Brief Introduction to Kintampo HDSS

The Kintampo north and south districts (previously simply referred to as the Kintampo district) are two of the 19 districts currently in the BrongAhafo Region of Ghana. The Kintampo HDSS area (constituting of Kintampo north and south districts), has a surface area of 7,162 square kilometers. It is bounded to the north by the Black Volta, west by the Wenchi and Tain districts, in the East by the Atebubu District and to the south by Techiman and south-east by the Nkoranza north and south districts respectively.

The main indigenous ethnic groups are of the Bono, and the Mo origin. There is however a large permanent immigrant population from the northern Regions of Ghana (Dagarbas, Dagombas and Konkombas) who are mostly farmers. A few Dangbes and Ewes who are mainly fishermen are settled along the banks of the Black Volta. Settlements are mainly concentrated along the main trunk road linking the district capitals (Kintampo/Jema) to northern Region.

In April 2010, The Kintampo HDSS established a satellite HDSS (Ahafo Mining Area Health and Demographic Surveillance System, AMAHDSS) in Tano North and Asutifi Districts of the Newmont Ghana Gold mining concession area. It is to monitor population and health dynamics in a mining area. It is the first HDSS in a mining area.
Demographic Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude Birth Rate (CBR)</td>
<td>31.8 per 1000 person-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fertility Rate (TFR)</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude Death Rate (CDR)</td>
<td>7.8 per 1000 person-years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal Mortality</td>
<td>20.3 per 1000 births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-neonatal Mortality</td>
<td>18.2 per 1000 births</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality</td>
<td>38.5 per 1000 births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Mortality (1-4 years)</td>
<td>8.1 per 1000 person-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Five Mortality</td>
<td>14.2 per 1000 person-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Natural Increase</td>
<td>23.6 per 1000 person-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Migration</td>
<td>209.5 per 1000 person-days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-Migration</td>
<td>203.7 per 1000 person-days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Key Theme:
To research into diseases that are of public health importance nationally and internationally, come up with appropriate interventions that are aimed at significantly reducing the public health importance of these diseases, sharing results of our findings with appropriate sectors of the health ministry of Ghana and internationally with other collaborating institutions/health organizations among others.

Vision
Our vision is to provide practical needs based research of the highest quality which has a pro-poor and gender equity focus and is used to shape health policy and practice. Furthermore we will build health research capacity of health and health-related professionals so that they can effectively address the challenges of health in Africa. To provide and integrate quality health care, health education and biomedical research to improve the health status of less privileged people in the region.

Mission
Our mission is to conduct public health research and develop health research capacity which will contribute to a significant reduction in ill-health and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for Africa’s most disadvantaged communities.

Priority Research Areas
- Malaria epidemiological studies; malaria drug intervention studies and malaria vaccines trials
- Maternal, child and neonatal studies; incorporating new maternal, child and neonatal intervention studies to help control mortality among these vulnerable group.
- Micronutrient initiatives: use of “Sprinkles” to control anaemia; use of vitamin A and other micronutrients to control infant/child morbidity/mortality.
- HIV/AIDS: Evaluating novel approaches that will help improve the use of VCT services as a way of assessing potential HIV cases for early treatment
- Mental Health research: role of cannabis in the proliferation of schizophrenia; the prevalence of mental health depression among post-partum mothers and the causes; Dementia among the aged and the extent of denial of health support.
- Tuberculosis research
- Non communicable disease
- Using the HDSS to track progress towards MDGs indicators such as mortality levels, patterns and trends

Funders
- GHS (National Malaria Control Programme)
- Department for International Development (DFID),
- Canadian International Health Research,
- PATH-MVI
NIH, USA
World Health Organisation,
Gates Malaria Partnership, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,
The Wellcome Trust (WT)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
EDCTP

Collaborators:
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: Nutrition & Public Health Intervention Research Unit (LSHTM/NPHIRU)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: Gates Malaria Partnership (LSHTM/GMP),
- PATH-MVI, PATH-MMV
- GlaxoSmithKline (Pharma), GlaxoSmithKline (Biologicals)
- Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research (KCCR), SMS-KATH
- Hospital for Sick Children, Ontario and Department of Pediatrics, Centre for International Health, University of Toronto, Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Canada,
- Health Research Unit, Ghana Health Service
- Navrongo Health Research centre, GHS,
- Dodowa Health Research centre
- National Malaria Control Programme, GHS
- WHO
- Institute of Psychiatry, King’s College London, UK
- University of Ghana
- School of Public Health, University of Ghana
- Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research
- Newmont Ghana Gold Limited
KEY PUBLICATIONS 2008-2011


12. Kenneth Ae-Ngibise, Sara Cooper, Edward Adilbokah, Bright Akpalu, Crick Lund, Victor Doku, & The Mhapp Research Programme Consortium. 'Whether you like it or not people with mental problems are going to go to them': A qualitative exploration into the widespread use of traditional and faith healers in the provision of mental health care in Ghana. *Int Rev of Psychiatry*, 2010 Dec; 22(6): 558–567


Highlights at Kintampo HDSS

Kintampo data entry clerks at work

Laboratory technologists analysing Chemistry samples at the Clinical Chemistry Unit of the Clinical Laboratory