The Region however, contains several hills and ranges as well as several towns of economic importance such as Kumasi, Obuasi and Konongo and Nyinahin. The major mining centers are located in these uplands. There are also forest dissected plateau in the Region with mountains which form watershed for the many tributaries of the Offin river, the major river in Ashanti Region and other streams. There are out-crops of gigantic rocks found over these uplands.

Rivers and streams take their source from these hilly areas. These rivers and streams ultimately serve as a source of drinking water to the various communities in the Region. On the other hand, the relief and drainage influence climatic conditions in terms of rainfall patterns and farming activities in the Region.

The relief and drainage have implications for the development of the Region. First, the existence of several streams and rivers in the Region improve irrigation, which subsequently promote all year round farming activities. In addition, streams and rivers found in the Region provide sources of water for domestic use. Further, rocky hills and out-crops serve as employment for the people especially those engage in quarrying.

1.3.6 Geology and Mineral Resources of the Region

The Region is composed of six geological types, namely: Birimian Sediment; Birimian Volcanics; Dahomeyan; Obosum Oti Beds; Tarkwaian and Upper Voltaian.

The Birimian Sediment, Dahomeyan and Obosum Oti Beds are predominant in the Region. These rocks found in the Region are of phyllite, schist, tuff, greywacke, metamorphosed lava, and pyroclastic in nature. These geological features in the Region are associated with mineral resources such as gold, diamond, bauxite, manganese, silica, sand, limestone, clay and stone deposits. Gold bearing rocks are also found in Obuasi, Amansie West, Asante Akim North, Amansie Central and Atwima Mponua Districts. Gold is mined on a large scale by Ashanti Gold at Obuasi. There is also

bauxite deposits at Nyinahin in Atwima Mponua which is yet to be explored. Such mineral resources could boost local, Regional and National economy. There are also many small-scale mining activities all over the Region with some of these activities unregulated. There is also the proliferation of stone quarries and sand winning industries in the Region because of the rock types found in the Region; thus, expanding the construction industry in the Region.

The inability to control the exploration of these mineral resources has destroyed the Region's water bodies, soil and vegetative cover and the atmosphere.

1.3.7 Unique Socio-Economic Features of the Region

The uniqueness of Ashanti Region is anchored on the following;

- The central location of the region
- Transportation
- Water and sanitation
- Population
- Culture and Tourism
- Health
- Education
- Information, Communication and Technology
- Agriculture
- Trade and Industry
- Natural Resources

1.4 Political and Administrative Structure

The Ashanti Region is one of the sixteen (16) administrative Regions in Ghana. The Region has forty-three (43) Districts of which one is a Metropolis, nineteen (19) Municipals with twenty-three (23) as Districts as shown in Table 1.1. It has Kumasi Metropolis as the Regional capital. The governance of Ashanti Region is administered at two separate but complementary levels namely, the traditional authority and political administration.

According to the Local Governance Act, 2016, Act 936, the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council is an administrative and coordinating rather than political or policy-making body. The head of the political administration, like the other regions, is a Regional Minister who heads a Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), which coordinates the activities of the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), the lower block of the political administration, and implementer of developmental activities. The head of a District Assembly is the District Chief Executive.

The Region has 47 constituencies, and each constituency elects a Member of Parliament and the Region has the largest representation (17.1%) in the current 275-member Parliament. Again, for the 28,921 Polling Stations / Electoral Areas in the country, Ashanti Region has 5,182 polling stations / Electoral Areas.

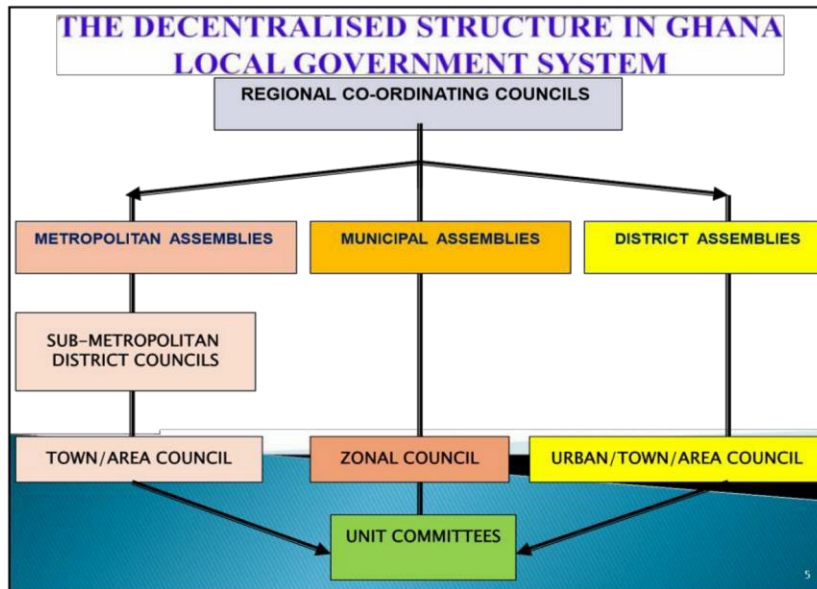
Table 1.1: Districts in the Ashanti Region

Metropolitan	Municipals	Districts
1. Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly	2. Ahafo Ano North Municipal Assembly	21. Adansi Asokwa District Assembly
	3. Asante Akim Central Municipal	22. Adansi North District Assembly
	4. Asante Akim North District Assembly	23. Adansi South District Assembly
	5. Asante Akim South Municipal Assembly	24. Afigya Kwabre South District Assembly
	6. Asokore Mampong Municipal Assembly	25. Afigya Kwabre North District Assembly
	7. Asokwa Municipal Assembly	26. Ahafo Ano South West District Assembly
	8. Atwima Nwabiagya Municipal Assembly	27. Ahafo Ano South East District Assembly
	9. Bekwai Municipal Assembly	28. Akrofuom District Assembly
	10. Ejisu Municipal Assembly	29. Amansie Central District Assembly
	11. Ejura Sekyedumasi Assembly	30. Amansie South District Assembly
	12. Juaben Municipal Assembly	31. Amansie West District Assembly
	13. Kwabre East Municipal Assembly	32. Atwima Kwanwoma District Assembly
	14. Kwadaso Municipal Assembly	33. Atwima Mponua District Assembly
	15. Mampong Municipal Assembly	34. Atwima Nwabiagya North District Assembly
	16. Obuasi Municipal Assembly	35. Bosome Freho District Assembly
	17. Offinso Municipal Assembly	36. Bosomtwe District Assembly
	18. Oforikrom Municipal Assembly	37. Obuasi East District Assembly
	19. Old Tafo Municipal Assembly	38. Offinso North District Assembly
	20. Suame Municipal Assembly	39. Sekyere Afram Plains District Assembly
		40. Sekyere Central District Assembly
		41. Sekyere East District Assembly
		42. Sekyere Kumawu District Assembly
		43. Sekyere South District Assembly

Source: ARCC-RPCU, 2022

COMPOSITION OF THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL (RCC)

Figure 1.4



1.4.1 Vision of the Region

The vision of Ashanti Region is become a peaceful, progressive and developed Region with high standards of living and attainment of aspirations of the people.

