

Lessons Learnt and Conclusions

Districts at the top of the DLT are doing twice as well as the lowest ranked Districts. While this gap in equity has narrowed since last year, this is due to the fact that a few of the low ranking Districts have improved their scores often just in one area.

In this year's DLT, the issue of inequity *within* regions stands out. In regions such as the Northern Region, or Upper West, some Districts are doing very well (better than most in wealthier Regions) alongside several Districts that rank very low. Inequality is no longer a straightforward story about Ghana's wealthier south and its consistently poor north. We are *now faced with significant within-region inequality, which, can be greater than national inequality* as a whole.

As noted last year, there is much that Government and other stakeholders can do to address such inequities by better targeting resources. Citizens and civil society can also use the results of the DLT to discuss why their District ranks as it does. The Government of Ghana could use the DLT in their formula for allocating financing from the Common Fund.

Secondly, last year's DLT highlighted major weaknesses in the accessibility of Ghana's data and

its communication to wider audiences. This situation has not changed. No sector provides annual, up-to-date District data in public documents or online meaning that citizens, media, and Government staff are inadequately informed.

Lastly, this year's analysis of the DLT highlights increasing dissatisfaction with the range of District indicators available in Ghana. Some indicators, like sanitation and governance, need to become more detailed. Other major issues are entirely absent as they are not monitored at the District level at all, such as child protection.

UNICEF and CDD Ghana will continue the annual compilation and dissemination of the DLT in the years to come. In this way, it will be possible to continue to track which Districts make the biggest improvements each year, and to use the awareness and dialogue which will be promoted this year's DLT to increase accountability for promoting equitable development across Ghana.

For more information, please contact UNICEF Ghana's Policy Team (0302 772524 or 773583) or CDD Ghana (0302 776142 or 784293), or consult the DLT documentation on the webpages: <http://www.unicef.org/ghana/> or <http://www.cddgh.org/publications/Other-Publications>

Ghana's District League Table 2015: Strengthening Social Accountability for National Development

“The DLT aims to increase social accountability for development across Ghana's 216 Districts so as to improve responsiveness in service delivery.”



Introduction and background

In 2014, Ghana's first ever District League Table (DLT) was launched. It is a simple tool that ranks the level of development in each of Ghana's 216 Districts. Designed by UNICEF Ghana with the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD Ghana), in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, it became Ghana's first ever national tool for promoting social accountability in development. Citizens have the right to accountability for basic service delivery, while public actors have the obligation to be accountable for effective and efficient provision.

The DLT aims to increase social accountability for development across Ghana's 216 Districts so as to improve responsiveness in service delivery. It supports actors to be more aware of development levels across the country, track progress made, and improve people's access to information and knowledge on development rights in their Districts.

Now in its second year, the 2015 DLT uses the same methodology as last year. This enables us to compare and see which Districts have improved their ranking and which are suffering challenges. In 2014, several steps were undertaken to agree with key stakeholders which indicators should be used in the construction of the DLT's index. Numerous challenges were encountered regarding data – many indicators are not reliably estimated for the District level on an annual basis. In addition, available District indicators are not easily accessible, making local level planning and monitoring much harder.

The DLT aggregates development indicators in six key sectors: health, education, sanitation, water, security and governance. Within these

key sectors, the District indicators agreed upon are: BECE pass rates, skilled delivery at birth; rural water coverage; open defecation free (ODF) certification; police personnel coverage; and fulfilment of District administrative FOAT minimum conditions. Using global methodologies, these indicators are then averaged into a single index score for each District. This means that the DLT is only to be used to provide a holistic overview of District development, and not as a measurement of performance in an individual sector.

Government can use the DLT to better guide District level development; citizens can use it to call for improvements; media and civil society can use it to generate more informed debate on local development.

The agencies that contributed to the District League Table are gratefully recognised as: The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Education, Ghana Education Service, Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Services, Community Water and Sanitation Agency, Ghana Police Service, and Ghana Statistical Service.

The results

The results of the 2015 Ghana District League Table are shown below. This year, there is a new District topping the table; that of Tema Metropolitan, in the Greater Accra Region. Tema has a development level twice that of the lowest ranking District in this year's DLT: that of West Gomoa in 216th place. This year 105 Districts score below the national average score of 56, compared to 95 Districts that scored below the average last year meaning that less Districts are keeping pace with overall development.

Among the top Districts, the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions figures most prominently. Amongst the bottom Districts, Volta and Northern regions stand out. This year, no District from any of the three northern regions is found in the top 20. Among the Districts at the bottom of the table, the Northern Region features the most prominently.

The most improved District between 2014 and 2015 was Kwaebibirem in Eastern Region. Overall, 98 Districts managed to improve their ranking in the DLT as compared to last year. Looking at rural versus urban differences, many of the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts rank higher than their rural counterparts in the same Region, although this is not consistently the case.



