



YOU COUNT, GET COUNTED



## THEMATIC BRIEF

# Persons with Difficulty in Performing Activities in Ghana



The AFRICA We Want



THE COORDINATED PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES 2017-2024  
AN AGENDA FOR JOBS: CREATING PROSPERITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD  
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES.....	iii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS, DATA SOURCES AND MEASUREMENT OF DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES.....	3
2.1. Definition of Concepts.....	3
2.1.1. Difficulty in Seeing.....	3
2.1.2. Difficulty in Hearing.....	3
2.1.3. Difficulty in Walking or Climbing Stairs.....	3
2.1.4. Difficulty in Remembering or Concentrating.....	3
2.1.5. Difficulty with Self-Care.....	3
2.1.6. Difficulty in Communicating.....	3
2.1.7. Severity of Difficulty.....	3
2.1.8. School Attendance.....	4
2.1.9. Literacy.....	4
2.1.10. Engagement in Economic Activity.....	4
2.1.11. Vulnerable Employment.....	4
2.1.12. Multidimensional Poverty.....	4
2.2. Data Sources.....	5
2.3. Measurement of Difficulty in Performing Activities.....	5
3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF CORRELATES OF DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES.....	6
3.1. Health Insurance Coverage.....	6
3.2. Education and Literacy.....	6
3.2.1. School Attendance.....	6
3.2.2. Level of Education.....	6

3.2.3. Literacy Status .....	6
3.3. Economic Activities.....	7
3.4. Multidimensional Poverty .....	7
4. KEY FINDINGS .....	8
5. CONCLUSIONS.....	42
6. APPENDIX .....	43
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS .....	49

## LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure 4.1: Incidence of Persons with Difficulty in Performing Activities, 2010 and 2021 ....	8
Figure 4.2: persons with difficulty in performing activities by sex.....	9
Figure 4.3: difficulty in performing activities status by region and locality type .....	10
Figure 4.4: persons with difficulty in performing activities by sex, type of locality and region .....	11
Figure 4.5: persons with multiple difficulty in performing activities by sex and region.....	12
Figure 4.6: difficulty in performing activities status by age group.....	13
Figure 4.7: persons with difficulty in performing activities by age and sex.....	14
Figure 4.8: persons with multiple difficulty in performing activities by sex and age.....	15
Figure 4.9: persons 60 years and older who cannot do at all by functional domains and sex .....	16
Figure 4.10: persons 5-14 with difficulty in performing activity by functional domain and sex. ....	17
Figure 4.11: number of household heads with difficulty in performing activities by region and sex.....	18
Figure 4.12: health insurance coverage by difficulty in performing activities status and sex .....	19
Figure 4.13: difficulty in performing activities status by school attendance and sex.....	20
Figure 4.14: persons 5 to 17 years who have never attended school by difficulty in performing activities status and region .....	21
Figure 4.15: persons 5-17 years who attended school in the past by difficulty in performing activities status and region.....	22
Figure 4.16: persons 5-17 years with difficulty in performing activities by school attendance and sex .....	23
Figure 4.17: children 5-17 years with difficulty in performing activities who attended school in the past by sex and region.....	24
Figure 4.18: children 5-17 with difficulty in performing activities who have never attended school by sex and region.....	25
Figure 4.19: persons with difficulty in performing activities by level of education and sex .....	26

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Figure 4.20: difficulty in performing activities status by literacy status and sex.....	27
Figure 4.21: persons 15 years and older with difficulty in performing activities who are illiterate .....	28
Figure 4.22: economic activities of persons 15 years and older by difficulty in performing activities status and sex.....	29
Figure 4.23: employment status of persons 15 years and older by difficulty in performing activities status .....	30
Figure 4.24: share of persons with difficulty in performing activities employed by region and sex.....	31
Figure 4.25: share of persons with difficulty in performing activities employed by age and sex .....	32
Figure 4.26: percent of employed persons in vulnerable employment by difficulty in performing activities status, type of locality and region .....	33
Figure 4.27: share of vulnerable employment of persons with difficulty in performing activities by sex .....	34
Figure 4.28: industry of employment of persons 15 years and older by difficulty in performing activities status and sex .....	35
Figure 4.29: sector of employment of persons 15 years and older by difficulty in performing activities status and sex .....	36
Figure 4.30: occupation of persons 15 years and older by difficulty in performing activities status.....	37
Figure 4.31: multidimensional poverty status by difficulty in performing activities status and sex .....	38
Figure 4.32: multidimensional poverty status of persons with difficulty in performing activities by region.....	39
Figure 4.33: top 20 districts with high proportion of persons with difficulty in performing activities who are multidimensionally poor .....	40
Figure 4.34: deprived persons with difficulty in performing activities by region and sex.	41

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Persons with difficulty in performing activities are a diverse group with unique needs, impairment types, and levels of difficulty. Difficulty in performing activities refers to impairment, activities limitations and participation restriction in a person's health and environmental barriers that hinder a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Worldwide, difficulty in performing activities affects millions of people directly or indirectly at some point in their lives. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) indicates that the number of persons with difficulty performing activities is increasing due to changing population age structure and increasing prevalence of chronic health conditions, among other causes. Over one billion (15%) of the world's population are estimated to experience difficulty in performing activities due to mental, physical or sensory impairment.

Persons with difficulty in performing activities experience poorer socioeconomic outcomes relating to education, employment, health, less economic participation, and a higher rate of poverty than persons without difficulties (WHO, 2011). Working towards an inclusive and barrier-free society for persons with difficulties and expanding equitable opportunities, responsibilities, and access to the same rights and choices underpins the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals' commitment to leaving no one behind. Similarly, other international conventions such as UNCRPD, the World Bank Group's work on Social Inclusion and Building Inclusive Communities, and the Africa We Want, Agenda 2063 champion issues affecting persons with difficulties in performing activities in their mainstream agenda and provide strategies for expanding equitable opportunities for all.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pledge to combat inequalities and build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and resolve to create conditions for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all including persons with difficulties. The SDGs recognise difficulty in performing activities as an important consideration in all development programmes. Specifically, seven targets and 11 indicators explicitly refer to persons with difficulties accessing education and employment, availability of schools that are sensitive to students with difficulties, inclusion, and empowerment of persons with difficulties, accessible transport, accessible public and green spaces. In addition, the SDGs emphasise building the capacity of countries to disaggregate data by difficulty in performing activities.

As a reflection of Ghana's commitment, several policy frameworks have been implemented over the years for persons with difficulty in performing activities as enshrined in Chapter 5 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. These include the National Disability Policy (2000), the Disability Act, of 2006 (Act 715), the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, Inclusive Education Policy (2015), Local Enterprises and Skills Development Programme (LESDEP), District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) for persons

with difficulty in performing activities, and the National Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR). Overall, these policy frameworks aim to protect the rights of persons with difficulty performing activities, provide equal access to opportunities for people who might otherwise be excluded, and ensure their inclusivity in society.

Despite the implementation of these policy interventions in the country, persons with difficulties continue to face barriers to full inclusion and participation in everyday life. Given the global attention on achieving inclusive societies for persons with difficulty in performing activities, there is a need to assess their socio-economic status and other critical living standard outcomes.

This thematic brief presents statistics on persons with difficulty in performing activities; and presents patterns and correlates of their educational and socioeconomic outcomes. The brief further highlights the poverty status of persons with difficulty in performing activities and their vulnerability relative to those without difficulty. Lastly, the brief provides statistics to guide the design of targeted strategies for improving the well-being of persons with difficulty in performing activities.

The next sections present the definition of concepts, data sources, and justification for the selection of correlates of difficulty in performing activities, measurement of difficulty in performing activities, key findings, and conclusion.

## **2. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS, DATA SOURCES AND MEASUREMENT OF DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES**

### **2.1. Definition of Concepts**

The 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) adopted the six main functional domains of difficulty of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics: seeing; hearing; walking or climbing stairs; remembering or concentrating; self-care; and communicating.

#### **2.1.1. Difficulty in Seeing**

This refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in perceiving, and observing what is happening around him/her, or seeing even when wearing glasses or contact lenses.

#### **2.1.2. Difficulty in Hearing**

This refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in distinguishing or hearing sounds from different sources in one or both ears, even when using hearing aids.

#### **2.1.3. Difficulty in Walking or Climbing Stairs**

This refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in the use of the lower limbs, that is, legs, in such a way as to propel himself/herself over the ground to get from one point to another, without the assistance of any device (wheelchair, crutches, walker, etc.) or any human.

#### **2.1.4. Difficulty in Remembering or Concentrating**

It refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in the use of his/her memory to recall incidents, events, knowledge, or information acquired; or mental ability to accomplish some tasks, such as reading and calculating numbers.

#### **2.1.5. Difficulty with Self-Care**

This refers to challenges or problems relating to a person's ability to take care of himself/herself independently, including attending to one's hygiene, washing all over the body, dressing and eating.

#### **2.1.6. Difficulty in Communicating**

This refers to challenges or problems relating to a person's ability to effectively exchange information or ideas with other people using voice or signs (including sign language), or in writing.

#### **2.1.7. Severity of Difficulty**

It refers to the degree of a person's (in)ability to perform a specified function or activities and is categorised as follows:

- a) No difficulty – complete absence of any challenge or problem in performing a specified function or activities.
- b) Some difficulty – presence of a partial or mild challenge or problem in performing a specified function or activities.
- c) A lot of difficulty – acute challenge or problem in performing a specified function or activities.
- d) Cannot do at all – complete or total inability to perform a specified function or activities.

### **2.1.8. School Attendance**

School attendance is defined as enrolment and participation in education at an educational institution or programme for organised learning at any level. For analytical purposes, this is classified as never attended, attending now, and attended in the past. Attended in the past refers to persons that have ever attended school but were no longer in school at the time of the census.

### **2.1.9. Literacy**

This refers to the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. Illiterate persons are those who cannot read and write with understanding in any language.

## **2.2. Engagement in Economic Activity**

This is defined as work contributing to economic production of goods and services. For the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC), the reference period was the seven days before Census Night (i.e. 21st – 27th June, 2021).

### **2.2.1. Vulnerable Employment**

It consists of the sum of the employment status groups of own-account workers and contributing family workers. It includes persons who are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and hence, are more likely to lack decent working conditions, adequate social security and, effective representation by trade unions and similar organisations.

### **2.2.2. Multidimensional Poverty**

This is a non-monetary deprivation measure which uses three dimensions (health, living conditions and education) and 12 indicators (mortality, health insurance, school attainment, school attendance, school lag, cooking fuel, assets, electricity, water, housing, overcrowding and sanitation).

## 2.3. Data Sources

The statistics presented in this report are mainly from the 2021 Population and Housing Census. Data from the 2010 census is analysed to appreciate changes in the prevalence of persons with difficulty in performing activities over the two time periods.

## 2.4. Measurement of Difficulty in Performing Activities

The 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) adopted the Washington Group Short Set of six questions on Functioning (WG-SS) because it bears international relevance and could produce cross-nationally comparable data in measuring persons who are at greater risk than the general population for experiencing restrictions in performing specific tasks or participating in role activities. The WG-SS reflect six functional domains measuring difficulty in performing activities such as seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, remembering or concentrating, self-care, and communicating **for persons 5 years of age or older**. The WG-SS questions are as follows:

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5. Do you have difficulty with self-care (such as washing all over or dressing)?
6. Do you have difficulty communicating?

Each question has four response categories: (1) No, no difficulty, (2) Yes, some difficulty, (3) Yes, a lot of difficulty and (4) Cannot do it at all.

**A person with difficulty in performing activities in this report is defined as anyone having at least 'some level of difficulty' in at least one of the six domains.** The report further provides information on the prevalence of functional difficulties, at different levels of severity, difficulty in multiple domains, and difficulty across the six domains.

In contrast with the 2021 PHC set of questions, which had six question domains with four response categories, the 2010 PHC had four domain questions with two response categories, hence this brief cannot compare results of the two censuses. The 2010 PHC asked individuals whether they had any serious difficulty in performing activities; for example, visual/sight impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual difficulty, and emotional or behavioural disorders that limit full participation in life activities such as mobility, work, and social life. Respondents answered Yes or No to the different functional domains.

## **3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF CORRELATES OF DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES**

### **3.1. Health Insurance Coverage**

Health insurance is considered social protection—an essential condition for social and economic development for all. It can play a crucial role for persons with difficulty in performing activities who generally have more healthcare needs relative to others. The inability to pay for healthcare tends to be a major issue for persons with difficulties and health insurance cushions their access to healthcare. The policy directive is to ensure that all persons with difficulty in performing activities are covered by at least the National Health Insurance Scheme. Assessment of health insurance coverage among persons with difficulty in performing activities will help to regulate their access to healthcare services.