- ▶ Regional Minister (Chairperson)
- ▶ Deputy Regional Minister(s)
- ▶ Metro/Municipal/District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) in the region
- ▶ Presiding Members (PMs) in the region.
- Two Chiefs from the Regional House of Chiefs.
- ▶ Heads of MDAs as non-voting members.
- ▶ Regional Co-ordinating Chief Director as Secretary

1.4.2 Mission of the Region

The mission of the Region is to ensure total development of the Region through effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation of development plans, programmes and projects of District Assemblies, Departments and Agencies.

1.4.3 Functions of the Region

The functions of the ARCC are derived from the Local Governance Act 2016 (Act 936) Section 188 and 189 and other enactments. The core of these functions include:

- Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the performance of the Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs) in the Region.
 - Monitor the use of all monies mobilised by the District Assemblies or allocated to the Assemblies by any Agency.
 - Review and co-ordinate all public services in the Region
 - Resolve any conflict between a District Assemblies and other Institutions
 - Provide Assemblies with technical backstopping support and data
 - Maintenance of security and public safety in the Region
 - Approval of by-laws of the District Assemblies
 - Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Plans and Programs of Assemblies especially their functions of;
 - Promote Local Economic Development (LED) activities in the MMDAs.
 - Promote and support Productive Activity and social development in the Assemblies and remove any obstacles to initiative and development
 - Perform such other functions as assigned to it under any enactment

CHAPTER TWO

Social Structure

The social structure of the Asante nation is through a traditional system of chieftaincy, festivals, religious composition and other cultural practices. The predominant cultural practice in the Region is the Asante Culture as reflected in the whole Region.

1.5.1 Chieftaincy in the Region

Chieftaincy is the highest embracing cultural institution in Ashanti. Each community in the Region, like other parts of the country, has a chief of some level from Odikro (chief) to Omanhene (paramount chief). The Asantehene is the only King and overlord of Asante. Each chief has “divisional chiefs” with portfolios, like the national President and Ministers. The ascension to chieftaincy (except Nkosohene) is through the matrilineal line. The rigid and organised nature of these traditional institutions create a favourable ground for the Local Governance structure to interact with the various traditional institutions and their communities freely.

1.5.2 Festivals in the Region

Festivals are common features of all the ethnic groups in the country. In the Ashanti Region, festivals are few. The *Akwasidae* is a major festival held regularly at six-week intervals and held nine times in a year. It is celebrated to remember past Asante leaders and heroes / heroines. If it falls on a Sunday, it is celebrated as *Adaekese*. There are also other festivals celebrated by the paramountcys in the Region such as *Papa Festival* among the chiefs and people of Kumawu, *Mmoaninko Festival* for the people of Offinso Traditional Area.

1.5.3 Language and Ethnicity in the Region

As in all the other regions of the country, there are many ethnic groups in the Ashanti Region. The 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) shows the largest group as the Akan including Asante

(71.3%), followed by the Mole-Dagbani (12.3%), Ewe (3.4%) and Gurma (3.8%). About 30.5 percent of the Akan in the country are in the Ashanti Region. The Mole-Dagbani population in the Ashanti Region is the second highest in the country after the Northern Region.

1.5.4 Religious Composition in the Region

About 78.4 percent of the people in the region according to the 2021 Population and Housing Census are Christians of different denominations. The proportion of Muslims is 15.9 percent, the second largest, while those with no religious affiliation are 0.9 percent.

1.5.5 Tourist Attractions in the Region

The Region has a number of tourist attractions that include the museum at the Asantehene's palace, a Cultural Centre and a sword which was stuck in the ground by Komfo Anokye in Kumasi, the Bosomtwi Crater Lake, the inland port in Kumasi, the *kente* weaving industry at Bonwire and the Akwasidae festival. Other tourist attractions include the Owabi Arboretum and Bomgobiri wildlife sanctuaries.

There are several tourist attractions in the region. The Rattray Park in Kumasi serves as an amusement park with state-of-the-art fountain and pools. The Royal Mausoleum at Manhyia Palace, the mythical Okomfo Anokye sword at Okomfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Lake Bosomtwe, Mframabuom Caves, Bobiri butterfly forest, Kente weaving at Bonwire among others are also attractions.

To lift this burgeoning tourism industry, there are several hotels, an Airport and an air strip at Obuasi to make travelling and lodging convenient to tourist. The availability of modern transport architecture such as engineered road networks and an airport, facilitates quick movement of goods and services to other parts of the country and for exports. However, the surface of some of the road network during the period was in a deplorable state.

Other significant sectors of the economy are service (25.4%) and manufacturing (10.5%).

There is also the availability of a large pool of active labour force to support a sustainable and growing economic development in the region as shown in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Tourist Sites in Ashanti Region

No.	Districts	Tourism Sites
1	Adansi North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prempeh II Stone at Brofoyedru; ● Kusa Scarp at Kusa. ● Treaty of Fomena at Fomena ● Bonsam Shrine at Patakro ● Sasabonsam Kye at Bodwesango ● Tewobaabi Waterfalls at Tewobaabi ● Nyankumasu Waterfalls at Nyankumasu
2	Adansi South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Birds Sanctuary at Bonkro (White-Necked Picathartes), ● Snake Palm Tree at Pra- Birim Aboi, ● Confluence of Rivers Birim and Pra at Birim Aboye and Hwidiem respectively
3	Afigya Kwabre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grotto Sacred Spot – Boahu
4	Ahafo Ano North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asuhyiae Confluence ● Grotto Sacred Spot
5	Ahafo Ano South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mpasaaso Waterfall at Mpasaaso ● Elongated Cave at Sabronum
6	Asante Akim Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grottoes at Dwease, traditional shrines at Kyekyebiase
7	Asante Akim South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pra Riverside at Nnadieso ● Historical Cave at Gyadam
8	Atwima Kwanwoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wood and Brass Carvings at Foase and Krofrom
9	Atwima Mponua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yaa Asantewaa Museum at Sreso Tinpom, ● Water Falls at Nyinahin ● Water Falls at Kyerewere
10	Atwima Nwabiagya North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Owabi and Barekese Dams ● Gyamera Forest Reserve ● Owabi and Barekese Water Works Forest Reserve ● Komfo Anokye Footprints at Nkakom ● Golden Stool Cave at Barekese
11	Bekwai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● King Osei Tutu I Birthplace at Kokofu-Anyinam ● River Banko ● Essumeja
12	Bosome Freho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● River Banko ● Bosomtwe Forest Reserves
13	Bosomtwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lake Bosomtwe
14	Juaben	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yaa Asantewaa Museum ● Bonwire Kente Weaving ● Bobiri Forest Reserve with its Butterfly Sanctuary
15	KMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manhyia Palace at Manhyia ● Royal Museum at Manhyia ● Center for National Culture at Bantama ● Prempeh II Museum ● Craft Centre ● Okomfo Anokye Sword at KATH ● Fort Saint George (War Museum) at Adum ● Kumasi Zoological Gardens ● Kumasi City Rattray Park at Nhyiaeso ● KNUST Botanical Gardens
16	Mampong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mampong Scarp
17	Kwabre East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Craft Village at Ahwiaa ● Kente Weaving at Ntonso, Asonomaso, Adanwomase

Source: ARCC-RPCU, 2022

CHAPTER THREE

Demographic Characteristics

This section looks at the population dynamics of the Region in terms of size, growth, age-sex distribution, dependency rate, among others.

