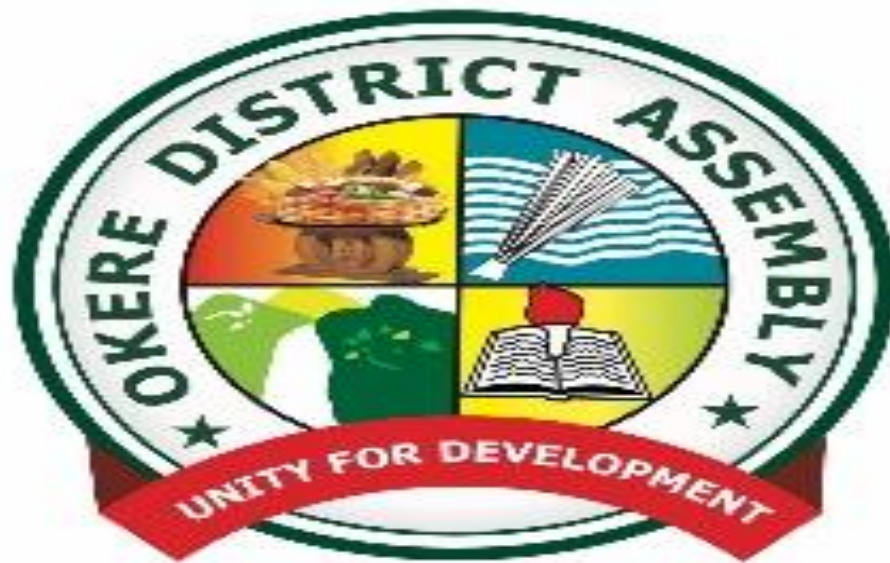


# **OKERE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY** **PROFILE**



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OkDA, DPUC - AUGUST 2021.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AIDS	-	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
CBR	-	Crude Birth Rate
CDR	-	Crude Death Rate
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
DACF	-	District Assembly Common Fund
ADCF- RFG	-	District Assembly Common Fund – Responsive Factor Grant
DAs	-	District Assemblies
DCDs	-	District Co-ordinating Directors
DHIS	-	District Health Insurance Scheme
DPCU	-	District Planning Coordinating Unit
HIV	-	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HRD	-	Human Resource Development
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
IMR	-	Infant Mortality Rate
LED	-	Local Economic Development
LGPRSP	-	Local Governance – Poverty Reduction Support Programme
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
PA	-	Planning Authority
PPD	-	Physical Planning Department
PPP	-	Policies, Programmes and Projects
PPP	-	Public Private Partnership
SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SDCs	-	Sub-District Councils
SDS	-	Sub-District Structures
TMR	-	Total Mortality Rate

# **PROFILE OR EXISTING SITUATION OF OKERE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY**

## **ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SITUATION / CURRENT DISTRICT PROFILE.**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Okere District Assembly (OkDA) was carved out of the Akwapem North Municipal Assembly and created by Legislative Instrument (L.I) 2342 in 2017 in pursuance to the Government's Decentralization Policy and Local Government Reform Policy. Adukrom-Akuapem is the administrative capital.

The Assembly was inaugurated on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and commenced official business on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018.

#### **Vision Statement**

To create a Prosperous District whose communities live in Peace and Unit.

#### **Mission Statement**

The Okere District Assembly exists to provide quality service to improve upon the living conditions of its citizenry through effective and efficient mobilization and utilization of resources in a sustainable environment.

#### **Functions of the Assembly**

Local Governance Act (2016); Act 936, mandates a District Assembly to exercise Political, administrative and other statutory functions as enshrined for example in Section 12 of the Act.

#### **Core Values**

The District Assembly adopts the Core Values of Local Government Service which are: Creativity, excellence, accountability, client-oriented, diligence, discipline, equity, transparency, integrity, innovativeness, timeliness, pro-activeness and politeness.

#### **Objectives of the District**

The objectives of the Okere District Assembly are;

1. To provide adequate and quality socio-economic services to all citizens.
2. To nurture, maintain and promote internal justice and security.
3. To facilitate Public-Private partnership in socio communication and tourism etc.
4. To partner with sister(s) district(s) to implement joint development planning areas with common interest.

### 1.1.1 Institutional capacity needs

The District Planning Coordinating Unit (DPCU) of Okere District Assembly (OkDA) has the authority to Plan and Monitor interventions. The Unit is adequately equipped in terms of human resource to discharge its mandate. In terms of qualification and staff compliment, the DPCU is composed of staff with the requisite expertise to perform their functions effectively. Most Decentralized Departments are resided within the main District Assembly's office Complex whilst the rest are resided in other Assembly's facilities such as the Community Information Center (CIC) at Dawu where NADMO, Health and NCCE Departments are operating from. The Agricultural Department operates in an Area Council building at Aseseeso. The only Department operating from a rented Office is the Education Department at Apirede.

The Planning Unit which serves as the secretariat of DPCU has a Development Planning Officer and Assistant, two laptops and shares a printer and other basic equipment such as comb binding machine with Budget and Procurement Units in a composite Office.

By the organizational structure of the District Assembly, the District Chief Executive is the Political and Administrative Head and reports to the General Assembly that is headed by the Presiding Member. The District Co-ordinating Director is the secretary to the Assembly. Next in line are the Directors of the Decentralized Departments and other Units/Agency Heads in the District.

### 1.1.2: Departments of the District Assembly

According to the Local Government Act 2016, Act 936, fifteen (15) Departments are supposed to exist in a district to facilitate the development agenda of the Assembly. Currently, apart from Department of Trade and Industry as well as Department of Housing, the District Assembly has all other departments fully operating, though some are under resourced in terms of man power, logistics and equipment.

The Central Administration has specialized Units namely Development Planning, Budget, Procurement, Stores and Management of Information System (MIS) among others.

Central Administration is Headed by the District Co-ordinating Director (DCD) and all Departments co-operate, collaborate and co-ordinate with central administration in delivery of the functions.

### 1.1.3: Sub-Structures of the District

The essence of decentralization is to ensure active participation in decision making that affect the citizens at the local level and bringing development to their doorsteps. It is for this reason that sub-district structures were established to mobilize the local people to play active roles in the developmental discourse. There are Seven (7) Town/ Area Councils in the District, they are;

1. Adukrom Town Council
2. Apirede Area Council
3. Abiriw / Dawu / Awukugua Area Council
4. Aseseeso / Abonse Area Council
5. Asenema / Krutiase Area Council
6. Asamang / Onyamebekyere Area Council
7. Amanfro / Okrakwadwo Area Council

The performance of their statutory functions is impartial. In view of the roles sub-district structures play in the development process, there is the need to strengthen them by providing Office accommodation, operational staff and logistical support as well as training programmes to build the capacities of members.

### 1.1.4: Management and Staff Capacity Index

Presently, the District Assembly has adequate and qualified staff manning various positions in the District Assembly. There is also inadequate office accommodation for all Departments.

The following are challenges hindering optimal performance of staff;

1. Inadequate logistics and equipment such as computers.
2. Inadequate official vehicles for out of station or outreach programs.
3. Lack of staff accommodation and inadequate preferred residential accommodation.

Table 1: Shows the Core Departments that make up DPCU.

No.	Alphabets	Department
1	A	Central Administration Department
2	B	Finance Department
3	C	Education, Youth and Sports Department
4	D	Health Department
5	E	Agriculture Department
6	F	Physical Planning Department
7	G	Social Welfare and Community Development Department
8	H	Works Department
9	I	Trade and Industry Department
10	J	Natural Resource Conservation, Forestry and Game and Wildlife Department
11	K	Disaster Prevention Department

Source: OkDA- DPCU, 2021.



Other Departments or institutions that are members of DPCU are;

1. Ghana Water Company Limited- Area Branch
2. Electricity Company of Ghana Ltd- District Branch
3. Rep. from Traditional Authority
4. Rep. from Local Youth org.
5. NGO/ CSO/CBO
6. The Chair of Devt. Planning Sub-Committee of the Assembly

1.2: Physical and Natural Environment.

1.2.1: Geographical location

The District is on the Akuapem-Togo Ridge with an average height of 450 meters above sea level. It is located in the South Eastern part of the Eastern Region of the Republic of Ghana. Its location in terms of longitude and latitude are  $-0.0834^{\circ}$  west and  $6.0154^{\circ}$  north. Its Capital town of Adukrom is about 68 km from Accra, the nation's capital. From Adukrom to Koforidua the regional capital is about 35.2 km. Adukrom as its capital of the District.

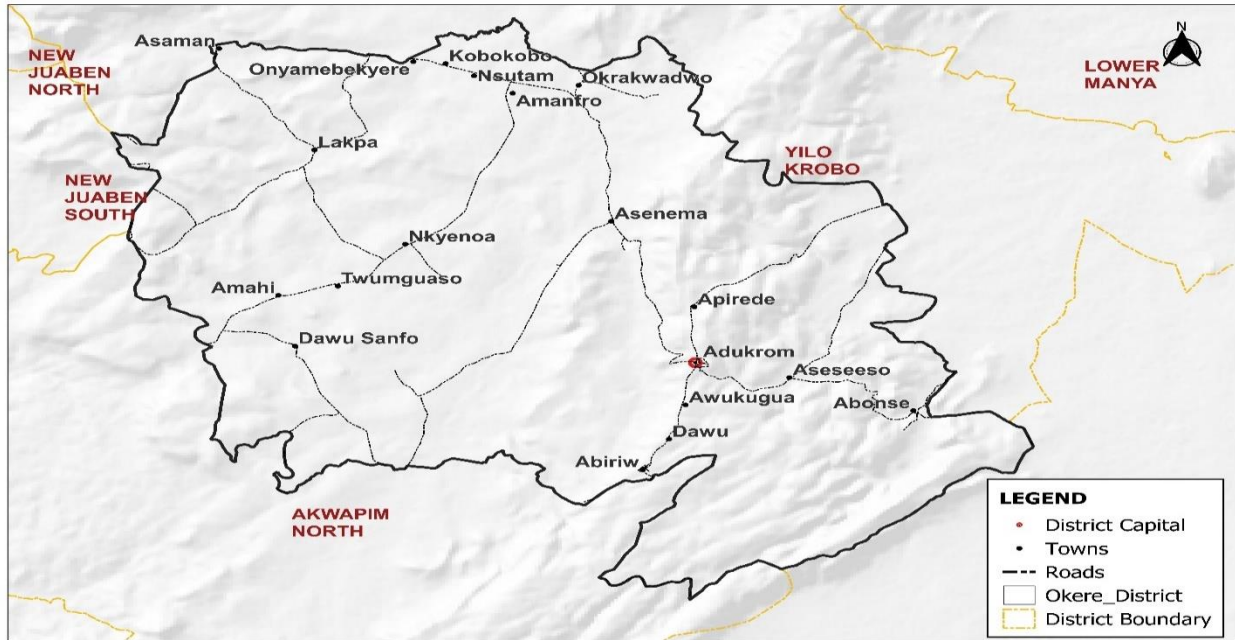
It shares boundaries with other Assemblies as indicated below

- To the South and Southwest is Akuapem North Municipal Assembly
- To the Northwest is Upper Manya Krobo.
- To the North and Northeast is Yilo Krobo Municipal Assembly
- To the West is New Juaben South Municipal Assemblies.
- To the South-East is Shai Osudoku Municipal Assembly.

