

ACCRA CITY PROFILE – 1993 TO 2022: A REVIEW

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Abstract

Accra, the political and administrative Capital City of Ghana is the subject of this Review Article. It gained fame from the slave trade era as a major port of embarkation of slaves in the pre-colonial era. As Ghana's economic and political capital, Accra was chosen as one of the five anglophone cities of West Africa for consideration in the 'Istanbul+5' documentation by the United Nations General Assembly. Although 'Istanbul+5' was documented as an evaluation of Housing and Infrastructure Development in world cities, this Review Paper takes a critical look at what happened from 1993 to 2022 in Accra, Ghana. The research motivation is to see what has happened where possible, in terms of progress and promises fulfilled in the West African city and Ghanaian Capital. This Article aims to present an unbiased Review that gives a true picture of the situation beyond the 'Istanbul+5' documentation. This Review is fashioned after the structure of 'Istanbul+5' City Profile as proposed by the United Nations (UN-Habitat). Beyond the Background, it is structured after the six chapters of the City Profile Report. The chapters are 1. Shelter; 2. Social Development; 3. Environment; 4. Economic Development; 5. Governance, while Chapter 6 concludes with a narrative on International Cooperation. Accra city government, like most public organizations in developing countries, is short of reliable data. This compels the author to rely on third-party international organizations and Internet sources to fill in the gaps where this was necessary. Although the 'Istanbul+5' data was chosen as the base data, relevant updates were supplemented with third-party sources. Appropriate citations were made of the relevant sources where necessary in this Review.

Keywords: City Profile, Capital City, Accra, Sustainable Development, 'Istanbul+5'

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I. INTRODUCTION

The ancient city of Accra has metamorphosed over many centuries. From being a traditional city before the colonial advent to being a slave-trading outpost, to being the capital city of a major anglophone country in West Africa. Each phase in the history of Accra has left an indelible mark on the historical city.

The paper reviews the phase of 1993-2022, starting with the 'Istanbul+5' and the later developments in the city's history. The significance of this period is that some issues were stated during the 1993-1998 'Istanbul+5' which are being evaluated afterward for the benefit of the city-dwellers and the citizenry.

II. METHOD

The findings from the 'Istanbul+5' are employed as base data upon which the Review is being evaluated. Where there were no data found during the 'Istanbul+5' which recorded 'Not Available,' this review would only present whatever other information relevant to Accra city. However, where there is some information available during 'Istanbul+5' the available records would be presented with additional information to build up to date.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Results are presented in the order approved by and employed for the United Nations (UN-Habitat Program) 'Istanbul+5' and are shown below. Detailed discussions follow hereafter:

3.1 BACKGROUND

Accra is home to a group of healthy, strong, and energetic human beings. Since documented history began, Accra, and indeed Ghana was a major source of subdued humans in the obnoxious human transactions known as the slave trade. Being on the coastal port of waterways, the Accra people were also made to assist in collecting their brethren from the hinterland of Africa during the slave trade perpetuated during the precolonial era.

3.1.1 Location: A coastal city, Accra is the capital of the Country. The 1993 population of Accra City is about 1.5 million.

3.1.2 Geography: Accra is characterized by a monsoon climate. It experiences regular rainy seasons from April to June, and September to October annually. Temperature varies from 21 to 32 Degrees Celsius. The country Ghana is in the GMT time zone. Figure 1 shows the street layout of Accra and the basic geographical features of the City.

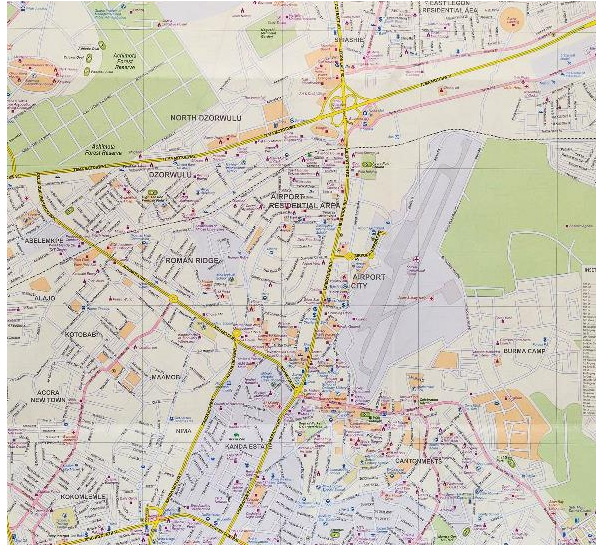


Figure 1. Map of Accra City, Ghana

3.1.3 Historical Development: Accra is the political, economic, and industrial capital of modern Ghana. This is because of its strategic location and the disposition of its people. European traders, who transacted in Gold and Slavery arrived Ghana in 15th Century. Early European explorers named the country Gold Coast during the pre-colonial era.

3.1.4 Regional Significance: During the slave trade era, many Africans were forcefully deported to the sugarcane plantations of America and the Caribbean Islands. Accra port created the biggest Diaspora in the world. The impact of this inhuman trade is still being felt in neighboring Accra suburbs like Cape Coast where majority of the returnees are mixed-breed with foreign names and hybrid cultures.

The significance of this obnoxious human trafficking is still being felt in some areas of Coastal Ghana, notably the Cape Coast Region.

3.2 SHELTER

A shelter is a place where people can go to seek protection and safety, often from dangerous or harmful conditions such as natural disasters, violence, or homelessness. In many cities around the world, including Accra, shelters are established to provide essential services and support to those in need. These services can include food, clothing, medical care, and temporary housing.

As a developing country, it is an established fact that the availability and quality of shelters in Accra have changed over the past 30 years, as the city has continued to grow and develop. However, without access to specific information about the shelter in metropolitan Accra, it would be difficult to be more specific about the City.

In Ghana, shelters have been established to provide essential services and support to those in need, such as people experiencing homelessness, those affected by natural disasters, or victims of domestic violence. The availability and quality of shelters in Accra and other cities in Ghana have changed over the past 30 years, as the country has continued to grow and develop.

It is important to note that access to shelter and other essential services can be a challenge in many developing countries, including Ghana, due to a lack of resources and infrastructure. Despite this, many organizations and individuals in Ghana are working to address these issues and provide support to those in need.

3.2.1 Security of Tenure: During the period 1993 – 1998, there is improved security of tenure. There is no impediment to the security of tenure in Accra. This is because of good governance and the evolving democratic institution during the period under review. Figure 2 shows Formal Ownership, Tenancy, Squatter, and Other types of Tenure and their percentages.

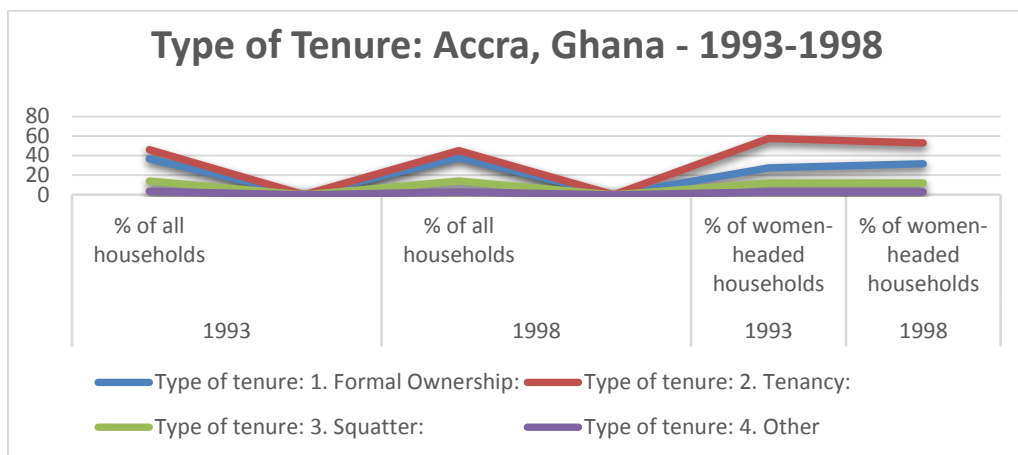


Figure 2. Types of Tenure in Accra, Ghana: 1993-1998

Beyond the report of the ‘Istanbul + 5,’ Barry and Danso (2014) show that there is no security of tenure in Accra urban centre or anywhere nearby. This is because the typical customary chiefs sell any available virgin or agricultural land to strangers so as to earn more money at the expense of the indigenes. This results in conflicts and alters traditional means of livelihood. The money made from such unethical transactions does not reach members of the traditional lineage group (Barry & Danso, 2014). Figure 3 (below) shows incidents of eviction in Accra based on their gender and all households.