1.6.1 Population Size and Growth

Ashanti Region has a population of 5,440,463 with 2,679,914 males and 2,760,549 females at a growth rate of 1.2 percent representing 17.6 percent of Ghana's population (30,832,019) 2021

Population and Housing Census (PHC, 2021). Out of the total Region's population of 5,440,463, 1,876,959 representing 34.5 percent are within the ages of 0-14; 3,340,444 representing 61.4 percent are within ages of 15-64 and (223,058.983) representing 4.1 percent are within the age 65 and older. Generally, the Region has a youthful population representing that of the country.

1.6.2 Population Density

Population density is the average number of individuals in a population per unit or volume. In other words, it is measurement of the population per unit area.

It helps in effect to quantify demographic information and to assess relationships with human health, infrastructure and ecosystems. From Table 1.3, the population density of the region is (222.7) persons per square kilometer). Old Tafo Municipality has the highest population density in the Region with a density of 20,880.2 and Sekyere Afram Plains has the lowest density in the region with 9.5 persons per square kilometer. Most of the Districts in the Region have densities below 1,000 square kilometer.

Table 1.3: MMDAs Population Densities in the Region

MMDAs	Both sexes	Area Km ²	Population Density (Persons per sq. Km)	Number of households
Region (All 43 MMDAs)	5,440,463	24,389	223.1	1,523,101
Amansie South	116,366	777	149.7	40,721
Amansie Central	93,052	853	109.1	29,351
Akrofuom	49,291	571	86.3	15,630
Adansi South	85,200	771	110.5	24,118
Adansi Asokwa	71,844	738	97.3	18,953
Obuasi East	92,401	110	839.9	27,787
Obuasi Municipal	104,297	97	1,076.4	31,709
Adansi North	54,155	231	234.1	15,006
Bekwai Municipal	137,967	556	248.1	38,315
Amansie West	109,416	461	237.5	32,074
Atwima Kwanwoma	234,846	264	890.4	64,334
Bosomtwi	165,180	400	413.4	46,114
Bosome Freho	62,259	468	133.1	16,798
Asante Akim Central Municipal	91,673	299	306.6	28,124
Asante_Akim_South	123,633	1,158	106.8	33,717
Asante Akim North	85,788	1,095	78.4	26,512
Sekyere Kumawu	64,396	578	111.5	16,647
Sekyere East	74,789	240	311.8	20,109
Juaben Municipal	63,929	374	170.8	18,175
Ejisu	180,723	224	807.1	50,311
Oforikrom	213,126	50	4,298.6	52,302
Asokwa	125,642	25	4,940.0	39,230
KMA	443,981	68	6,542.6	137,068
<i>KMA-Nhyiaeso</i>	<i>114,944</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>4,362.7</i>	<i>35,575</i>
<i>KMA-Subin</i>	<i>76,466</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10,744.9</i>	<i>23,240</i>
<i>KMA-Manhyia South</i>	<i>38,138</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>12,808.9</i>	<i>13,926</i>
<i>KMA-Manhyia North</i>	<i>91,893</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8,985.0</i>	<i>28,280</i>
<i>KMA-Bantama</i>	<i>122,540</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>5,782.5</i>	<i>36,047</i>
Kwadaso Municipal	154,526	42	3,638.3	46,674
Suame Municipal	136,290	13	10,569.3	43,174
Old Tafo Municipal	114,368	5	20,880.2	35,030
Asokore Mampong	191,402	24	7,878.8	53,450
Kwabre East	296,814	125	2,378.3	78,679
Afigya Kwabre South	234,667	161	1,460.4	62,674
Atwima Nwabiagya North	155,025	278	557.7	40,619

Sourc: ARCC, 2022

1.6.3 Population Distribution

Table 1.4 shows that Ashanti is an urban Region. It has about two-thirds (60.6%) of the population living in the urban areas mostly in the capital city, Kumasi. Although, it has the smallest land size of 214 sq.km, Kumasi is the most populous town in the Region. Kwabre East is the next most densely populated District in the Region. On the other hand, Sekyere Afram Plains and Akrofuom Districts are the least populated in the Region. Sekyere Afram Plains has a population of 32,640 and a density of 9 persons/sq.km, the least in the Region whilst Akrofuom has a population of 49,291 with a density of 86 person/sq.km.

Table 1.4: Population by Sex and District in the Region

MMDAs	Both sexes	Male	%	Female	%
Region	5443981	2679914	49.2	2760549	50.8
Amansie South District	116366	61460	52.8	54906	47.2
Amansie Central District	93052	48393	52.0	44659	48.0
Akrofuom Municipal	49291	26315	53.4	22976	46.6
Adansi South District	85200	42552	49.9	42648	50.1
Adansi Asokwa District	71844	35944	50.0	35900	50.0
Obuasi East District	92401	44927	48.6	47474	51.4
Obuasi Municipal	104297	51885	49.7	52412	50.3
Adansi North District	54155	26782	49.5	27373	50.5
Bekwai Municipal	137967	66616	48.3	71351	51.7
Amansie West District	109416	56048	51.2	53368	48.8
Atwima Kwanwoma District	234846	114123	48.6	120723	51.4
Bosomtwi District	165180	80428	48.7	84752	51.3
Bosome Freho District District	62259	31427	50.5	30832	49.5
Asante Akim Central Municipal	91673	44507	48.5	47166	51.5
Asante_Akim_South Municipal	123633	61715	49.9	61918	50.1
Asante Akim North Municipal	85788	42000	49.0	43788	51.0
Sekyere Kumawu District	64396	30890	48.0	33506	52.0
Sekyere East District	74789	35731	47.8	39058	52.2
Juaben Municipal	63929	31203	48.8	32726	51.2
Ejisu Municipal	180723	87836	48.6	92887	51.4
Oforikrom Municipal	213126	107426	50.4	105700	49.6
Asokwa Municipal	125642	61000	48.6	64642	51.4
KMA-Nhyiaeso	114944	56981	49.6	57963	50.4
KMA-Subin	76466	38718	50.6	37748	49.4
KMA-Manhyia South	38138	17406	45.6	20732	54.4
KMA-Manhyia North	91893	43174	47.0	48719	53.0
KMA-Bantama	122540	57383	46.8	65157	53.2
Kwadaso Municipal	154526	75205	48.7	79321	51.3
Suame Municipal	136290	64878	47.6	71412	52.4
Old Tafo Municipal	114368	55086	48.2	59282	51.8
Asokore Mampong	191402	93506	48.9	97896	51.1
Kwabre East Municipal	296814	143684	48.4	153130	51.6