The District is endowed with vast land with an area of about **332** square kilometers (sq. km) (**82,045 acres**). It has about 162 towns and village settlements.

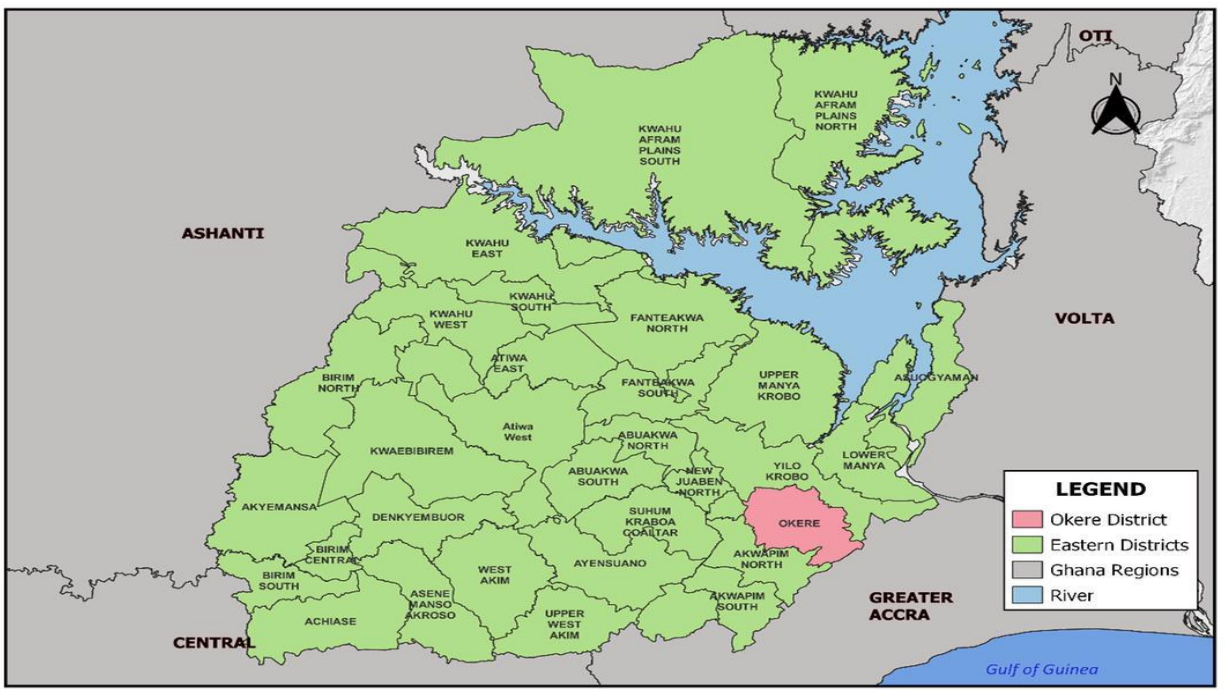
The District is strategically located with added advantage of its proximity to both the National and the Regional capitals, i.e. Accra and Koforidua respectively, which promotes socio-economic interaction between the District and the two capitals in terms of trade, movement, access to goods and services and people. This interaction impacts positively on the development of the economy of the District in terms of trade, tourism and employment generation. In this regard, it also has adverse impact on social development, especially cross-city social vices like drug abuse, armed robbery and internet fraud popularly called 'sakawa'.

Fig. 1: Map of Okere District.



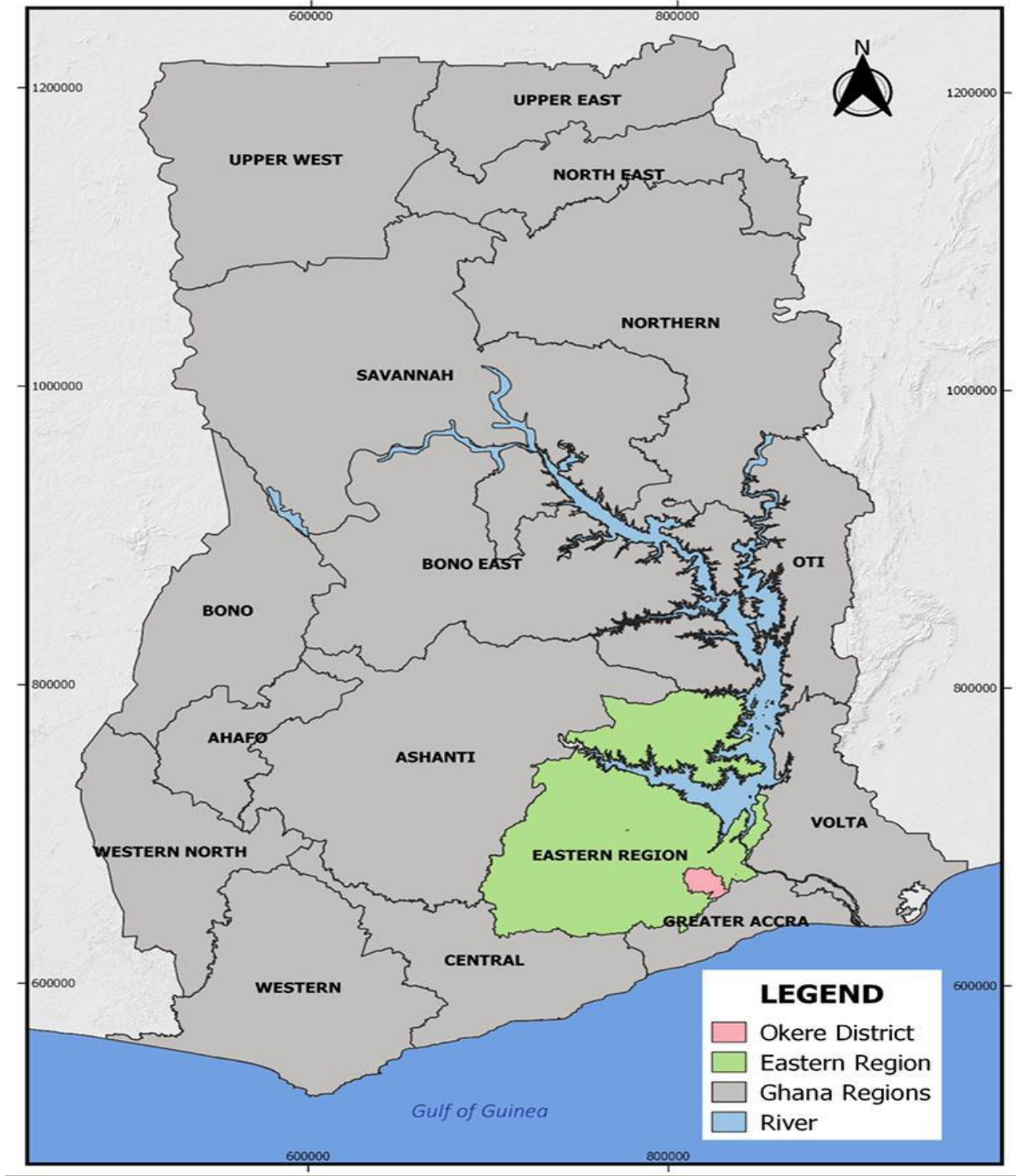
Source: OkDA Physical Planning Departmen, 2021.

Fig. 2: Okere District in Regional context.



Source: OkDA Physical Planning Departmen, 2021

Fig. 3: Okere District in National context.



Source: OkDA Physical Planning Departmen, 2021.

### 1.2.2: Topography and Drainage

The topography of the District is largely characterized by a stretch of mountains called the Akuapem-Togo Range with heights ranging between 381 meters and 488 meters. The district also has a downhill communities where the land surface area is about twice the communities on the ridge.

### 1.2.3: Geology and Soil

There are two (2) main types of rocks of pre-cambrian age found in the District. These are the Togo sandy shales series and the Birimian series. The Birimian series found also comprise gneisses and schist with granite and pegmatite's, which are metamorphic rocks.

The area stretching from the north-west slope of the Akuapem Range to the Nyensi and the Nsaki Valleys are covered by the sand series.

Fig. 7: Geology and Soil map of Okere District

### 1.2.4: Vegetation

The District lies within the semi-deciduous forest zone. The area has broken forest on most hill tops, secondary forest on slopes and valleys, shrubs and bushes along the motor roads and main footpaths, thickets on the slopes facing the Accra Plain and forest reserves.

There are two major forest reserves which are Abiriw-Bosomptra and Apierde forest reserves. Patches and sacred groves are scattered all over.

Biodiversity, Climate change, Green Economy and Environment.

The District falls within the semi-equatorial climatic zone which experiences substantial amount of precipitation/ rainfall; and it also falls within the semi-deciduous rainforest which is characterized by tall trees with evergreen undergrowth endowed with economic trees. The annual rainfall is between 180cm and 240cm reaching its maximum during the two peak periods of May to June and September-October. The relative humidity is about 56 percent in the dry season and 70 percent in the raining season. The temperature ranges from 21.5°C to 26.4°C. The district has varied species of fauna and flora in the forest areas that provide basic necessities of life to the inhabitants. The mountain and these biodiversity resources cool down temperature and serve as a barricade protecting some part of the district from natural disasters like floods and bush fires etc.

### 1.2.5: Water Security and Sanitation

Settlement in the District is basically made up of up-hill and down-hill communities. On the up-hill or the ridge, pipe-borne water is the major source of water used in most of the communities, supplied by Ghana Water Company with their Office at Amanokrom-Akuapem followed by Mechanized bore-holes, manual and few of the populace depends on streams. With the down-hill communities, mechanized and manual bore-holes are in most major communities with some depending on hand-dug well as well as ponds and streams.

