The Dodowa HDSS operates within the boundaries of the Dangme West District. The district is currently one of the ten districts in the Greater Accra Region located in the south-eastern of Ghana and lies between latitude 5° 45’ South and 6° 05’ North and longitude 0° 05’ East and 0° 20’ West. The district covers about 40.5% of the total land size within the Region. It is about 40.8 kilometers away from the national capital, Accra.
Background:

- A fairly rural coastal district
- Mostly scattered communities with small population less than 2000
- Communities with the largest populations are only 5-6,000 people
- The people are poor and deprived
- 4 administrative sub districts
  - Dodowa, Prampram, Ningo, and Osudoku sub districts
- 2 sub districts mainly fishing and other 2 mainly farming communities
- Petty trading is the next major occupation in the districts

### DEMOGRAPHICS – 1

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDSS surveillance pop</td>
<td>111,976 – end of 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveillance area</td>
<td>1,528.9/sq km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density</td>
<td>73.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>22,767 in 377 communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio</td>
<td>87 males: 100 females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DEMOGRAPHICS – 2

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants (under 1 yr)</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 5 yrs</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females 15 - 49 yrs</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependency ratio</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female headed households</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vision:
To be the centre of excellence that provides international leadership in quality research to address health challenges.

Mission:
To conduct health research and build capacity to influence policy which will impact on health internationally.

Core Values:
- Partnership
- Empowerment
- Excellence
- Accountability/Integrity
- Responsibility
- Teamwork

Objectives:
- To take part in identifying and carrying out priority research to help address policy, planning and implementation needs of the GHS.
- To build multi disciplinary capacity in the relevant disciplines within the research centre to provide technical support for research within the GHS.
- To disseminate results of research findings to key people, policy makers and anyone responsible for health care in a meaningful way.
- Have a functioning DSS and be part of the INDEPTH Network

Specific Objectives for the year
Conduct studies that will provide information to help
- Improve quality of Care
- Improve access and equity in access to health care
- Improve efficiency of health service delivery
- Foster partnerships in improving health
- Improve financing and equity of financing in the health sector

**Figure 5: Population pyramid by percent of each sex, DHDSS, 2010**

**Challenges/Achievements**

The DHDSS team through hard work and dedication has been able to make some headway.
- The team was able to clear all outstanding VPMs and now VPM is conducted immediately the event (death) is captured;
- Re-vamped the Community Key Informant system which is making a positive impact on the quality of data collected; and
- Has been able to put a team together who are working on pairing all internal immigrants which is a big challenge.

**Projections**

1. The HDSS team hopes to maintain very high standard of data quality in order to provide comprehensive sampling frame for new projects.
2. Clear all backlogs of linking migrations.
3. Continue to be the bedrock for the Dodowa Health Research Centre.
Collaborators

- WHO/TDR
- Welcome Trust
- Gates Foundation
- Grameen Foundation
- Netherlands Government
- SIDA
- INDEPTH Network
- School of Public Health Ghana
- Regional Institute for Population studies
- DSS Sites in Ghana
- District health Management Team
- Ministry of Local Government

Publications 2009:

- **Treatment choices for fevers in children under five years in a rural Ghanaian district 2009**
  - Novignon J, Aikins M, Chinbuah A, Gyapong M, Abbey M Gyapong J

- **Spatial Variations in Childhood Mortalities in the Dangme West District of Ghana 2009**
  - Awini, E. Mattah, P. Sankoh O. Gyapong, M.

- **Symptom overlap for malaria and pneumonia and caregiver practices. A study conducted in a southern district in Ghana-Implications for an integrated Home Management of fever strategy.**
  - Chinbuah A, Gyapong J, Abbey M, Gyapong M
Parts of the Health and Demographic Surveillance Area