



GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE MONTHLY PRESS RELEASE



www.statsghana.gov.gh

No. 05 October 2023

1.4 million households in urban areas were without water on their premises, almost half a million practising open defaecation

Living conditions in urban areas in focus on International Cities Day

One in every four households (27.7%) in urban areas did not have their main source of drinking water on their premises according to the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) General Report on Water and Sanitation. This figure represents **1.4 million urban households without access to water on their premises**. Out of this number, **89,922 households had to travel more than 30 minutes to make a round trip to get to their main source of drinking water and return**.

Nationally, 112,031 households in urban areas were using unimproved sources of drinking water defined as sources not adequately protected from outside contamination. **One in every four (24.0%) urban households was using unimproved sources of drinking water in the North East Region** which recorded the highest percentage and was over ten times the national urban average (2.2%). The Northern (10.0%) and Savannah (9.3%) regions distantly recorded the next highest percentages of households using unimproved sources in urban areas.

Almost half a million (449,849) households in urban areas did not have a toilet facility and were practising open defaecation while 1.3 million used public toilet facilities. **Over half of urban households practised open defaecation in the North East (54.0%) and Savannah (51.9%) regions**, more than five times the national urban average of 8.9 percent. **In all, there were six regions with over 20.0 percent of urban households practising open defaecation**.

The 2021 PHC General Report on Housing Conditions indicates that **over a quarter of a million (316,116) households in urban areas were living in uncompleted buildings (79,721) or unconventional structures (236,395)**. Unconventional structures comprise wooden structures (143,261), kiosks or poly kiosks (78,016), or metal containers (15,118). **One in every 10 (11.9%) households in urban areas in the Greater Accra Region were living in uncompleted buildings or unconventional structures**. All the other fifteen regions recorded percentages below the national urban average (5.4%).

World Cities Day is commemorated annually on 31st October to end the observance of Urban October which was instituted to raise awareness of the challenges facing urban areas.

Disaggregated data on households in rural areas can be accessed directly from the [GSS StatsBank](#). The 2021 PHC General Reports on Housing Conditions, and Water and Sanitation can be downloaded from www.statsghana.gov.gh.

About the Ghana Statistical Service

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) provides comprehensive, reliable, quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information to guide national development as stipulated in Section 3 of the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). The organisation's vision is to be a trusted provider of official statistics for good governance and its mission being the efficient collection, production, management, and dissemination of quality official statistics based on international standards, using competent and motivated staff for evidence-based decision-making, in support of national development.

The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as inflation, Consumer Price Index, Producer Price Index, and Gross Domestic Product. GSS also regularly generates periodic population, housing, demographic and economic data at the locality, district, and national levels from routine surveys and censuses. The statistics generated by GSS can be utilised by a wide cross-section of users including public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. For more information visit www.statsghana.gov.gh.

GSS for the first time has developed an online database for accessing disaggregated census statistics. The StatsBank (<https://statsbank.statsghana.gov.gh>) is an innovative and user-friendly results dissemination method that allows users to generate customised tables and maps at the national, and sub-national levels at no cost. The StatsBank is also a repository for macroeconomic indicators and, in the long term, will provide data on other censuses and surveys. The Census Atlas (<https://phc-geospatial-results.netlify.app/>) has been built atop the StatsBank to showcase district-level indicators using percentages instead of absolute numbers. GSS has also transformed population and housing census data into statistics with a 1000m-by-1000m resolution, allowing users to quickly profile any geographic area in Ghana (<https://geospatial.statsghana.gov.gh/>).