

# Accra Poverty Map

A guide to urban poverty reduction in Accra

March 2010

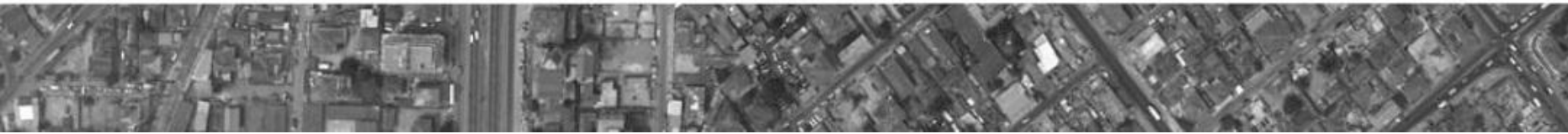
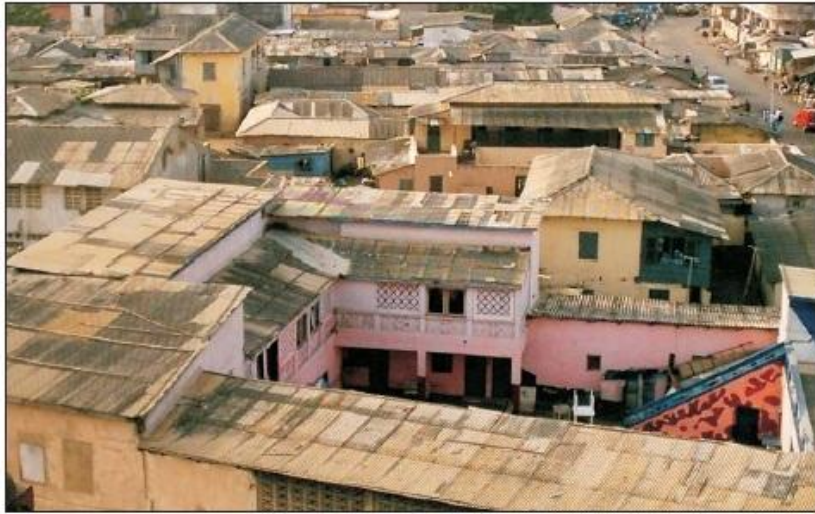


# Table of Contents

- LIST OF TABLES.....1
- FORWARD.....2
- ABSTRACT.....3
- LIST OF ACRONYMS.....4
- INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....5
- OBJECTIVE OF ACCRA POVERTY MAP.....6
- METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH.....7
  - Defining the use.....7
  - Selecting Poverty Indicators.....7
  - Selecting Input Data.....8
  - Selecting Methods for Estimating or Calculating Poverty Indicators.....8
  - Deciding the Number of Final Maps to Present Poverty Data.....9
- DESCRIPTION OF MAPS.....11
  - Thematic Area One: Demographic Maps.....12
  - Thematic Area Two: Housing Maps.....14
  - Thematic Area Three: Urban Services Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Maps.....18
  - Economic Poverty Indicator Maps.....26
  - Aggregate Poverty.....28
- CONCLUSION.....30
- BIBLIOGRAPHY.....31
- GLOSSARY.....31



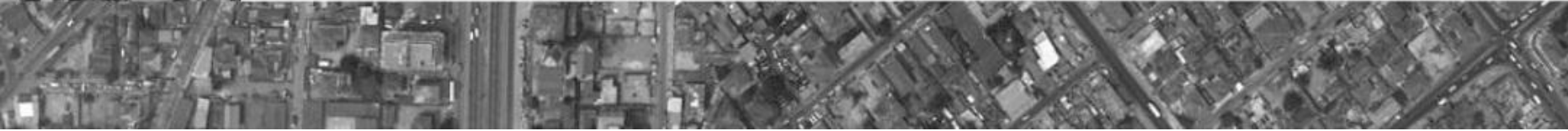


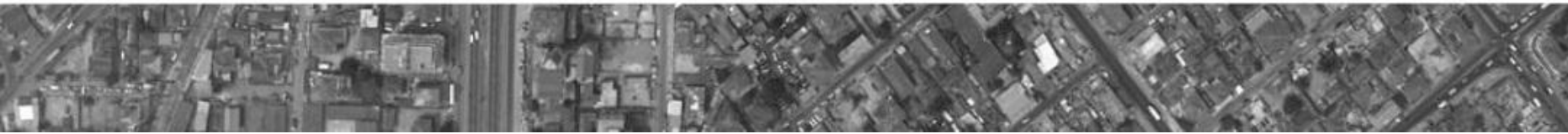




# List of Tables

Table 1: The Eight Poverty Indicators of Accra .....	7
Table 2: Level of Desirability of Dimension of Poverty Measures .....	8
Table 3: Poverty Categories in Accra (qualitative indicators).....	8
Table 4: Poverty Categories in Accra (quantitative indicators).....	9
Table 5: Poverty Categories – Population Density .....	12
Table 6: Poverty Categories – Housing Density .....	15
Table 7: Poverty Categories – Access to Access to Housing .....	16
Table 8: Poverty Categories – Access to Water Supply .....	19
Table 9: Poverty Categories – Access to Solid Waste Disposal Facilities .....	21
Table 10: Poverty Categories – Access to Toilet Facilities .....	22
Table 11: Poverty Categories – Liquid Waste Facilities .....	24
Table 12: Poverty Categories – Income Levels .....	26
Table 13 Poverty Categories – Aggregate Poverty .....	28







# Foreward

Ghana is expected to become an urban country by 2010, with more than half of its population living in cities and towns. Accra, which is the country's largest city, has a lot of opportunities and challenges. This poverty mapping exercise has deepened my understanding of the problems confronting us as a City Authority. Analyzing the various dimensions of the poverty situation throughout the city of Accra gives me the necessary insight to challenge the status quo, which hinders the orderly development of our city.

One of the main obstacles to effective urban planning in Accra is the lack of up-to-date, comprehensive and sufficiently detailed information about the characteristics of the city. This inadequate information has thwarted the efforts of the City Authority of Accra to make substantial progress in city-wide planning and urban renewal. In Accra, a large proportion of residents live in slums, but most projects implemented in the city are biased towards formal communities. In the absence of information and understanding of poverty, these settlements will continue to be chaotic masses of people rather than coherent urban areas. The communities that accommodate the mass of the poor are easily ignored or planned for through specific slum upgrading programs, and not as an integral part of the city's development.

Within the context of this mapping exercise, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly and CHF International have worked over the last few months to compile disaggregated census data and outputs of field surveys, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for collating information about poverty in Accra. The result are these poverty maps, which provide the basis for the AMA to undertake comprehensive planning

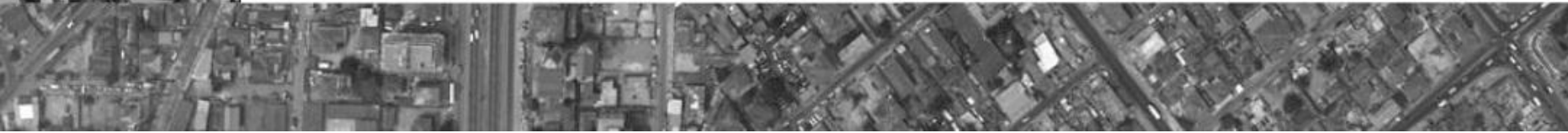
that encompasses our poor communities and mainstreams poverty interventions through inclusive urban planning and management.

The series of maps that this book provides is a sure way of helping us as administrators of the City to judiciously manage the people's resources and channel them where they are needed most. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this poverty book is a working document - one that will help me to validate the appropriateness of infrastructure and service provision.

A new era has dawned on the AMA, and it is my belief and the belief of the staff of AMA and our partner, CHF International, that these poverty maps will form the basis of any urban development intervention aimed at alleviating poverty in Accra.



**HONOURABLE ALFRED OKO VANDERPUIJJE**  
**MAYOR OF ACCRA**  
**MARCH 2010**



# Abstract

The allocation of resources and the design of policies tailored to local-level conditions require highly disaggregated information. Data on poverty at the local level is typically not available because most household surveys are aimed at providing national and regional level data. A poverty map is a spatial representation of one or more indicators of human well-being, and is becoming an important instrument for investigating and discussing social, economic and environmental problems. At the same time, it could assist in managing public resources with increased transparency. Small area estimation poverty maps, such as the Accra Poverty Map, are a recent innovation that provides detailed estimates of poverty levels in highly disaggregated geographical units. The presentation of these detailed estimates in the form of maps is a powerful communication tool, as the maps summarize poverty estimates for hundreds or even thousands of towns, villages or urban neighborhoods on a single page and in a visual format that is readily understandable by a wide audience. Representing poverty on a map simplifies and enhances the interpretation of large volumes of data by preserving the spatial relationships among different areas; such simplification is not possible in tabular or other data presentation formats. The motivation behind the development of the urban poverty

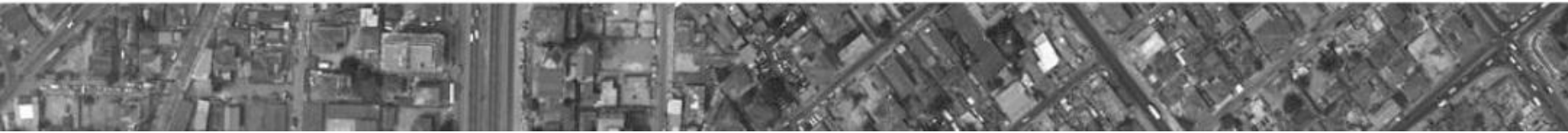
maps is to influence pro-poor spending that targets the poor areas of a city more precisely. The poverty maps helped identify the areas with the greatest number of poor people and the highest poverty rates, and it is anticipated that government policies and city authority programs would be able to make more effective use of scarce resources for the poor. Knowing the distribution of the poor helps to ensure that pro-poor programs reach the poor and that the leakage of the benefits to those who are not poor is limited. Although poverty maps have, indeed, become valuable tools for targeting programs, they have had a much wider impact, as well. Besides targeting specific programs, the maps have also informed the planning process at the metropolitan government level. Patterns of poverty revealed by the maps may assist in regional planning efforts that consider poverty in a particular area and in neighboring areas, and examine how poverty in the two sets of areas may be economically linked.

The devolution of development functions from central government to the local government level has increased the need for disaggregated information that poverty mapping efforts seek to provide. Although central government policy makers are interested in how the poor survive, they are probably more interested in knowing where the poor are located, so that they can focus pro-poor policies and programs in areas where the poorest segments of the population will benefit. However, a mayor would be interested in micro level poverty rates so as to

help set poverty reduction priorities within a smaller area of his jurisdiction. Poverty maps are likewise used to examine the geographical determinants of poverty. By combining the poverty maps with other spatial data sets of a small area, one may analyze the extent of poverty and narrow it to the community or even neighborhood levels.