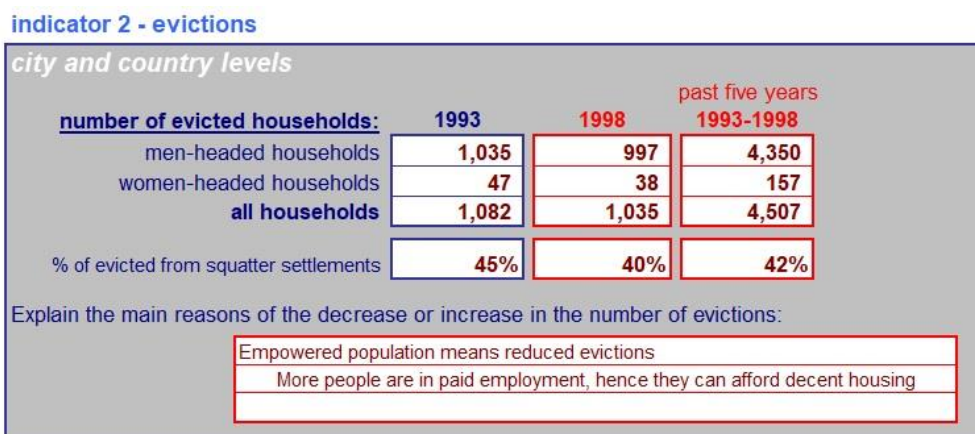


Figure 3. Evictions in Accra, Ghana, from 1993-1998

3.2.2 Right to Adequate Housing: No documented right to adequate housing. The government tries to protect people from forced eviction and harassment. This is the formal statement from the state department. However, the reality can sometimes be different.

There are legal means of documenting ownership of properties. These include a direct application for the acquisition of a Certificate of Occupancy among others. Figure 4 shows Qualitative Country Data which also reflects the situation in Accra.

2. Promote the right to adequate housing
qualitative data 1: housing rights

country level

1. Does the Constitution or national law promote the full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing? yes no

include protections against eviction? yes no

2. Are there particular impediments:

to owning land? Yes Some None

to inheriting land and housing? Yes Some None

to taking mortgages in their own names? Yes Some None

to women owning land? Yes Some None

to women inheriting land and housing? Yes Some None

to women taking mortgages in their own names? Yes Some None

to particular groups owning land? Yes Some None

to particular groups inheriting land and housing? Yes Some None

to particular groups taking mortgages in their own names? Yes Some None

please name the groups:

Foreigners? Yes Some None

please name the groups:

Please describe any changes in terms of housing rights since 1990:

Since 1990, accessibility to housing has improved considerably in Ghana. This is largely due to improved infrastructure development in the country as a

Figure 4. Right to Adequate Housing in Accra, Ghana: Qualitative Country Data

3.2.3 Access to Land: Access to land is improving – especially from a gender-balanced point of view. This was the official position of the Government officials towards the 1998 UN-Habitat report as shown in Figure 5 below.

3. Promote equal access to land
Indicator 4: Land price-to-income ratio

city level

1993

	Land price			Income Median Household income per month (US \$ 1993)	Land price to income ratio
	Minimum price of 1 m2	Maximum price of 1 m2	Median price of 1m2		
Highly developed land	\$5	\$6	\$6	\$43	0.13
Developed land	\$4	\$5	\$5		0.11
Raw land	\$2	\$4	\$3		0.08

city level

1998

	Land price			Income Median Household income per month (US \$ 1998)	Land price to income ratio
	Minimum price of 1 m2	Maximum price of 1 m2	Median price of 1m2		
Highly developed land	\$7	\$8	\$7	\$69	0.11
Developed land	\$5	\$7	\$6		0.09
Raw land	\$3	\$5	\$3		0.05

What changes do these results suggest in terms of land affordability?

The results suggest increase in land affordability
In spite of the increase in unit price of a square metre (1m2) of land, the income per month in the corresponding period is higher.
This implies increased purchasing power of the ordinary citizen

Figure 5. Access to Land: Price-to-Income Ratio 1993-1998

King and Sumko (2015) showed that there is no formal access to land in Accra, Ghana. Individual land is owned by individual owners, stools/skins, and clans under customary tenure. For the government to access any land for public use or infrastructure development, the government often resorts to compulsory acquisition (King & Sumko, 2015).

3.2.4 Access to Credit: Other than poverty and low income, there are no impediments to credit Gyimah, et.al (2022) found out that access to credit has been a that confronts small and medium enterprises (SMEs) development in Accra and other urban centers in Ghana. Unfortunately, the political class and appropriate government institutions act as if they are unable to effect any change see Figure 6 below (Gyimah, Akande, & Muzindusi, 2022).

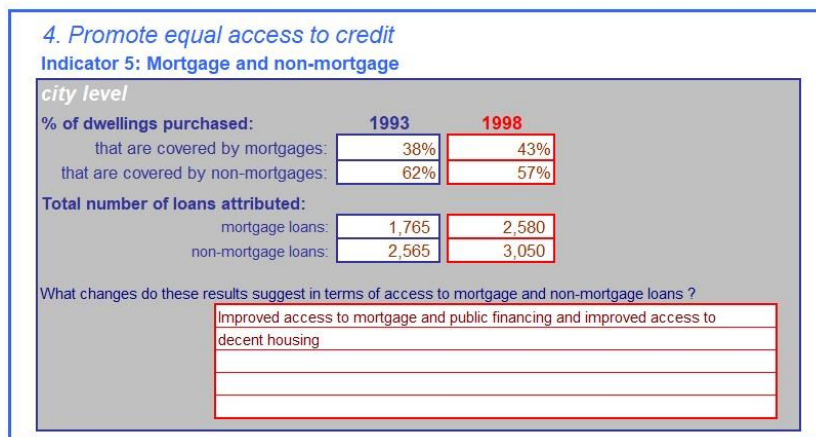


Figure 6. Access to Credit: Mortgage and Non-Mortgage

3.2.5 Access to Basic Services: The 1998 report (Figure 7) shows that this is improving considerably. The unprecedented growth of the urban population in Accra and other Ghanaian cities has caused a greater share of urban population to have access to public services. Increasing urbanization and rural-urban migration have outpaced limited service provision and infrastructure development.