### **3.2. Education and Literacy**

#### **3.2.1. School Attendance**

Education is a fundamental human right and an essential condition for individual development, and full and effective participation in society. The opportunity to be provided with education should be afforded to all, regardless of difficulty in performing activities. However, persons with difficulties in performing activities are sometimes refused entry into schools because of their difficulty in performing activities. The reason for excluding persons with difficulty in performing activities makes them more vulnerable, especially children with difficulty in performing activities, prompting the need for policy intervention.

#### **3.2.2. Level of Education**

There is a strong association between difficulty in performing activities and educational achievement. The relationship between difficulty in performing activities and education is likely to be driven by the barriers to completing education associated with one's difficulty. A good education allows individuals to pursue a profession and earn a sufficient livelihood for themselves. Limiting educational attainment of persons who have difficulty performing activities restricts their socio-political and economic participation.

#### **3.2.3. Literacy Status**

A person's ability to read and write with understanding opens a critical path to acquiring and accessing many of life's opportunities. Literacy may affect our opinions, such as our attitudes towards governments and institutions. How we see and interpret things may depend on what we have seen and learned in life. Thus, there is an interconnection between literacy and the standard of living. Hence, literacy is critical for persons who have difficulties in developing their abilities.

### **3.3. Economic Activities**

Persons with difficulty in performing activities often have limited access to the labour market. Lack of accessible workplaces and friendly work environments, and related barriers pose further obstacles to the employment of persons with difficulties. Knowing the employment status of persons with difficulty in performing activities helps to inform the policy strategy that must be put in place to ensure an inclusive employment outcome. In addition, analysing persons with difficulty in performing activities by employment sector, namely, agriculture, industry and services, reveals their contribution to the economy by sector. The report further looked at the proportion of persons with difficulty in performing activities who are in vulnerable employment. Understanding patterns in economic activities for persons with difficulty in performing activities is crucial for effective policies to enhance their livelihood and well-being.

### **3.4. Multidimensional Poverty**

Multidimensional poverty is a non-monetary measure of poverty that reflects the different areas in which persons with difficulty in performing activities may be deprived of their needs and rights. This measure is computed for persons with difficulty in performing activities aged 5 years and older.

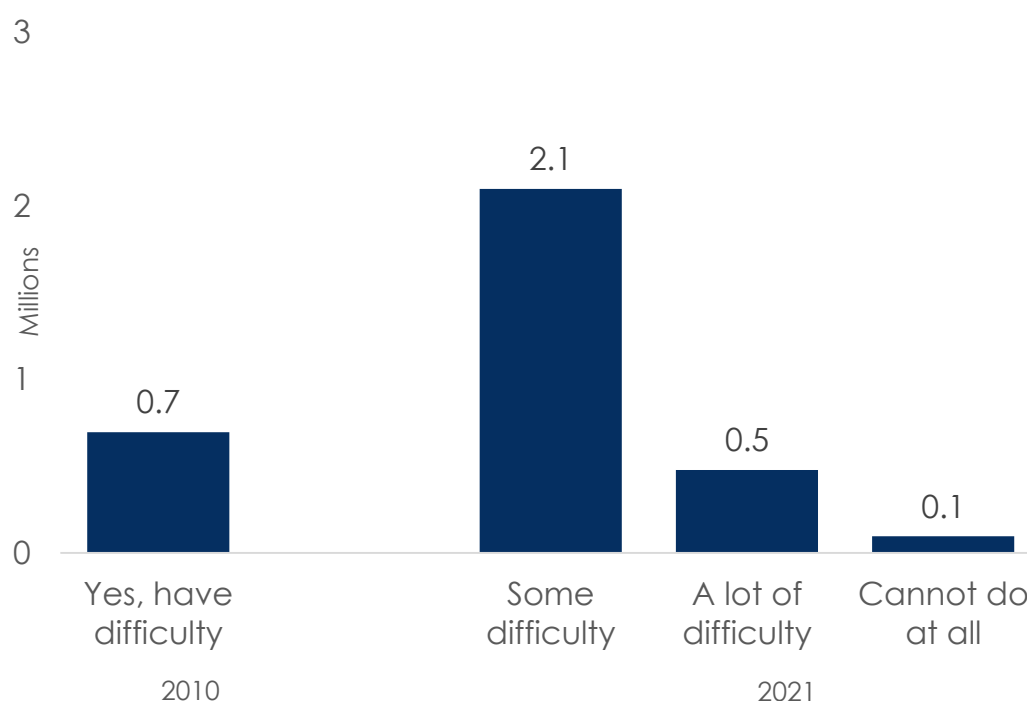
## 4. KEY FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

### 4.1. PATTERNS

The 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) indicated that 2,098,138 persons, representing 7.8 percent of the total population 5 years and older, have at least some difficulties in performing activities.

In 2010, there were 696,061 persons who had difficulty in performing activity in at least one functional domain.

<sup>2</sup>FIGURE 4.1: INCIDENCE OF PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES, 2010 AND 2021.

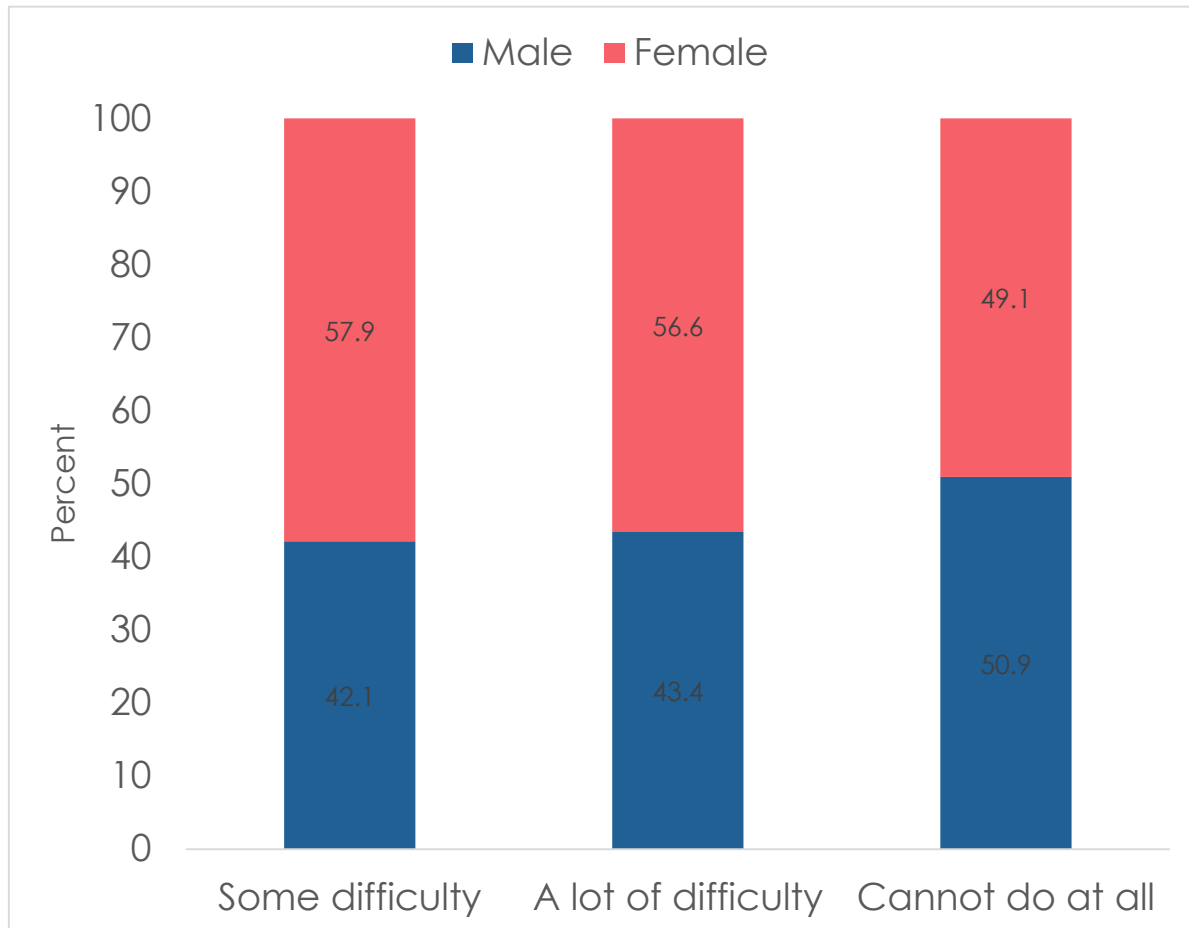


<sup>1</sup> The brief focuses on difficulties in performing activities in the following domains: sight, hearing, physical (walking or climbing stairs), intellectual (remembering or concentrating), self-care, and communicating, for persons 5 years and older.

<sup>2</sup> The 2021 PHC asked questions on six functional domains with four response categories (no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty and cannot do at all) whereas the 2010 PHC had four domain questions with two response categories (no and yes).

Among persons with difficulty in performing activities, although more females have varying degrees of difficulty, a slightly higher proportion of males (50.9%) cannot perform any activity compared to female (49.1%).

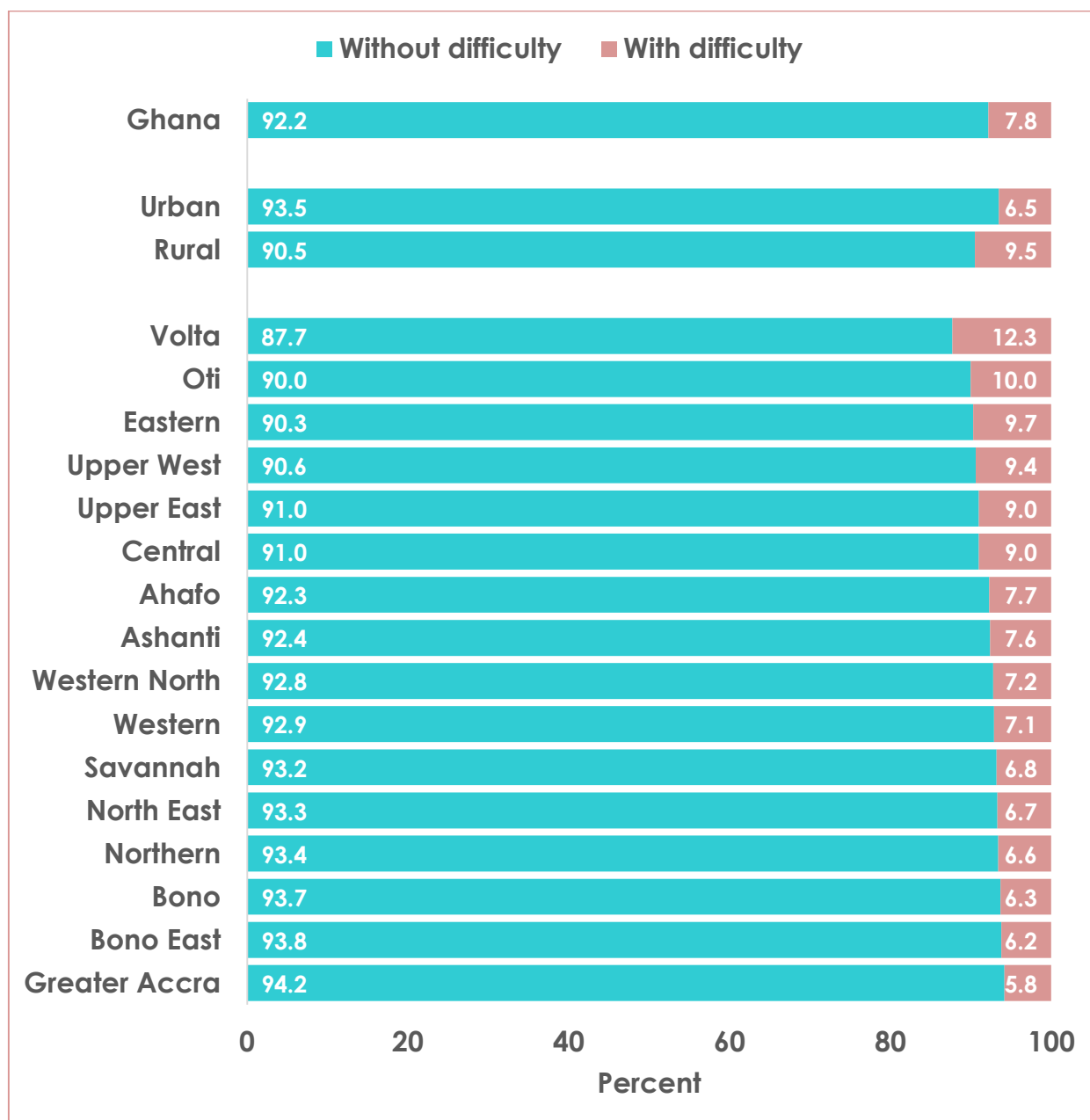
**FIGURE 4.2: PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY SEX**



Six regions have a higher proportion of persons with difficulty in performing activities than the national average.