Household surveys, which are the basis of most poverty variables, comprise a sample of several thousand households in a geographical jurisdiction. Combining household surveys in a smaller unit with the comprehensive coverage of a national census makes it possible to estimate poverty levels at the community level. Although these small area estimates are indirect and are calculated with a certain degree of statistical error or uncertainty, they may be suitably precise to be useful for policy purposes (T. Bedi et al, 2007).

The Accra Poverty Mapping indicates the various dimensions of poverty in Accra. It presents spatial data for Accra on a number of themes, including demographic, housing, solid waste, sanitation, water and income distribution. We hope this Accra Poverty Map will help to direct governmental and non-governmental investments into urban poverty reduction programs.



# List of Acronyms



AMA	-	Accra Metropolitan Assembly
CHF	-	Cooperative Housing Foundation International
GIS	-	Geographical Information Systems
GTZ	-	German Development Cooperation
KVIP	-	Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit-Latrine
LGPRSP	-	Local Governance Poverty Reduction Support Program
NDPC	-	National Development Planning Commission
UMLIS	-	Urban Land Information System
WC	-	Water Closet



# Introduction and Background



The poverty maps of Accra were developed under the initiative of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) and CHF International in 2008-2009, using data from the 2000 Population and Housing Census of Ghana, and a survey of selected households conducted under the exercise. For the purpose of carrying out this poverty mapping exercise, a joint team composed of staff of AMA (Development Planners, Physical Planners, GIS Experts and Statisticians) and CHF International (Urban Planners and GIS Experts) was formed.

The previous attempt to conduct poverty mapping in Accra was carried out under the auspices of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) with financial and technical support from the German Development Cooperation (GTZ) in 2004. A clearly defined process, which translated the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy I into a district-focused implementable framework, the Poverty Profiling, Mapping and Pro-poor Programming exercise provided information on the heterogeneity of poverty in Accra, identified who the poor are, where they live and the causes of their poverty. The exercise in Accra provided a broad snapshot of the poverty situation, and enabled a course of action to implement a pro-poor development agenda. However, the exercise had a few limitations, one of which was lack of access to geographically referenced data disaggregated to the household and community levels. Another limitation was the absence of follow-up interventions—especially ones tailored towards targeting pro-

poor investment—to address the specific needs of the poor and the various poverty pockets identified during the exercise.

The main purpose of this urban poverty mapping exercise is to capture and display the spatial dimensions of poverty and identify pockets of poverty across Accra. The poverty maps are expected to serve as a basis for targeting disadvantaged areas, and for general evaluation of geographically oriented actions, including a citywide poverty reduction strategy.

The AMA Statistics Office provided input on the household unit data from the 2000 Population and Housing Census, as well as support with data processing during the preparation of the maps. For the data processing, the Statistics Office applied the special-purpose software developed for disaggregation of community data into various elements of poverty indicators.

Extensive deliberations between AMA staff and other urban development practitioners led to an agreement that the



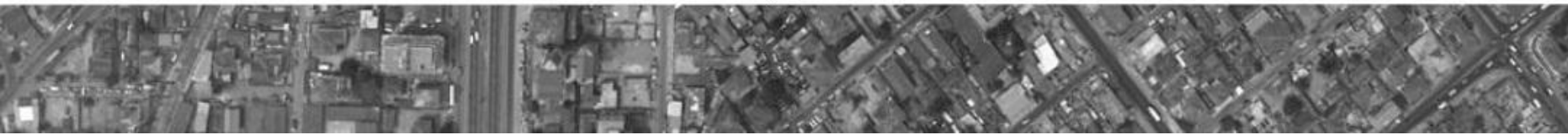
measurement of poverty should be done at the community level, as well as a consensus on the indicators to be used. They agreed that communities are the City Authority of Accra's primary development focus. As such, it was prudent to disaggregate data on poverty to the community level.

CHF International supported the preparation of the poverty maps through technical assistance, training, and capacity building. The focus of the financial assistance was basically for primary data collection at the household level. The assistance

also included a validation process of both primary and secondary data, which is seen as relevant in securing the integrity of the whole exercise. CHF provided technical direction in conceptualizing and localizing definitions and indicators of poverty, based on data available for the exercise.



It is worth noting that the poverty mapping exercise was purposely carried out only using the internal capacity and resources of the AMA. The team that was formed, therefore, did not include a technical consultant, nor was the process managed by any external agent or agency. Data collection, disaggregation and analysis were solely conducted by the Planning and Statistics Offices of the AMA. With its newly established Geographic Information System Office—Urban Management Land Information System (UMLIS)—the City Authority was able to digitalize existing hard copy maps and geo-reference them. This is a departure from normal practices, where consultants are commissioned to carry out such assignments.

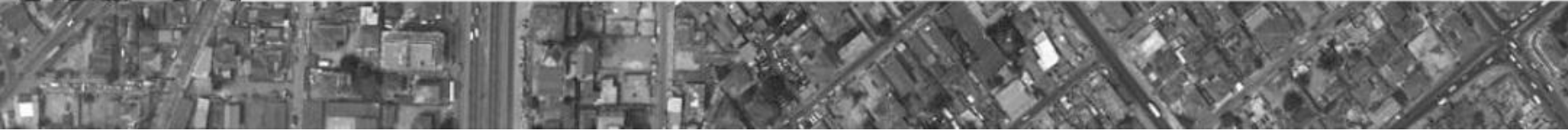




# Objective of Accra Poverty Map

Generating reliable statistical and cartographic products to communicate the relationship between poverty and location is an essential endeavor that needs to be conducted by any pro-poor oriented City Manager. The objective of poverty mapping in Accra is to identify and analyze the nature and characteristics of poverty at the community level in Accra Metropolitan Assembly Area.

It is evident that the poverty maps of Accra are important for channeling resources to alleviate poverty in poverty-stricken enclaves of the city. The maps will also give a broader framework to the City Authority and other development actors of the city to assess conditions of the population at the community level, and provide a solid basis for recommendations about how best to reduce poverty and improve living conditions of the city's poor.





# Methodology and Approach

There are five steps that were followed in the poverty mapping exercise. They included:

## Defining the Use

In order to commence with the poverty mapping exercise, there was a need to first establish how the generated maps would be used. The use guided the team to select the measures, indicators and the general methodology for the exercise. The poverty maps of AMA, as produced, will be useful for:

- AMA, Central Government and other development agencies in setting priorities and geographical targets to implement urban poverty reduction programs;
- Directing resources to poverty-stricken enclaves in Accra;
- Facilitating pro-poor urban planning, project formulation and resource allocation at both national and local levels;
- Increasing transparency of public decision making, raising awareness about urban poverty, igniting policy debates at local and national levels, and encouraging broader civil society participation in decision-making.

## Selecting Poverty Indicators

Choosing the indicators of poverty in Accra was a pivotal step in the mapping process. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, including economic, social, and other aspects of human wellbeing. Therefore the selection of poverty indicators was based on the following:

- i. Demography;
- ii. Housing;
- iii. Urban Services (Water, sanitation and solid waste);
- iv. Economic; and
- v. Composite Analysis.

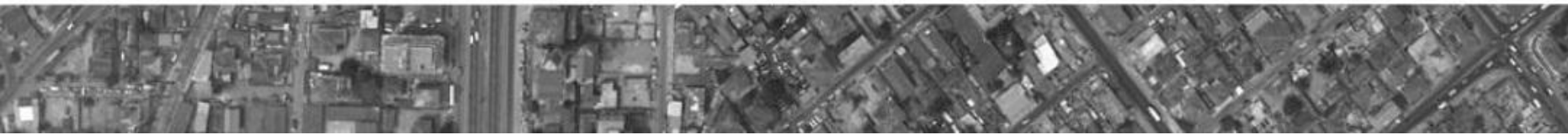
DIMENSIONS	INDICATORS
Demography Indicators	Population Density
Economic Indicators;	Income Level
Housing Indicators	Housing Density
	Room Occupancy
Urban Services ( Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste )	Access or Nature Of Access to Water
	Domestic Waste Water
	Mode of Solid Waste Disposal
	Nature Of Access To Toilet Facilities

Table 1: The Eight Poverty Indicators of Accra



The unit of inquiry for expressing the indicators is the household, while the scope of analysis included the 79 communities of Accra. Thorough discussions with stakeholders, including Assembly members and technical personnel of AMA, to find a basis for

measuring poverty in Accra using the data available led to the identification of eight indicators. These indicators, together with the respective poverty dimensions under which they fall, are shown in Table 1:





### Selecting Input Data

Data used to construct the poverty maps were drawn from the 2000 Population and Housing Census, and a field survey conducted under the exercise. It can then be inferred that there were variations in coverage, collection method, and level of resolution. Whilst the population and housing data were from secondary sources and universal in coverage, the survey data were from primary sources and are samples of the universal. Population, housing, sanitation, solid waste, housing types, housing materials, room occupancy and water were data captured under the Population and Housing Census. Income levels were generated from field survey covering a representative sample of the population, while land prices were estimates from the Land Valuation Board of Ghana. However, the data was disaggregated at the community level.

### Selecting Methods for Estimating or Calculating Poverty Indicators

Five of the eight indicators described above—access to solid waste, access to water, number of habitable rooms, access to toilet facilities and housing type—are qualitative in nature, while the other three—income, housing density and population density—are quantitative. Each of the five qualitative indicators were used as the basis of classifying the living conditions of each household as either “desirable” or “undesirable,” depending on how it fared for that indicator. For example, solid waste management has door-to-door collection as the only desirable mode of disposal, while burning by households, public dumping, dumping elsewhere, or trash burial by households constitute the undesirable modes of disposal. The desirable/undesirable classification was not applicable for the quantitative indicators (income, housing density and population density). Table 2 describes what constitutes “desirable” and “undesirable” for each variable.

For each community, the percentage of households with desirable living conditions

LEVEL OF POVERTY	INDEX OF POVERTY	SCORE
Very high poverty pocket	80% and above	5
High poverty pocket	60%-79.99%	4
Moderate poverty pocket	40%-59.99%	3
Low poverty pocket	20%-39.99%	2
Non-poverty pocket	? 19.99%	1

Table 3: Poverty Categories In Accra (qualitative indicators)

(as defined above) was used as a “poverty index”. This enabled the team to assign a numerical score to each community for each of the qualitative indicators. The highest possible score is 5, and a community with this score is classified as a “very high poverty pocket,” while a community with a score of 1 (the lowest possible score) is classified as a “non-poverty pocket”. Table 2 describes the full list of scores and their interpretation. For example, households in Avenor that access solid waste services through door-to-door collection (the only desirable mode of disposal) comprise 33.71% of total households in the community. Meanwhile, 66.29% of all households use undesirable methods to dispose of their solid waste. Thus, in terms of solid waste management, Avenor has a poverty score of 4 (60%-79.99%), and as such classified as a high poverty pocket. In the case of income, housing density and population density, poverty scores were assigned based directly on the average numerical value of each of these indicators for each community (see Table 4).