Some challenges of accessing water in the district,

1. Due to the undulating nature on the ridge, sometimes leads to low pressure, they are unable to receive regular supply of potable water from Ghana Water Company.
2. Most of the main distribution lines are outmoded; therefore leads to related problems such as frequent pipe burst and water contamination etc.
3. With mechanized and manual bore-holes, some of the challenges are broken down parts, high iron content in the water, non-functioning of some WATSAN Committee in the district.
4. With natural water bodies, longer distance covered before accessing water, contamination of these water bodies, seasonal or intermittent dryness of the water bodies.

### 1.2.6: Waste management

Waste generation and management in the District is gradually becoming a matter of concern to the Assembly. It is estimated that each household generates about 15kg solid and liquid wastes per day. However, not all of these are collected and transported to the final disposal sites. Though the average household refuse generation is moderate, management is a challenge. Currently there is only one Waste Management Company operating in the District.

In respect of sanitation management, majority of households dump their waste in either skip container bins or communal dump site. The Assembly is promoting household refuse collection in five of its major communities on the ridge, namely Abiriw, Adukrom, Awukugua, Apirede and Dawu. The promotion has received a very positive response. The district has instituted a special one year “Clean Okere Project” ending 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, with the aim of making Okere the cleanest district in the Region. The district is also working towards making all communities Open Defecation Free by allowing the existing Public toilets to be free to patrons whiles promoting construction of households toilets.

There is district collaboration with Akuapem North Municipal in the management of a secured a properly engineered final solid waste disposal site.

#### Natural and Man-made Disasters

Disasters identified in the District include domestic and bush fires, road accidents and rainstorms. Management of disaster in the District is supervised by the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO).

NADMO engages the populace in the education of disaster management and prevention in various communities Disaster Volunteer Groups and Disaster Volunteer Clubs have been formed at various zones and schools (both Basic and Senior High Schools) to support disaster prevention.

#### Natural resource utilization

The District is blessed with natural resources ranging from waterfalls, forest reserve, forest products, and fertile land for farming and mountains and favourable weather condition.

### 1.3: Population

#### 1.3.1: Size and Growth

Based on a regional annual growth rate of 2.4% as per 2010 PHC, the projected population of the district as at 2021 is 66,446 (approx.). The male population is 34,552 constituting more than half (52%) and the female population is 31,894, (thus 48%) of the total population of the district.

Table 2: shows the population size and sex disaggregation of the Okere District.

Table 2: Shows population (Projected) size of Okere District as at 2021.

Sex	District wide	
	Population	Percentage
Male	34,552	52
Female	31,894	48
Total	66,446	100

**Source:** E/R, GSS, Koforidua, 2018.

### 1.3.2: Age – Sex Structure

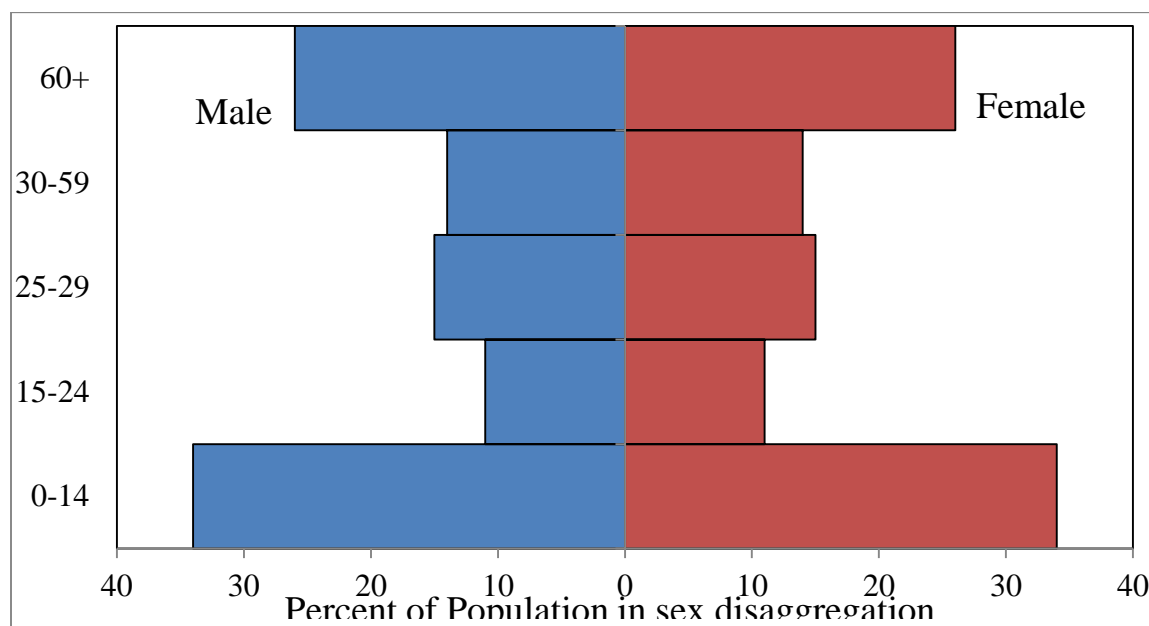
The projected population for the District indicates that 34% is in the region 0-14 years, 56% in the 15-64 years and 10% in the 65+ age cohorts. The data also indicates that majority of the population (45%) falls within the economically active group. This is an important asset to drive the economy of the District, especially if they are provided with the necessary skills, support and employment opportunities.

Table 3: Shows Projected Population by Age Group as at 2021.

Age Group	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
0 – 14	22,592	34	11748	34	10,844	34
15 - 24	7,309	11	3,801	11	3508	11
25 - 29	9,967	15	5183	15	4784	15
30 - 59	9,302	14	4,837	14	4465	14
60+	17,276	26	8,984	26	8293	26
Total	66,446	100	34,552	100	31,894	100

Source: OkDA- DPCU, 2021.

Fig. 4: Population Pyramid of Okere District.



Source: OkDA- DPCU, 2021.

### 1.3.3: Migration (Emigration and Immigration).

In the District, there are settler farmers who come from other parts of the region as well as outside the region. The Krobo form the majority of these immigrants, followed by the Ewes and Ga-Adangbes. The cattle herdsman most of whom are the Fulani tribe migrate seasonally into the district with their herds. The presence of the Fulani cattle herdsman and their herds has security implications in the District. The animals drastically destroy farms and pollute water bodies which lead to conflicts between the parties.

### 1.3.4: Settlement Systems (Spatial Analysis)

#### Physical Development

The settlement pattern of the District can be described as a linear because most of the houses are along the major road network. The District has a total of one hundred and seventeen (117) communities and seven (7) Town and Area Councils, namely (Adukrom, Aseseeso, Apirede, Onyamebkyere, Okrakwadwo, Asenema, and Abiriw) are evenly distributed across the District to serve as service centers to these communities.

#### Hierarchy of settlements

Table 1.6: describes the population of the top ten settlements in the District is based on the population size, the number and level of services available.

Table 4: Population of Top Ten Settlements in the Okere District as Projected for plan period.

		<b>POPULATION PROJECTION</b>				
		<b>BASE YEAR</b>	<b>PROJECTED YEARS</b>			
SN	Locality	2010	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Adukrom	9,984	10,223	10,468	10,720	10,977
2	Abiriw	5,419	5,549	5,819	6,248	6,870
3	Apirede	3,456	3,538	3,628	3,710	3,799
4	Awukugua	3,276	3,355	3,518	3,777	4,153
5	Dawu	3,397	3,478	3,562	3,647	3,735
6	Okra kwadwo	2,188	2,241	2,350	2,523	2,774
7	Asenema	2,054	2,103	2,153	2,205	2,258
8	Amanfro	2,017	2,065	2,165	2,325	2,556
9	Aseseeso	1,862	1,906	1,952	1,999	2,047
10	Abonse	1,665	1,705	1,788	1,920	2,111

**Source:** OkDA- DPCU, 2021.



### 1.3.5: Projected Population for planned period 2022- 2025.

From the 2010 Population and Housing Census, it was established that the population of the District was growing at a rate of 2.4%. Based on this, projections were made for the 2022- 2025 plan period with 2021 as the base year. Table 1.8: shows the projected population for the District for the period 2022 – 2025.

Table 5: Projected District Population for the planned period (from 2022 – 2025).

District	2021 (Base Year)	2022	2023	2024	2025
Okere	66446	68,040	69,673	71,345	73,058

Source: OkDA- DPCU, 2021.

Fig. 5: Shows projected population of Okere District Assembly (2022-2025).