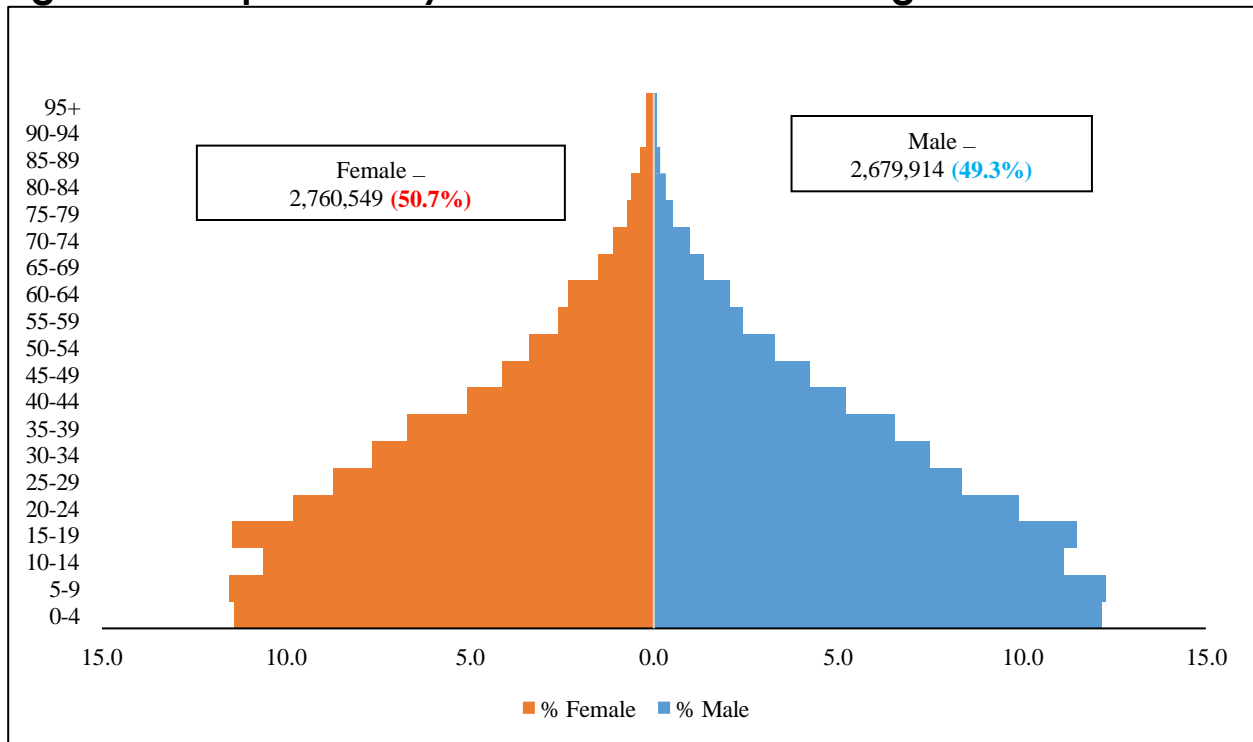
Afigya Kwabre South District	234667	115067	49.0	119600	51.0
Atwima Nwabiagya North District	155025	76877	49.6	78148	50.4
Atwima Nwabiagya South Municipal	161893	78334	48.4	83559	51.6
Atwima Mponua District	155254	80235	51.7	75019	48.3
Ahafo Ano South West District	65770	33641	51.1	32129	48.9
Ahafo Ano North Municipal	92742	46753	50.4	45989	49.6
Ahafo Ano South East District	63468	32071	50.5	31397	49.5
Offinso North District	83440	40957	49.1	42483	50.9
Offinso Municipal	137272	66569	48.5	70703	51.5
Afigya Kwabre North District	73330	36608	49.9	36722	50.1
Sekyere South District	120076	58065	48.4	62011	51.6
Mampong Municipal	116632	56965	48.8	59667	51.2
Ejura Sekyedumase Municipal	137672	68551	49.8	69121	50.2
Sekyere Central District	73228	36490	49.8	36738	50.2
Sekyere Afram Plains District	32640	17502	53.6	15138	46.4

Source: ARCC-RPCU, 2022

1.6.4 Age Dependency Ratio

The dependent population consists of those in the age groups 0-14 years (children) and 65 years and older (elderly) who are catered for by the economically active population within the 15-64 years' age group. The proportion of the dependent population in the region decreased from 48.1 percent in 2000 to 42.1 percent in 2010 and further decreased to 38.6 percent in 2021. The decrease is partly due to fertility decline and implies that working people have more of their disposable incomes to spend on themselves and their dependents. Age dependency ratio is 65, implying that there are 65 persons in the dependent age bracket (children 0-14 years and the elderly 65+ years) for every 100 persons in the working age bracket (15-64 years) according to 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) as presented in Figure 1.4.

Figure 1.4: Population by Sex and District in the Region



Source: ARCC-RPCU, 2022

Ashanti Population Pyramid, 5,440,463 (2nd Populous Region after GA)

CHAPTER FOUR

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

1.7.0 Social Services and human development

The Region has a high access to electricity. According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, 86.3 percent of households have access to electricity either from the Electricity Company or from other sources. In the case of access to improved water sources, 96.4 percent of all households have access to improved water source either privately owned, borehole or from the Ghana Water

company. The data shows that just 3.6 percent of households still rely on water from unimproved sources in the region. The Region has 5,194 boreholes fitted with hand pumps, 245 hand dug wells, 41 small town pipe systems, 544 Limited Mechanised Schemes, and 21 Ghana Water Company Limited.

On the use toilet facility, data points to the fact that 92.7 percent of households use either public toilet facilities or those owned by the households.

The Region has a total road network of 8,213 kilometers made up of 653.0 (8.0%) in good condition, 2,123.0 kms (26.0%) being fair and a bigger proportion being in poor state, 5,432.0 km representing 66.0 percent of all the road network. Out of this number 1,533.0 km (19%) is paved whilst the remaining portion 6,680.0 km (81.0%) being unpaved.