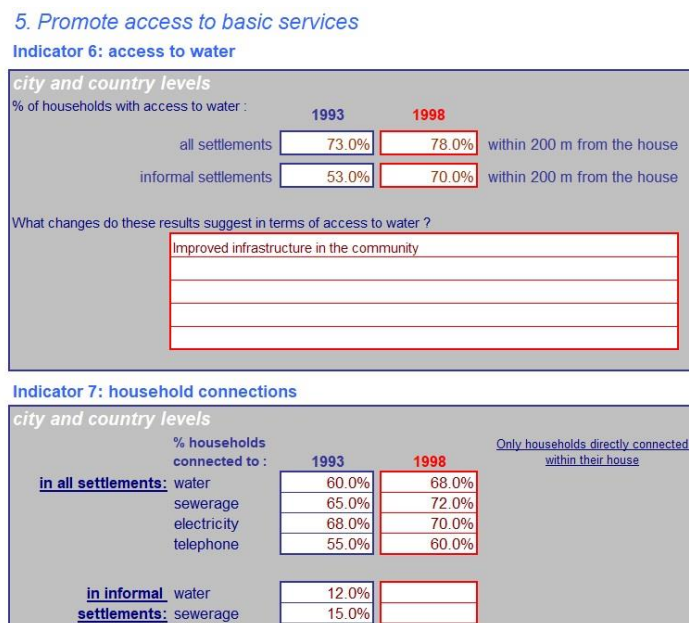


Figure 7. Access to Basic Services: Water and Household Connections From 1993-1998

The World Bank (2022) found out in June, that a sum of USD145 million International Development Association Credit was approved to assist Ghana in developing basic infrastructure provision (The World Bank, 2022).

2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Social development and the eradication of poverty are important goals that aim to improve the well-being and quality of life of individuals and communities. These efforts focus on addressing the root causes of poverty, such as unequal access to education, health care, and economic opportunities, and creating conditions that enable people to live fulfilling and productive lives.

There are many strategies and approaches that can be used to achieve social development and eradicate poverty, including:

2.1 **Providing Access to Education:** Education is a key factor in reducing poverty, as it can lead to better employment opportunities and higher wages.

2.2 **Improving Access to Healthcare:** Providing access to quality healthcare can improve health outcomes and reduce the financial burden of illnesses for families living in poverty.

2.3 **Encouraging Economic Growth and Job Creation:** By fostering economic growth and creating job opportunities, individuals and communities can escape poverty and build better lives for themselves and their families.

2.4 **Reducing Income Inequality:** Addressing income inequality through progressive taxation and other measures can help to reduce poverty and promote social mobility.

2.5 **Strengthening Social Safety Nets:** The concept of Social Safety Net Programs, which include food assistance and cash transfers, can provide a lifeline for individuals and families living in poverty.

These are just a few of the many strategies and approaches that can be used to achieve social development and eradicate poverty. It is important to note that these efforts require sustained commitment and collaboration from governments, communities, and individuals, as well as the effective allocation of resources and the implementation of effective policies and programs. Social development and the eradication of poverty are important goals in Accra, Ghana, as well as in the rest of the country. In recent times, efforts have been made to address poverty and encourage social development in Accra. However, the country still faces many challenges in this regard. Here are a few examples of initiatives aimed at promoting social development and reducing poverty in Accra:

2.5.1 **Education:** The government of Ghana has made education a priority, with initiatives aimed at increasing enrollment and improving the quality of education. In Accra, this has included the construction of new schools and the expansion of existing ones, as well as the implementation of programs to support students from low-income families.

2.5.2 **Healthcare:** The government of Ghana has also made efforts to improve access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas and for low-income families. This has included the construction of new health clinics and the expansion of existing ones, as well as the implementation of programs to provide financial assistance for medical treatment.

2.5.3 **Economic Development:** The government of Ghana has made efforts to promote economic growth and job creation, particularly in the agricultural, manufacturing, and service sectors. In Accra, this has included the establishment of new industrial parks and the rehabilitation of old ones, as well as initiatives to support small and medium-sized enterprises.

2.5.4 **Social Safety Nets:** The government of Ghana has implemented several social safety net initiatives, including food assistance and cash transfers, to support low-income families and individuals.

These initiatives are helping to improve the lives of people in Accra and other cities in Ghana, but there is still much work to be done to achieve the goal of widespread and sustainable social development and the eradication of poverty. It will require sustained commitment and collaboration from the government, communities, and individuals, as well as the effective allocation of resources and the implementation of effective policies and programs.

2.6 Health and Safety: The World Health Organization (WHO) (2022) showed that facilities have improved especially in Primary Health Care. Awareness programs are also being organized by UNICEF, WHO and Health Departments and Parastatals of the Central and Local Governments. The result is a reduced Infant Mortality Rate and healthier citizenry (World Health Organization (WHO), 2022).

The work place health and safety call for enormous protection against accidents, injuries, or health hazards. As workplace becomes the centre point of most individuals, it is necessary to attract high premium of protection.

6. Provide equal opportunities for a safe and healthy life

Indicator 8: under-five mortality

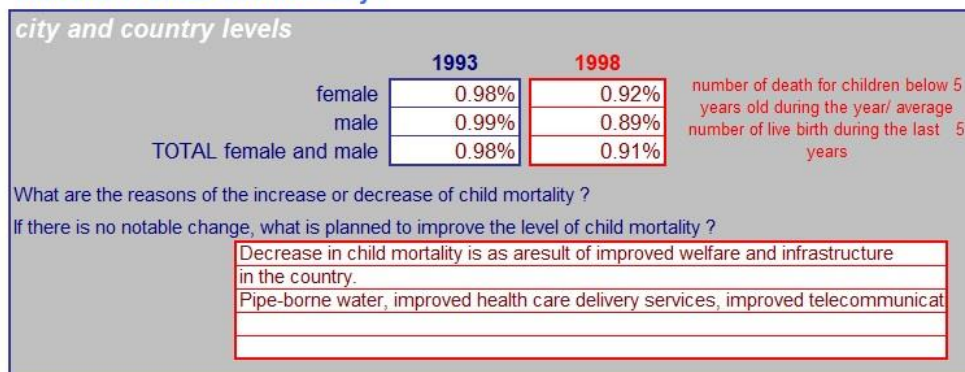


Figure 8. Under-Five Mortality in Accra, Ghana from 1993-1998

Numerous health issues, injuries, process losses and property damages occur at various workplaces. There is urgent need for compliance guide to curtail losses of lives and injuries related to work.

Asumeng, et.al (2015) showed that in Accra, and Ghana, there is no Comprehensive Health and Safety Policy statement to protect the citizens in cases of incidents or health hazards at work (Asumeng, Asamani, Afful, & Agyemang, 2015).

2.7 Social Integration: There is reduction in Poor Households. Similarly, there is a reduction in the number of Poor Women-Headed Households

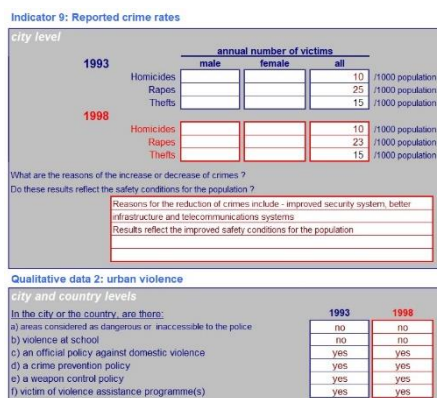


Figure 9. Social Integration in Accra, Ghana from 1993-1998

Antwi Bosiakoh (2012) found that over the years, Migrant Associations in Accra, Ghana have been kind enough to foster social integration in Accra. A case in point is the study of three Migrant Associations for Nigerians resident in Accra. These Associations play liaison roles, helping members with adjustment and settlement in Accra, Ghana. There is an ongoing effort to formalize the integration of the Nigerian Migrant Associations into the Ghanaian Immigration for mutual development (Antwi Bosiakoh, 2012).