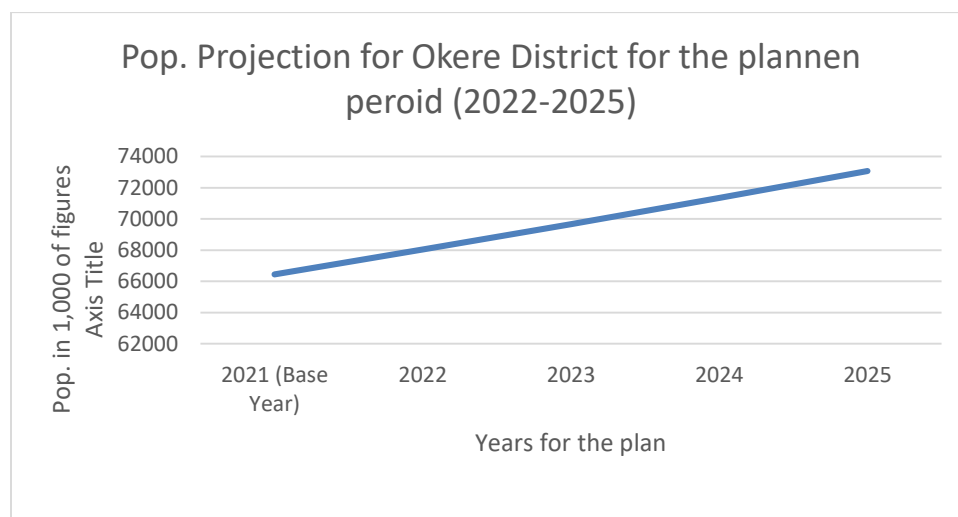
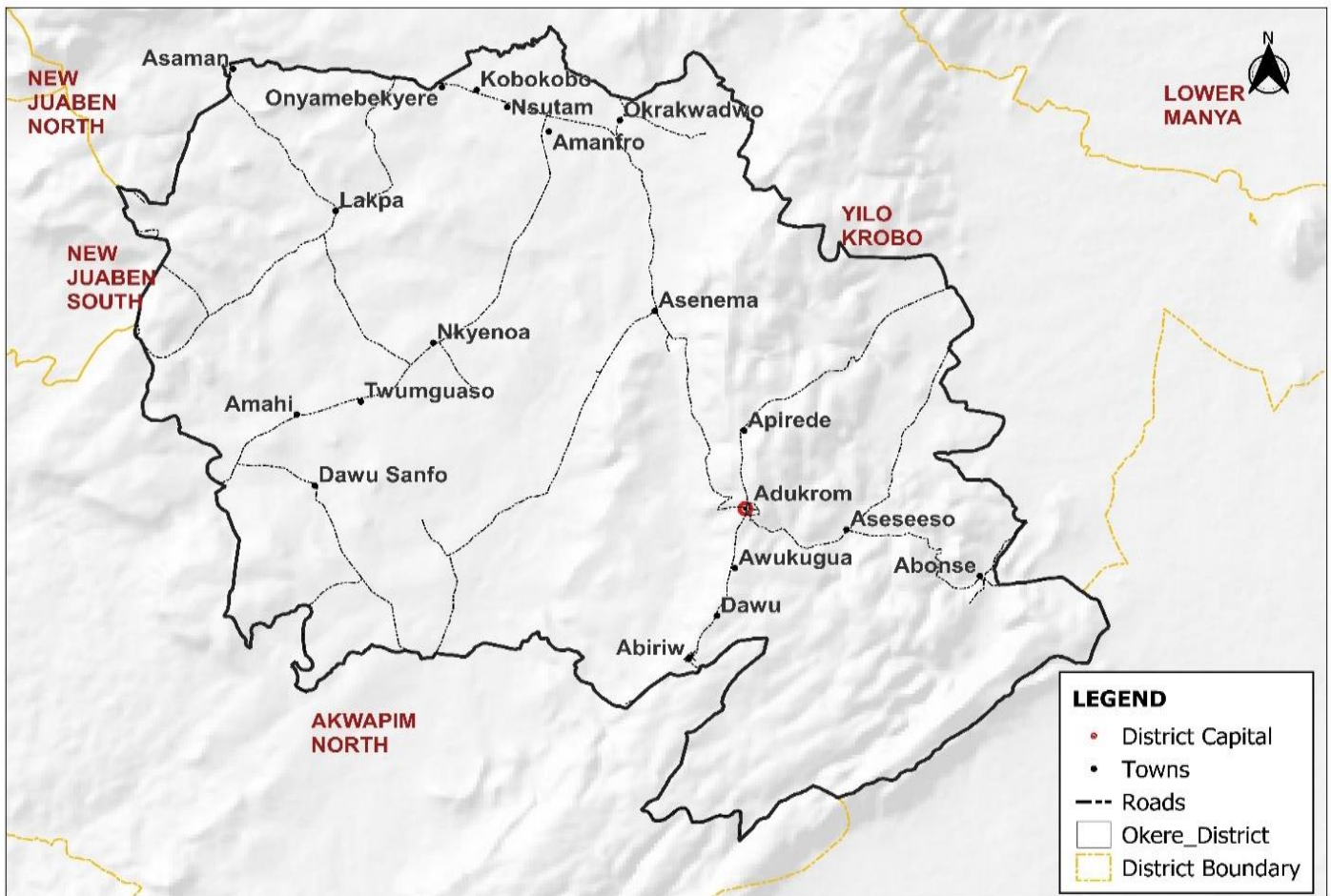


Fig. 6: Shows the first twenty (20) major communities.



**Source:** OkDA Physical Planning Dept, 2021.

### Spatial Distribution and Access to Essential Services

The District is made up of both Peri-urban and rural settlements that are linked by roads such as highways, urban and feeder roads. The Peri-urban areas are Abiriw, Dawu, Awukugua, Adukrom, Apirede, Aseseeso and Abonse. Some rural areas are fast developing into Peri-urban settlements. Some are however sparsely populated and have inadequate access to socio-economic facilities and services to enhance their basic conditions of living.

### 1.4: Culture

#### 1.4.1: Traditional Setup

The entire Okere represent the Nifa Traditional Division of the Akuapem Paramountcy. The Head of the Nifa Traditional Division is in Adukrom. The Nifa Traditional Division is made up of seven major towns namely, Abiriw, Dawu, Awukugua, Adukrom, Apirede, Aseseeso and Abonse.

#### 1.4.2: Ethnic Diversity

The Kyerepong /Okere people are the largest ethnic group in the District, representing 67.1% of the population, followed by Ewes which constitutes 25.9% while only 7% constitutes the other ethnic groups such as Krobos and people from the North.

#### 1.4.3: Religious composition

Christianity is the predominant religion in the District. The dominant denominations are the Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecost, Ghana Apostolic Church, Christ Apostolic Church and other charismatic churches, followed by traditionalists with very few Muslims.

#### 1.4.4: Festivals

The major traditional festival in the District is the Ohum festival, which is celebrated annually, from October through to January, based on the calendar of the seven major towns. This is the period of display of the rich traditional culture of the people of Okere. The festival serves as an important occasion and event for mobilization of human and non-human resources for community development and social transformation which also informs the plan preparation, implementation and development administration in the District.

#### 1.5: Security.

The District has a District Security Committee (DiSEC), with the District Chief Executive as the Chairman. It draws its membership from the various Security Agencies in the District thus the Police, BNI, Immigration and Fire Service and NADMO. Apart from the Ghana Police Service, other security agencies operate from Akuapem North Municipal.

The District Police Command is located at Adukrom. There are two Police stations at Amanfro and Okrakwadwo. Presently, the Command has a total of 30 personnel *making the police population in the district as 1:2,215*. There is also Community Police Assistants (CPAs) Community Watch Committees in certain communities that support the Police in the management of security issues in the district.

There is also the establishment of Counter Terrorism Training School by the Ghana Police Service and this has also helped beef up security in the district.

Among the challenges confronting maintenance of security in the district are

1. Inadequate Police Personnel in the district.
2. Absence of other security agencies in the district.
3. Inadequate Office and residential accommodation personnel.
4. Inadequate logistics for operations.

### 1.5: Judiciary

There is no Judicial Court in the district, therefore cases to be determined by the Courts are sent to either Akropong Circuit Court or the Mampong Magistrate Court whilst others are sent outside the area, especially Koforidua for adjudication.

### 1.6: Economy of the District

The local economy of the District is predominantly made up of Agriculture and its related activities, Transport, small scale Industry, Tourism, as well as commerce and services. About 47.4% of the economically active population (15 years and older) are engaged in the Agricultural sector, 36.7% in the commerce and service sectors, while the remaining 15.9% are in the Artisanal and manufacturing sector.

#### 1.6.1: Agriculture

The sector is the backbone of the District that employs about 47.4% of the economically active population. Crop production is mainly rain fed with few farmers cultivate vegetable under irrigation during the dry season along or close to water bodies. Mechanized farming is not prominent in the district however, crops and animals production ranges from small scale to large-scale farming.

The District agricultural sector is made up of the following:

Food and Cash crops

Poultry and livestock

Fisheries.

Marketing and processing

Agricultural services sector.

Food crops produced in the district are maize, cassava and plantain are the Major food crops grown in the District and the level of production is quite high and contributes significantly to the District's economy. Other minor ones are cocoyam, yam, etc. Vegetables of all kinds are also cultivated in the District. These include Okra, Garden egg, tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage, chili pepper, sweet pepper etc.

Cash crops produced are Oil palm, Mango and citrus whiles cocoa, coconut and Rubber cultivation have been gradually gaining grounds in the District.

Table 5: Table Major Crop Performance

Crops	Productivity (Mt/Ha)		Area of production (Ha)		Production (Mt)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Maize	2.68	2.9	8,427	8,427.50	22,584.4	24,439.75
Cassava	21.2	26.5	8251	7,055.75	174,921	186,977.38
Plantain	9.8	7.9	1951	2,145	19,18.8	16,838.3
Cabbage	0	20.6	0	126	0	2,595.60
Lettuce	0	7.8	0	92	0	717.60
Okra	0	2.67	0	141	0	376.47

Table 6: Selected Crops and their areas of production

S/N	TYPE OF ANIMALS	MAJOR PROUDCING AREAS
1.	Maize	District wide
2.	Cassava	District wide
3.	Plantain	District wide
4.	Oilpalm	District wide
5.	Mango	Asesseeso, Abonse, Akuni, Gyankwkye
6.	Cocoa	Okrakwadwo, Amanfro, Akyeremanteng
7.	Rubber	Otareso, Abenawia, Asaasekorkor, Bepoasae
8.	Vegetables	Aseseeso, Otareso, Okrakwadwo

#### Poultry and Livestock sector

The Poultry and Livestock sector have been growing sturdily in the District, in terms of number of holders and scale of operation. These farms range from few Hundreds to Tens of Thousands farm animals especially the poultry sector.

Poultry and piggery is done intensively whiles the small ruminants are mostly semi-intensive.

The poultry sector is mainly layers, broilers and the local fowls, whiles the livestock sector is mainly sheep, goat, piggery and cattle.

## **Fisheries/Aquaculture**

The District is not a fishing district, however, it has a huge potential for aquaculture development. Currently, few ponds exist mainly around Abonse and Asasekorkor areas with major fishes like tilapia and catfish are produced.

### Marketing sector

The district is strategically positioned around major market centers such as Madina,, Asesewa,, Koforidua, Ashiaman etc. The District has a major marketing Centre at Asenema, which facilitates marketing of agricultural produce.

## **Processing Sector**

Cassava is the most dominant agro raw material processed in the District. Processing of fresh cassava into various forms of products such as Gari, cassava dough, and konkonte.

### Provision of Direct Extension to Farmers / FBOS

Farmers have been sensitized, to enhance their knowledge and skills through the Extension Services with the aim of improving their livelihoods.

### Women Empowerment Programme

The department pays a lot of attention to women development in the Agricultural sector. The department continue to build their capacity, equipped them with skill, and improved technologies. These trainings ranges from nutrition, value addition and introduction to additional/ alternative livelihood ventures.

### Government flagship projects/programmes

#### Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ)

Implementation of the programme has been successful in the District since 2018. The District experienced an increase in inputs received and supplied especially the hybrid seeds and fertilizers (Hybrid seeds increased from 1725kg to 3000 kgs and PFJ Retailers also increased from one to Two etc.).

#### Planting for Export and Rural Development Programme (PERD)

Under the PERD programme, the district prioritized the promoting the production of Oil Palm and Mango and Coconut cultivation with the distribution of 82,000 Oil Palm seedlings, 2,000 coconut seedlings as well as 27,000 mango seedlings free of charge to interested farmers.

#### Rearing For Food and Jobs (RFJ)

The district has distributed 1,000 Cockerels to 100 beneficiaries in various parts of the District free of charge.

### 1.6.2: The District Land Bank Project.

The issue of land availability for agricultural purposes especially commercial/large scale farms in the District is becoming a challenge. The District Chief Executive (DCE) in his effort to promote farming especially in large-scale came up with this laudable initiative to make large truck of lands available for investors under conducive arrangement with the District Assembly as mediator.