1.7.1 Health Status

Quality health delivery system is paramount in Ghana and in the Region as a whole. For the country to develop, the Government needs to attach a sense of urgency and priority to its healthcare delivery. In view of this, there is the need to construct more health facilities to cater for the people. Ashanti Region has One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-Five (1,835) health facilities spread across the Region. Out of the total number, CHPS zones alone have One Thousand One Hundred and Twenty (1,120), with CHPS zones with compound One Hundred and Eighty-One (181). All these are under the management of the Government of Ghana. There are One Hundred and TwentyNine Clinics (129) in the Region; with Twenty-Five (25) of them being run by the Mission.

Thirteen (13) for Government, Eighty-Six (86) for Private and Five (5) for quasi bodies. There is a total of Twenty-Six (26) District hospital in the Region, Three (3) belongs to the Mission and the remaining Twenty Three (23) for the Government. Similarly, there are Twenty-Six (26) hospital scattered across the Region which are not District hospitals; Twenty Six (26) for Mission, Seven (7) for Government and a Hundred and Two (102) for Private. In all, there are One Hundred and Sixty-Two (162) Health Centres in the Region; Eight (8) Mission, One Hundred and Fifty-Three (153) for Government and One (1) for Private. Maternity Homes have a total of Seventy-

One (71) with one (1) for Mission and Seventy (70) for Private. There are also only Eight (8) Polyclinics in the Region and all belongs to the Government. There are One (1) Regional, One (1) One Teaching and One (1) University Hospitals in the Region. All these health facilities in the Region are shown on Table 1.5, Table 1.6 and Table 1.7. Health Challenges in the Region are;

- Too many uncompleted project dotted in the Region
- Lack of coordination in project implementation
- Poor staff distribution and refusal of posting

Table 1.5: Health Facilities in the Region

Facility Type	Mission	Government	Private	Quasi-Government	Grand Total
CHPS Zones	0	1,120	0	0	1,120
Zones with compound	0	181	0	0	181
Clinic	25	13	86	5	129
District Hospital	3	23	0	0	26
Health Centre	8	153	1	0	162
Other Hospitals	26	7	102	0	135
Maternity Home	1	0	70	0	71
Polyclinic	0	8	0	0	8
Regional Hospital	0	1	0	0	1
Teaching Hospital	0	1	0	0	1
University Hospital	0	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	63	388	259	5	715

Source: GHS, 2022 Report

Table 1.6: Human Resource in the Region

Type	2020	2021	2022
Doctors	187	201	218
Dental Surgeon	12	21	15
Nurses (All categories)	8069	9309	9645
Midwives (All Categories)	2099	2631	3114
Pharmacist	92	121	135
Support Staff and Others	1784	1563	2058
Physician/ Medical Assistant	269	288	288
biomedical Scientist	81	114	131
TOTAL	12593	14248	15604

Source: GHS, 2022 Report

Table 1.7: Health Officers Population Ratio in the Region

#	Indicator	Performance Trend					Target
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
1	Doctor to population ratio	1:12,075	1:8,987	1:7,269	1:7,169	1:5,529	1:7,500
2	Nurse to population ratio	1:769	1:790	1:573	1:554	1:387	1:450
3	Midwife to Women in Fertility Age (WIFA) population ratio.	1:845	1:464	1:652	1:575	1:267	1:700
4	Midwife to WIFA population geographical equity index	0.09	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.55
5	Doctor population geographical equity index	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.20
6	Nurse population geographical equity index	0.01	0.12	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.55
7	Skilled delivery geographical equity index	0.10	0.01	0.10	0.05	0.16	0.70

Source: GHS, 2022 Report

1.7.2 Education

Under the education, the Regional Education Directorate has uniquely contributed to the development of education in the Region. These include;

1. Improved equitable access to and participation in inclusive quality education at all levels.
 - a. Enrolment of pupils/students have been increased over the years. Children of school going age have access to education in the region
2. Improved quality of education at the Basic and Senior High Schools
 - a. BECE Results have been improved. More graduates at the JHS Level are able to enter into Senior High/Tech Schools and TVET.
 - b. WASSCE Results have also been improved. More graduates at the SHS/TVET level qualify to enter tertiary education
3. The Regional Education Directorate has ensured smooth implementation of the policy.

In the Region, the education opportunities that exist include; Basic Educational Facilities, Secondary Educational Facilities, Regional Education Directorate, Metro/Municipal/District

Education Directorates and Trained Teachers. The number of educational levels that exist in the Region are presented in Table 1.8 totaling 7,004 public institutions.

Table 1.8: Number of School in the Region

S/N	Level	Number
1	KG	2,373
2	Primary	2,454
3	Junior High School	2,032
4	Senior High/Tech School	141
5	TVET	4
Total		7,004

Source: Ghana Education Service, 2022

1.7.3 Literacy and Education

Literacy and formal education are two key indicators for measuring socio-economic development. Formal education plays an important role in the socio-economic development of a country, as it equips individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to fully contribute towards the development of society. The four pillars of education for the 21st Century espoused by UNESCO comprise learning to know, learning to do, learning to live and learning to be. These are tools that contribute to societal transformation and empower individuals to be useful to themselves and society.

Literacy is an essential component of the right to education and for accessing resources and effective communication and interaction among people. As part of policies and programmes that promote equality in all aspects of life, literacy interventions contribute to empowerment of people, especially women and other disadvantaged people and groups, to participate in social, economic,

civic and cultural activities. In particular, the cognitive, psychological, socio-cultural and economic benefits of literacy programmes are well recognized, such as the high tendency of literate parents to enroll and keep their children in school. Literacy is also an educational tool that promotes communication, self-expression, knowledge acquisition, ability to contribute ideas and self-worth.

1.7.4 Literacy Rate

In the Ashanti region, the population of 6 years and older who are literate is 78.0%. With this, 82.0% are males and 74.2% are females

For the school attendance status on the population of age 3 years and older, (13.2%) are in the category of has never attended, (42.5%) are in the category of attending now and 44.3 are in the category of attended in the past.

.1.7.5 Status of Marriage

Data on marital status help a country to discern its marriage patterns and trends. When combined with other data, it also helps communities to understand if available social services and programmes are meeting residents' needs. Further, data on marital status can facilitate the forecasting of future needs of programmes that have spousal benefits and measure the effects of policies and programmes that focus on the wellbeing of families such as tax policies and financial assistance programmes.

The region with the total population of 3,550, 773 age 15 years and older that are eligible to marry, 1,518,700 are in the category of never married and 348,045 are informal/living together. The population that have married are 1,320,357. And out the total population that have married,

325,086 are in the category of married (registered) representing 24.5% and 995,271 are married (not registered) representing 75.5%, 66,529 are in the category of separated. Divorce and widowed constituted 114,061 and 183,081 respectively.

1.7.6 Health Insurance Coverage

The National Health Insurance Schemes (NHIS) is a social intervention program introduced by government to provide financial access to quality health care for residents in Ghana. Health insurance covered (71.9%) population in the region. Out of this, 67.3% are males and 76.4% are females.