7. Promote social integration and support disadvantaged groups
Indicator 10: Poor households

city level

	1993		1998	
	Total number ('000)	% of households	Total number ('000)	% of households
Households	28		27	
Women-headed households	28		20	
Poor households	7	0.0%	8	0.0%
Poor Women-headed households	21	0.0%	19	0.0%

	1993	1998
	US\$ / month	US\$ / month
Poverty line in US\$ / month: one person	\$39.5	\$51.3
two persons	\$43.5	\$72.1
average household	\$102.2	\$125.3

Definition of poverty-line 1993: Poverty-line is defined in 1993 as including all persons earning annual income of less than US \$ 270

Definition of poverty-line 1998: Definition of poverty -line includes any persons earning less than US\$ 350 in the country

Figure 10. Poor Households in Accra, Ghana from 1993-1998

2.8 Support to Disadvantaged Groups: Population of Poor Women-Headed Households has reduced. This suggests improved access to housing and infrastructure by women. The Central Government is also equipping public schools and rural infrastructure for the benefit of disadvantaged Groups.

In 2014, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, a social cash transfer program in Accra, Ghana was established by the Ghanaian Government to assist extremely poor families. About 80,000 households have benefitted.

It has been shown that families receive USD15 to USD30 per household per month. The initial grant was administered by the Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (UNICEF, 2021).

2.9 Gender Equality: There is an improvement in the gender balance. A national awareness drive is on to develop literacy programs for women and the girl-child.

In Accra, Ghana, WHO (2022) shows National Health Policies are anchored on Gender Equality and Equity. Sustainable Development Goal 5 [about Gender Equality] and Sustainable Development Goal 10 [about Inequalities] are strongly interlinked social factors within the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] (World Health Organization (WHO), 2022).

city and country levels

1998 data	female	male	1998 female-male gap	
	Primary school enrolment ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Secondary school enrolment ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	%
Tertiary school enrolment ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	%
Adult literacy rate	74.5%	87.3%	12.8%	%
Life expectancy at birth	69.00	66.20	- 2.80	years
Under-five mortality	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	%
Unemployment	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	%
number of elected or nominated councillor at the local level per 10,000	-	-	-	/10,000 population

What measures have been undertaken to reduce the female-male gaps ?

both the central Government and the Local Government Administrations have intensified efforts to create awareness in urban areas, Peri-urban and rural areas on the need to educate the girl-child. Similarly, they are now discouraging early marriage in the society Benefits of education to the individual and the society at large are periodically being highlighted

Figure 11. Female-Male Gaps in Accra, Ghana: 1998 Data

3: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental management is an important issue in Accra, Ghana, as well as in other cities and regions in the country. With rapid urbanization and industrialization, Accra faces many environmental problems. These include air and water pollution, deforestation and waste management.

Here are a few examples of initiatives aimed at promoting environmental management in Accra:

3.1. Waste Management: The government of Ghana has made efforts to improve waste management in Accra, including the implementation of recycling programs, the construction of new landfills, and the expansion of existing ones.

3.2. Air Pollution Control: The government of Ghana has taken steps to address air pollution in Accra, including implementing regulations on emissions from industrial and transportation sources, and promoting the use of public transportation and alternative fuels.

3.3. Water Management: The government of Ghana has made efforts to improve water management in Accra, including the expansion of access to clean water, the implementation of programs to reduce water pollution, and the protection of wetlands and other natural water sources.

3.4. Forest Conservation: The government of Ghana has implemented programs to enable protection for forests and other natural habitats, including the regulation of logging, the creation of protected areas, and the promotion of sustainable aquaculture, agriculture and other varieties of land uses.

These initiatives are helping to improve the environment in Accra and other cities in Ghana, but there is still much work to be done to ensure a sustainable and healthy environment for present and future generations. It will require sustained commitment and collaboration from the government, communities, and individuals, as well as the effective allocation of resources and the implementation of effective policies and programs.

3.5 Population: In the early 1990s, the population of Accra is about 1.5 million. About 52% of the population are males while 48% are females. Macrotrends (2021) showed that the present population of Accra, Ghana is over 2 million people (MACROTRENDS, 2021).

3.6 Geographical Balance: Metropolitan Accra has facilities for the needs and benefit of diverse populations from its neighborhoods. An age-long capital city of a rich historical culture, Accra is endowed with tourist attractions and historical monuments.

3.7. Water Supply and Demand: Water supply is still inadequate for the needs of the City. The Central Government is rehabilitating the dams, constructing boreholes and installing hand pumps. The demand-supply can be better managed

10. Manage supply and demand for water in an effective manner

Indicator 13: Consumption of water

city level		1993	1998	
daily household consumption / person:				
in all settlements		8.50	9.00	liters/pers./day
in informal settlements		5.50	6.50	liters/pers./day
What measures have been taken for reducing water consumption or increasing the water supply ?				
Is the demand-supply for water managed in an effective manner ?				
Several measures have been taken to increase the supply of potable water				
These include rehabilitation of existing dams, construction of boreholes in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Where necessary, hand pumps are also introduced to supplement the dam and boreholes.				
Demand-supply for water can still be better managed for improved efficiency.				

Indicator 14: Median price of water

city level		1993	1998	
highest price		\$1.50	\$1.80	US\$/m3 (1000 liters)
lowest price		\$0.30	\$0.60	US\$/m3 (1000 liters)
median price in all settlements		\$0.70	\$1.20	US\$/m3 (1000 liters)
optional:				
median price in informal settlements		\$1.00	\$1.45	US\$/m3 (1000 liters)

Figure 12. Supply and Demand of Water in Accra, Ghana: 1993-1998

3.8. Urban Pollution: Urban pollution is on the increase because of improved economic, urbanization, and attendant industrial activities in 1993 - 1998.

Urban Pollution, globally, in the form of ambient and household air pollution is causing deaths and debilitating diseases in Accra and other urban cities globally. This threat to the human race is exacerbated by the high rate of rural-urban migration and other determinants of environmental degradation and urbanization. Unfortunately, the impact of global urbanisation in the 21st Century is felt most in Accra and other cities of the developing world.

According to WHO (2022) Report, the Organization is determined to strengthen its capacity and collaborate with countries all over the world to identify and track progress, measure effective policy decisions, and determine the impacts of air pollution on the lives of vulnerable groups. Study shows that in late 2022, the WHO carried out a

Pilot Project in Accra, Ghana to determine the extent of air pollution and other urban health hazards in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries [LMICs] (World Health Organization (WHO), 2022)

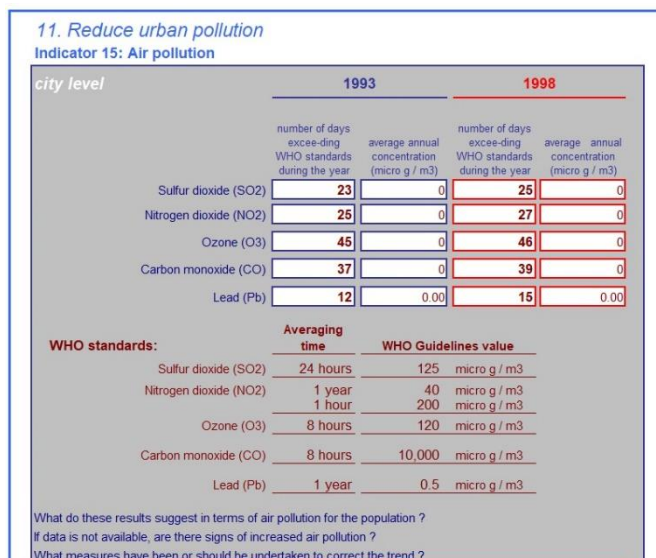


Figure 13. Reduce Urban Pollution in Accra, Ghana

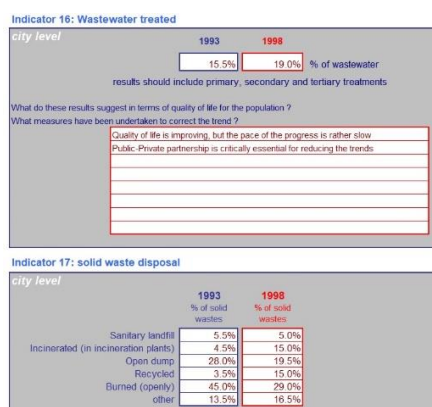


Figure 14. Wastewater Treated and Solid Waste Disposal

3.9. Disaster Management: A National Disaster Management Board has been established to check possible threat to habitable life. Building Codes and regulations are also being reviewed. Aboagye, et.al (2013) found that despite the best of efforts, Disaster Management in Accra up till 2022 still needs much to be done. Interagency collaboration and International Cooperation must be harnessed to enable the people to have a sense of security and perception of safety (Aboagye, Dari, & Koomson, 2013).

