

# Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

## Nationwide Inspection of Prisons and Police Cells



2002 and 2003 Reports

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Ghana

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## FOREWORD

Traditionally, prisons are places where offenders are confined in order to protect society. Persons in detention, whether they are on remand, convicted or serving a life sentence, are subjected to a strict regime of rules and regulations. For the majority of people in society, prisoners and suspects in police cells are sub-humans who deserve to be in detention and who should thus not be entitled to human rights.

However, since the internationalization of human rights in 1948, there has been a gradual move away from this mentality to a perspective that prisoners and suspects are human beings entitled to humane treatment and to the respect of their inherent dignity. The United Nations has promulgated international norms and treaties for the protection of persons accused of crimes or deprived of liberty by their governments. The provisions in these international instruments are reflected in our Constitution, which upholds the dignity of everyone in Ghana.

In recent years, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), along with civil society organizations, NGO's and the Prison Service, has spearheaded the calls for reforms in our criminal and penal system, to bring it in line with acceptable human rights standards. (Act 456) of 1993 mandates the Commission to promote and protect the rights of all persons, including those in detention. In pursuance of its role as protector and defender of the human rights of every citizen in Ghana, CHRAJ has monitored the human rights situation in prisons since 1995 and submitted its reports and recommendations to Parliament.

This combined 'Nationwide Inspection of Prisons and Police Cells Report' for 2002 and 2003 demonstrates the urgent need for action in respect of the following:

- Remand prisoners
- Juveniles
- Pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants.
- Sick prisoners
- Condemned prisoners
- Mentally ill prisoners
- Suspects in police cells.

The observations of these monitoring exercises have not always been very encouraging. Nevertheless the Commission commends the detaining authorities for efforts made to improve conditions in Ghana's detention facilities and wishes to reiterate that in line with the unrestricted visiting powers under Act 456, officers of the Commission should be permitted to conduct private interviews and discussions with inmates.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the support that CHRAJ has enjoyed from the Prisons and Police Authorities since commencing its monitoring exercises in 1995, and look forward to growing and sustained cooperation in the performance of the Commission's functions in respect of prisoners and suspects.



Anna Bossman  
Acting Commissioner, CHRAJ  
Commission on Human Rights  
and Administrative Justice

## INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) was established by an Act of Parliament with a mission to enhance the scale of good governance, democracy, integrity, peace and social development by promoting, protecting and enforcing fundamental human rights and freedoms and administrative justice for all persons in Ghana. The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992 provides a framework for protecting the rights of prisoners and persons denied of their liberty.

Article 15 of the 1992 Constitution provides as follows:

1. The dignity of all persons shall be inviolable.
2. No person shall, whether or not he is arrested, restricted or detained, be subjected to:
  - a) torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
  - b) any other condition that detracts or is likely to detract from his dignity and worth as a human being.
3. A person who has not been convicted of a criminal offence shall not be treated as a convicted person and shall be kept separately from convicted persons.
4. A juvenile offender who is kept in lawful custody or detention shall be kept separately from an adult offender.

The foregoing provisions are in keeping with the United Nations norms and instruments such as the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the UN Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and others. These norms and instruments ensure that prisoners and persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity.

The Ghana Prisons Service is a statutory body that has the responsibility for operating prisons in Ghana in accordance with the Prisons Service Decree, 1972, [NCRD 46]. Under this law, the Prisons Service is to ensure the safe custody and welfare of prisoners and wherever possible, to undertake the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.

The Commission on Human rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) has a duty to ensure that the fundamental human rights of all persons in Ghana, including prisoners, are respected, protected and promoted. As part of measures to promote the rights of detained persons, the Commission has undertaken annual inspections of the nation's prisons and police cells since 1995.



The exercise involves the examination of the general living conditions of inmates such as accommodation, feeding, health and sanitation, agricultural/vocational and recreational activities. Special attention has been paid to the situation of remand prisoners, juveniles, mentally ill persons, pregnant women and nursing mothers, children, and suspects who are detained for more than 48 hours.

### **There are 45 prisons in Ghana.**

In year **2002**, the Commission's regional and district officers inspected **188 police cells, 29 prisons** (including 9 prison settlements or prison camps) and **one Borstal institution**. There were **8690<sup>1</sup> inmates** altogether in the inspected prisons, camps and police cells.

Year **2003** inspections recorded a total number of **6,173 inmates** in prisons and prison camps and **221 inmates** in police cells.

These inspections have again revealed that there is still the urgent need for improvement in the conditions of the nation's detention services.

**Table 1 and Table 2 below depict institutions inspected in years 2002 and 2003:<sup>2</sup>**

### **Institutions inspected in year 2002**

**Table 1**

<b>Type of institution</b>	<b>Prisons and Prison camps</b>	<b>Police cells</b>
Total number	45	578
Number inspected	35	203

### **Institutions inspected in year 2003<sup>3</sup>**

**Table 2**

<b>Type of institution</b>	<b>Prisons and Prison camps</b>	<b>Police cells</b>
Total number	45	578
Number inspected	26	128

<sup>1</sup> Information regarding population of inspected prisons and police cells was not provided by all the inspection reports, and little was reported about condemned prisoners

<sup>2</sup> The total number of police cells as reflected in tables 1 & 2 does not include the Central Region as the figure (total number of police cells) for the region was not available

<sup>3</sup> Some reports did not indicate the number of institutions inspected or inmate population of the inspected institutions

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Inspection reports for year 2002 and 2003 are not much different from those of previous years which have revealed conditions of severe congestion and overcrowding in structures that are pre-colonial and characterized by poor ventilation and poor sanitary conditions.

The reports in both years have again commented on improvements in the quality and quantity of food and conditions in prison settlement camps. On the other hand, a high level of deprivation characterized the general situation in the main prisons. Though the feeding allowance of inmates in prisons has seen yearly increases, it is still insufficient and gives rise to widespread malnutrition among prisoners. Health care continues to be a serious problem that prisoners and suspects have to contend with. The cash and carry system requires prisoners to bear the cost of hospital treatment and medication and since the majority of prisoners cannot afford these expenses, they are subjected to deteriorating health conditions. This situation is further compounded by the spread of communicable and contagious diseases among inmates especially because of congestion in most of the prisons.

The Commission remains very concerned about the following categories of prisoners:

1. **Remand prisoners:** The inability of the courts to expedite trial of those who have been remanded in prison custody.

"There were 25 suspects on remand at the Akuse prison. There was a large number of suspects on remand who had spent several years without trial...The officer-in-charge explained that they were facing a serious problem with the police: very often, the police did not bother to take the suspects for court attendances. Sometimes the police renewed the suspects' warrants without the suspects actually attending court. There were times the warrants were not renewed at all but the prison authorities were helpless, as they could not throw the remand prisoners out."

***(Eastern Region 2002 Prison Inspection Report).***

At the time of our visit, the remand prison had 88 inmates. 15 inmates were compelled to sleep in each of the cells. The suspects complained about near suffocation during the night. They were hardly able to lay their full length on the ground; consequently they had to sleep in sitting positions, propped up against the walls until daybreak.

***"(Northern Region 2002 Prison Inspection Report)"<sup>4</sup>***

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<sup>4</sup> According to the 2002 Annual Report of the Ghana Prisons Service, the total annual lock-up of the prison population was 592,289, as against 537,269 in 2001, indicating an increasing prison population

So acute is the situation of overcrowding due to the overstay of remand prisoners that, in year 2003, it was observed that some remand prisoners shared the same cells with convicts at the Ankafu Prison Annex and others slept in shifts for lack of space in the Kumasi Central Prison.

2. **Nursing mothers and pregnant women:** The conviction and committal into prison of nursing mothers and pregnant women who invariably give birth in prison:

"The team found four pregnant women. Their pregnancies had reached three to seven months. One of them who was in her seventh month told the team that she was in her third month of pregnancy when she was convicted for three years by the Berekum Circuit Court. According to her, she informed the judge of her pregnancy, but was ignored."

*(Brong Ahafo Region 2003 Prison & Police Inspection Report)*

"The team found four babies there. Two of the babies were delivered in the prisons. All were between the ages of two and seven months old." *(Brong Ahafo Region 2003 Prison & Police Inspection Report)*

3. **Juveniles:** Statistics available at the Department of Social Welfare indicate that there has been an increase in the transfer of juveniles from adult prisons to the appropriate Correctional Centres from year 2001 to 2004 as at 8 June, 2004 (24 in 2004; 21 in 2003; 7 in 2002 and 2 in 2001). Notwithstanding these encouraging statistics, the Commission's inspections still reveal the presence of juveniles in adult prisons. Many of these juveniles appeared clearly below 18 years and yet were either on remand or convicted to jail terms. Some of the juveniles disclosed that they had been advised by the police to inflate their ages in the hope of avoiding longer sentences in Borstal Institutions.
4. **Sick Prisoners:** Conditions of inadequate sanitary facilities, poor lighting and ventilation affect the health of inmates. In Gambaga Prison for instance, the 2003 inspection team reported that inmates went a month without washing or bathing due to lack of soap. It is no wonder that the most common ailments among inmates in all the prisons have been skin diseases.

**Other concerns:** Some prisoners also expressed some other concerns. Find below extracts from inspection reports in respect of these concerns:

- i. Most of the inmates complained bitterly about their frequent transfer to other prisons without prior notice. They complained that this practice was carried out under the pretext that they were being taken out to work as part of their jail sentence.
- ii. Some also explained that the manner in which amnesty was granted to prisoners was clearly discriminatory. This, they stated was due to the fact that those who qualified did not enjoy such amnesty.
- iii. One convict complained about the attitude of a lawyer whom he engaged while in prison to look into his case.

He alleged that on 9 July, 2003 he paid an amount of ₵500,000.00 (five hundred thousand cedis) to the lawyer in Bolga who agreed to look into his case, but had since not heard anything from him. The lawyer, according to the convict, only sent his secretary to the prisons twice and he (the prisoner) was made to thumbprint some forms. The prisoner pleaded with the inspection team to contact the lawyer informally as he was afraid the lawyer might victimize him if the Commission took up the case officially.

- iv. Another prisoner alleged that amounts of 9.5 million cedis and 140,000 CFA he had at the time of his arrest were taken from him and all efforts to retrieve even part of the money to give to his wife and children had failed. The prison officer who conducted the inspection team around confirmed the prisoner's claim but said the money had not been released because investigations were still underway to ascertain whether or not the money really belonged to him.

Regarding Police cells, the Commission expresses concern, yet again, about violations of the rights of persons arrested, restricted or detained in the custody of the police. This situation may be attributed to a majority of the police stations being under-resourced, outmoded and dilapidated. Police cells were small, dark and poorly aerated. Most cells were devoid of toilet facilities and cells serve an all-embracing function of dining rooms, bedrooms and lavatories. In most cells, there was an overpowering strong, lingering, offensive and unpleasant smell. Bedding was almost non-existent and most suspects usually slept on the floor. The few blankets that were available were threadbare, worn out and dirty. Most police cells had no provision for disinfectants and cleaning material and sanitation was therefore very poor. Police officers regularly took personal responsibility for the feeding of suspects and money used for this purpose was usually not refunded. In some police cells, juveniles as young as 12 years old were detained for offences such as stealing. Station officers reported that many of these juveniles had no means of contacting their families and so the families of these juveniles were usually unaware of their detention. Suspects at some of the stations suffered from skin diseases and boils and First Aid Boxes were not available to take care of emergencies. Find below extracts from police station inspection reports in 2002 and 2003:

"In the Community 8 police cells, there was woman who had been remanded on a charge of assault and stealing. She was nursing a 10-month-old baby. The child looked pale; it was malnourished and deprived of sunlight since the mother was not allowed to take the baby outside." **(Tema 2002 Police Cell Report)**

"Most remand prisoners in the police cells slept on the floor because the majority of cells had not been furnished with beds, mattresses and blankets even though there were supposed to be beds in the cells. Coupled with the practice of stripping inmates of their clothing, inmates virtually slept naked on the bare floor. Though the Tamale police cells had beds, they were sometimes too few to accommodate the high number of inmates. **(Northern region 2002 Police Cell Report)**



## COMMENDATIONS

In spite of these deplorable conditions in the country's prisons and police cells, the following deserve commendation:

1. **The increase in the feeding grant from ₵3,000.00 to ₵4,000.00 per prisoner per day in 2003**, and also food supplies from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture at a relatively reduced cost to some prisons, have brought improvement in the feeding of prisoners, albeit inadequate.
2. **The intervention and support of philanthropists, religious organizations and good-spirited citizens:**  
"Dr. Edmund Delle of Rabito Clinic also donated water to the prison whenever it ran out of water. He had made arrangements with the Ghana Water Company to operate a tanker service to the prison whenever it was needed, at his cost. This had alleviated the acute water problem in the prison." *(Eastern Region 2003 Prison & Police Inspection Report)*
3. **Good sanitary conditions in some prisons and police cells:**  
"The La Police cells had two bathrooms and two water closets. These were well kept and the facilities were decent. There was adequate lighting and ventilation. The Station looked very neat."  
*(2002 Greater Accra Police Cells Inspection Report)*  
  
"At the time of our visit to the Nungua Police Station, there were 10 suspects in the cells. Generally, the place was in very good condition. Regarding sanitation and ventilation, the station was the best, as compared to other police stations. The Divisional Commander and members of staff really deserve commendation." *(2002 Greater Accra Police Cells Inspection Report)*  
  
"The Prison Service has kept a clean environment in the prison yard. The prison yard, toilets (WCs), bathrooms and urinals were [all] kept clean and neat."  
*(Northern Region 2003 Prison & Police Inspection Report)*
4. In the Northern Region, 15 inmates of the Tamale Central Prison sat and passed the National Vocational Training Institute Examinations with one distinction, after receiving training in various vocational skills in the prison.
5. It is also noteworthy that prison officers and inmates of the Ankaful Main Prison Camp used their vocational skills in constructing the Sammo Senior Secondary School in Cape Coast.
6. The arrangement made with the regional hospital for a medical doctor to visit the Koforidua prison once a week to treat the inmates is commendable. Currently, only serious illnesses or emergencies are referred to the regional hospital.



7. The Commission also commends the increasing trend by the Police to release suspects under investigation within 48 hours in accordance with the principle indicated in Article 14 (3) (b) of the Constitution.
8. Similar commendation is made for the improvement in dietary conditions the prison camps because inmates could undertake agricultural activities to supplement their feeding.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Provision of bedding and sanitary facilities in Police cells**

Sanitary facilities should be provided for all Police stations for use by suspects and there should be frequent fumigation of police cells. Bedding should be provided for suspects kept overnight in police cells.

### **Provision of food and health-care for suspects**

A nurse should be attached to each police station to cater for the health needs of suspects. The Police require prompt financial assistance to cater for the feeding and hospital expenses of suspects.

### **Detention without Trial**

The Police Administration should continue to educate police officers and insist on the observance of the 48 hour rule.

### **Unduly Long Periods of Remand**

There are continued reports of large numbers of remand prisoners who have been in custody without trial for unduly long periods. In the light of increasing numbers of pre-trial detainees, the Commission recommends that the Judiciary, in conjunction with the Attorney-General's Department, should work out a special programme to process these outstanding cases.

### **Juveniles in Adult prisons**

The Commission recommends that the Judiciary, prosecuting Police Officers and the Prisons Service should ensure that juveniles are not detained in adult prisons but are committed to Borstal institutions. It is further recommended that male juvenile suspects be kept in separate cell as in the case of females. This is to prevent them from being maltreated by adult suspects.

### **Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers and Babies in Prison**

Once again, the Commission calls on the courts to avoid sentencing pregnant women to prison terms (except for very serious offences); alternatively their sentences could be suspended until their babies are born. Thereafter, the best interests of the babies should be considered before separating them from their mothers or keeping them in prison with their mothers.

### **Prisoners with physical disabilities**

Prisoners with special needs should be classified and placed in facilities that will not pose a threat to the safety of other prisoners, for example (in the prisons in Navrongo in the Upper East Region, inspection reports recorded for the first time the presence of one prisoner with a physical disability, who walked with the aid of a stick that was considered a weapon). For full integration into the prison population, the physical environment of prisons should be accessible to prisoners with physical disabilities.

### **Construction of Prison Settlement camps**

The Commission commends the Ghana Prisons Service for opening two new prison camps as a way of addressing challenges presented by overcrowding in the nation's prisons. The Commission recommends that many more settlement camps be built.

### **Regular Review of Prisoners**

Regular reviews of prisoners should be undertaken so that minor offenders or convicts who have consistently exhibited good behaviour over the years can be sent to prison camps.

### **ICCPR Optional Protocol Ratification/Abolition of Death Penalty**

The Commission restates its call on the Government, as a matter of urgency, to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This protocol, which came into force in 1991, provides for the abolition of the death penalty. The Commission maintains that the death penalty violates the inalienable rights of the individual as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana, which recognize every individual's right to life. Consequently, the abolition of the death penalty cannot be separated from the struggle for the promotion and maintenance of human rights.

### **Criminal Justice Policy Reform**

The Commission continues advocacy in favour of criminal justice policy reform. Emphasis on incarceration and debilitating imprisonment and a move away from rehabilitation only results in a great majority of prisoners returning to their communities battered and schooled in crime. When prisoners and suspects are exposed to harsh conditions of hunger, overcrowding, fear, idleness and sometimes violence, they become angrier and more vengeful than when they were first imprisoned; such prisoners are very likely to return to crime on their release from prison.

Accordingly, the Commission urges government, civil society groups, philanthropists and all good-hearted citizens to reflect on the excruciating agony that many undergo in prison, and to work towards improving prison conditions and promoting the welfare of prisoners.

The Commission calls for the expansion and rehabilitation of existing facilities for suspects in police stations. As a matter of urgency, the Commission also calls for the immediate institution of alternative sentences to incarceration for minor offences so as to decongest the country's prisons.

## ACRONYMS

A	-	AVERAGE
QG	-	QUITE GOOD
G	-	GOOD
P	-	POOR
VP	-	VERY POOR

## REGIONS

GAR	-	GREATER ACCRA REGION
CR	-	CENTRAL REGION
WR	-	WESTERN REGION
ER	-	EASTERN REGION
VR	-	VOLTA REGION
AR	-	ASHANTI REGION
BAR	-	BRONG AHAFO REGION
NR	-	NORTHERN REGION
UER	-	UPPER EAST REGION
UWR	-	UPPER WEST REGION

**PART ONE**

**2002 REPORTS**

**2002**

**PRISONS, PRISON CAMPS**  
**AND POLICE CELLS COMPOSITE**  
**INSPECTION REPORT**

## 2002 PRISONS, PRISON CAMPS AND POLICE CELLS COMPOSITE INSPECTION REPORT

There were a total number of **8699** inmates in the inspected institutions: **6767** in prisons, **1476** in settlement camps and **456** in police cells. A total number of **1191** remand prisoners were recorded in the inspected prisons.

Please note that blank cells in the tables indicate no reporting by regions and dashes indicate no information in respect of variables even though reporting was done.

**Table 3: Total number of institutions inspected**

Type of institution	Prisons and Prison camps	Police cells
Total number	45	578
Number inspected	35	203

**Table 4: Total number of prisons and prison camps and police cells inspected in each region**

Region	Total number of Police cells	Total number inspected	Total number of Prisons/prison	Number Inspected
GAR	32	20	5	3
CR	xxx	56	6	5
WR	87	23	5	5
ER	54	9	6	3
VR	86	21	4	3
AR	177	1	6	5
BAR	78	40	5	4
NR	37	19	5	4
UER	16	14	2	2
UWR	11	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>



**Table 5**  
**Inmate Population: Prisons and Prison Camps**

Region	Inmate population (in prison camps)	Inmate population (in prisons)	Remand	Convicts	Prisoners on death row	Lifers	Juveniles in prison/ Camps	Mentally-ill	Pregnant Women	Nursing mothers	Babies
GAR	131	723	22	5	- <sup>5</sup>						
CR	633	756									
ER	-	572	112	460							
WR	202	889	215	665	- <sup>6</sup>	4	4	8	1	-	-
VR	-	745	127	618	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AR	237	1590	375	1353	-	-	1	2	1	1	1
BAR	273	703	164	513	-	-	5	20	1	-	-
NR	-	498	88	410	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UER	-	202	54	148	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
UWR	-	89	34	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 6**  
**Inmate Population: Police Cells**

Region	Inmate population (in police cells)	Juveniles in Police cells
GAR	109	-
TEMA	158	1
CR	58	-
WR	-	-
ER	22	-
VR	23	-
AR	2	-
BAR	56	-
NR	10	-
UER	18	3
UWR		

<sup>5</sup> The region did not report on this

<sup>6</sup> No prisoner was on death row

**Table 7**  
**Regional Distribution of Remand Prisoners and Juveniles: Prisons**

Region	Remand	Juveniles
GAR	22	
CR		
WR	215	4
ER	112	
UWR	127	-
VR	375	1
AR	164	5
BAR	88	-
NR	54	
UER	34	-

There was a general decline in the quality of living conditions of prisoners and this may be attributed to the deterioration of prison structures rather than to an increasing prisoner population.

Conditions in inspected facilities were found to be generally poor. Most if not all prisons and police cells did not have toilet facilities. Inmates therefore eased themselves in buckets, which were not emptied until the next day. In places where bathrooms were non-existent, inmates bathed in their cell rooms which also served as sleeping places. An example is the Community 8 police cells in Tema.

