

## **REGIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSEHOLD LATRINES, DRILLING OF NEW BOREHOLES AND BOREHOLE REPAIRS IN BONGO DISTRICT, UER, GHANA.**

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### **1. Introduction**

Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) recognises clean environment and good health as a means to achieving the country's socio-economic development. This is however far from being achieved at national and decentralised levels due to the problem of lack of, or inadequate and inefficient water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services to enhance hygienic practices. The lack or inadequacy of water and sanitation facilities in rural Ghana in particular is more serious and has been noted to result in increased water-related diseases in the country.

Enormous investment is made in the provision of boreholes to provide potable water and public latrines in largely urban communities by Ghana Government and a few in rural and urban communities by several NGOs and CBOs.

This report provides a brief context in which Bongo Development Organisation operates.

## 2. Contact:

**FAUSTINA ATIPOKA**

Bongo Development Organization

P.O. Box 5, Bongo, Upper East Region, Ghana (West Africa)

**Telephone:** +233 (0)244160190

**E-mail:** bondotrust@gmail.com

**Web:** [www.bondotrust.net](http://www.bondotrust.net)

## 3. Upper East Region

The UER is located in the extreme northeast of Ghana, bordering Togo and Burkina Faso. It is divided into six districts as shown.

Figure 1 UER Ghana showing Bongo District

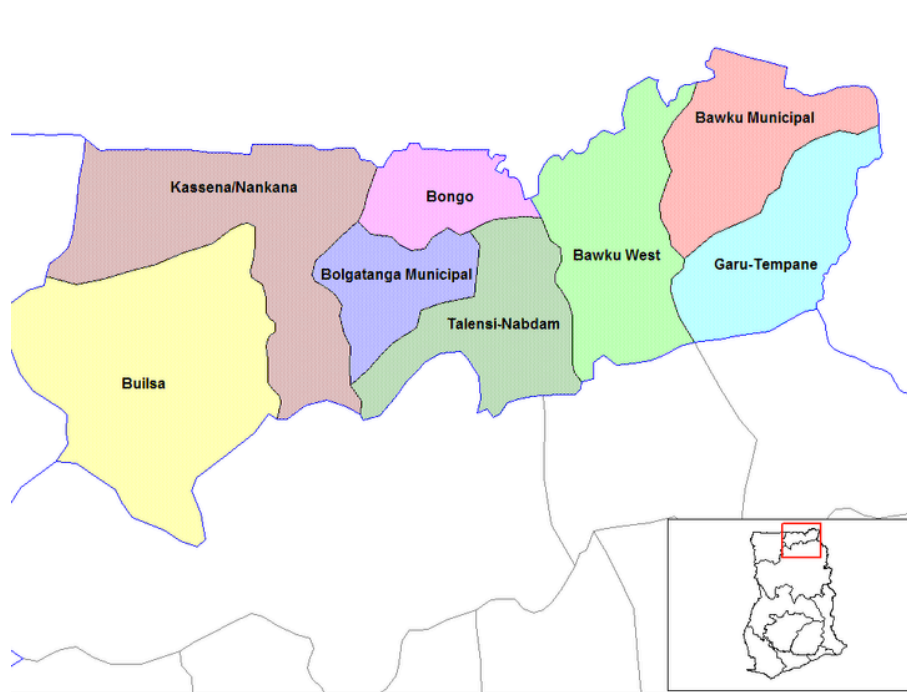


Table 1 UER population and density by district, 2000, Source: GSS (2002)

District	Bawku	East Bawku	West Bolga	Bongo	Kasena Nankana	Builsa	Total
Population	307971	8606	228815	77885	149491	75375	920089
Land area km <sup>2</sup>	2067	1070	1620	460	1951	1674	8842
Persons/km <sup>2</sup>	149.0	75.3	141.2	169.5	76.6	45.0	104.1

## 4. Region of Operations

The following map indicates the region of operations in the District, which occupies 460km<sup>2</sup>

