

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

BEKWAI MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

ANNUAL COMPOSITE PROGRESS REPORT 2014

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACPR	Annual Composite Progress Report
BAC	Business Advisory Centre
CHIPS	Community-Based Health Planning Services
CLS	Customary Land Secretariat
CICOL	Civil Society Coalition on Land
DACF	District Assembly Common Fund
DDF	District Development Facility
UDG	Urban Development Grant
ECG	Electricity Company of Ghana
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FOAT	Functional Organizational Assessment Tool
GoG	Government of Ghana
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IGF	Internally Generated Fund
L.I	Legislative Instrument
LAP	Land Administration Project
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MPCU	Municipal Planning Coordinating Unit
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
MTDPF	Medium Term Development Policy Framework
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
STD's	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SNPAS	Street Naming and Property Addressing System
TB	Tuberculosis

ORGANISATION OF REPORT

The report is presented in three chapters with various tables on performance indicators of the various sectors of the Municipality. It reveals the respective sector performance for 2014.

Chapter one consists of the Municipal profile, purpose of the 2014 ACPR, the key Monitoring and evaluation objectives, difficulties encountered in the preparation of the 2014 ACPR.

Chapter two of the report covers the Monitoring and Evaluation activities of the Municipality in the seven (7) thematic areas of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (2014-2017).

The final chapter presents the general recommendations of the ACPR, implications for the new DMTDP (2014-2017) and conclusion. The recommendations have been categorised into the various thematic areas of the GSGDA.

It is the hope of the Municipality that the sustenance of the Annual Composite Progress Report will assist in assessing the Municipality on the delivery of efficient and effective services to the citizenry.

PREFACE

The Annual Composite Progress Report of 2014 for the Bekwai Municipal Assembly was prepared by the Municipal Planning Co-ordinating Unit (MPCU) in collaboration with the decentralized departments and other stakeholders who provided their inputs from the incorporation into the Annual Composite Progress Report.

The report highlights on the activities of the various sectors in the municipality, thus their activities, achievement made and challenges confronted at the end of the year, 2014.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to express our profound gratitude to the Almighty God, for bestowing unto us His strength to complete this exercise or report. Again, we thank the MPCU members especially, the planning secretariat that helped in the preparation of the Annual Composite Progress Report, 2014.

We also, extend our sincere thanks to our collaborators, thus, the decentralized departments and other stakeholders who provided their inputs from the incorporation into the Annual Composite Progress Report.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The year 2014 marks the first phase for the implementation of the Municipal Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017) based on the Ghana shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSDA, 2014-2017), of the Bekwai Municipal Assembly. The plan has been tailored towards achieving the government ‘Better Ghana Agenda’ which embraces the social and economic goals of the Municipality based on the following priority areas:

The Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017) was tailored towards achieving the government ‘Better Ghana Agenda’ which focuses on four main priority areas namely:

- ✓ Putting people’s first in terms of development
- ✓ Building a strong and resilient economy
- ✓ Expanding Infrastructure
- ✓ Transparent and Accountable Governance

The Annual Composite Progress Report (ACPR) 2014 is prepared within the context of programmes and projects, which are in line with the seven thematic areas of the MTDPF as follows:

- Ensuring and Sustaining Macroeconomic Stability
- Enhanced competitiveness of Ghana’s Private Sector
- Accelerated Agricultural Modernization and Natural Resource Management
- Oil and Gas
- Infrastructure and Human Settlement Development
- Human Development, Employment and Productivity

- Transparent and Accountable Governance.

Furthermore, the Annual Composite Progress Report, 2014, uses a set of performance indicators and targets from the various decentralised departments of the Assembly namely Health, Agriculture, Education, Town and Country Planning Unit, Social Welfare and Community Development, etc. for its preparation.

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly as the highest planning, administrative and rating authority in the Municipality continue to provide services to its citizens aimed at “ensuring the improvement in the quality of life of its people through the formulation and implementation of policies on a sustainable manner to step-up Human Resource Development, Reduce poverty and ensures Good Governance by a well-motivated and highly skilled labour.”

1.2 Municipal Profile

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly is among the 30 Administrative Districts in the Ashanti Region, established under the Legislative Instrument (L.I 1906, 2007).

1.2.1 Municipal Governance

The Municipal Assembly has eight (8) Zonal Councils made –up of the following (Bekwai, Kokofu, Essumeja, Asuo-Dankran, Dadease, Adagya, Adudwan and Adumasa Zonal Councils. With the creation of more Electoral Areas, the Municipality has 34 Electoral Areas. The Assembly has 34 elected members and 16 government appointees making the total of 50. They constitute the Municipal Legislative Assembly and perform the legislative functions of the Assembly.

The Municipality has unique historical and cultural values shown by its seven paramountcies namely Bekwai, Essumeja, Kokofu, Denyase, Amoaful, Adankranja and Asamang stools. Apart from the paramountcies, there are other Abrempongs that report directly to the Otumfuo.

1.2.2 Municipal Assembly's and its Objectives

The Municipal Assembly is the highest political and administrative body of the Municipality and therefore exercises deliberative, legislative and executive functions. It has the mission and

responsibility to improve the quality of life of the people through sustainable development. To achieve this mission, the Municipality has set itself certain objectives namely:

- ✓ To facilitate the effective functioning of the local government administration in the Municipality
- ✓ To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources of the Municipality and the decentralized departments.
- ✓ To monitor, co-ordinate and harmonize the implementation of development plans and activities in the Municipality.
- ✓ To facilitate the provision of basic social and economic infrastructure and services in the Municipality.
- ✓ To facilitate community based and private sector development in the Municipality

1.3 Purpose of the Annual Composite Progress Report, 2014

The main purpose of the Annual Composite Progress Report, 2014, is to assess and evaluate the performance of the Assembly, review and provide information on the impacts and achievements of the Municipality based on the objectives set-out in the Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017), Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2014-2017) in relation to the policies, programmes and projects targeted for the year 2014 and to find out the challenges faced in the implementation of the programmes and the projects outlined in the Annual Composite Action plan and the composite budget.

The year 2014 being the first year in the implementation of the Municipal Medium Term Plan (2014-2017), the (ACPR) reflects the performance indicators achieved by the various sectors of the Municipal economy, the challenges faced during the year, the lessons learnt in 2014, and the way forward in the preparation and implementation of the next Medium Term Development plan (2014-2017).

The key Monitoring and Evaluation objectives of the Bekwai Municipal Assembly were formulated in line with the seven (7) main thematic areas and the targets set in each of them.

Table 1: Indicates the Thematic Areas and its Targets

N/S	THEMATIC AREA	TARGETS
1.	Ensuring and Sustaining Macroeconomic Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To improve IGF from 85% to 95% by Dec. 2017 ✓ To improve Assembly's expenditure management by Dec. 2014
2.	Infrastructure and Human Settlement Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To improve access to energy supply for both domestic and commercial purposes by 23% by 2017 ✓ To increase access to roads to rural farming communities from 60% to 85% by Dec.2017 ✓ To promote the adoption of modern technology among 50% of farmers within the Municipality by 2017 ✓ To draw a comprehensive settlement scheme for ten (10) communities by Dec. 2017 ✓ To improve the provision of water and sanitation facilities from 78% to 88% by Dec 2017 ✓ To provide palm oil production machines to 490 women in seven rural palm oil production centers by Dec. 2017
3.	Accelerated Agricultural Modernization and Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To improve agricultural production from by 31% by 2017 ✓ To reduce post-harvest losses by 55% by Dec. 2017 ✓ To facilitate access to affordable credit facilities to 500 farmers by 2017
4.	Enhanced Competitiveness of Ghana's Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To facilitate access to affordable credit facilities to 450 entrepreneurs by Dec. 2017 ✓ To support the private sector to sustain continuous

		<p>production through trainings by 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To increase public-private partnership by 2017 ✓ To encourage 400 youth to go into agricultural under Youth In Agricultural programme by Dec. 2017
	Promote career advancement and development for the youth and the vulnerable in the Municipality by 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To provide basic entrepreneurship training to 600 youth by Dec. 2017 ✓ To improve the development of tourism and tourist facilities from by 2017
5.	Human Development, Employment and Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To increase access to educational infrastructure from 86% in 2013 to 96% by 2017 ✓ To promote the use of ICT in basic and secondary schools by 2017 ✓ To increase access to health care especially in the remote areas from 74% to 87% by Dec. 2017 ✓ To promote programmes that will assist in the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS/STD's and TB by 2017 ✓ To improve demographic database on population and development by Dec. 2017
6.	Transparent and Accountable Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To institute and strengthen the capacity of Zonal Councils by Dec. 2017 ✓ To strengthen the capacity of the Assembly in efficient and effective service delivery by 2017 ✓ To improve women's participation in local governance from 30-% in 2013 to 45% by 2017 ✓ To reduce the level of poverty among the vulnerable and excluded by promote income generating opportunities for 350 destitute by June 2017

1.4 Accessibility of Data and Challenges

The Annual Composite Progress Report is prepared collaboratively with the various decentralized departments in the municipality. The Planning Unit serves as the technical wing of the Assembly provided technical support as well as co-ordinate the collation and harmonization of data for the preparation of the report.

Before the preparation of ACPR, templates of the performance indicators of the various departments were designed and sent to them to fill for easy harmonization of document by the planning unit. After the report had be fully prepared by the planning unit, MPCU meeting was organized to disseminate the information in the report for members critique and finalization of the Report to the Regional Co-ordinating Council (RCC) and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC).

1.5 Challenges encountered in the Preparation of the Annual Composite Progress Report, 2014

The following problems were encountered in preparing the Annual Composite Progress Report (ACPR 2014).

- ❖ Late submission and non-submission of report by the Decentralised Departments delays the harmonization and the progress of the ACPR
- ❖ Inadequate and unreliable data from sectors of the departments which needed validation
- ❖ Inadequate logistical support for the MPCU to prepare the report

1.6 Lessons learnt in the Implementation of the First Phase of the MTDP (2014-2017)

- ✓ A major shortfall of the plan preparation is the overdependence on external funding for plan implementation. For this reason, the Assembly would put in more strategies to improve its Internally Generated Revenue (IGF) in other to supplement external funding inflow. In this regard the Municipality has used part of its Capacity Support Grant under the Urban Development Grant to prepare Revenue Enhancement Plan and provide software for billing and collection system to improve its revenue generation

- ✓ Also, the Assembly has comparative advantage in Property rates collection it would intensified its collection widening the tax net to include all un-assessed properties in the 101 communities within the Municipality and also capture a lot of the informal sector economic activities
- ✓ Since the lack of a comprehensive database affected plan development previously, the Assembly is extracting its part from the Municipal data from the Regional Census data as the district data had not yet been released by the Ghana Statistical Service
- ✓ Unlike before, the Assembly would organize bi-annual periodic review of the Development Plan spearheaded by the MPCU and the heads of decentralized departments, with the support of other stakeholders. This will enhance efforts at streamlining the implementation processes.
- ✓ Beneficiary participation and involvement in the implementation of projects and programmes, especially at the community level, will be championed. The preparation of this MTDP has therefore given due credence to the contributions from the grassroots level and same standard would be upheld during implementation
- ✓ Finally, with the introduction of the DDF and the Urban Development Grant (UDG) based on performance, the Assembly would put in more effort to pass the FOAT Assessment to enable it qualify for the funding for its development purposes. Effort would be made to meet deadlines

1.7 Status of Implementation of the MTDP in 2014

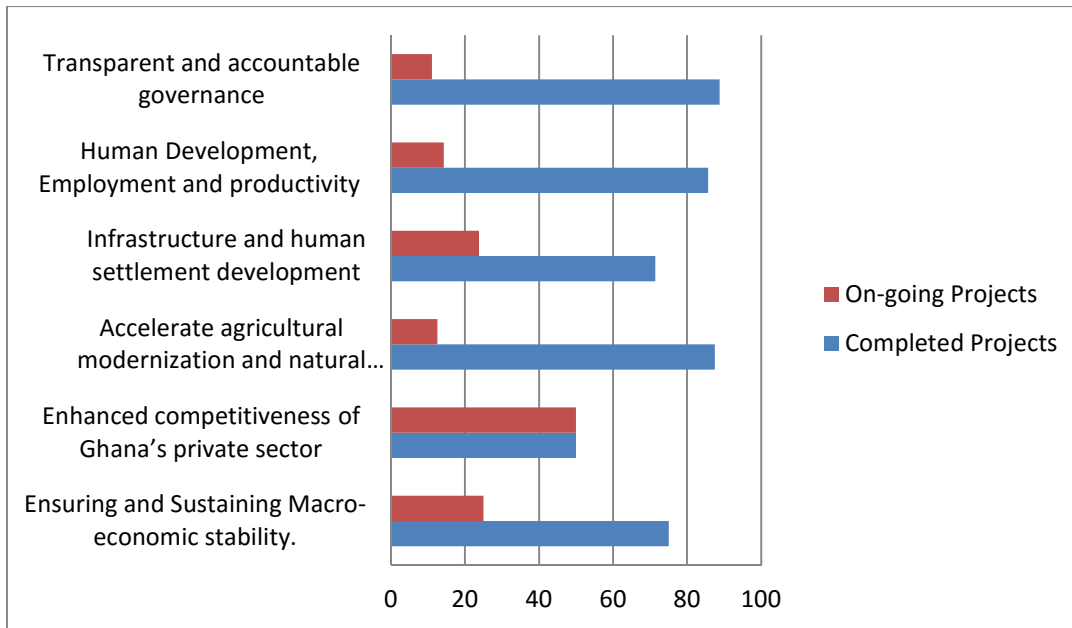
The Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017) entered its first phase of implementation. There is a policy framework supporting the preparation of the Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017). A draft of the Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017) has been prepared and forwarded to the Regional Co-ordinating Council. The fourth year plan implementation would follow the strategic direction through laying the foundation for accelerated growth through industrialization, especially manufacturing, based on modernized agriculture and sustainable exploitation of Minerals in the Municipality.

In this regard , the 2014 budget of the Assembly and other expenditure were prioritized in favour of policies programmes, projects and interventions within the seven thematic areas of the MTDPF. Within this context, the thematic areas of the MTDPF were followed in the Action Plan for 2014. The sectorial implementation of the programmes and projects from the Annual Composite Action Plan in 2014, were as follows. Below is the data on the performance of programmes and projects in the 2014 Annual Composite Action Plan.