The proportion of persons with difficulty in performing activities in the Volta Region (12.3%) is more than twice that of the Greater Accra Region (5.8%).

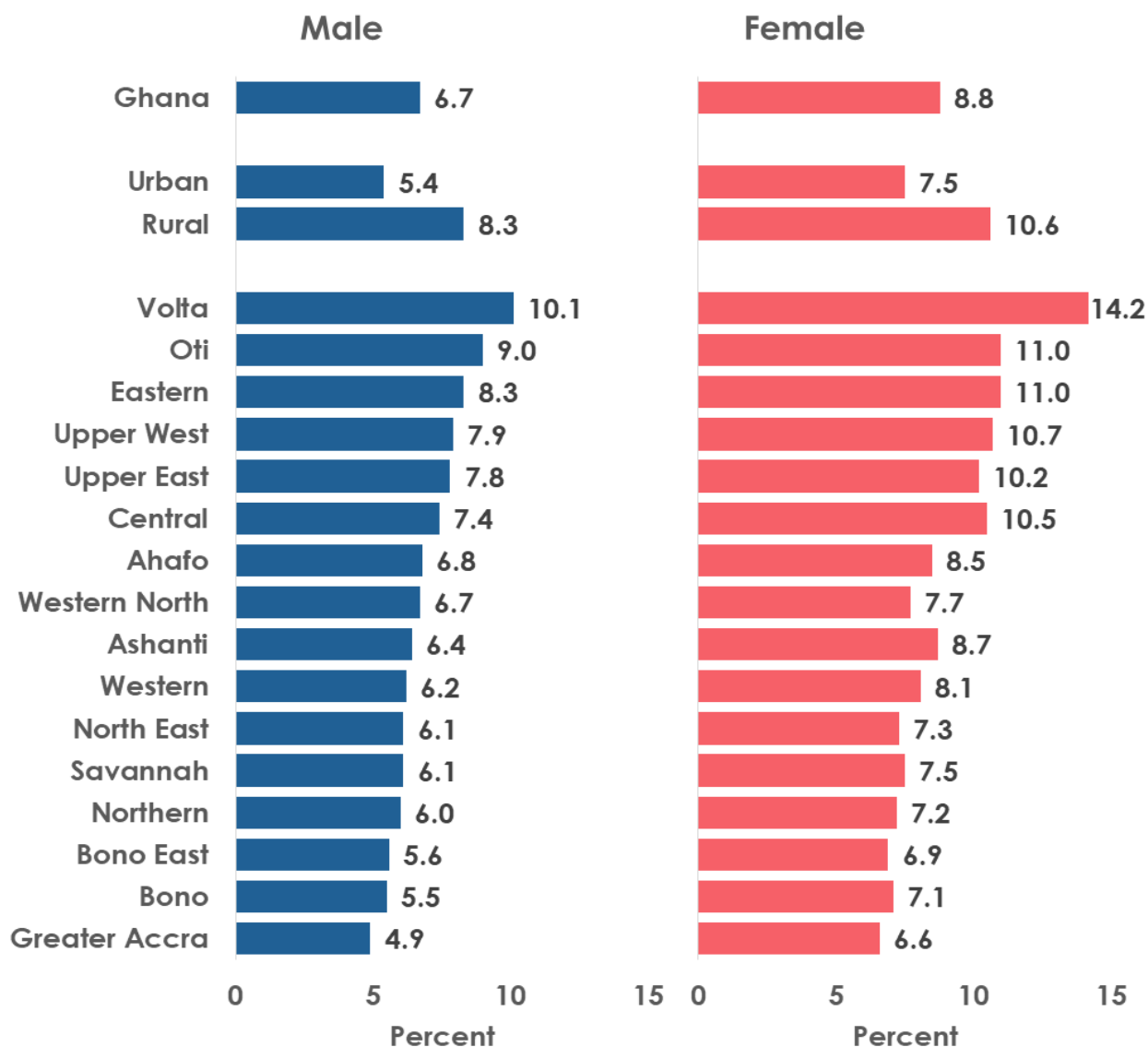
FIGURE 4.3: DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS BY REGION AND LOCALITY TYPE



Both males (8.3%) and females (10.6%) residing in rural areas have a higher proportion of difficulty in performing activities compared to the national average (6.7% males; 8.8% females).

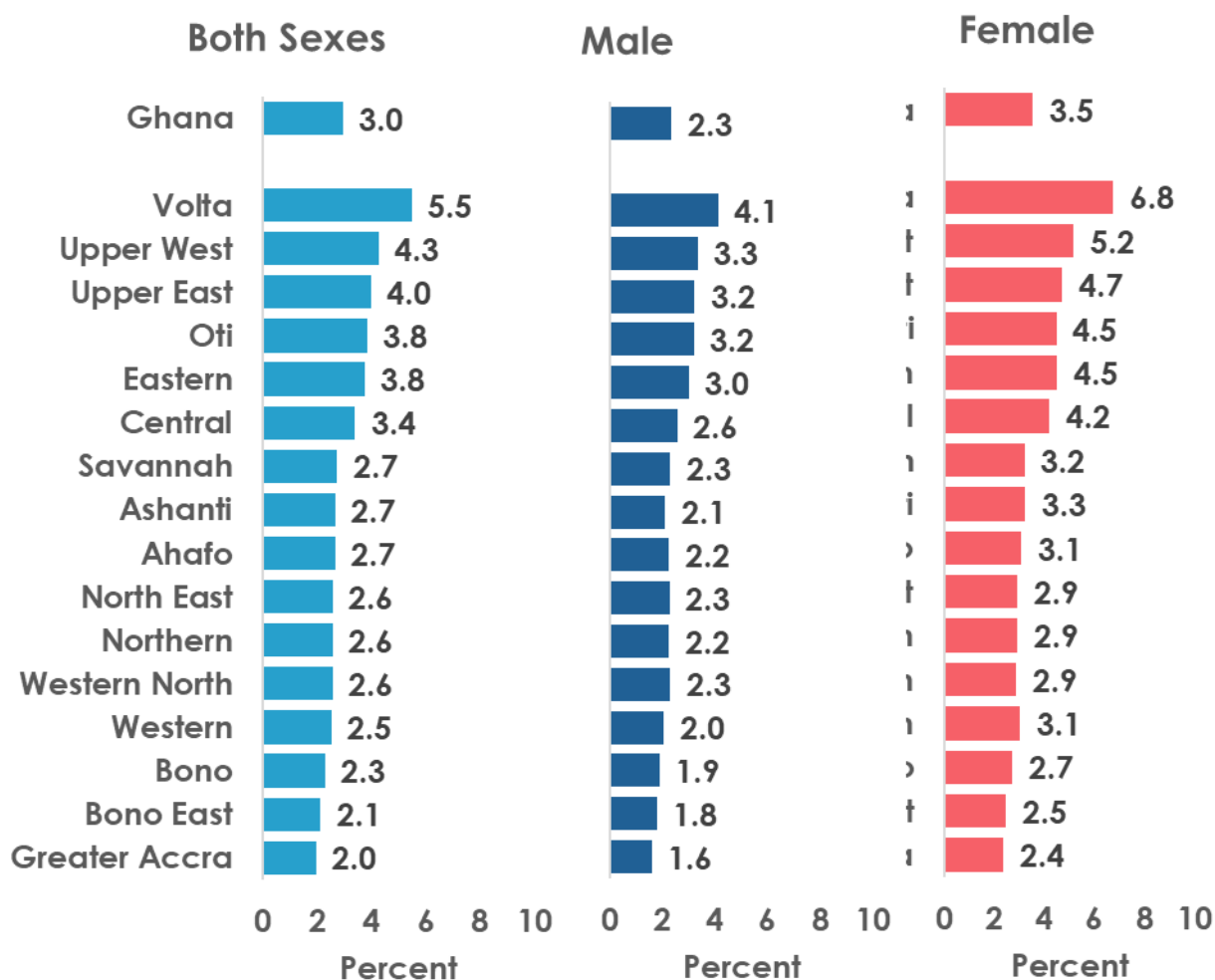
In all 16 regions, females have a higher proportion of difficulty in performing activities compared to males.

FIGURE 4.4: PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY SEX, TYPE OF LOCALITY AND REGION



The proportion of females having difficulties in multiple functional domains in the Volta Region (6.8%) is nearly double the national average for females (3.5%).

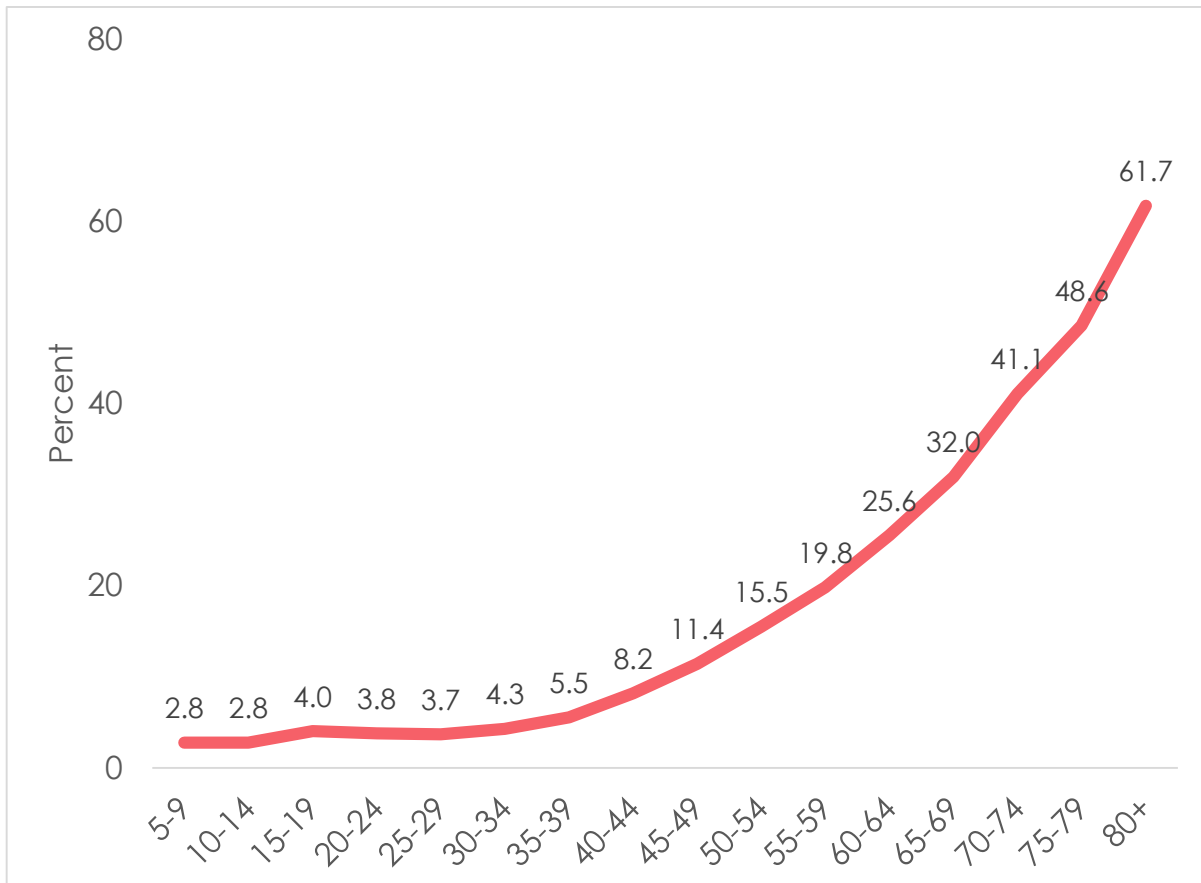
FIGURE 4.5: PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY SEX AND REGION



As age increases, there is a notable increase in the difficulty in performing activities, particularly in the age categories of 40 years and above, where the variation is most pronounced.