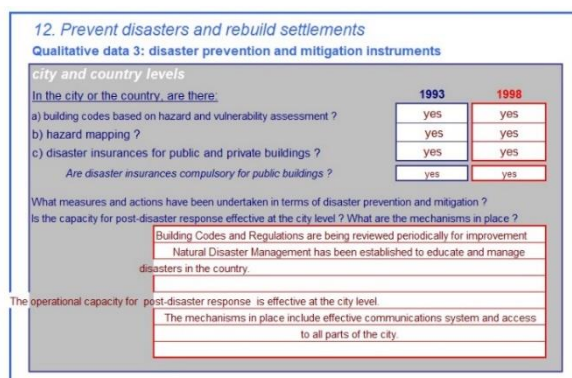


Figure 15. Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

3.10. Transports: Noticeable increase in users of private cars, motorcycles, trains, mini-bus, walking, and other means. There is a reduction in the percentage of bus transport users due to improved taste and lifestyle.

13. Promote effective and environmentally sound transportation system

Indicator 18: travel time

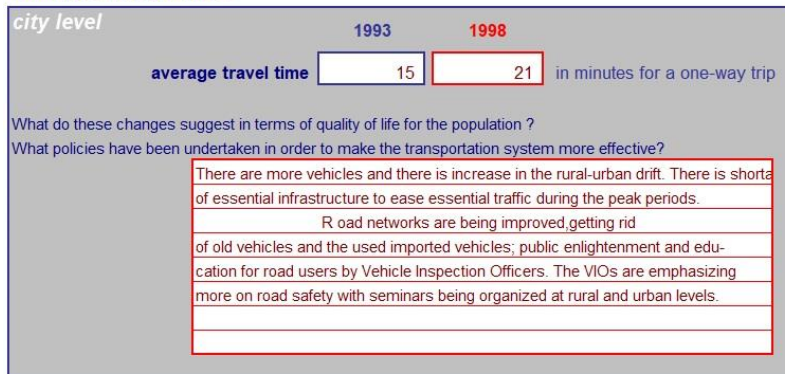


Figure 16. Travel Time in Accra, Ghana from 1993-1998

Accra, like many other cities throughout the world that are rapidly urbanizing and developing, faces issues related to fast urbanization, motorization, and rising automotive use without a proper strategic plan or the development of transportation infrastructure.

As traffic flow, particularly during peak morning and evening commute hours, continues to endure unwarranted delays, mobility and road usage are being hampered more and more. A constrained, existing road network and a lack of funding to maintain road infrastructure and extend the network at a rate consistent with the city's expansion and the pace of road traffic needs make the problem worse..

The need for sustainable, workable, and economical solutions for Accra, Ghana's mass public transportation was motivated by this gap.

Accra is using Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the system with the most shown ability to address the City's public transportation demands, after the Lagos, Nigeria model of BRT-Mass Transport Service.

The versatility of the BRT as a rubber-tired, non-railway means of public transit is one of its main advantages. Using an integrated system of Intelligent, Digital Transport System that includes priority treatment, demarcated or dedicated runways, vehicles, stations, and short service routes, the BRT is intended to deliver effective transportation services.

Nuworsoo (2006) showed that a major advantage of the BRT is its flexibility as a rubber-tired, non-railway, public transportation mode. The BRT is structured to facilitate efficient transport based on a computerized system of Intelligent, Digital Transport System that considers priority traffic treatments, demarcated or dedicated runways, vehicles, stations, and short service routes (Nuworsoo, 2006).

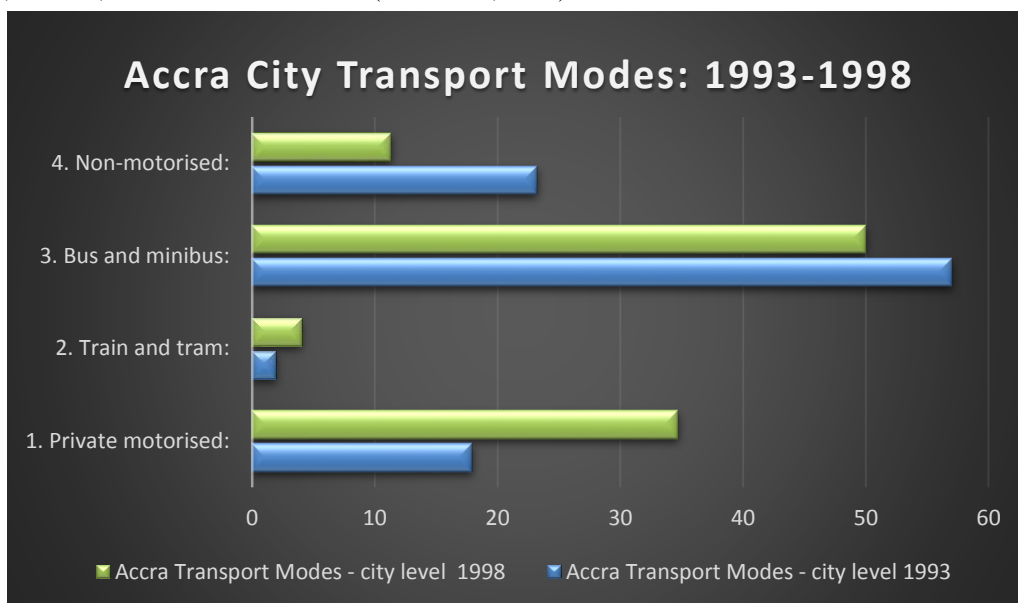


Figure 17. Accra City Transport Modes from 1993-1998

3.11. Local Environmental Planning: Accra city in 1993-1998 is collaborating with the World Bank on a project to sanitize environmental management.

Cobbinah, et.al (2017) showed that Accra, Ghana is undergoing rapid urbanization. Ghana as a country is faced with the rapid depletion of sustainable environmental resources and is threatened by burgeoning urbanisation and climate change (Cobbinah, Poku-Boansi, & Pephrah, 2017).

14. Support mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local Agenda 21 initiatives

qualitative data 4: local environmental plans

country level

1. How many cities have established long-term strategic planning initiatives for sustainable development, involving key partners?

2. Is this process institutionalized at the national level and/or has there been any legislative change to support cities to engage in sustainable development planning processes?

city level

3. Has the city established a long-term strategic planning initiative for sustainable development, involving key partners?

4. Is the city implementing local environmental action plans involving key partners?

Please describe the major initiatives:

In collaboration with the World Bank, a project is being carried out. the title of the project is:- Urban 3 - 3- 4

at with an anticipated success story of this initiative, subsequent stages will involve Kumasi and Takoradi

Figure 18. Local Agenda 21: Accra City Qualitative Data

The World Bank (2022) estimates that a million people could fall into poverty due to climate change shocks, unless climate actions are taken. There is urgent need for remedial action towards building a development pathway. That would integrate resilience to climate change while fostering a system of policies, and public and private investments with a transition to low-Carbon growth (The World Bank, 2022)

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ACCRA, GHANA

Accra Metropolitan Assembly showed that economic development is a key priority in Accra, Ghana, as well as in other cities and regions in the country. With a growing population and increasing urbanization, there is a need to create jobs and promote economic growth in order to improve the standard of living for residents (Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), 2020).