Most inmates in prisons and police cells did not look healthy. The poor health condition of inmates may be due to poor bedding, sanitation and ventilation. The majority of prisons and cells did not have an infirmary or a nurse on duty. Most infirmaries lacked supplies of basic drugs. It appeared that the situation had been aggravated by the cash and carry system, which made it more difficult for prisoners to seek medical care in the hospitals.

Bedding materials were woefully inadequate. Sometimes, in a cell of about 50 inmates, there were only five blankets and two tattered mattresses full of bed bugs. Inmates were therefore compelled to share bedding or sleep on cardboards, wooden planks or on the bare floor. There was hardly any location with a full complement of bedding i.e. beds, mattresses, pillows, blankets and sheets.

It is worth noting that whilst some regions had very good ventilation in the prisons and cells, others had only a small hole in the cell thereby making it difficult for inmates to breathe. Some of these prisons were built in the colonial era and had since not seen any renovation or expansion.

Some prisons did not receive the government daily ration for feeding. Thus prisoners were either fed by their relatives or by some prison officers on humanitarian grounds. In cases where prisoners had no relatives in the town of detention, they relied on the kind generosity of prison officers and other prisoners.

Recreational facilities were usually limited to in-door games such as "ludo," "draughts" and "oware". Some convicts as well as prison officers possessed requisite technical and vocational skills and could facilitate the training of prisoners who had no skills. Most prisons however lacked the basic tools and equipment needed to meet the training needs of prison inmates. This notwithstanding, the officers in charge made do with the available tools and tried to make the best out of a difficult situation.

It must however be stated that though some prisons like the Mamobi Borstal Home had enough tools in their workshops, there was an inadequate supply of the raw materials needed for training exercises.

Crop production and farming was undertaken in almost all the prison camps.

Nationwide inspections of police stations once again revealed that there were gross violations of the rights of persons arrested, restricted or detained by the police. This situation prevailed, not necessarily because police personnel were violating the rights of these persons but because the majority of the police stations inspected were under-resourced, outmoded and dilapidated and unsuitable for the purposes for which they were established.

Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons<sup>7</sup>

Table 8

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Feeding
GAR	P	P	P	P
CR	QG	QG	P	P
WR	QG	QG	QG	QG
ER	QG	P	P	QG
VR	P		-	P
AR	QG	P	P	P
BAR	QG	P	-	P
NR	QG	P	P	QG
UER	P	P	P	P
UWR	P	-	QG	P

Table 9

Region	Sanitation	Water	Health
GAR	P	-	P
CR	P	-	-
WR	QG	P	QG
ER	QG	P	QG
VR	P	P	P
AR	P	-	P
BAR	-	-	P
NR	P	-	P
UER	QG	QG	P
UWR	QG	-	QG

<sup>7</sup> Four levels of ratings have been employed namely: Good (G); Quite Good (Q.G); Average (Av.); Poor (P). Refer to Acronyms

Table 10

Region	Agricultural/ Vocational Activity	Recreation	Officer- Inmate Relationship
GAR	QG	-	QG
CR	QG	-	-
WR	QG	QG	-
ER	QG	-	-
VR	QG	P	-
AR	QG	QG	-
BAR	QG	-	-
NR	P	-	-
UER	P	QG	-
UWR	P	QG	-

Table 11a. Average Ratings for all Regions:<sup>8</sup> Prisons

Region	Ratings
-	GOOD
WR, UW, ER	QUITE GOOD
GAR, CR, NR, UER, AR, VR, BAR	POOR

Table 11b: Assessment of the General Conditions in Prisons Camps<sup>9</sup>

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Feeding	Water
GAR	QG	-	-	QG	-
CR	QG	QG	QG	QG	P
WR	QG	QG	QG	QG	-
AR <sup>10</sup>	QG	P	P	P	-
BAR	-	P	-	QG	-

Table 12

Region	Sanitation	Health	Agricultural Vocational Activity	Recreation	Officer- Inmate Relationship
GAR	QG	-	QG	-	-
CR	QG	QG	G	-	-
WR	QG	QG	-	QG	-
AR	P	P	QG	QG	-
BAR	QG	QG	QG	-	-

<sup>8</sup> These are overall regional ratings and may not necessarily reflect the ratings of individual prisons

<sup>9</sup> Four levels of ratings have been employed namely: Good (G); Quite Good (Q.G); Average (Av.); Poor (P). Refer to Acronyms

<sup>10</sup> Prisons and Prison Camps' rating joined together



**Average Ratings for all Regions<sup>11</sup> : Prison camps****Table 13a**

Region	Ratings
-	GOOD
GAR, CR, WR, AR, BAR	QUITE GOOD
-	POOR

**Assessment of the General Conditions In Police Cells****Table 13b:**

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Feeding	Water
GAR	P	-	P	P	-
TEMA	P	p <sup>12</sup>	P	P	-
CR	QG	QG	P	P	
WR	P	-	P	P	-
ER	P	-	P	-	-
VR	P		P	P	-
AR	P	G	P	-	
BAR	P		P	-	-
NR	P	-	P	P	
UER	QG	-	P	P	P
UWR					

**Table 13c**

Region	Sanitation	Health	Officer-Inmate Relationship
GAR	P	-	-
TEMA	P	P	-
CR	P		-
WR	QG	-	-
ER	P	-	-
VR	P	-	-
AR	-	-	-
BAR	-	-	-
NR	P	-	-
UER	P	P	-
UWR	-	-	-

**Average Ratings for all Regions<sup>13</sup> : Police Cells****Table 14**

Region	Ratings
-	GOOD
-	QUITE GOOD
GAR, CR, WR, ER, VR, AR, BAR, NR, UER, UWR	POOR

<sup>11</sup> These are overall regional ratings and may not necessarily reflect the ratings of individual prisons<sup>12</sup> Most Regions did not report on these variables<sup>13</sup> These are overall regional ratings and may not necessarily reflect the ratings of individual prisons

**PART ONE**

**2002 REPORTS**

**2002**

**REGIONAL INSPECTION**

**REPORTS OF PRISONS AND**

**POLICE CELLS**

## GREATER ACCRA REGION

### PART ONE: PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 15: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
James Fort (male) Prison	696
James Fort (female) Prison	27
Mamobi Borstal Home	131

#### **JAMES FORT PRISON (MALE AND FEMALE)**

The prison was divided into male and female sections. In the Female Section there were 27 inmates: five convicts and 22 on remand. There were two foreigners in custody, one Togolese and one Liberian.

#### **NURSING MOTHERS**

There was a nursing mother and her son in the Female Section. She was serving her second prison term. She said that she had been pregnant at the time of her conviction, but did not disclose her pregnancy to the trial court. She had given birth in the prison and named her son Kofi Annan after the UN Secretary General. She still had her son with her; he was two years old.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

The electrical system in the building was surface wiring that needed to be changed into a conduit system. Ventilation was poor in the Male Section and the cells were highly congested. Some cells housed as many as 45 and others 55 men. The lowest number of inmates in a cell was 15, but this was still not satisfactory. The majority of the inmates had not been sent to court for months. There were not enough mattresses and blankets in the male prison and many men had to sleep on the bare floor.

#### **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

There was one infirmary for both male and female inmates. Sanitation was good in the female section but in the male section, sanitation was appalling. Many male prisoners had developed various skin diseases.

#### **VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/TRAINING**

Female prisoners were given training in doormat production and knitting. The prison warders in the female section appeared friendly.

#### **MAMOBI BORSTAL HOME**

The total number of inmates in the camp was 131. All the inmates were males and minors.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

The campus was not fenced. There was a shortage of beds and bedding materials.

#### **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

The camp was well kept with good sanitation.

#### **FEEDING**

The inmates in the Borstal Home were found to be well nourished.

#### **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

The inspection team was taken round the classrooms, the carpentry, auto mechanic, draughtsmanship and electrical workshops. The carpentry and mechanical workshops were very well equipped with working tools and machines but there were no materials to work with.

## GREATER ACCRA REGION PART TWO: POLICE CELLS

**Table 16: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Ministries Police Station (WAJU)	26
Osu Police Station	6
La Police Station	8
Teshie Police Station	8
Madina Police Station	51
Kotobabi Police Station	6
Pokuase Police Station	1
Dodowa Police Station	3

### REMAND

In The Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) and Ministries Police Stations, there were 26 inmates in the two cells, made up of 22 men and four women. The majority of the suspects were on remand; two of the women were on court remand while the other two were to be sent to court the following day. Only two inmates were convicts who were awaiting transfer to prisons to serve their sentences.

La Police Station held one convict and seven suspects, one of the suspects being a woman. In Osu, there were four men in the male cell and two women in the female cells. There were eight suspects in Teshie and three in Dodowa. Pokuase Police Station had one remand prisoner while Kotobabi held six prisoners, three of them were on court remand and the rest were yet to appear before court. Madina Police Station had the largest number of prisoners; there were 51 inmates comprising 47 men and four women. Many of the suspects were on remand beyond the dates fixed for them to appear before court.

### ACCOMMODATION

Both the WAJU and Ministries police cells were located in the same premises at the Ministries. Ventilation and lighting in the WAJU cells were poor, Sanitation was poor and the water closets were leaking. The La Police cell looked very neat and had adequate lighting and ventilation. In WAJU, there were not enough sleeping materials for inmates. Madina inmates slept without bedding materials.

### SANITATION AND HEALTH

In La police station, there were two bathrooms and two water closets which were well kept. The other cells were not so clean. Madina Police Station cells were very dirty and were pervaded with a pungent stench making the place unhealthy, while Osu and Teshie cells were heavily infested with mosquitoes. Osu had toilets but they were leaking. In Teshie, Pokuase and Dodowa cells, there were no suitable places of convenience and the inmates had to use a pan or a small bucket as toilet receptacles in the cells. In Teshie, sanitation was very poor and the stench in the cells was unbearable.

### FEEDING

In Osu, La, Dodowa and Madina cells, the government subvention for feeding had not been provided and so inmates were either fed by their relatives or police personnel on duty.



## TEMA SUB-REGION POLICE CELLS

**Table 17: INMATE POPULATION**

Police cell	Inmate population
New Town	12
Ashaiman	29
Nungua	10
Community 1	22
Harbour	51
Community 8	1 nursing mother + 10 month baby
Kpone	3
Community 2	16
Old Ningo	1
New Ningo	0
Fishing harbour	13
Kpone	3

### REMAND

Many of the prisoners in the police station cells were on remand. They could not be transported to the various prisons due to lack of logistics, especially transportation. In the Community 8 police cells, there was a female remand prisoner who was nursing a 10-month old baby. The child looked pale, it was malnourished and deprived of sunlight since the mother was not allowed to take the baby outside.

### JUVENILES

There were a number of juveniles in custody and most of them had no means of informing their families of their detention.

### ACCOMMODATION

Only a few of the cells in Tema's police stations could be described as in good condition, and even those had a several factors that detracted from their worth as places of detention. The Nungua station was 16 years old and was in a very good condition. This station was the best as compared to the other stations. The Divisional Commander and members of staff really deserve commendation.

The New Town Station was also in good condition generally. It was built in 1962 and had good ventilation. Similarly, the Prampram Police Station which was built in 1800, was spacious and well ventilated but had neither toilet nor bathroom facilities. The Fishing Harbour Police Station and the Harbour Police Stations had adequate ventilation; the Fishing Harbour station was constructed in 1960 and the Harbour Station was built around 1963/64. The latter building had adequate lighting and ventilation was average, however, the cells were infested with mosquitoes but there were no mosquito repellents available.

Most of the other cells had very poor ventilation. The Community 4 Station was adapted from a dwelling house and was exclusively for female suspects. Even though the lighting was good, ventilation was poor. The Kpone station was not originally constructed as a police station; ventilation was poor and the cell had no light. The same conditions prevailed in Community 2 and Ashaiman Police Stations: ventilation was very poor and lighting inadequate.



Some of the cells were found to be unfit for human habitation such as Community 1 and Community 8 stations. Community 1 station was built about 45 years ago; it is now in a very deplorable condition. The lighting was so poor that the place was in darkness. Though sanitation was rated as quite good, ventilation was very poor and there was a very bad stench in the overcrowded cell.

### **Ventilation**

Some of the stations were subject to floods. The New Ningo station has been located in adapted premises since 1976. The offices of the police personnel were in good shape and well ventilated. However, the same could not be said of the cell, which was located under an external staircase, unsuitable for human habitation. Though there was good ventilation, the place was exposed to the elements and therefore liable to floods in the rainy season. There was no shade from the rays of the sun. The Old Ningo station was also located in a waterlogged area and was practically in ruins. The building was in a very bad condition and the cell was filled with the stench of bat droppings. In the Barracks Police Station, the living quarters for police personnel were flooded; this posed a great danger to both police personnel and suspects. Again, ventilation was poor.

### **Bedding**

Bedding was a problem as there was inadequate provision for bedding in all the cells. In the New Town, Kpone and Harbour Police stations, the inmates had blankets for bedding. The inmates in the exclusively female prison in Nungua slept on mats and blankets. In other cells many inmates slept on the bare floor. Community 1, Ashaiman and Fishing Harbour cells did not have enough blankets, so many of the inmates slept on the bare floor. Inmates in New Ningo, Barracks and Prampram cells slept on wooden planks; in the Barracks Police Station cells, the wooden planks were infested with bedbugs.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

The health conditions of the many prisoners were poor due especially to inhuman living conditions in many of the cells and the lack of provision for the purchase of medications; there were no first aid boxes to take care of emergencies. In the Fishing Harbour, the health conditions of the inmates were deplorable. The cells were infested with mosquitoes and inmates had boils and other forms of skin disorders. In Ashaiman, ventilation was very poor resulting in health problems such as boils and rashes. At the Community 8 police cells, a 10-month-old child looked pale, malnourished and was deprived of sunlight, since the mother, a remand prisoner, was not allowed to take the baby into the sunshine.

Sanitation was good in New Town, Nungua, Communities 1 and 4 Stations; it was average in Community 2 and Fishing Harbour but the stench and heat emanating from the cell was beyond description. All the cells in the other police stations were found to be substandard. Sanitation was very poor and the stench was invariably described as pungent, horrible, unbearable or appalling. In the Harbour and Kpone stations, sanitation was poor. Old Ningo was very bad, Barracks was bad, Prampram and Ashaiman did not have toilets and bathrooms, but in Ashaiman a new bath and toilet were being constructed by the Member of Parliament for the area. At Community 8 station the cell, which was an adapted premise, doubled as bedroom and a bathroom. The inmates slept right next to the WC and shower. The shower had no cubicle and each time an inmate took a shower the others got wet, and the entire floor was wet. In general, the conditions described above did not benefit human habitation.

### **FEEDING**

Most of the inmates said their family or friends fed them. At the Harbour cell, inmates complained that the police provided them with small balls of banku once a day, and this was inadequate. Apparently the ₵800.00 ration provided for each suspect was insufficient and even that amount was not provided regularly. Station officers sometimes fed suspects from their own resources.

## CENTRAL REGION

### PART ONE: PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 18: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Osamkrom Prison Camp	77
Awutu Prison Camp	149
Winneba Prison	190
Ankaful Main Prison	407
Ankaful Prison (annex)	566

Prisons inspected include Osamkrom Prison Camp, Winneba Prison, Awutu Prison Camp, Ankaful Main Prison and Ankaful Prison Annex.

At the time of inspection, a total number of 1389 inmates were recorded in all the prisons and camps. Of this number, 84 were on remand, and two were juveniles. A few prisoners had mental disorders and were at Ankaful Main Prison where the authorities were taking steps to have them sent to the Ankaful Psychiatric Hospital.

**Table 19: Categories of persons in detention**

S/No	Prison/P. Camp	Convicts	Juveniles	Remand	Mental	Others	Total
1.	Osamkrom P/Camp	-	Nil	-	-	-	77
2.	Winneba	114	2	76	-	-	190
3.	Awutu P/ Camp	-	Nil	-	-	-	149
4.	Ankaful Main	-	-	-	few	-	407
5.	Ankaful Annex	-	-	8	-	-	566

**REMAND**

There were a total of about eight remand prisoners at Ankaful Prison Annex who had served for periods ranging from one to two years; the situation was attributed to delays on the part of the Police and Courts in prosecuting their cases.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **Ventilation/Bedding**

Osamkrom Prison camp had three cells, which looked neat, spacious and well ventilated. Cell 1 had 17 inmates, eight of them slept on metal beds with mattresses. Cell 2 had 31 inmates with only six beds, whilst Cell 3 had 29 inmates with only six beds. In all, there were 20 beds for the 177 inmates. In 2000, the inspection team counted 27 beds. All the other inmates were sleeping on blankets spread on the floor.

Winneba prison had 37 worn out student-sized beds which did not have sufficient mattresses. Almost all the prisoners at Winneba had blankets to sleep on.

In Ankaful Main, one of the dormitories had been renovated beautifully and kept tidy. It was quite airy as well. The remaining dormitories needed urgent renovation. There seemed to be no problem with mattresses at this prison. The Prisons Head Office had recently sent 50 new mattresses to the prison. There was no sign of overcrowding and inmates appeared comfortable.

Ankaful Annex had about 250 mattresses including 50 new latex foam mattresses which the Prison received a couple of weeks prior to the inspection. No inmate slept on the bare floor as each inmate had either a mattress or a blanket or both. However, this prison was overcrowded considering the number of inmates as against the number of cells and facilities.

### **FEEDING**

In Osamkrom Prison, the inspection team happened to meet inmates when they were having a combined meal of lunch and supper. It was reported that the prisoners were well fed and enjoyed a lot of freedom unlike the prisoners in the walled prisons. They could even prepare their own food from crops gathered during their farming operations to supplement their rations.

Inmates in Winneba Prison were fed three times daily on a daily rate of three thousand cedis (¢3,000) per prisoner. The prisoners prepared their own meals under the supervision of prison officers. Unlike the previous years, when the prisoners did not complain about the food, they claimed that the food was inadequate.

In Awutu Prison, the inmates had a lot more to eat because they produced most of the food from farms owned by the prisons. However, the kitchen where the inmates prepared their food was in such a deplorable state that urgent steps must be taken to relocate it in a decent building.

The authorities in Ankaful Main had tried, commendably, to ensure a balanced diet for the prisoners in spite of the limited funds for feeding. The inmates cultivated vegetables to augment their diet.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Sanitation**

In Winneba Prison, the water supply had improved. There was an underground tank which supplied the prison with water. However toilet facilities for both officers and inmates were in a very poor condition.

### **Health**

The only nurse in the prison had been transferred without any replacement. Prisoners were therefore given only first aid and sent to the hospital when their sickness was severe. On the average they had four prisoners visiting the hospital in a week. Regarding the cash and carry system at the hospital, the officer in charge explained that they had made an arrangement with the hospital whereby the prisoners were treated, and bills were paid later.

Awutu Prison Camp had a sick bay where minor injuries and sickness were treated.

Ankaful Main prison had a health post capable of catering for minor ailments of inmates. Serious ailments were referred to either a nearby Government Hospital or other health facilities. Procurement of medication/drugs was still a problem. It was reported that the Komenda, Edina, Eguafo and Abrem District Directorate of Health was kindly assisting with the purchase of medication.

The officer-in-charge of Ankaful Annex reported that drugs were in constant shortage. A recent donation of drugs from the Church of Latter Day Saints seemed to have helped to ameliorate the situation. From January to September 2002 the prison recorded seven deaths; three had died of AIDS while the others had died of severe malaria. The Elmina District Health Administration did fumigation twice every year. Scabies was one of the common illnesses at the prison.

### **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

There were also workshops for the training and reformation of inmates such as an electrical repair shop, blacksmith, tailoring, shoe making and carpentry shops. There were two sewing machines being used for training inmates interested in tailoring. Qualified and experienced instructors were said to be managing the workshops. However, there were complaints that these workshops did not have sufficient equipment and raw materials.

### **AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

Osamkrom inmates engaged in farming activities that helped supplement their diet. Similarly, inmates in Ankaful Main were engaged in two agricultural projects which were said to be doing very well. The projects included cultivation of cabbages for the prisoners' use and a nursery of palm fruit seedlings for transplanting. It was revealed that the prisons even sold some food to other prisons.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

Religious bodies and family members sometimes donated soap to the Winneba Prison.



