

## NEWS SITUATION TRACKING

About 1000 homes flooded, and over 1500 persons left stranded by floods in Ashalaja, Manhean, Obom, Gbawe, Tetegu and other adjoining communities

Location: Ga South, Greater Accra Region

Issue: Flooding

Date: October 3, 2022

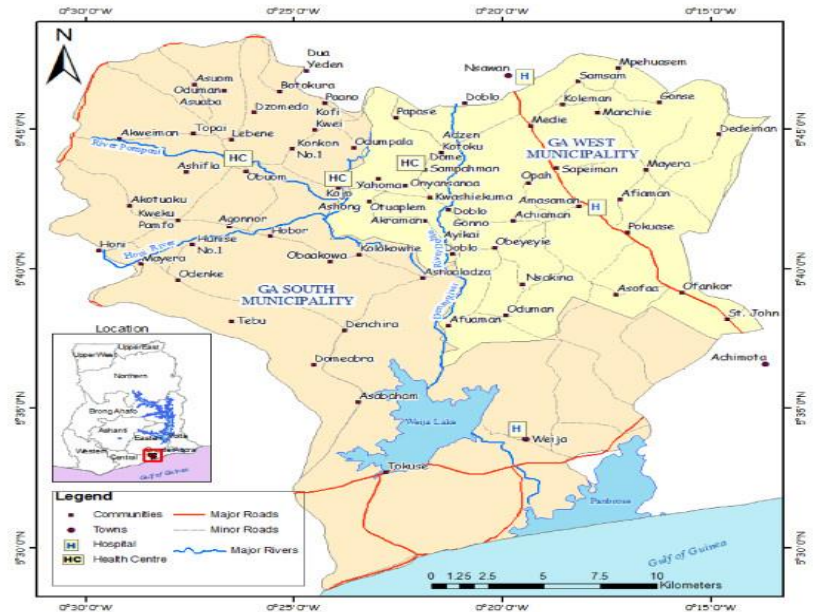


Image Source: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249318107/figure/fig/1/AS:213800620957696@1427985448426/Map-of-the-study-area-the-Ga-West-and-Ga-South-Municipalities-showing-health-facilities.png>

### REGION PROFILING

#### Basic Demography and Geography:

The Greater Accra Region has the smallest area of Ghana's 16 administrative regions, occupying a total land surface of 3,245 square kilometers. This is 1.4 per cent of the total land area of Ghana. The Greater Accra Region has a population of **5455692** in 2021, marginally leading the Ashanti region by a little over 10000 people.<sup>1</sup>

#### Significance of the State:

##### Economy:

The Greater Accra Region is the gateway to Ghana and the home of a vibrant capital city. The region is one of the most exciting and distinctive regions. It is the most densely populated, containing the metropolitan areas of Accra and Tema, the country's major industrial and commercial centers. The Kotoka International Airport is located about 12km from the center of the city and allows for international tourism to be possible.<sup>2</sup>

#### Resources:

Greater Accra has few mineral resources; the soils have low organic content with shallow topsoil, which limit the capacity for crop production. However, the region has a coastline of over 200 km, which means that tourism is a major industry. Accra,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statsghana.gov.gh/regionalpopulation.php?population=MTM0NTk2MjQzOS4yMDE1&&Greater%20Accra&regid=3>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/tourism/GreaterAccra.php>

the capital of Ghana, is located in the region, which is the wealthiest region in the country. Owing to in-migration and a high population growth rate, however, the region has the highest population density.<sup>3</sup>

### Politics:

The political administration of the region is through the local government system. Each District, Municipal or Metropolitan Area, is administered by a Chief Executive, representing Central Government but deriving authority from an Assembly<sup>4</sup> headed by a presiding member elected from among the members themselves.<sup>5</sup> (GoG Official Portal)

### Ethnicity

The major ethnic groups are the Akan (39.8%), Ga-Dangme (29.7%) and Ewe (18%). The Gas however form the largest single sub-ethnic grouping, accounting for 18.9 percent. Christians constitute the largest religious group (83.0%), followed by Moslems (10.2%), people who profess no religion (4.6%) and adherents of traditional religion (1.4%).<sup>6</sup>