Table 2: Statistical Summary of the Annual Composite Action Plan, 2014 in the Thematic Areas

N/S	THEMATIC AREA	Total Number of Projects in the ACAP	Completed Projects	%	On-going Projects	%
01	Ensuring and Sustaining Macro-economic stability.	4	3	75	1	25
02	Enhanced competitiveness of Ghana's private sector	2	1	50	1	50
03	Accelerate agricultural modernization and natural resource management.	8	7	87.5	1	12.5
04	Infrastructure and human settlement development	21	15	71.4	5	23.8
05	Human Development, Employment and productivity	28	24	85.7	4	14.3
06	Transparent and accountable governance	27	24	88.8	3	11.1
Total		90	74		16	

Figure 1: Summary of Progress in the Annual Composite Action Plan 2014



CHAPTER TWO

MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES REPORT

2.1 Introduction

The Monitoring and Evaluation activities report discussed the implementation of programmes and projects outlined in the Annual Action Plan (2014) curved out of the first phase of the Implementation of the Medium Term development Plan (2014-2017).

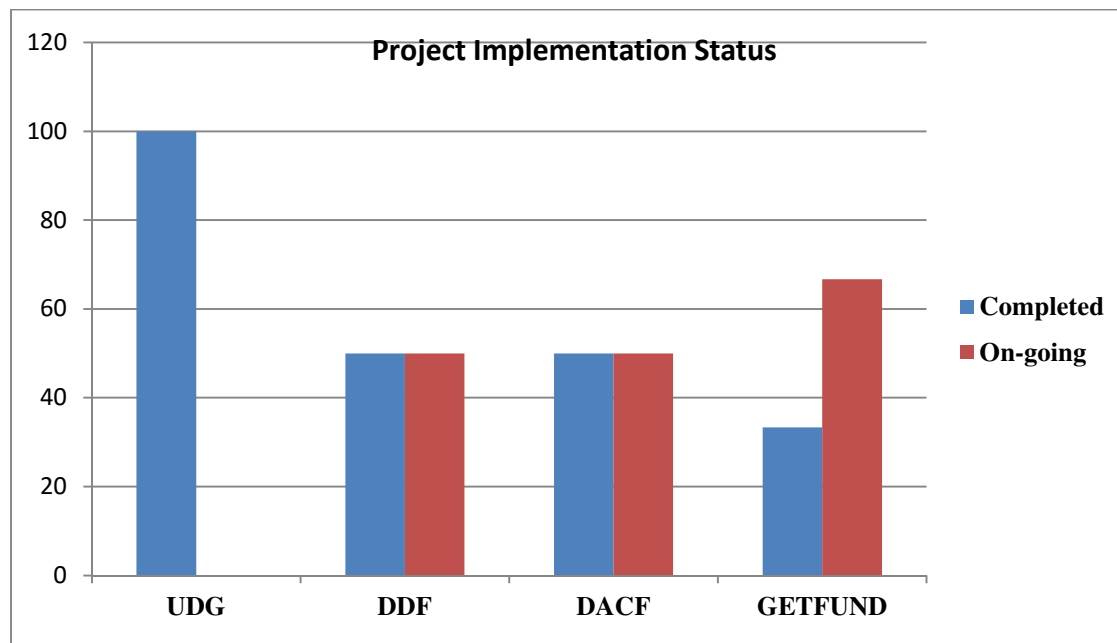
2.2 Programme and Projects Status for the year 2014

The Municipal Assembly was able to implement about 82.3% of the programmes and projects in the 2014 Annual Action Plan. The remaining 17.7% are on-going programmes and projects which are offloaded to the 2015 Annual Action Plan for implementation.

Most of the on-going projects were those financed under the DACF in which fund- flow was slow and again GETFUND projects where payments were not made on scheduled.

With regard to DDF and UDG projects as a result of the prompt release and payment of funds almost all the projects were completed on schedule. This shows that the timely release of funds affect project implementation.

Figure 2: Level of Project of Implementation



Funding sources	UDG	DDF	DACF	GETFUND
Completed	100	50	50	33.3
On-going	-	50	50	66.7

From the above analysis, one could find that as a result of the prompt release and payment of project funds to contractors under the UDG has been very good, while on the part of DDF and DACF status of completion and on-going projects were firmly because most of the projects under them are completed and on-going as compare to GETFUND projects where fund flow is erratic and unreliable.

2.3 Municipal Finances for the year 2014

2.3.1 Disbursement from Funding Sources

The Assembly has two major sources of revenue for its programmes and projects .These are:

- ✓ Internally Generated Funds (IGF)
- ✓ External Inflows

Sources of Internally Generated Funds for the Assembly are;

- ✓ Rates
- ✓ Lands Revenue
- ✓ Fees and Fines
- ✓ Licenses
- ✓ Rent
- ✓ Investment income
- ✓ Miscellaneous

External Inflow

- ✓ District Assembly Common Fund
- ✓ HIPC
- ✓ GOG Grants (GETFUND, MP's Fund etc)
- ✓ Development Partners Grant (World Bank, UDG)
- ✓ District Development Fund (DDF)

Table 3: Sources of Funds for the Municipal Assembly 2014

FUND SOURCE	2014 (GHC)
DACF	755,610.96
IGF	571,408.61
HIPC FUNDS	50,000.00
GOG GRANTS	1,878,351.58
MP COMMON FUND	108,207.33

Source: Municipal Finance Office (December, 2014)

*GOG Grant represent amount released to BMA

Table 4: Actual Receipts of Sources of Funds

COMMON FUND		INTERNALLY GENERATED		DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OTHERS	
Approved Budget	Actual Receipt	Estimates	Actual Receipt	Actual Receipt	Actual Receipt
117,898.23	108,207.33	568,556.88	571,408.61	4,408,478.61	2,184,601.33

Source: Municipal Finance Office, 2014

2.4 Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2014

Table 8 above IGF collected for the calendar year exceeded the budgeted figure by 2,851.73, therefore the Assembly improved on revenue collection in the municipality.

Table 5: Revenue Performance for 2014

Revenue Source	Approved Budget Estimates for the Year 2014 Gh¢	Cum. Actual as at 31 st December Gh¢	Percentage Achieved
Rates	128,569.63	165,602.50	128.80
Grants/Subventions	7,940,787.30	6,286,129.35	79.16
Lands and Royalties	104,500.00	77,313.70	73.98
Fees/ Fines/Penalties	134,397.00	141,745.60	105.47
Licenses	105,984.00	78,336.31	73.91
Rents	94,108.25	108,280.50	115.06
Miscellaneous (unspecified receipts)	1,000.00	128.00	12.8
Total	8,509,346.18	6,857,535.96	

Source: Municipal Finance Office, 2014

From Table 9 above the Assembly was able to achieve more than half of each item except miscellaneous (unspecified receipts) which was below 50%. therefore the assembly did very well in revenue mobilization.

Table 6: Expenditure Performance at the end of year

Expenditure Areas	Approved Budget Estimates for the Year 2014 Gh¢	Cum. Actual as at 31 st December Gh¢	Percentage Expended
Compensation of Employees	1,878,352.00	3,222,130.35	171.54
Goods and Services	798,704.00	709,022.54	88.77
Utilities	367,717.00	17,084.04	4.65
Rentals	7,000.00	7,209.00	102.99
Travel – Transport	161,205.00	200,527.85	124.39
Repairs – Maintenance	77,827.00	378,755.30	486.66
Training – Seminars – Conf.	172,462.05	127,149.73	73.73
Special Services	174,116.50	80,000.00	45.95
Other Charges	158,420.13	194,659.36	122.89
Grants	-	-	
Social Benefits	5,000.00	-	
Other Expenses/Miscellaneous	567,420.13	378,766.04	66.75
Fixed Assets (Non-Financial Assets)	3,909,640.50	1,583,825.75	40.51
Total		6,981,135.43	

Source: Municipal Finance Office, 2014

Table 7: Summary of Revenue and Expenditure for 2014

Item	Amount GH¢
Total Revenue 2013	GH¢6,857,537.76
Total Expenditure 2013	GH¢6,981,135.43
Total Revenue-Total Expenditure	GH¢-12,3597.47

Source: Municipal Finance Office, 2014

From Table 11 above expenditure exceeded the revenue of the Assembly by 123,597.47. The Assembly spent more than it received for the calendar year.

2.4.1 Analysis of Fund flow to the Municipality for the year 2014

The Municipality received a number of development funds from the Government of Ghana for programmes and projects implementation. The Assembly received funding in the form of District Assembly Common Funds, for the implementation of its programmes and projects. However, one major limitation of this particular source of funding is the delays and inconsistencies in the amount released, which affects the budgetary system and implementation of planned interventions.

The inability of the Municipal Assembly to implement most of its programmes is partly attributed to deductions and non-releases of the DACF on time the above data shows the DACF budgeted and the actual amount released. The effect of non-performance in project implementation could affect its score on the FOAT assessment as percentage of work done on the annual plan is often below the number of planned interventions.

2.4.2 Efforts to generate more Revenue

On the IGF, even though available statistics on the IGF was not available, the Assembly was not able to generate enough revenue from the trial balance to meet its recurrent expenditure let alone get additional funds for capital projects. Improving the collection of IGF would involve the following measures:

- ✓ Widening the revenue base to bring in more revenue items which were not covered previously
- ✓ Engaging more commission revenue collectors to work in communities where there are no collectors
- ✓ Continued and sustained its tax education to widen the tax net in the informal sector

- ✓ Formation of revenue mobilization innovation team or /revenue task force to improve the IGF
- ✓ Motivating hard-working collectors and supervisors to improve the IGF
- ✓ Improving the data base of the Municipality, which include the enumeration of the ratable population and the preparation of valuation list of all properties?
- ✓ Re-valuing our properties to know the actual property rates to be paid by landlords, as the property rate forms the chunk of the IGF.
- ✓ Ceding certain revenue items to the Zonal councils for collection.

The DDF has now become a reliable source of funding for the for MMDAS and efforts should always be made to pass the assessment so as to enable the Assembly get additional funds for programme and project implementation.

Again the sourcing of funds for development through Municipal Bond concept will be in the right direction to provide adequate finances to the Assembly for its developmental purposes.

2.4.3 Challenges with Regard to Disbursement

- ✓ Inadequate funding for programmes and projects
- ✓ Delays in the release of funds which affect project implementation.
- ✓ The inability to capture funds from GOG paid direct to beneficiaries without records to the Assembly.(GETFUND etc)
- ✓ Poor Records keeping in the Municipal Assembly's which affects the extraction of information for report writing
- ✓ Unnecessary deductions from the DACF without the Assembly's approval of the said transactions

2.5 Update of Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators and Targets

Assessment of the performance indicators for 2014 based on the Ghana shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA); 2014-2017 looked at the thematic areas and their performance.

2.6 THEMATIC AREA 1 – ENSURING AND SUSTAINING MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY

2.6.1 Revenue Mobilization

The internally generated revenue (IGF) of the Assembly continues to show some remarkable improvement even though there is still room for improvement. Some of the strategies adopted to achieve collection rate of the IGF were the measures taken in the annual action plan on improving revenue mobilization. Among these are

- ✓ Organization of workshops to update the skills of revenue collectors to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness in revenue collection
- ✓ The existence of a revenue data which guides the revenue collectors in collecting the rates. It has also given a realistic data base in the preparation of the fee-fixing.
- ✓ Formation of a task force and effective operation of the task force in revenue collection
- ✓ Incentive packages for collectors who meet their targets
- ✓ Provision of bicycles to revenue collectors in remote part of the Municipality

2.7 THEMATIC AREA 2 - ENHANCED COMPETITIVENESS OF GHANA'S PRIVATE SECTOR

The Municipality attaches much importance to the enhanced competitiveness of the Private Sector, as it would assist in creating jobs, increase wealth and also improve its revenue base of the Assembly. The establishment of the Denyase Industrial Centre at Denyase to train artisans and provide entrepreneurial skills for artisans is seriously on course. The Municipal Assembly and some development partners such as GTZ continue to create enabling environment for private sector participation. In this regard, they give support to the centre in training of the Artisans to improve their skills. An environmentalist had been invited to partner the Assembly to see how best the Assembly could recycle its waste materials in the centre. The Business Advisory Centre (BAC) continues to provide entrepreneurial skills to the youth and entrepreneurs in the Municipality. The Rural Technology Facility (RTF) is also producing basic industrial machines such as gari processors, palm oil extraction machines to add value to the agricultural produce in the Municipality.

A total of fifty-seven (57) different groups and associations such as tailors, seamstress, hairdressers and other artisans were strengthened to update their skills. All these activities create private sector jobs and increase value addition to our agricultural produce. The Municipal Assembly has also provided electricity to the site for its expansion whilst the Assembly provided the labour cost for the project amounting to GH¢12,000.00. Again, 40 MSE were educated and sensitized on MSE operators on safety and work hazards.

The Assembly is also looking forward for sustainable partnership between the Assembly and the private sector for the development of its natural resources such as gold, clay and agriculture value addition to create employment, wealth which will in the long run assist in increasing the Assembly's revenue, for further infrastructural development.

Other Avenues the Assembly could help the Private Sector are:

- ✓ Provision of information on business opportunities in the Municipality. In this wise, the Business Advisory Centre (BAC) is in a position to help in this direction.
- ✓ Development of employable skills among the youth through training in the vocational and technical schools.
- ✓ Create enabling environment to attract the private sector participation in tourism development.
- ✓ Improve the registration of businesses and provide tax rebate for new entrant businesses.
- ✓ Improve its Tourism potentials such as the Development of the Kokofu-Anyinam, birth place of King Osei-Tutu 1

2.8 THEMATIC AREA 3 - ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.8.3.1 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Food and Agriculture is mandated to implement government policies, programmes and projects related to agriculture at the national to local level. The policy objective is to ensure sustainable and accelerated modernization of agriculture in the Municipality by increasing the agricultural productivity and output to support industry and provide stable income for farmers. The Municipality agriculture is in the area of livestock, food crops and cash crops farming, fisheries and forestry.

2.8.3.2 Operational Areas and Zones

The municipality has been sub-divided into four zones and eleven operational areas. The zones are Bekwai zone; which is divided into Bekwai and Amoamo operational areas. The Anwiankwanta zone also comprises of Adjamesu, Ofoase-kokoben, Poano and Anwiankwanta operational areas. The Ehwiren zone has two operational areas which are Ehwiren and Edwinase and finally Kokofu zone has three operational areas which are Bogyawe, Kokofu and Abodom.

2.8.3.4 Agro-Climatic Conditions and External Forces of the Period

2.8.3.4 Weather

The weather has been wet in most periods of the year with some dry periods as well. Rainfall distribution and pattern have been much favourable for most crops. The rains were mostly heavy with some showers as well. This supported the production of most crops including maize, vegetables, plantain resulting in increased yield. Fodder for farm animals also became abundant. Comparatively the year under review registered favourable rainfall than the year 2013.