## CENTRAL REGION PART TWO: POLICE CELLS

Table 20: INMATE POPULATION

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Besease	0
Anyinabrim	0
Ochiso	0
Abaasa	0
Twifo Mokwaa	0
Twifo Hemang	0
Denkyira Wawase	0
Kushea	0
Assin Praso	0
Bereku	0
Akonfudi	0
Akropong	0
Bangulow	0
Odoben	0
Amanfopong	0
Agona Duakwa	0
Abodom	0
Agona Nsaba	0
Bobikuma	0
Otsenkorang	0
Awutu Bawjiase	0
Darmang	0
Nyankomase-Ahenkro	0
Ayeldu	0
Abura Dunkwa	0
Essarkyir	0
Otuam	0
Gomoa Ngyeresi, Apam, Gomoa Obuasi, Gomoa Eshiem, Gomoa Tarkwa, Gomoa Fetteh, Gomoa Dominase, Gomoa Nyanyano	_14
Ayanfuri, Kyekyewere, Atechem, Dunkwa, Railway, Dunkwa District Headquarters	_15
Moree	_16
Abakrampa	1
Assin Fosu	1
A. Dominase	2
Assin Manso	4
Mankessim	2

<sup>14</sup> No information was provided on inmate population<sup>15</sup> All five had eight inmates<sup>16</sup> Inspectors not allowed to conduct inspection



Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Anomabo	1
Saltpond	1
Ajumako	1
Nkwantanum	1
Twifo Praso	2
Agona Nyakrom	1
Agona Mankrong	2
Agona Swedru	13
Brakwa	1
Breman Asikuma	3

There were no suspects in several stations: at Besease, Ochiso, Abaasa, Twifo Mokwa, Twifo Hemang, Denkyira, Agona Dunkwa, Agona Nsabaa, Bobikuma Abodom, Otsenkorang, Awutu Bawjiase, Darmang, Nyankomase-Ahenkro, Ayeldu, Abura Dunkwa, Essarkyir, Otum, Saltpond.

The majority of the station officers complained about lack of funds to cover transportation to the courts.

### Female Suspects

In the Assin District, most of the Police Stations (with the exception of Foso, Bereku and Anyinabrim) had one cell each. There were no female suspects in the Assin District since they were either granted police inquiry bail or were transferred to Foso, Bereku or Anyinabrim.

### Juveniles

There was one "convicted" juvenile, aged 16 years old at Upper Denkyira Police cells and the police were expediting action to transfer him to the Borstal Institute in Kumasi.

### ACCOMMODATION

Station officers in most cells inspected said that the stations did not experience overcrowding since suspects were either granted bail within the 48 hours period or were arraigned before court for them to be properly remanded in prison cells in cases of serious crimes. Contrary to this assertion, the team came across one of the inmates in the cells at the Upper Denkyira district who had spent five days in the cell but had neither been sent to the court nor granted bail. The officer in-charge of the station explained that the chairman of the tribunal was on leave and had asked the inmate's relatives to find somebody to bail him.

### Ventilation

With the exception of Abakrampa in the Asikuma-Odobeng-Brakwa district and the Agona Mankrong station in the Agona district, all the other cells were small, dirty (except Gomoa which was reported as tidy) not well ventilated (except cells in the Awutu-Efutu Senya district, which had enough windows to provide adequate ventilation) and were poorly illuminated. Suspects in the Breman Asikuma station in the Asikuma-Odobeng-Brakwa district complained that they were not allowed to have their bath.

### Bedding

Most cells did not have beds or mattresses and the inmates slept on blankets. Some suspects also slept on wooden beds with no blankets.

## **FEEDING**

It was observed that relatives fed suspects; the police station officers also assisted on humanitarian grounds. It was mentioned that the authorities used to give money for feeding suspects in the cells but this was no longer the case and the claim forms had been discontinued.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Health**

Some police officers complained that medical bills of inmates, which they paid from their own resources, had not been refunded.

In the Upper Denkyira district, one of the inmates complained of waist pains but others were in good health. The station officers reiterated that they had to pay the hospital bills of inmates for minor ailments from their own resources. However, for chronic or serious diseases, relatives of inmates were made to pay for the expenses incurred.

### **Sanitation**

All the cells were dirty and a strong foul smell emanated from them. In some cells, sanitary buckets were provided for inmates' use at night and they were emptied in the morning by the inmates. Station Officers indicated that they bore the cost of disinfectants.

The police cell at Ochiso needed particular attention; the whole office and staff quarters were flooded often to knee level whenever it rained. Similar to some other stations, there was no toilet or bathroom and suspects were escorted to a nearby place of convenience. The general environment was not suitable for human habitation.

Sanitation in the Brakwa and Amanfopong cells of the Asikuma-Odoben-Brakwa district was fairly good and suspects testified that they had access to good drinking water.

### **Ventilation**

In Ajumako district cell, there was virtually no air space for ventilation. The only window for the cell had been blocked for security reasons. There was no bed in the cell. Some blankets were however provided for the suspects and there was a slop bucket for their use.

## **INMATES - POLICE RELATIONSHIP**

In Breman Asikuma and almost all the Police cells inspected, the inmates commended the police for their good relationship with the inmates. The exception was in the District Capital, Breman Asikuma, where an inmate boldly alleged that a police officer was unreasonably uncooperative, and his statement was confirmed by the other inmates, albeit reluctantly.

## WESTERN REGION

### PART ONE: PRISON/PRISON CAMPS

**Table 21: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Central (male) Prisons	544
Central (female) Prisons	29
Ekuasi Prison Camp	133
Tarkwa Local Prison	316
Hiawa Prison Camp	69

#### INMATE POPULATION

##### Central Prisons - Sekondi (Female Section)

The prison with a normal capacity for 30 inmates, had 29 inmates, made up of eight remand prisoners, 19 convicts and two debtor prisoners at the time of the inspection. There were eight remand prisoners in this section who were being well treated. They were given all the facilities available to convict prisoners. There was one pregnant woman in debtor prison. Her pregnancy was three months old.

##### Central Prisons - Sekondi (Male Section)

The prison cell has a normal capacity for 300 inmates. However, at the time of the inspection there were 544 inmates made up of 393 convicts and 151 remand prisoners. Four of the convicts were serving life sentences. Two juveniles were serving terms between one and two years. One of the inmates had a mental disability.

##### Ekuasi Prison Camp - Sekondi

The prison was made up of two dormitories. At the time of the inspection there were 133 inmates. Only convicted prisoners were kept there. There were three juveniles aged between 16 and 17 years old. They were serving sentences of between one and two years.

##### Tarkwa Local Prison

The prison which has a normal capacity of 100 inmates, had 56 at the time of the inspection. Convict prisoners numbered 263.

##### Hiawa Prison Camp

The prison had 69 inmates. Only convict prisoners were kept there.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### **Bedding**

In the Female Section of the Sekondi Central Prisons, bedding was adequate. The inmates had beds with mattresses, blankets and bed sheets.



In the Male Section, the bedding situation was generally poor. The situation in the convict section was comparatively better. Most of the remand prisoners were sleeping on the bare floor, cardboards, or blankets. Only a few of them had mattresses.

All the inmates at the Ekuasi Prison Camp had been provided with beds, mattresses and blankets. In the Tarkwa local Prison the bedding situation was very poor and most of the inmates slept on worn-out mattresses and blankets, some of them infested with bedbugs. A few slept on cardboards or on the bare floor.

The remand prisoners were disadvantaged due to overcrowding in the cells. Bedding facilities in the Haiwa Prison Camp were generally inadequate. Some of the inmates slept on camp beds without mattresses, while others slept on blankets on the floor.

## FEEDING

Inmates in the female section of the Central Prisons at Sekondi were fed three times daily and the quantity of food was satisfactory.

The feeding situation in the male section had improved slightly in both quantity and quality as compared to the previous year.

At the Ekuasi Prison camp, inmates were fed three times a day. The quality and quantity of meals served at this prison were the best among the prisons in the region.

Most of the inmates in the Tarkwa Local prison complained about the poor quality of food. The quality and quantity of food served at the Hiawa prison camp was good.

## SANITATION AND HEALTH

Generally, inmates in the female section of the Central Prisons looked healthy. However, according to the Prison Officers, they had not received a sufficient supply of drugs from Headquarters.

The prison had decent toilet and bathroom facilities. The dormitories and the yard were all very clean and neat. The usual pungent smell that usually pervaded the male prison was absent.

### Health

In the male section of the Central Prisons, convict prisoners looked comparatively healthier than those on remand. Some of the remand prisoners had skin rashes due mainly to the congestion in the remand section. Two remand prisoners were extremely ill and the Prison Officers were advised to send them to hospital for treatment.

The situation in the convict section had slightly improved since the last inspection. They had been provided with decent bathhouses and latrines. Their rooms were relatively cleaner, more spacious and better ventilated than those at the remand section.

At the Ekuasi Prison Camp there was a nurse who administered first aid to the inmates. Almost all the inmates appeared healthy except for three who had rashes.

The dormitories were tidy and well ventilated. However the problem of inadequate toilet facilities still existed; hence inmates used buckets.

Most of the inmates in the Tarkwa Local Prison were in good health. A number of them, however, had skin rashes. Six of the inmates were seriously ill and the authorities were advised to send them for medical treatment at the Government hospital. A few of the inmates who had chicken pox had been properly quarantined to contain the disease.

The prison had bathing and toilet facilities, but due to inadequate flow of water the toilets were in a mess. Generally, the ventilation and sanitation was reasonably satisfactory, except that the prison was overcrowded.

At the Hiawa Prison Camp, there was a nurse who administered first aid to the inmates. Almost all the inmates appeared healthy.

The dormitory was tidy and well ventilated. However, the problem of inadequate toilet facilities still existed. The inmates eased themselves in buckets at night.

### **VOCATIONAL/TRAINING**

**Central Prisons - Sekondi (Female Section):** female prisoners were given training in dressmaking and handicrafts.

**Central Prisons - Sekondi (Male Section):** The inmates were trained in electronics, carpentry, handicrafts and tailoring.

### **AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

**Tarkwa Local Prison:** Facilities for Agricultural and Vocational activities were in a poor state.

### **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Central Prisons - Sekondi (Female Section):** The inmates had a television set and Ludo donated by CHRAJ.

**Central Prisons - Sekondi (Male Section):** The inmates had a television set, oware and draughts donated by CHRAJ. The inmates had a modestly stocked library facility within the prison.

**Ekusasi Prison Camp:** Inmates had access to indoor games and had been provided with a radio set.

**Hiawa Prison Camp:** Inmates had access to indoor games



## WESTERN REGION PART TWO: POLICE CELLS

**Table 22: INMATE POPULATION<sup>17</sup>**

Takoradi Central
Takoradi Market
Takoradi Harbour Station
Takoradi Beach Road
Bibiani
Juabeso
Juabo
Adjakaa Manso
Wassa Akropong
Manso Amenfi
Breman
Samreboi
Bonsa
Dompin
Asankragua
Nsuaem
Bogoso
Nsuta
Tarkwa District Headquarters
Tarkwa Railway Station
Abosso
Huni Valley
Daboase

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Bedding

None of the police cells visited had mattresses for suspects to use. Most of the cells had blankets, some of which were in a bad state. Some of the inmates slept on cardboard. Most of the suspects still were not allowed sufficient or minimum decent clothing in the cells. Most of the male suspects were either stripped to their pants or shorts.

#### Ventilation

Ventilation in the cells had not seen much improvement since the last inspection. Most of the cells in the urban areas were reasonably well ventilated. However, the ventilation in the cells in the rural areas was still appalling.

#### Feeding

Feeding continued to pose a problem. Inmates were compelled to make their own arrangements, since no satisfactory provision was made for feeding of suspects. This worked to the disadvantage of suspects who had no relations in the community where they were detained.

#### Sanitation

Sanitation in most of the cells had improved considerably. The usual pungent smell in most cells had improved and the cells were clean. However, a good number of the cells still lacked decent sanitary facilities.

#### Compliance with the 48 hour rule

Inspection of cell records indicated that most of the stations were complying with this constitutional requirement. There were however cases where suspects were detained beyond 48 hours.

<sup>17</sup> Inmate Population was not stated for cells inspected

## EASTERN REGION

### PART ONE: PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 23: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Koforidua Prisons	350
Akuse (male) Prison	213
Akuse (female) Prison	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>

**Total Population / Prisons and Prison Camps Inspected**

**Koforidua:** 350 inmates made up of 264 convicts and 86 remand prisoners.

**Akuse Male Prisons:** 213 inmates comprising 188 convicts and 25 suspects.

**Akuse Female Prisons:** there were nine inmates, comprising eight convicts and one suspect on remand.

**Remand Prisoners**

There were 86 and 25 remand prisoners in Koforidua and Akuse male prisons respectively.

Most of the suspects had been on remand for long periods ranging from one to five years in Koforidua, and even longer periods in Akuse. Noticeable among those in Akuse were two prisoners charged with murder: Abraham Teyeh Sibi and Richard Kwabena Djametey who had been on remand for 17 and seven years respectively. The officer-in-charge explained that they were facing a serious problem with the police: very often, the police did not bother to take the suspects for court attendance. Sometimes the police renewed the suspects' warrants without the suspects actually attending court. There were times the warrants were not renewed at all but the prison authorities were helpless, as they could not throw the remand prisoners out.

**Convicted Prisoners**

There was a marked reduction in convict population as compared with the previous year when the convicted prisoners in Koforidua numbered 379.

**ACCOMMODATION**

In Koforidua, all the cells faced a problem of serious leakage from the roof resulting in inmates not being able to sleep when it rained in the night.

The cells were overcrowded despite the reduction in the number of inmates as compared to the previous year (from 379 convicts to 264). The C cells, which measured 10x5 feet, accommodated an average of 47 inmates. While the E cells accommodated an average of 205 inmates, the two remand cells R2 and R1 measuring 13x25 feet each housed 42 and 44 inmates respectively.

In Akuse Male prison, all the 350 inmates were accommodated in three cells, each measuring about 12 X 25 feet.

The Female prison had two cells that housed nine inmates. The cells were reasonably neat, though not very spacious.

## **Bedding**

In Koforidua, bedding was still a problem in all the cells. The cells for the 86 remand prisoners had no beds whatsoever. Cell C1 with 11 inmates had only four double-decker beds, which meant that the rest of the inmates slept on the floor on mats and cardboards. Cells C2, C3 and C4 had each 12 inmates but only four three and five double-decker beds respectively.

In Akuse Male prisons, almost all the prisoners slept on beds or on mattresses.

## **FEEDING**

In Akuse, the officer-in-charge of the male prison complained that the ₵3,000.00 daily stipend for an inmate was still inadequate for providing the prisoners with good meals. He however mentioned that the quality and quantity of meals had improved since the government increased the amount. The inspection team tasted the lunch prepared for the inmates and confirmed that it had considerably improved since the previous year.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

Conditions in both male and female cells in Akuse were relatively better than Koforidua. There was a pervading stench in the male cells but it was not as sharp as it was in Koforidua. The female cells were not spacious enough but they were well kept and totally devoid of the usual smell associated with prisons; this condition was probably due to the fact that the cells had fewer inmates.

In Koforidua, the health situation was still poor, especially in Cell C, where most of the inmates had rashes all over their bodies. This may be attributed to poor hygiene and bed bugs. Also sometimes, the inmates were not able to purchase prescribed drugs due to lack of funds.

There were no cases of skin rashes in Akuse female cells and the cells were quite neat.

Water was a problem in Koforidua prisons. Thus some inmates could not have a bath for days and the water closets could not be kept clean; they emitted a pungent stench even though the toilet had been relocated further away from the cells. The pervading stench in most of the cells was also due to poor ventilation.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Koforidua prison had a workshop where interested inmates learned tailoring. The officer-in-charge explained that the prison authorities often selected those inmates who showed interest in learning a trade, and that it took between one to two years to complete the training. It was observed, however, that the workshop had only five tailoring machines. This number was woefully inadequate and more machines were needed to provide more inmates with the opportunity to learn trades that would render them useful to society when they left the prisons.

The officer also indicated that inmates and officers hardly brought fabrics for sewing and so they sometimes accepted work from outside. If the tailoring workshop could be well resourced, it would give the apprentices enough work to enable them to learn and polish their skills before leaving prison.

The inmates in Akuse Female prison complained of boredom and solicited government and NGO assistance to enable them to learn a trade.

## EASTERN REGION PART TWO: POLICE CELLS

Nine police cells were inspected: Akim Oda, Akim Akroso, Akim Manso, Akim Achiase, Railway, Akim Adjobue, Akim Swedru, Akim Apirade and Akwatia

**Table 24**

NAME OF INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF INMATES
Akim Oda	12
Akim Akroso	0
Akim Manso	0
Akim Achiase	1
Railway	0
Akim Adjobue	2
Akim Swedru	2
Akim Apirade	2
Akwatia	3

### INMATE POPULATION

There were no inmates at the Akim Akroso, Achiase Railway and Akim Manso stations at the time of inspection.

Achiase and the Akim Adjobue police cells had one remand suspect each. Apirade cells had two inmates; Akim Swedru also held two inmates, one on remand and the other a convict.

Akwatia cells held three persons, one murder suspect and two convicts; the convicts were yet to be sent to the prisons in Koforidua, while the murder suspect was due to appear in court for the first time. The Akwatia female cell had no suspects.

Akim Oda cells held 12 inmates, 10 on remand and two convicts.

### ACCOMMODATION

Akwatia police station had two cells, one for females and the other for males. The male cell had two rooms measuring about 9 feet by 9 feet.

With the exception of the Apirade and Akwatia Police cells, all the other cells had adequate bedding facilities; there were blankets in every cell. Akwatia cells had neither blankets nor mats and the suspects therefore slept on the bare floor.

In Akwatia, ventilation was very poor as the cell had no windows and had only a small hole at the top. It was therefore very humid and warm and there was a terrible scent. The officers explained that the cell was designed that way because of the fear of suspects escaping.

### SANITATION AND HEALTH

The sanitary condition of the cells was poor.



## VOLTA REGION

### PART ONE: PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 25: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Ho (Male) Prisons	423
Ho (Female) Prisons	26
Kete Krachi Prison	296

The Ho Male Prison had a total of 423 inmates. The female prison had 26 inmates. There were eight Remand Prisoners, out of whom five had expired warrants.

Kete-Krachi Prisons had 226 inmates. There were eight prisoners on remand.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

##### **Ho Male Prisons**

The prison was overcrowded due to the large number of remand prisoners on invalid or expired warrants, The closure of Keta Prisons and also due to the frequent transfer of magistrates. The provision made for bedding was woefully inadequate.

##### **Ho Female Prisons**

Ventilation was fairly good and bedding was satisfactory.

##### **Kete Krachi Prisons**

Ventilation was quite good but the prison windows had no mosquito proof netting. Bedding was inadequate. The ratio was three inmates to one blanket.

#### **FEEDING**

##### **Ho Male Prisons**

The feeding allowance was found to be inadequate and there was no proper kitchen or pantry.

##### **Ho Female Prisons**

Facilities for cooking and feeding were adequate.

##### **Kete-Krachi Prisons**

Facilities for cooking and feeding were adequate.



## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Ho Male Prisons**

Sanitation was fairly good. The infirmary at the prison had no drugs. The prison had a 7,000-gallon capacity reservoir.

### **Ho Female Prisons**

The prisoners looked healthy. There were no reported cases of either rashes, skin diseases or any of the other sickness that were prevalent in other prisons. Sanitation was fairly good.

### **Kete-Krachi Prisons**

Sanitation was poor. Inmates were exposed to mosquito bites and consequently to malaria. There were also no drugs at the infirmary.

## **VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY**

### **Ho Male Prisons**

A cement block project had been initiated.

Four inmates were being trained in carpentry, three in masonry, two in tailoring, three in electricals, two in plumbing and shoemaking. Facilities for training were limited and also located outside the prisons. To qualify to go out for training, inmates had to have served a third of their sentences and had to be willing to learn the particular trade.

A literacy-training program had been introduced to enhance the self-image of inmates, and an officer had been trained as a facilitator, however facilities were limited.

Religious groups had been organizing moral education, however their activities were not properly coordinated and monitored for their impact on inmates to be determined.

### **Ho Female Prisons**

The prisoners were usefully engaged in baking, weaving, doormat production and other crafts.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY**

### **Ho Female Prisons**

There were a television set, oware and ludo games for the prisoners.

## VOLTA REGION PART TWO: POLICE CELLS

Table 26

Name of Police Station	Number
Kpedze	0
Dzolokpuita	0
Hlefi	0
Anyirawase	5
Abutia-kploe	0
Ho	4
Kpetoe	0
Kete-Krachie, Borae, Chinderi, Banda, Dambai, Tokurano, Katanga	18
Nkwanta	5
Brewaniase	0
Kpassa	0
Damanko	0
Keta	1
Anyanui	1
Alakpla	0
Abor	2
Adidome	1
Aveyime	1
Juapong	3
Mafi kumase	0

Table 27: A Summary of conditions prevalent in the inspected cells

POLICE CELLS	INMATES	BEDDING	VENTILATION / SANITATION	TOILET/BATH	FEEDING
<b>NKWANTA DISTRICT POLICE CELLS:</b> <i>Kete-Krachi had two cells, Katange, Tokurano Borae, Chinder and Bandar, had one cell each</i>	0	Bedding was inadequate	Ventilation and sanitation were poor. The cell rooms were infested with bats.		Families of detainees or police on duty Provided food.
<b>NKWANTA POLICE CELLS</b>	5		Ventilation and sanitation were very poor	There were no bathroom and toilet facilities	Police personnel on duty usually fed inmates

<sup>18</sup> Nothing said on inmate population

POLICE CELLS	INMATES	BEDDING	VENTILATION / SANITATION	TOILET/BATH	FEEDING
<b>Brewaniase Police Cells</b>	0	Had four blankets	Ventilation and sanitation were very poor	There were no bathroom and toilet facilities	Police personnel on duty usually fed inmates
<b>Kpassa Police Cells</b>	0	No blankets or mattresses	Ventilation and sanitation were very poor.	There were no bathroom and toilet facilities	Police personnel on duty usually fed inmates
<b>Damanko Police Cells</b>	0	Had two blankets	Ventilation was poor, sanitation was fairly good	Had no toilet or bathroom	The police personnel on duty usually fed inmates
<b>Kete-Krachi police station</b> had two cells. The others had one cell each. All were Infested with bats.	0	Bedding was also inadequate	Ventilation and sanitation were poor		Families of detainees or police on duty provided food
<b>ADIDOME DISTRICT</b>					
<b>Adidome Police Cells</b>	1	Had no blankets	Ventilation and sanitation were fairly good.	No bathroom; the toilet was badly kept.	Police personnel on duty usually fed inmates
<b>AVEYIME BATTOR POLICE CELLS</b>	1	Blankets were inadequate	Ventilation and sanitation were fairly good	There was neither a bathroom nor toilet	Police personnel on duty usually fed inmates.
<b>JUAPONG POLICE STATION</b>	1	Had adequate blankets	Ventilation and sanitation were fairly good	There was no bathroom or toilet facility	
<b>MAFI KUMASE POLICE STATION CELLS</b>	0	Bedding was Inadequate	Ventilation and sanitation were very good	Bathroom and toilet in a dilapidated state	Police personnel on duty usually fed inmates.