1.7.7 Employment and Unemployment Rate

The labour force or workforce or economically active population, also shortened to active population, includes both employed (employees and self-employed) and unemployed people, but not the economically inactive, such as pre-school children, school children, students and pensioners. For the economically active population (3,550,773) the region has, (1,824,952) are employed, (275,942) are unemployed and (1,449,879) are outside the labour force.

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons divided by the labour force which is different from the proportion of the population unemployed which is computed using entire population 15 years and older (within and outside the labour force). Under unemployment rate in the region, the unemployment rate of the population 15 years and older, the population 15-35 years and the population 15-24 years are 13.1%, 19.7% and 33.6% respectively.

1.7.8 Disabilities

1.7.8.1 Difficulty in Performing Activities

Human development indicators such as productivity, inclusion and access to social services are affected by various factors, one of which is the form and severity of disability. Generally, with socio-economic development and improvement in health and standard of living, concerns about the number and proportion of persons with one form of disability or the other is increasing. This explains the inclusion of disability issues in six out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals—SDGs 1, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 16 – emphasizing the need for inclusion so as ‘not to leave any one behind’ and calling for action towards disaggregating data to reflect the needs of populations affected by disability challenges.

The Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715), which passed 15 years ago, provides for the establishment of a National Council on Persons with Disability to coordinate the implementation of policies for persons with difficulties performing activities. Besides, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) are by law required to allocate three percent of the District Assembly Common Fund (i.e., the Disability Fund) to support and empower persons with such difficulties as a social protection measure for them.

As part of efforts towards enhancing their participation in socio-economic activities, access to services and improvement in their welfare, the government launched the Ghana Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment to provide specifications to ensure non-discriminatory accessibility to buildings and structures for all persons. Furthermore, social protection interventions, notably the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), has been adopted to help provide cash transfers for the elderly, vulnerable and persons with severe disabilities.

Difficulty in performing an activities comprise of:

1.7.8.2 Difficulty in Seeing

This refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in perceiving, observing what is happening around him/her, or seeing even when wearing glasses or contact lenses.

1.7.8.3 Difficulty in Hearing

Difficulty in hearing refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in distinguishing or hearing sounds from different sources in one or both ears, even when using hearing aids.

1.7.8.4 Difficulty in Walking or Climbing Stairs

This refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in the use of the lower limbs, i.e., legs, in such a way as to propel himself/herself over the ground to get from one point to another, without the assistance of any device (wheelchair, crutches, walker, etc.) or any human.

1.7.8.5 Difficulty in Remembering or Concentrating

It refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in the use of his/her memory to recall incidents, events, knowledge or information acquired; or mental ability to accomplish some tasks, such as reading and calculating numbers.

1.7.8.6 Difficulty with Self-care

Difficulty with self-care refers to challenges or problems relating to a person's ability to take care of himself/herself independently, including attending to one's hygiene, washing all over the body, dressing and eating.

1.7.8.7 Difficulty in Communicating

This refers to challenges or problems relating to a person’s ability to effectively exchange information or ideas with other people using voice or signs (including sign language), or in writing.

The regional population of 5,440,463 with 2,679,914 males and 2,760,549 females, 4,788,598 are 5 years and older. 363,321 of the 5 years and older category are with difficulty in performing activities. With this, 150,558 are males and 212,763 are females. With Urban population of 2,976,497 which constitutes the 5 years and older population, 200,310 are with difficulty of which 78,570 of it are males and 121,740 are females having difficulties in performing activities. And with rural population of 1,812,101 which also constitutes the 5 years and older population, 163,011 are also with difficulty of which 71,988 of it are males and 91,023 are females.

The table below shows persons who reported having some difficulty, a lot of difficulty and cannot do it at all in the various domains (seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, remembering or concentrating, self-care and communicating).

	seeing	hearing	walking/climbing stairs	remembering	self-care	communication
some difficulty	155,138	62,634	122,450	70,407	38,960	33,398
a lot of difficulty	20,543	10,515	35,167	15,599	11,020	9,325
cannot do at all	6,498	3,157	5,778	2,745	5,280	2,968

1.7.9 Information and Technology

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is increasingly defining the pace of global socio-economic development. Countries are prioritizing investment in the digital ecosystem to transform and modernize their economies in recognition of the developmental role ICT plays in facilitating and accelerating overall development. As observed by The Earth Institute, universal ICT connectivity offers a powerful platform to deliver essential services like e-governance, education, health, energy, and financial inclusion and ensure that no one is left behind.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), constituting the global blueprint to achieving a better and more sustainable future for all people by 2030 (Agenda 2030), identify ICT as integral to transformation and effective implementation of socioeconomic development policies and programmes. Seven out of the 17 goals have targets on ICT, which aim at achieving national and global efforts towards full inclusivity. Furthermore, the effective monitoring of progress of all the 17 SDGs largely depends on a fully developed ICT infrastructure and ICT capacitated population. Other frameworks for measuring development in Africa, including the African Union Agenda 2063 also underscore the central role of ICT in the development agenda of the continent.

As part of Ghana's commitment to these international frameworks to mainstream ICT use, the government adopted the Information and Communication Technology for Accelerated Development (ICT4AD) Policy in 2003 to transform the country into an information-rich and knowledge-based economy and society. There is an aggressive programme towards digitalizing the economy across all sectors including mobile phone interoperability and money transfer, National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) registration and renewal, issuance of the Ghana Card, the Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) operations and national passport

acquisition. For effective monitoring of Ghana's transition to a digitalized economy, there is the need for reliable, timely and accurate statistics on the ICT sector. Earlier efforts towards addressing these data needs by the state include the addition of ICT module in the 2010 Population and Housing Census (PHC), a nationwide survey on ICT access, usage and skills at the household level in 2019 and an ICT module in the 2021 PHC.

According to the 2021 PHC report, the ownership of functional ICT device among persons 12 years and older in the Ashanti region ranges from smart phone representing 81.4, non-smart phone representing 33.3, tablet representing 1.2, laptop representing 7.5, and none representing 11.1 percent respectively.

With the ownership of laptop among persons 12 years and older by type of locality, 10 and 3.3 percent of the population representing urban and rural respectively owns laptops. And with the non-ownership of mobile phone among persons 12 years and older by sex, 9.6 and 12.6 percent representing males and females respectively of the population don't own mobile phones in the region. Also, with the uses of mobile phone among persons 12 years and older for financial transaction by type of locality, 69.4 and 51.1 percent representing urban and rural respectively of the population uses mobile phones for various financial transactions in the region.