Figure 2 UER Ghana showing Bongo, Bolgatanga



## 5. Town & Community Sizes

Bongo District is one of the nine districts in the Upper East Region, with Bongo Township as its district capital. It shares boundaries with Burkina Faso to the north and east, Kassena-nankana District to the West and Bolgatanga Municipal

The towns in the District are:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Bongo ( District Capital)                     | 10. Lungu                    |
| 2. Adaboya                                       | 11. Namoo                    |
| 3. Balungu-Gantorisi                             | 12. Seo-Asabagabisi (Wabisi) |
| 4. Bogorogo                                      | 13. Soe Soboko               |
| 5. Bongo-Nyariga                                 | 14. Vea-Akugrebisi           |
| 6. Dua   | 15. Zoko Kanga               |
| 7. Dua Apuwongo                                  | 16. Zoko Tarongo             |
| 8. Gowrie Nayire Central Zoko-Gambrongo-Azaabisi | 17. Zoko-Gambrongo           |
| 9. Gowrie-Tingre                                 | 18. Zoko-Goo                 |
|  | 19. Zoko-Kodorogo            |

## 6. Population Distribution

Table 2 Distribution of Population

Population by locality		Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2000 Population & Housing Census.				
		Localities are in alphabetical order except Bongo.				
No	Locality Name	Total Population	Male	Female	Rank	%
1	Bongo	4787	2102	2685	1	6.1%
2	Abenaa_Doori	304	147	157	67	0.4%
3	Adaboya	1827	853	974	11	2.3%
4	Akanaba	609	315	294	52	0.8%
5	Akotobongo	223	112	111	71	0.3%
6	Akunduo	758	346	412	42	1.0%
7	Anafobisi_Kanseringa	825	393	432	36	1.1%
8	Anafobisi_Kunkua	787	367	420	41	1.0%
9	Apatanga	875	422	453	35	1.1%
10	Asibiga	361	187	174	64	0.5%
11	Atampintin	1219	605	614	25	1.6%
12	Atampisi_Bongo	915	450	465	34	1.2%
13	Balungu-Doone	1245	561	684	20	1.6%
14	Balungu-Gantorisi	1282	605	677	21	1.6%
15	Balungu-Nabisi	1099	505	594	28	1.4%
16	Beo-Nayikura	670	332	338	49	0.9%

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17	Beo-Tankoo	919	396	523	30	1.2%
18	Beo-Wagliga	479	213	266	56	0.6%
19	Beo-Atonoborogo	151	79	72	72	0.2%
20	Beo-Dusobligo	42	18	24	79	0.1%
21	Beo-Kanbusgo	309	148	161	66	0.4%
22	Beo-Kasingo-Daporyorogo	709	340	369	46	0.9%
23	Beo-Lembusi	53	24	29	78	0.1%
24	Beo-Sapooro	906	428	478	31	1.2%
25	Bogorogo	1718	814	904	13	2.2%
26	Boko-Abagnabisi	706	341	365	47	0.9%
27	Boko-Abolgobisi	429	202	227	60	0.6%
28	Boko-Akumbelebisi	272	143	129	69	0.3%
29	Boko-Amirabisi	372	191	181	62	0.5%
30	Boko-Tindongo	99	44	55	76	0.1%
31	Bongo-Nyariga	1858	839	1019	8	2.4%
32	Bungtua	152	82	70	73	0.2%
33	Bungu	216	95	121	70	0.3%
34	Dagliga	762	382	380	45	1.0%
35	Dua	2279	1074	1205	6	2.9%
36	Dua-Apuwongo	1416	677	739	19	1.8%
37	Dua-Tankoo	130	61	69	74	0.2%
38	Feo-Akunka	279	137	142	68	0.4%
39	Feo-Asabagabisi-(Wabisi)	1484	663	821	16	1.9%
40	Feo-Asebre	1082	486	596	27	1.4%
41	Feo-Asimabisi	476	204	272	54	0.6%
42	Feo-Ayelbia	763	372	391	43	1.0%
43	Gorigo	1190	555	635	24	1.5%
44	Gowrie-Nayire-Central	1662	760	902	14	2.1%
45	Gowrie-Tingre	2685	1274	1411	3	3.4%
46	Kuyelingo	806	384	422	39	1.0%
47	Lungu	2389	1131	1258	5	3.1%
48	Moosi-Dabooro	331	159	172	65	0.4%
49	Namoo	2248	1079	1169	7	2.9%
50	Namoo-Akunka	107	44	63	75	0.1%
51	Nayorogo-Apubeo	495	218	277	53	0.6%
52	Nayorogo-Galarom	357	157	200	61	0.5%
53	Nayorogo-Nayiri	763	333	430	37	1.0%
54	Sambolgo-Amanga	1167	568	599	26	1.5%
55	Samboligo-Ayeopia	919	442	477	32	1.2%