KETA DISTRICT	INMATES	BEDDING	VENTILATION / SANITATION	TOILET/BATH	FEEDING
KETA Police Cells	1	Bedding was inadequate	Ventilation was quite good but sanitation was poor	There was no bathroom or toilet facility.	Inmates fed themselves
ANYANUI Police Station	1		Ventilation was inadequate and sanitation poor	There were no bathroom or toilet facilities	Inmates fed themselves
ALAKPE Police Cells	1	Bedding was fairly good.	The cells had fairly good ventilation and sanitation	There was no bathroom or toilet facility	
ABOR Police Cells	1	There were no blankets or mattresses	Ventilation and sanitation were very poor		Inmates fed themselves
ATIAVI Police Cells	0		Ventilation and sanitation were poor	There was no bathroom or toilet facilities	Inmates fed themselves
ANLO-AFIADENYIGBA Police Cells	0		Ventilation and sanitation were poor	There were no bathroom or toilet facilities	Inmates fed themselves
ANLOGA Police Cells	2	Bedding was inadequate	Ventilation and sanitation were poor	There were no bathroom or toilet facilities	Inmates fed themselves
KADJEBI DISTRICT					
KADJEBI Police Cells	0		Ventilation was Inadequate and sanitation, poor	There were neither bathroom nor toilet facilities	Inmates fed themselves
KPEDZE POLICE CELLS	0	Had only one blanket	Ventilation and sanitation were very poor	A bucket served as toilet and was emptied in a nearby house.	The inspector fed inmates from his own salary
DZOLOKPUITA POLICE CELLS	0		Ventilation and sanitation were very poor	A bucket served as a toilet	Families and police personnel on duty usually fed inmates

POLICE CELLS	INMATES	BEDDING	VENTILATION /SANITATION	TOILET/ BATH	FEEDING
<b>HLEFI POLICE CELLS</b>	0		Ventilation was fair but sanitation was very poor	Inmates used toilet on premises of nearby police housing block.	Police personnel or inmates themselves provided food
<b>ANYIRAWASE POLICE CELLS</b>	5	The cell had only one blanket	Ventilation and sanitation were fairly good		The police and sometimes the suspects families provided food
<b>ABUTIA KLOE POLICE CELLS</b>	0	The cell had two blankets	Ventilation and sanitation were poor		Relations and friends provided food
<b>KPETOE POLICE CELLS</b>	0	There were neither blankets nor mattresses	Ventilation and sanitation were poor		Families of detainees or police on duty provided food
<b>HO DISTRICT</b>					
<b>HO Police Cells</b>	4	Had two blankets	Ventilation was fairly good but sanitation was poor		Police/families of inmates provided food



## ASHANTI REGION

### PART ONE: PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 28: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Ahinsan Prison Camp	97
Amanfro Prison Camp	140
Kumasi Central Prison	1114
Obuasi Prison	276
Manhyia Prison	200

At the time of our inspection there were as many as 375 remand prisoners at the Kumasi Central Prison. Their periods of remand ranged from one to 13 years. Some of the factors which were said to account for their overstay included transfers and postings of police investigators handling their cases, failure of police investigators to send suspects to court and adjournments of cases.

#### Juveniles

The Obuasi Prison held one juvenile, sentenced to 36 months for stealing and causing unlawful damage. The Department of Social Welfare was handling his case.

There were two mentally ill prisoners at the Manhyia Prison.

#### ACCOMMODATION

In all the prisons, there were more prisoners than the limited facilities available were designed to cater for and this resulted in congestion in the cells.

#### Bedding

Many beds were broken, mattresses, blankets and pillows were inadequate and as a result most inmates slept on the floor.

#### FEEDING

There had been no improvement in the cooking facilities in the prisons and camps since the last inspection in 2001. Facilities were old and inadequate. The prison authorities however claimed the feeding situation had improved. Wood remained the main source of fuel in all the prisons and camps. The plates, pans, bowls and cups from which the inmates ate were cracked, old, and inadequate. In Ahinsan and Amanfro Settlement Camps, food was prepared under wooden structures which leaked badly. Cooks at the Amanfro Settlement Camp sometimes prepared food in the open under the scorching sun because the kitchen was not spacious. At the settlement camps, farm products were sold to food contractors through the authorities.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Ventilation**

Ventilation in the cells was very poor; buckets for sanitary purposes were found in almost all the cells and a bad stench pervaded cells. Officers complained of inadequate funds to purchase disinfectants. The inmates lacked soap, sponges and towels and therefore could not keep themselves clean and their clothes looked dirty.

### **Health**

Ailments such as scabies, malaria and coughs were common. The prisons had infirmaries that gave first aid and treated minor cases however, they were not well stocked with drugs. They got their supplies from the prison head office and these were supplemented by donations from NGO's. Serious cases were sent to hospitals where prisoners were given treatment after which the bills were submitted to the Prisons Head Office for payment. This was a concession granted them under the cash and carry system. Where drugs were not available at the hospital pharmacies, the prison authorities purchased them from private pharmacies and submitted the bills to their head office for reimbursement. In the police cells, police officers bought drugs for the suspects and claimed a refund from their head office.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

There were workshops at the Kumasi Central Prisons for kente weaving, tailoring and shoe making, but they were not well equipped enough to undertake effective skills training for the inmates. At Manhyia Prisons, though there were technicians who could offer skills training to the inmates, no training was undertaken because there were neither workshops nor materials. There was no workshop at the Obuasi prison. Female prisoners were trained in weaving of doormats, crocheting, sewing and baking.

## **AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

Farming at the settlement camps was satisfactory. Amanfro settlement camp, for example, had a large oil palm plantation, and reared pigs and sheep.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

For recreational activity all the prisons in this Region had indoor games such as ludo, playing cards, draughts and table tennis. Apart from Manhyia and Obuasi Prisons, prisoners could also engage in outdoor activities like football and volleyball. Periodically, inter prison cells competitions in these recreational activities were organized.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) had undertaken a pilot project to assist the inmates: 12 prisoners were selected from Kumasi Central Prisons for training in kente weaving, shoe making, carpentry, dress making and tie and dye after which they were presented with tools for the various trades. This intervention by UNESCO was commendable.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Clergymen from religious organisations such as the Catholic, Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches visited and organised religious activities in the prisons on Sundays during which gifts were presented to the prisoners.

## **ASHANTI REGION PART TWO: POLICE CELLS**

**Table 29**

<b>Name of Institution</b>	<b>Number of Inmates</b>
Offinso Police Station	2

### **INMATE POPULATION**

There were suspects detained for more than 48 hours. They were there either on the orders of the courts or had been granted bail but could find no one to stand surety for them. It appeared the Constitutional provision not to detain suspects for more than 48 hours without trial was not being adhered to.

### **Juveniles**

At Asamakana (Offinso) Police Station, there were two juveniles held for stealing. The police were in the process of tracing their parents for discussions.

### **FEEDING**

Police fed prisoners whose friends and relatives were not within reach of the stations. Friends and relations usually fed the rest. The daily food ration ₵600 per suspect per day was inadequate, and its disbursement from the prisons head office was not regular.

## BRONG AHAFO REGION

### PART ONE: PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

Inspected Institutions: Duayaw-Nkwanta, Kenyasi Prison Camps and Police Cells in the Region

**Table 30: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Sunyani Central (male) Prison	691
Sunyani Central (female) Prison	12
Kenyasi Prison Camp	129
Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp	144

Duayaw-Nkwanta and Kenyasi Prison camps held 144 and 129 prisoners respectively.

The male section of the Sunyani Central Prison had 691 prisoners. This comprised 503 convicts, 163 remand prisoners, 19 trial prisoners, 5 deportees and one lodger. The female section had 12 prisoners comprising 10 convicts, one remand prisoner and one trial prisoner.

#### Remand Prisoners

Out of the 164 remand prisoners in the male section, one inmate had been in custody since 1997, a period of about five years. There were other prisoners who had also been on remand for long periods but below five years.

#### Juveniles

There were five juveniles in the male section of the prison. Four of them had been convicted of assault charges and one was on remand, charged with stealing. The juveniles claimed that they had inflated their ages on the advice of the police in order to avoid serving longer sentences in the Borstal Home.

#### Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers

There was also a nine-months pregnant woman in the female section, convicted on a charge of causing bodily harm. She alleged that the pregnancy was not visible at the time of her conviction; she had no counsel and was unaware of the legal provisions regarding her situation. She therefore did not inform the judge who sentenced her that she was pregnant.

#### Mentally Ill Persons

There were about 20 persons who, according to the nurse on duty, had "mild mental problems".

#### ACCOMMODATION

There were three rooms in Duayaw-Nkwanta for 144 prisoners.

In Kenyasi, there were five dormitories for all the inmates; the dormitories were well kept and decent but they were over-crowded.



The male section of the Sunyani Central Prison had a very serious and unacceptable overcrowding problem. There were also other conditions which made that section unsafe for human habitation. Prisoners slept in bug-infested rooms on pieces of mattresses, cardboards and on the bare floor.

The female section, on the other hand, was relatively clean. Each prisoner had a bed and a mattress, probably as a result of the smaller number of prisoners.

## **HEALTH AND SANITATION**

In Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp, the inmates looked healthy apart from two people who were suffering from chicken pox. The inmates in Kenyase were similarly healthy.

In Sunyani prison the health situation was appalling. Almost all the prisoners suffered from one kind of skin disease or the other. 14 of the prisoners who were seriously sick had not been to hospital because of lack of funds and had only received first-aid from the only nurse in the prison. They suffered from ailments such as tuberculosis, epilepsy, scabies and hypertension. Five others who had attended hospital were not given drugs because they could not pay for them. Some others who suffered from various degrees of injuries and contagious diseases were placed in isolated cells to "rot".

## **FEEDING**

The prison authorities in Sunyani complained that the feeding grant of ₵3,000.00 per inmate was woefully inadequate and did not meet the feeding requirements of the inmates. The inspection team observed that most of the prisoners looked pale, hollow-cheeked and malnourished as a result of insufficient food and an unbalanced diet.

However in the two Prison Camps, the feeding situation was quite good. In Duayaw -Nkwanta, the inmates cultivated food crops in the prison which were used to supplement their food requirements.

## **PART TWO: POLICE CELLS**

In all, 40 police cells were inspected. They had a total inmate population of 56 which is a very low figure compared to 98 in 2001.

Most of the cells inspected were empty. According to the police, many of those arrested were processed for court immediately in order to meet the 48-hour requirement stipulated by law. Others who had committed minor offences were also granted bail immediately when their relatives showed up.

The Police deserve commendation for the professional manner in which they had handled suspects during the reporting year.



## NORTHERN REGION PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 31 : INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Tamale Central Prison	1
Salaga Prison	40
Gambaga Prison	36
Yendi Prison	159

### Tamale

At the time of inspection, there were no juveniles, persons with physical disabilities, pregnant women or nursing mothers in the Tamale Prison. Room 1 in Block C was reserved for condemned prisoners. At the time of the inspection, there was one person in the cell convicted of spousal murder. He was awaiting transfer to Nsawam Prison.

### Salaga

Salaga Prison was made up of five properly ventilated and well-illuminated rooms. It housed 40 male inmates.

### Gambaga

In Gambaga, 36 male convicts were reported to be sharing five tiny rooms with very little ventilation and illumination.

### Yendi

Yendi District reported 159 male convicts with no female convict.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Tamale

#### *The Male Convict Section*

There was a male convict section comprising four long blocks, namely A, B, C and D. Whilst blocks A and B were used to house first offenders, C and D housed the recidivists. Each block was sub-divided into two or three long dormitories containing an average of nine to 10 bunk beds. There were windows large enough to permit adequate ventilation and good natural illumination. The rooms in the male section were congested. At the time of our visit, one of the rooms for the convicts had been evacuated to make room for some remand prisoners to sleep at night. This led to extra congestion in the other rooms where convicts were kept.

#### *The Female Convict Section*

The female convict section comprised three dormitories, each housing a maximum of four inmates. This section had beds dressed neatly with white bed sheets. The rooms were quite airy and well ventilated. The

total number of convicts in the section was 10, with one person on remand. Major crimes for which females were convicted were stealing and fraud. The female section however showed no evidence of congestion. There were some vacant beds and spaces.

### **Bedding**

With the exception of two rooms, where inmates complained about lack of mattresses due to arrangements being made to house remand prisoners, there were adequate beds and mattresses for inmates. Prisoners also had blankets and cover cloths. The only complaint received in respect of the bedding was that the mattresses supplied were very light and this made sleeping as good as lying on bare springs. There were no beds in the remand prisons, therefore inmates slept on blankets.

### **Salaga**

There was no congestion; prisoners slept an average of eight per cell room. More than half the inmates/convicts population in the Salaga prison slept on blankets laid on the floor whilst the rest slept on single iron beds. Mattresses and cover cloths were in a very wretched condition. It was observed that occupants of some of the beds had no mattresses and had to sleep on hard cardboards brought in by the convicts themselves.

### **Gambaga**

The 36 male convicts shared five tiny rooms with very little ventilation and illumination. The fifth room served as a kind of quarantine for isolated convicts with infectious disease. The largest room housed nine convicts whilst the smallest housed five.

The majority of prisoners slept on torn blankets on the floor. Mattresses were also tattered and both the walls and floors of the cell rooms were in bad condition. The cell rooms were plagued with bed bugs that were causing skin diseases among inmates.

### **Yendi**

The convicts shared six long cell rooms, with an average of 26 convicts per room. Compared to the number of beds, the number of mattresses was inadequate. Up to 70 per cent of beds had no mattresses.

### *The Remand Prison*

The remand prison comprised four small rooms, each with a capacity to house a maximum of four inmates, that is a maximum of 16 people. At the time of our visit, the remand prison had 88 inmates. 15 inmates were compelled to sleep in each of the cells. The suspects complained about near suffocation during the night. They were hardly able to lay their full length on the ground but had to sleep in sitting positions, propped up against the walls until daybreak.

## **FEEDING**

### **Tamale**

There was a large open, well-ventilated, and naturally illuminated kitchen where meals were cooked. At the time of our visit, the kitchen was manned by a number of prisoners under the supervision of a prison officer. Prisoners admitted they were served three daily meals but this was changed to two upon prisoners' recom-

mendation. Prisoners at the time of the visit were served breakfast at 8:00 am in the morning with both lunch and supper combined into a single meal and served around 1:00 pm. Even though the prisoners were satisfied with the quantity of meals, they were appalled by the quality. The Commission also observed that food served to inmates was exposed to houseflies from places of convenience not too far away from the kitchen. At the time of the visit, 'Tuo Zaafi' was served with dry okro in peanut soup. Each plate contained three balls of the 'Tuo Zaafi' about the size of a ₵500 worth ball of Kenkey by Tamale standards. Other meals served in the prison were banku and peanut soup, rice and soup, gari and beans and gari and soup.

### **Salaga**

The daily stipend for feeding prisoners was ₵3000.00 nationwide. Reports from Salaga however indicated dissatisfaction about both the quantity and quality of food served in the prison.

### **Gambaga**

A three-fold-meal representing breakfast, lunch and supper was served in two sessions at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

### **Yendi**

The prisoners were fed three times daily on the same daily rations as the other prisons.

## **HEALTH**

There was an infirmary, which was run by a medical assistant. At the time of the inspection, the infirmary had eight patients who were suffering mainly from malaria and skin diseases. According to the medical assistant, these two diseases have remained the common complaint of inmates. Tuberculosis (TB) used to be prevalent in the prison, but this had gradually been eliminated. The last case of TB had been referred to the hospital where it was receiving treatment. Drugs available in the infirmary were mainly paracetamol, chloroquine and other painkillers. These were first aid drugs which were not effective antidotes to major ailments. Prisoners whose ailments proved beyond first aid treatment were usually sent to the hospital. Treatment at the hospital was free except that some convicts complained that in circumstances where the hospital prescribed very expensive drugs, the prison authorities abandoned the patients to their plight. Some of such prisoners who had some money on them usually bought their own medicine but the prison authorities did not always reimburse this expenditure.

### **Salaga**

Reported cases of diseases among prisoners were treated with first aid, before being referred to the Salaga Hospital. Unlike the case of the Tamale Prisons, patients from the Salaga prisons were expected to pay for the services of the hospital due to the cash and carry system, which was still operating in the Salaga Hospital.

### **Gambaga**

At the time of inspection, six convicts were sick and had been isolated. There were relatively fewer beds than the number of convicts.



## **Yendi**

There was a professional medical person who took care of sick persons in prison. He administered medication in the event of minor ailments and referred serious cases to the Yendi Hospital where they were treated on credit, subject to the arrival of the Prison authority's subvention. The Church of Christ and other NGO's had been assisting in offering free medical treatment and drugs to sick patients.

A water tanker supplied water. At the time of inspection the compound was clean. There was a 10-seater septic toilet, which was cleaned daily.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

As part of the reformation effort, the prison had a tailoring shop with seven very old and obsolete foot-driven sewing machines, with 10 convicts undergoing apprenticeship training in sewing. The 10 were taking instructions from a prison officer responsible for that section. Most of the machines were barely being maintained. Six out of the seven machines for instance had no loom belts to drive the machines. They therefore run on loom belts that were improvised out of pieces of cloth. An outer office revealed a junk-yard of iron remnants of old sewing machines. According to the instructor, money for replacements and repairs were hardly ever sufficient if at all available. The unit was said to survive solely on the benevolence of one philanthropist, Dr. Abdula, who was currently on a study trip out of Ghana.

There was also a Blacksmith shop, which was being almost completely worn out; the tools were obsolete and non-functional. At the time of the inspection there was only one convict at work shaping a bangle or a ring. A carpentry shop at the time of inspection had two people plaiting a piece of wood. Like the other workshops, the tools were old and obsolete. No convict was at the masonry shop. The team however, was informed by the officer-in-charge (OIC) that masons and carpenters were being employed to do petty rehabilitation works in the prisons.

There was a library stocked with only about 20 to 30 dusty old volumes that were donated by a late Catholic nun, Sister Claudia Murphy. The books comprised mainly Christian religious literature, novels and other subjects. An 'After Care' Officer from the department of Social Welfare manned the library. The 'After Care' Officer also doubled as the linkman between the convicts and their relatives, lawyers or the outside world in general.

## **Yendi**

The station lacked tools in the reformatory. There were neither tailoring machines, nor tools for carpentry or masonry, even though a yearning interest was expressed among convicts to learn a trade before they left the prisons.

## **AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY**

The Yendi Station is an agricultural station where farming was being undertaken to supplement feeding in the prison.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY**

There were a number of recreational indoor games in the prison. These included oware, ludo and playing cards. There was however no gymnasium to allow for physical exercises.

## NORTHERN REGION PART TWO: POLICE CELLS

Table 32

Name of Police Station	Number of Inmates
Tamale Central	1
Yendi	3
Yapei	0
Nyankpala	0
Damongo	0
Walawale	1
Nasia	0
Nalerigu	1
Gambaga	0
Osaboba	0
Cherekponi	0
Chigbani	0
Yendi	0

With the exception of the statistics of inmates, almost all the police cells in the region had similar features and characteristics.

### ACCOMMODATION

Most of the police cells had no mattresses and blankets, as a result, inmates slept on the floor. The practice of stripping inmates of their clothing was exacerbated by the fact that they slept naked on the bare floor. Though the Tamale Police Cells had beds, they were sometimes too few to accommodate the high number of inmates.

Ventilation was poor in almost all the police cells across the region. Built during the colonial era, the prisons had no proper windows in the cell rooms. The little in-lets were set very high up in the wall and were so small that they hardly allowed in enough air or light. Consequently, the cell rooms were very dark even during the day.

### SANITATION AND HEALTH

Sanitation in the police cells was generally poor. A metal bucket was placed in one corner of the room for sanitary purposes. In the Tamale Police cells, inmates passed urine in a small drain that ran along the walls and emptied outside through a small outlet beneath the wall. The situation generated and sustained a powerfully pungent smell that radiated from the inner rooms into the charge office and affected even the police personnel on duty.