In order to measure the aggregate of poverty for each of the 79 communities of Accra, the score attained in the eight poverty measures were summed up and averages calculated per community.

POVERTY MEASURES	LEVEL OF DESIRABILITY OF DIMENSION OF POVERTY MEASURES	
	Desirable	Undesirable
Percentage of household having access to desirable solid waste	Door-to-door collection	Burnt by household, public dump, dump elsewhere, Buried by Household
Percentage of household having access to desirable water supply in a community	Domestic connection, tanker supply	In another house, well, borehole, spring water/rain water, River/stream, dugout others
Percentage of households having a desirable number of rooms in the community	Three, four, five, six, seven, eight rooms	One room, two rooms
Percentage of households having access to desirable toilet facilities in a community	WC, KVIP	Bucket/pan, facility in another house, Public Toilet, no facility, others
Percentage of households living in a desirable housing type	Separate house semidetached, flat/apartment, hotel/hostel	Compound houses several huts/ Bui Tents kiosk/container, room attached to shop, other

**NB: Level of desirability were not required to establish poverty pockets for income levels, housing and population densities**

Table 2: Level of Desirability of Dimension of Poverty Measures





POVERTY INDICATOR	LEVEL OF POVERTY/SCORE				
	Non-poverty pocket (1)	Low Poverty pocket (2)	Moderate poverty pocket (3)	High poverty Pocket (4)	Very high pocket (5)
Income Levels	above \$10 per day	Between \$5 to \$10 per day	Between \$2 to \$5 per day	Between \$1 to \$2 per day	Less than \$1 per day
Housing Density	500-700 house/km <sup>2</sup>	700-1,000 house/km <sup>2</sup>	1,000-1,200 house/km <sup>2</sup>	1,200-1,500 house/km <sup>2</sup>	above 1,500 house/km <sup>2</sup>
Population Density	Below 5,000 pp/km <sup>2</sup>	5,000-10,000 pp/km <sup>2</sup>	10,000-20,000pp/km <sup>2</sup>	20,000-30,000 pp/km <sup>2</sup>	Above 30,000 pp/km <sup>2</sup>

Table 4: Poverty Categories in Accra (quantitative indicators)

$$\text{Aggregate poverty} = \frac{\sum \text{Poverty scores for all measures}}{\sum \text{Number of poverty measures}}$$

The following is the calculation of aggregate poverty for Avenor:

$$\text{Aggregate poverty} = \frac{\text{Solid waste management (4)} + \text{liquid waste (3)} + \text{Access to water (5)} + \text{Access to toilet facilities (5)} + \text{Room occupancy (5)} + \text{Income level (3)} + \text{population density (3)} + \text{housing density (2)}}{8}$$

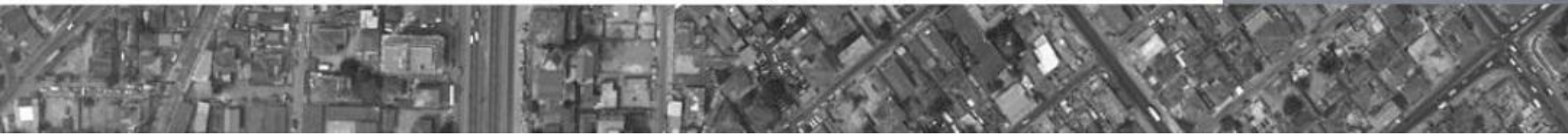
#### Deciding the Number of Final Maps to Present Poverty Data.

The disaggregated data gives opportunity for various maps to be produced. The level of detail in the maps is based on the disaggregated data used to construct them. The first set of maps gives information on the conditions or access to facilities of the communities. They show the percentage of households who have access to specific types of facilities in a community, and do not refer to poverty levels. These are informational maps that give details about the living conditions of households. They are captured to reflect census data and data from the field survey.

The second set of maps is the analytical maps. They show the level of desirability of facilities or services that households in a community access, and pertain to their living conditions. Although not expressed in poverty

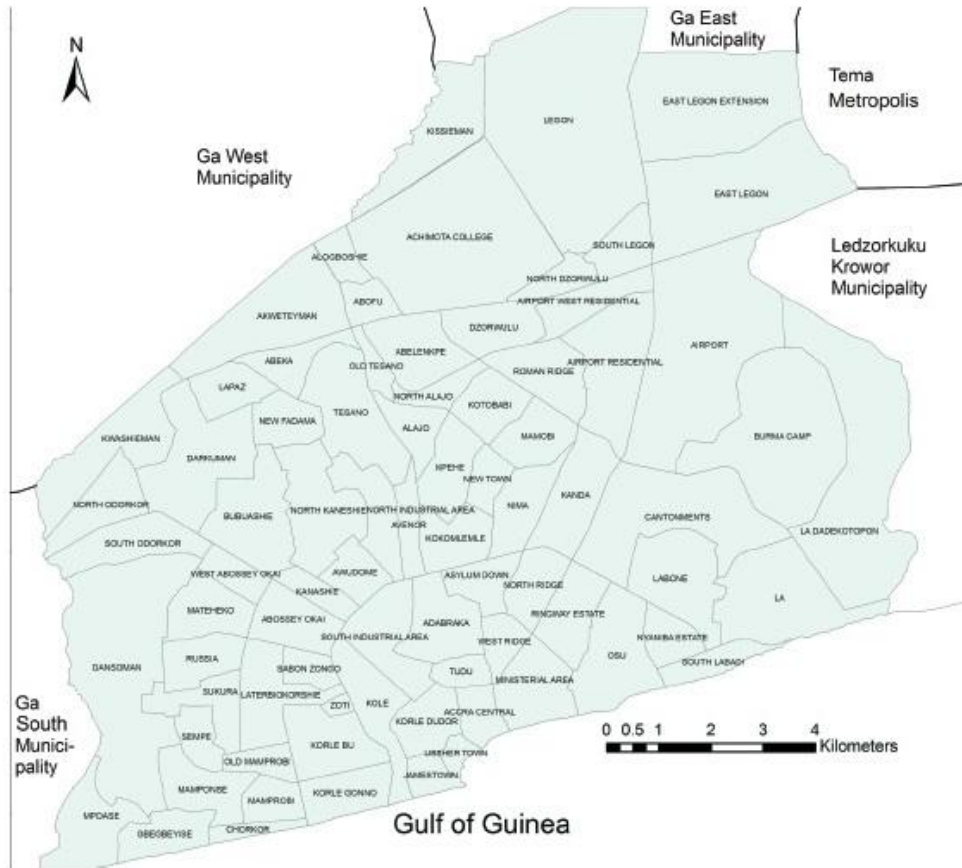
levels, they show the state or living conditions of households in a community. The maps capture five of the eight poverty measures — access to toilet facilities, access to water supply, access to liquid waste facilities, housing type and room occupancy.

The composite poverty map is the summation of the poverty measures in an aggregated map. It gives a snapshot of poverty locations/communities in Accra, reflecting the levels of poverty defined in accordance with all eight of the poverty indicators approved by the AMA.





# Accra Metropolitan Area

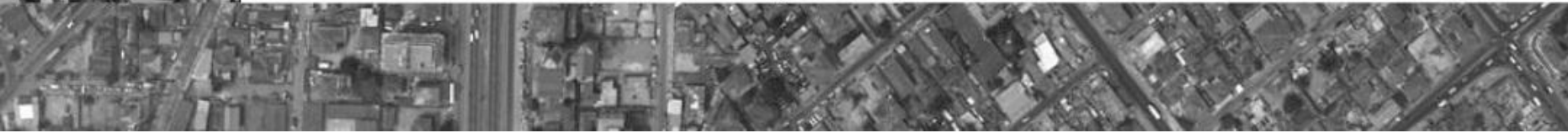


**AMA AREA DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

TOTAL POPULATION (2008 PROJECTED):	1,807,803
NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	280,624
TOTAL LAND AREA:	171 KM <sup>2</sup>
NO. OF HOUSES	95,361
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZES	4.51
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD PER HOUSE	3
POP. DENSITY	7404 PER/KM <sup>2</sup>
HOUSING DENSITY	358 HOUSES/KM <sup>2</sup>

SOURCE: 2002 POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS ADAPTED FOR AMA DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTION (2008)

**M/CHA METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY - CIP INTERNATIONAL  
POVERTY MAPPING OF ACCRA  
METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY AREA**





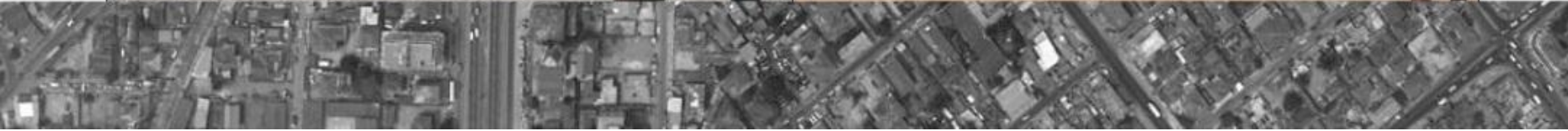
# Description of Maps

The poverty maps provide an easily interpretable format that are intended to give development practitioners and managers of the City of Accra a tool that would help them to make quick and insightful decisions for poverty reduction. They are also intended to serve as an advocacy tool to drive budgetary expenditure towards poverty reduction. The maps are arranged in thematic areas of poverty measures, and can be grouped into social, economic and urban facility poverty indicator maps.

The general pattern of the city's growth has historically been from the coast towards the hinterlands. The coastal communities, which are traditional in outlook and inhabited by the indigenous people of Accra (the Gas), include the regions of Chorkor, Jamestown, Ushertown, Osu and La. The city is guided by an antiquated and ineffective land tenure system that characterizes most of the communities. This

structure has led to haphazard and dangerous development patterns, coupled with rapid population growth in most of the 79 communities. The city of Accra lies on the Gulf of Guinea, in a tropical climate zone. Land use patterns can be summarized in the following ways:

- Predominantly residential;
- Commerce frequently exists within residential areas, creating a "mixed-use" pattern;
- Several central commercial business districts;
- Industry limited to the western and eastern ends; and
- Rapid expansion without any particular pattern.