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56	Samboligu-Abokobisi	351	171	180	63	0.5%
57	Samboligu-Kansoe	493	228	265	57	0.6%
58	Samboligu-Nayiri	510	245	265	57	0.7%
59	Samboligu-Sikabisi	620	268	352	48	0.8%
60	Samboligu-Towongo	84	39	45	77	0.1%
61	Soe-Soboko	3670	1724	1946	2	4.7%
62	Soe-Kabre	561	259	302	51	0.7%
63	Soe-Kanseringa	604	290	314	50	0.8%
64	Soe-Nabisi	1184	522	662	23	1.5%
65	Soe-Sanabisi	707	325	382	77	0.9%
66	Soe-Yidongo	860	386	474	33	1.1%
67	Ve-a-Akugrebisi	1471	671	800	18	1.9%
68	Ve-a-Asodaanabiisi	808	384	424	38	1.0%
69	Ve-a-Gunga	534	267	267	55	0.7%
70	Ve-a-Kulpeliga	849	427	422	39	1.1%
71	Zoko-Atiabisi	1214	538	676	22	1.6%
72	Zoko-Kanga	1830	841	989	10	2.3%
73	Zoko-Tarongo	2517	1182	1335	4	3.2%
74	Zoko-Awaa	487	250	237	59	0.6%
75	Zoko-Gambrongo	1486	659	827	15	1.9%
76	Zoko-Gambrongo-Azaabisi	1642	678	964	12	2.1%
77	Zoko-Goo	1463	656	807	17	1.9%
78	Zoko-Kadare	1085	538	547	29	1.4%
79	Zoko-Kodorogo	1889	892	997	8	2.4%
	<b>District_Total</b>	<b>77885</b>	<b>36299</b>	<b>41586</b>		

There are ( 2005) a population of almost 80,000 people in an area of 460 square miles in Bongo District.

From a detailed survey carried out in 2000, the distribution of population is as follows, with 50 communities out of 79 total in the District being less than 1000 in population, and the 73% of the of the population living in communities of less than 2000 people.