Table 8: Shows the measurement of rainfall (mm)

	2013	2014
Rainfall (mm)	998	1148
Rain days	85	94

Sources: MOFA, 2014

2.8.3.5 FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Food was readily available at the markets but the prices of most food items significantly increased compared with that of 2013 season. Below is a table comparing the average prices of selected food items for the years 2013 and 2014.

Table 9: Average Wholesale Food Price of Major Commodities

COMMODITY	Average Price (Nominal GHc)		
	Annual – 2013	Annual - 2014	Percentage Difference
Maize (100 kg)	110	150	136%
Local Rice (100 kg)	215	310	238%
Millet (93 kg)			#DIV/0!
Sorghum (109 kg)			#DIV/0!
Cowpea (109 kg)	210	300	143%
Groundnut (82 kg)	170	340	200%
Yam (250 kg)	380	400	105%
Cocoyam (91 kg)			#DIV/0!
Cassava (91 kg)	40	20	50%
Plantain (9-11 kg)	10	10	100%
Tomatoes (52 kg)	70	150	214%
Smoked Herrings (100 singles)	26	26	100%

External forces impacting on agriculture performance

On top of the list is the high costs of agro inputs coupled with drastic fuel price increases have led to reduction in land area under cultivation by about 15%. The year also registered the occurrence of strong wind which destroyed crops particularly plantain.

2.8.3.6 Funding

The cost Centre did receive two quarter funds for our operations.

2.8.3.7 Planned Activities and Implementation Efficiency

Fourteen activities were planned for implementation during the period and about forty percent was executed, this was due to unavailability of adequate funds.

2.8.3.9 Staff and Farmer Training

Six training programmes were organized for twenty-nine (29) members of staff and two hundred and fifty (250) farmers during the period under review. The areas covered included: pest and disease control in citrus, data collection and report writing, cassava processing, livestock production and management, taro production and post-harvest management of vegetable crops.

2.8.3.9 Veterinary Activities

The veterinary office conducted surveillance in the municipality to combat any possible disease situation.

2.8.3.10 Vaccinations and prophylactic treatments of food animals and pets

Two hundred and thirty-four (234) piglets were treated against iron deficiency using iron injection. Thousand three hundred and twenty-eight (1328) sheep, seven hundred and fifty-two (752) goats and One Hundred and Thirty-Six (136) dogs were vaccinated against PPR, CBBR and Rabies respectively.

2.8.3.11 Disease situation

No livestock and crops epidemic were reported during the period but mange, ecto- and endo-parasites continue to cause slight havoc in the livestock business.

2.8.3.12 Agriculture Extension Performance during the Period

The period under review saw average performance in agricultural activities. Major activity carried out during the period was on prevention and control of bush fires. Three seventy - two (312 farm and home visits was conducted.

2.8.3.13 30TH NATIONAL FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION

The 30th Municipal Farmers Day Celebration was successfully organized at Subriso-Kokotro under the theme “Grow what we eat”. For the first time the Best Municipal Farmer as part of his award received a motor tricycle valued at around Four Thousand Ghana Cedis. Prizes were awarded to twenty distinguished farmers. Cutlasses were awarded as consolation prizes.

2.8.4 CHALLENGES CONFRONTED BY THE DEPARTMENT

The department of Agriculture was confronted with the following challenges during the implementation of planned activities during the period under review;

2.8.5 Staffing

The staff strength at the department is not encouraging. This vast municipality is being manned by only ten field staff, which hampers progress of work. Each AEA mans a minimum of about fifteen towns/villages which is far beyond standard and this does not enhance effective extension work. Besides, the veterinary office is in dying need of staff; only two officers are at post to man this vast municipality. At least ten (10) more field staff are urgently needed. The office also lacks the services of cleaners.

2.8.4.2 Funding

The activities of the department are much dependent on the availability of funds. Late release of funds also affects us negatively owing to the seasonal nature of our activities.

2.9.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The office will like to make the following recommendation for consideration;

2.85.1 Early and adequate releases of funds

The office wishes to appeal to the authorities to release funds intended for the department to be released as early as possible since agriculture is time bound. Late release of funds delays the implementation of planned activities and sometimes the activities cannot be carried into another

season. E.g. If money meant for major maize cultivation comes at the end of June, when the season is over, the money could not be used for the purpose it was intended.

2.8.5.4 Increase in the mileage allowance to staff

As stated above, the cost of transport and living standard had risen to the level that the money is nothing to write home about.

2.8.5.5 Recruitment of more staff

We recommend that at least ten (10) more staff be recruited for the office to augment the shortage so that effective extension work could be done in the municipality.

2.9 THEMATIC AREA 4: INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

ROADS

The Municipality Medium Term objective on the road sector is to improve the road network from 60% to 85% by the Dec 2014. The objective of 2014 was to complete the on-going projects to open up the rural areas and make it possible to improve the road network leading to solving the problem of post-harvest losses. In 2014, the graveling of Mrs Lamptey road phase II was completed, also the construction of culverts and u-drain at Broase was completed and finally paving of Bekwai Lorry Park at has been completed under the road sector.

2.9.1 Challenges

Some of the challenges facing the road sector include the following:

- ✓ Poor transportation network and services in some part of the Municipality namely Bekwai- kokotro-Dotom road
- ✓ Pre-mature deterioration of the feeder roads due to extensive use by the sand and stone trucks.
- ✓ Poor Feeder road network resulting in poor accessibility, especially to the rural and inaccessible areas.

- ✓ High Public expectation of better roads as the government continues to make infrastructure provision its priority
- ✓ Impassable bridge linking the Dotom community and the surrounding villages.

2.9.2 Way Forward

- ✓ In the 2014, a number of roads such as the Bekwai-Kokotro-Dotom feeder road and the bridge need to be rehabilitated.
- ✓ The reshaping of the Kokofu-Asamang road network to open-up the area for development.

2.9.3 ENERGY

The energy coverage in the Municipality is about 94%. A lot of communities are hooked to the National grid. However a few communities have not yet been connected to the electricity. These communities are as follows: Feyiase, Dwumakro, Nerebehi, Wioso, Ntoraku, Anyinam, Aboakrom, Abenkyim.

Another problem with the supply of energy is that the newly developed areas in the communities within the Municipality have no access to electricity which is seriously affecting local economic activities. The issue of urban sprawl is taken untold hardship in the Municipality. Areas such as Bekwai new towns, Dominase, Adjemasu, Senfi, Ofaose-Kokoben are the new areas people are buying land for residential accommodation. All these new sites do not have electricity and efforts should be made to get the new sites connected to electricity. Improved electricity supply would promote access to the private sector to improve their economic opportunities. In this regards, 40no. Electric poles have been supplied in different location in the Municipality.

2.9.4 TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES (ICT)

The telecommunication services continue to see much improvement as almost all the telecommunication services have their antennae in the Municipality. In most part of Municipality various mast for Vodafone Tigo, MTN, Airtel have been installed to provide effective and efficient service. Business could therefore be done easily using the

telecommunication networks in the Municipality. The increase in their activities is providing revenue to the Assembly. Despite the improvement in this sub-sector not much has been done in establishing access to internet which is very important in this modern technological World. Private sector participation in the opening of internet access in the big towns are being welcomed to investors in this sector to improve the ICT service. Again, the promotion of ICT facilities in school through the provision of computers to pupils should be extended to the Municipality.

2.9.5 WATER AND SANITATION

The objective of the water and sanitation sub-sector is to eradicate water borne diseases and improve environmental cleanliness. Bekwai Municipal Assembly's Medium Term Development Plan for 2010 – 2013 indicates potable water coverage of Seventy-two Per cent (72%) However, to potable water supply in the urban areas is higher than the rural areas.

From 2010 to September 2014 the Assembly through the District Development Fund (DDF) and the Urban Development Grant (UDG) has constructed twenty (20) new boreholes and rehabilitated forty (40) boreholes in selected communities. Again, contract was awarded to rehabilitate twenty- two (22) boreholes in the municipality.

The Assembly has awarded also contract for the mechanization two (2) boreholes at Asamang it is hoped that the completion of these projects would increase potable water coverage from 72% to 85%.

2.9.5 .1 Challenges

- The major challenge facing the Assembly in the provision of water to communities is the inability of WATSANS to operate and manage the facilities due to the non-functioning of the WATSANS.
- Another challenge is the inability of the people to pay for the water they fetch. This has resulted in failure of communities to repair the boreholes when they breakdown or carry out maintenance services.

To remedy the situation, the Municipal Water & Sanitation Team of the Assembly has drawn an itinerary to visit communities and re-organize the WATSANS.

2.9.5 .2 Sanitation

It is estimated that about 60% of the populace on the Municipality have access to improved sanitation facility. However, a greater number of the populations rely on public place of convenience in the urban areas.

In the urban areas the Assembly has privatized the management of public toilets however the people complain of the poor conditions of the public toilets. Thus, compelling people to resort to indiscriminate defecations with its attendant health hazards.

To remedy the situation, the Environmental Health Unit conducted regular inspection of public toilets and submitted monthly report to management for action.

Managers of Public toilets who failed to discharge their responsibilities effectively have been warned to improve conditions of the toilet is have their contracts terminated.

The Assembly has handed over sites for the construction of two (2) No. 12 Seater Public toilets at Asokwa-Tunsum and Ofoase-Kokoben to the contractors. Currently, Asokwa-Tunsum construction is on-going whiles Ofoase-Kokoben project has been completed and it's yet to be handed over to the populace.

With respect to Solid Waste Management the Assemblies in collaboration twenty-nine (29) with Zoomlion Ghana Ltd evacuated refuse dumps in selected communities measures have been put in place to ensure periodic fumigation of refuse dump sites, desilt choked gutters and drains. Finally, the Assembly is collaborating with Assembly members, Chiefs, Churches, Youth Groups and other Civil Society organizations observed the national sanitation day.

2.10 THEMATIC AREA 5 - HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

2.10.1 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

As part of this report, the capacity of the department needs to be analysed. This will enable the department to bring forth the best with respect to the activities undertaken within the year. The Strength and Opportunities of the department reflects the internal and external positive factors that will enhance the smooth running of the department respectively whiles Weakness and Threats describe the internal and external negative factors that would hinder effective delivery of activities respectively.

The Town and Country Planning Department perform the following with respect to physical development in the Municipality.

They are;

1. Formulation of long-term comprehensive plans to direct and guide physical development
2. Preparation of land use maps to guide spatial development communities in the municipality. This is done through revision of planning schemes, re-zoning, subdivision and rectification of planning scheme.
3. Managing and controlling development. This role is carried through the statutory planning committee and through effective liaison between land agencies such as lands commission, EPA and the various lands related agencies.
4. Promotion of development is by organizing programmes to sensitize the general public on development and planning regulations and also creating the awareness through workshops and seminars on the land use principles and the effect of unauthorized development.

At the end of the year 2014 the following activities were undertaken by the Town and Country Planning Department.

Table 10: Activities Undertaken during end of the year, 2014

No.	Activity	Location	Status
1.	Preparing planning schemes for some communities. Ankaase, Denyase and Boaman	Ankaase, Denyase and Boaman	On-going
2.	Revision and updating and extension of planning schemes: Adjameju, Ofoase Kokoben Anwiakwanta and Asanso	Ofoase Kokoben, Adjameju, Kokoben Anwiakwanta and Asanso	On-going
3.	Planning education for the general public	Selected communities	On-going
4.	QGIS training workshops on the 2 nd face of the land administration project (LAP)	Bekwai	On-going
5.	Holding planning committee meetings	Two (2) meetings held at Bekwai	On-going
	Inspection	Municipal wide	On-going

	Acceptance and processing of development applications for the statutory planning committee meetings	Municipal wide	On-going
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Source: MT&CD, 2014

Table 11: Achievements within the year, 2014

N/S	INSTITUTION	TARGET/OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED OUTPUT	ACTUAL RESULTS
1.	The Town and Country Planning Department	To prepare planning schemes for three communities.	Planning schemes Denyase,Boaman and Ankaase prepared	Denyase,Boaman and Ankaase on-going
		To revise, update of planning schemes four communities	planning schemes: Adjemesu, Asanso, Ofoase-Kokoben, and Anwiankwanta revised and updated	on-going
2.	The Town and Country Planning Department	To educate the populace on planning issues	Seven (7) communities in the Municipality educated on planning issues	None of the communities got education on planning issues due to lack of funds
		To ensure regular and effective statutory planning committee meetings	Quarterly meetings held to received and process application	The SPC meetings held in March, June and December, 2014. Forty-six development applications were received for approval.

Source: MT&CD, 2014

2.10.2 Challenges

The Town and Country Department UPS confronted the following challenges during the fourth quarter, 2014

1. Inadequate base maps and the available ones are outmoded and need to be updated
2. Inadequate training and refreshers courses to upgrade the skills of staff to be abreast with current themes and techniques for both planning professionals and technical staff
3. Lack of enforcement of planning laws and regulations
4. Inadequate logistic supply and obsolete equipment for preparing planning schemes.

2.10.3 Street Naming and Property Addressing Project

2.10.4.1 The Street Naming and Property Addressing System (SNPAS) Project

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly in compliance with the Presidential Directive to all Metropolitans, Municipal and District Assemblies to implement the Street Naming and Property Addressing System Project within Eighteen (18) months has executed the following;

2.10.4.2 Procurement of Equipment

The Assembly has taken delivery of the following;

1. Three (3) Desktop Computers, Monitors and Accessories
2. Three (3) Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and Accessories
3. One (1) Laptop Computer and Accessories
4. One (1) Colour Laser Printer and Accessories
5. One (1) Black and White Laser Printer and Accessories
6. Two (2) GPS Receivers and Accessories
7. One (1) Photocopiers and Accessories
8. Three (3) MS Office Software (Latest Version)

Payment for the items was effected from the District Development Facility (DDF) at a total of GH¢33,451.96.

2.10.4.3 Funding for the Project

The Assembly has received GH¢123, 000.00 from the Capacity Support Fund for UDG-2 which has been earmarked for the project. Part of the fund has been utilized to undertake the following;

1. Orientation/Sensitization of Chiefs, Assembly members and the General Public through Radio discussions, Durbars,

1. Community engagement
2. Procurement of Auto photos
3. Ground Truthing
4. Procurement of Thirty (30) Metal Poles for signage

3.10.4.4 Naming of Streets

Currently, thirteen (13) Streets in Bekwai have been named and work is still on-going.

3.10.4.5 Challenges and mitigation measures

The major challenging factors include the following:

- i. Inadequate staff for the exercise
- ii. Delays in the submission of names by the traditional authority.

2.10.4.6 Social Accountability Project at Adankrangya in the Bekwai Municipality

The Ghana Land Administration Project (LAP 2) is aimed at strengthening and improving systems for efficient and transparent Land Service Delivery countrywide.