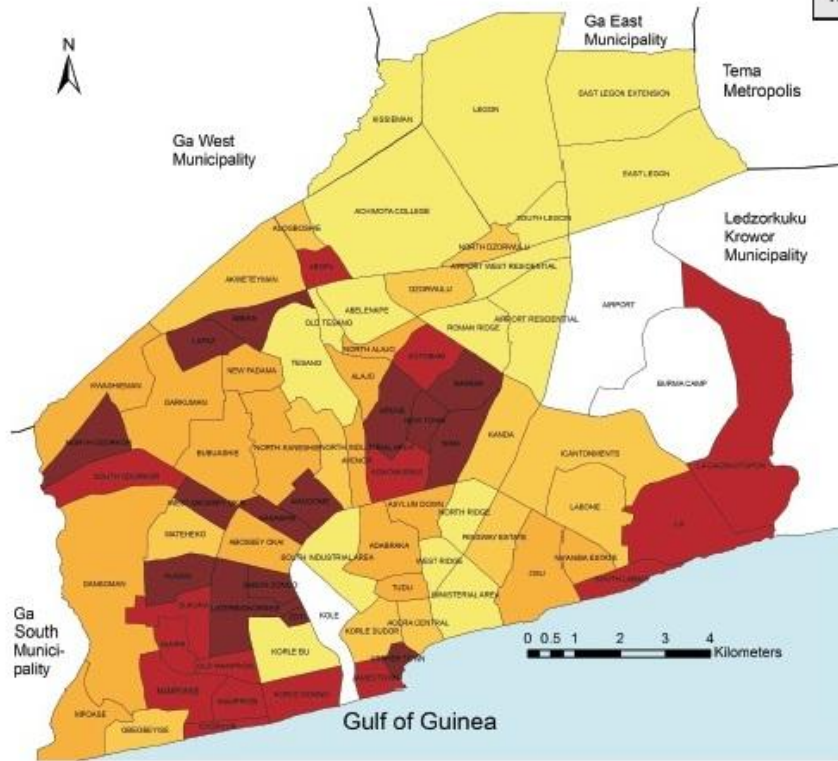




# Demography

## POPULATION DENSITY POVERTY INDICATOR

- NON-POVERTY POCKET
- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MODERATE POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET



LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE (NO. OF PEOPLE PER KM <sup>2</sup> )	NO. OF COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	Below 5,000 People/km <sup>2</sup>	16	23
Low Poverty Pocket	5,000-10,000 People/km <sup>2</sup>	13	17
Moderate Poverty Pocket	10,000-20,000 People/km <sup>2</sup>	15	20
High Poverty Pocket	20,000-30,000 People/km <sup>2</sup>	15	20
Very High Poverty Pocket	Above 30,000 People/km <sup>2</sup>	15	20

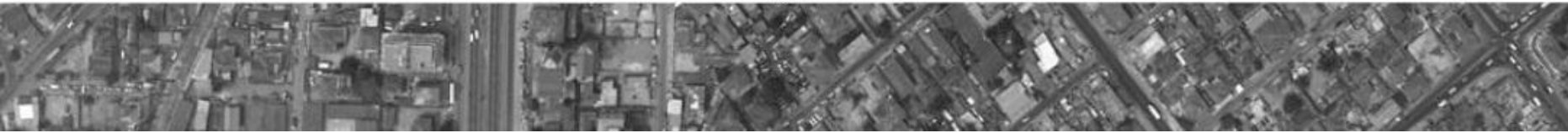
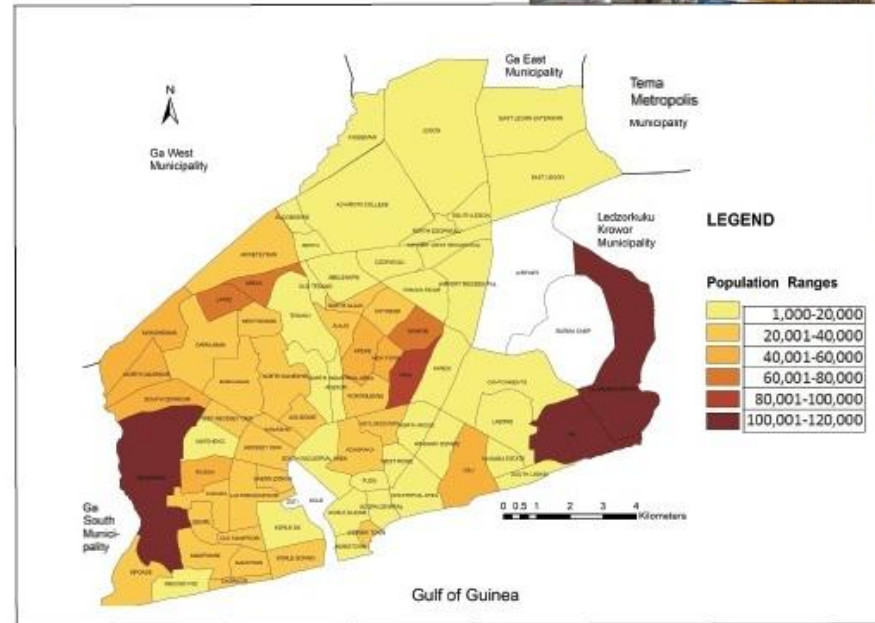
Table 5: Poverty Categories -Population Density





# Population Density

It describes the number of people resident in each community as of 2008 as projected by the Statistical Office of AMA. The highest number of people per community is found in La - 104,868 people - and the lowest is South Industrial area - 1,692. The average population per community is 27,090. It is estimated that 1,625,392 people are resident in the Accra Metropolitan Area.

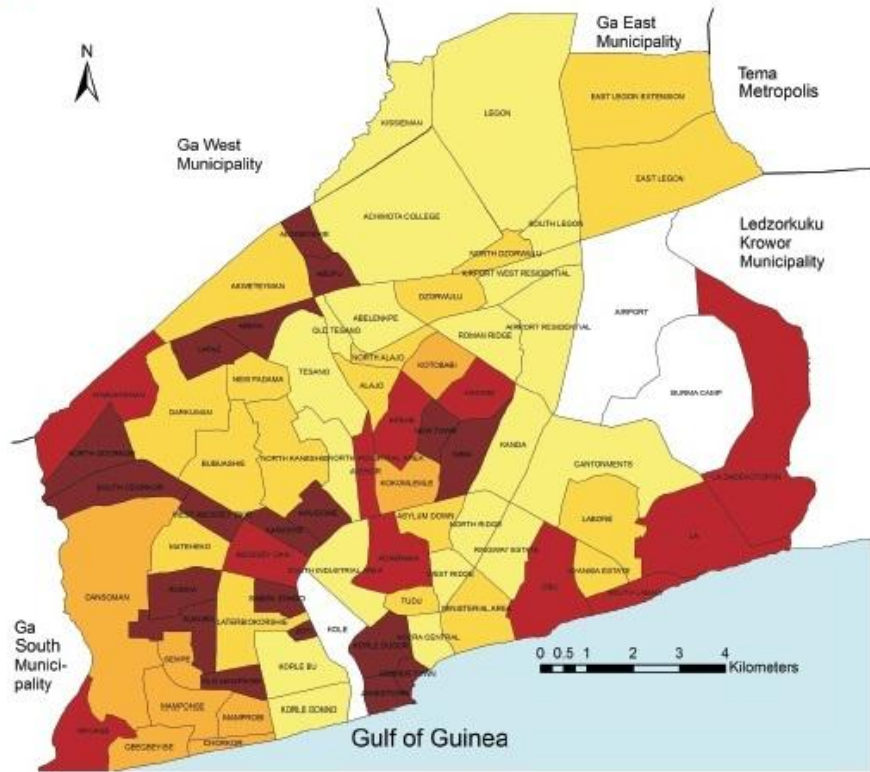


# Housing

## LEGEND

### HOUSING DENSITY POVERTY POCKETS

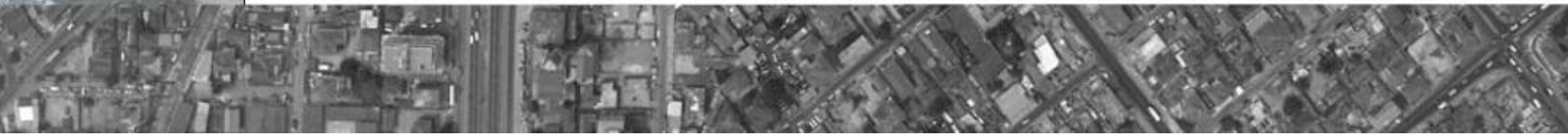
- NON-POVERTY POCKET
- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MODERATE POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET
- VERY HIGH POVERTY POCKET



Housing density is simply the number of dwelling units in a given geographic area. Within the context of poverty mapping, housing density indicates the level of congestion within the 79 communities of Accra.

The least dense area in terms of housing is Ushertown, which has over 3,000 people per square kilometer. University of Ghana and Achimota are the least congested.

This could be attributed to the large tracts of unoccupied land and the Achimota Forest Reserve. Further analysis of the map indicates that communities in the western and southern parts of Accra are more densely populated than in the east, which is consistent with the depressed living conditions of residents in these communities.

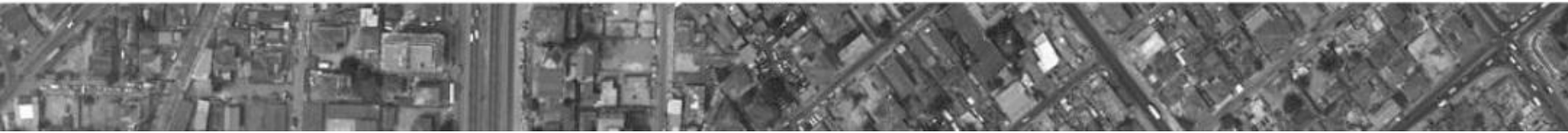
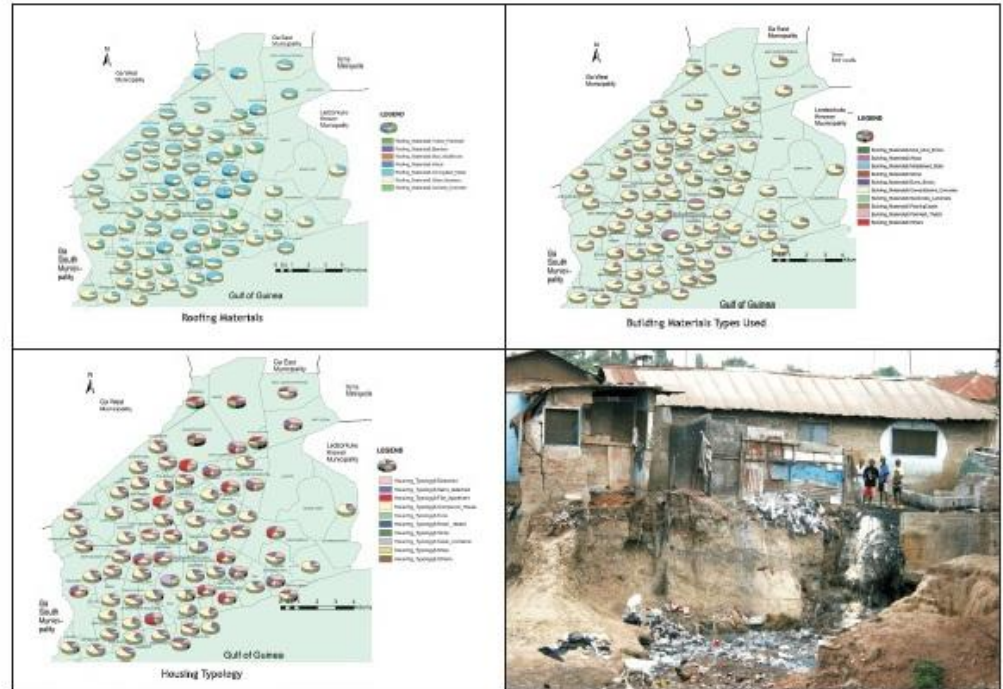