Figure 3 Community Size

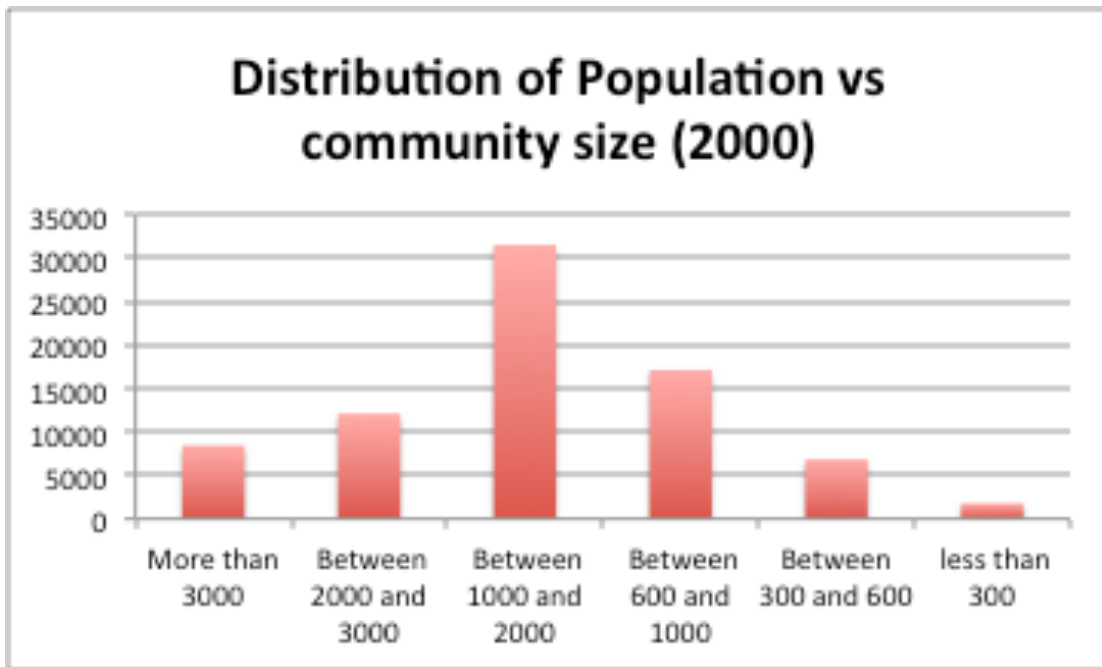
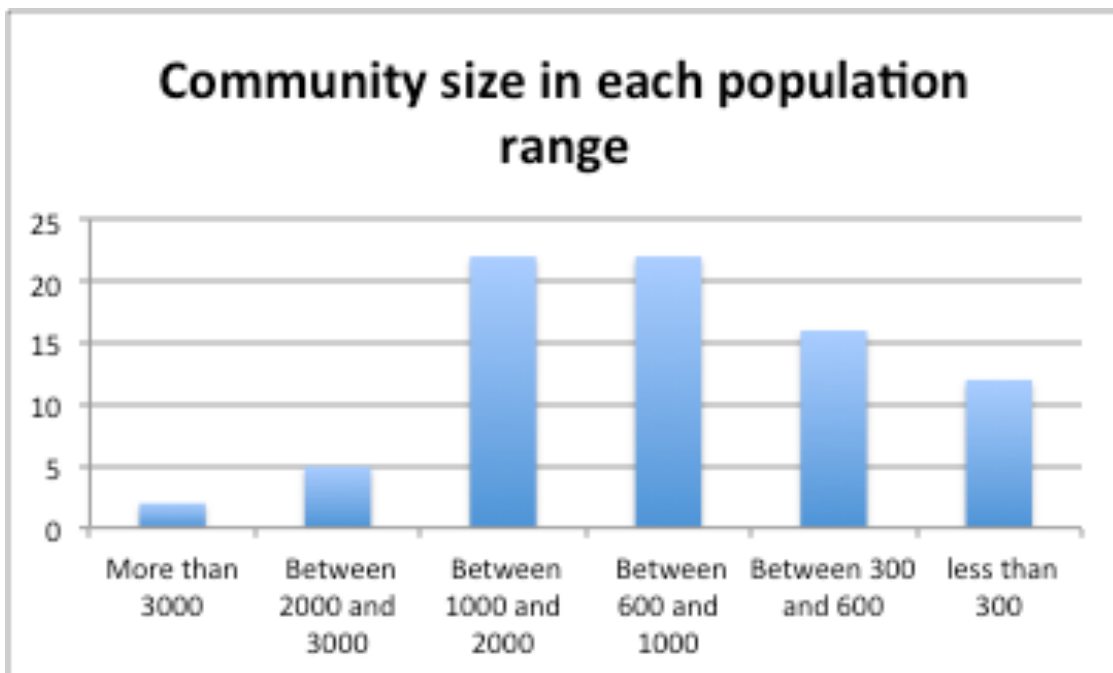


Figure 4 Numbers of Communities in each size range



## 7. Topography & Drainage

The topography is generally flat or low lying with outcrops of granite and Birimian rocks. Areas occupied by granites are generally of low, gently rolling relief 90 to 300 metres above sea level. The soils are moderately well drained coarse textured soils, occupying larger parts of land on middle and upper slopes and less frequently on summits.