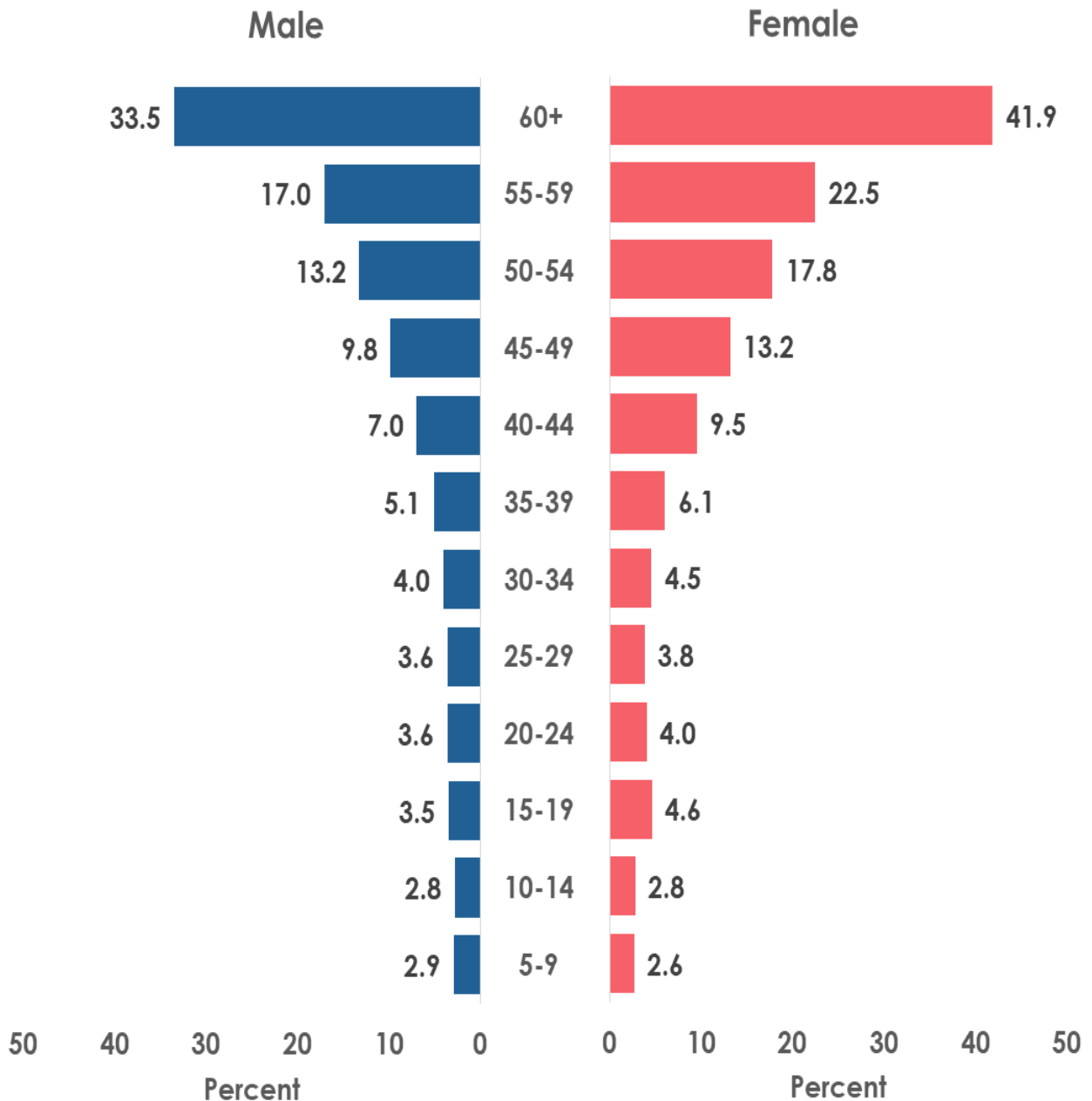
Among persons aged 80 years and older, 61.7 percent have difficulty in performing activity.

**FIGURE 4.6: DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS BY AGE GROUP**



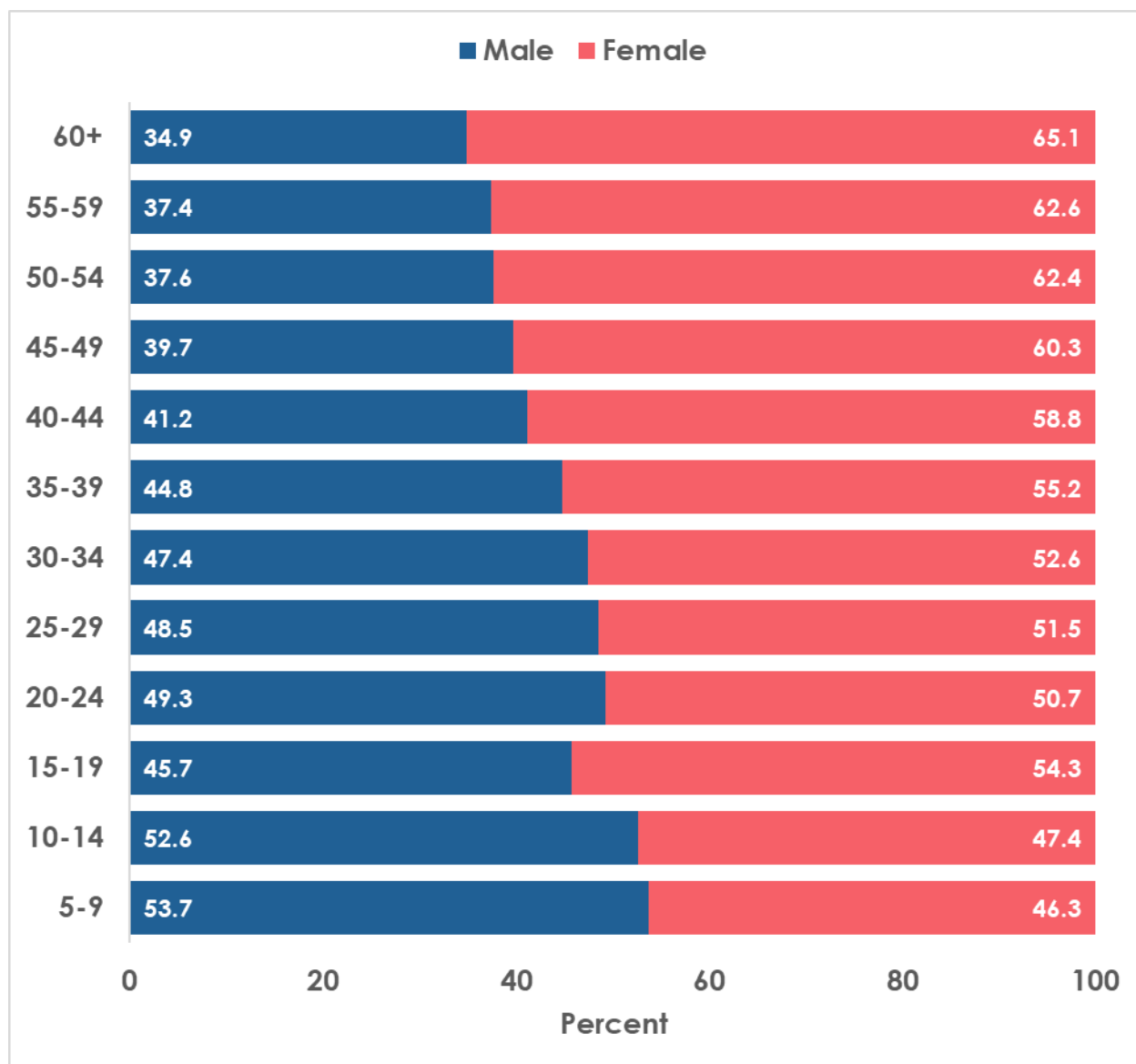
Across different age categories, the proportion of females with varying degrees of difficulty in performing activities is generally higher relative to males. However, an exception to this pattern is observed among persons aged 5 to 9 years, where there are more males (2.9%) experiencing difficulty in performing activities compared to females (2.6%).

FIGURE 4.7: PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY AGE AND SEX



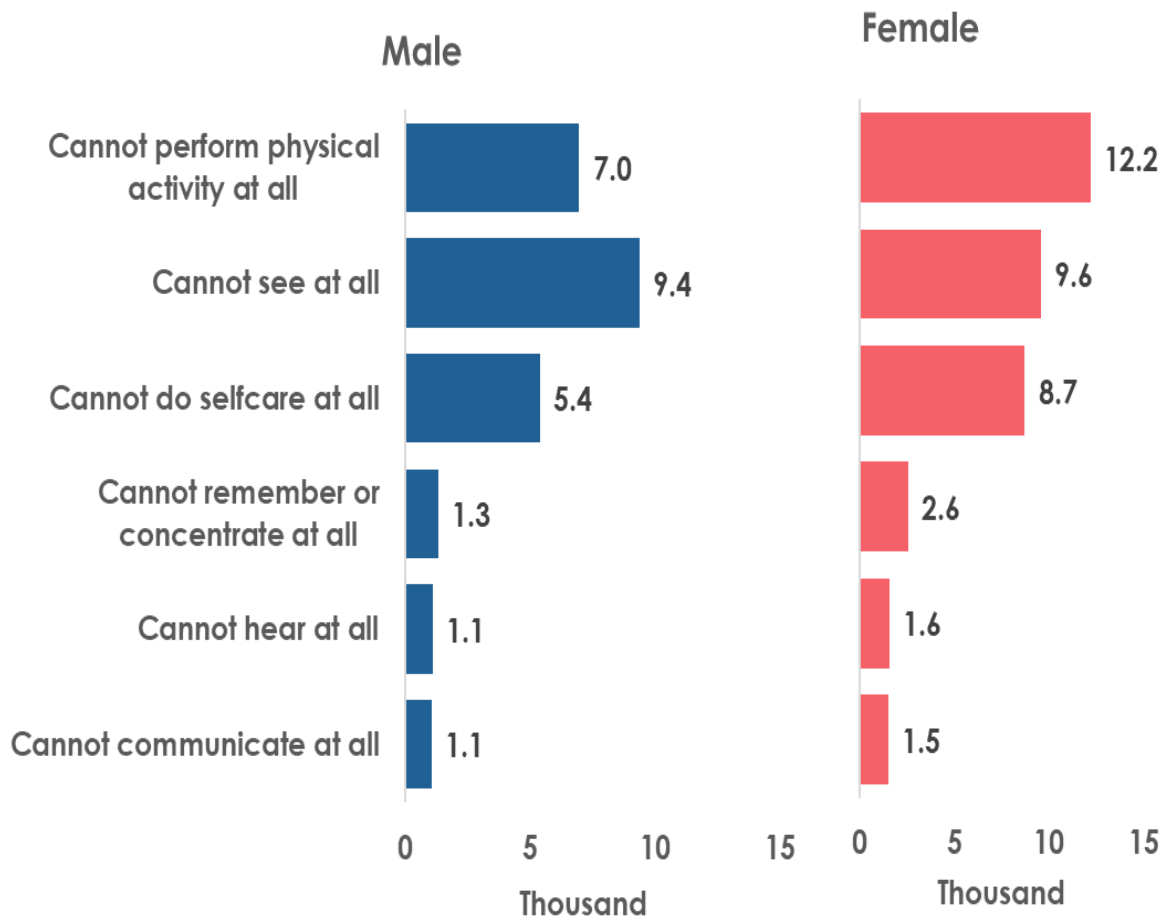
The male share of persons with difficulty in performing activities in multiple functional domains is higher among children aged 5-9 years (53.7%) and 10-14 years (52.6%).

FIGURE 4.8: PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY SEX AND AGE.



Among males aged 60 years and above, sight was identified as the most prevalent functional domain where they faced complete inability (about 9,400), whereas females in the same age group had a higher prevalence of inability in performing physical activities (12,200).