# Housing Density

LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE (NO. OF HOUSES PER KM²)	NO. OF COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	<800 Houses/km²	20	26
Low Poverty Pocket	800-1,000 Houses/km²	18	24
Medium Poverty Pocket	1,000-1,200 Houses/km²	8	11
High Poverty Pocket	1,200-1,500 Houses/km²	11	14
Very High Poverty Pocket	> 1,500 Houses/km²	19	26

Table 6: Poverty Categories- Housing Density







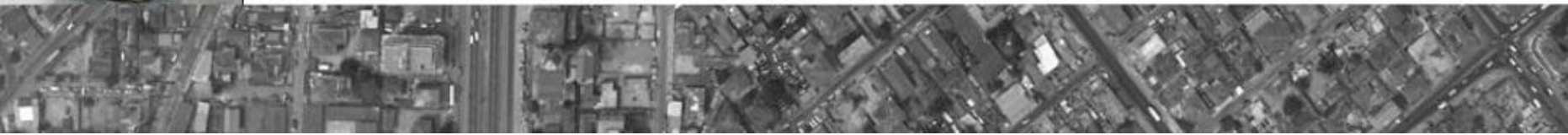
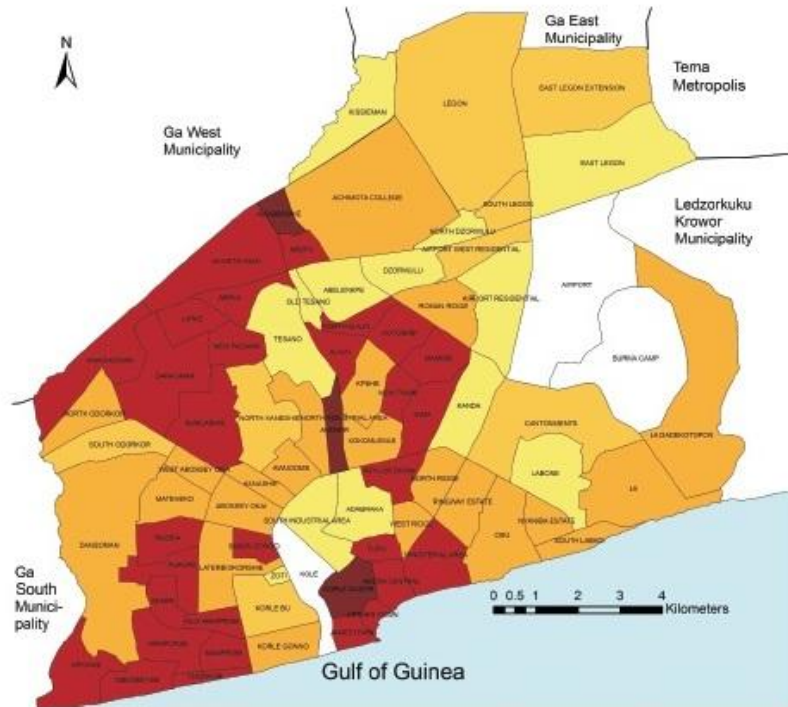
**LEGEND**

**ROOM OCCUPANCY  
POVERTY POCKETS**

- NON-POVERTY POCKET
- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MODERATE POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET
- VERY HIGH POVERTY POCKET

LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE (3 OR LESS PERSONS PER ROOM)	NO. COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	Above 80%	13	17
Low Poverty Pocket	Between 89 to 60%	8	11
Moderate Poverty Pocket	Between 59 to 40%	22	29
High Poverty Pocket	Between 39 to 20%	27	36
Very High Poverty Pocket	Below 20%	5	7

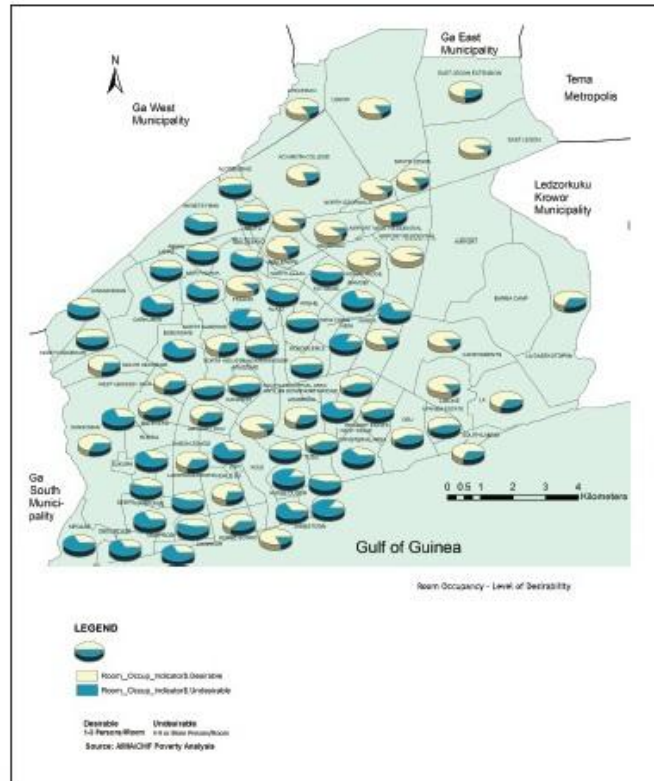
Table 7: Poverty Categories – Access to Housing



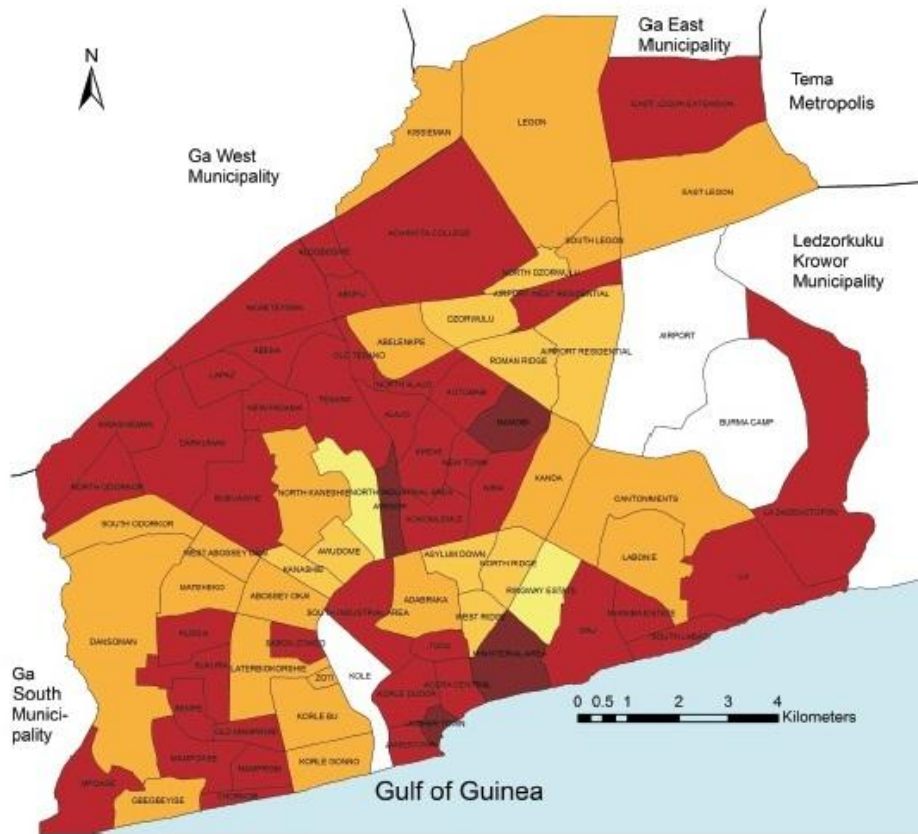
# Room Occupancy

Room occupancy is the average number of people who sleep in a habitable room in a given location. It defines access to accommodation by households. With an average household of 4.5, 42% of households in the AMA Area sleep in single rooms. The highest ratio of households sleeping in one room is Ushertown - 85% with an average household size of 5 persons. The lowest percentage is found in Ridge - 3.5% - with an average household size of 3.6.

However, on the average there are 1.8 persons per room. This is worst in Avenor, Nima and Mamobi where the average is about 5 persons per room. The number is favorable in communities like Ridge, Airport Residential Area, Asylum Down, Cantonments etc where there are more than one room for a person.







# Urban Services (Water, Sanitation, and Solid Waste)



Access to water is an important indicator to measure poverty, and map 5.1 indicates accessibility levels of residents of Accra to water supply. Water is accessed by residents through domestic connection, tanker supply, water vendors, well, borehole, spring/rain water and dug-out. 48% of households have domestic connection whilst 44% buy from water vendors. However,

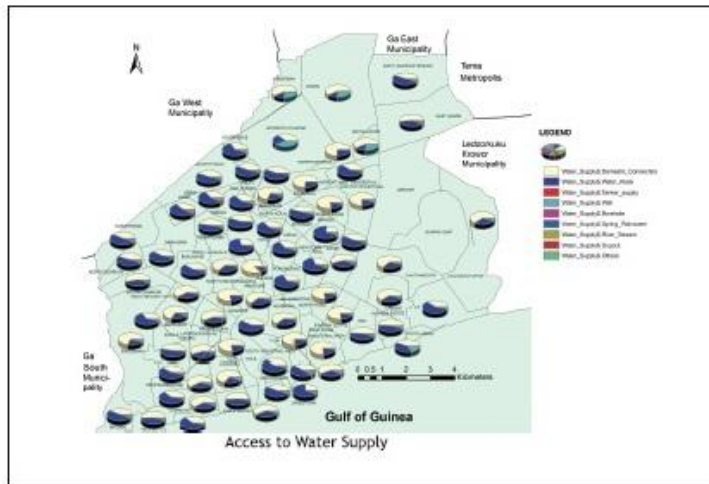
households with domestic connection buy water from water tankers or water vendors. In Mamobi, about 70% of households buy water from vendors – it is the worst situation in Accra. The other sources of water—well, borehole, spring/rain water and dug-out—are not relevant sources of water within the AMA area.