Here are a few examples of initiatives aimed at promoting economic development in Accra:

4.1. Job Creation: The government of Ghana has made efforts to create jobs in Accra and other cities, including the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, the development of industrial parks, and the expansion of existing businesses.

4.2. Infrastructure Development: The government of Ghana has made investments in infrastructure development in Accra, including the construction of new roads, bridges, and public transportation systems, as well as the expansion of existing ones.

4.3. Agricultural Development: The government of Ghana has made efforts to promote agricultural development in Accra and other regions of the country, including the expansion of access to land, the promotion of sustainable agriculture practices, and the creation of market linkages for farmers.

4.4. Financial Inclusion: The government of Ghana has made efforts to promote financial inclusion in Accra and other cities, including the expansion of access to credit and other financial services for individuals and businesses. These initiatives are helping to improve the economic prospects of people in Accra and other cities in Ghana, but there is still much work to be done to achieve the goal of widespread and sustainable economic growth. It will require sustained commitment and collaboration from the government, communities, and individuals, as well as the effective allocation of resources and the implementation of effective policies and programs.

4.6. Small and Micro-Enterprises: Small and micro-enterprises are encouraged through greater credibility and stability in government.

In recent times – at the turn of the new Millennium, Ghana's business environment has faced lots of challenges. Notable among the challenges was the COVID-19 and the implementation of the international support. This brought huge negative impacts on the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The MSMEs faced considerable challenges in maintaining and growing their businesses. Prior to the COVID-19 time, they have limited access to finance and expertise needed for standard quality of technical assistance. Naturally, they also struggle with a lack of qualified employees, limited skill sets, and poor management abilities. The businesses run and controlled by women are the most vulnerable under those difficult circumstances since they are up against much greater obstacles. This is a result of their restricted access to land, funding, and advanced business techniques.

Fortunately, the Ghana Economic Transformation Project received \$200 million from The World Bank via The International Development Association (IDA). US\$5 million of this total project financing amount was set out for COVID19 recovery support for small and medium-sized businesses. [SMEs] (The World Bank, 2022).

4.7. Informal Sector: According to records from 1993 to 1998, the informal economy has grown as a result of improved government, the supply of services, and infrastructure.

The situation in Accra and other cities in Ghana has changed as a result of government inconsistencies and other societal problems since the turn of the New Millennium. Accra, Ghana, and other city administrations have been attempting to develop by ignoring, displacing, or incorporating informality into the formal economy. Because of this, the state institution has inadequate social safety nets, which downplay the importance of the unorganized sector. Ironically, Accra's ability to deal with the difficult economic realities today depends on the already underutilized informal sector. The road to Accra's socioeconomic recovery currently depends on the informal sector of the economy, which is remarkably similar to the biblical story of the rejected stone. (Akuoko, Aggrey, & Amoako-Arhen, 2021)

Between 1993 and 1998, productivity increased. Credibility in the democratic government is to blame for this. Accra, Ghana's public sector productivity in 2022 might be improved by establishing a flexible bureaucracy, routine monitoring, better pay, objective evaluation and transparent actions of the assessment of public sector performance, and hiring of individuals based on merit. Effective leadership, political will, and moral courage are all thought to be helpful tools for boosting public sector productivity (Asamoah, Osei-Kojo, & Yeboah-Assiamah, 2013).

4.8. Productivity: There is an improvement in productivity from 1993-1998. This is because of credibility in the democratic government.

Accra, Ghana's public sector productivity in 2022 might be improved by establishing a flexible bureaucracy, routine monitoring, better pay, objective evaluation and transparent actions of the assessment of public sector performance, and hiring of individuals based on merit. Effective leadership, political will, and moral courage are all thought to be helpful tools for boosting public sector productivity. (Asamoah, Osei-Kojo, & Yeboah-Assiamah, 2013).

4.9. Employment: Amissah and Nyarko (2017) showed that equal employment opportunities existed for both men and women in the private and public sectors from 1993 to 1998 (Amissah & Nyarko, 2017).

In 2022, employed youths are found to be happier and healthier than unemployed youths. This is expected since the earning capacity and ability to live a fulfilled life were more prevalent in the group of employed youths. Altogether, in Ghana, unemployment in 2022 was found to be 4.65 percent..

4.10. Informal Sector: Between 1993 and 1998, records show the informal sector of the economy is developing – because of good governance and provision of services and infrastructure – see Figure 19.

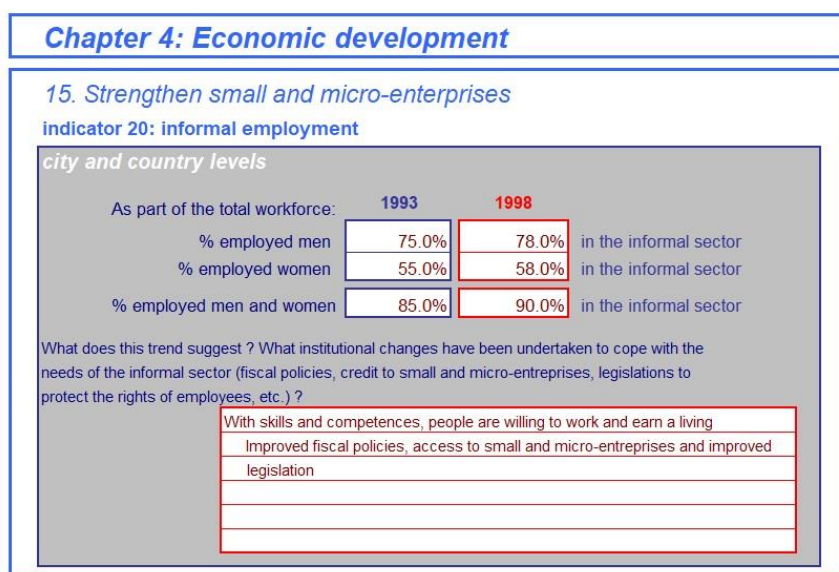


Figure 19. Small and Micro-Enterprises – Informal Employment in Accra, Ghana 1993-1998

Akuoko, et.al (2021) showed that discontinuity in government and other social issues since the turn of the New Millennium have resulted in a change of situation in Accra and other cities in Ghana. Accra, Ghana, and other city authorities have been engaged with trying to develop by ignoring or displacing informality or absorbing it into the formal sector of the economy. Because of this, the state institution has inadequate social safety nets, which downplay the importance of the unorganized sector. Ironically, Accra's ability to deal with the difficult economic realities today depends on the already underutilized informal sector. The road to Accra's socioeconomic recovery currently depends on the informal sector of the economy, which is remarkably similar to the biblical story of the rejected stone (Akuoko, Aggrey, & Amoako-Arhen, 2021).

4.11. Public-Private Sector Partnerships: The number of public-private sector partnerships is rising. In various regions of the country, there are a number of initiatives to carry out collaborative development programs. Akomea-Frimpong, et.al (2021) showed how all relevant publications on the country's use of the PPP model to achieve the UN's SDGs are arranged around key themes like risk management, waste management, and urban development - see Figure 20. But further research found that there are not many studies on important topics related to PPPs and sustainable development goals, like climate action, critical resilience, sustainable financing, and clean energy (Akomea-Frimpong, Jin, Osei-Kyei, & Kukah, 2021).

16. Encourage public-private sector partnership and stimulate productive employment opportunities

qualitative data 5: public-private partnerships

city and country levels

1. Have some major public enterprises involving the delivery of services in cities established partnerships with private firms during the last five years at the city level?

How many?

2. Have some major public enterprises involving the delivery of services in cities established partnerships with private firms during the last five years at the country level?

How many?

