

### **Profile of the Upper West Region**

The Upper West Region of Ghana is bordered on the north by Burkina Faso, the south by the Northern Region and on the west by Ivory Coast. The population of the region grew from 576,583 in 2000 to 702,110 in 2010. With a growth rate of 1.9% the population is estimated to increase to 1.7 million by 2040. Almost 49.0% of the population are males and females represents 51.4% The age structure of the region indicates that, the proportion of the population aged 0 - 14 (under 15 years) is 41.7%, and those aged 15 - 64 and 65+ are 52.3% and 6.0% respectively.

The region occupies a total land area of 18,476 sq. km, which makes it the seventh largest among the regions in terms of land size. It has a population density of 38 people per sq. km. The region is 16.3% urban with an annual urban growth rate of 1.3%. The region experiences more outflows of people to other parts of the country than people migrating into the region, this therefore gave the region a negative net migration value of -209,414 in 2010. With regards to the economy, the labour force participation rate for population aged 15 - 64 is almost 71.5%.

The region recorded an Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one) of sixty-seven infants deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011. Child Mortality Rate (deaths of children between age one and four) was 44 deaths per 1,000 live births and Under Five Mortality (number of children who die by age five) was reported as 108 deaths per 1,000 live births. Maternal Mortality Rate (relates the number of deaths due to pregnancy related causes to the number of women of the child-bearing age group, 15 - 49 years) in the region, was 466 per 100,000 live births in 2010, this was lower than the national value of 485 per 100,000 live births.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of the region is slightly lower (5.0) as compared to the national TFR of 4.0. This shows that, on the average women in the Upper West Region give birth to five children. In addition there are two births per every 100 adolescents in the region, which is among the highest compared to the other regions. With regards to Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR), the use of modern contraceptives among currently married women (Contraceptive Prevalence Rate) was 24.8% in 2014. In 2013, the HIV prevalence rate in the region was 0.8%, lower than the national HIV prevalence of 1.3%.

For more information, contact the regional office.

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