# Water Supply

LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE	NO. OF COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	Above 80%	2	3
Low Poverty Pocket	Between 89 to 60%	9	12
Moderate Poverty Pocket	Between 59 to 40%	20	27
High Poverty Pocket	Between 39 to 20%	40	53
Very High Poverty Pocket	Below 20%	4	5

Table 8: Pocket Categories – Access to Water Supply





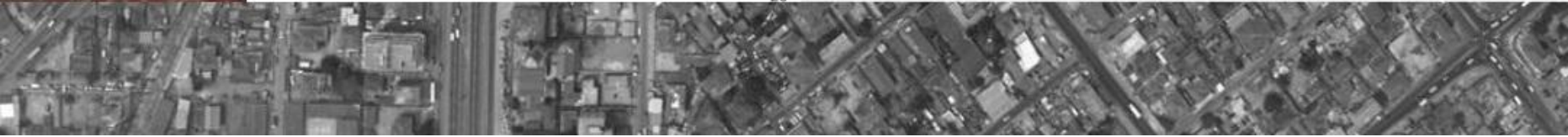
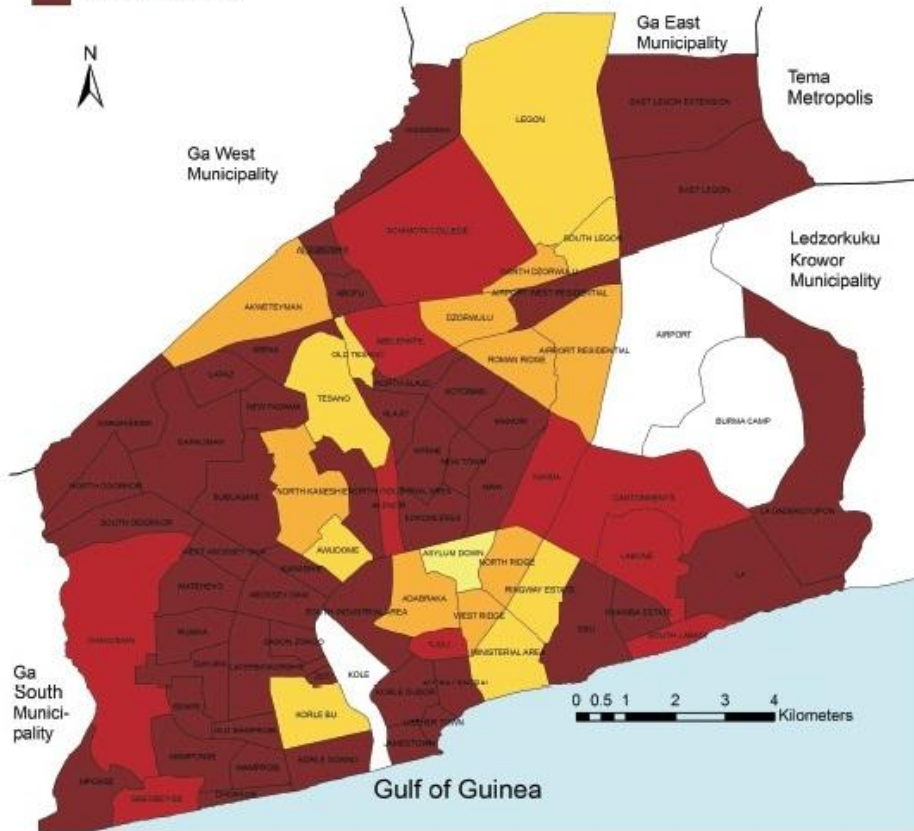


**LEGEND**

**SOLID WASTE  
POVERTY POCKETS**

- NON-POVERTY POCKET
- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MODERATE POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET
- VERY HIGH POVERTY POCKET

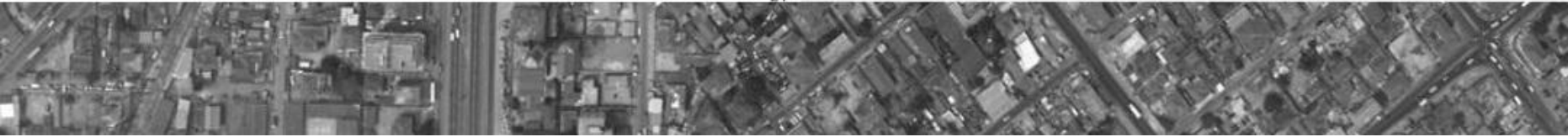
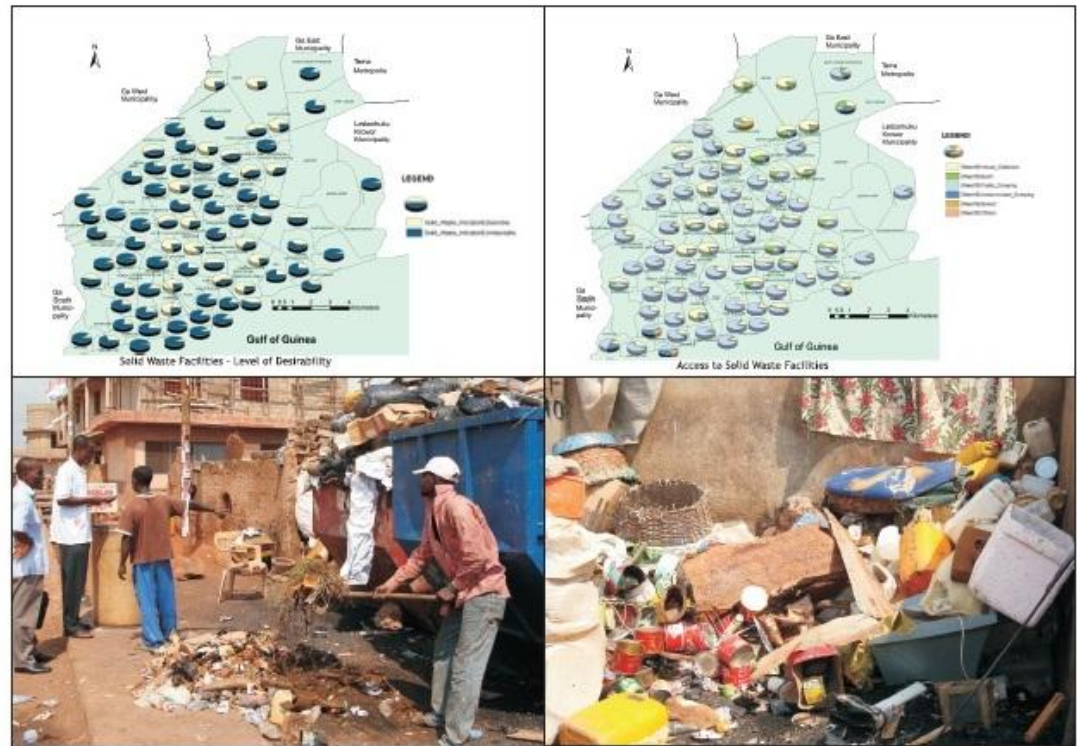
This map measures the level of poverty in the individual communities in the AMA area in relation to the predetermined solid waste management poverty indicators. 47 (63%) communities are within the very high poverty zone, whilst 1 community (Asylum Down) constitutes the non-poverty zone. Although Asylum Down is a middle class area, it is quite difficult to explain why it stands alone as the only non-poverty pocket.



# Solid Waste Facilities

LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE	NO. OF COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	Above 80%	1	1
Low Poverty Pocket	Between 89 to 60%	8	11
Moderate Poverty Pocket	Between 59 to 40%	9	12
High Poverty Pocket	Between 39 to 20%	10	13
Very High Poverty Pocket	Below 20%	47	63

Table 9: Poverty Categories – Access to Solid Waste Disposal Facilities







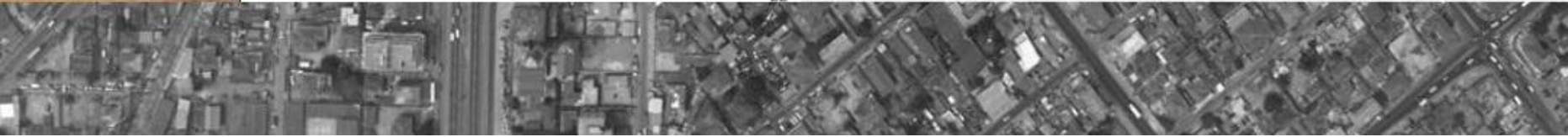
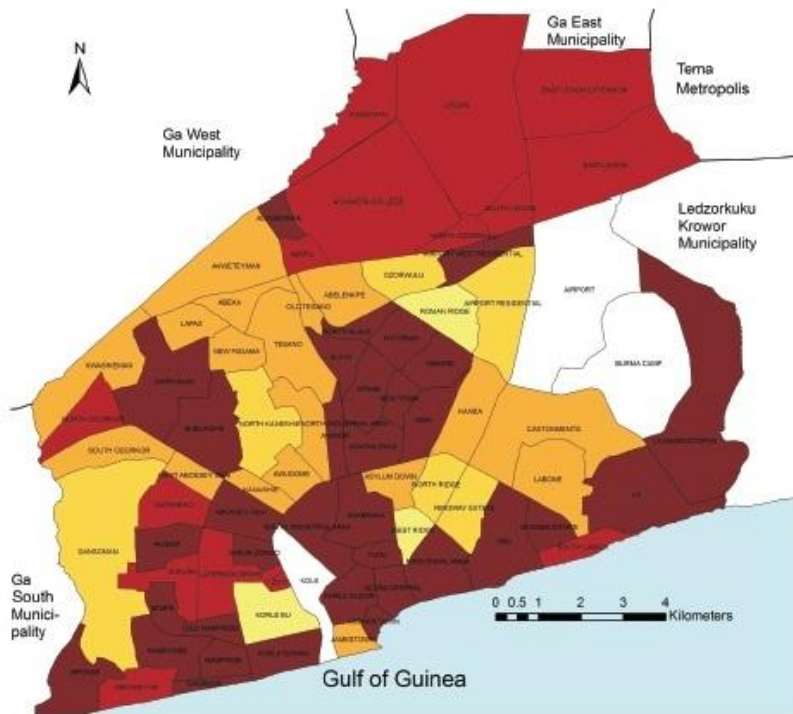
**LEGEND**

**TOILET FACILITY  
POVERTY POCKETS**

- NON-POVERTY POCKET
- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MODERATE POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET
- VERY HIGH POVERTY POCKET

LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE	NO. OF COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	Above 80%	3	4
Low Poverty Pocket	Between 89 to 60%	6	8
Moderate Poverty Pocket	Between 59 to 40%	18	24
High Poverty Pocket	Between 39 to 20%	15	20
Very High Poverty Pocket	Below 20%	33	44

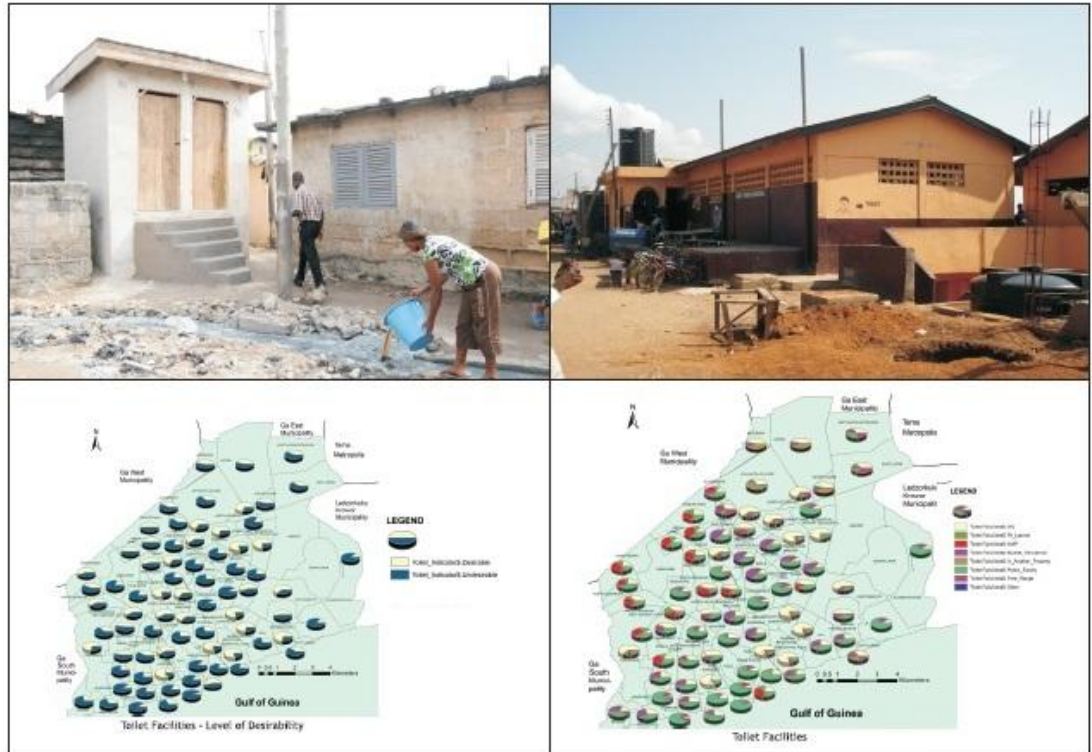
Table 10: Poverty Categories – Access to Toilet Facilities



# Toilet Facilities

The toilet facility map gives a pictorial view of types of toilet facilities that are available to households in each community. Data available indicates that there are 8 types of toilet facilities in the city—Water closet, Pit latrine, Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit (KVIP), Bucket and Pan Latrine, Toilet in another premises, Public facility and free range. 29% of households in the entire AMA area have access to water closet, whilst 30% use public toilets. In Ushertown only 3% have access to water closet in contrast to Korle-bu, 1.5 km away, where 83% have access to water closet. 78% of households in Ushertown use the public toilets, the highest number in the AMA area. Free range defecation is practiced most in East Legon – 36% - a rather affluent community.

The reality of the situation in East Legon is that it has no public toilet, as pertains in the other affluent communities. However, there are a lot of uncompleted residential properties without toilets that are occupied by casual and construction workers. These workers earn their livelihoods within the vicinity of the area. Hence, they find it convenient to "free range" on open spaces and land use voids in the area, especially on the eastern and western corridors of East Legon.



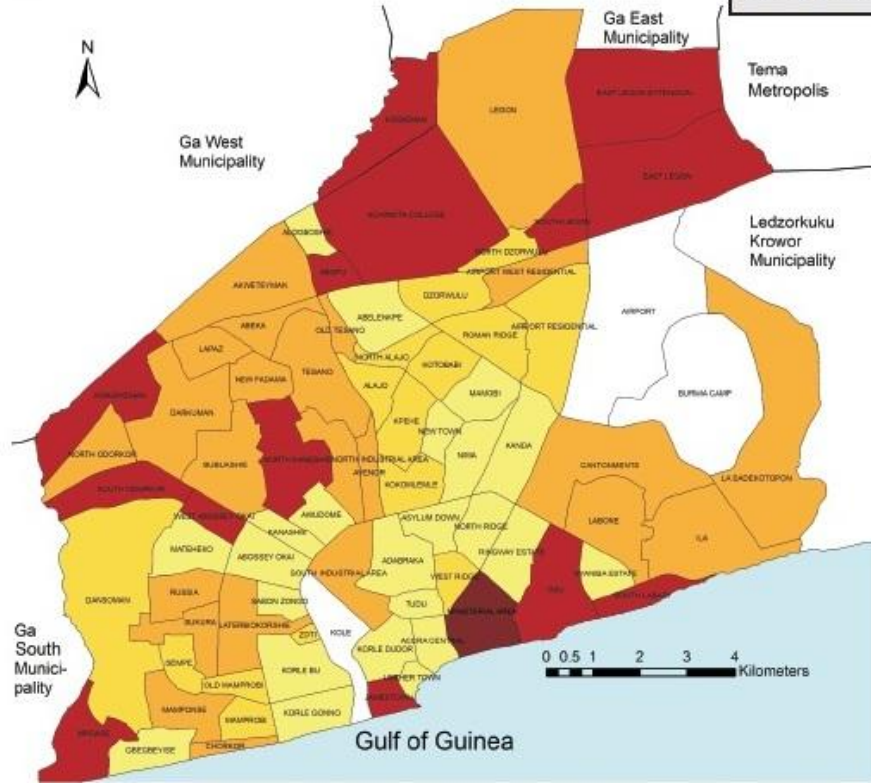




**LEGEND**

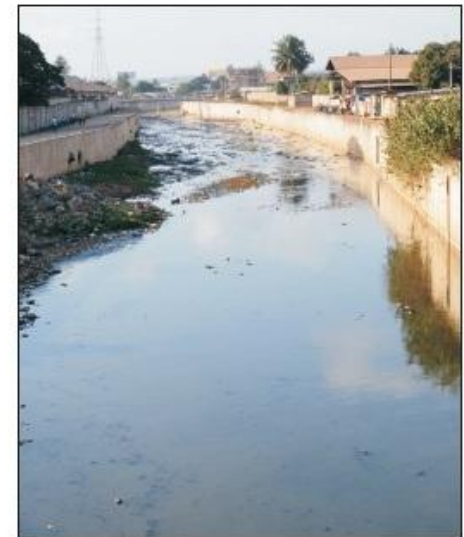
**LIQUID WASTE  
POVERTY POCKETS**

- NON-POVERTY POCKET
- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MODERATE POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET
- VERY HIGH POVERTY POCKET



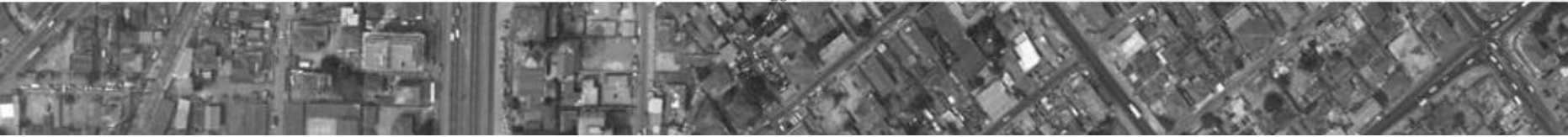
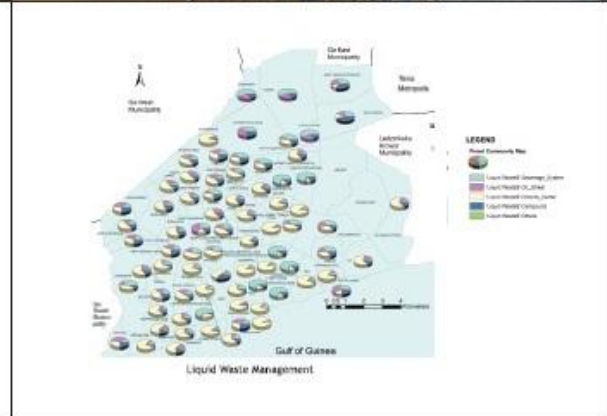
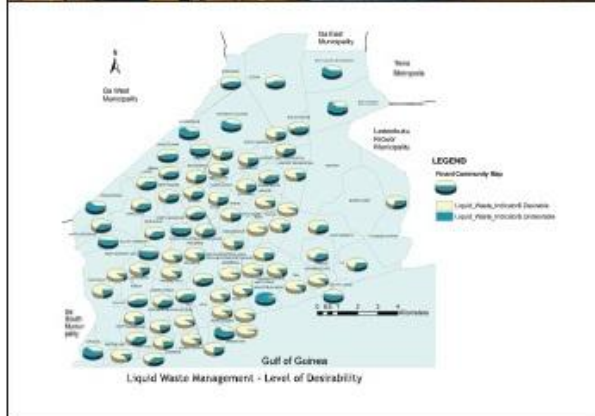
LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE	NO. OF COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	Above 80%	23	31
Low Poverty Pocket	Between 89 to 60%	15	20
Moderate Poverty Pocket	Between 59 to 40%	22	29
High Poverty Pocket	Between 39 to 20%	14	19
Very High Poverty Pocket	Below 20%	1	1

Table 11: Poverty Categories – Access to Liquid Waste Facilities



# Liquid Waste Facilities

This map indicates poverty pockets using the domestic waste water indicator as a measure of poverty. 23 communities fall within the non-poverty pocket zone whilst 1 (Ministries) is in the very high poverty pocket zone.





