

### **Profile of the Western Region**

The Western Region of Ghana is situated in the south-western part of Ghana. It is bordered on the east by Central Region, to the west by the Ivory Coast, to the north by Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions and to the south by the Gulf of Guinea. The southern part of Ghana lies in the region at Cape Three Points near Busua in the Ahanta West Region. The population of the region grew from 1,924,577 in 2000 to 2,376,021 in 2010. With a growth rate of 2.0% the population is estimated to increase to 4.8 million by 2040. Fifty percent of the population are males and females. The age structure of the region indicates that, the proportion of the population aged 0 - 14 (under 15 years) is 39.9%, and those aged 15 - 64 and 65+ are 57.2% and 3.8% respectively.

The region occupies a total land area of 23,760 sq. km, which makes it the fourth largest among the regions in terms of land size. It has a population density of 99.3 people per sq. km. The region is 42.4% urban with an annual urban growth rate of 3.5%. The region experiences more inflows from people to other parts of the country than people moving into the region, this therefore gave the region a net migration value of 282,119 in 2010. With regards to the economy, the labour force participation rate for population aged 15 - 64 is almost 71.4%.

The region recorded an Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one) of fifty infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011. Child Mortality Rate (deaths of children between age one and four) was 17 deaths per 1,000 live births, this was the lowest among the regions and Under Five Mortality (number of children who die by age five) was reported as 67 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 435 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 (4.2) as compared to the national TFR of 4.0, showing that on the average women in the Western Region give birth to four children as do all women in Ghana. In addition there are four 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 23.3% in 2014. In 2013, the HIV prevalence rate in the region was 2.4%, has compared to the national HIV prevalence of 1.3%.

For more information, contact the regional office.

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