Have public-private partnership become a more common practice in the last five years ?
 Have they been effective ? Have they offered a greater flexibility in the management and higher degree of transparency, efficiency and accountability in their operation ?
 Is the cost-recovery of services higher ?

Public-private partnership is a common practice in the last five years;
They have been effective;
This has offered a greater flexibility in the management and higher degree of transparency, efficiency and accountability in their operation;
Obviously, the cost-recovery of services is higher.

Figure 20. Qualitative Data on Public-Private Partnerships in Accra, Ghana

V. GOVERNANCE IN ACCRA, GHANA

Governance is a critical issue in Accra, Ghana, as well as in other cities and regions in the country. Towah (2019) found that good governance is essential for promoting social, economic, and environmental well-being and for ensuring the accountability and transparency of public institutions (Towah, 2019).

Here are a few examples of initiatives aimed at promoting good governance in Accra:

5.1. Transparency and Accountability: The government of Ghana has made efforts to promote transparency and accountability in the public sector, including the implementation of anti-corruption measures, the promotion of open government initiatives, and the expansion of access to information.

5.2. Decentralization: The government of Ghana has made efforts to decentralize power and decision-making, including the creation of local government institutions, the transfer of responsibilities and resources from the central government to local authorities, and the promotion of citizen participation in local governance.

5.3. Rule of Law: The government of Ghana has made efforts to strengthen the rule of law, including the impartial administration of justice, the protection of human rights, and the promotion of good governance practices in the public and private sectors.

5.4. Political Stability: The government of Ghana has made efforts to promote political stability, including the peaceful transfer of power through free and fair elections, the protection of political rights and freedoms, and the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among political actors.

These initiatives are helping to improve governance in Accra and other cities in Ghana, but there is still much work to be done to ensure effective, accountable, and transparent governance for all. It will require sustained

commitment and collaboration from the government, communities, and individuals, as well as the effective allocation of resources and the implementation of effective policies and programs

5.5 Decentralization/Strengthening of Local Authorities: Between 1993 and 1998, at various levels of governance, the concept of separation of powers is emphasized. This allows the ordinary citizen to be heard, enhances overall development and credibility in government.

Chapter 5: Governance

17. Promote decentralisation and strengthen local authorities

Qualitative data 6: level of decentralization

city and country levels

1. Can higher levels of government (national, state/provincial):

a. Close the local government ? erase inappropriate

b. Remove councillors from office? erase inappropriate

2. Can the local government, without permission from higher governments:

a. Set local tax levels ? erase inappropriate

b. Set user charges for services ? erase inappropriate

c. Borrow funds ? erase inappropriate

d. Choose contractors for projects ? erase inappropriate

3. Is the amount of fund transfers from higher governments known in advance of the local budget setting process ?

erase inappropriate

If yes, give a percentage:

Have major responsibilities, policy management, decision-making authorities and resources been decentralised at the local level ? If not, is there a process of decentralisation in place ?

Do you consider that decentralisation has improved the level of governance ?

Figure 21. Governance in Accra, Ghana: Qualitative Data

Since the turn of the Millennium, Ghana, alongside many other countries have embarked on active promotion and establishment of decentralization since it became apparent that centralized system was no longer effective. Towah (2019) showed that scholars and researchers have embraced decentralization as a major strategy and option for fulfilling the democratic process in developed and developing countries to implement good governance and fulfill their democratic roles to their citizens. It cannot be overemphasized that democracy, transparency, and accountability are easily measured with the decentralisation of government (Towah, 2019).

The barometer of success presented by decentralization is more effective in countries with recent democratic institutions as the mode of their governance operation. Agomor, et.al (2019) showed that despite the pluralities of interpretations of decentralization, the central idea still refers to the filtering of power and authority to lower tiers of organs of government that are closer to the people. The basic and original underlying principle of the shift in power base to lower levels of government is to enable the distribution of commonwealth, goods, and services to the ordinary citizenry (Agomor, Adams, & Taabazuing, 2019).

5.6. Participation and Civic Engagement: From 1993 to 1998, it is evident that Local Participation and Civic Engagement have improved tremendously. This enhances a better image, foreign interest, and positive contribution to the economic affairs of the Country. Figure 22 shows the trend in Citizen Involvement in Accra from 1993-1998 till date.

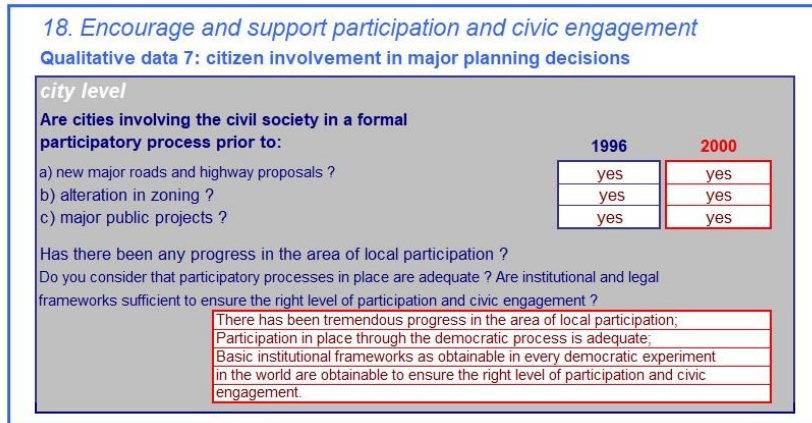


Figure 22. Participation and Civic Engagement in Accra, Ghana from 1993-1998

In the new Millennium, in 2017, President Nana Akufo-Addo, in his inauguration speech called on Ghanaians to behave like ‘citizens’ and not be ‘spectators’ in their own country. Asante (2020) found that this call is consistent with rational conceptions of citizenship that identifies the state as the most salient and relevant platform of engagement. Asante (2020) also showed that in Accra, individuals prioritize social and political-economy issues about how and where social belonging and civic participation is enacted. He further argued that Ghanaians have a strong sense of social belonging and national attachment, but equally shy away from any form of engagement with the national issues.

This national attitude of attached-detachment is demonstrated in enthusiastic participation almost in every highly circumscribed aspects of national political life. This include issues like voting, while withdrawing from other institutionally structured aspects of civic life. Whichever way it is defined, proximity – whether physically or socially – is an important aspect of clear demonstration of responsible citizenship. It shows that people engage more with state officials that are relatively near, but are not impressed with those at considerable distance (Asante, 2020).

5.7. Transparency: Transparency is enhanced. This is because of the checks incorporated in the Country’s democratic institution between 1993 and 1998 as shown in the data of Figure 23.

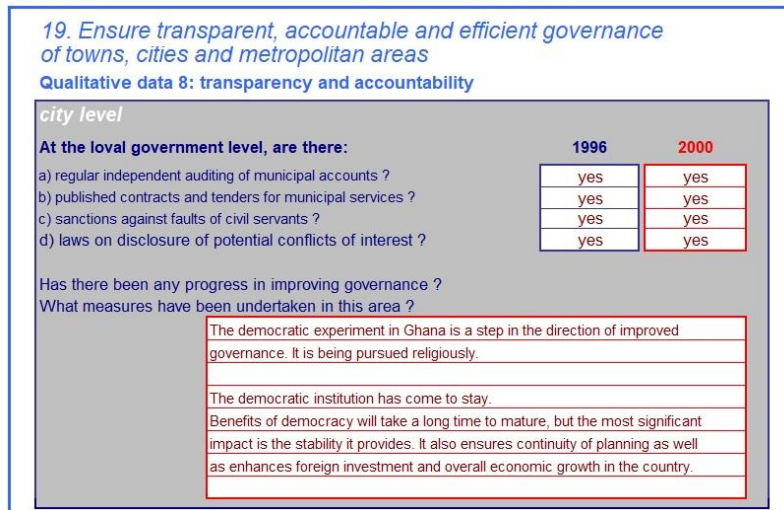


Figure 23. Transparency and Accountability in Accra Qualitative Data from 1993-1998

In Accra, The National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) of Ghana was adopted as a national policy in 2014 after a nation-wide multi-stakeholder consultation process. For once, corruption was confronted as a national problem. The NACAP acknowledges the problem confronted by the vulnerable groups like children, women, the less-fortunate ones, and people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in the society. The United Nations Anti-Corruption Body (2022) confirms that incidents of corruption take place through sexual favors. It goes to emphasize that containing corruption must take into consideration the unique differences, concerns, needs, priorities, and experiences of men and women in the society (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2022).

