

WHERE WE WORK IN GHANA AND WHY

CENSUDI was established in 1994 in Ghana's national capital city, Accra. Our initial set of activities benefited the entire country, with many of the participants in our activities coming from the Southern Regions or States, mainly because they were closer to Accra, and it made economic sense to stay within budget.

In 1996, CENSUDI moved our work and offices to Bolgatanga, the capital of the Upper East Region/State of Ghana. Bolgatanga is about 773 km. (480 miles) from Accra and adjacent to the border with Burkina Faso.

This move was to enable us to focus our activities on the northernmost regions/states of Ghana. This move was guided by a number of reasons:

- a. At that time, there were a number of other non-profit organizations based in Accra, working on similar advocacy areas as CENSUDI. There were none in any of the Regions or States located in the northern part of Ghana
- b. A number of socio-economic studies (the Ghana Living Standards Survey-GLSS) published at this time by the Statistical Services Department of Ghana confirmed that the three regions occupying the northern sector of the country ranked among the poorest in the country. These studies also revealed a main cause of these high levels of poverty to be the higher-than-average socio-gender inequalities.

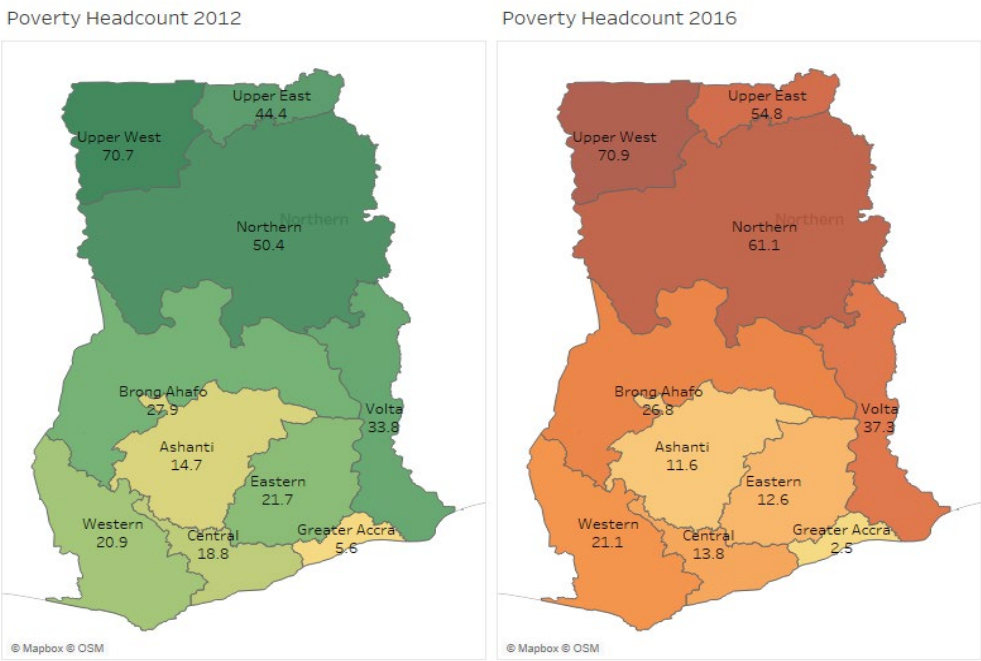
SURVEY	YEAR
GLSS 1:	1987-1988
GLSS 2:	1988-1989
GLSS 3:	1991-1992
GLSS 4:	1998-1999
GLSS 5:	2005-2006
GLSS 6:	2012-2013
GLSS 7:	2016-2017

- c. As children of Northern Ghana, four of the founders of CENSUDI felt a strong urge to help address the needs of their people, highlighted in these reports.
- d. Following the publication of these findings, too, the government led the way in focusing policies and programs towards the Northern sector of the country. Our move enabled us to work with government and nongovernmental agencies, international development organizations and the business sector, who were all redirecting some of their policies and programs towards the north.

Poverty in Ghana in 2023 captured on the Maps in Figures 1 and 2 below, reveals that the increased focus of attention on the north of Ghana, by state and non-state actors, following the publication of early poverty and living standards surveys, have had a perceptible impact on the poverty levels of the population. It is also clear from Figure 2 that the finer geographical prioritization that targeted/guided resources to the most deprived areas in these programs have had more noticeable impact on the poverty levels of the population. Even so, Northern Ghana still has comparatively higher levels of poverty, income disparities and socio-economic inequality, as well as a need for improved access to education, healthcare, and other essential services.

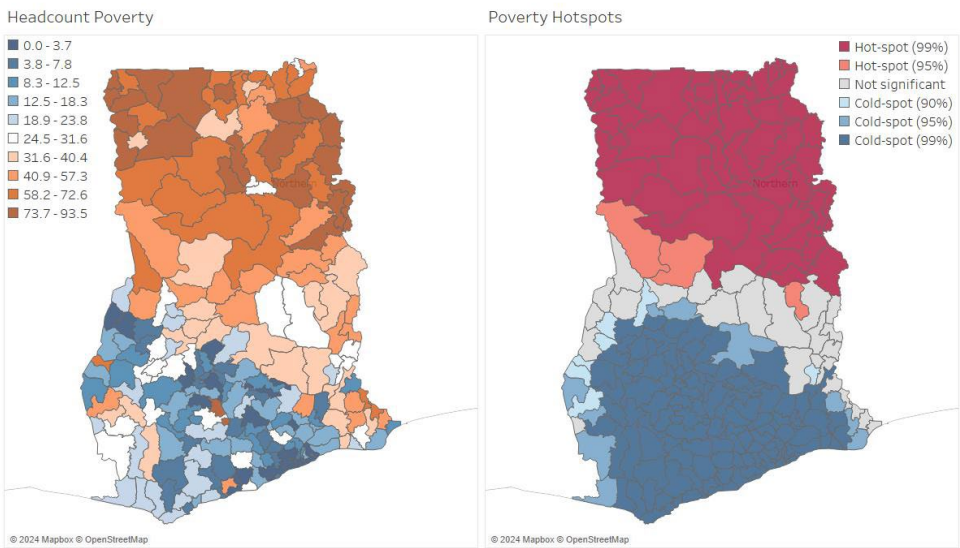
CENSUDI will therefore continue to work in the north.

Figure 1. GHANA-: Regional Poverty Headcount Rates (National Poverty Line)



Source: The World Bank’s elaboration, based on estimates from the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS6 and GLSS7) data.

Figure 2: District-level poverty head count and poverty hot spots 2023



Source: General Social Survey [GSS (2023)] – small area estimates of poverty correspond to 2016 Note: district is classified as a hotspot if its value is significantly higher than that of its neighborhood. The neighborhood average is a distance weighted average where areas that are farther away from the district carry less weight. Neighborhoods are defined as locations within a 500 Km radius.