# Economic

## LEGEND

### INCOME POVERTY POCKETS

- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MEDIUM POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET

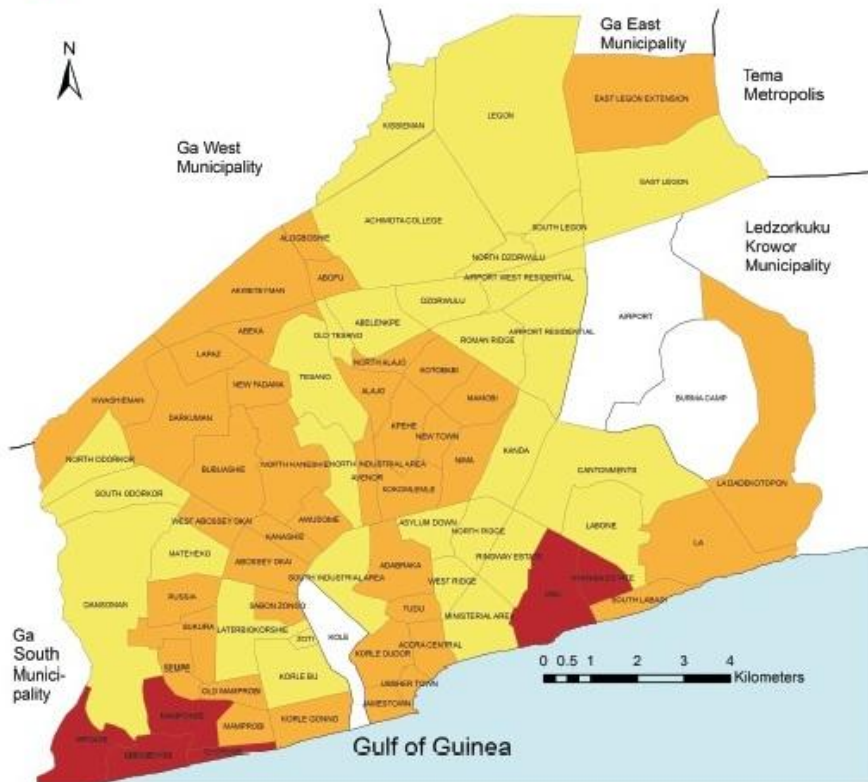
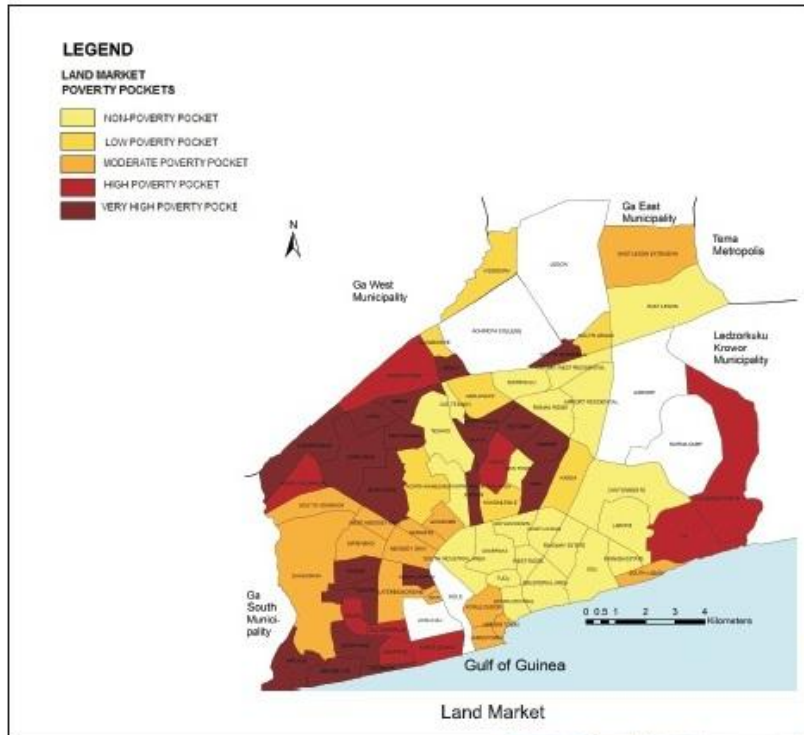


Table 12: Poverty Categories – Income Levels



# Income Levels

The distribution of household income among the communities. The median household income for the entire city is \$8.86 per day, while the highest income areas—Airport Residential, Roman Ridge, Cantonments and Airport West—have an average household income of \$294 per day. The very poor areas have an average household income of about \$3.5 per day.





# Aggregate Poverty

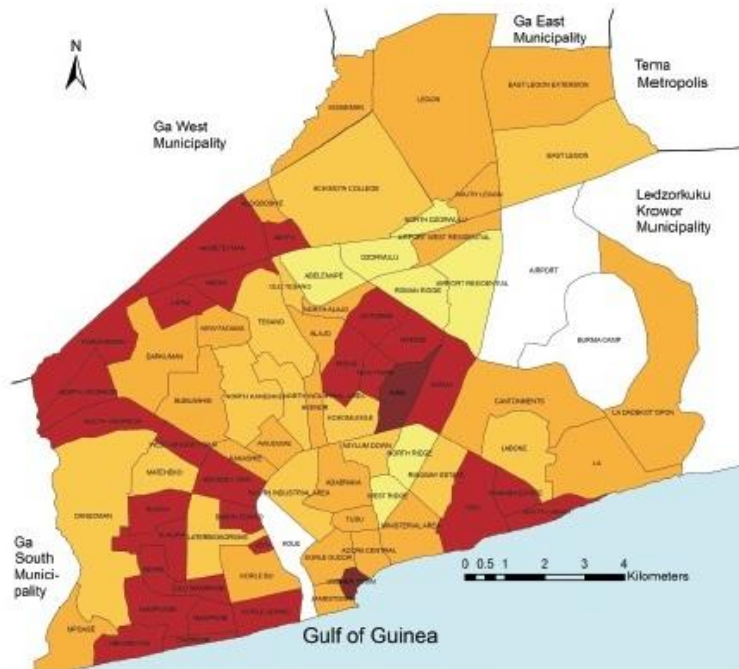
## LEGEND

### AGGREGATE POVERTY POCKETS

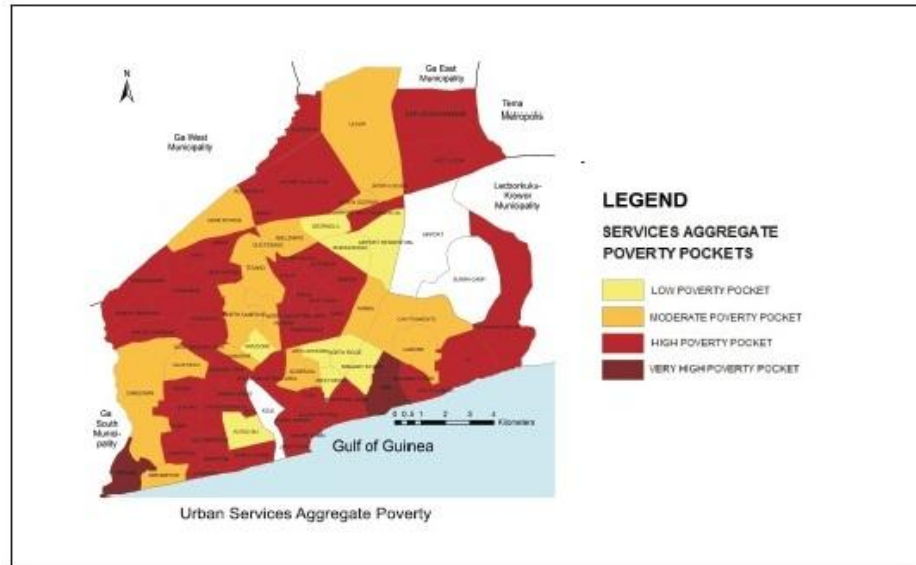
- NON-POVERTY POCKET
- LOW POVERTY POCKET
- MODERATE POVERTY POCKET
- HIGH POVERTY POCKET
- VERY HIGH POVERTY POCKET

LEVEL OF POVERTY	RANGE	NO. OF COMMUNITIES	%
Non-poverty Pocket	Above 80%	7	9
Low Poverty Pocket	Between 89 to 60%	14	19
Moderate Poverty Pocket	Between 59 to 40%	24	32
High Poverty Pocket	Between 39 to 20%	28	37
Very High Poverty Pocket	Below 20%	2	3

Table 13: Poverty Categories – Aggregate Poverty



# Aggregate Poverty Pockets



The aggregate poverty map (Map 7) shows the overall poverty situation in the AMA Area in cumulative terms. It gives a snapshot of the levels of poverty or the absolute living conditions of households in all the 79 communities when all the eight poverty indicators are aggregated. Its purpose is to provide information for the design of poverty programs that encompass broader poverty issues, and depict those communities in the city of Accra that are absolutely deficient in urban service delivery and general wellbeing.

As indicated in the aggregate poverty map, 2

communities (Ushertown and Nima) are in the very high poverty zones whilst 7 communities (Airport Residential Area, Dzorwulu, North Dzorwulu, Abelenkpe, Roman Ridge, North Ridge and West Ridge) are in the non-poverty zones. This categorization of the communities into the various levels of poverty, generally, does not deviate from what is known over the years as perceived by urban practitioners and City Managers. However, it provides evidence in the form of poverty information and justification for poverty-focused interventions that target specific communities in the City.





# Conclusion

The expectation that by 2010 half of Ghana's population will be living in urban centers calls for new approaches in diagnosing urban problems. The Accra poverty mapping exercise is one of such approaches to unearth emerging challenges that confront the city. Developed under the initiative of the AMA and CHF International, the poverty maps display the spatial dimension of poverty and identify pockets of poverty across Accra, including defects in service provision, state of the poor in depressed communities and their income levels.

The essence of using poverty mapping to inform the planning process at the metropolitan level is to integrate poverty-focused interventions into general policy making, and as such mainstream poverty reduction programs into

general budgeting and resource allocation. To this end, the Accra poverty maps have been designed to assist policy makers and City Managers to identify areas in the city that have the greatest number of poor people and the highest poverty rates based on several poverty indicators. Thus the poverty maps are expected to enhance the formulation of pro-poor programs that reach the poor and minimize the leakage of the benefits of such program to the non-poor.

It is hoped that this poverty mapping exercise will serve its intended purpose of influencing pro-poor spending both at the municipal and central government levels.



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2. Davis, Benjamin. *Choosing a Method for Poverty Mapping*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2000.
3. Economic Commission for Africa. *Poverty Mapping for Selected African Countries*. 2003
4. T. Bedi et al. *More Than a Pretty Picture: Using Poverty Mapping to Design Better Policies and Intervention*. World Bank, Washington, DC. 2007

## GLOSSARY

1. Accra Metropolitan Assembly – The City Authority of Accra.
2. Central collection points – A transfer station where households, especially at the neighborhood level, dump their solid waste before the accumulated waste is transferred to the final disposal site.
3. Compound housing unit – A type of housing unit that consists of a number of individual rooms designed to accommodate two or more households. It most often has a compound in the middle, where common domestic activities are carried out.
4. Demography indicators – Sets of quantitative pointers that allow us to measure the dimensions and dynamics of populations.
5. Detached housing units - Single-family detached housing units consist of single-family homes not attached to other homes'
6. Door-to-door collection – It is a component of waste management that results in the passage of a waste material from the source of production, especially at homes and working place, either to the point of treatment or final disposal.





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