### FEEDING

Inmates of police cells across the region were fed on a single daily ration of one meal a day. Inmates who were privileged to have caring relatives had food delivered to them. The daily stipend for feeding inmates of police cells was only ₵6000.00 per cell. Police Officers complained that they sometimes had to use their own pocket money to feed suspects.



## UPPER EAST REGION

### PART ONE: PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 33: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Prison	Number of Inmates
Navrongo Prison	139
Bawku Prison	63

In Navrongo Prisons, there was a total of 139 male inmates out of which 94 were convicts, one was mentally disabled, 41 were remand prisoners, one was on a life sentence, one was on trial and three others regularly attended court.

Bawku Prison held 63 inmates (entirely male), made up of 52 convicts, 10 remand prisoners and one person on trial.

#### **Remand Prisoners**

The remand population in Navrongo prison was unusually high, leading to overcrowding. Consequently, those on remand shared the same cells with convicts. Various reasons were attributed to this situation. Some had been granted bail, but could find no one to stand surety for them. In other cases, the prosecutors appeared to have forgotten about the remand prisoners so they did not appear in court. For some others, there were frequent and unnecessary adjournments of cases at the instance of the prosecutors. One of the significant contributory factors was that a few months prior to the inspection, most of the courts in Bolgatanga were not functioning.

The remand prisoners in Bawku Prisons had spent periods ranging from a month to two years in custody. The longest serving remand prisoner, called Antwi Abugri, was held for murder. He had served two years and seemed to be mentally unbalanced.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

The accommodation situation had worsened this year. Cell 5, reserved for the remand inmates, was overcrowded, and the rest had spilled over to the convict cells. Cell 1 had 23 inmates with 8 on remand; Cell 2 had 28 inmates with seven on remand. This situation was unacceptable as the remand inmates were suspects, and should not have been sharing the same cells as convicts. Also, the congestion posed health problems, especially in the area of hygiene and communicable diseases were concerned.

#### **Bedding**

The Navrongo Prison had only three bunk beds, and a few battered mattresses and blankets for the entire population of 139 prisoners.

All the Bawku Prison inmates had blankets. There were 15 bunk beds, but there were not at all in good condition. 28 mattresses were found, some battered and torn. Some of the inmates lay on the floor, since the beds and mattresses were in short supply. The existing beds needed repairs and there was a need for the provision of new beds and mattresses.

## FEEDING

The authorities in Navrongo Prisons indicated that prisoners were fed on daily stipend of ₵3,000.00 per inmate. They had three meals a day on a menu that the inmates said was monotonous. The size of lunch served at the time of inspection was adequate but the quality needed to be improved considerably. The inmates did the cooking. The cooking facilities were adequate, but the hygiene conditions of the kitchen needed improvement.

In the Bawku Prison, the inmates complained about both the quantity and quality of the food. They said that the soup was usually watery and the salt content was inadequate therefore they invariably had to re-cook their food.

## SANITATION AND HEALTH

### Sanitation

The prison environment was generally clean however There were no disinfectants and detergents for cleaning the cells.

### Health

At the time of inspection, there were three inmates in the infirmary of the Navrongo Prisons. One was asthmatic, the other was suffering from a swollen abdomen and the third had an ulcerous sore on his leg. It was reported that their relatives had abandoned them. Since there was no provision for buying prescribed drugs, it was difficult for prisoners to obtain medication from the hospitals because of the cash and carry system and most times, prison officers had to personally buy drugs for the inmates.

There was one prisoner with a mental disability who appeared normal. He had received psychiatric treatment and was currently under medication in the prison.

### Bawku Prison,

The compound and its surroundings were generally clean, and the cells were neat. The open bath space needs to be partitioned to ensure privacy. There were water tanks in the yard, and each cell had a storage facility for water.

Apart from one mentally disturbed prisoner, all the inmates looked healthy and there were no complaints. The prison had a dispensary and an infirmary with a nurse in attendance. However the prison officer complained of the lack of funds to purchase drugs prescribed for prisoners.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

There were no training facilities in both Navrongo and Bawku prisons. In Navrongo, there were skilled workers in carpentry, masonry, and tailoring among the inmates who could have served as resource persons. There were two sewing machines owned by individual Prison officers who had made them available to the inmates.

At the time of the inspection, two convicts were teaching other convict-apprentices to sew.

Because of the lack of facilities for vocational training in Bawku, inmates who showed interest in learning a vocation were attached to an artisan for training.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

For recreational activities, there were four sets of "oware" and two boards of draughts in Navrongo while Bawku Prison had ludo, draughts and playing cards available to inmates for recreation. On special occasions e.g. continental football matches, the Prison officers made their own television sets available to the prisoners.

In Tamale, the inspection team realized that, even though the cell was built to keep a maximum of 12 people, it was sometimes packed with as many as 40 people. The same was said of the other police cells in the region.

## UPPER EAST PART TWO: POLICE CELLS

Table 34: INMATE POPULATION

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Pusiga Police Cell	0
Garu Police Cell	0
Bawku Police Cell	0
Zebilla Police Cell	1
Binaba Police Cell	0
Tongo Police Cell	0
Pwalugu Police Cell	<sup>19</sup>
Bolgatanga Police Cell	12
Chiana Police Cell	0
Sirigu Police Cell	0
Paga Police Cell	1
Navrongo Police Cell	2
Bongo Police Cell	0
Sandema Police Cell	2

At the time of the inspections, most (eight) of the cells in the Region were empty: *Pusiga* and *Garu*, *Binaba*, *Togo*, *Chiana*, *Sirigu*, *Bongo* and *Sandema*. (*Pwalugu* station had no cell; consequently, arrested suspects were sent to the *Bolgatanga* Police Station at the expense of *Pwalugu* police officers as there was no official means of transportation at the station).

Six cells were occupied. *Bawku* cell had one woman on remand; there was one suspect in *Zebilla* and two in *Sandema* cells. *Bolga* cells held 12 male suspects including one convict awaiting transfer to prison and four men on remand from *Navrongo* Prisons. *Paga* cells held a 14 year-old boy and *Navrongo* had two who were 12 and 13 years old.

### ACCOMMODATION

*Pwalugu* station had no police cells. Consequently, suspects arrested were sent to the *Bolga* Police Station. *Garu* was the only modern station in the *Bawku* East District; it had male and female cells with toilet facilities. There was an offensive smell in the cells.

A number of stations were in rented premises. All the their cells were poorly ventilated and the buildings were dilapidated. The *Kassena Nankana* District stations of *Chiana*, *Sirigu* and *Paga* had poor roofing and cracks in their walls. *Togo* cell was narrow but clean, *Chiana* was also clean. However, *Pusiga* cell was found to be untidy and unsuitable for human habitation.

Provision for female detainees was either lacking or inadequate. *Sandema* station had one cell and it was for males. In *Bongo*, a "chamber and a hall" were used as male and female cells. One had to go through the female cell to reach the male cell. Only the female cell had ventilation albeit poor. *Zebilla* station had two male cells and one for females. But just like *Bawku*, the "cell" provided for female detainees was a corridor. *Bolga* station also had three cells, two for males and one for females but they were inadequate for the number of detainees. Ventilation was poor so most of the inmates were in the corridor.

<sup>19</sup> The station had no cell in which to house inmates



## Bedding

The provision of bedding and accessories was inadequate in all the inspected stations. There were as few as only one blanket for inmates in *Garu* and *Binaba* and no beds in any of the three cells in *Binaba*. *Bolga* cells had only three threadbare blankets. *Bawku* and *Sandema* cells each had two mats and two blankets. There were three new blankets as bedding in *Togo*. Each cell in *Zebilla* had a bed and blanket.

## SANITATION AND HEALTH

Five of the 13 cells were reported to be clean: *Garu*, *Binaba*, *Chiana/Kassena*, *Navrongo* and *Tongu*. *Tongu* cells had a really good report: there was an absence of the peculiar smell that is usually associated with police cells; the officer in charge said they were regularly provided with soap and detergents to clean the station and cells. However, the same could not be said of some of their toilet facilities; *Garu* toilets had an offensive smell and in *Navrongo* the stench was repulsive.

Both the cell and toilet in *Bolga* were dirty; the toilet had not been flushed for some time due to lack of water and the stench of urine and excreta was overpowering. *Bawku* cell was dirty. *Pusiga* cell was untidy and poorly ventilated and had no toilet facilities; it was reported to be unsuitable for human habitation. In *Sandema*, there was an overpowering stench though there were neither toilet facilities nor slop buckets and the cells and surroundings appeared clean.

Several cells had no toilets: *Chiana*, *Sirigu*, *Paga*, *Bawku*, *Pusiga*, *Sandema*. In *Chiana*, *Pusiga* and *Sandema* suspects had to be escorted some distance away from the cell to attend nature's call. *Sirigu* cells had slop buckets that the inmates had to empty outside.

## Health

The officer in charge of *Zebilla* revealed that suspects were given free medical treatment at government hospitals. However, when prescriptions were given for the purchase of medication, the cost had to be born by the relatives of inmates or paid for by the police officers out of their own resources. The situation was the same in all stations.

## FEEDING

Similar reports were received in all the stations. According to the officer in charge of *Bawku* station, the grant for feeding inmates was not received regularly, and even when it was provided, it was inadequate. The report in *Zebilla* and other stations was that there was no provision by the Government for feeding. In *Binaba*, no grant had been received for the past five years. Suspects therefore relied on their relatives in order to get fed and sometimes the police had to use their personal income to feed the inmates.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The *Pusiga* station lacked a means of transport and police officers were forced to use their own resources to send suspects to Court at *Bawku*. A similar complaint was made in *Pwalugu* station which had no cells and no transport. Consequently, suspects were sent to the *Bolgatanga* Police Station at the expense of police officers.



## UPPER WEST REGION PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

### WA CENTRAL PRISON

**Table 35: INMATE POPULATION**

Name of Institution	Number of Inmates
Wa Central Prison	89

There were only 89 inmates at the time of the inspection.

There were no females, disabled people, juveniles or persons with mental disabilities.

Out of the 89 inmates, 25 were on remand. Some of them had been on remand for periods ranging from two to 12 years. According to two prisoners, their counsel had applied in vain for bail pending trial. They claimed that owing to legal technicalities in court they had not as yet opened their defence.

### ACCOMMODATION

The cells were neat and ventilation was generally good; they were supplied with drinking water in earthenware pots. However, the condition of the cells was deteriorating, for instance, Cells numbers 3 and 5 leaked badly.

In each cell there was a covered plastic bucket that served as a bedpan and the inmates had to sleep each night beside their excreta; this was most unhygienic. During the day, there were KVIPs (Kumasi Improved Ventilation Projects) for the use of the inmates.

### Bedding

There are only 12 bunk beds evenly distributed among the cells. Consequently the majority of inmates slept on the floor. The condition of the bedding was generally sub-human: most mattresses were tattered and the blankets were threadbare. However, the cells were free from bed bugs, lice or other insects.

### FEEDING

In 2001 the feeding cost per prisoner per day was ₵2,500.00. This had been slightly increased to ₵3,000.00 per day. However, the majority of inmates complained that the quality of the food was rather poor though the quantity was appreciable.

The open shed mentioned in our 2000 and 2001 reports still served as a kitchen. The cooks were therefore at the mercy of the rain and dry wind. However, the prison authorities reported that an expansion project for the prison had been planned and the kitchen would be relocated in their permanent structure.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

There was no isolation cell for inmates who contracted contagious diseases. The prison cells were neat, tidy and supplied with drinking water in earthenware pots. In each cell there was a plastic bucket with a cover which served as a toilet for inmates at night.

### **Health**

A small wooden box in one of the offices served as the dispensary of the inmates: it contained painkillers and drugs for treatment of malaria which were administered by two officers. The drugs were supplied every three months by the Prison Head Office in Accra. The commonest ailments were malaria and stomach-aches. The prisoners were subjected to the cash and carry system without any concession. The prison had to pay for prescribed drugs from their meagre imprest. If funds were unavailable, the bills were sent to the prison head office in Accra if funds were unavailable sick prisoners had to do without until the authorities were able to buy them medicines if their relatives were unable to do so.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Facilities for learning trades like carpentry, shoemaking and dressmaking were non-existent in this prison. The only weaving loom, which had previously been used to train a few lay idle owing to the unavailability of inputs, especially thread. No funds had been provided for the purchase of such inputs.

Apart from those prisoners who were strong enough to take part in manual work from time to time, the majority of inmates were literally idle and were wasting away. Those that had no trade before entering the prison usually left without any skill.

The prison had a library consisting of one wooden shelf stocked with Bibles and very outdated copies of 'Readers Digest'. There were neither novels nor newspapers.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

The only recreational facilities available were six sets of ludo, one draughts board, and a worn-out 'oware'. Inmates were, however, allowed to watch television on Saturdays, Sundays and on public holidays. There was also a xylophone which was used for only religious services. Inmates did not engage in any kind of outdoor recreation.



**PART TWO**

**2003 REPORTS**

**2003**

**PRISON, PRISONS CAMPS**  
**AND POLICE CELLS COMPOSITE**  
**INSPECTION REPORT**

## 2003 PRISONS, PRISON CAMPS AND POLICE CELLS COMPOSITE INSPECTION REPORT

**Institutions inspected by the Commission's inspection team in the 10 regions were as follows:**

**Prisons:** Central, Western, Volta, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper East,

**Prison camps:** Central, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo.

**Police cells:** Tema Sub-Region, Central, Western, Volta, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper East, Upper West

Inspection reports recorded a total number of **6394** inmates in the inspected institutions. **5317** in prisons, **856** in prison settlement camps and **221** in police cells. Inspection reports recorded a total of **1159** remand prisoners in prisons inspected.

**Please note that blank cells in the tables indicate no reporting by regions and dashes indicate no information in respect of variables even though reporting was done.**

**Table 1: Total number of institutions inspected**

Type of institution	Prisons and Prison camps	Police cells
Total number	45	578
Number inspected	26	128



**Table 2:** Total number of institutions inspected<sup>20</sup> in each region

Region	Total number of Police cells	Number inspected	Total no. of Prisons and Prison camps <sup>21</sup>	Number inspected
GAR	32	14	5	
CR	-	8	6	5
WR	87	31	5	3
ER	54	-	6	1
VR	86	3	4	3
AR	177	-	6	5
BAR	78	60+	5	3
NR	37	4	5	4
UER	16	5	2	2
UWR	11	3	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>

**Table 3**

**Longest Duration of Remand and Age Range of Juveniles:  
Prisons & Prison Camps**

Region	Remand	Longest Duration of Remand	Juveniles	Age Range of juveniles
TEMA				
CR	-	4 years	-	-
WR	166	3 years	-	-
ER	59	4years	-	-
VR	135	-	14	-
AR	399	-	-	-
BAR	215	5 years	4	12-17yrs
NR	62	7years	-	-
UWR				
UER	123	2 years	-	-

<sup>20</sup> Some reports did not indicate number of institutions inspected nor inmate population of institutions inspected

<sup>21</sup> The total number of prisons in the Eastern and Brong Ahafo regions includes one new prison camp each at Forifori in Afram Plains and Yeji respectively

**Table 4: Inmate Population: Prisons and Prison Camps**

Region	Inmate population (in prison camps)	Inmate population (in prisons)	Remand	Convicts	Prisoners on death row	Lifers	Juveniles	Mentally-III	Pregnant women	Nursing mothers	Babies
TEMA											
CR	489	442	-	-	-	-	1	3			
WR	-	696	166	499	1	339	-	-	-	-	-
ER		426	59	367	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
UWR	-										
VR	-	566	135	11	-	-	14	1	2	-	-
AR	215	1588	399	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	5
BAR	152	729	215	516	-	-	4	-	4	4	4
NR	-	549	62	440	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
UER	-	321	123	194	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

**Table 5: Inmate Population: Police Cells**

Region	Inmate Population (In Police cells)	Juveniles in Police cells
TEMA	100	-
CR	6	
WR		
ER	-	-
UWR	2	-
VR	2	
AR	-	-
BAR	60+	4
NR	3	-
UER	48	-

## COMPOSITE INSPECTION REPORT TEMA

No inspections of prisons and police cells were conducted in the Greater Accra Region. The inspection report from Tema covered 14 Police Cells. Conditions in police cells in Tema were generally poor. The inspection team recalled that in 2002 it had recommended the closure of Old Ningo station due to its deplorable condition. The Station at Kpeshie required a storage water tank.

### POLICE CELLS

**Table 6**

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
TEMA	P	P	QG	QG	P	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
TEMA	P	P	P	-	P	Boils, skin disorders

## CENTRAL REGION PRISONS

Table 7

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
CR	P	P	-	-	-	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
CR	-	-	-	-	-	-

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
CR	-	-	-	-	-

## PRISON CAMPS

Table 8

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
CR	G	G	G	G	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
CR	G	G	-	-	QG	-

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare	Inmate-Officer Relationship
CR	QG	QG	-	-	-	QG

## POLICE CELLS

Table 9

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
CR	-	P	P	-	-	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
CR	-	-	-	-	-	-

Inspection reports from the Central Region covered three prison camps, two prisons and eight police cells. Conditions of accommodation, health and feeding in prison camps in the Central Region were good, compared with conditions in the main prisons, where there was overcrowding, particularly in remand cells that had little or no bedding provided.

Conditions in police cells in Cape Coast were no better than previous years although renovation work had been undertaken by Dans Paradise Hotel. Deteriorating conditions could be attributed to many more suspects using fewer facilities.



## WESTERN REGION PRISONS

Table 10

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
WR	QG	QG	QG	-	G	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
WR	G	QG	QG	-	QG	Skin rashes

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
WR	QG	-	QG	QG	-

## POLICE CELLS

Table 11

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
WR	P	-	QG	-	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
WR	QG	QG	QG	-	QG	-

Inspection reports from the Western Region covered three prisons and 31 police cells. There was general improvement in conditions in the male and female Central Prisons in Sekondi and also in the Tarkwa prisons. Also there was some level of vocational training being undertaken. However, health conditions for many remand prisoners in detention required some attention as these were poorer than for convicts. Bedding, spacing, ventilation, feeding, health and other conditions in the over 30 police cells inspected were appalling.

## EASTERN REGION PRISONS

Table 12

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
ER	P	P	P	-	-	QG

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
ER	QC	-	-	-	-	-

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
ER	QC	-	-	-	-

Inspection reports from the Eastern Region covered one prison. Convicts cells, as well as remand cells in Koforidua were overcrowded; bedding provided was woefully inadequate and ventilation was poor. This had resulted in some remand prisoners sleeping on the bare floor. Prisoners suffered from skin diseases and complained that they lacked soap for bathing.<sup>22</sup> Vocational activity in this region was constrained by lack of equipment, though the donation of six sewing machines by the World Mission religious organization was gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>22</sup> According to prisoners, when relatives visited, they provided them with toiletries. However there was the likelihood that relatives did not visit often

## VOLTA REGION PRISONS

Table 13

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
VR	QG	QG	QG	-	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
VR	QG	QG	-	QG	QG	-

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
VR	G	QG	QG		

## POLICE CELLS

Table 14

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
VR	-	P	-	-	P	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
VR	QG	-	-	-	-	-

Inspection reports from the Volta Region covered three prisons and three police cells. There was congestion in the male and female prisons, though other conditions such as health, sanitation, ventilation and feeding in Ho and Kpandu prisons were quite good. It is noteworthy that although there were enough mattresses in the Ho male prisons, there was inadequate spacing. There were pregnant prisoners in the Ho female prisons. Vocational activity was doing quite well, though marketing of products was a problem. Reports indicated that parcels of land were available and yet there was no agricultural activity being undertaken. Plans were underway to commence a vegetable farm soon.

With the exception of good sanitary conditions in the Denu police cells, the conditions in all the police cells were poor. There was serious overcrowding in the Aflao remand police cell at the time of the inspection.

## ASHANTI REGION PRISONS

Table 15

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
AR	P	VP	P	P	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
AR	P	QG	QG	-	P	Skin rashes, measles, malaria and coughs

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
AR	QG	-	-	-	QG

## PRISON CAMPS

Table 16

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
AR	-	-	-	-	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
AR	QG	-	-	-	QG	Skin rashes, measles, malaria and coughs

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare	Inmate-Officer Relationship
AR	-	QG	-	-	QG	-



## ASHANTI REGION POLICE CELLS

**Table 17**  
**Region**

	<b>Bedding</b>	<b>Spacing</b>	<b>Ventilation</b>	<b>Lighting</b>	<b>Feeding</b>	<b>Availability of Good Water</b>
AR	P	P	P	P	P	-

<b>Region</b>	<b>Sanitation</b>	<b>Adequacy of Toilet Facilities</b>	<b>Adequacy of Bath Facilities</b>	<b>Regularity of water supply</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Common Ailments</b>
AR	P	P	P	-	-	

Inspection reports from the Ashanti Region covered three prisons, three prison camps and police cells, (the report did not state number of cells inspected). General conditions in prison camps in the Ashanti Region, as previously, were good. There was however congestion in the main prisons; beds, blankets and pillows were inadequate and some inmates slept on cardboards. The inspection team was informed that because of a lack of space, inmates sometimes slept in shifts.

