

Ghana's District League Table 2016

Frequently Asked Questions and Methodology Note

- 1. What is the District League Table?:** The District League Table (DLT), produced by UNICEF Ghana and CDD Ghana, is a tool for strengthening social accountability between the state and its citizens for development. It is a simple ranking tool of the level of development in each of Ghana's 216 Districts. Instead of rating Districts by administrative compliance, it ranks them in terms of their delivery in six key sectors: health, education, sanitation, water, security and governance.
- 2. What is the DLT's objective?:** The DLT aims to increase social accountability for development across Ghana's 216 Districts so as to improve state responsiveness in service delivery. It aims to support Government in better understanding and monitoring development across the country, and to support citizen's access to information and knowledge on rights on development in their Districts.
- 3. How was it developed?:** The development of the DLT was complex and involved several steps to agree with key stakeholders which indicators should be used in the construction of the index. Once the indicators for the index were agreed upon, data was gathered from the relevant MDAs, representative of the 6 key sectors: health, education, sanitation, water, security and governance. Numerous challenges were encountered regarding data availability, despite the public nature of all data sources – many indicators are not reliably available at the District level on an annual basis. In addition, up-to-date, annual District indicators are not routinely made available, making data access a substantial obstacle.
- 4. Which MDAs were involved in the DLT design?** The agencies that collaborated to produce the District League Table are: 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 Water Company Ltd, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Statistical Service.
- 5. How were the indicators for the DLT selected?:** Basic criteria were used to pre-select potential indicators in 2014 before a consensus approach was used to arrive at agreement with the partner MDAs. The criteria used were: the indicator had to be a key priority for people's wellbeing and District development; it had to be available at the District level in an annually produced national database for every District in Ghana; and it had to assess the change resulting from development interventions (i.e. outcomes, outputs) rather than measuring the process to achieve such change, –

i.e. not percentage of budget spent etc. Several important issues in Ghana still do not have such indicators available for them – such as violence or social protection.

6. **Which indicators were used?:** Across the 6 key sectors, the District indicators agreed upon with MDAs are: average District BECE pass rate; skilled delivery at birth; rural water coverage; percentage of communities certified open defecation free (ODF); police personnel coverage; and performance score under the FOAT.
7. **How was the index of the DLT constructed?:** The 6 indicators were aggregated into a single index score for each District using a common approach of taking the simple average of the 6 indicators. 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. More detail on the District League Table's methodology is available in the Methodological Note on the UNICEF and CD websites: <http://www.unicef.org/ghana/>
8. **Does the DLT rate the performance of District Assemblies? Is the DLT to be used to force District Assemblies to perform better?:** The DLT does not measure 'performance', it measures how developed a District is. Importantly, District development levels are not necessarily driven by District Assemblies. In many cases the majority of service provision is delivered and managed from central authorities such as GES and GHS, with DAs receiving only marginal proportions of responsibility and funding for service delivery. For DAs to be able to increase their responsiveness to citizens for service delivery, they need to be further empowered to receive clear assignments, budget allocations and autonomy from the central level. In the meantime, agencies with central level responsibility for service delivery should scale-up efforts for support to target those Districts that rank the lowest in the District League Table.
9. **Were Districts consulted in advance on the DLT?:** The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is the leading MDA partner on the DLT. They organized extensive briefing meetings on the DLT in all regions with all Districts invited, as well as in several regions through the ILGS Orientation Meetings for new Assembly people. In addition to these meetings with Districts across the country, we will be taking the DLT results to all 10 regions and discussing its implications with Districts and Regional bodies.
10. **Where did the data for the DLT come from?:** No surveys were undertaken or data calculated for the DLT. All the data is routine, administrative data produced officially on an annual basis by the

relevant MDAs from each District's locally produced data. The education indicator came from the Education Ministry's EMIS, the health indicator from the Health Ministry's DHIMS, the sanitation information from Environmental Health and Sanitation in MLGRD, the water indicators from Community Water and Sanitation Agency, the governance indicator from the FOAT in MLGRD, and the police information from Ghana Police.

- 11. How will the DLT be used?:** The DLT is developed every year, using the same methodology to compare the changes over time and observe the overall progress of District-level delivery of services. As GoG monitoring systems improve, new indicators could be used in future years. The ranking indicates how far (or near) Districts are in providing full access to basic rights – as such, it will be used to observe their improvements in service availability from one year to the next.
- 12. Won't the DLT encourage Districts to 'fiddle' a sector's figures to get more favourable results so as to do better next year?:** The DLT is an index made up of indicators from 6 sectors. There will not be a focus on an individual sector or indicator so there should be no incentive to tamper with the data. Data is also verified and compiled centrally.
- 13. Why did UNICEF and CDD undertake to develop this league table?:** Across the world, many mechanisms to strengthen accountability between the State and its citizens emerge from civil society given their independent role. In Ghana's case the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development collaborated on the initiative as part of their work to promote social accountability.
- 14. Why did La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality in Greater Accra come out in first place?:** La Nkwantanang-Madina had the highest score in the District League Table. The District has an education indicator well above average, a very high health indicator, a very high level of water coverage, a high police coverage, and a high governance score. However it has not certified any communities as Open Defecation Free.
- 15. Why did North Tongu in Volta region come in last place?:** North Tongu scored the lowest on the District League Table at 40.9%. This is because it scores low in education, very low in sanitation, medium-low water coverage, medium-low in health, and very low in security.
- 16. Gomoa West was in bottom place last year, how has its situation changed since 2015?:** Gomoa West has seen its score improve from 36.8% to 43.6% this year, meaning that it has risen up the table to 212th place. Its education and security indicators have improved.

- 17. Which region did best and which worst?:** In terms of absolute score, the Greater Accra region does best with the highest average regional score of 63%. The Volta region has the lowest average score of 54%.
- 18. Why does the DLT rank Metropolitans, Municipalities, and Districts alongside each other?:** The MLGRD have stated that Metropolitans and Municipalities can often have greater levels of resources and therefore rank higher than rural Districts. In this year's DLT we analysed the scores of Metropolitans, Municipalities, and Districts. Indeed, Municipalities are more clustered in the top of the DLT than in the bottom. However, both Metropolitans and Municipalities are spread throughout the table.
- 19. Why do some Districts do so much better than others?:** Numerous factors drive a District's level of development. While we have seen that the poverty level of the Region can be a key factor, it is not the only determinant and others such as the equitability of resource allocation from central government are crucial. The ability to raise Internally Generated Funds (IGF), or issues such as good leadership are crucial. Analysis would be needed to understand what the core factors are and how Districts can improve their performance by learning from each other.
- 20. Will the DLT be used to name and shame underperforming Districts?:** No. The DLT does not measure 'performance' directly, but rather each District's level of development. Development of a District is the responsibility of the Government and other stakeholders as a whole. Where a District ranks poorly in the DLT, this should be a reason to provide that District with additional, targeted support because of the substantial challenges that they face.
- 21. I think my District is doing much better/worse than the DLT says, why is this?:** The DLT provides a holistic overview of a District's level of development across 6 sectors. It shows on average how each District is doing. Within this average picture, there may be individual services which people feel are doing worse or better. Or you may be concerned with a particular service for which data doesn't exist.
- 22. What can I use the results of the District League Table for?** As a citizen or member of civil society we can use the District League Table to ask questions about the equitability of development across the country and call for change. Government can use it to inform decisions on resource allocation