### Ghana Productivity Safety Net Project in the District

This is a pro-poor activity or intervention under the climate change sub-project, which seeks to provide the poor with an income-generating venture. This has also been used to revive the Okrakwadwo State Farm by cultivation Twenty (20) hectares of oil palm plantation with over 100 farm hands been employed.

Agricultural investment potentials in Okere District.

The district has investment potentials in the following areas:

- ❖ Availability of land fertile for small and large scale farming
- ❖ Suitability of climatic condition local and exotic vegetable production
- ❖ Proximity of the District to Madina (a major market centre and the Majo towns: Accra, Tema and Koforidua
- ❖ A stable cassava industry (All year availability): to serve as raw material for processing into starch, gari ,cassava dough etc
- ❖ The District also holds a huge prospect for large scale poultry and livestock production.

Irrigation Potential in the District.

The District has potential of producing vegetables ‘all year round’ because the district has water bodies in most part of the communities that could be developed for irrigation purposes.

### **Major Water Bodies:**

The major rivers/streams in the district include:

- ❖ Yensi (Passes through most part of the communities in district e.g., Otareso, Krutiase, Atwetwede , Asenema etc )
- ❖ Dantekor (from Doboro through Galikope to Okrakwadwo into Yensi River)
- ❖ Lamnor (from Adukrom through Asseseso, Abonse and Gyankwakye)
- ❖ Sanf

### 1.6.3: Economic resources

#### Tourist Attractions

The District is endowed with a lot of tourist attractions and could be described as “*a mine of ecotourism attractions in the Eastern Region*”.

The District Assembly is therefore willing and ready to enter into Public-Private Partnerships with investors interested in the sector so harness the potentials to create more jobs, especially for the youth as well as generate more revenue for development. The District Assembly seeks to develop and promote the industry by advertising on the website, social media platforms and prepare brochures and flyers on them. A beach soccer and volley ball pitch is also being developed at the Asenema Waterfall to serve as the first inland beach soccer/volley ball pitch. The Assembly aim to attract FIFA to adopt the facility for its competitions to boost patronage. Besides, the Assembly has established the Okere MountainFest a tourism festival celebrated annually to promote its tourism attractions. With respect to the hospitality industry, the District currently host the largest Eco-Resort in the country; Safari Valley Resort. Table 1.11 shows some of the tourist sites in the district.

Table 7: Tourist sites within the Okere District.

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Name of Tourist Attraction</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Akaa Waterfall	Akyeremateng
2	Abiriw Waterfall	Abiriw
3	Asenema Waterfall	Asenema
4	Nsuta waterfall	Nsuta
5	Abiriw Forest reserve	Abiriw
6	Abonse Slave market and route	Abonse
7	Mysterious Fertility Rock	Akyeremateng
8	The Shrine of Legendary OkomfoAnokye (The famous traditional priest and co-founder of the Asante Kingdom)	Awukugua
9	Okomfo Anokye Mystic-meditation site	Apirede
10	Mystical Okum-Akwamu stone	Apirede
11	Safari Valley Resort	Dawu-Abiriw
12	The Ohum festival (Celebrated every year in each of the major towns in the District)	Towns on the Ridge in the District

**Source:** OkDA- DPCU, 2021.



## Land

The District is endowed with vast land with an area of about **332** square kilometers (sq. km) (**82,038 acres**). The land supports agricultural activities, hospitality and real estate development which are sources of income to the people. Though the District has vast land which are mostly undulating in nature and therefore characterized by hills and valleys. However, down-hill communities have gentle undulating land surface. These lands are suitable for farming activities, real estate development, establishment of industrial parks such as business incubators and other industries, etc.

### 1.6.4: Economic infrastructure

#### Transportation Network

The road system in the District are relatively good with about 70 percent of its major roads tarred while others are under construction. The major roads are; Abiriw through Adukrom, Amanfro to Koforidua. Adukrom to Trom junction; Adukrom through Apirede to Somanya; Amanfro to Tinkong road; Asenema through Krutiase to Bewase road; Konko to Kwamoso road; Asamang to Lakpa-Akyikyisu to Koforidua road; Okrakwadwo to Akwateng road; Aseseeso-Abonse to Agomeda.

#### Market centers

The District Assembly has one major market located at Asenema which is patronized twice in a week i.e. Wednesdays and Saturdays. There is a new and bigger market under construction to promote trading activities and the local economy. There are five (5) other town markets located at Abiriw, Awukugua, Apirede, Aseseeso and Adukrom.

The Abiriw market has the potential to grow into a vibrant one if the right infrastructure and management is put in place.

#### Postal and Telecommunication

The District has two (2) post offices each located at Abiriw and Adukrom. There are also telecommunication network facilities such as MTN, Vodafone and Airtel-Tigo providing communication and mobile money services to people.

## Community Information Centre

There are three (3) functional Community Information Centers (CIC) in the District each located at Abiriw, Adukrom and Amanfro.

## Financial institutions

There is one Financial Institution in the District which is Akuapem Rural Bank at Adukrom. The category of customers ranges from salary workers, farmers, local artisans, transport owners, traders, and corporate institutions.

The Financial Services provided by this Institution are Current Account, Savings, Deposits, Domestic savings and loans. The citizens also have access to GCB Bank at Akropong.

## 1.7: Social Services Sector

### 1.7.1: Education

The Education Directorate is located at Apirede. The District has levels a total of 57 Public schools and these are made up of 42 Kindergartens, 44 Primary schools, 37 Junior High Schools, 2 Senior High and 1 Vocational school. Presently, 36 out of the 44 Primary Schools are beneficiaries of the Ghana School Feeding

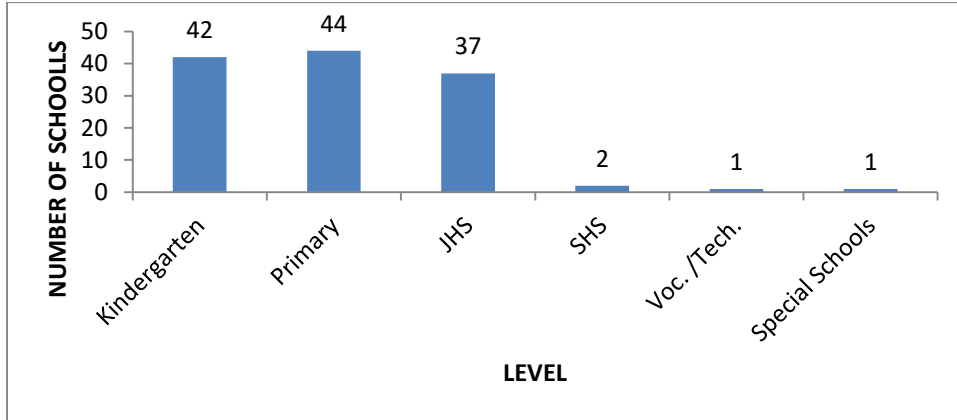
Programm (GSFP) representing 81.8% of all primary schools in the district benefiting from school feeding programme also, basic schools are evenly located in the district and this is helping the implementation of the Universal Basic Education Policy. There is one special school for the mentally challenged at the primary level.

Table 8: Shows Number of Public Schools in the District.

SN	Level of school	Number of schools
1	Kindergarten	42
2	Primary	44
3	JHS	37
4	SHS	2
5	Voc. /Tech.	1
6	Special Schools	1
	Total	57

Source: Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.

Fig. 9: Shows Number of Public Schools in the District.



As at the reporting period, the education directorate has a total number of 19,829 learners or students in all levels of Public schools in the district, comprising of 8,995 and 10,834.

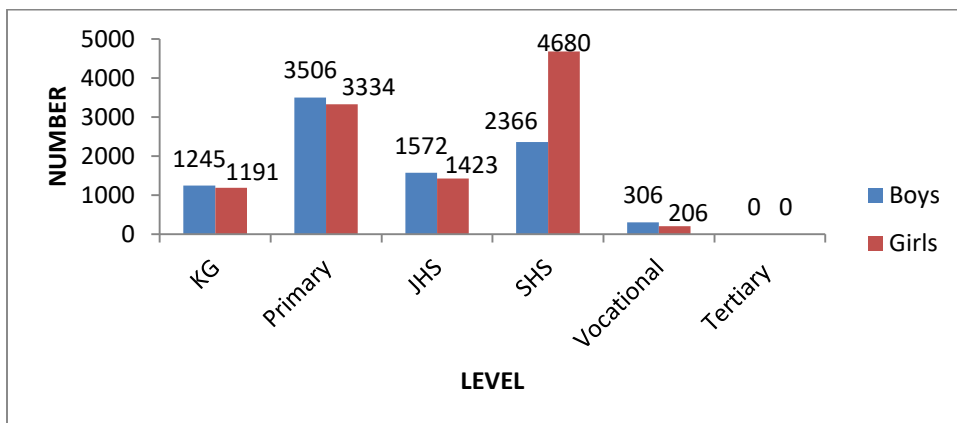
Table 1.10: shows School Enrolment of learners / students in Public Schools.

Table shows School Enrolment of learners/ students in Public Schools.

Level	Boys	Girls	Total
KG	1245	1191	2,436
Primary	3506	3334	6,840
JHS	1572	1423	2,995
SHS	2366	4680	7,046
Vocational	306	206	512
Tertiary	-	-	-
Total	8,995	10,834	19,829

Source: Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.

The Figure shows School Enrolment of learners in Public Schools.



The human resource within the directorate comprises of Trained and Untrained Teachers which helps in delivering effective teaching and learning. This comprises of One Thousand and Sixteen (1,016) trained teachers and Fifty-Two (52) Untrained Teachers. The Table below Shows Number of Teachers in Public Schools.

Level	Trained		Sub-Total	Untrained		Sub-Total	Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
KG	5	119	124	2	11	13	137
Primary	143	154	297	1	0	1	298
JHS	174	99	273	0	0	0	273
SHS	199	93	292	27	5	32	324
Vocational	20	10	30	6	0	6	36
Total	541	475	1016	36	16	52	1068

**Source: Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.**

Number of Non-Teaching Staff in Public Schools.

Level	Professional Trained /		Sub-Total	Non-Professional Untrained /		Sub-Total	Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
KG	-	-		-	-		
Primary	-	-		-	-		
JHS	-	-		-	-		
SHS	49	45	94				
Vocational	2	7	9				
Total	51	52	103				

**Source: Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.**

The table below shows Number of Teachers in Private Schools.