The soils are rich in phosphate. The district is drained by the Red Volta river and its main tributaries namely, the Ayedama and Kulumasa Rivers, which flow into the Red Volta. The area has one large dam at Vea, nine small dams and five dug-outs located in Bongo, Zokko, Balungu, Adaboya, Namoo and Soe.

## 8. Climate & Vegetation

The vegetation consists of short deciduous trees often widely spaced and a ground flora composed of different species of grasses of varying heights. Very little of the vegetation exists in its original form.

The few indigenous tree species are mainly those of economic value and include baobab, shea and dawadawa trees. There is the Red Volta Forest Reserve, which supports wild life namely baboons, monkeys, rats, mice, grasscutters, rabbits, dwarf buffalo, antelopes and guinea fowls.

### Environmental Situation

The natural environment consists of fauna and flora in general. These include the trees, vegetation cover and rivers. On the whole, Bongo District falls within the Guinea Savannah ecological zone.

## 9. Impact of Human Activities on the Environment

In the past decades, there has been an increase in the amount and intensity of agricultural and other socio-economic activities involving the exploitation of natural resources. This, by its very nature, results in the degradation of the environment. The end result has been to create an adverse effect on the balance between man and nature.

This is also creating an imbalance in natural cycles in the biosphere. Inappropriate farming practices, for instance, have led to increased deterioration in both the vegetation and soils. Intensive farming, overgrazing and constant removal of trees and shrubs without adequate replacement have given way for desert-like conditions in many parts of the district. Owing



to increased population growth, there is great pressure on land and water resources. Another practice that is raising its ugly head in the District is farming along river beds, banks of dams and dug-outs thus causing siltation of water bodies in the District.

Wildlife has become threatened as vulnerable tree species die off. These, and many other features, are a manifestation of land degradation, which is a major environmental problem in the district. Land degradation, exhibits itself in three interactive forms: physical, chemical, and biological.

Apart from inappropriate farming practices, land degradation can be attributed to the following factors: high population density, over stocking and overgrazing, bush burning, tree felling, land excavation for road and building construction.

Land degradation is also manifested in soil erosion and loss of organic matter, poor animal production due to reduction in available fodder, siltation of water bodies and loss of aquatic life, trekking long distances to obtain fuel wood by women and increasing intensity and duration of drought.

The over dependence of people on fuel wood and charcoal for both domestic and public use has affected the environment greatly. The few trees available in the district are felled for fuel wood and charcoal for cooking in homes and chop bars.

## 10. Soil Erosion

Soil erosion is a major problem in many localities, leading to land degradation. The three forms of erosion experienced in the district are sheet erosion, gully erosion and rill erosion. The long dry season exposes soils to excessive run off at the beginning of the rains. In addition, the low organic matter content of the soils renders the latter liable to sheet erosion.

Gully erosion has affected many river banks as well as roadsides. Gullies of over 3 metres deep and over 4 metres wide are not uncommon. Many of the river banks in the district portray this feature. Rill erosion is Common near the head waters of rivers and streams, where erosion takes place in small, undefined non-permanent excavation, bush burning, removal of vegetation cover, inappropriate farming practices, etc stretches of land bearing scars of excavation can be seen along the major feeder roads in the district.

This situation has grave consequences for the district if not addressed properly. The desert is fast approaching the district considering the

enormous felling of trees in the localities. The water bodies are dying out coupled with severe soil erosion. This situation has also escalated the already precarious food shortage in the District.

The district will have to intensify its education on the need to protect the environment especially by planting trees in the localities. The introduction of alternative energy sources could go a long way to curb the intensive felling of trees for fuel wood and charcoal in the District. The intensification of education on the need to adopt modern farming practices is very critical in the district to ensure that the environment is protected.

## 11. Environmental Challenges

- Land degradation/Soil Erosion
- Declining soil fertility
- Deforestation
- Reduction in Land Carrying Capacity
- Desertification

Faustina Atipoka Awane/ Dr Charles R Gamble  
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