



RAPID

The Change We Seek

Ghana
Upper West Region
Nearly 1.7 million people by 2040

OVERVIEW

- ▣ Over the course of her life, each woman in the Upper West Region has nearly five children.
- ▣ Because use of family planning is low, family sizes are large, driving population growth.
- ▣ Increasing women's use of family planning would lead to healthier families and reduce stress on the Upper West Region's systems and resources.



Government of Ghana



Photo by Stig Nygaard

“Family planning could bring more benefits to more people at less cost than any single technology.”

—Kofi Annan, Former United Nations Secretary General

If the Upper West Region’s population grows more slowly, it will be easier to improve health and education, invest in a better economy, and reduce strain on the region’s infrastructure and resources.

More than 40 percent of the Upper West Region’s population is under age 15.

If contraceptive use remains low, population growth could rapidly accelerate, further challenging the region’s development.

The Upper West Region’s population is growing rapidly, and with only 22.4 percent of married women using any method of family planning, the rate of growth is unlikely to slow.

If women in the region continue to have nearly five children each, its population could double by 2040.

In this scenario, the larger population will continue to hinder the region’s development progress; however, the region could greatly improve its prospects by strengthening its commitment to family planning.

Smaller family sizes through increased use of family planning could relieve pressure on the provision of primary education and public health services, as well as alleviate food insecurity, unemployment, and underemployment.

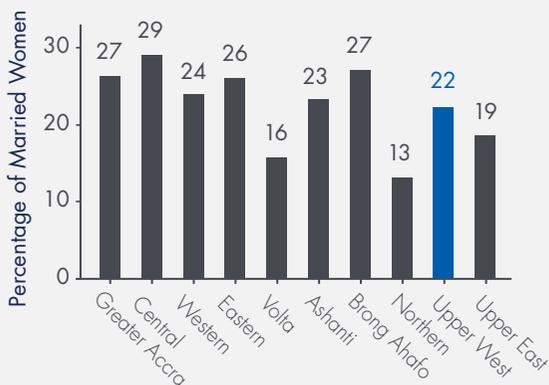
What Can Be Done

For the Upper West Region to achieve its development potential, investments in family planning must become a priority:

- Develop and implement a regional-level family planning/population strategy, as well as an accompanying costed implementation plan
- Commit resources for regional-level family planning commodity storage and distribution to ensure universal access in both urban and rural areas
- Lobby the district assemblies (via the Regional Coordinating Council) to allocate 0.5 percent of their District Assemblies Common Fund to support family planning activities
- Expand the supply of region-sponsored family planning providers, thereby enhancing access to services at the community level and in rural areas
- Reach citizens and traditional leaders with family planning messages and education, thereby dispelling myths and misconceptions

Contraceptive Prevalence Rates

By region, 2011



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2011

16.7 million

Cedis saved in primary education by 2040

With fewer students, less resources are needed for education.

13.7 million

Cedis saved in the health sector by 2040

With a smaller population, less pressure is placed on the health system.

10.4 thousand

Fewer new jobs will be needed by 2040

With smaller families and more job security, individuals can enjoy higher incomes.

References

1. Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2003, 2008
2. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2011
3. Resources for the Awareness of Population Impacts on Development (RAPID) Model for Upper West Region, 2015

This document was prepared with the support of the Health Policy Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