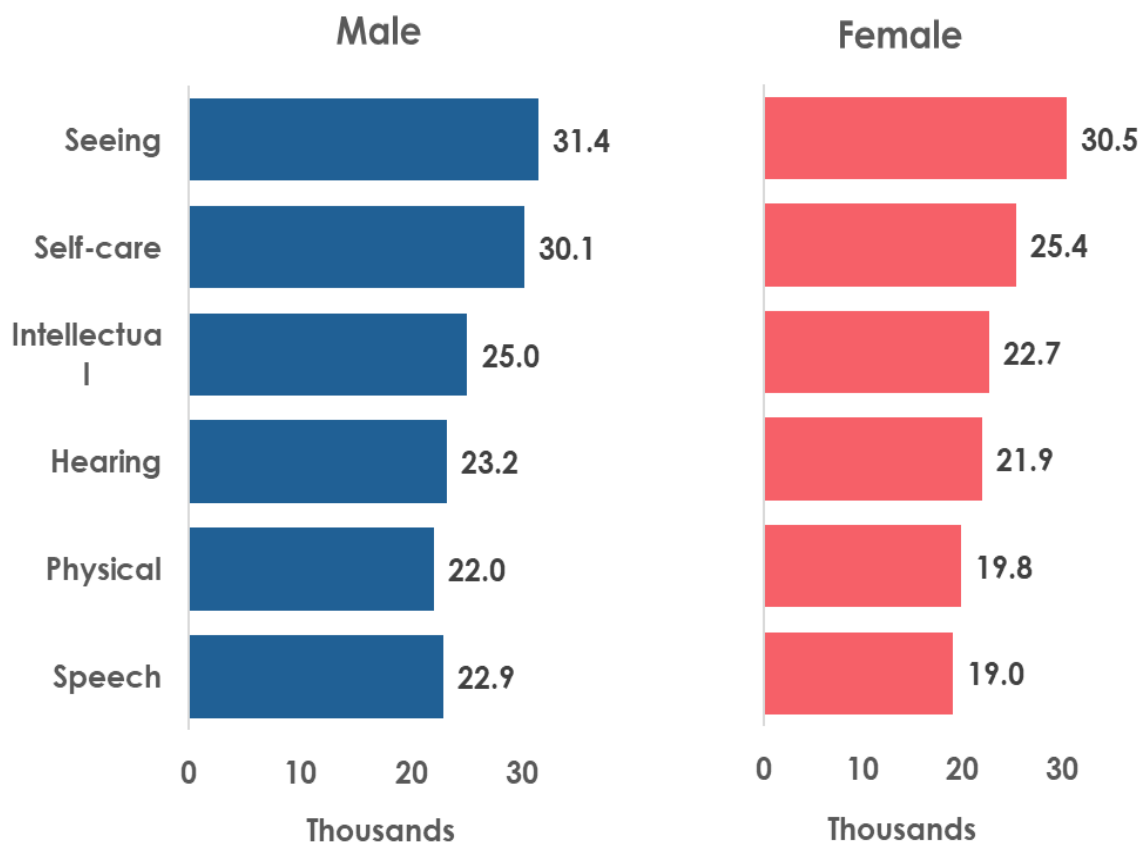
FIGURE 4.9: PERSONS 60 YEARS AND OLDER WHO CANNOT DO AT ALL BY FUNCTIONAL DOMAINS AND SEX



In the age group of 5 to 14, male children face a higher level of difficulty in performing activities across all six functional domains compared to female children.

Notably, the most prevalent difficulty among both sexes is seeing, with about 31,000 males and 30,500 females.

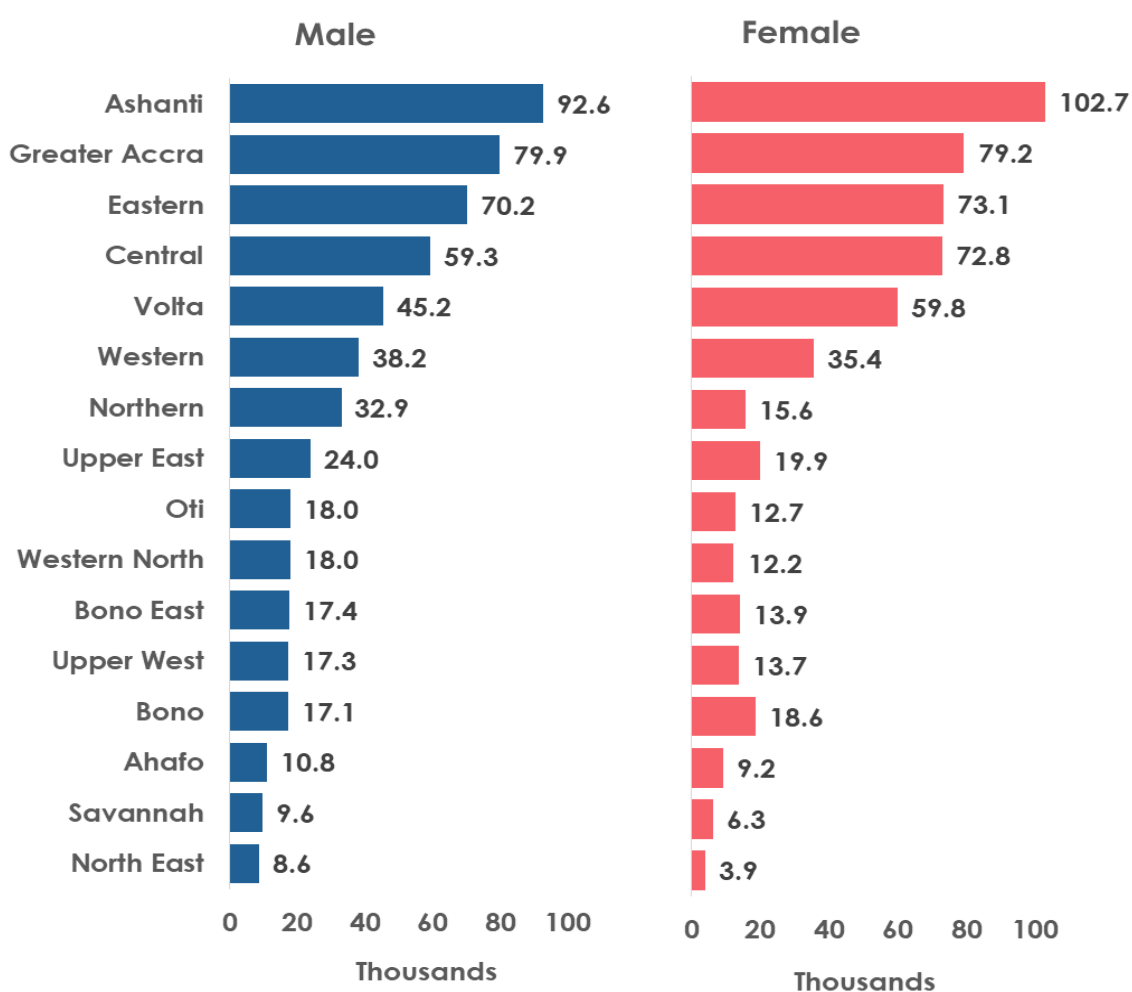
FIGURE 4.10: PERSONS 5-14 WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITY BY FUNCTIONAL DOMAIN AND SEX.



Except for Ashanti, Eastern, Central, Volta and Bono regions, where a higher number of female-headed households have difficulty in performing activities, the remaining 11 regions have a greater prevalence of male heads having difficulty in performing activities.

In Northern and North East regions, the prevalence of male heads (32,900; 8,600 respectively) having difficulty in performing activities is more than twice that of females (15,600; 3,900 respectively).

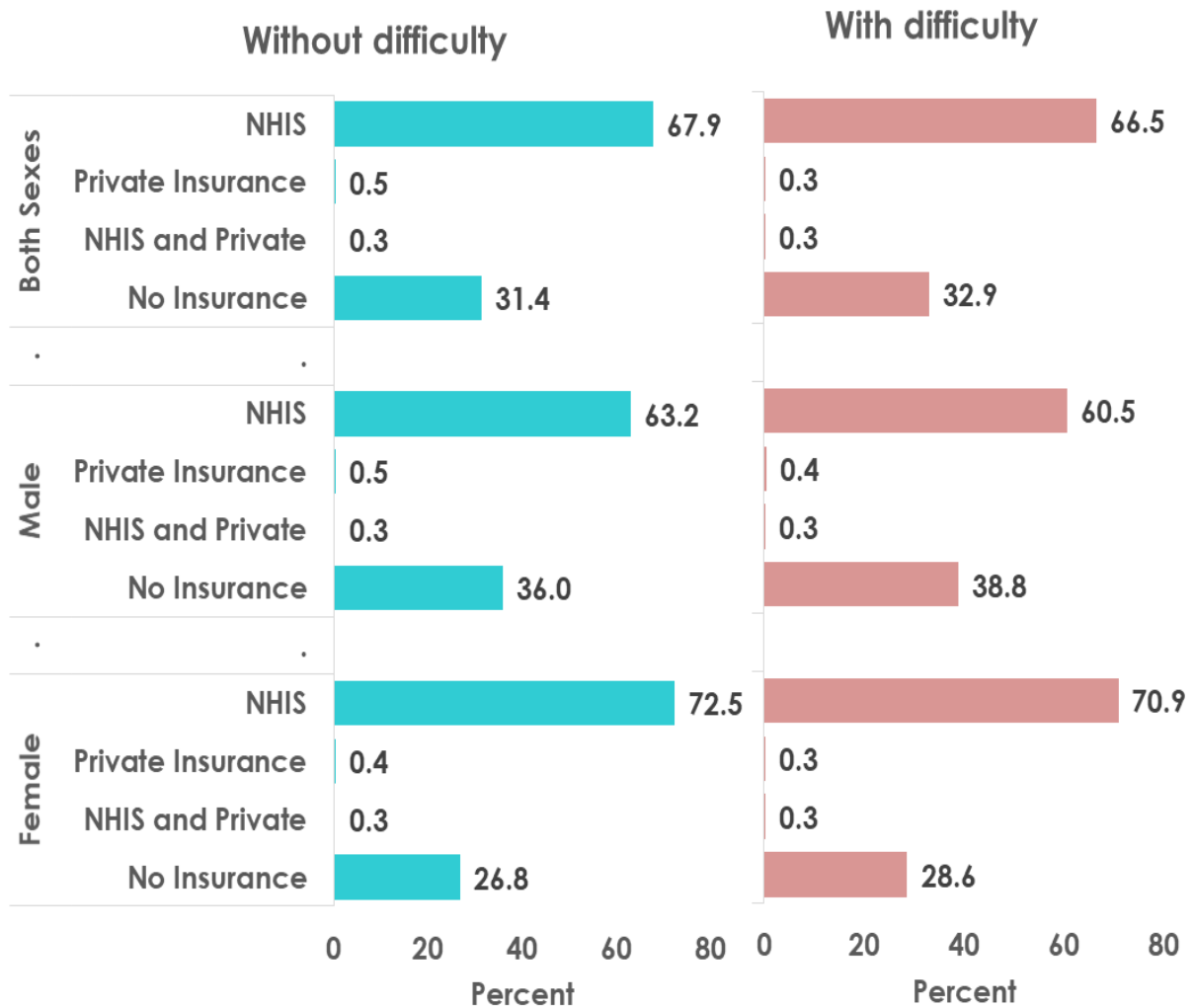
**FIGURE 4.11: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY REGION AND SEX**



## CORRELATES

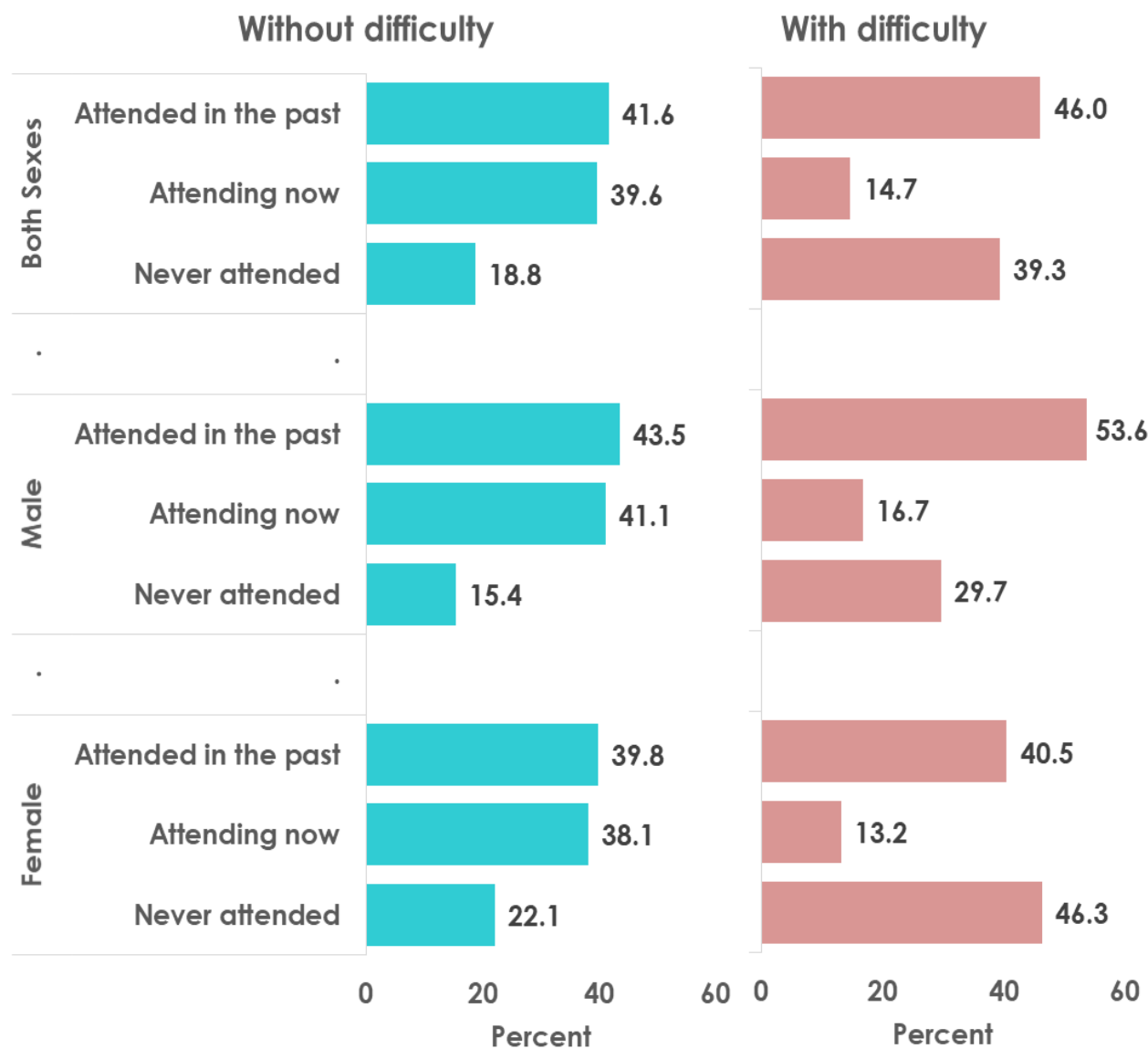
There are 32.9 percent of persons with difficulty in performing activities with no form of health insurance. Relatively, more males (38.8%) with difficulty in performing activities are without health insurance relative to females (28.6%).