The project has established Customary Land Secretariat (CLS's) using supply driven approach in some selected Traditional Councils on pilot basis in the country. In the Bekwai Municipal Assembly, Adankrangya was selected.

The Land Administration Project was conceived and implemented to address the challenges in Land Service delivery.

Key among them includes the following;

- Cumbersome nature of processing documents
- Lack of transparency
- Long turnaround time for the registration of land titles and deeds
- Increased cost and poor service delivery.
- Lack of involvement of key non-state actors (Community members and Civil Society Organizations) in decision making and implementation regarding Land Service Delivery.

The LAP Project is therefore supporting Civil Society Coalition on Land (CICOL) to conduct Social Accountability at Adankrangya with the view to;

1. Correcting some of the challenges in Land Administration.
2. Facilitate a dialogue process in which Community Members and services providers together discuss their impressions on Land Service Delivery.
3. Work together to improve Service Delivery

2.10.4.7 The objectives of Social Accountability, at Adankrangya are;

- Improve transparency, accountabilities and quality of service delivery.
- Build capacity of communities and CICOL to demand and create pressure for better governance on Land Administration at the Local Level.
- Strengthen Community voice and engagement with Customary Land Secretariat (CLS) and Land Sector Agencies (LSA) to improve efficiency and delivery of Land Service
- Increase Land Tenure Securities

The training sessions which took place from 22nd September, 2014 to October 3rd 2014 at Adankrangya and Ejisu, resulted in the participants with the support of the Consultants JOP Consults coming up with a Land Action Plan to improve Administration within Bekwai Municipal Assembly and Ejisu Municipal Assembly.

2.10.5 NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (NADMO)

Seventeen (17) disasters were recorded in the municipality. They were four (4) road accidents, two (2) domestic fires, two (2) industrial fire, one collapse pit and nine (9) rainstorms. A total of eight hundred and forty-nine (849) persons were affected including eleven (11) casualties. The estimated cost of destruction stood at one hundred and seventy-five thousand, six hundred Ghana cedis (175,600.00). The breakdown of persons affected by the various disasters are; 128 male adults, 135 female adults, 206 boys and 215 girls. The 11 death were; 5 males adults, 3 female adults, 1boy and 2 girl.

Table 12: Shows the persons affected by the various disasters

DISASTER TYPE	NUMBER OF PERSON AFFECTED											
	DISPLACED				CASUALTY							
	ADULT		CHN		INJURED				DEAD			
					ADULT		CHN		ADULT		CHN	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Fire	5	6	2	3								
Rain/ windstorm	101	114	197	208								
Collapsed pit									1			
Road accidents					12	10	4	2	2	3	1	1
Total	106	120	199	211	12	10	4	2	3	3	1	1

Source: NADMO, 2014

Table 13: Shows the persons affected by the various disasters

DISASTER TYPE	DESTRUCTION					ESTIMATED COST (C)
	Crops (acre) cocoa	Houses	Bridges	Roads	Others (specify)	
Fire	20	2				Ghc 7500.00
Rain/ windstorm		61			2 schools	Ghc 10,0600
Road accidents				2		
Total		63		2	2	175600.00

Source: NADMO, 2014

2.10.5.1 CHALLENGES

- Inadequate Logistics such computer, printer etc
- No funds for major activities such as anti-bush fire campaign and procurement of relief items for disaster victims
- No official vehicle to operate or perform their functions effectively

2.10.6 SOCIAL SECTOR

In line with the national goals, the Municipality human resource development is aimed at producing knowledgeable well trained and healthy population with the capacity to drive the Assembly and sustain private-sector led growth of the district economy. The broad objective and strategies under this thematic area is to ensure sustained improvement in the quality of life and enhance access to basic social services. The Municipal strategy is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the basic social service in education, health, water and sanitation the vulnerable and excluded in the society.

2.10.7 HEALTH

The objective of the Health Sector is to improve access to Health Care Delivery in the Municipality. Also, to reduce malaria cases of admission and deaths among pregnant women and children fewer than 5 years.

In the area of the health, there has been marked improvement in health delivery. There has been reduction in malaria cases, admissions and deaths among pregnant women and children fewer than 5 years.

Table 13: Statistical data on the Health Sector in the Municipality

N/S	Basic Health Data	Outcome
1.	No. of Health facilities	13
2	No. of outreach sites	105
3.	No. of TBAs	41
4.	No. of CBSVs	75
5.	Nursing Training School (Kokofu)	1

Table 14: Indicates Health Facilities Available in the Municipality

N/S	NAME OF FACILITY	TYPE OF FACILITY
Government		
1.	Bekwai Hospital	Hospital
2.	Kokofu General Hospital	Hospital
3.	Gyasikrom Health Centre	Health Centre
4.	Kensere CHPS Compound	CHPS Compound
CHAG/Mission		
1.	Dominase SDA Hospital	Hospital
2.	Akomaa SDA Hospital	Hospital
1.	Ahmadiyyan Moslim Hospital	Hospital
Private		
2.	Abenkyiman Hospital	Hospital
3.	Amansie Clinic	Clinic
4.	Anidaso Clinic	Clinic
5.	Tenkwaamah Maternity Home	Maternity Home
6.	Ahwene Memorial Clinic	Clinic

From the table, it can be revealed that there are thirteen (13) Health facilities in the municipality.

Out of the total health facilities, four (4) of them are government hospitals, three (3) constituted mission hospitals and finally the remaining six (6) are private hospital and clinics.

2.10.7.1 2014 POPULATION INDICES

Children (0 -11MNTHS, 4%)	-	5,252
Children (0 - 59MNTHS, 20%)	-	26,261
Children (6 - 59MNTHS, 18%)	-	23,635
WOMEN IN THEIR FERTILITY AGE (WIFA-24%)	-	31,513
EXPECTED PREGNANCY, 4%	-	

Table 15: Staff Strength under the Health Sector in the Municipality

CATEGORY	2012	2013	2014
	No.	No.	No.
Director	1	1	1
Medical Officers	17	15	16
Professional Nurses	85	123	134
Health Assistants	103	104	107
Auxiliary Nurses	122	150	162
Midwives	23	40	46
Physician Assistants	15	17	18
Nurse Anesthetist	5	6	6
Support Staff	293	291	301
Rotation Nurses	42	40	52
Casuals	69	72	75
Service Personnel	77	39	41

Source: MHS, 2014

The Table 18 indicates that the Staff Strength under the Health Sector in the Municipality has been increasing from 2012 /2013/ 2014 academic years.

Table 16: Improve Governance, Management and Efficiency in Health Service Management and Delivery

INDICATORS	2012	2013	2014
Doctor population ratio	1:7,323	1:8,523	1:8,207
Nurse Population ratio	1:902	1:563	1:544
Midwife population ratio	1:1299	1:714	685
% of annual budget allocated to item2 and 3 (GOG &SBS) disbursed to BMCs by end of year	0.53%	0.15%	0
Proportion of health budget (Goods and Services) allocated to research activities.	N/A	N/A	N/A

In the area of the human resource there has been a remarkable improvement in population to doctor ratio as against the targeted population from 2012/2013/2014 academic year, represented as 1:7, 323, 1:8,523 and1:8,207 respectively.

Population to nurse ratio decreased from1:902 in 2012, 1:563, in 2013 and 1:544 in 2014 academic years.

2.10.7.2 COMMON HEALTH DISEASES IN THE MUNICIPALITY

The common health conditions in the municipality include;

- ❖ Malaria
- ❖ Skin Diseases and Ulcers
- ❖ URTI
- ❖ Rheumatism & Joint Pain
- ❖ Diarrhoea Disease
- ❖ Acute Urinary Tract Infection
- ❖ Anaemia

- ❖ Intestinal Worms
- ❖ Hypertension
- ❖ Home injuries

Table 17: Shows various forms of Diseases in the Municipality

2012		2013		2014	
DISEASE	NO.	DISEASE	NO.	DISEASE	NO.
Malaria	67,535	Malaria	82,853	Malaria	23,777
Skin Disease	22,159	Skin Disease	20,903	Skin Diseases & Ulcers	21,709
URTI	19,109	URTI	18,933	URTI	17,921
Rheumatism & Joint Pain	9,281	Rheumatism & Joint Pain	9,490	Acute Urinary Tract Infection	9,859
Diarrhoea Disease	9,050	Acute Urinary Tract Infection	7,655	Rheumatism & Joint pains	8,966
Acute Urinary Tract Infection	5,530	Diarrhoea Disease	7,568	Anaemia	6,781
Intestinal Worms	3,299	Anaemia	3,403	Diarrhoea Disease	6,299
Aneamia	2,812	Intestinal Worms	3,283	Intestinal Worms	4,903
Home Injury	2,181	Hypertension	2,662	Hypertension	3,618
Gynecological condition	2,139	Pregnancy Related Complication	2,397	Acute eye Infections	2,225

Table 20 indicates common health diseases in the municipality, the lowest recorded diseases were malaria in the year 2014. this means a lot of education has gone down well with the people in the municipality.

Table 18: Shows Revenue Mobilization in the Municipality (2012-2014)

SOURCE OF INCOME	YEARS		
	2012 GH¢	2013 GH¢	2014 GH¢
IGF	1,389,618.44	2,765,744.23	3,532,705.88
GOG	8,640.57	5,692.40	0
OTHER SOURCES	71,908.00	26,169.52	134,478.03
TOTAL	1,470,167.01	2,797,606.15	3,667,183.91

Respect to the Table 21; there has been a tremendous increased in IGF and other sources of revenue mobilization under the health sector from 2012/2013/2014 academic years. With regards to the GoG the sector did not performed well, its recorded zero in 2014.

Table 19: Revenue Mobilization, IGF

IGF	YEARS		
	2012 GH¢	2013 GH¢	2014 GH¢
INSURED	682,758.54	1,807,532.00	2,360,908.89
NON-INSURED	706,859.90	953,212.23	1,171,796.99
TOTAL	1,389,618.44	2,765,744.23	3532705.88

Table 20: Enhance National Capacity for the Attainment of the Health Related MDGS and Sustain the Gains

INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014
Unmet need for contraception	N/A	N/A	N/A
Couple Year of Protection (CYP) for short term methods	1506.1	829.4	159.4
CYP (Long term)	2,334.0	3,353.0	3.033.0
Family Planning Acceptor rate	29.1	17.1	15.7
Infant Mortality Rate	1.0	1.1	1.0
Institutional Neonatal death rate	1/1,000	2/1,000	4/1,000
Under-5 Mortality rate	12/1,000	46/1,000	12/1,000
Neonatal Mortality rate	1/1,000	2/1,000	4/1,000
Maternal Mortality ratio	198/100,000	205/100,000	103/100,000

Table 21: Shows the indicators of Health Sector

INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014
Institutional Maternal Mortality ratio	198/100,000	205/100,000	103/100,000
HIV prevalence rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Proportion of pregnant women tested for HIV	63.5%	57.5%	68.1%
Proportion of HIV+ pregnant women who received ARVs for PMTCT	54%	100%	92.0%
Proportion of children fully immunized (proxy Penta 3 Coverage)	4013 (80.5%)	3885 (76.0%)	3912 (75.05)
% Children immunized – Penta 3	4013 (80.5%)	3885 (76.0%)	3912 (75.0%)
% Children immunized – OPV3	4021(80.7%)	3882 (75.9%)	3944 (75.1%)
% Children immunized – PCV3	4013 (80.6%)	3901 (76.3%)	3946 (75.1%)
% Children immunized – Measles1	4077 (81.9%)	3594 (70.3%)	3387 (64.1%)
ANC Coverage	98.3%	97.2%	84.6%

In the area of the health, there has been marked improvement in health delivery. There has been reduction in the Institutional Maternal Mortality ratio, and Proportion of children fully immunized improvements.

Figure 3: Proportion of Pregnancies that were among Teenagers (2012-2014)

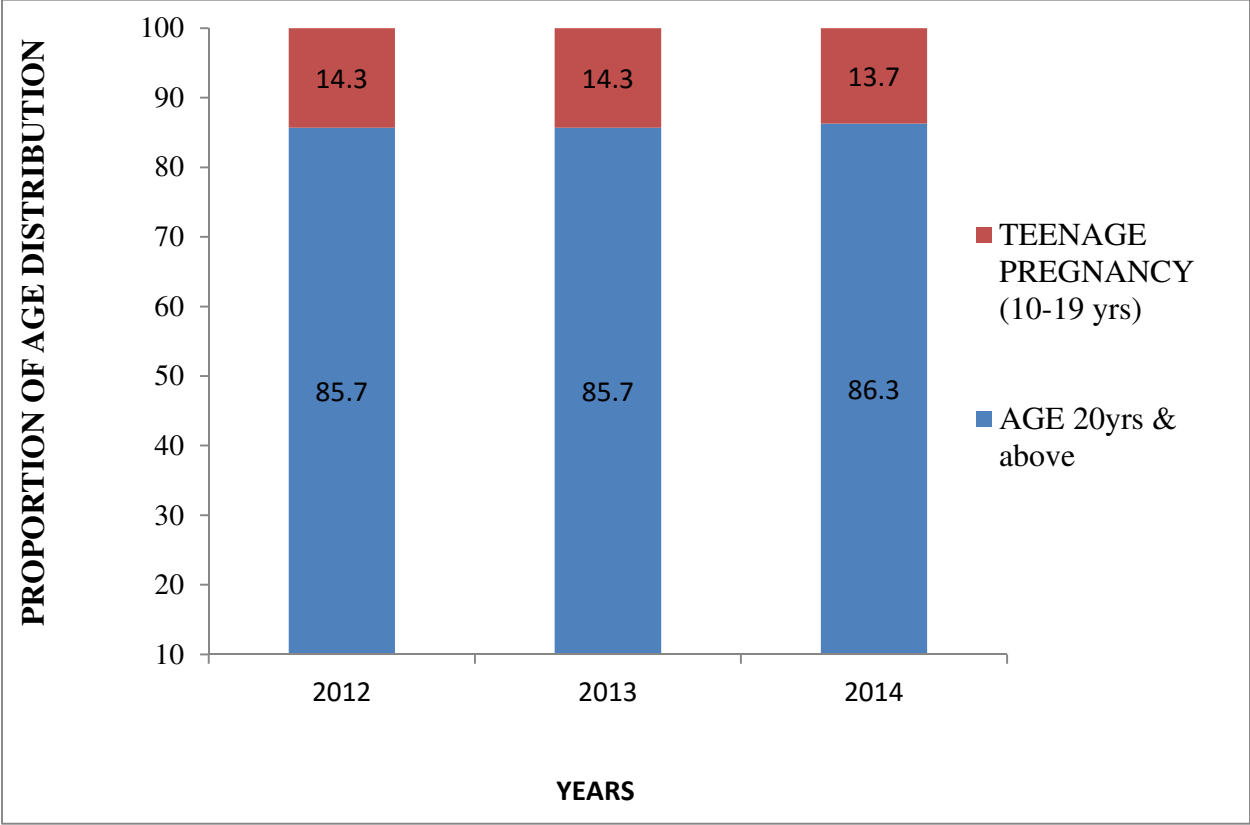


Table 22: indicates various health indicators recorded in 2012/2013/2014 calendar year

INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014
Antenatal Coverage 4+	38.9	66.1%	103.0%
Total Deliveries	3,585	3,791	3,882
TBAs Deliveries	22	102	52
Skilled Deliveries	3,563	3,689	3,830
Proportion of deliveries attended by a trained health worker	99.4%	97.3%	98.7%
Total number of Still birth	123	86	66
Still birth rate	35/1,000	22/1,000	17/1,000
% of facilities offering Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Neonatal Care	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%
Postnatal coverage for newborn babies	4.5%	32.5%	79.3%
Proportion of children under-5 years sleeping under ITN	N/A	N/A	N/A
TB case notification rate	77.4%	89.5%	73.5%
TB treatment success rate	76.3%	84.8%	N/A

Figure 4: PROPORTION OF DELIVERIES IN THE VARIOUS HOSPITALS THAT WERE BY CEASAREAN SECTION (2014)

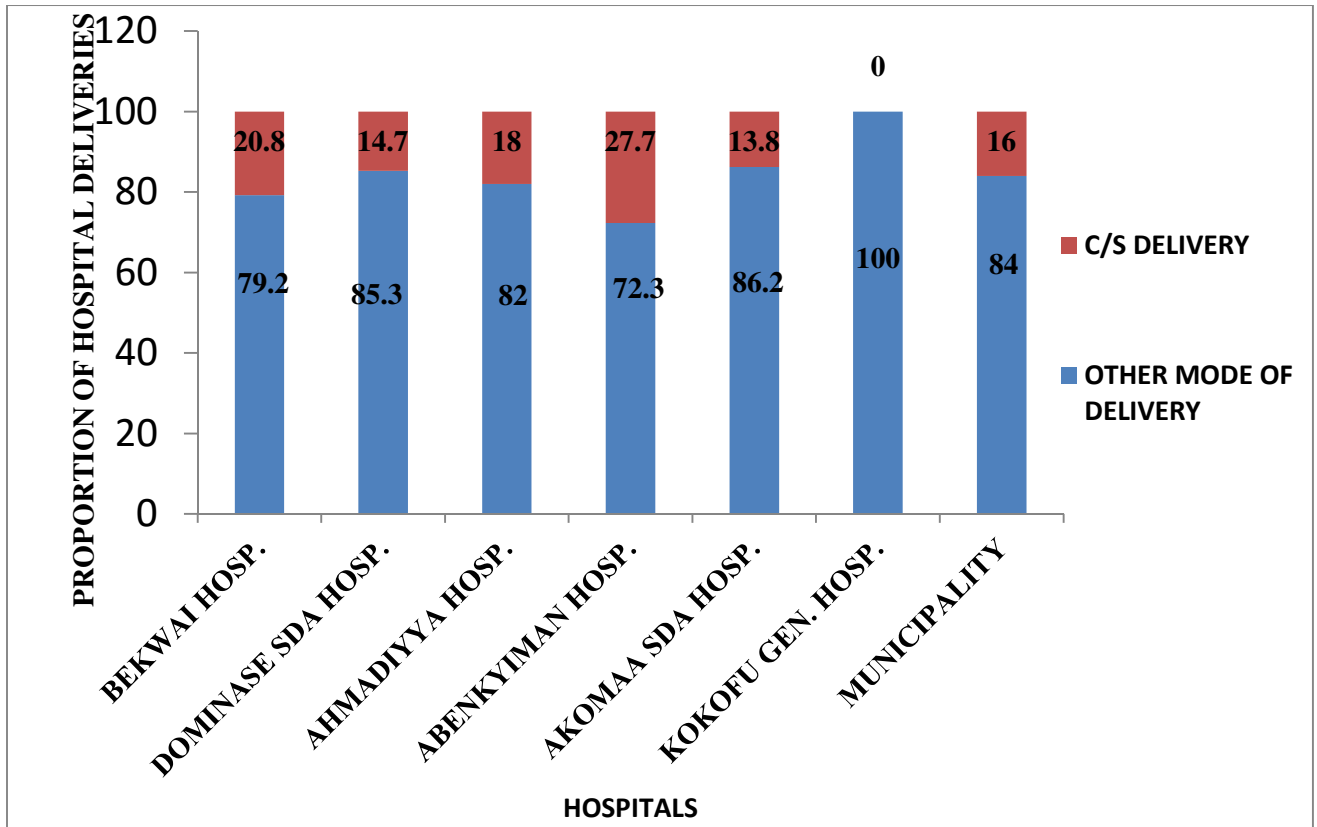


Table 23 : Abortions Performed in the Municipality by Age Category (2012-2014)

AGE OF ABORTION	YEARS		
	2012	2013	2014
10-14 yrs	7	11	14
15-19 yrs	39	48	144
20-24 yrs	71	73	168
25-29 yrs	58	55	118
30-34 yrs	52	62	103
35 yrs & above	32	50	91
Total	259	299	638

Table 24: Intensify Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases

INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014
Non-AFP polio rate	4.4	2.1	0
Guinea worm surveillance system(Contained)	0	0	0
Proportion of OPD attendance under-5 years due to malaria	46.8	53.8	18.9
Proportion of OPD 5 years and above due to malaria	7.3	12.5	7.1
Obesity in population (women aged 15-49 years)	0	0	0

Figure 5 : Trend in Hypertension, Diabetes, and Sickle Cell Diseases (2012-2014)

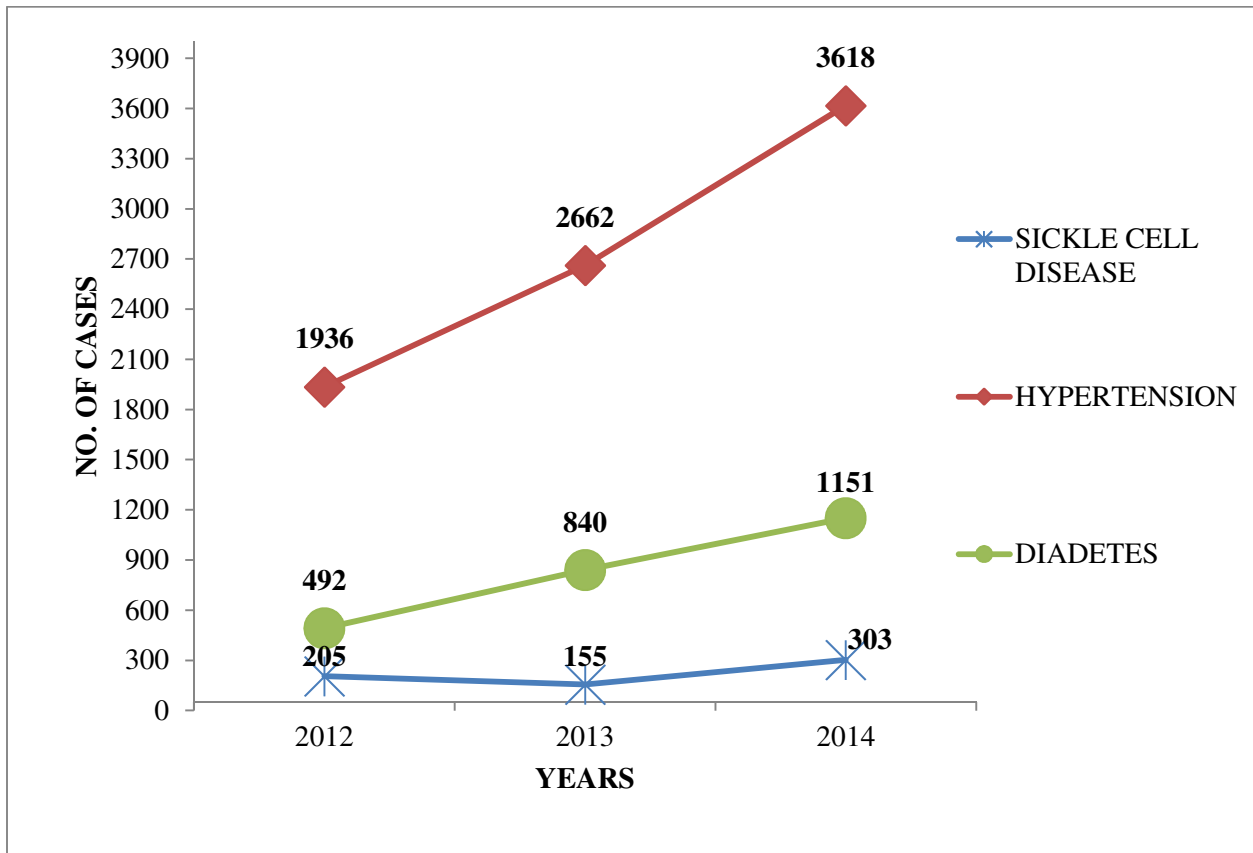


Figure 6: Number of Surgeries Conducted by Hospitals in the Municipality, 2014

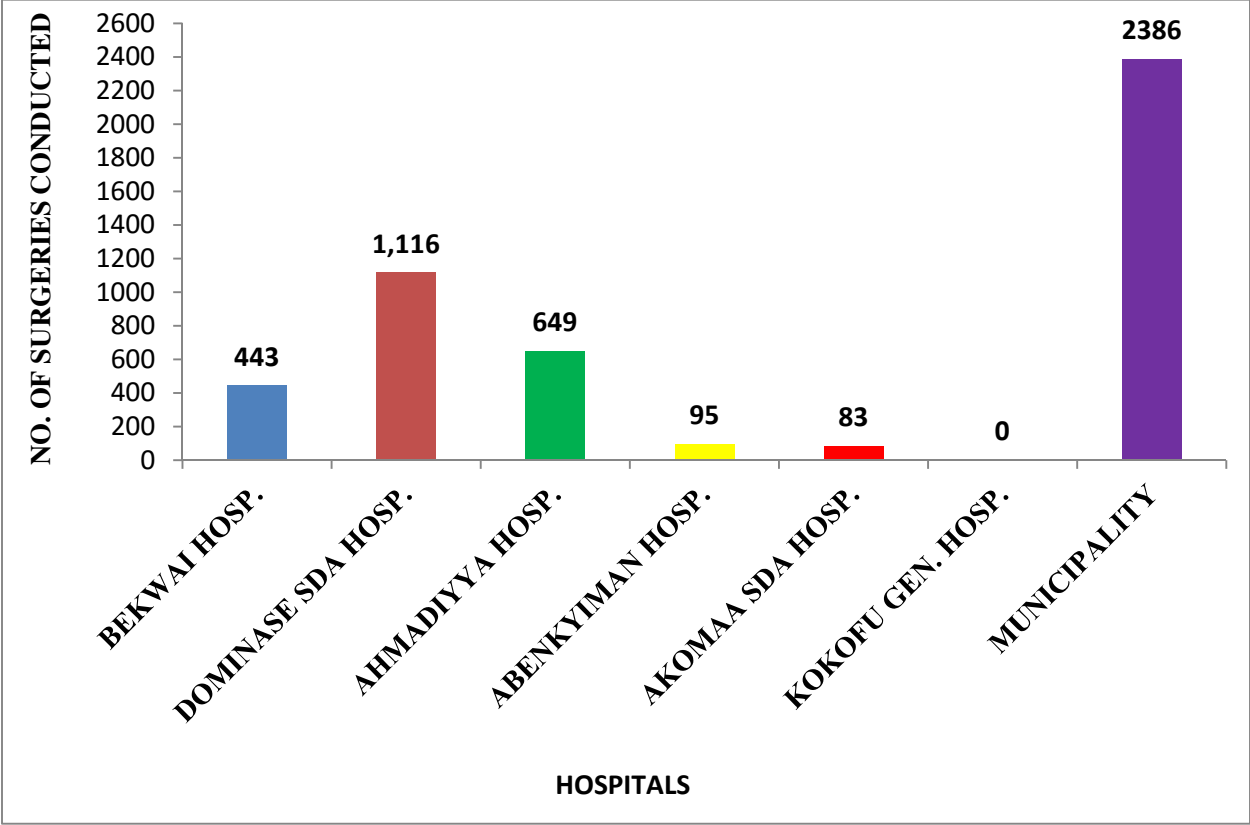
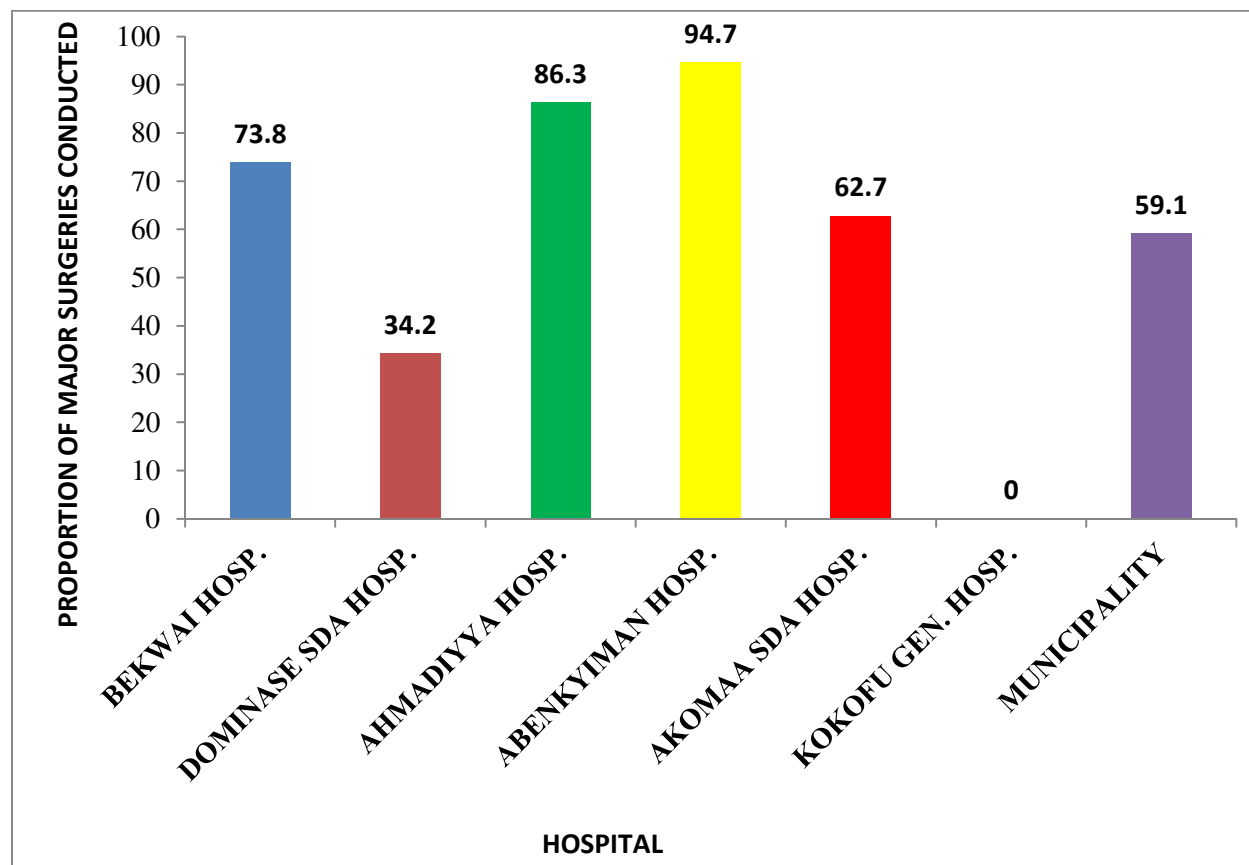


Figure 7 : Proportion of Surgeries Conducted by Hospital that were major, 2014



2.10.7.3 NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

- Number of children underweight-268 (7.6%)
- Number of children stunted-176 (5.0%)
- None of the children was Obese.
- Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in the Municipality are as follows:
 - ✓ No. of Kwashiorkor - 11
 - ✓ No of Marasmus - 30

2.10.7.4 MAIN PRIORITIES BEGINNING 2014

1. Intensify health education and promotion.
2. Partner Env. Health /Zoomlion and Assembly to address sanitation issues.
3. Lobby MDAs, MP and Philanthropist for financial support for health activities.