1.7.10 Fertility and Mortality

Information on fertility and mortality trends and patterns predict future population dynamics and their implications on demographic, social and economic activities as well as environmental sustainability. Complete and accurate data on births and deaths are, therefore, required to generate relevant fertility and mortality indicators necessary to inform the effective implementation of population and development programmes and related decision making. These indicators are

important for determining the provision of physical infrastructural and social services such as housing, education and health facilities. The Ghana National Population Policy (revised edition, 2017) aims at reducing fertility rate from 4.2 children per woman in 2014 to 3.5 by 2024, and 3.0 by 2034. Evidence from Ghana Demographic and Health Surveys and Ghana Maternal Health Surveys indicate that the fertility rate has declined over the years, from 6.4 in 1988 to 4.2 in 2014. The population policy further seeks to reduce maternal mortality ratio from 380 per 100,000 live births in 2014 to 100 per 100,000 live births in 2024, and 50 per 100,000 live births by 2034, and to decrease under-five mortality rate from 60 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 40 deaths per 1000 live births by 2024 and 10 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2034. Available evidence shows that maternal mortality ratio has declined from 380 in 2014 to 310 in 2017, and under-five mortality rate from 155 per 1,000 live births in 1998, to 52 per 1,000 live births in 2017. More recent data are required to monitor progress towards the realization of these targets and goals. Against this background, below are the regional information on fertility and mortality.

1.7.10.1 FERTILITY

Total Fertility Rate [which is the average number of children that would be born to a woman by the end of her reproductive lifespan (15-49 years)] is 3.0. The rate is higher in rural (3.7) than urban (2.7) areas.

With the age at first birth of women aged 45-49 years by type of locality in the region, Women aged 45-49 years had their first child around 21.9 years; women in rural areas give birth at a younger age (20.9 years) than their urban counterparts (22.6 years).

1.7.10.2 MORTALITY

For the 132,199 deaths that occurred in Ghana according to the 2021 PHC, 16.5 percent representing 21,812.835 deaths occurred in the region of which 16.3 and 16.7 percent are males and females respectively. Out of the 21,812.835 deaths that occurred in the region, Urban areas recorded 19.9 percent while Rural areas recorded 13.9 percent.

21.5 and 2.2 percent are males whose deaths occurred at Urban and Rural areas respectively. 22.1 and 2.4 percent are females whose deaths occurred at Urban and Rural areas respectively.

1.7.11 Housing Characteristics

In Ghana, decent and affordable housing remains a major challenge in both urban and rural areas. Housing shortage in urban areas has led to some households using makeshift structures such as metal containers and kiosks as sleeping places or sleeping in the open, and for the rural areas, the challenge has been inadequately and poorly constructed structures. Governments have embarked on housing policies and programmes over the years. For instance, the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (2017-2024) has a component which aims at promoting sustainable, spatially integrated, balanced, and orderly development of human settlements, and providing adequate, safe, secure, quality and affordable social and private housing. In the 2021 Population and Housing Census, data were collected on structures, housing conditions and facilities within the structures and in the community. The information below provides the basis for planning, monitoring, and evaluating housing conditions and needs of the population within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. They also allow for the assessment of housing stock, determination of housing deficit and others. This report presents information on ownership type, sources of lighting and cooking fuel in the regional.

The region with total population of 5,440,463, (40.6%) of the population occupy rented dwelling units (urban, 49.9%; rural, 24.8%) while 39.4% (urban, 31.6%; rural, 52.5%) of the population occupied their own houses.

Again, 88.5% (urban, 95.0%; rural, 77.6%) of the total population use the electricity as their main source of lighting. 50.8% use wood and charcoal as their main source of cooking fuel and 38.1% (urban, 49.3%; rural, 19.1%)

1.7.12 Number of Structures

With total of 10,661,421 housing structures in the country, (16.8%) which is 1,791,119 structures are in the Ashanti Region. And out of 1,791,119 housing structures the region has, (77.3%) are fully completed, (13.6%) are at different stages of completion and (9.1%) are structures with no form of roofing. The average household size in the region is 3.4 that is the sixth lowest household size after the Western Region (3.3), the Central Region (3.3), the Volta (3.3), Greater Accra (3.2) and Eastern (3.2)

1.7.13 Water and Sanitation

Access to basic water and sanitation is challenging in the Region. Only 29% of the population has access to basic sanitation, with water coverage faring better at 95.6%, this is mainly through public standpipes. Less than 27% of the people have access to safely managed water on their premises, with access available whenever needed and without any harmful contaminants. The region has been depending on Ghana Water Company Limited over the years for the supply of potable water. The supply of water has however been erratic. Consistent shortage of water especially at the urban centres.

1.7.14 Environment

The Regional Co-ordinating Council initiated the urban strategy dubbed, “Sustainable Cleaning, Greening, and Beautification of Greater Kumasi in the year 2022. This strategy aims at ensuring a cleaner and beautiful greater Kumasi by involving all relevant stakeholders including the security. The first phase of the project involves all the thirteen (13) Assemblies in the Greater Kumasi Area to sustainably clean, green and beautify their towns and cities.

Large quantities of waste are generated daily but the inability to collect this waste create public health hazards and impact negatively on the environment and climate change. As part of activities concerning this strategy, the Hon. Regional Minister kick started the project with a cleanup exercise led by himself. Other activities include desilting of choked gutters, weeding of the meridian, painting works, decongestion of the central business district whilst retaining its economic vitality and protecting small businesses. The Hon. Regional Minister has also contracted zoom lion to ensure effective collection and management of waste in the greater Kumasi. With regards to greening, a number of trees and shrubs have been planted in Greater Kumasi with continuous monitoring and nurturing of these trees

CHAPTER FIVE

Economic Development

1.8.1 Agriculture in General

Agriculture employs 25.6 percent of all persons 15 years and older in the region. It is the second dominant sector in the region’s economic activities. The region is endowed with abundant arable lands which support the production of cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, oil palm, citrus, cashew, mango, and food crops like cassava, plantain, rice, yam, cocoyam, maize, and vegetables. Cocoa, Oil palm and citrus are largely cultivated in the forest areas such as Atwima Mponua, Sekyere

East, Amansie West, Amansie Central, Ahafo Ano North, Bosomtwe, Atwima Kwanwoma, Adansi South, Adansi North, Offinso, Ejisu, Juaben, Asante Akim South and Ahafo Ano South districts.

Even though maize and other food crops such as cassava, plantain, yam, etc are produced in all the districts, Ejura Sekyedumase dominates in the production of maize, yam, groundnuts and cowpea.

Asante Akim North on the other hand produces plantains on medium to large scale.

1.8.2 Irrigation Farming

There is only limited area under formal and informal irrigation in the Region. Some of the irrigation sites can be located in the following districts, Offinso North, Ahafo Ano South East, Ahafo Ano South West, Ahafo Ano North, Mampong, Ejura and Ejisu.