There were pregnant women, nursing women and babies in detention in the Kumasi Central Prison. Though there were trained personnel to teach vocational skills, training facilities were inadequate. It is worth mentioning however that a modern hair-salon has been set up, with the support of a philanthropist, to provide training for inmates. Police cells in the Ashanti Region were small in size and had very small windows which allowed in very little air and sunlight. Bedding was almost non-existent.

## BRONG AHAFO REGION PRISONS

Table 18

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
BAR	P	P	P	-	P	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
BAR	P	-	-	-	P	Stroke, hypertension, epilepsy and kidney disorders

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
BAR	-	-	-	-	-

## PRISON CAMPS

Table 19

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
BAR	P	QG	-	-	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
BAR	QG	-	-	-	QG	Skin diseases

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare	Inmate-Officer Relationship
BAR	-	QG	QG	-	-	-

## POLICE CELLS

Table 20

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
BAR	P	P	P	P	P	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
BAR	P	P	-	-	-	-

Inspection reports from the Brong Ahafo Region covered one prison, two prison camps and over 60 police cells. The bedding situation in the prison camps was poor with some inmates sleeping on the bare floor. It was observed that most rooms were infested with bedbugs. Feeding, health and sanitary conditions were quite satisfactory. On the other hand, conditions of health and sanitation, bedding and spacing in the main prisons were poor. Inmates looked hungry and pale. There were pregnant women, nursing mothers and babies in the cells.

Almost all the 60 police cells inspected had no toilet facilities at the time of the visit and therefore an offensive and unpleasant smell pervaded the cells. The cells were small and poorly ventilated. In Goaso and Nkoranza police cells, there were juveniles who were between 12 and 17 years old.

## NORTHERN REGION PRISONS

Table 21

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
NR	P	P	P	-	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
NR	QG	-	-	QG	QG	-

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
NR	G	QG	G	-	-

## POLICE CELLS

Table 22

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
NR	P	P	P	P	P	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
NR	P	-	-	-	-	-

Inspection reports from the Northern Region covered four prisons and four police cells. The prison cells had far exceeded their capacity and general conditions in the prisons were poor, mattresses and beds were inadequate and many prisoners slept on the floor. Prisons were overcrowded and poorly ventilated. Sanitary and health conditions were however quite satisfactory. Vocational training and agricultural activities were being undertaken.

Conditions in the police cells visited were poor.

## UPPER EAST REGION PRISONS

Table 23

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
UER	P	QG	P	P	P	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
UER	P	P	P	-	QG	Waist pains, headaches and general body pains

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare
UER	VP	-	P	-	-

## POLICE CELLS

Table 24

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
UER	P	-	QG	P	QG	-

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
UER	QG	QG	QG	-	QG	-

Inspection reports from the Upper East Region covered two prisons and five police cells. Accommodation, bedding and sanitation facilities still remained a problem. The majority of prisoners slept on the bare floor and on torn and dirty blankets and mattresses. There was overcrowding and ventilation was poor. Prisoners were exposed to mosquito bites since there was virtually no mosquito netting in the prison rooms. Notwithstanding this, it was reported that the health condition of prisoners had improved. For the first time, inspection reports indicated that there was one prisoner with a physical disability, who walked with the aid of a stick in the prisons in Navrongo. The officer-in-charge expressed concern about the use of the stick as it was considered a weapon.

There was no congestion in the police cells but the bedding situation, the health condition of suspects and sanitary facilities required some improvement.



## UPPER WEST REGION POLICE CELLS

Inspection reports from the Upper West Region covered three police cells. Accommodation, ventilation; bedding, sanitation and other conditions in the majority of police cells were very poor. The Babilie Police station was however an exception; sanitary conditions were good and the cells were neat and dry.

**Table 25**

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
UWR	QG	-	P	P	P	QG

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
UWR	QG	P	QG	QG	-	-

**Table 26: Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Bedding</b>	<b>Spacing</b>	<b>Lighting</b>	<b>Ventilation</b>	<b>Feeding</b>
TEMA					
CR	P	P	-	-	-
WR	QG	QG	-	QG	G
ER	P	P	-	P	-
VR	QG	QG	-	QG	QG
AR	P	VP	P	P	QG
BAR	P	P	-	P	P
NR	P	P	-	P	QG
UER	P	QG	P	P	P
UWR					

**Table 27: Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons**

Region	Health	Availability of Good Water	Common Ailments
TEMA			
CR	-	-	-
WR	QG	-	Skin rashes
ER	P	QG	Skin rashes
VR	QG	-	-
AR	P	-	Skin rashes, measles, malaria and coughs
BAR	P	-	Stroke, hypertension, epilepsy and kidney disorders
NR	QG		-
UER	QG	-	Waist pains, headache and general body pains
UWR			

**Table 28: Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons**

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply
TEMA				
CR	-	-	-	-
WR	G	QG		-
ER	P	-	-	QG
VR	QG	QG	-	QG
AR	P	QG	QG	-
BAR	P	-	-	-
NR	QG	-	-	QG
UER	P	P	P	-
UWR				

**Table 29: Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons**

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare	Inmate-Officer Relationship
TEMA						
CR	-	-	-	-	-	QG
WR	QG	-	QG	QG	-	-
ER	QG	-	-	-	-	-
VR	G	QG	QG	-	-	-
AR	QG	-	-	-	QG	-
BAR	-	-	-	-	-	
NR	G	QG	G	-	-	-
UER	VP	-	P	-	-	-
UWR						

**Table 30: Average Ratings for all Regions<sup>23</sup>**

Region	Ratings
	G
CR*, WR, VR, NR	QG
ER*, AR, BAR*, UER	P

\*Very few regions reported on these conditions.

### **Overall Assessments: Prisons**

**Bedding:** Poor; **Spacing:** Poor; **Ventilation:** Poor; **Lighting:** Poor\*; **Feeding:** Quite Good; **Sanitation:** Poor; **Adequacy of bath\* and toilet facilities:** Quite Good; **Health:** Quite Good; **Vocational Activity:** Quite Good; **Agricultural Activity:** Quite Good\*; **Recreational Activity:** Quite Good; **Library\*, Welfare\*, Availability of good water, Regularity of water supply\*, Inmate Officer Relationship\***

Average assessments for all regions: Poor

<sup>23</sup> These are overall regional ratings and may not necessarily reflect the ratings of individual prisons

Table 31: Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons Camps

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of Good Water
TEMA						
CR	G	G	G	G	QG	-
WR						
ER						
VR						
AR	-	-	-	-	QG	-
BAR	P	QG	-	-	QG	-
NR						
UER						
UWR						

Table 32: Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons Camps

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of water supply	Health	Common Ailments
TEMA						
CR	G	G	-	-	QG	-
WR						
ER						
VR						
AR	QG	-	-	-	QG	Skin rashes, measles, malaria and coughs
BAR	QG	-	-	-	QG	Skin rashes
NR						
UER						
UWR						



Table 33: Assessment of General Conditions in Prisons Camps

Region	Vocational Activity	Agricultural Activity	Recreational Activity	Library	Welfare	Inmate-Officer Relationship
TEMA						
CR	QG	QG	-	-	-	QG
WR						
ER						-
VR						
AR	-	-	-	-	-	-
BAR	-	QG	QG	-	-	-
NR						
UER						
UWR						

#### Assessments: Prisons camps

**Bedding:** Quite Good; **Spacing:** Quite Good; **Ventilation:** Good\*; **Lighting:** Good\*; **Feeding:** Quite Good; **Sanitation:** Quite Good; **Adequacy of toilet facilities:** Good\*; **Health:** Quite Good; **Vocational Activity:** Quite Good\*; **Agricultural Activity:** Quite Good; **Recreational Activity:** Quite Good\*; **Inmate-Officer Relationship:** Quite Good\*; **Library\*, Welfare\*, Adequacy of bath facilities\*, Availability of good water\*, Regularity of water supply\*, Inmate-Officer Relationship\*.**

**Average Ratings (General Conditions) for all Regions**

**Average assessments for all regions: Quite Good<sup>24</sup>**

Table 34: Average Ratings for all Regions<sup>25</sup>

Region	Ratings
CR	G
AR* BAR*	QG

\*Very few regions reported on these conditions.

<sup>24</sup> These are overall regional ratings and may not necessarily reflect the ratings of individual prisons

<sup>25</sup> These are overall regional ratings and may not necessarily reflect the ratings of individual prisons

Table 35: Assessment of General Conditions in Police Cells

Region	Bedding	Spacing	Ventilation	Lighting	Feeding	Availability of of Good Water
TEMA	P	P	QG	QG	P	-
CR	-	P	P	-	-	-
WR	P	-	QG	-	QG	-
ER						
VR	-	P	-	-	P	-
AR	P	P	P	P	P	-
BAR	P	P	P	P	P	-
NR	P	P	P	P	P	-
UER	P	-	QG	P	QG	-
UWR	QG	-	P	P	P	QG

Table 36: Assessment of General Conditions in Police Cells

Region	Sanitation	Adequacy of Toilet Facilities	Adequacy of Bath Facilities	Regularity of Water Supply	Health	Common Ailments
TEMA	P	P	P	-	P	Boils, Skin rashes
CR	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR	QG	QG	QG	-	QG	-
ER						-
VR	QG	-	-	-	-	-
AR	P	P	P	-	-	-
BAR	P	P	-	-	-	-
NR	P	-	-	-	-	-
UER	QG	QG	QG	-	QG	-
UWR	QG	P	QG	QG	-	-

### Overall Assessments: Police Cells

**Bedding:** Poor; **Spacing:** Poor; **Ventilation:** Poor; **Lighting:** Poor; **Feeding:** Poor; **Sanitation:** Poor; **Adequacy of toilet facilities:** Poor; **Health:** Quite Good\*; **Quite Good**, **Adequacy of bath facilities:** Quite Good, **Availability of good water:** Quite Good\*, **Regularity of water supply:** Quite Good\*

**Average assessments for all regions: Poor**

Table 37: Average Ratings for all Regions

Region	Ratings
	G
WR, UER, UWR	QG
GAR (Tema), CR*, VR* AR, NR, BAR	P

\*Very few regions reported on these conditions<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> These are overall regional ratings and may not necessarily reflect the ratings of individual prisons



**PART TWO**  
**2003 REPORTS**

**2003**  
**REGIONAL INSPECTION**  
**REPORTS OF PRISONS AND**  
**POLICE CELLS**

## GREATER ACCRA REGION TEMA SUB-OFFICE POLICE CELLS

Table 38: INMATE POPULATION

Police Cells Inspected	Inmate Population
Community 1 Police Cell	0
Community 4 Police Cell	1
Community 8 Police Cell	3
Community 2 Police Cell	0
Kpone Police Cell	0
Prampram Police Cell	0
New Ningo Police Cell	0
Old Ningo Police Cell	3
Harbour Police Cell	25
Ashaiman Police Cell	24
Kpeshie Police Cell	20
Sakumono Police Cell	0
Fishing Harbour Police Cell	6
New Town Police Cell	18

### REMAND

There were a lot of people on remand. Some had been convicted but could not be transported to the various prisons due to lack of logistics, especially transportation. However the remand situation at the time of the inspection had improved due to the increased number of police vehicles to convey prisoners. The situation was that the remand prisoners spent about three days in the cell, arriving a day before their case was due and staying for an extra day after hearing before they were transported back to their prisons.

### JUVENILES

There were juveniles being held in custody. It is recommended that male juvenile suspects should be kept in separate cells as is the case for female juvenile suspects.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Community 1 and 2

At the time of the inspection, Communities 1 and 2 had good accommodation because the cells had been renovated.

#### Community 4

The station was an adapted residential premise. It was exclusively for female suspects in Tema. Female suspects from as far a field as Ashaiman, Kpone and Prampram were kept in the cell.

#### Community 8

The station was an adapted residential premise. In general, this cell was not conducive to human habitation.



### Spacing / Congestion

#### Community 8

Given the size of the cell, three inmates represented overcrowding.

#### **Bedding**

Almost all police cells inspected did not have beds and mattresses for inmates. Inmates in Community 1, 2 and 4, Fishing Harbour Newtown and Ashaiman police cells had blankets to sleep on. Inmates in Prampram and New Ningo police cells however, slept on wooden planks. Some inmates in the Ashaiman Police Cell slept on the bare floor.

#### Ventilation

Community 4, Prampram, New Ningo, Newtown and Kpeshie police cells had enough windows and adequate lighting. Community 1, Old Ningo, Fishing Harbour and Harbour police cells on the other hand had few windows, whilst Community 8, Community 2, Kpone and Ashaiman police cells had virtually no windows and poor lighting.

#### **FEEDING**

Most of the inmates were fed by their families and friends. Some also depended on food provided by police personnel from their own resources. The ration covered one meal a day.

#### **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

##### Sanitation

Community 1, 4, 2, the Newtown and Kpeshie police cells had neatly kept toilet facilities. The Harbour police cell had few toilet facilities, which were fairly well kept. Sanitary conditions in Kpone, Prampram, New Ningo, Old Ningo, Fishing Harbour, Ashaiman and Sakumono police cells were rather appalling. These cells had no fixed toilet or bath and had a pungent smell. New Ningo police cell, located under an external staircase, was unsuitable for human habitation. The police cell was liable to flooding in the rainy season.

##### Health

Some of the inmates had skin disorders; no provision had been made to provide funds for medication for suspects. Even first aid boxes were not available at the stations for emergencies. Others who had other ailments could not be taken to the hospital, as there were no funds for that purpose. Where the police were prepared to foot the medical bills themselves, transportation was not readily available. The complaint of the police was that when they paid the suspects medical bills, they were not reimbursed.

##### Harbour Police Station

Some inmates suffered from boils and other skin disorders. The cell still had a strong stench which could be smelled even by those standing outside the cell.

## CENTRAL REGION PRISON CAMPS

**Table 39: Inmate Population**

Prison Camps Inspected	Inmate Population
Ankaful Main Prison Camp	336
Awutu Prison Camp	108
Gomoa Osamkrom Prison Camp	45

### JUVENILES

#### Gomoa Osamkrom Prison Camp

The Camp had one minor prisoner by name, Mark Moro, a 16-year-old Junior Secondary School pupil who was sentenced to six months imprisonment for stealing a Video Deck belonging to his headmistress. He was sent first to the Nsawam prison and later transferred to the Osamkrom Camp to complete his sentence.

### MENTALLY ILL INMATES

#### Ankaful Main Prison Camp

The Ankaful Main Prison Camp had two inmates with mental disabilities. These inmates had received treatment from the Ankaful Psychiatric Hospital.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Ankaful Main Prison Camp

The Ankaful prison had six blocks. All the six blocks had been renovated. The rooms were not over crowded.

#### **Ventilation**

#### Osamkrom Prison Camp

There was good ventilation in the cells.

#### **Bedding**

Some of the inmates in the Ankaful Main Prison Camp slept on mattresses and blankets. Others slept on mattresses without blankets while some slept on only blankets.

The bedding conditions at the Awutu Prison Camp were satisfactory.

#### Osamkrom Prison Camp

Generally, bedding was in good condition. Some cells had iron beds, mattresses and blankets. However, the beds and mattresses were for a few long serving inmates while the rest slept on blankets on the floor.

## FEEDING

### Ankaful Main Camp

The inmates were fed on ₵4,000.00 a day. Though this was inadequate, the prison authorities ensured that inmates were provided a balanced meal. The inmates ate 'winn mix' porridge (flour made from roasted cereals and legumes) and rice porridge for breakfast whilst they were given bread every Wednesday and Sunday. They also ate rice, kenkey, yam, banku with meat or fish for lunch and supper.

The inmates ate lunch and supper as a combined meal.

### Awutu Prison Camp

The food conditions at the camp were satisfactory. The camp produced most of the food, which was mainly maize and beans.

## SANITATION AND HEALTH

### Ankaful Main Camp

The prison had a health post which treated minor ailments of inmates. Serious ailments were referred to the Regional and District Hospitals. The prison service had established a good relationship with both the Regional and District Hospitals where inmates were treated and payments made at a later date. The Head Office of the Prison Service and the Food and Drugs Board occasionally supplied drugs to the Ankaful Prisons.

### Awutu Prison Camp

The sanitation condition at the camp was satisfactory. However, some of the prisoners had skin rashes, which they blamed on bed bugs.

### Osamkrom Prison Camp

The camp, on the whole, was well kept hygienically.

## VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/TRAINING

### Ankaful Main Camp

The camp had shoe, tailoring and carpentry shops. The carpentry workshop produced and undertook repairs of items for prison officers. The tailoring shop also produced uniforms for the prison officers. Experienced instructors manned each shop. Equipment and raw materials were however inadequate.

The camp was awaiting funds to establish a blacksmith shop.

It is note worthy that prison officers and inmates together built the Sammo Senior Secondary School in Cape Coast.

## **AGRICULTURAL TRAINING**

### **Ankaful Main Camp**

The inmates had cultivated cabbages and some palm fruits. These two projects were not doing well because of a lack of rain.

### **Awutu Prison Camp**

The inmates produced most of the camp's food, which was mainly maize and beans.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Religious Activities**

#### **Ankaful Main Camp**

Christian and Islamic groups visited the inmates regularly on Saturdays and Sundays; on Thursdays the Prison Ministry ran Bible classes with the inmates.

### **Clothing**

Due to the inadequacy of prison uniforms, inmates had to wear their own clothes though those who went out to work wore the prescribed uniform. Church groups and other groups sent second hand clothes to the inmates and these were given to inmates who were released from prison.

### **Amnesty**

During the year, 183 prisoners were granted amnesty.

### **Electricity**

#### **Osamkrom Prison Camp**

The camp was not connected to the national electricity grid. Mr. Ampadu, the officer-in-charge, implored CHRAJ to add its voice to their request for electricity to be connected to the camp to reduce the incidence of escapes in the night.

## CENTRAL REGION PRISONS

**Table 40: INMATE POPULATION**

Prisons Inspected	Inmate Population
Ankaful Annex Prison	442
Winneba Prison	-

### REMAND PRISONERS

#### Ankaful Prison Annex (formerly Anomabu Prison)

Some remand prisoners shared the same cells with convicts because there were not enough rooms for them to be separated. The police also failed to send remand prisoners to court.

#### Winneba Prison

The remand prison cell was very congested and some remand prisoners shared the same cells as convict prisoners. In some cells, remand prisoners outnumbered convicts. According to the officer-in-charge, most of the remand prisoners were granted bail about two to six years ago, but they had no one to stand surety for them. There were others on remand who had never been sent to court for trial and had been in prison for four years. It was also observed that there were 10 Liberian nationals, who claimed they had written to their Embassy and the United Nations Refugee Office but had had no reply.

### MENTALLY ILL INMATES

#### Winneba Prison

There was one mentally ill inmate.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Spacing

The Ankaful Prison Annex was overcrowded whilst the remand prison at the Winneba Prison was congested.

#### Bedding

#### Ankaful Prison Annex

There was insufficient bedding and some prisoners had to sleep on the floor.



**CENTRAL REGION  
POLICE CELLS****Table 41: INMATE POPULATION**

<b>Police cells inspected</b>	<b>Suspect population</b>
Cape Coast Police Cell	
Abura Asebu Kwamankese Police Cell	
Abura Dunkwa Police Cell	
Nyankomase Police Cell	
Abakrampa Police Cell	
Ayeldu Police Cell	
Darmang Police Cell	
Breman Asikuma District Police Cell	(no Inspection conducted)

**ACCOMMODATION**

Although a philanthropist recently renovated some of the cells, the physical condition of these cells had degenerated. The Cape Coast police cell, for instance, was renovated by Dans Paradise Hotel some time ago, but the present condition of the cells was worse as there were many more suspects using fewer facilities.

The police cells in Abura Asebu Kwamankese were in good condition; they were spacious and well-ventilated.

## WESTERN REGION PRISONS

**Table 42: INMATE POPULATION**

Prisons Inspected	Inmate Population
Central Prisons - Sekondi (male)	436
Central Prisons - Sekondi (female)	30
Tarkwa Prisons	230

### REMAND PRISONERS

#### Central Prisons - Male Section

A total of 96 remand prisoners were recorded in the Male Central Prison cells. Tarkwa Prison had 70 inmates on remand.

### CONVICT PRISONERS/ LIFERS/PRISONERS ON DEATH ROW

#### Central Prisons - Male Section

The convict cell in the Central Prisons had 340 inmates made up of 339 lifers and one prisoner on death row. Tarkwa Prison also had 160 convicts.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Bedding

##### Central Prisons

##### Female Section

Bedding was in a very good condition. Inmates slept on beds with mattresses, blankets and bed sheets.

##### Male Section

The bedding situation in the convict section was much better than that of the remand section. Most of the remand prisoners slept on the bare floor, cardboards, or on worn out blankets. Only a few of them had mattresses.

##### Tarkwa Prison

The bedding situation was very poor. Most of the inmates slept on worn-out mattresses, blankets, cardboards or on the bare floor.

#### Ventilation

##### Central Prisons - Male Section

The convicts' rooms were relatively cleaner, more spacious and better ventilated than the remand cells.

## **FEEDING**

### **Central Prisons**

#### **Female Section**

Inmates were fed three times daily. The quantity and quality of food was good.

#### **Male Section**

The feeding situation had relatively improved in both quantity and quality compared to the previous year.

### **Tarkwa Prison**

The quality and quantity of food served had improved as compared to previous years. This was attributed to the fact that the prison received food supplies from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture at a relatively reduced cost.