Despite of these marked improvement, the Municipal Health Service is saddled with the following challenges

2.10.7.5KEY CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THEM

- Inadequate funds for public health activities.
- ❖ Lobbied GHS facilities in the Municipality for financial support.
- Poor sanitary condition in the Municipality.
- ❖ Lobbied Environmental health through Assembly to organize Clean-up exercises in the Municipality.
- Inadequate logistics to support CHPS implementation.
- ❖ Lobbied Assembly to furnished Kensere CHPS compound
- Broken down motorbikes (10/16).
- ❖ The directorate ensured regular maintenance of the motorbike

2.10.7.6WAYFORWARD-2014

- ❖ Lobby Municipal Assembly and communities to provide structures for use as facilities.
- ❖ Dialogue NHIS to identify means to minimize claim rejection.
- ❖ Discuss with Sub-Municipality Health Management Team on importance of timely submission of reports.
- ❖ Discussions on going with Bekwai Municipal Hospital for installation of IT connectivity for the Directorate.
- ❖ Build capacity (Human & Equipments) of facilities to enhance the preparedness for EmONC Services.
- ❖ Appeal to individuals, organization, and facilities for support to equip Health Promotion Unit.
- ❖ Motivate CBSVs and other Community Volunteers to give their best

Appeal facilities, Municipal Assembly, and Communities to support the activities of the Directorate.

2.10.8 EDUCATION

The major objective of education is to increase access to educational infrastructure.

The Education Directorate continued to play its Monitoring and Supervising role to ensure quality education in the Municipality.

Table 25: Staffing at the Public Schools

Level	Teaching Staff at Post		No. of Trained	No. of Untrained	Total
	Male	Female			
KG	29	322	162	189	351
Primary	405	284	515	174	689
JHS	480	164	516	128	644
SHS	266	94	302	58	360
Total	1,180	864	1,495	549	2,044

From Table 3 out of a total of 2,044 teachers in the Municipality 549 representing 27% are untrained. The critical issue is the number of untrained teachers at the basic level (ie KG and Primary). The total number of teachers at the basic level is 1,684 out of this number 491 representing 29.16% are untrained. Measures must therefore be put in place to ensure that those trained teachers are deployed to teach at the basic level to help the pupils grasp the fundamentals of education. More teaching aids should be provided for teaching at the basic level.

2.10.8.1 Staff Strength in Private Schools

Table 26: Staff Strength of Private Schools as at December, 2014

Level	Staff at Post		No. trained	No. untrained	Total
	Male	Female			
KG	13	21	0	34	34
Primary	84	23	4	103	107
JHS	69	8	12	65	77
SHS	32	1	28	5	33
Total	198	53	44	207	251

Source: GES Bekwai, December, 2014

Out of a total of 251 teachers in the private schools only 44 representing 18% have been trained.

A significant feature is that pupils in private schools with a lot of the untrained teachers perform better than pupils in public schools. This is due to the fact that parents who have their wards in private schools ensure that their wards are provided with the necessary learning materials. In addition to this, management of private schools ensures strict monitoring and supervision and appropriate sanctions meted out erring teachers.

2.10.8.2 Enrolment in Public Schools

Table 27: Enrolment in Public Schools in the Municipality

Level	No. of Schools	Enrolment		Total
		Male	Female	
KG	84	3,883	3,915	7,798
Primary	86	8,642	8103	16,745

JHS	66	3,930	3559	7,489
SHS	6	3,210	2911	6,121
Total	242	19,665	18,488	38153

Source: GES Bekwai, December, 2014

Out of a total of 38153 public schools enrolment 18,488 of them was female representing 49% while 19,665 constituted male representing 52%.

Table 28: Enrolment in Private Schools in the Municipality

Level	No. of Schools	Enrolment		Total
		Male	Female	
KG	18	719	695	1414
Primary	18	2,043	2,050	4093
JHS	13	493	559	1,052
SHS	2	197	198	395
Total	51	3,452	3,502	6,954

Source: GES Bekwai, December, 2014

Out of a total of 6,954 private schools enrolment 3,502 of them were female representing 50% while 3,452 constituted male representing 49.6%.

The department also equipped some school girl child coordinators with knowledge in handling girls in both primary and JHS in the Municipality.

As part of the government effort to eliminate schools under trees, a Monitoring Team from the Assembly conducted a reconnaissance survey to the various schools identified as Schools under Trees. The Monitoring exercise was conducted on Thursday, 11th December 2014.

Table 6 illustrates the schools under trees and the structure needed to address the problem.

Table 29: Schools under Trees

S/N	Name of School	Location	Structure in Demand
1	Dotom M/A primary	Dotom	6-unit classroom block nit classroom block
2	Adumasa M/A primary	Adumasa	6-unit classroom block
3	Edwinase M/A primary	Edwinase	6-unit classroom block
4	Sebedie T.I. Ahmadiyya primary	Sebedie	6-unit classroom block
5	Gyasikrom M/A primary	Gyasikrom	6-unit classroom block
6	Bodoma primary	Bodoma	6-unit classroom block
7	Ankaase M/A primary	Ankaase	6-unit classroom block

Source: GES, 2014

Table 7 shows schools with dilapidated structure which pose a threat to the pupils the three (3) communities.

Table 30: Schools in Dilapidated Structures

S/N	Name of School	Location	Structure in Demand
1	Essankwanta M/A primary	Essankwanta	6-unit classroom block
2	Kokotro J.H.S	Kokotro	3-unit classroom block
3	Kensere Methodist primary	Kensere	6-unit classroom block

Source: GES, 2014

Schools under trees as well as dilapidated structures have contributed gravely to low school participation rate. Also, pupils who go to school either close early in other to avoid the vagaries of the weather.

The Assembly has submitted a report to central government for action. Measures have been put in place by the Assembly to rehabilitate schools and construct new ones as part of the Assembly's MTDP 2014-2017.

2.11 THEMATIC AREA 6 - TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

2.11.1 The focus of this thematic area in the district is:

- ✓ Deepen democracy
- ✓ Improve the security
- ✓ Improve the sub-structure activities

2.11.2 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICE

The objective of the department is to educate the populace on fire prevention and fight where they occur. During this fourth quarter the department, carried out following activities.

Seven (7) incidents occurred in the Municipal wide. Table 12 .shows the type of tire location items destroyed and the causes of the fire outbreaks.

Table 31: Fire Outbreak October-December, 2014

TYPE OF INCIDENT FIRE	LOCATION	ITEM DAMAGED	SUPPOSE CAUSE
Domestic fire	Huntado	Personal belongings	-
Domestic fire	Nampansa	Cooking utensils & wooden structure	-
Commercial fire	Denyase	Welding machine, double decker fridge and car battery	Overheated welding machine came into contact with car battery
Domestic fire	Bekwai & Huntado	Personal belongings	naked fire came into contact with foam mattress
Commercial fire	Bekwai market	Effective cables	Electrical fault due to overheated stabilizer

Source: MFS, Bekwai, 2014

2.11.3 CRIME SITUATION DURING THE QUARTER

The main objective of the district crime office is to assist in reducing a number of criminal activities or occurrence within the municipality.

The District Crime Department delivered their Quarterly achievement as follow;

1. Total number of stealing recorded in the Municipality	-	Ninety-nine (99)
2. Total number of murder recorded	-	One (1)
3. Causing harm	-	Nine (9)
4. Threat of harm	-	Five (5)
5. Use of off weapon	-	One (1)
6. Causing damage	-	Fourteen (14)
7. Number of fraud case recorded	-	Twenty-eight (28)
8. Number of rape cases found	-	One (1)
9. Number of assaults cases	-	Ninety-two (92)
10. Number of timber cases	-	Three (3)

2.11.4 DECENTRALIZATION

Strengthening and deepening the decentralization process in Ghana continue to remain a major focus of the government reform agenda aimed at bringing governance to the doorsteps of the people. The Municipal Assembly is also spearheading the decentralization process by improving the sub-structures.

The introduction of the Functional Organizational Assessment Tool (FOAT) aimed at assessing the performance of MMDCEs will give meaning to the decentralization process as Assembly's would now perform functions as enshrined in the decentralization documents. The Municipal Assembly in 2013 passed the FOAT assessment.

2.11.5 SUB-STRUCTURE ACTIVITIES

In 2014, the Assembly focused on the functioning of the sub-structure and their operations as it would give more meaning to the decentralization process. Their operations forms part of the assessment of the Assembly and so their operations could provide more funds to the Assembly if they are fully operational. A two (2)-day capacity building workshop was also organized for the eight (8) Zonal Councils as well as the Unit Committee members on “Role and Responsibilities” of the Zonal council in the Decentralized system. The training was done by JEAVCO ASSOCIATES LTD.

Table 32: Data on Municipal Assembly and Sub-Structures for 2014

NO	DISTRICT INDICATORS	TYPE	DISTRICT		ACHIEVEMENT 2013
			BASELINE 2010	TARGET 2013	
01	MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY				
	Number of women participating at various levels of the Assembly:	Input			22
	Nos of Zonal Councils in the Municipality	Input		8	8
	Number of Functional Area Councils	Input	4	8	8
	Number of completed community Initiated projects	Output			
	Existence of a District Needs Assessment and Improvement report	Output		Yes	Yes
	Nos of Electoral Areas in the Municipality				34
	No. of unit committee members				170
	No. of Assembly members				50

Source: Bekwai Municipal Assembly, 2014

2.11.6 SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Department of Social Welfare and Community Development aims at integrating the disadvantaged, the vulnerable and the excluded into the main stream of development in the municipality.

The following are the three core programmes of the Department of Social Welfare:

- a. Child Rights and Protection

- b. Community care
- c. Justice Administration

2.11.6.1 Child Rights and Protection

At the end of the year, 2014, the department conducted monitoring exercise in the following Day Care Centre / Early Childhood Development Centre. They are Victory International Day Care, Osei-Tutu International Day Care, Milli-Isaac International Day Care, Central International Day care and 31st December International Day Care.

2.11.6.2 Statistics on Enrolment of Children at Day Care Centre / Early Childhood Development Centre

2.11.6.3 Victory International School

The total enrolment of children in Victory International School constitutes One Hundred and Thirty-Five (135), out of the total enrolment sixty-five and seventy (70) males and females respectively.

Table 33: Victory International School

SEX	ENROLMENT
Male	65
Female	70
Total Number of Children	135

Source: *SWCD, 2014*

2.11.6.4 Osei Tutu International DCC

The total enrolment of children in Osei Tutu International School constitutes Forty-three (43), out of the total enrolment twenty-two (22) and twenty-one (21) males and females respectively.

Table 34: Enrolment for Osei Tutu International DCC

SEX	ENROLMENT
Male	22
Female	21
Total Number of Children	43

Source: *SWCD, 2014*

2.11.6.5 Central International DCC

The total enrolment of children in Central International DCC constitutes One hundred (100), out of the total enrolment fifty-seven (57) and forty-three (43) males and females respectively.

Table 35: Enrolment for Central International DCC

SEX	ENROLMENT
Male	57
Female	43
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN	100

Source, SWCD, 2014

2.11.6.6 Milli-Isaac International DCC

The total enrolment of children in Milli-Isaac International DCC constitutes One hundred and sixty-nine (169), out of the total enrolment one hundred and eleven (111) and fifty-eight (58) males and females respectively.

Table 36: Enrolment for Milli-Isaac International DCC

SEX	ENROLMENT
Male	111
Female	58
Total Number of Children	169

Source: SWCD, 2014

The monitoring team observed that there were overcrowding, improper menu chart and inadequate toys for the children to play with for their mental development.

The authorities have been asked to improve conditions in the schools or face sanctions from the department.

2.11.6.7 Amoaful Technical / Vocational Institute

Table 37: Organizational details:

NO.	PARTICULARS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	Total number of staff on pay roll	11	5	16
2.	Total number of staff at post	14	7	21
3.	Existing vacancies	6	8	14
TOTAL		31	20	51

Source: ATVI, 2014

The institute at the end of 2014, recorded a total number of staff on pay roll as 16 representing 31.4 %, also total number of staff at post 21 representing 41.2% and finally, existing vacancies was recorded 14 representing 27.5%.

2.11.6.8 COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME

The department registered two NGOs namely, Filth Free Ghana Foundation for Child Vision, and Self-help Association were registered. The department did its regular monitoring and supervision to all the NGOs, CBOs and Self-Help Associations.

The following welfare service hospital were visited; Bekwai Municipal Hospital and Dominase SDA hospital. Services rendered to patients at the hospitals include, counseling, writing recommendations to the hospital bills, assisting in transporting patients to their hometown, over one hundred persons benefitted from these services.