1.8.3 Farming Systems

Two farming systems are practiced in the region. These are mixed cropping and mono cropping. However, the most widely practiced is the mixed cropping, which is the oldest form of systemized agricultural production, and involves the growing of two or more species or cultivars of the same species simultaneously on the same field. Tree crops such as cocoa, oil palm, citrus and mango are grown as mono-crops in plantations. However, these plantation crops are inter-cropped with food crops during the early periods of establishment. About 77% of farmers have farm sizes below 1.2 hectares. Mechanised farming is practiced mainly at the Ejura Sekyedumase, Mampong Municipal, Sekyere Afram Plains, Offinso North and Asante Akim North which forms part of the transitional zone of the Region.

1.8.4 Land Tenure System

The land tenure system in the region is that of the customary land tenure system which consists of customs and traditions that are accepted as legal requirements or obligatory rules of conduct; practices and beliefs that are so vital and intrinsic as part of social and economic system that they

are treated as if they were laws. Generally, land is passed on to family members through the matrilineal system of inheritance. Allodial rights to land, however, are entrusted in the chiefs and the family head. Land is acquired for farming through inheritance, renting and share cropping. The share tenancy agreement usually involves “Abunu” i.e., 0.5:0.5 usually for tree crops establishment or ‘Abusa’ i.e., 0.66:0.33 usually for food crops.

1.8.5 Major Cash and Food Crops Production

Cocoa and oil palm are the important commercial tree crops grown on small to medium scale and are common throughout the Region. Investments in cashew, mango, coconut, rubber, and citrus are promising and farmers are investing in this tree crops under the Planting for Export Rural Development (PERD).

Major food crops grown in the region are maize, rice, cassava, yam, plantain, cocoyam, groundnut, and cowpea. The introduction of the Government flagship program, planting for Food and Job has led to an increase in the production of these major food crops in the region. The policy has attracted a good number of youths who see farming as a business.

1.8.6 Livestock and Poultry Production

Livestock forms an integral part of the farming system in the Region. About 90% of crop farmers keep livestock either on a large scale or on subsistence level. Types of animals reared in the region include pigs, small ruminants, cattle, and poultry. Commercial livestock farming in the region are located around the urban and peri-urban settings. Ashanti Region leads in poultry production in the country and can boast of large-scale farms such as Akate farms, Topman, Asamoa-Yamoah, Animkora Farms etc.

Commercial ruminant livestock farmers in the urban and peri-urban settings of the Region are now into zero grazing (cut and feed) with average herd sizes of about hundred (100) animals. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has improved upon the local Djalonke breed. At present, the local Djalonke has improved from 12kg to 22kg year weight.

1.8.7 Tourism Investment Potentials

There are several tourist attractions in the region. The Rattray Park in Kumasi serves as an amusement park with state-of-the-art fountain and pools. The Royal Mausoleum at Manhyia Palace, the mythical Okomfo Anokye sword at Okomfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Lake Bosomtwe, Mframabuom Caves, Bobiri butterfly forest, Kente weaving at Bonwire among others are also attractions.

To lift this burgeoning tourism industry, there are several hotels, an Airport and an air strip at Obuasi to make travelling and lodging convenient to tourist. The availability of modern transport architecture such as engineered road networks and an airport, facilitates quick movement of goods and services to other parts of the country and for exports. However, the surface of some of the road network during the period was in a deplorable state.

Other significant sectors of the economy are service (25.4%) and manufacturing (10.5%).

There is also the availability of a large pool of active labour force to support a sustainable and growing economic development in the Region.

1.8.8 Road Network

Two (2) Departments of the Regional Co-ordinating Council, have the mandate of implementing and supervising roads infrastructure projects. These are the departments of Feeder Roads and Urban Roads.

There are 532.3km of road network infrastructure in the city. The proportion of good roads are inadequate and do not meet the demands of the people especially in the low-income areas. Presently, most of the city roads have exceeded their capacities thus causing uneasy traffic. There are three major sources of funding for these urban road projects in the city namely World Bank, French Development Agency and Road Fund from the central government. The major activities undertaken in the road sector in the city of Kumasi is the routine maintenance which includes desilting, pothole patching, minor drainage repairs, culverts repairs and replacement of slabs. There are also periodic maintenance activities which is clearing and grading of unengineered roads, resealing and shoulder repairs. However, these activities are not done regularly owing to limited resources.

1.8.9 Energy

The region is among the most energy supplied areas of Ghana. The region highly depends on wood-fuels, petroleum products and electricity as the main source of energy. The electric connectivity rate is also among the highest with a rate of 75.0 percent (MLNR,2017). Biofuels, such as wood and charcoal are the main source of energy for cooking in the region and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) serves as a substitute to reduce pressure on the forest.

1.8.9 Market Centers

There are lots of commercial market centers in the region with Kumasi Central Market being the largest which is supported by other satellite market in the region. However almost all the districts have their major market days which supplies foodstuffs in the Region. Examples are Fumso market in Adansi Asokwa, Tapa market at Ahafo Ano North, Nsuta have their days usually on Fridays, Mampong Market supplies vegetables such carrots, etc. Ejura -Sekyeremudase Market supplies Maize, yam. etc.

1.9 Development Potentials of the Region

The Region has the natural resources such as rivers and waterbodies, mountains/scarps, mineral and forest resources. The Region is drained by Lake Bosomtwi (the largest natural lake in the country) and many rivers such as Offin, Pra, Afram and Owabi which serve as sources of drinking water for residents of many localities in the Region. These rivers have the capacity to be developed for irrigation and for tourism purposes. These Rivers also have the potential for small-scale mining activities.

- Fish from rivers
- Resources in the forest can be used for tourism purposes
- Minerals can be obtained from the mountains in the Region
- Agriculture; food crops, tree crops, livestock &poultry, aquaculture, irrigation
- Soil type is ideal for the production of food crops such as cocoa, citrus, food and other cash crops

- Commercial and manufacturing activities, hospitality, trade, education, research institutions, health facilities, ICT/Telecommunications
- Educational facilities for training and research purposes including the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, CSIR
- Improved equitable access to and participation in inclusive quality education at all levels
- Existence of health facilities in the Region e.g Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Military Hospital at Afari and other District hospitals
- Youthful population provides a huge potential for market, labour force
- Transportation: Air Transport, Road Transport, Rail Transport, Boankra Inland Port
- Kumasi Airport expansion into international status, revamping of Kumasi Railway Line • Presence of the telecommunication industry (get coverage areas)

1.10 List of Development Issues in the Region

The following are the pressing issues hampering the development of the Region. These includes;

- Poor road network
- Youth unemployment
- Inadequate irrigation facilities
- Inadequate mechanization centres
- Inadequate storage facilities for agricultural produce
- Inadequate ready market for farm produce
- Limited manufacturing industries
- Limited telecommunication network especially in the rural areas
- Limited knowledge on value addition
- Difficulty in accessing credit facilities
- Inadequate infrastructural facilities including ICT/Science Laboratory, Library, Home Economics facilities, inadequate furniture
- Encroachment of school land
- Inadequate computers and accessories for the Education Directorate
- Inadequate parental support