FIGURE 4.12: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS AND SEX



Nationally, 39.3 percent of persons with difficulty in performing activities have never attended school, which is more than twice that of persons without difficulty (18.8%).

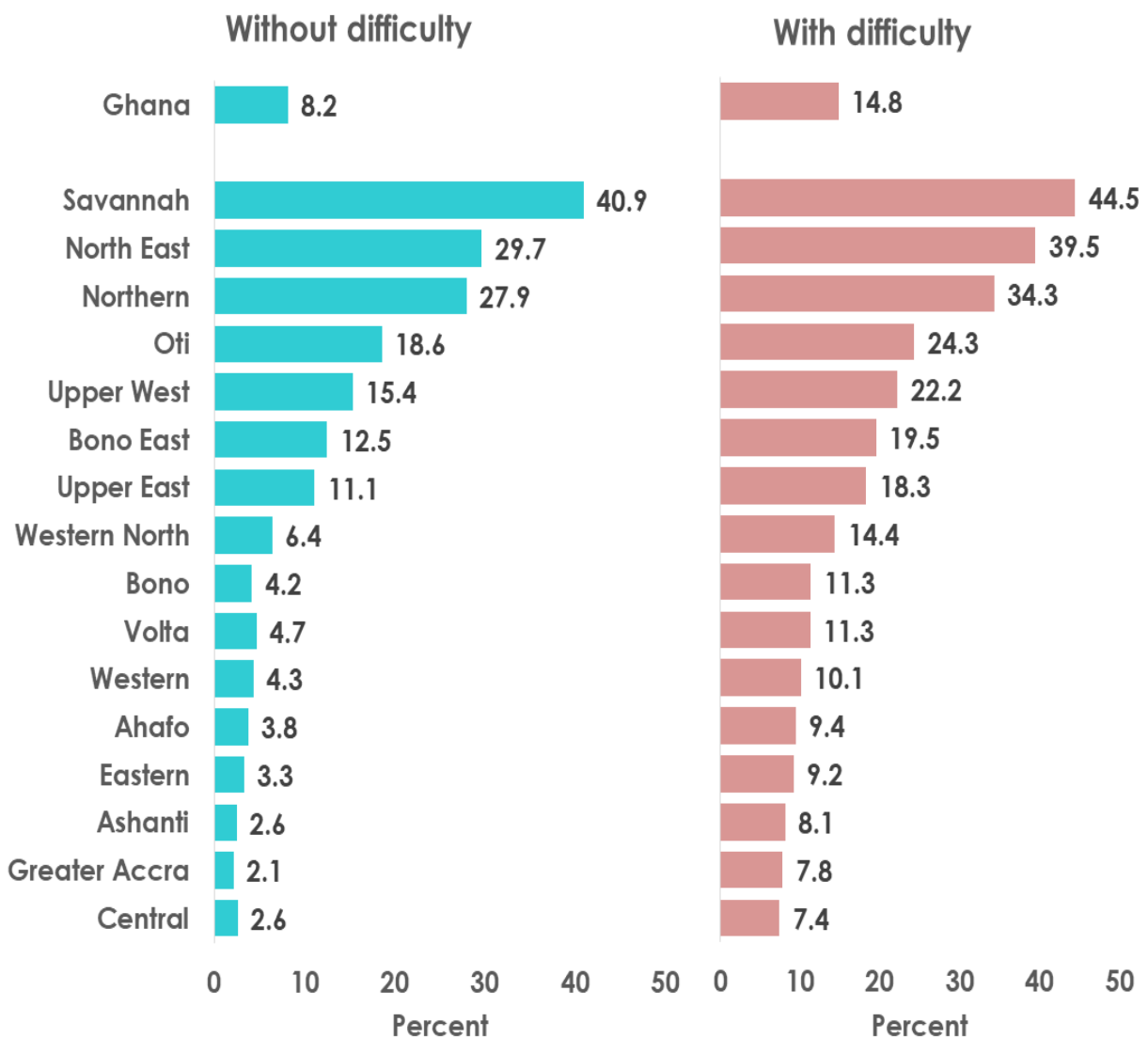
FIGURE 4.13: DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS BY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SEX



Children aged 5 to 17 years with difficulty in performing activities who have never attended school in Ghana (14.8%) is almost twice the percent of children without difficulty who have never attended school (8.2%).

The proportion of children with difficulty who have never attended school in Savannah Region (44.5%) is about 6 times that of those in the Central Region (7.4%).

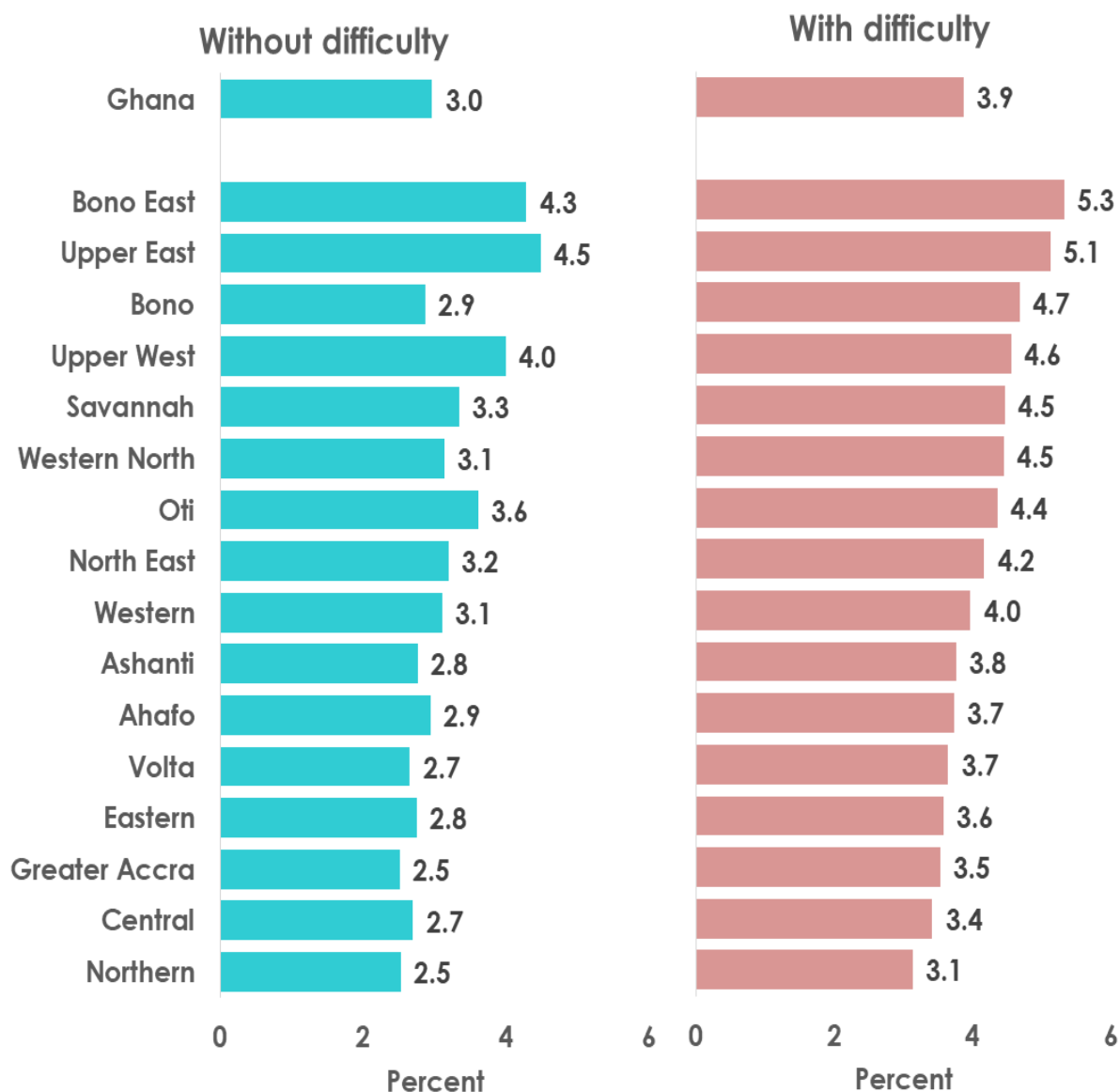
**FIGURE 4.14: PERSONS 5 TO 17 YEARS WHO HAVE NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS AND REGION**



Relatively, there are more children of school age (5 to 17 years) with difficulty in performing activities who attended school in the past across the 16 regions.

Bono East Region (5.3%) recorded the highest proportion of children of school age (5 to 17 years) with difficulty in performing activities who are currently not in school, with the least being the Northern Region (3.1%).

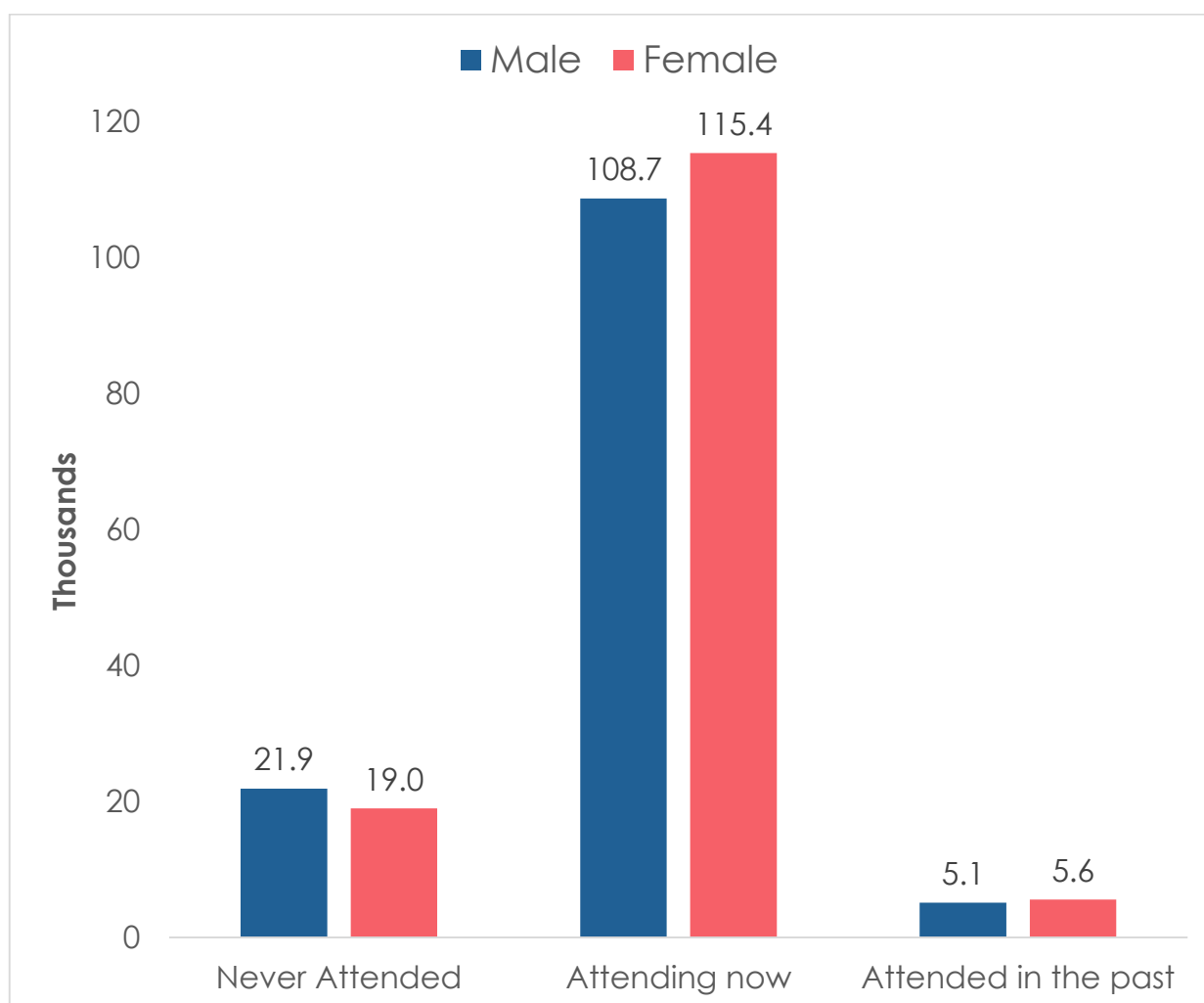
**FIGURE 4.15: PERSONS 5-17 YEARS WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL IN THE PAST BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS AND REGION**



Among persons with difficulty in performing activities who have never attended school, almost 40,000 are of school age (5 to 17 years) with more males (21,900) than females (19,000) who have never attended school.