2.11.6.9 Registration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDS)

2.11.6.10 DISABILITY

The municipal social welfare officer and disability fund management met the co-ordinating Director to discuss on monitoring activity to those who have benefitted from the fund.

2.11.6.11 REGISTERED PWDS

During the year under the review, 157 persons with disability were identified and registered. See the table below for details.

Table 38: PWDS

TYPE OF DISABILITY	AGE RANGE	SEX		TOTAL
		Males	Females	
Physically challenge	10 - 76	23	23	46
Visually impaired	20 – 78	22	22	44
Difficulty hearing and speaking	12 – 57	35	21	56
Others	10+	5	6	11
TOTAL				157

2.11.6.12 Assistance to PWDS

The Department assisted a total number of eight-one (81) persons with disabilities to benefit from the Municipal Disability Fund to support their education, medical bills and income generating plans.

The federation of the disable in the Municipality was educated about the disability management fund guidelines by the Department in conjunction with the Assembly.

The Municipal Social Welfare officer and the disability fund management committee met the Municipal coordinating director to discuss on the monitoring activities to those who have benefited from the fund.

Table 11: showing persons with disabilities benefited from the disability fund of the District Assembly Common Fund

Table 39: beneficiaries of PWDs from Disability fund

MALE	FEMALE	MEDICAL	EDUCATION	SELF SUPPORT	INCOME GENERATION	TOTAL
17	12	6	8	5	10	29

2.11.6.13 Support to Persons Unit with Disability

The twenty-nine (29) persons with disabilities benefited from the disability fund of the District Assembly Common Fund during this final quarter. They received monies ranging from GH¢150 - GH¢ 400 per person based on the purpose of their application. The table gives a vivid description about the twenty-nine (29) person with disability.

2.11.7 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Community Development Unit conducted eight (8) mass meetings; these were organized at Kensere, Pampaso, Biribiwomang, Edwinase, Dwumakro, Boagyawe, Dotom and Akyeremade. A total of Eight Hundred Fifty (850) people attended the meeting. Five hundred (500) were males and the remaining three hundred and fifty (350) were female. Topics treated were care and maintenance of potable water, bush fire prevention, awareness creation on cholera and Ebola, provision of modern place of convenience, self-help projects.

No new home science group was formed during the quarter because of financial constraints but the old groups were supervised by the women group.

The unit in collaboration with Ghana Education Service embarked on an education drive for increased enrolment in the school.

2.11.7.1 Challenges/ Constraints

The challenges that were encountered during this fourth quarter are;

1. Lack of means of Transport.

2. Dilapidated and insufficient office furniture for use by officers and clients.
3. Lack of fund during this quarter to embark on the project.

One (1) day Workshop was organized by CEDEP (Centre for Development of People) an NGO on Mental Health for MMDAs and some stakeholders in the Ashanti Region. Mental Health Bill has been passed by the Government of Ghana, and the main objective of the Bill was to enable People Living with Mental Illness and Epilepsy access their Basic Right and Needs in Ghana. Secondly, the Government of Ghana requires all the MMDAs to integrate Mental Health issues into their Development Plans as they normally do it for the People Living within Disability.

2.11.8 Promoting Social Accountability at the Municipal Level Holding Member of Parliament Accountable for their Promises

The Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD- Ghana), an NGO in collaboration with Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) organized a one day Public Forum at Broadway Bekwai, on 29th September, 2014.

During the run-up to the 2012 Parliamentary Elections, Hon Joe Osei-Owusu, Member of Parliament of Bekwai Constituency, then a candidate, at a platform mounted by CDD-Ghana at Bekwai made promises to the electorates when elected as Member of Parliament.

To hold him accountable for his promises CDD-Ghana with support from CODEO and OSIWA invited a cross section of the populace to a public forum. They were;

- Assembly members of Bekwai Municipal Assembly
- Representative of Bekwai Traditional Council
- Representatives of People Living with Disability
- Staff of Bekwai Municipal Assembly
- Heads of Departments
- Representatives of Market Women, Trades Associations
- Youth Groups

The following were the promises made by the Member of Parliament

- 1) Build Schools in the constituency especially at Wawase

- 2) Use part of his share of the MP's Common Fund to provide boreholes for communities without water
- 3) Strengthen the Mass Cocoa Spraying Exercise
- 4) Embark on afforestation programme to protect the Oda River
- 5) Ensure the full implementation of the Disability Act
- 6) Lobby NGO's and Corporate bodies within the constituencies to provide water facilities as part of their corporate

Social Responsibility

- 7) Assist in expanding school infrastructure
- 8) Support the Oppong Memorial School with 300 bags of cement for school infrastructure

The Member of Parliament in his response listed the number of projects he has executed in addition to fulfilling the promises made. Some of the programmes and projects executed are:

1. Provision of Financial Support to students to further their education.
2. Construction of boreholes with pump at Wawase, Atuogyabi, clinic at Gyasikrom, clinic at Subriso and Koniyaw
3. Supporting the Mass Cocoa Spraying Exercise
4. Supported the Municipal Health Directorate with a Generator and hospital equipment
5. Supported financially to organize vacation class for pupils and students in the municipality
6. Lobbied the Ministry of Energy for the extension of electricity to communities without power.
7. Supported the Oppong Memorial School with 300 bags of cement for school infrastructure

The participants recommended that similar open fora on Social Accountability should be organized by the Assembly at the Zonal Council levels to enable the people be abreast with the executions of Programmes and Projects and the challenges faced.

2.11.9 National Health Insurance Scheme

The National Health Insurance scheme has made dramatic strides in addressing the health needs of the people since its inception 2006. As at December 2014 a total number of 31,757 clients were registered (which includes Formal, Informal Adults, Children, Aged, Indigents and

Pregnant Women) and total amount of GH¢ 3,907,366.06 has been submitted as claims, since the inception of the scheme. The total claims paid was GH¢ 2,987,525.20 and indebtedness stood at GH¢1,244,491.14 as at December, 2014.

Details of the operation of the scheme in the Bekwai Municipality since its inception are captured in the tables below:

Table 40 Claims as at December 2014

ITEM	Amount GH¢
Total Attendance (2014)	163,606.00
Total claims submitted	3,697,595.69
Total claims paid	2,032,566.27
Indebtedness (As at December)	1,638,977.28
Total Attendance till December 2014	1,458,140.00

Source: NHIS Office, December 2014

Table 41 New Membership Registrations and Renewal For 2014

Month	Informal	SSNIT Contributors	Pen	Indigent	Child <18	70 Years And Above	Pregnant Women	Grand Total
Jan	639	34	0	7	1,015	88	167	1,950
Feb	165	7	0	1	422	14	75	684
Mar	179	15	0	5	352	30	104	685
Apr	247	34	0	8	417	48	121	875
May	368	41	0	7	670	80	61	1227
Jun	557	68	0	5	736	90	92	1548
Jul	337	47	0	2	382	104	129	1,001
Aug	164	24	2	79	354	17	94	734

Sep	333	27	0	26	703	36	89	1,214
Oct	192	11	0	82	374	19	73	751
Nov	278	23	1	900	683	33	139	2,057
Dec	352	16	1	882	829	38	176	2,294
Total	3,811	347	4	2,004	6,937	597	1320	15,020

Source: NHIS Office, December 2014

Table 42 Financial in-flows 2014

Month	Premium collection	Processing fees collected (New) GHC	Processing fees collected (Renewal) GHC	Claims Reimbursements GHC	Administrative Support GHC
Jan	14,028	6,898	8,226	326,862.01	-
Feb	7638	2966	5,712	302,193.75	12,000
Mar	10,308	3708	5931	334,22.32	
Apr	13,285	3841	7608	296,751.76	-
May	11,821	3372	6,878	326,460.86	
Jun	13454	5519	2834	271,912.1	12,000
Jul	7218	2406	5564	307,553.75	-
Aug	10944	2276	9182	0	12,000.00
Sep	12100	2822	8257	320,630.63	-
Oct	12,204	2,822	9398	315,3335.05	-
Nov	13730	4072	9592	351701.3	12,000.00
Dec	13,428	4,516	9128	400,331.01	-

Source: NHIS Office, December 2014

Table 43 2014 Claims Details

Months	Total Attendance (2014)	Claims submitted	Total claims paid	Indebtedness (As at December)
Jan	16,724	339,398.60	334,478.15	-
Feb	14,577	307,553.75	303,531.10	-
Mar	16763	349,374.83	341,497.07	-
Apr	17,174	338,543.28	336,029.41	-
May	18,373	361,742.55	359,134.11	-
Jun	16431	362,005.40	357,896.43	
Jul	12,111	311,389.37	-	311,389.37
Aug	12218	312,945.08	-	312,945.08
Sept	10,589	294,591.35	-	294,591.35
Oct	13377	338,458.48	-	338,458.48
Nov	11078	292,849.59	-	292,849.59
Dec	4191	88,743.41	-	88,743.41
Totals	163,606	3,697,595.69	2,032,566.27	1,638,977.28

Source: NHIS Office, December 2013

Towards the mid of 2011, the NHIS introduced the capitation concept, as a pilot programme, in the Ashanti Region. This system required that each person registered under the scheme, to choose a preferred a health service provided, for the treatment of OPD cases. Though the scheme has embarked on vigorous campaign to educate the people on the capitation system, its implementation brought with it series of challenges between health service providers (especially the private providers) their clients and the secretariat of the scheme. Some of the challenges of the capitation experience in the Municipality are:

- ❖ Health providers turning away some patients simple because their facilities has not been chosen by the patients as their preferred provider;
- ❖ Challenges regarding the filling systems at the health facilities and the difficulties of having to register again under the capitation system;

- ❖ Difficulties in referral cases, from one hospital to another; among others.

Though the Scheme has done a lot to unravel these difficulties, the problems faced daily are real and persistent, to the extent that some people are calling for the annulment of the newly introduced Capitation System.

2.11.10 SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

The decentralized nature of the Ghana School Feeding Programme requires the involvement of local actors in the implementation. The mainline actors are the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the Ghana School Feeding Programme Secretariat, District Assemblies, School Implementation Committees (SICs) and Caterers/Matrons.

The Ghana School Feeding Programme which was introduced in 2006 is an initiative of the comprehensive Africa agricultural development programme which seeks to enhance food security and reduce hunger in line with the UN Millennium Development goals (MDGs) on hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

The basic concept of the programme is to provide children in public primary schools and kindergartens with one hot nutritious meal, prepared from locally grown food stuffs, on every school going day.

2.11.11.1 Objectives

The programme seeks to;

1. Increase school enrolment, attendance and retention
2. Reduce short term hunger and malnutrition amongst kindergarten and primary school children
3. Boost domestic food production

2.11.12 Central Government Transfers to GSFP

A total of GHC 629,576.50 was transferred from Ministry of Local Government and Road Development (MLGRD) for thirty-three (33) school days of the first term in respect of 2013/2014 academic year to the Assembly. Out of seven thousand, four hundred and eighty-four (7,484) beneficiary schools under the programme three thousand, one hundred and eighty-three (3,183) were males and four thousand, three hundred and one (4,301) were female. In all, nineteen beneficiary schools fall under the school feeding programme.

Presently, the Ghana School Feeding Programme has employed nineteen (19) caterers and seventy-six (76) cooks in the Municipality.

2.11.12.1 Challenges on School Feeding Programme

- I. Late release of funds: The caterers use their own funds to feed the pupils and later are reimbursed by the school feeding secretariat after one or two months. It therefore puts a lot of financial stress on the caterers.
- II. Monitoring visits conducted in circuits where non-beneficiary schools are located close to beneficiary schools indicated, that pupil in non-beneficiary schools migrate to beneficiary schools.
- III. Increase in enrolment has resulted in financial burden on the caterers who expend funds which have been allocated based on the approved numbers by the National Secretariat to feed all pupils. This affects the quality and quantity of food.
- IV. Lack of effective collaboration between Heads of beneficiary schools and caterers which hinders the programme.

2.11.12.2 Way forward

- a) The National School Feeding Secretariat should upwardly review the cost of grant per child from 0.40 pesewas to 0.60 pesewas to ensure the improvement of the quality and quantity of food served. This would help minimize malnutrition of pupils in the rural communities.
- b) Routine training programmes in hygiene, nutrition and environmental cleanliness should be organized for caterers to enable them conform to standards set by the programme Secretariat. This would improve the nutritional health of the pupils.

- c) The Assembly should resource the Municipal Implementation Committee to intensify its monitoring and supervisory roles.

2.11.13 Gender Responsive skills and Development

According to the Municipal Education Directorate, Most of the BECE graduates are not able to further their education to either Secondary or Vocational/Technical School especially the female students. This problem arose due to the poverty situation in some parts of the Municipality. In other curb the situation the Municipal Assembly in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Protection has introduced a programme called Gender Responsive Skills and Development Project that would help the brilliant but less privilege students especially females to undertake non-traditional professional courses. This would one way or the other would help them in their living and therefore reduce poverty.

2.11.14 GENDER ISSUES

As mentioned elsewhere, in the traditional family set up men are the family heads. Inheritance is maternal among the dominant Asante population in the municipal area. This is regardless of the fact that more than 40.2% of household Heads are women according to the 2000 Census. This is due to the fact that most of the males have migrated to the urban areas to seek greener pastures. Women and the girl child are responsible for housekeeping and management. Most women and adolescent females are engaged in commerce (petty trading and hawking). Men on the other hand control economic resources in the family as they tend to inherit family properties (land and buildings) and thereby control productive and economic resources of the extended family. The typical extended family will in most cases pawn the family jewel to support the male to better his lot (especially finance his education or travel abroad to seek greener pastures).

While there is no gender biases in granting access to available basic public services and institutions, credit and information, the traditional set up has put females at the disadvantaged. An example is in the case of rural water management where there has in the last decade been a deliberate national policy to encourage women to play key roles in the management of rural

water facilities yet men still dominate the management bodies in all communities in the municipal area.

Men and women work on the farms side by side but they perform different agriculture tasks. Women are mostly concerned with the exploitation of the environment linked to household chores and farming on new farms for food crop production. Their complaints concerned principally the scarcity of firewood; the retreat or the drying up of water sources in the dry season; the decreases in availability of medicinal plants and non-timber forest products more generally; the decreased yield of food crops, the short fallow periods; the increase yield of food crops; the short fallow periods; the increasing presence of weeds. Men take care of the clearing and burning of the farm before planting and focus principally on cash crops. They were therefore more concern with decreased yield of cash crops, scarcity of game and fishes as the upkeep of cocoa farms and the provision of protein-rich food is considered their responsibility. Some activities such as the planting of cocoa and food crops on new farms and the cocoa harvest are performed by both sexes.