## **SANITATION/HEALTH**

### **Central Prisons**

#### **Female Section**

The prison had adequate and decent sanitary facilities. The dormitories and the yard were very clean and neat and devoid of the pungent smell associated with the male prison. Generally, the inmates looked healthy. However, the problem of inadequate supply of drugs still existed.

#### **Male Section**

The prison had been provided with decent bathhouses and latrines. Most of the remand prisoners looked very sick and had not received medical treatment. The convict prisoners looked comparatively healthier than those on remand. The prison officials were advised to send the sick inmates to the hospital for treatment.

### **Tarkwa Prison**

The prison had bathing and toilet facilities. The sanitary conditions at the prison had improved considerably and the prison authorities deserve commendation for the good work done. Most of the inmates were in good health though a majority suffered from skin diseases.

## **VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/TRAINING**

### **Central Prisons**

#### **Female Section**

The prisoners were given training in dressmaking, baking and crafts.

**Male Section**

The inmates were trained in electronics, carpentry, crafts and tailoring. The workshops lacked materials and tools.

**Tarkwa Prison**

Training facilities were inadequate.

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

**Central Prisons**

**Female Section**

The inmates had a television set and other indoor games presented by CHRAJ.

**Male Section**

The inmates had a television set (which was out of order), oware and draughts donated by CHRAJ. The inmates had a modestly stocked library.

**WESTERN REGION  
POLICE CELLS****Table 43: Inmate Population**

<b>Takoradi Central</b>
<b>Takoradi Market</b>
Takoradi Harbour Station
Takoradi Beach Road
Bibiani
Juabeso
Jumbo
Adjakaa Manso
Wassa Akropong
Manso Amenfi
Breman
Bonsa
Dompim
Nsuta
Abosso
Bogoso
Peseta
Huni Valley
Oppong Valley
Nsuaem
Tarkwa Railway Station
Tarkwa District Headquarters
Asankrangwa
Anhwiaso
Subri
Sefwi Wiawso
Asawinso
Sefwi Buaku
Enchi
Ateiku
Daboase



## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **Bedding**

Bedding and clothing for suspects detained were virtually non-existent. Inmates slept on used cardboards, worn out blankets, old newspapers, or the bare floor. Male suspects were not allowed decent clothing in the cells. They were often stripped to their pants or shorts.

### **Ventilation**

Ventilation in most of the cells inspected was appalling. Some stations that hitherto had been modestly ventilated were closing up some of the openings, purportedly for security reasons.

## **FEEDING**

The problem of feeding suspects detained in the cells still persisted since no adequate provision had been made to cater for such suspects. As a result inmates made their own arrangements for their meals. This situation did not favour those who had no relations in the community where they were detained.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

Sanitary conditions in a majority of the police cells inspected were not satisfactory. The cells lacked decent sanitary facilities and smelled very badly.

## **INMATE - OFFICER RELATIONSHIP**

No physical evidence indicating mishandling of inmates was observed, and there was no verbal complaint to that effect.

## **EASTERN REGION PRISONS**

**Table 44: INMATE POPULATION**

<b>Prisons inspected</b>	<b>Inmate population</b>
Koforidua Prison	426

At the time of the inspection, there were 426 inmates at the Koforidua prison, an increase from 350 in 2002 to 426.

### **REMAND PRISONERS**

A total of 59 inmates were on remand at the cell. This shows a decrease from 86 in 2002 to 59 in 2003. One remarkable improvement was that most of the remand prisoners the team met during the previous inspection had either been released or were being tried. Besides, all the suspects who were remanded as a result of police/military swoops for robbery had been discharged for lack of prosecution as nobody had identified them. The longest serving suspects during our inspection were Kano Usiayo who had been on remand since June 2001 for robbery and Moses Tetteh who had also been on remand since December 2001 for robbery.

### **CONVICT PRISONERS**

Convicts in the cell totaled 367. Compared to our previous inspection the convicts had increased from 350 to 367.

### **CONDEMNED PRISONERS / PRISONERS ON DEATH ROW**

At the time of our inspection there were 11 prisoners on death row. Almost all of them were convicted of murder. All of them had been on death row for less than one year after their convictions. The prison authorities explained that such prisoners were often transferred to Nsawam prisons.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Roofs of almost all the cells leaked whenever it rained. According to inmates, they were compelled to stand in order to sleep whenever it rained at night.

#### **Bedding**

The remand cells had no beds. The suspects therefore slept on the floor, cardboards, blankets and some on the bare floor.

The bedding situation in the convict cells was poor. Cell E1 had 45 inmates but only five double-decker beds, E2 with 50 inmates had only three double-decker beds, E3 with 44 inmates had no bed and E4 with 43 inmates also had no bed. Most of the inmates slept on cardboards and mats while others slept on blankets. A few slept on the floor. Body lice were therefore prevalent among the inmates.

#### **Spacing**

The convict cells were crowded and as a result bed bugs were also common in most of the cells. Ventilation was poor.

## SANITATION AND HEALTH

### Sanitation

Some of the inmates complained of lack of soap for bathing, compounding the problem of skin rashes, especially for those whose relatives failed to visit them and keep them supplied. The prison officers explained that they fumigated the cells from time to time but the supply of chemicals was quite irregular hence the chronic problem of bed bugs.

The chronic water problem was gradually being solved. The prison had acquired water storage facilities where water was stored whenever the taps were opened. Dr. Edmond Delle of Rabito Clinic had also been donating water to the prison. He had also made arrangements with the Ghana Water Company to operate a tanker service to the prison at his cost whenever the need arose.

### Health

The general health situation was quite poor; drugs were purchased only when funds were available.

One improvement however, was an arrangement made with the Regional hospital for a medical doctor to visit the prison once a week to treat the inmates. Only serious illnesses or emergencies were therefore referred to the regional hospital.

At the time of our visit, three inmates were seriously sick and had been confined to the Sick Bay.

## VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/ TRAINING

The prison had a tailoring workshop. The officer in charge explained that only inmates who had expressed interest were allowed to learn a trade. They were however constrained by lack of machines. Presently the workshop had six tailoring machines donated by World Mission, a religious organization from Tema. There was an urgent need to provide the prison with more machines so that interested inmates could take advantage to learn a trade for their future welfare after they had completed their sentences.

There was also a small workshop for shoe repairs. At the time of our inspection there was only one inmate, a cobbler by profession who was manning the workshop. He explained that as a result of lack of machines he had only one apprentice. Plans were underway to provide other vocational skills such as masonry, carpentry and general agriculture to equip inmates for post-prison life.

**VOLTA REGION: PRISONS****Table 45: INMATE POPULATION**

<b>Prisons inspected</b>	<b>Inmate population</b>
Ho Male Prisons	309
Ho Female Prisons	18
Kpando Prisons	239

**REMAND PRISONERS**

The Male and Female Prisons had a total of 79 male and seven female remand prisoners. Kpando Prisons had 49 remand prisoners.

**CONVICT PRISONERS****Ho Female Prisons**

11 convict prisoners were recorded in the cell.

**JUVENILE PRISONERS****Ho Male Prisons**

There were 14 Juveniles in the cell. Some Judges from Ho visited the prisons at the time of the inspection and promised to dispose of their cases expeditiously.

**MENTALLY - ILL INMATES****Ho Female Prisons**

One inmate was mentally ill.

**PREGNANT WOMEN****Ho Female Prisons**

Two inmates were found to be pregnant. One was a convict and the other was on remand.

**ACCOMMODATION****Bedding****Ho Male Prison**

The prison had quite a good number of mattresses; there was however inadequate space for these mattresses.

**Ho Female Prison**

Inmates shared blankets and wooden planks.

**Spacing**

The Ho Male Prison still had the problem of overcrowding. The Female Prison housed 239 inmates in accommodation meant for 130 inmates. The cell was thus heavily congested, with the remand prisoners' cell being the worst in terms of overcrowding.

## **Ventilation**

### **Ho Female Prisons**

The cells were adequately ventilated.

## **FEEDING**

### **Ho Male Prisons**

Feeding had improved. Inmates were fed on a daily ration of ₵4,000.00 per person. Cooking was done in the open at the mercy of the rain and sunshine. The prison had enough cooking pots, drinking cups and plates.

### **Ho Female Prisons**

Quality and quantity of food served were satisfactory, but there was not much variety in dishes served.

### **Kpando Prisons**

The feeding situation in the cell was good. Inmates enjoyed variety in food. Quality and quantity of food were also satisfactory.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Ho Male Prisons**

#### **Health**

There were no drugs at the Infirmary, as a result remand prisoners were returned to the police who in turn sent them to the hospital.

### **Kpando Prisons**

A resident nurse provided First Aid at the prison but referred serious cases to the hospital.

#### **Sanitation**

### **Ho Male Prisons**

The prison had a sufficient flow of water over the period. A water closet facility had almost been completed.

### **Ho Female Prisons**

General sanitation in the prison was good. There was a water closet in the cell, which was neatly kept. Prisoners also looked very healthy.

### **Kpando Prisons**

Sanitation in the prison was quite good. A new reservoir had been installed to improve water supply. A 10-seater water closet toilet facility was under construction as a result of recommendations made by the Commission during previous visits.

## **VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/TRAINING**

### **Ho Male Prisons**

A cement block project was on course. The electrical and the tailoring shops were operating. Though land was available, there was no farming activity at the time of the visit. Efforts were being made to start a vegetable farm soon. Marketing of products was however a problem.



### **Ho Female Prisons**

A bakery was in operation at the cell. The Inmates also wove napkins for sale. The proceeds were used to buy soap and medicines for their use.

### **Kpando Prisons**

Inmates engaged in farming and tailoring.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY**

### **Ho Male Prisons**

Indoor games, such as ludo and cards were available at the prison. A philanthropist had promised to donate games to the Prison soon.

### **Ho Female Prisons**

The cell had a television set and a ludo game.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Ho Female Prisons**

Religious leaders usually conducted moral education for prisoners.

## **VOLTA REGION: POLICE CELLS**

**Table 46 : INMATE POPULATION**

<b>Police cells inspected</b>	<b>Inmate population</b>
Ho District Police Station	0
Denu Police Station	2 (a male and a female)
Aflao Police Station	-

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **Aflao Police Station**

There was overcrowding in the remand prisoners cell. According to the Chief Inspector, this was due to court not being in session at the time.

## **FEEDING**

### **Ho District Police Cell**

The suspects were inadequately fed.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Ho District Police Cell**

The toilet facilities in the cell were very poor. Movable toilets were still being used. The female toilet got filled up and the whole environment stank.

### **Denu Police Station**

Sanitation in the cell was good.

## ASHANTI REGION PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS

**Table 47: Inmate Population:**

Prisons inspected	Inmate Population
Kumasi Central	
Manhyia	
Obuasi	
Amanfro Camp	
Ahinsan Camp	

### FEEDING

Like their counterparts in the three other main prisons, inmates of the Ahinsan and Amanfro Prison Camps benefitted from the increase in the daily feeding ration (from ₵3,000 to ₵4,000) and therefore enjoyed an improvement in the quality and quantity of food. In all the camps, irregular payment of food contractors affected timely supply of foodstuffs.

Both camps still cooked in temporary wooden structures. The "kitchens" relied on firewood for cooking, and their aluminum cooking utensils were not in as good condition as those found in the three other prisons in the region.

### HEALTH

The cash and carry system no longer operated in the prisons. Inmates received free treatment and the bills were sent to the Regional Service. Where prescribed drugs were not available or out of stock, the prison authorities sourced for funds and purchased drugs from private pharmacies.

There were infirmaries manned by qualified personnel but they were not well stocked with basic drugs. They occasionally got their supplies from their Head office, NGO's, Voluntary Organizations and Churches. Doctors paid weekly visits to the infirmaries. Ahinsan and Amanfro Camps had no infirmaries in spite of the fact that they were sited in rural areas where snake and scorpion bites were rampant.

Common ailments recorded in the prisons were malaria, measles, skin rashes and chest infections. Three deaths were recorded at the Kumasi Central prison between January and March 2003. One died of AIDS while the causes of the other deaths were yet to be established.

### AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

The inmates in the settlement camps were exposed to more productive skills than their counterparts in the walled prisons. Both camps had large corn and vegetable farms. Amanfro had in addition a large palm plantation and a snail production project.

## ASHANTI REGION PRISONS

### REMAND PRISONERS

#### Kumasi Central Prison

There were as many as 399 remand prisoners at the time of inspection in the Kumasi Central Prison. Some had been on remand for years. We were reliably informed that for lack of space, some of them slept in shifts. The congestion was so serious that any outbreak of an epidemic will wipe out the entire population. Factors that accounted for the congestion and overstay of the remand prisoners had not changed. Among the factors were - failure of police officers to send suspects to court, inability of remand prisoners to meet harsh bail conditions, frequent adjournments of cases, transfers/postings of police investigators handling cases etc.

### JUVENILES

From the records there were no juveniles in any of the prisons inspected. Juveniles who fell foul of the law were kept at "counter back" and their parents were sent for to stand surety for them. An investigation was however being carried out at the Obuasi office of CHRAJ involving five prisoners, suspected to be juveniles. A follow up by the Obuasi office revealed that the juveniles were released three months after the inspection.

### MENTALLY ILL INMATES

There were no mentally-ill inmates.

### PREGNANT WOMEN AND NURSING MOTHERS

There were four pregnant inmates and five nursing mothers, three of whom were on remand. Their offences ranged from "stealing", "causing harm", "debt", and "fraudulent breach of trust" to "murder".

### BABIES AND CHILDREN

Five babies were in the remand cell with their mothers.

### ACCOMMODATION

There had been no noticeable physical expansion in any of the prisons. The cells were not spacious enough to accommodate the inmates.

#### Spacing

#### Kumasi Central Prison

The congestion in the cells persisted. The Remand Section was the most congested cell.

#### Bedding

#### Kumasi Central Prison

Beds, pillows and blankets in the prison were inadequate. Some inmates slept on pieces of cardboard.

## **FEEDING**

The increase in the daily ration of food from ₵3, 000 to ₵4, 000 had led to an improvement in the quality and quantity of food. However, irregular payment of food contractors had affected timely supply of foodstuffs. There had been no expansion in the sizes of the kitchens; neither had there been installation of any modern facilities in them.

All the kitchens continued to rely on firewood for cooking, as a result of which the walls and ceilings were covered with soot. Most of the aluminum cooking utensils had developed cracks due to excessive heat from firewood.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Sanitation**

In the prisons, the "pan latrine" had been replaced with water closets. However, these were inadequate when viewed against the ever-increasing number of inmates, especially at the remand section. The water closets and the bathrooms were neatly kept. Irregular and inadequate provision of funds had affected the purchase of disinfectants and detergents.

### **Health**

The cash and carry system no longer operated in the prisons. Free treatment was offered to inmates after which bills were sent to the Regional Service. In situations where the prescribed drugs were not available or out of stock, the prison authorities sourced for funds and purchased the drugs from private pharmacies. Common ailments recorded in the prisons were malaria, measles, skin rashes and coughs.

Three deaths were recorded at the Kumasi Central Prison between January and March 2003. One death was from AIDS related disease while the causes of the other deaths were yet to be established. There were infirmaries manned by qualified personnel but they were not well stocked with basic drugs. They occasionally got their supplies from the Head Office, NGOs, Voluntary Organizations and Churches. Doctors paid weekly visits to the infirmaries.

## **VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/TRAINING**

Poor training facilities in the other prisons still persisted. Though there were trained personnel and a big workshop for weaving, shoe making and tailoring, lack of training materials had made it difficult for any meaningful training to be undertaken. It was only the carpentry section at the Kumasi Central Prison that appeared to be functioning.

At the female prison, skills in weaving, crocheting and bakery were taught. With the support of a philanthropist, a modern hair-salon had been set up to offer training to the inmates. Hopefully, this could generate a lot of money for the prison. Obuasi and Manhyia prisons did not have any viable workshops.



## **ASHANTI REGION POLICE CELLS**

### **ACCOMMODATION**

#### **Ventilation**

The cells were small and looked dark. The windows were small and allowed in little air and sunlight. At the Abuakwa Police Station, for instance, the cells were so dark that, the inspection team could only see the face of the inmates with the aid of torchlight. The walls were black as a result of accumulated dirt. Some walls had big cracks and some of the roofs leaked at the least drizzle. Abore, Antoakrom and Keniako were some of the cells which leaked.

#### **Bedding**

Mattresses and blankets were inadequate. At Asokwa Police Station in Kumasi, inmates slept on old newspapers at the time of inspection. The authorities had taken delivery of blankets which were yet to be supplied to the cells. At the New Edubiase Police Station some of the remand prisoners slept on the bare floor.

### **FEEDING**

The daily ration for each remand prisoner was ₵2000.00 but this amount was not released on time. Most often the policemen on duty provided food, for which there was a delay in getting a refund. Relatives of the inmates also provided food for inmates.

### **SANITATION / HEALTH**

#### **Sanitation**

The police cells presented a horrible picture. Apart from Hwidiem, Mampong and the Kumasi Ridge Police Stations, which had water closets, the rest still used plastic buckets in the cells for sanitary purposes. These "buckets" give the cells a very bad odour, which was injurious to the health of the inmates. Keeping such "buckets" in cells where the inmates slept and ate was a serious violation of the dignity of the suspects, some of whom might soon be discharged and acquitted by the courts. The police stations also faced the problem of irregular and inadequate release of funds to purchase disinfectants and detergents.

#### **Health**

At the police station, the medical bills of remand prisoners or suspects were paid for by the police officers though reimbursement was delayed for months.

### **WELFARE**

Religious organizations and Reverend Ministers from different churches paid weekly visits to minister to the spiritual needs of the inmates and also to donate gifts during their visits.



## BRONG AHAFO REGION PRISON CAMPS

**Table 48: Inmate population**

Prisons and prison camps inspected	Inmate Population
Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp	
Kenyasi Prison Camp	
Sunyani Central Prison	

### Kenyasi Prison Camp

There were no juveniles in any of the camps; neither were there any mentally ill inmates nor women prisoners in the camps.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp

Three big rooms housed the 85 inmates. The rooms were spacious enough to accommodate more inmates.

#### Kenyasi Prison Camp

The 67 prisoners were housed in five decent dormitories.

### Bedding

#### Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp

Clothing and bedding allocated to the inmates were inadequate. The beds in the cells were infested with bed bugs.

#### Kenyasi Prison Camp

It was observed that about half of the inmates were sleeping on the bare floor without planks.

### FEEDING

#### Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp

The inmates were fed on a grant of ₵4,000 per person each day. We were informed that the inmates supplemented their food needs by growing food crops and vegetables for consumption.

#### Kenyasi Prison Camp

Generally the feeding conditions were good.

## **SANITATION / HEALTH**

### **Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp**

Some inmates suffered from skin diseases. Prison authorities paid all the bills and the team was informed that accumulated bills of nine million cedis (¢9,000,000) were in arrears. There was a nurse attached to the camp who treated the inmates for minor diseases.

### **Kenyasi Prison Camp**

Generally, the sanitation and health conditions were good.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY**

### **Duayaw-Nkwanta Prison Camp**

The inmates had indoor games (ludo, oware, draughts) and a volleyball pitch.

## **BRONG AHAFO PRISONS**

### **Sunyani Central Prison**

The Sunyani Central Prison had a total of 729 inmates, made up of 705 males and 24 females.

#### **REMAND**

There were a total of 215 remand prisoners, made up of eight females and 207 males. 183 of the male remand prisoners had committed lesser offences. None of them had been in custody for more than five years. Through interviews, the team realized that some of them had been there for months without being taken to court. The prison authorities alleged that the police officers had failed to come and take them for trial.

The remaining 24 male remand prisoners were arrested for committing first-degree felonies such as robbery, murder etc. This group had been isolated from the other remand prisoners. In some cases, some of them had a room to themselves. Some of them had been on remand for more than five years. They informed us that they were occasionally taken to court and remanded again. The team observed that the refusal of the police officers to take remand prisoners to court had led to overcrowding in the remand cells.

#### **CONVICTS**

The prison had 516 convicted prisoners.

#### **JUVENILES**

The team came across many who claimed to be juveniles but a 16 year old could not produce his birth certificate.

#### **PREGNANT WOMEN**

The team found four pregnant women. Their pregnancies had reached between three to seven months. One of them who was in her seventh month told the team that she had been in her third month when she was convicted for three years by the Berekum Circuit. According to her, she informed the Judge that she was pregnant, but was ignored. It should be noted that none of the pregnant women became pregnant in the prison.

#### **NURSING MOTHERS / BABIES / CHILDREN**

There were four nursing mothers in the prison.

The team found four babies there. Two of the babies were delivered in the prisons. All were between the ages of two month and seven months old.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

Generally, the conditions in the male section were poor; some of the inmates of that section had no mattresses while some of them slept on the bare floor. The women's section of the prison was quite good; this section had beds and mattresses and even bed sheets.

## **SPACING**

There was evidently overcrowding in the prison, especially in the remand cells.

## **Bedding**

Many inmates did not have mattresses, and as a result contracted pneumonia during cold seasons. In the hot seasons, skin diseases were rampant.

## **FEEDING**

The team was made aware of the inadequacy of the feeding grant of ₵4,000 a day per prisoner. The inmates were malnourished. They looked hungry and pale because of insufficient food and a poor diet.