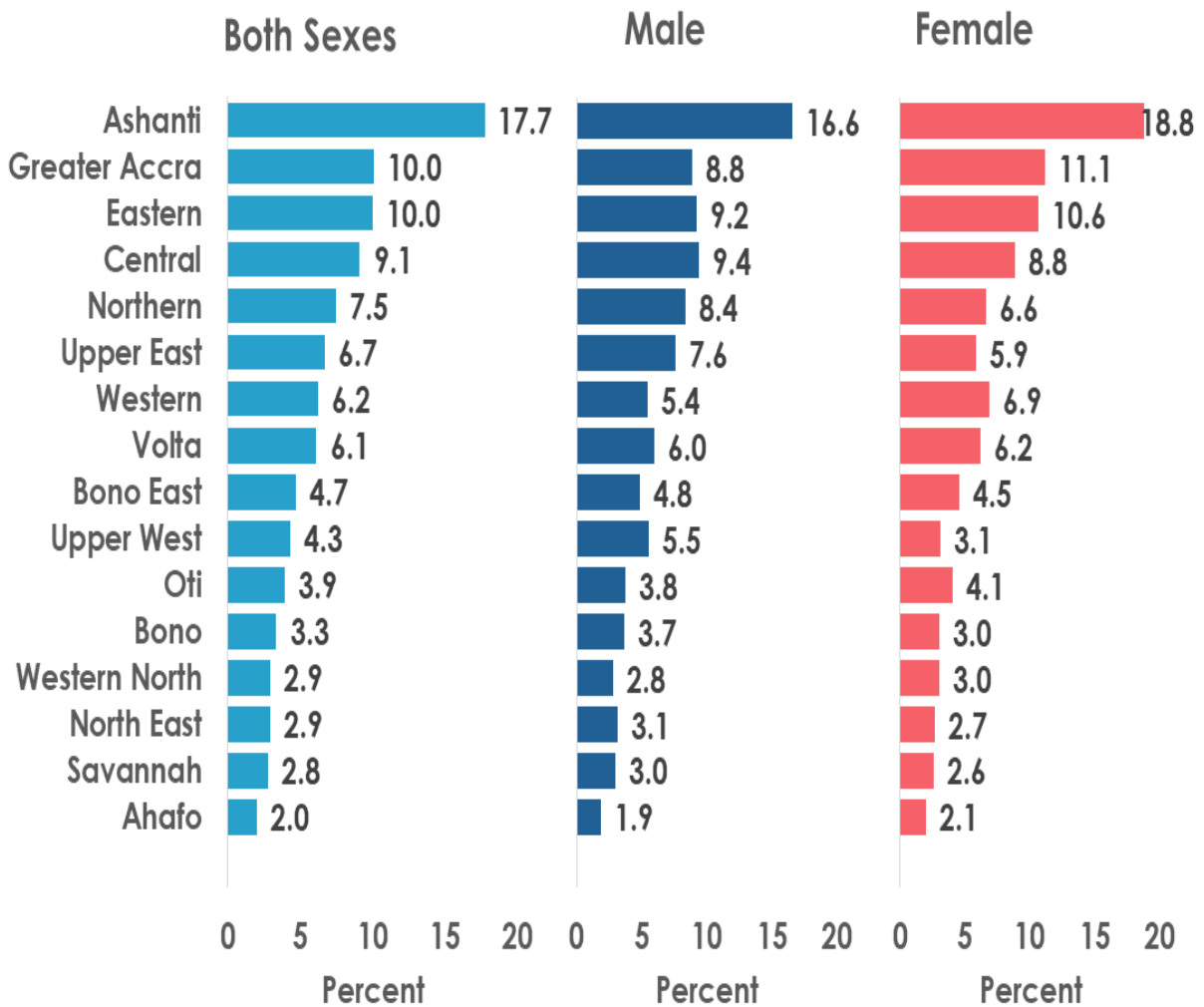
The proportion of females aged 5 to 17 who attended school in the past (5600) is slightly higher than their male counterparts (5100).

**FIGURE 4.16: PERSONS 5-17 YEARS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SEX**



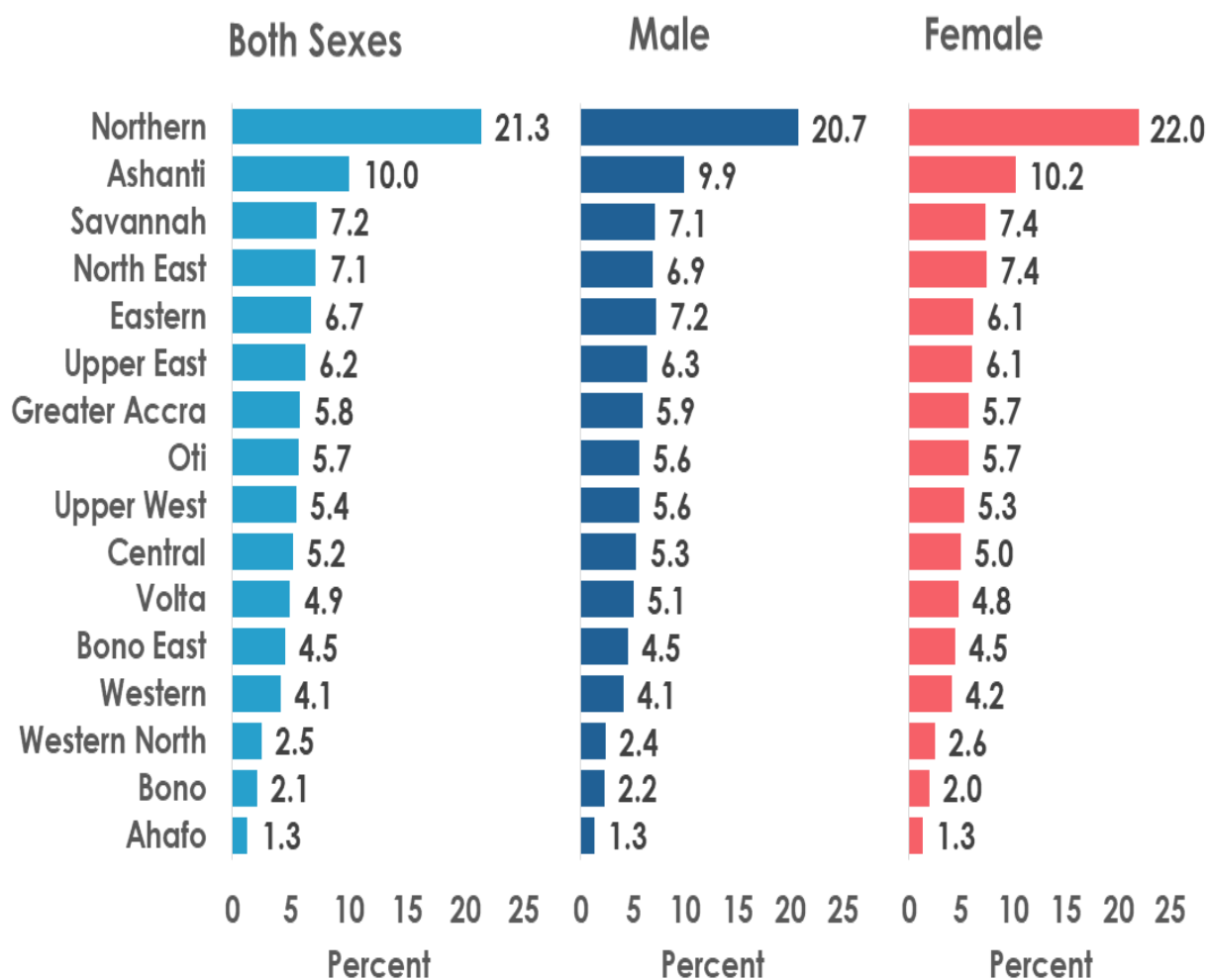
Among children aged 5 to 17 years who attended school in the past, the proportion with difficulty in performing activities is much higher in the Ashanti Region (17.7%) relative to the Ahafo Region (2.0%).

FIGURE 4.17: CHILDREN 5-17 YEARS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL IN THE PAST BY SEX AND REGION



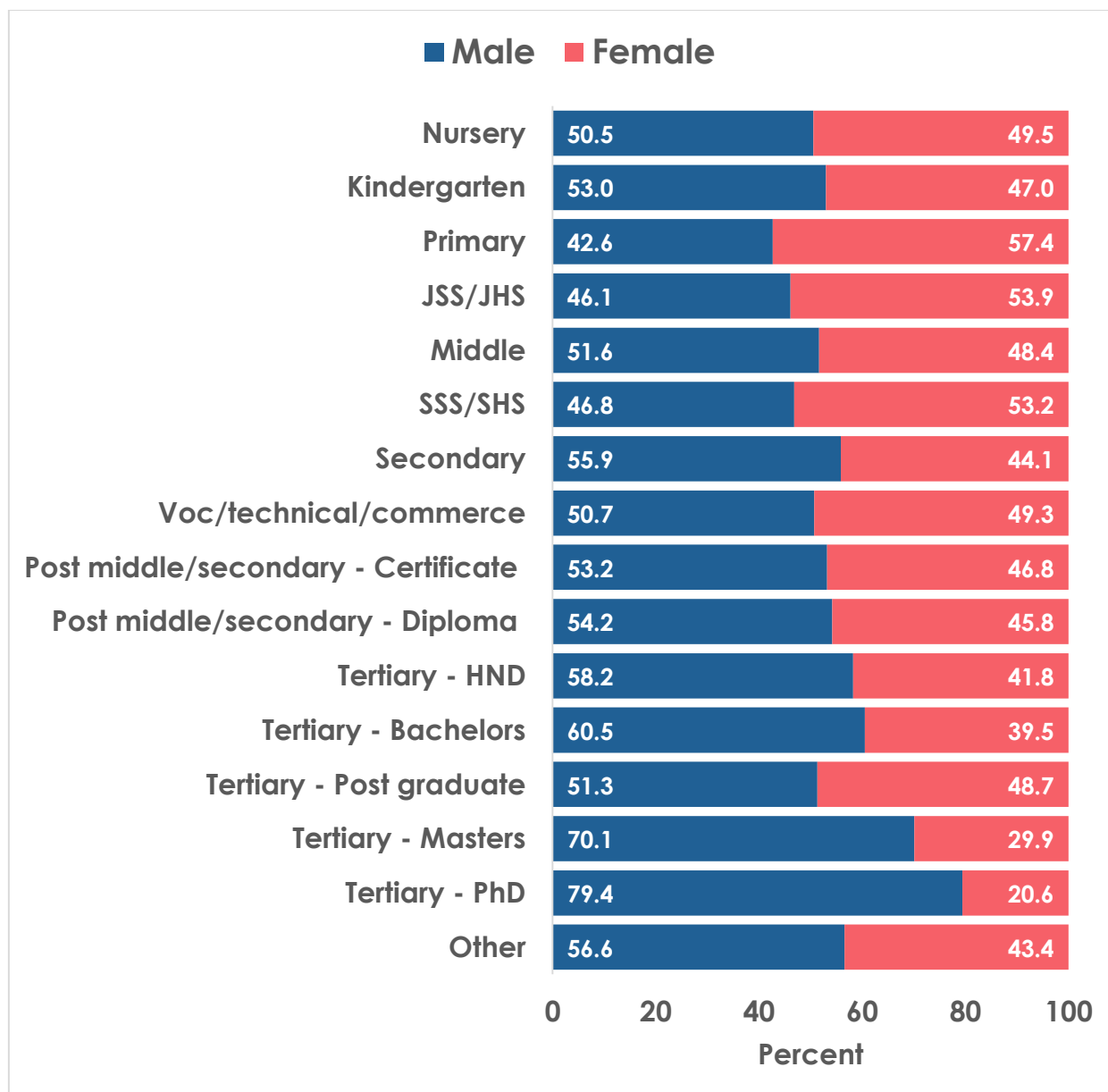
The proportion of children with difficulty in performing activities who have never attended school is high among children in the Northern Region (21.3%) which is more than twice that of children in the Ashanti Region.