Level	Trained		Sub-Total	Untrained		Sub-Total	Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
KG		1	1	7	34	41	45
Primary	2	1	3	33	49	82	95
JHS	1	1	2	20	12	32	34
SHS							
Vocational							
Total	3	3	6	60	95	155	121

**Source: Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.**

With the quest of promoting quality basic education, the district Assembly and Member of Parliament has constructed a total of 14 Teacher’s Quarters across selected schools and are in use.

Table 9: List Teacher’s quarters and their locations.

S/N	NAME OF SCHOOL WHERE THE QUARTERS IS LOCATED	LOCATIONS
1	TWUMGUASO M/A BASIC	TWUMGUASO
2	NANABANING PRESBY PRIMARY & KG	NANABANING
3	AKYEREMATENG D/A BASIC SCHOOL	AKYEREMATENG
4	LAKPA D/A JHS	LAKPA
5	NKYENOA D/A PRIMARY	NKYENOA
6	BAWARE M/A BASIC	BAWARE
7	APIREDE METHODIST BASIC	APIREDE
8	DAWU PRESBY JHS	DAWU
9	APIREDE PRESBY BASIC	APIREDE
10	ASESEESO PRESBY PRIMARY SCHOOL	ASESEESO
11	AWUKUGUA METHODIST PRIMARY	AWUKUGUA
12	AWUKUGUA SDA BASIC SCHOOL	AWUKUGUA
13	AKODE D/A BASIC SCHOOL	AKODE
14	NANA AWUKU BRAM I METHODIST BASIC.	DAWU
15	OKRAKWADWO BASIC SCHOOL	OKRAKWADWO
16	KRUTIASE DA BASIC SCHOOL	KRUTIASE
17	AMANFRO DA BASIC SCHOOL	AMANFRO

**Source:** Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.

There are 4 of ICT Centers in the District which is promoting the learning of ICT at the basic school level.

Table 10: List ICT Centers and their location.

S/N	NAME OF ICT CENTER	LOCATIONS
1	AMANFRO ICT CENTER	AMANFRO
2	ADUKROM ICT CENTER	ADUKROM
3	APIREDE ICT CENTER	APIREDE
4	NIFA D/A PRIM ICT CENTER	ADUKROM

**Source:** Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.

The district has one library situated at Adukrom and four Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) Centers.

The table below shows list exams centers and their location.

S/N	NAME OF EXAMS CENTER	LOCATIONS
1	AMANFRO SALV. ARMY PRIM/AMANFRO D/A JHS	AMANFROM
2	NKYENOA D/A PRIM/ NKYENOA D/A JHS	NKYEANO
3	NIFA SHS	ADUKROM
4	ABIRIW PREBY PRIM 'A'	ABIRIW

**Source:** Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.

There are a total of 45 basic schools that are connected to the electricity power and this is an impetus for the Night prepping policy the directorate with the support of the District Assembly is planning to rollout with the main aim of improving the BECE pass rate of students.

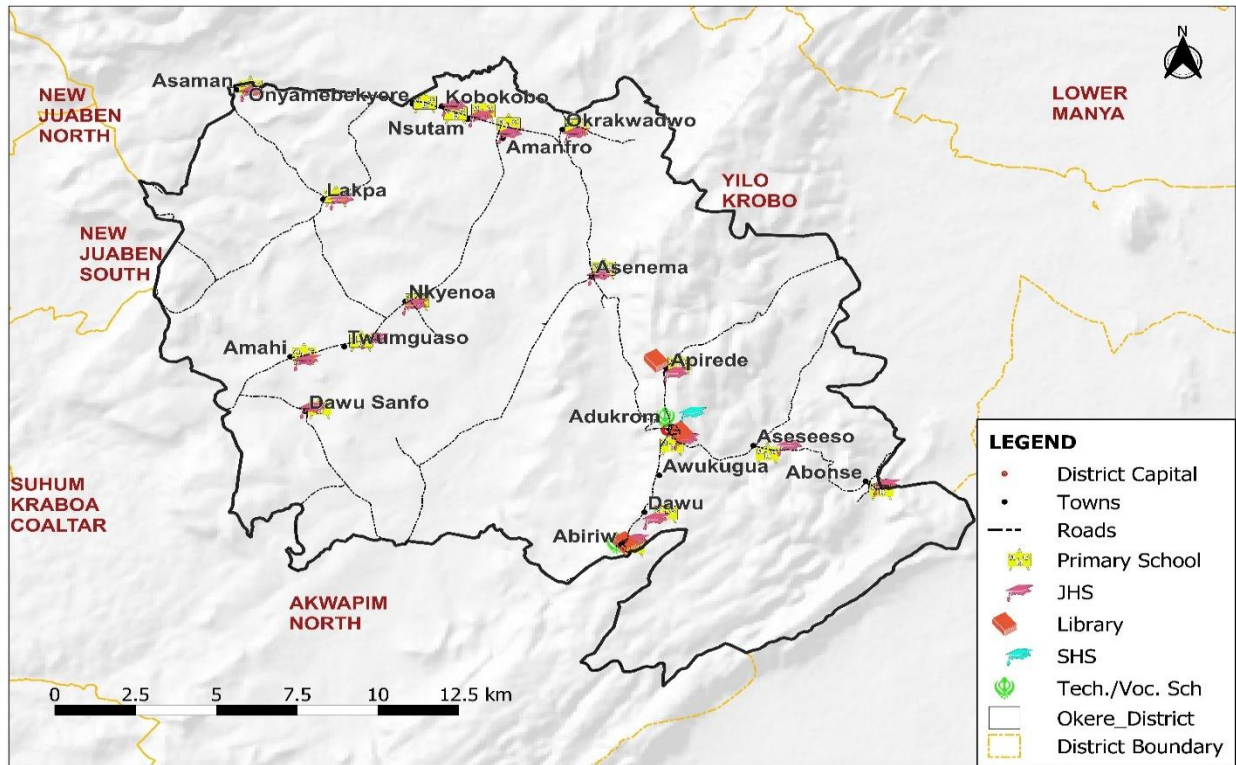
There are 9 schools that operates under Shed within the district.

The table below shows a List of schools under shed.

S/N	NAME OF SCHOOL	LOCATIONS
1	KWASI DIAKA D/A PRIMARY	KWASI DIAKA
2	AKYEREMENTENG D/A BASIC SCHOOL	AKYEREMENTENG
3	ASUOKOR D/A BASIC SCHOOL	ASUOKOR
4	SANFO SALVATION ARMY BASIC SCHOOL	SANFO
5	ASAASEKOKOR D/A BASIC SCHOOL	ASAASEKOKOR
6	APIREDE-NSUTA D/A K.G./PRIMARY	APIREDE-NSUTA
7	ASIFAW D/A BASIC SCHOOL	ASIFAW

**Source:** Okere Edu. Directorate, 2021.

Fig. 7: shows Map of Education facilities in Okere District.



Source: OkDA Physical Planning Dept, 2021.

### 1.7.2: Health Care/ Service Delivery

The vision of the Health Sector is to deliver universal basic health services by ensuring that diseases and avoidable deaths are kept to minimal levels and every citizen has access to quality–driven, result–oriented, close–to–client focus and affordable health service by a well-motivated workforce. The Okere District Health Directorate is situated at Dawu. There are 13 Health facilities in the district and these are made up of 3 health Centers and 10 Community Health Programmes (CHPs) Centers. Health facilities that are spread across the entire District based on their functions and the range of services they provide. There are three (3) health centres located at Adukrom, Abiriw and Okrakwadwo. There are ten (10) CHPs Compounds located in the following communities: Twumguaso, Nanabanin, Baware, Akyeremanteng, Asenema, Abohse, Akuni, Aseeseo, Apirede and Amanfro. Presently there has been an award for the construction of a district hospital at Adukrom under the Government’s agenda 111 Project.

## Health Facilities

Table 1.10: Types and Number of Public Health Facilities in the district

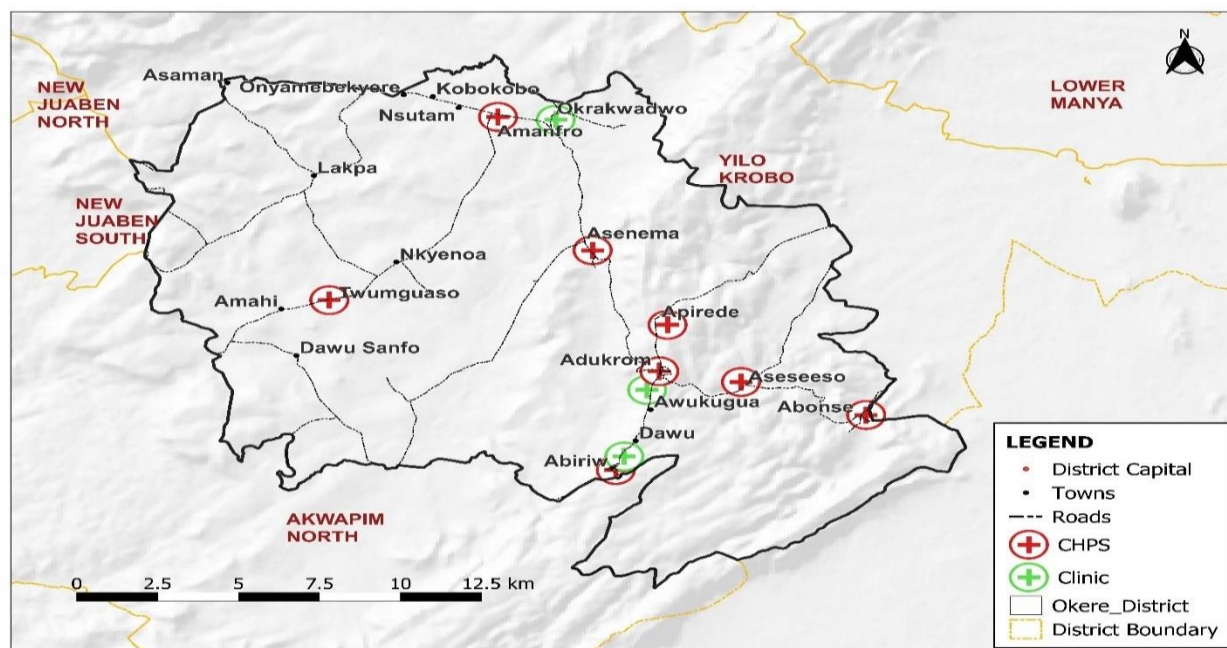
Type of Facility	Number	Locations
Health Centers	3	Abiriw/ Adukrom /Okrakwadjo
CHPs Compounds	10	Akuni, Aseseeso, Abonse, Apiredi, Asenema, Amanfro, Twumguaso, Nanabanin, Akyeremanteng, Baware.
Total	13	

**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

There is a functional National Ambulance service in the district at Adukrom. Even though there is an improvement in the number of health facilities in the District as indicated in Table 1.12. Health service delivery especially in the rural communities still needs much attention due to factors such as refusal of posting of health staff to rural areas as a result of inadequate or non-existence of decent residential accommodation for health workers.