5.8. Accountability: There is improved accountability in the period 1993 to 1998 as shown in Figure 23 above. This is good for the people and enhances the overall image of the Country.

Market Women in Kasoa lament the lack of government support and the harsh economic challenges in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022...

As a response, the national government established 'BUDGIT' as a means to confront accountability issues. BUDGIT Ghana (2022) showed that it was established around four major core values – making access to budget and related public finance data simple, effective project monitoring for efficient delivery, promoting accountability and due process fiscal inclusive in the extractive industries while also supporting the government, media and civil society institutions in Ghana (BUDGIT Ghana, 2022).

5.9. Efficiency: There is improved efficiency in the operations and governance of the City. This is because as the seat of the Central Government, it is the model of the ideals of the Country.

In 2014, the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) of Ghana was adopted based on a wide, consultation process with various stakeholders. United Nations (2022) found out that although NACAP is positioned to play a unique anti-corruption role in society, it fell short of its basic expectations. Among others, NACAP acknowledges the overall negative impact that corruption has on other 'equity-seeking groups such as persons with disability, children, women, and other vulnerable groups. NACAP policy paper states categorically that bribery even occurs in the form of sexual favors, and that in order to wipe out corruption, the structure and layout of the anti-corruption initiatives must factor the peculiarities, needs, priorities, concerns, and experiences of men and women (The United Nations, 2022).

VI. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ACCRA, GHANA

International cooperation is an important aspect of the development of Accra, Ghana, and other cities and regions in the country. International cooperation can provide access to resources, expertise, and markets, and can help to address global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and disease (WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, 2019). Here are a few examples of international cooperation initiatives in Accra:

6.1. Bilateral Development Assistance: Accra and other cities in Ghana receive development assistance from other countries and international organizations, including support for infrastructure projects, health and education initiatives, and economic development programs.

6.2. International Trade and Investment: Accra and other cities in Ghana are increasingly engaged in international trade and investment, including the export of goods and services, the establishment of foreign businesses, and the creation of partnerships between local and foreign companies.

6.3. Global Partnerships: Accra and other cities in Ghana participate in global partnerships and networks, including the United Nations, the African Union, and regional organizations, which provide opportunities for collaboration on issues such as sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights.

6.4. Technical Cooperation: Accra and other cities in Ghana receive technical cooperation from other countries and international organizations, including support for capacity building, the transfer of technology and expertise, and the implementation of best practices in areas such as governance, environmental management, and economic development.

International cooperation plays an important role in supporting the development of Accra and other cities in Ghana, but it is important to ensure that such cooperation is mutually beneficial, transparent, and accountable. It will require sustained commitment and collaboration from the government, communities, and individuals, as well as the effective allocation of resources and the implementation of effective policies and programs.

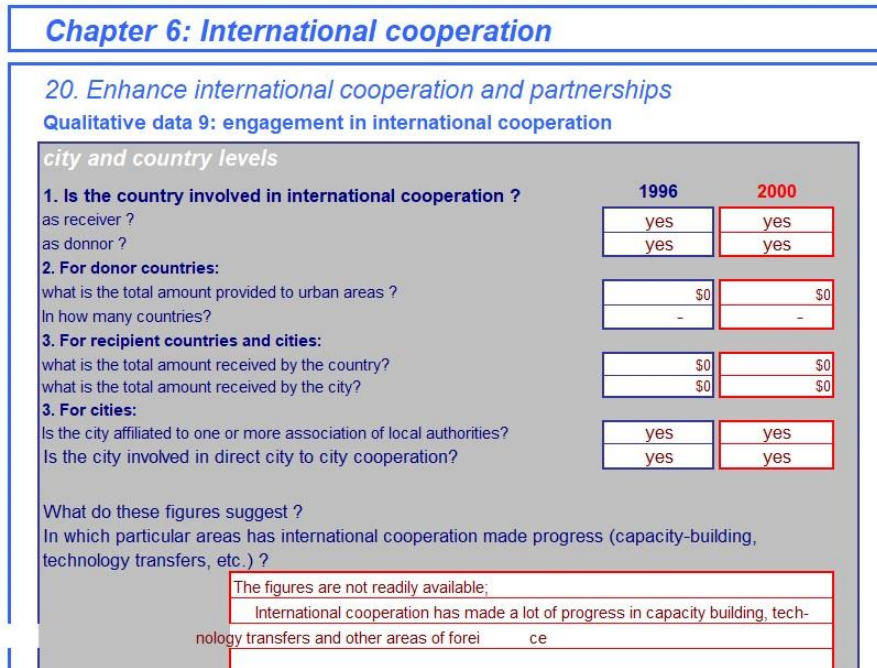


Figure 24. International Cooperation in Accra, Ghana from 1996 to 2000

Mapping AFRICAN REGIONAL COOPERATION (2022) showed that International Cooperation in Accra, Ghana is an age-long activity. Some of it bother on the geographical boundaries which provides platform for political dialogue, governance and development, as well as peace and security along the country’s borders. Others are the Normative Framework which includes Memorandum of Understanding among member countries. Examples include Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], ECCAS, and CENSAD. Others include the Nouakchott Process, Accra Initiative – all about security in the West African sub-region, engaged in the strategic mapping of regional cooperation in the African Continent (Mapping AFRICAN REGIONAL COOPERATION, 2022)

VII. CONCLUSION

Accra, the capital city of Ghana, has undergone remarkable changes from 1993 to 2022. Here is an overview of the city profile during this time period:

7.1. Population Growth: Accra has experienced significant population growth in recent decades, from approximately 2 million people in 1993 to over 4 million in 2021. This has resulted in an increased demand for housing, infrastructure, and services, and has also put pressure on the environment and the city’s resources.

7.2. Urbanization: Accra has become increasingly urbanized over the years, with a growing proportion of the population living in the city and a declining proportion living in rural areas. This has brought both opportunities and challenges, including increased access to jobs, education, and healthcare, but also overcrowding, traffic congestion, and environmental degradation.

7.3. Economic Growth: Accra has experienced economic growth in recent years, driven by the growth of industries such as trade, tourism, and service sectors, as well as by foreign investment and remittances from abroad. However, poverty and inequality remain significant challenges, and many residents still struggle to access basic services and opportunities.

7.4. Infrastructure Development: Accra has seen significant investment in infrastructure development over the years, including the expansion of roads, bridges, and transportation systems, as well as the improvement of housing, water and sanitation services, and healthcare facilities. However, many residents still lack access to quality infrastructure and services, and the city continues to face challenges in meeting the needs of its rapidly growing population.

7.5. Environmental Challenges: Environmental issues: Accra deals with serious environmental issues such water and air pollution, solid waste management, and the disappearance of open spaces. The city has made initiatives to deal with various issues, including the adoption of environmental policies and programs, but much work remains to be done to ensure a sustainable and livable future for all residents.

Broadly, Accra has undergone significant changes from 1993 to 2021, but there are still many challenges to be addressed in order to ensure sustainable and equitable development for all residents. It will require sustained

commitment and collaboration from the government, communities, and individuals, as well as the effective allocation of resources and the implementation of effective policies and programs.

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