## **HEALTH**

The health situation was not encouraging. There were sick inmates who needed proper medical attention at the time of the team's visit. The team was made aware of the problems they were facing due to the cash and carry system at the hospitals. They were supposed to pay for medical bills of the inmates but lacked the funds to do so. The funds for medical care had been inadequate and were usually delayed. It was further stated that though the funds that were brought from the head office were for both prison officers and prisoners, normally the officers had to forgo their claims because of the inadequacy of the funds. In some cases, relatives were called upon to finance the medical bills of sick inmates.

There were more than 10 sick inmates whose condition the team found to be very serious. The cases included stroke, hypertension, epilepsy and kidney disorders. Some of the inmates with contagious diseases were kept in isolated cells.

## **BRONG AHAFO POLICE CELLS**

The Commission visited more than 60 police cells in the Region.

### **INMATE POPULATION**

A total of 80 inmates were found held in 60 cells visited.

### **JUVENILES**

In the Goaso police cells, there were two juveniles between the ages of 16 and 17 years old. There were also two others who were 12 and 14 years old in the Nkoranza police cell.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

#### **Bedding**

Few of the cells visited had blankets and most of the inmates slept on the bare floor.

#### **Ventilation**

Many of the cells had poor lighting systems and were without windows. The cells looked dark even during the daytime.

### **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

Almost all the cells had no toilet facilities at the time of the visit and therefore smelled unpleasant and offensive. Some of the prisoners had to defecate in pans kept in the cells. They slept, ate and defecated in the cells.



## NORTHERN REGION PRISONS

**Table 49: Inmate Population**

Prisons Inspected	Inmate population
Tamale Central Prison	295
Yendi Prison	163
Salaga Prison	47
Gambaga Prison	44

### REMAND PRISONERS

#### Tamale Central Prison

There were 50 remand prisoners, out of which nine had been sent to court for trial at the time of the inspection. The remand period for these inmates varied from one to seven years. The huge number of remand prisoners was due to the recent rioting in Tamale Municipality. Mr. Adamu Atinu, the longest serving remand prisoner had been on remand for seven years. He was transferred from Yendi Prison a year ago and was charged with murder.

#### Yendi Prison

There were 10 remand prisoners at the time of inspection.

#### Gambaga Prison

The two remand prisoners - Sadam Abdulai and Ali Omaro complained bitterly about being put on remand since April without being put before a competent court for trial. They had been remanded for robbery.

### CONVICT PRISONERS

Tamale Central Prison had a total of 245 inmates in the convict section, Yendi Prison housed 153 convicts and Gambaga Prison had 42 convict prisoners.

### MENTALLY ILL INMATES

#### Tamale Central Prison

There were four prisoners with mental disabilities at the time of the inspection. They were kept in a special cell.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Spacing

#### Tamale Central Prison

The prison's capacity is 256 inmates but it had far exceeded this capacity and was housing 295 inmates at the time of the inspection. This situation had arisen because of frequent transfers of inmates from Kumasi and other prisons to the Tamale Central Prison.

## Bedding

### Tamale Central Prison

**Table 50: The table below shows the bedding situation in the prison.**

Cells	Number of Inmates	Number of Beds	Number of Inmates with mattresses
C1	20	16	20
D1	25	20	25
C3	20	16	20
B3	20	16	20
B1	20	16	20
A1	4	-	-
Special cell			
A2	21	16	21
A3	21	16	21
Special cell	4	4	4
Remand cells	50	-	-

It is unfortunate that the 50 remand prisoners had no beds and mattresses to sleep on and therefore slept on the bare floor.

### Yendi Prison

There was an acute problem of beds and cover cloths for the inmates. Some inmates slept on the bare floor.

### Salaga Prison

Since the prison was built, it had not seen any renovation and expansion and the conditions of the prison cells were not spacious enough to accommodate the inmates. The Prison Authority had provided the inmates with iron beds and mattress. However, these were not adequate and many inmates slept on floor.

### Gambaga Prison

The general environment and the conditions of the prison were very appalling. The mattresses and beds were inadequate and the inmates had no cover cloths. Most of the inmates slept on the bare floor. The prison was poorly ventilated and inmates were over-crowded and congested.

## FEEDING

### Tamale Central Prison

There had been a tremendous improvement in the feeding of the inmates. The supply of quantity and quality of food to the inmates was commendable. The Assistant Commissioner of the prison stated that the feeding

subsidy per inmate was four thousand cedis (¢4,000.00) per day, which she considered woefully inadequate, and expressed the need for an upward review of feeding grants for the inmates.

#### **Yendi Prison**

The feeding subsidy per inmate per day was four thousand cedis (¢4,000.00) and the prison authority complained it was woefully inadequate.

#### **Salaga Prison**

The prison authority briefed the inspection team that the Government provided four thousand cedis (¢4,000.00) as a feeding subsidy per inmate per day. The inmates were fed three times daily.

However, the prison authority complained of the inadequacy of the supply of food to the inmates. The authorities had undertaken a farming project to produce foodstuffs to supplement the efforts of the government in the feeding of the inmates.

#### **Gambaga Prison**

The government provided ¢4,000.00 as a feeding subsidy per inmate per day. This, the authority said, was inadequate.

### **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

#### **Tamale Central Prison**

The prison service had kept a commendable and clean environment in the prison yards. All the prison yards, toilets (W C's), bathrooms and urinals were neatly kept. Water supply however was inadequate.

The Assistant Commissioner stated that there was no problem with the medical treatment of inmates whenever any of them fell sick. He revealed that the Government had made provision for their treatment at the Tamale Hospital. He added that even where the hospital authorities gave prescriptions for the purchase of special drugs, the prison service purchased them and the money was refunded later by the Government.

#### **Yendi Prison**

There was lack of a cesspit emptier facility and therefore inmates had to carry their night soil out of the cells to bury daily. There was always a lack of soap for the inmates; however, there was an adequate supply of water. No drugs were available in the prison clinic to meet First Aid requirements for medical treatment of the inmates. The Prison Authority expressed dismay about the difficulties they encountered in the medical treatment of the inmates when they were taken ill.

### **Salaga Prison**

The Prison Authority explained that even though the Government provided an imprest of ₵40,000.00 for the medical treatment of the inmates, this was woefully inadequate. We were told that the prison authority actually found it difficult to meet the medical bills of inmates when prescriptions for drugs were made. The prison authority had put in place a chief caretaker who supplied drugs such as paracetamol to inmates who were unwell.

### **Gambaga Prison**

The two toilet facilities being used by the inmates were not kept neat and clean. The inmates had no soap for washing and bathing for a period of one month. The inmates were given drugs when they reported sick. The prison had a trained nurse on the staff and he dispensed first aid drugs to the inmates when the need arose.

## **VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/ TRAINING**

### **Tamale Central Prison**

Inmates were being trained in dressmaking, masonry, blacksmith and embroidery. The Assistant Commissioner mentioned that 15 apprentice inmates were presented to take part in National Vocational Training Institute (N.V.T.I) Examinations. One of the inmates had distinction while the other 14 inmates passed successfully.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY**

### **Tamale Central Prison**

The prison authorities had provided the inmates with television sets and a video deck (VCR). The inmates also had ludo, draughts and playing cards.

### **Yendi Prison**

The prison authorities had provided indoor games such as oware, draughts, ludo and playing cards for the inmates. There was also a 20" colour television set for the relaxation of the inmates.

## **PRISONERS' CONCERNS**

### **Tamale Central Prison**

Most of the inmates complained bitterly about their frequent transfers to other prisons without prior notice.

They complained that this practice was carried out under the pretext that they were being taken out to work as part of their jail sentence.

Some also explained that the manner in which amnesty was granted to prisoners was clearly discriminatory. This, they stated, was due to the fact that not all who qualified for amnesty benefitted from it.

## NORTHERN REGION POLICE CELLS

**Table 51: Inmate population**

Police Cells Inspected	Number of Inmates
Tamale Police Cell	3
Yendi Police Cell	0
Gambaga Police Cell	-
Nalerigu Police Cell	-

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Tamale Police Cell

The general condition in the cell was very bad. The cell had a bad smell and poor ventilation. The police officer in charge explained that suspects were not detained for more than 48 hours. He said that suspects who did not have people to serve as surety for the grant of bail created problems for the police authority as there was no money available to feed them.

#### Gambaga Police Cell

The condition of the cell was very poor. The cells consisting of two small rooms, built in 1973, had not been renovated since. There were blankets for suspects, but the cells were without beds. The cells were poorly ventilated.

#### Nalerigu Police Cell

The station had only one small cell, built during colonial times. According to the station officer, females were sent to Gambaga cells when necessary. There were no beds and mattresses in the cells. Suspects slept on the bare floor and the cell was poorly ventilated.

### FEEDING

#### Gambaga Police Cell

According to the Superintendent in charge of the district police services, there were no allocations from the government to take care of the food and health for suspects in their custody.

#### Nalerigu Police Cell

There was no provision for food.

### SANITATION / HEALTH

#### Yendi Police Cell

The general environment and conditions of the cell were very appalling and disheartening. The cell smelled very badly.

#### Gambaga Police Cell

Disinfection of the cells was done every two weeks. The two water closet toilets were broken down. The cell had no bathroom.

#### Nalerigu Police Cell

No provision had been made to take care of the health needs of suspects.



## UPPER EAST REGION PRISONS

**Table 52: Inmate Population**

Prisons Inspected	Inmate population
Navrongo Prisons	282
Bawku Local Prisons	39

### REMAND PRISONERS

Some of the remand prisoners had been in detention over the past two years. This was because they did not have anyone to stand surety for them and the police had been unable to prosecute them.

The following table provides records of special remand cases in Navrongo Prisons that had gone on for more than six months without trial.

**Table 53**

No.	Name	Station	Period of Remand
1.	Antwi Abugri	Bawku Prison	3 years
2.	Anagri Abagre	"	1 year
3.	Ali Moro	Bawku Police Station	9 months
4.	Amoa Atinga	Navrongo Prison	26 months
5.	Mamudu Iddrisu	"	2 years
6.	Osman Musah	"	2 years

### Navrongo Prisons

Remand prisoners at the time of inspection totaled 120.

### Bawku Local Prisons

There were three remand prisoners at the time of the visit. None of them had served more than five years.

### CONVICT PRISONERS

The Navrongo Prisons had 158 convicts, whilst the Bawku Local Prisons had 36 convicts.

### MENTALLY-ILL INMATES

### Bawku Local Prisons

There was one prisoner believed to be mentally ill who had been on remand for over a year at the time of the visit. His case was therefore of grave concern to the Commission because of the lack of trial.

## **PRISONERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

### **Navrongo Prisons**

One prisoner was found to be crippled and could only walk with the aid of a stick. The Officer-in-Charge expressed surprise at the fact that the prisoner was being allowed to roam about in the prison with a stick since it was considered a weapon.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **Bedding**

#### **Navrongo Prisons**

Out of the 158 prisoners, only six who happened to play leadership roles in the had various cells had bunk beds. Information gathered from some of the prisoners indicated that they all had blankets. However, the inspection team realized that most of the so-called blankets were simply cover cloths. Again, not all had mattresses, and the existing ones were virtually worn out. In effect, the clothing and bedding allotment was simply inadequate.

#### **Bawku Local Prisons**

The bedding situation left much to be desired. There was not a single mattress and the bunk beds were also in very bad shape. Most of the inmates slept on blankets spread on the bare floor. The rooms had no mosquito netting and when it rained, water entered the rooms through the windows.

### **Spacing**

#### **Bawku Local Prisons**

There was no congestion at the time of the visit as the 39 inmates had been evenly distributed over the six cells. Prisoners were exposed to mosquito bites since there was virtually no netting in any of the cells. The lighting systems at both prisons were poor.

#### **Navrongo Prisons**

The prison was over-crowded, as a room that should contain 15 persons now accommodated 28 persons. Prisoners were exposed to mosquito bites since there was virtually no netting in any of the cells.

## **FEEDING**

### **Navrongo Prisons**

The food situation in the prison as indicated by the officer-in-charge (OIC) of the prison, had generally improved. The OIC stated that prisoners were fed three times a day, on a menu of porridge for breakfast; either gari or banku with beans soup or groundnut soup for lunch; and mostly banku or rice with groundnut soup for supper. He noted that all inmates were served with an egg every Sunday to supplement their diet. In the food store, the inspection team realized that supplies of rice had run out. The OIC attributed the shortage

to bureaucracy from the Prisons Head Office. He however suggested a kind of liberal mode of purchasing policy to enable them arrange for food supplies from other sources within the region. Although it was not possible for the inspection team to ascertain the quality of food cooked for the prisoners (since lunch had already been served), the inmates' concern was that their menu was not varied.

### **Bawku Local Prisons**

There were indications that, prisoners were provided with three square meals daily. At the time of the visit, breakfast had already been served; lunch was served when the inspection was going on and supper was being prepared. Inmates however complained that Cari had dominated the menu and that the rice with beans stew served at the time of inspection came once in a week or two. Some also complained of lack of meat in their meals but they were satisfied with the quantity of food served.

One major problem the inspection team noticed was that inmates who were not readily available to eat their meals had their food reserved for them uncovered, exposing it to all sorts of health hazards. Prison officers attributed this situation to inadequate plates for that purpose.

## **VOCATIONAL ACTIVITY/TRAINING**

### **Navrongo Prisons**

In the Navrongo Central Prisons, some efforts were being made to provide some skills training in weaving and tailoring to some prisoners in a room provided for the purpose. While it was possible to train prisoners in weaving on a large scale, the same could not be said of the tailoring services, as only two functional sewing machines were available for use in training 158 prisoners.

### **Bawku Local Prisons**

Vocational training facilities were non-existent at the Bawku Prison. A section of the prison yard had been earmarked for the construction of a masonry workshop but it had remained unattended for a very long time. Inmates therefore did not have any opportunity to learn any trade.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY**

### **Navrongo Central Prisons**

The situation in Navrongo Prison was better than at Bawku. While prisoners were entertained by a television set in addition to games like oware, draughts and ludo in the Navrongo Central Prisons, there was only one draughts board in the Bawku Prison.

### **Bawku Local Prisons**

There was only one draughts game, owned by a prison officer. There was nothing more to keep the inmates occupied; inmates lamented the situation and requested that indoor games such as ludo, playing cards, oware etc. be provided for them.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

With the exception of the Bawku prisons, toilet and sanitary facilities in the Prisons continued to be the same. Convicts still defecated and urinated within the same rooms i.e. their sleeping places.

All other places visited had no bathing facilities except the Bawku Prisons. In Navrongo Central prisons inmates bathed in the open.

### **Navrongo Prisons**

Apart from one inmate who appeared very sick, most of the inmates appeared physically healthy. The medical situation had not changed, it was believed that structures and modalities for the National Health Insurance Scheme, when put in place would ensure effective provision of health care for all.

### **Bawku Local Prisons**

Apart from one mentally deranged prisoner, others complained of minor illnesses like waist pains, headache and general body weakness. The prison had a dispensary and an infirmary. The nursing officer attached to the prisons was on further studies and a volunteer nurse from the Bawku Presbyterian Hospital had been attending to the inmates' health needs by providing First Aid drugs. Those with serious health problems were taken to the hospital for treatment.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **Some Complaints from Inmates**

#### **Bawku Prison**

Inmates made various complaints for consideration by the Commission.

One convict complained about the attitude of a lawyer whom he engaged while in prison to look into his case. He alleged that on 9 July 2003 he had paid an amount of ₵500,000.00 (five hundred thousand cedis) to the lawyer in Bolga who agreed to look into his case, but had since not heard anything from him. The lawyer, according to the convict, only sent his secretary to the prisons twice and he (the prisoner) had had to thumbprint some forms. The prisoner pleaded with the inspection team to contact the lawyer informally as he was afraid the lawyer might victimize him if the Commission took up the case officially.

Another prisoner alleged that amounts of 9.5 million cedis and 140,000 CFA he had at the time of his arrest were taken from him and all efforts to retrieve even part of this to give to his wife and children had failed. The prison officer who conducted the inspection team around confirmed the prisoner's claim but said the money had not been released because investigations were still underway to ascertain whether or not the money really belonged to the prisoner.

Finally another prisoner convicted of possessing narcotics appealed to government to extend the amnesty to cover drug convicts too.



## NORTHERN REGION POLICE CELLS

**Table 54: Inmate Population**

Police Cells Inspected	Suspect population
Binaba Police Cell	0
Bongo Police Cell	43
Bawku Police Cell	3
Bolgatanga Police Cell	0
Navrongo Police Cell	2

### **Bongo Police Cell**

There were a total of 43 suspects. Out of this number, 24 were arranged before court; eight were convicted, while 16 were remanded. 13 cases were still under investigations. Since the year 2003 there had not been any female suspect.

### **Bawku Police Cell**

There were only two inmates in the cell. The inspection team was informed that one of them was brought in about 15 minutes before the time of the visit. The other inmate was brought in from prison custody where he had been remanded for the past nine months. According to him, he had been granted bail but no one was willing to stand surety for him. He was however brought in because he needed to go to the hospital.

No provision was in place for females who might be brought in.

### **Navrongo Police Cell**

There were only two suspects in the cells. The Station Officer indicated that they usually did not keep more than three suspects in the cells and that suspects were normally sent to court when arrested.

## **JUVENILES**

### **Binaba police cell**

Juveniles in this station were kept in a small corridor behind the counter.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **Bongo Police Cell**

As regards the physical state of the cells, there had not been any remarkable change in the state of the cells, as compared to the year 2002. A chamber and a hall were used as the male and female cells respectively.



### **Binaba Police Cell**

Accommodation was not a problem at this station. There was a very big room, spacious enough to accommodate a lot of inmates at a time. However the room had no windows. According to the Station Officer, they usually had to leave the main door open so that inmates could get enough ventilation. This was possible because there were iron bars attached to the main door to prevent inmates from escaping.

### **Bedding**

#### **Binaba Police Cell**

There was not a single bed in the police cell. There was only one blanket for use by all inmates.

#### **Bawku Police Cell**

There were only two mats and two blankets for inmates.

#### **Bolgatanga Police Cell**

Each male cell had two blankets, with one in the female cell. The police indicated they had extra blankets.

#### **Navrongo Police Cell**

There were only two mats and two blankets for use by suspects.

### **Ventilation**

#### **Bolgatanga Police Cell**

The cells were well ventilated. However, there were no lights in any of the cells nor in the corridor.

#### **Navrongo Police Cell**

The ventilation and lighting systems were poor.

### **FEEDING**

#### **Binaba Police Cell**

The Station Officer indicated that food was provided mainly by relatives of inmates, and sometimes by the Police themselves when relatives of inmates are unable to do so. He mentioned that the feeding of inmates was irregular and sometimes there was not enough food.

#### **Bawku Police Cell**

The Station Officer stated that grant for feeding did not come in regularly and when it did, it was not adequate. Police officers were sometimes forced to use their own money to feed inmates.

#### **Navrongo Police Cell**

A lady was given a meagre stipend to provide some food for suspects; this food was however inadequate.

## **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

### **Binaba Police Cell**

According to the Station Officer, relatives of suspects, and sometimes the police took responsibility for the health needs of sick suspects.

### **Bolgatanga Police Cell**

The male cells had an adjoining toilet with two WCs and a bathroom with a bucket. The female cells had a WC, bathroom with a bucket. The cells, toilets and bathrooms had been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

### **Navrongo Police Cell**

Conditions in the cells remained the same compared to the previous year. Sanitary buckets/pans were still kept in cells as a result of which a strong stench pervaded the cells.

### **Bawku Police cell**

The cell was quite neat at the time of the team's visit.

## UPPER WEST REGION POLICE CELLS

**Table 55: Inmate Population**

<b>Police cells inspected</b>	<b>Inmate population</b>
Nandom Police Cells	2
Babilie Police Cells	0
Lawra Police Cells	0

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Bedding

There was only one blanket in the Nandom Police Cells. Babilie Police Cells had enough blankets for use by inmates.

#### Ventilation

##### Nandom Police Cells

There were no lights in cells, ventilation was poor and two inmates were visibly sweating and looked dirty.

##### Babilie Police Cells

The cell was dark due to the absence of light.

##### Lawra Police Cells

There were no lights in the two cells. Ventilation in the two cells was poor. The walls of the two cells were very dirty and looked black.

### FEEDING

##### Nandom Police Cells

The two inmates relied on a small old aluminium-cooking utensil which was used to cook their food.

### SANITATION AND HEALTH

##### Babilie Police Cells

There were two soil pans, which according to the Sergeant were on standby since inmates used the same KVIP (Kumasi Ventilated Improved Project) toilet as the police. The toilet facility was provided by the Lawra District Assembly.

Inmates were provided with water on a regular basis. The cells were neat and dry. Sanitation in the cell was very good.

### **Nandom Police Cells**

The cells were wet, very dirty and pervaded with a bad stench. There were neither urinal pans nor toilet facilities. Inmates were escorted to a nearby public toilet to pay a fee of ₵200.00 before use.

### **Lawra Police Cells**

The cells had a bathroom and a toilet.

### **INMATE- OFFICER RELATIONSHIP**

### **Babilie Police Cells**

Officers on duty were friendly and cooperative.