Apart from Amanfro, Apiredi and Abonse Health facilities, all the other Health facilities in the District have Nurses Quarters due to the operations and contribution of The Hunger Project-Ghana that has built Epi-Centres in these Communities and part of the structures been used as CHPs Compounds and nurses quarters.

Fig. 8: shows Map of health facilities in Okere District.



**Source:** OkDA Physical Planning Dept, 2021.



## Health Services

The following are types of health services rendered at the various health facilities in the district as shown in table 1.13.

Table 11: Types of health services rendered in Health Centre and CHPs compounds.

S/N	Health Services provided	S/N	Health Services provided
1	Curative(OPD) service	7	Mental health services
2	ANC Services	8	Health promotion services
3	Delivery services	9	Surveillance, disease control & Preventive services
4	Post Natal Service	10	Nutritional Counseling & Rehabilitation services
5	Child welfare clinics	11	Adolescent Health services
6	Family Planning services	12	HIV/AIDS

**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

## Incidence of Diseases

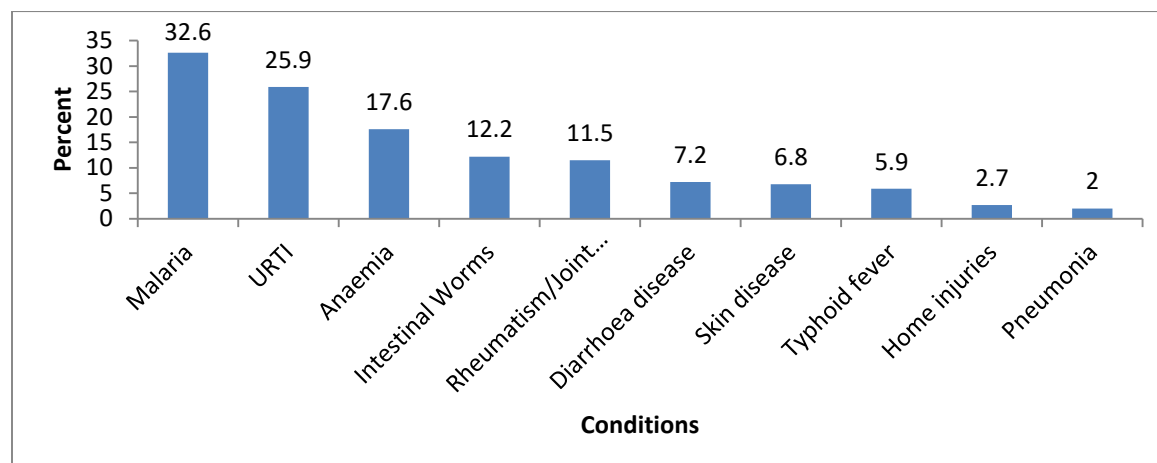
Table 12: below shows the trend of occurrence of diseases in the District. As indicated in the table, malaria continues to be the most reported disease at Out Patient Department (OPD), followed by Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) Anemia, Intestinal Worms, Rheumatism/ joint pains in that order. In other words, Malaria continues to be the leading cause of all outpatient diseases and conditions in the district. It accounts for 32.6% of all diseases and conditions reported in the various health facilities within the district. In second place is Upper Respiratory Tract Infection followed by Rheumatism and Joint Pains.

Table 12: Top Ten causes of OPD Attendance 2020.

S/N	Conditions	Year 2020		S/N	Conditions	Year 2020	
		No. of cases	%			No. of cases	%
1	Malaria	9121	32.6	6	Diarrhoea disease	2081	7.2
2	URTI	7247	25.9	7	Skin disease	1903	6.8
3	Anaemia	4935	17.6	8	Typhoid fever	1653	5.9
4	Intestinal Worms	3400	12.2	9	Home injuries	758	2.7
5	Rheumatism/Joint Pains	3224	11.5	10	Pneumonia	573	2.0

**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

Fig. 9: Top Ten causes of OPD Attendance 2020.



**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

The table below shows Number of people registered with the NHIS at as June, 2021.

S/N	Category	2019	2020
1	Male	12,173	10,399
2	Female	22,656	21,697
Total		34,829	32,096

**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

Persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The table shows the HIV/AIDS Testing Services (HTS) results for the plan period of January – December (2018 – 2020). Comparing number of people tested for HIV in 2019 (349) as that of 2020 (188) the trend has reduced drastically (thus -53.8%), meaning people are not availing themselves for counselling and testing.

Table on HIV Testing Center (HTC) trend analysis (2018 -2020)

S/N	Indicators	2018	2019	2020
1	No. receiving HIV pretest information	310	349	188
2	No. tested for HIV	310	349	188
3	No. tested HIV positive	6	6	5
4	No. receiving HIV Post-test Counseling	306	297	188
5	No. receiving HIV positive test results	6	6	5
6	No. of HIV positive screened for TB	6	6	5
7	No. referred into TB care	4	2	3

**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

Table on PMTCT trend analysis from 2018 – 2020

S/N	Indicators	2018	2019	2020
1	ANC Registrants	1173	1138	1169
2	No. receiving Pretesting Counseling	1173	1138	1169
3	No. Tested	1155	1087	1065
4	No. Positive	18	34	34
5	No. Tested for Syphilis	831	935	903
6	No. Tested Positive for Syphilis	18	12	30
7	No. Treated for Syphilis	18	12	19
8	No. of Pregnant Mothers on ART	-	-	26

**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

The table above shows PMTCT trend analysis from 2018 – 2020. Generally, from 2018 to 2020, testing pregnant mothers for syphilis in order to prevent and save unborn babies from being infected had increased as shown in table 1.24. Effective programmes aimed at reducing the spread and transmission of syphilis and HIV&AIDS and other related diseases is receiving utmost attention by way of mainstreaming them into the development activities of the district.

From the table, the rate of adolescent pregnancy has increase as compared to 2019 and 2018. There is the need to intensify adolescent health services to further reduce the rate. It is the plan of 2021 creating adolescent health clubs in both schools and at community level to address the accelerated pregnancy issue.

Table 1.15: Teenage pregnancy Cases in the District in 2018-2020.

YEAR	10-14 years	15-19 years	Total
2018	2	91	93
2019	4	91	95
2020	7	161	168

The table below shows Covid-19 Pandemic Cases in the District, 2020-2021.

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Suspected cases recorded</b>	<b>No. of persons tested</b>	<b>Positive cases recorded</b>	<b>No. of cases treated and discharged</b>	<b>No. of death recorded</b>
2020	101	75	28	28	0
2021(as @August)	80	80	40	40	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	181	155	68	68	0

**Source:** Okere District Health Directorate, 2021.

### 1.8: Poverty, Inequality and Social Protection.

It is estimated that 34% of the population of the district are within the 0-14 age group and 26% being 60 and above. This means the District has a lot of children and the aged who are dependents. Some of these children are vulnerable because of the high birth rate and inadequate parental control and responsiveness. Cases of children abandonment and abuse, defilement, paternity, juveniles in conflict with the law, teenage pregnancy and child delinquency are the issues most often reported. The Social Welfare and Community Development Department of the District deals with these issues when they come to their notice. In addition, the department organizes programmes such as community sensitization on social welfare issues, home visits, provision of educational and medical support to Orphans and vulnerable children, enrich rural life through literacy and adult education classes; supervision of juvenile to serve their sentences among others to address these problems.

It is also estimated that about 45% of the economically active population in the District are not gainfully employed. This population is considered to be vulnerable because of their inability to live a decent life. The District Assembly is therefore putting up strategies for jobs creation in the areas of agriculture, agri-businesses, industrialization (both large and small scale industries), aqua-culture, tourism, and the provision of skills training under the “Okere District Empowerment Fund” (OkDEF) among others to bridge the unemployment gap, in effect creating a self-sustaining resilient local economy.

### 1.9: Governance.

#### Establishment of the District Assembly

Okere District Assembly was carved out of the Akwapem North Municipal Assembly and created by Legislative Instrument (L.I) 2342 in 2017 in pursuance to the Government’s

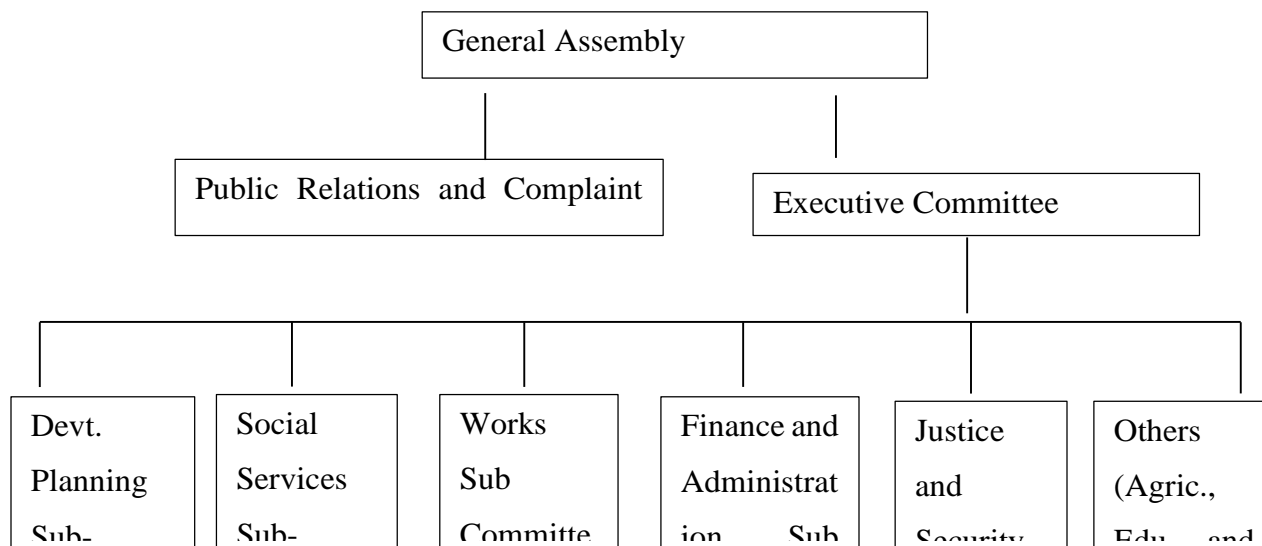
Decentralization Policy and Local Government Reform Policy with Adukrom-Akuapem as its capital.

The District Assembly has been empowered by relevant laws to perform executive, deliberative, and legislative functions. It is indeed the highest political authority in the District.