### Religion

The distribution of religious groups has the predominance of Christians in the region, compared with the second major religion, Islam. Among the Christian group, adherents of Pentecostal and Charismatic churches constitute the largest religious denomination (38.0%) followed by Protestants (26.0%) and Catholics (9.7%) in that order.<sup>7</sup>

## CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

### Affected Persons:

- Residents at Weija, Ashalaja, Manhean, Obom and other adjoining communities

### Interested Actors:

- The Ghana Police Service,
- The Marine Police
- The Ghana Armed Forces,
- National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO),
- The Ghana National Fire Service
- Ministry of Works and Housing,
- Ministry of Information,
- Sanitation Ministry,

## INCIDENT PROFILING

Ashalaja, Manhean, Obom, Gbawe, Tetgu and other adjoining communities were flooded with residences submerged halfway, following a heavy downpour of rain at dawn on Monday, October 3, 2022, which caused the River Densu to flood its banks.<sup>8</sup> Over 1000 persons have reportedly been displaced. Currently, church auditoriums and classrooms have been allocated to house some of the rescued victims who were trapped in their homes.<sup>9</sup>

Rescue operations continued the next day, Tuesday, October 4, 2022, as the water level has continued to remain at a discomfiting height, making it difficult for trapped victims, especially women and children to escape from their homes to safety.

Several persons have been rescued since October 5, 2022, as the flood waters continue to navigate through the affected towns. The floods have been compounded by the spillage of the Weija dam, disrupting the lives of hundreds of people within the affected areas. The Weija dam has reached dangerously high levels and four spill gates have been opened to protect its integrity and prevent it from collapsing.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.unicef.org/ghana/media/2891/file/CP%20Profile%20-%20Greater%20Accra%20Region.pdf

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gtarcc.gov.gh/index.php/about-gar/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/82-greater-accra>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.gtarcc.gov.gh/index.php/about-gar/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/82-greater-accra>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.theghanareport.com/ga-south-flooding-over-1000-houses-and-1500-people-displaced-from-their-homes/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.myjoyonline.com/nadmo-military-officers-move-to-rescue-ashalaja-flood-victims/>

<sup>10</sup> [https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2022/10/ghana-disruptions-due-to-flooding-ongoing-in-parts-of-greater-accra-region-as-of-oct-5?origin=de\\_riskalert](https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2022/10/ghana-disruptions-due-to-flooding-ongoing-in-parts-of-greater-accra-region-as-of-oct-5?origin=de_riskalert)

## Responses

- The Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Fire Service and the Ghana Police Service, particularly the Marine Police Unit, have dispatch a team of service men to embark on rescue operations in the affected communities.
- The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) has also launched rescue operation to augment efforts at rescuing trapped resident from the homes.
- The Electricity Company of Ghana has also cut off power supply to the affected areas to ensure that risk of electric shock accidents are prevented.

## RISK ANALYSIS

Destruction of properties, including homes, farmlands, vital infrastructure, and businesses has implications for livelihood security in the affected areas. Persons who have been rendered homeless may face challenges as hunger, health risk and lack of alternate shelter, as further sustained heavy rainfall forecasted by the Ghana Meteorological Service Department, could trigger additional flooding in low-lying communities in the area.

There is the possibility of further flooding in areas contiguous to the affected communities. Sites located downstream from the dam or rivers may be subject to flash flooding after relatively short periods of intense rainfall. There is a potential risk of landslides in the hilly areas of the Weija, especially where heavy rainfall has saturated the soil.

The flood waters may render commercial routes inaccessible, posing dangers to drivers who may attempt to navigate ponded routes. Again, localized business disruptions may make some businesses not to operate at full capacity because of flood damage to facilities.

Another significant health risk in the event of flooding is outbreak of diseases and epidemics. Waterborne infections, or those brought on by ingesting or encountering contaminated water, are likely to affect communities. Diarrhea, cholera, typhoid fever, and leptospirosis are a few examples that residents in the affected communities risk contracting.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rescue operations need to be extended until the flood waters are completely receded.
- There is the need for District Authorities to strengthen collaboration with security agencies, Ghana Health Services and National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) to provide humanitarian relief support to the affected victims to save lives, especially vulnerable women, children, aged and persons with disabilities in the affected areas.
- Security. Agencies should increase security in the affected areas to prevent possible exploitation of the emergency by criminal networks to perpetrate crimes and protect lives and properties.