Even though farms are worked by all members of the household, these normally belong to the household head, normally the man. Women therefore often perform agricultural labour on their husbands' farms while the latter manage the land and the revenues. When working on their husbands' farms women may advice the man but the ultimate decision on farm management (choice of land on which to establish the new farm, choice of crops, selection of trees to fell, clearing method, spacing of cash crops rest on him.

Women therefore have some room to maneuver on their husband's land but the man is seen as the farm manager and the one who should make decisions and maintain ties with the project. Some men had established farms together with their wives and had given part of the plants to the women. This is a common procedure with cocoa farms and was replicated with timber species. After years of marriage and of work on the man's plot, the husband establishes a farm with the wife and cedes the ownership to her.

2.11.14.1 GENDER INEQUITY

To start with, issues on gender inequity in the Bekwai Municipal Assembly are factual and it defers from one geographical location to the other. Simply put, males dominate all spheres of life and feature prominently in all social and economic activities. Females are relegated to the background due to the cultural perception that “women must be seen but not heard”. Thus, women are limited when to decision making at the household level and other social or public gathering. Persistently, men dominate the formal sector where better remuneration and incentives are assured. Women dominate the less attractive areas such as cleaning offices serves as receptionist and secretaries, petty traders and hawkers. With respect to literacy, there are more literate males than females. This is due to the cultural perception against female education. In such a female dominated Municipality women are denied equal opportunities in socio-economic spheres and are often subordinated to their male counterparts. This goes down to explain that, women should be encouraged to pursue education to occupy higher positions in the Municipality.

2.11.14 .2 EFFECTS OF CULTURAL PERCEPTION ON GENDER ISSUES IN THE MUNICIPALITY

Cultural perception on the role of women in our society places hindrance on their development. Women are regarded as second fiddle to their male counterparts. In the cultural setting the woman is supposed to reserve her comments. She may make her voice heard through her male counterparts whom she may have to find a way to persuade them to put her case across.

The above setback is linked to women being conscious of their cultural and religious obligation. These obligations erode their confidence and courage. These inhibit their participation in public life. Cultural perceptions make wives support their husbands to drop their daughters instead of sons when necessity compels them to do so irrespective of their mental ability. The saying that the girls place is in the kitchen is evoked in such circumstances. Such decisions have no room for the girl’s educational ability.

The mode of inheritance in the Municipality is matrilineal. However, when it comes to holding title to land and other valuable family properties women are excluded. This affects the potential of women to improve their lot in agriculture and thus increase their incomes.

In the Bekwai Municipal Assembly, certain jobs are regarded as male jobs for example, commercial driving, welding, auto-mechanics, and carpentry. These are lucrative jobs. The other jobs which may be termed menial and which attract little income are usually the choice of women. As a result of this occupational stereotyping, few girls enroll in technical institutions to study technical courses. Over 90% of women in the district are affected by the numerous household chores they perform daily. These include water and fuel collection, food preparation and keeping the home. These chores prevent even the most astute women from pursuing other careers for self-development and self-improvement to enhance their economic potential.

Table 44 Gender and Employment

Gender	2011		2012	
	Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)
Males	45.99	40.25	48.42	39.16
Females	54.01	59.75	51.58	60.84
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Socio Economic Survey, 2014

Analysis of the data indicates that unemployment is high (60.84%) among women due to low capital generation, lack of employment skills and lack of access to credit. The formal sector accounts for less than 20% of women. These women are in teaching, health and the public service. It is obvious that most women workers in the municipality lack the requisite educational qualification for high level employment.

Table 45 Gender Parity Index

SCHOOL	2011/2012
K.G	1
PRIMARY	0.98
JHS	0.87

Source: GES, BMA, 2013/2014

POLICES FOR BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP

To address the gender imbalances and gender issues in the municipality, the Assembly shall undertake:

- **Create a Gender Desk within the Central Administration**

A Gender Desk shall be created within the Central Administration to collate issues on gender and implement policies to address gender imbalance. The gender officer shall work in collaboration with NCWD, Girl Child Desk Officer (at the Education Department), and Social Welfare Department, CHRAJ, DVVSU, Queen mothers and other relevant community based organizations.

- **Organize annual women's durbar to sensitize women to take up political positions available in the municipality.**

An annual women's durbar shall be held in the municipality. The durbar shall provide a forum for discussing issues affecting women in the Municipality. The forum shall also be used to encourage women to take up political positions and also solicit support for them in their endeavors.

- **Organize STME Clinic within the Municipality**

The Municipal Assembly in conjunction with the Department of Education shall organize annual STME Clinic for girls in Junior Secondary Schools. The Clinic will help to expose girls in the district to science, technology and mathematics. It will also enhance the technical skills of the girls.

- **Enhance Girl-Child Education**

The Assembly shall reserve not less than 30% of its scholarship for girls/women in Secondary Tertiary Institutions. This will enable brilliant but needy girls students go through education without much financial difficulties. Beneficiaries of this programme apart from extending their education so that they can qualify to compete with their male counterparts for available jobs will also be able to control their birth. This will help reduce their family size.

- **Reduce School Drop –out Rate Particularly among girls**

The Municipal Assembly shall support the Municipal Advocacy Team in collaboration with the gender officer to advocate for retention of school-going children in school, particularly girls. Parents, traditional authorities, the churches, philanthropist and the general citizenry will be appealed to support programmes for the team.

- **Enhance Women's Access to Credit**

The Municipal Assembly shall reserve about 40% of the poverty alleviation fund disbursed to women. This will help women to develop their businesses and offer employment to more women. Assembly will support women who perform working in the Municipality. This will entice other girls/women to take up training in the institute and consequently enhance their skills and employment capacities.

POVERTY AMONG WOMEN IN THE MUNICIPALITY

The level of unemployment of women in the Municipality has resulted to high poverty. Women, to a large extent, are excluded from holding title to land as title to family land is vested in the family head. Who are most cases is a man. These chores they perform at home are not quantified in monetary terms. These chores however, affect the number of hours women spend on their productivity. In the municipality, Over 60% of the rural dwellers live below the poverty line. About 70% of the rural poor in the municipality are women.

Analysis of the differences in the male female employment ratios has useful lessons for any planning endeavor.

- ***Access To Credit***

Women have very little access to credit. Lack of education coupled with lack of boldness to take risks keep women away from seeking credit facilities from the banks. Besides they lack the usual collateral that the banks demand. The Municipal Assembly, however, has a safe haven for women to access loan through its poverty alleviation intervention. Women groups have benefited most from this facility since its inception.

- ***Decision Making***

Women in the municipality shy away from getting themselves involved in decision making. At the party level, only one woman has emerged as a member of parliament at the national level our current MCE. At the Municipal Assembly level, of the fifty (50) members, eight (8) are women representing 15.2% of the total numbers.

CHAPTER THREE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

3.1 Introduction

The Annual Composite Progress Report of 2014 marks the first phase for the implementation of the Municipal Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017). In consonance with the Medium Term National Development Policy Framework based on the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) , 2014-2017, the Bekwai Municipal Assembly prepared the 2014 Annual Composite Progress Report on the general performance of the Assembly. The ACPR 2014 evaluates the municipality's achievements, challenges and impact of the programmes and projects implemented in 2014 towards the achievement of the Government's Better Ghana Agenda.

3.2 Recommendations from the various thematic areas

ENSURING AND SUSTAINING MACROECONOMIC STABILITY.

- ✓ Improve the Assembly's internally generated revenue to complement the effort of the funding sources for Development.
- ✓ The involvement of the private sector in revenue mobilization.
- ✓ Improve internal financial management measures to minimize the leakages
- ✓ Improve Assembly's expenditure management
- ✓ Attract more funds from the FOAT assessment for development.

ENHANCED COMPETITIVENESS OF GHANA'S PRIVATE SECTOR

- ✓ Improve the artisans at the Denyase Industrial centre and other entrepreneurs in the municipality access to credit facilities.
- ✓ Facilitate the development of employable skills among the youth by supporting the technical and vocational schools in the Municipality.
- ✓ Improve tourist site development in the municipality by involving the private sector in tourism development.
- ✓ Support the private sectors in the municipality to sustain continuous production especially those in the informal sector of the local economy.

- ✓ Promote the enabling environment such as roads, utility provision, flexible regulatory framework to attract investors in the Municipality.
- ✓ Encourage more youth in the municipality into agriculture under the youth in agricultural programme to take over from the ageing farmers.

ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

- ✓ Increase farmers, access to credit facilities.
- ✓ Rehabilitation of old and existing dilapidated roads leading to agricultural production centers
- ✓ Construct new roads to communities without access to roads to link production centers to market centers
- ✓ Promote non-traditional crops production among farmers such as cashew, mango, oil palm and vegetable farming
- ✓ Vaccinate ruminants yearly against CBPP, Anthrax, PPR and cats and dogs against rabies.
- ✓ Organize workshops for farmers and other land users on climate change and its impact on productivity
- ✓ Organize workshop for farmers on new technologies of farming

INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Support rural communities that are not connected to the national grid to acquire low tension poles and extend electricity to newly developed areas.
- ✓ Regular preparation and updating of settlement planning schemes
- ✓ Extend water supply to newly developed area and upgrade water facilities in communities with population of more than 5000.
- ✓ Improve and encourage household and institutional latrines in households and institutions
- ✓ Rehabilitation of old and existing dilapidated roads and construct new roads to communities without proper road access

- ✓ Improve maintenance culture of the water and sanitation facilities and organize workshops and training programmes for the WATSAN committees

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

- ✓ Construct more educational – classroom infrastructure with ancillary facilities and rehabilitate deteriorated ones.
- ✓ Provide descent accommodation for health workers in communities with health facilities
- ✓ Construct ICT centers for some selected basic schools
- ✓ Facilitate the connection of ICT center in selected Senior High Schools
- ✓ Conduct periodic socio-economic survey on population and development.
- ✓ Organize Know Your Status campaign on HIV/AIDS throughout the Municipality

3.3 Recommendations for Inputs into the MTDP 2014-2017

A number of uncompleted projected needs to be considered in the years ahead. As the Development Plan is being implemented, it is important to continue shaping the process through the Municipal Medium Term Performance Reviews, such that various issues could always be incorporated for an improve performance. Again cross cutting issues and national policies and programmes need to be constantly considered and perfected over the years. They are:

- ✓ Expansion of the school feeding programmes to other basic schools.
- ✓ Completion of the SHEP in some selected communitis in the municipality and expansion to newly developed areas
- ✓ Roll over of all development interventions projects which are on-going (schools under trees, Get Fund Projects and DACF).

Municipal Programmes

- ✓ The functioning of the Sub-structures in the Municipal Assembly.
- ✓ Sensitization of the citizens on the Municipal charter on service delivery.

Key Issues Addressed

Over-crowding in Schools

From 2010-2014, the Assembly has been able to complete and hand over five (5) no. 6-unit classroom blocks and six (6) no. 3-unit classroom block to ease over-crowding in basic schools. Currently, work is on-going for the construction of 1no.3-unit classroom block at Esiase and 1no 2 storey 6-unit classroom block at Bekwai for R/C Primary. These projects were funded from the DDF, GETFUND and UDG.

Inadequate School Furniture

The Assembly has been able to supply 7,000 mono and dual desks to basic schools in the Municipality. The idea is to improve teaching and learning in basic schools.

Improvement of facilities in Senior High Schools

Central government through the GETFUND has completed the construction of Girls Dormitory at Wesley High School, Bekwai. However , the construction of 1no. 3 storey Teachers accommodation at Ehwiren St. Joseph Senior High/Tech School and Girls dormitory for Ofoase Kokoben Senior High School have delayed. The Assembly using part of the UDG awarded contract for the construction of 2 storey 8-unit boys dormitory at Denyaseman Senior High School.

Improvement in Potable water supply

The Assembly has been able to improve the potable water coverage from 70% in 2010 to 80% in 2014. This was made possible by the rehabilitation of 5o boreholes in selected communities and the mechanization of 2no. boreholes at Asamang. Three (3) communities have been selected to benefit from the provision of boreholes in 2015.

Rehabilitation of Feeder roads

The Assembly using it's grader was able to rehabilitate about 50km of feeder roads in the Municipality. The intention is to reduce post- harvest losses and enhance transportation of

agricultural produce to the marketing centres. Under the COCOBOD feeder roads rehabilitation programme, about 60kms of feeder roads have been earmarked for rehabilitation in 2015.

Key issues left to be Addressed

Support to the Agricultural sector

The Municipal economy hinges on agriculture and its related activities. However, support to the agricultural sector leaves much to be desired. Farmers in the Municipality find it difficult to access credit from the financial institutions due to their inability to provide the needed collaterals. Thus , farmers are unable to maintain their farms or expand them. They have therefore been experiencing low productions.

The Assembly using the Agricultural Department and the Cooperative Department would embark on educational drive for farmers to form Cooperative Societies and revive the dormant ones. This is to enable farmers access group loans from the financial institution. Through the Cooperative Societies, farmers would be exposed to modern farm techniques, advice from Extension Officers and proper use of chemicals to improve yields.

Youth unemployment

Unemployment among the youth is a major problem to the Assembly. The National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP) now GYEEDA sought to address this problem by employing a number of youth in agriculture, education, security service, etc. However , the programme has stalled which has plunged many youth to be unemployed. The Assembly has continued to assist RTF/BAC to proffer business and technical advice to Entrepreneurs to be able to train more people in soap making, palm oil extraction, masonry, arts, mechanics ,etc. Also , the Vocational and Technical institutions are supported to train students in food management,bakery,technical drawing,etc to have employable skills development. However, these efforts are not enough as more graduates churn out of Universities, polytechniques,etc.

Access to Health care

Access and quality delivery of health care is a prerequisite for development. However, most of the health centres are concentrated in urban and peri-urban areas in the Municipality at the expense of the rural majority. This sometimes result in maternal and infant mortality as the distance from rural community to urban centre to access health care is far with bad road network.

Waste Management

Management of waste has become a daunting task to the Assembly as many communities have heaps of refuse at the dumping sites posing health threats to the inhabitants of these communities. These communities include but not limited to Poano and Bekwai. The Assembly lack sanitation equipment such as compactor, wheel loader, excavator, etc to combat these insanitary conditions.

3.4 Conclusion

It is hoped that the various recommendations outlined in the report are promptly carried through; there would be an improvement in performance in 2015 activities and achievements.

To this effect, the Bekwai Municipal Assembly would continue to work diligently, through the collaborative efforts of all departments and stakeholders, to ensuring that the development goal of the Municipality is achieved towards the closure of the medium term planning period.

This would be realized when all the people in the Municipality can jointly and severally attest that their living conditions and wellbeing have improved and that there is economic growth in the Municipality, resulting in poverty reduction and wealth creation, for both current and future populations.