Political Structure of the District Assembly.

The political structure of the Assembly is shown in Figure 12. The Assembly’s structure is hierarchical. The District Assembly is the highest decision-making body and planning authority within its area of jurisdiction. As an organization it works through the Executive Committee and its subsidiary committees- (statutory sub-committees), thus Development Planning, Social Services, Works, Finance and Administration and Justice and Security as well as (ad-hoc committees) such as Tourism, Agric. Education etc. as and when needed. There is also the Public Relations and Complaints Committee that falls directly under the office of the Presiding Member. The head of the General Assembly is the Presiding Member and the head of the Executive Committee is the Chief Executive.

Fig. 10: Political structure of the District Assembly.



Each Sub-Committee consists of such members of the Assembly determined by General Assembly. Every sub-committee is responsible for collating and deliberating on issues relevant to it as the Assembly may direct for the purposes of assisting the Assembly in its deliberative, executive and legislature functions. The Assembly consists of twenty one (21) Electoral Areas,

21 Unit Committees and 7 Town/Area Councils. The District has one Constituency, that is, the Okere Constituency. The total membership of the Assembly is thirty three (33), made up of 21 elected members 10 Government Appointees, 1 Member of Parliament and the District Chief Executive.

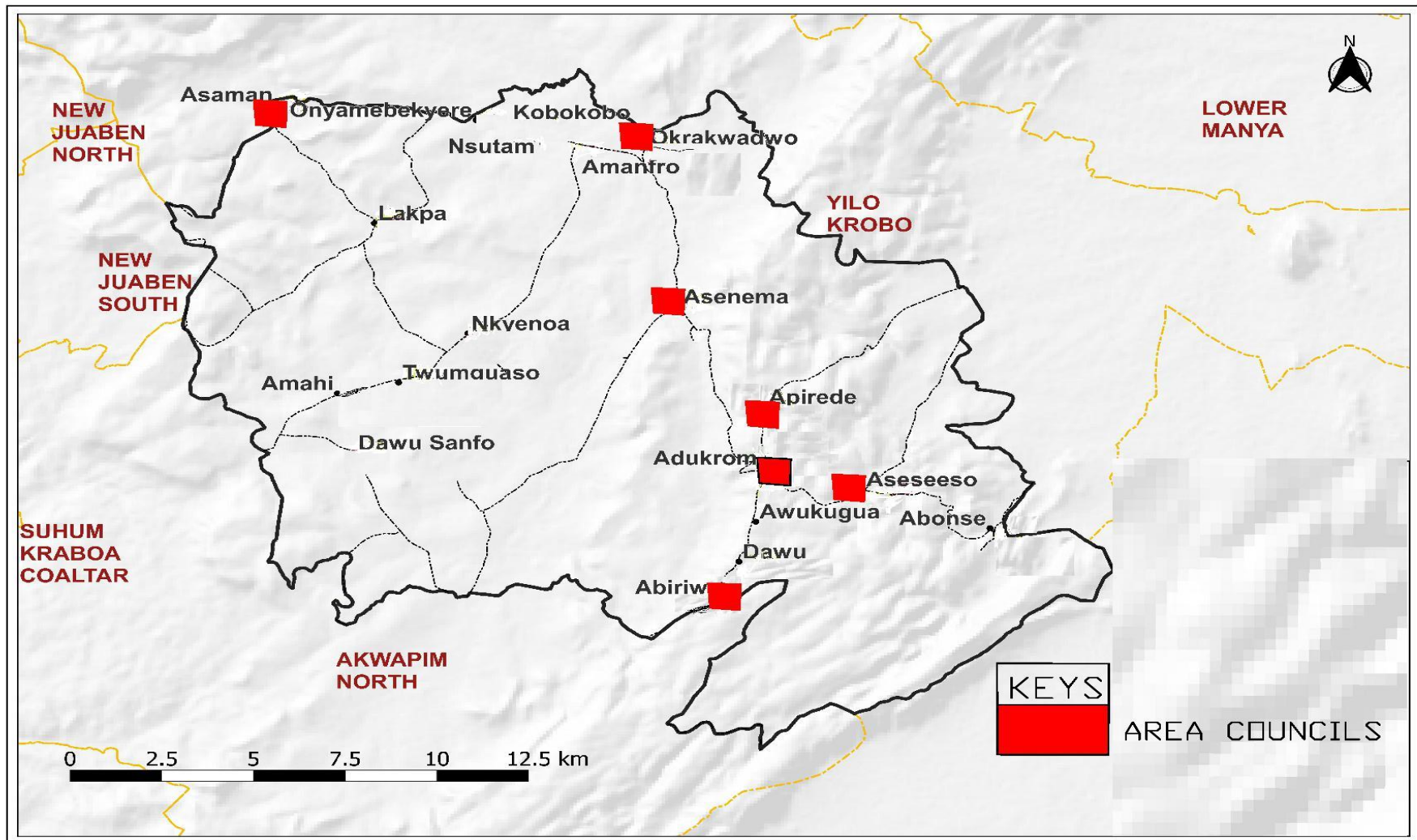
The following are names of the electoral areas:

Table 13: Electoral Areas in the various Sub-Structure of Okere District.

S/N	Town/ Area Council	S/N	Electoral Area
1	Adukrom Town Council	1 2 3 4	Akoawi Methodist Mission Aninkode AbondePresby Mission
2	Apirede Area Council	1 2	Adedakui / Abonde Nyawra-Monu
3	Abiriw / Dawu / Awukugua Area Council	1 2 3 4 5	Abiriw DawuAhenbronmu DawuBronmu AwukuguaAlanso Awukugua
4	Aseseeso / Abonse Area Council	1 2	Aseseeso Abonse
5	Asenema / Krutiase Area Council	1 2 3	Asenema Krutiase AsiNkwanta
6	Asamang / Onyamebekyere Area Council	1 2	Asamang/Onyamebekyere Akyeremanteng
7	Amanfro / Okrakwadwo Area Council	1 2 3 4	Amanfro Okrakwadwo Nkyenua Twumguasoo

OkDA Central Admi. 2021

Figure 10: Map of Sub-Structure of Okere District



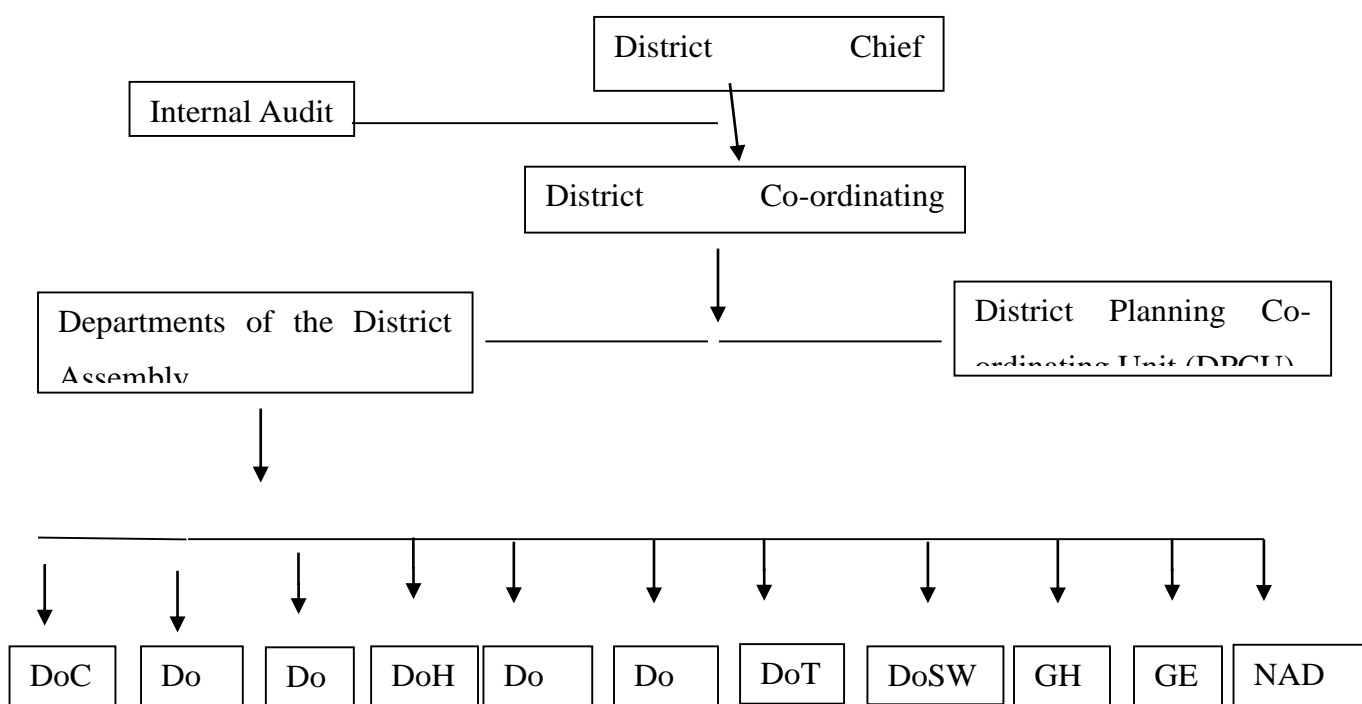




## Administrative structure of the Assembly

The Chief Executive as the chief representative of the Central Government in the District is responsible for the day-to-day performance of the Executive functions of the Assembly. The next in the hierarchy after the Chief Executive is the District Co-ordinating Director (DCD), who is a public Servant and is the Secretary to the Assembly. The Co-ordinating Director performs administrative functions in the Assembly and reports directly to the Chief executive. The various departmental heads, units and agencies also report to the Co-ordinating Director and relate to the Chief Executive through him or her.

Fig. 11: Organogram of the District Assembly



Currently, the Planning Unit, Budget Unit, Procurement Unit, Central Administration Unit, Statistics Unit, Environmental Health Unit, Records Unit, Revenue Unit, MIS Unit are all under Department of Central Administration.

### 1.10: Local Economic Development.

The District has quite a number of rural communities and intends to provide work towards the provision of an enabling environment for small and medium scale enterprises or businesses to maximize opportunities for economic growth. Thus, measures are being put in place to attract and retain businesses to boost the economic base of the District. This would further help to create more businesses or induce their growth from small to medium or large scale enterprises

as well as generate employment opportunities to minimize the high incidence of unemployment. It will also go a long way to improve the Assembly's IGF within the plan period. The district has particular focus on tourism, agro-processing, skills training, and campaign for land banks as well as investment in real estates as a means of broadening the local economy.

Fig. 12: Base map of Okere District depicting current situation.