FIGURE 4.18: CHILDREN 5-17 WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES WHO HAVE NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL BY SEX AND REGION



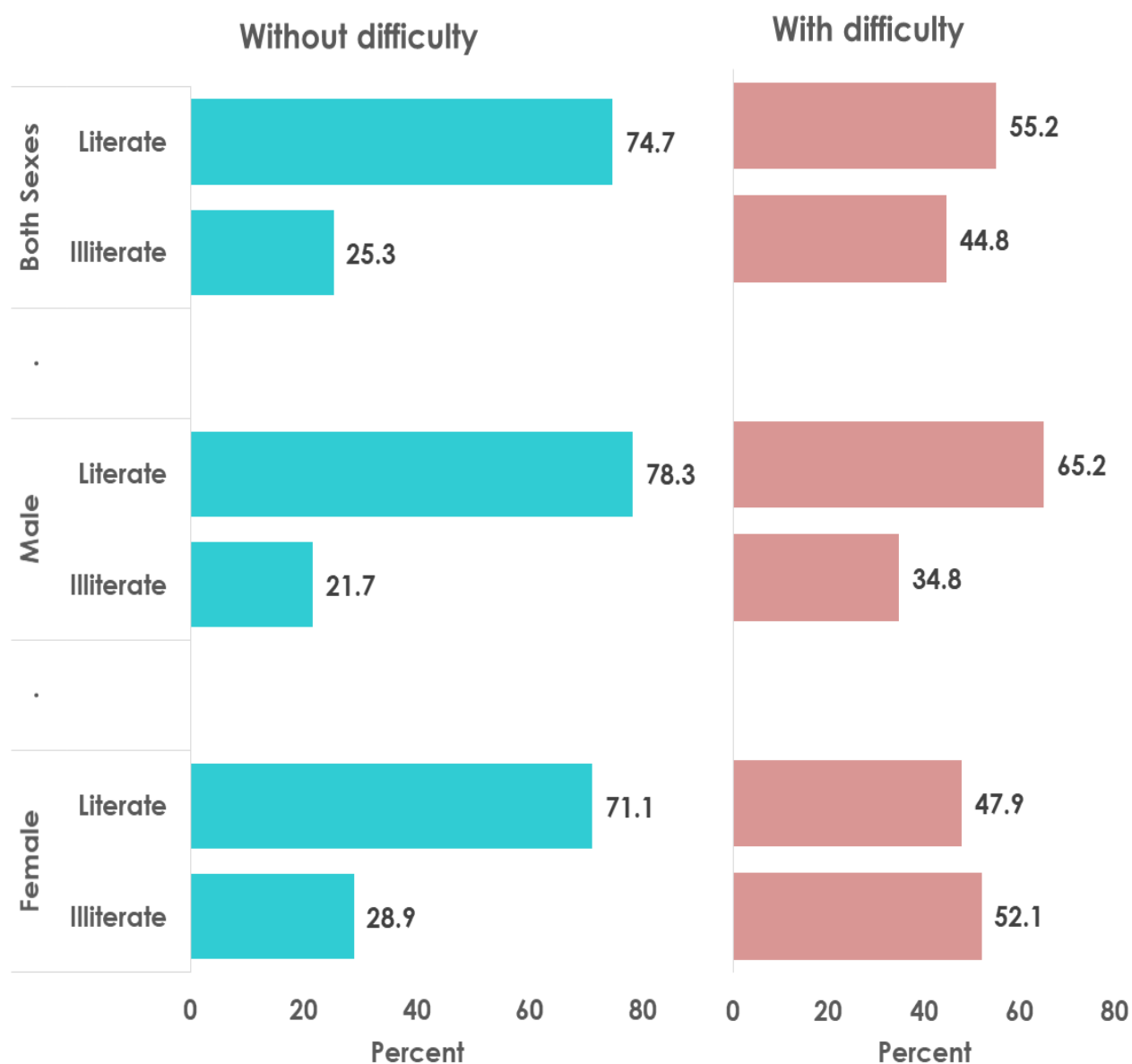
There are more males with difficulty in performing activities who have attained education across all levels relative to their female counterparts. At higher educational levels, the proportion of males having difficulty who have a masters degree (70.1%) and PhD (79.4%) is more than twice that of females(29.9%; 20.6% respectively).

FIGURE 4.19: PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND SEX



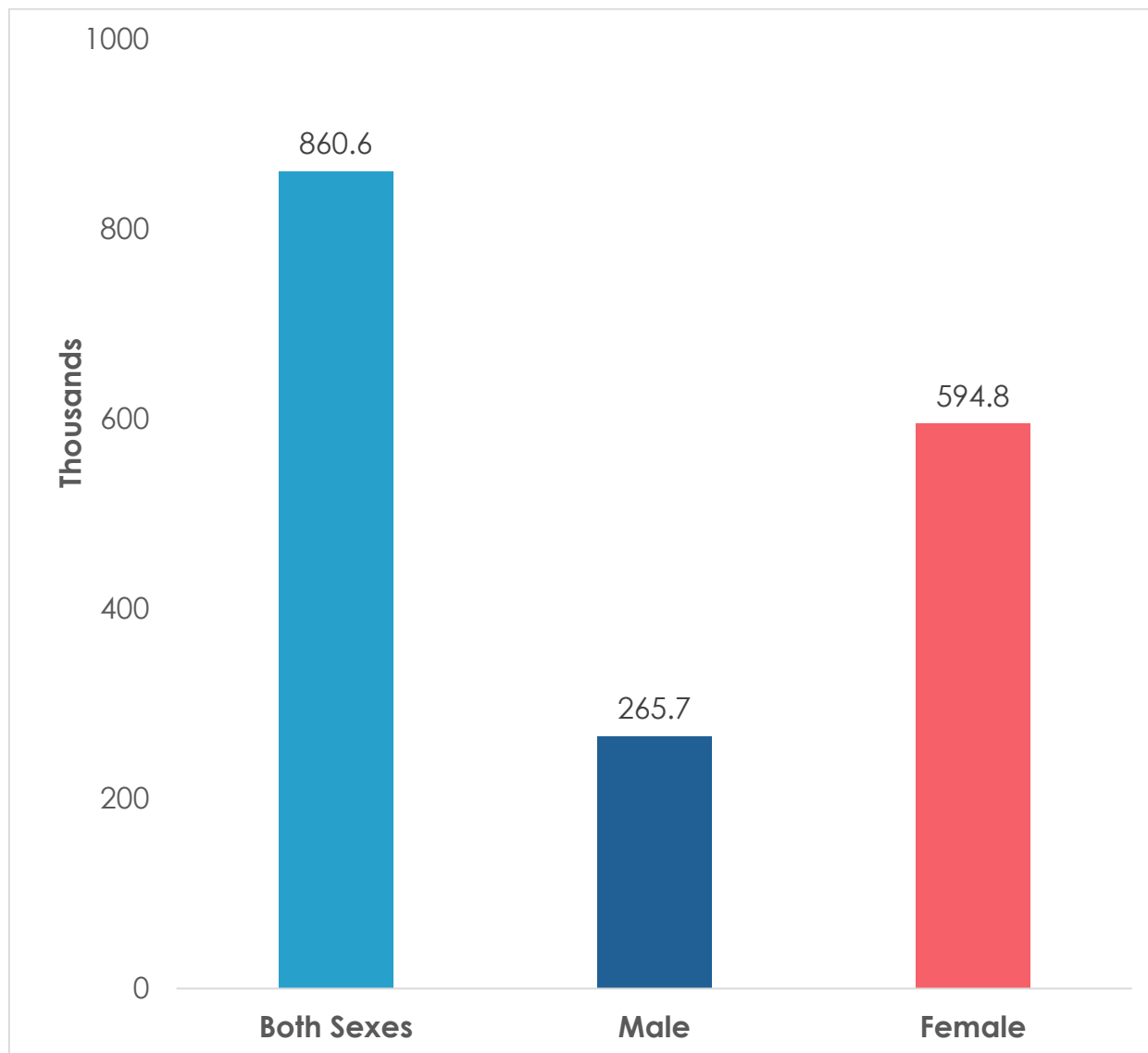
Almost half (44.8%) of persons 5 years and older with difficulty in performing activities are illiterate compared to a quarter (25.3%) of persons without difficulty. The literacy gap between those with difficulty and those without is larger for females relative to their male counterparts.

FIGURE 4.20: DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS BY LITERACY STATUS AND SEX



There are about 860,600 persons 15 years and older with difficulty in performing activities who are illiterate. Almost seven out of every 10 (594,800) of them are females.

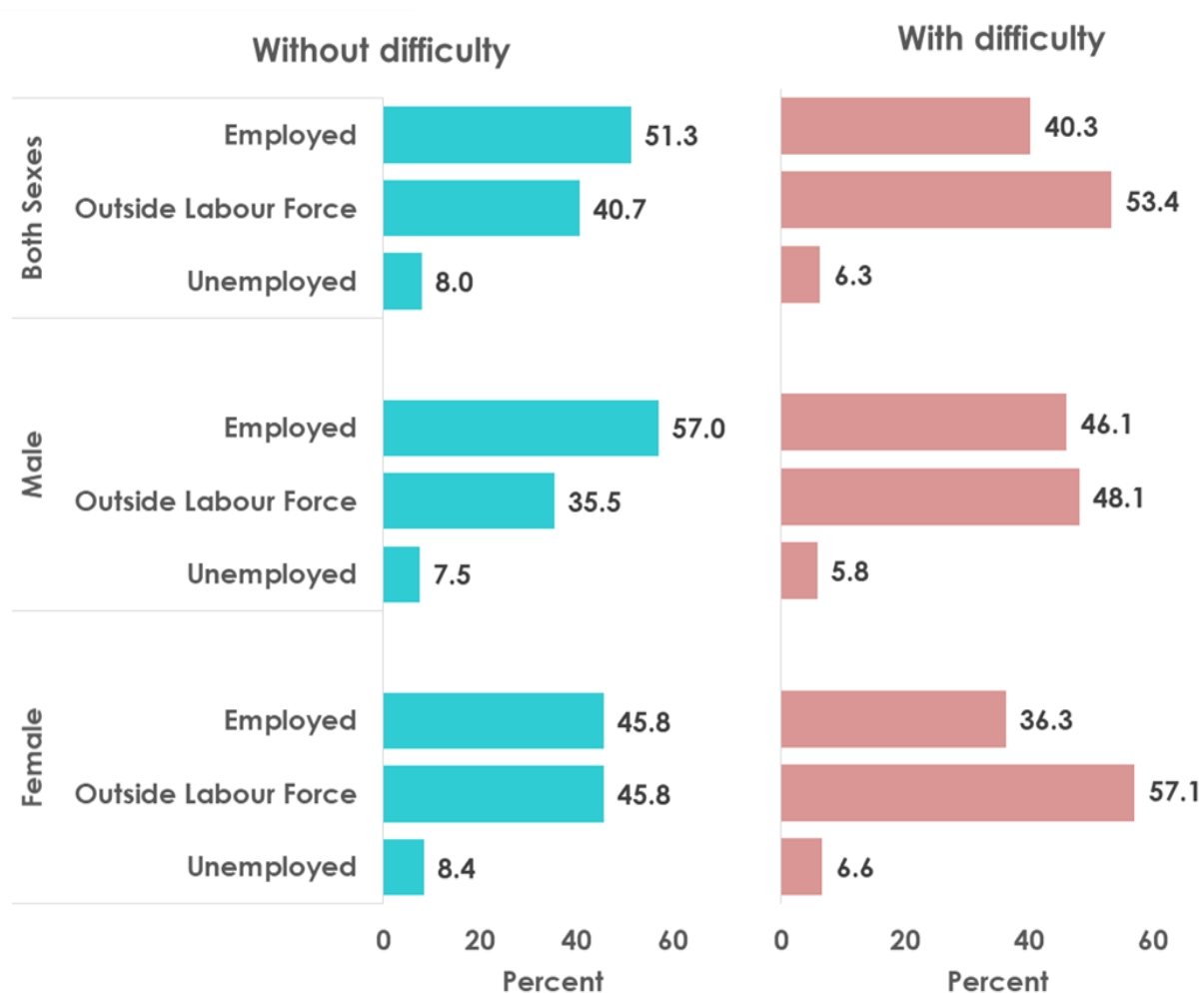
**FIGURE 4.21: PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES WHO ARE ILLITERATE**



The proportion of persons with difficulty in performing activities who are employed (40.3%) is about 10 percentage points lower than persons without difficulty who are employed (51.3%).

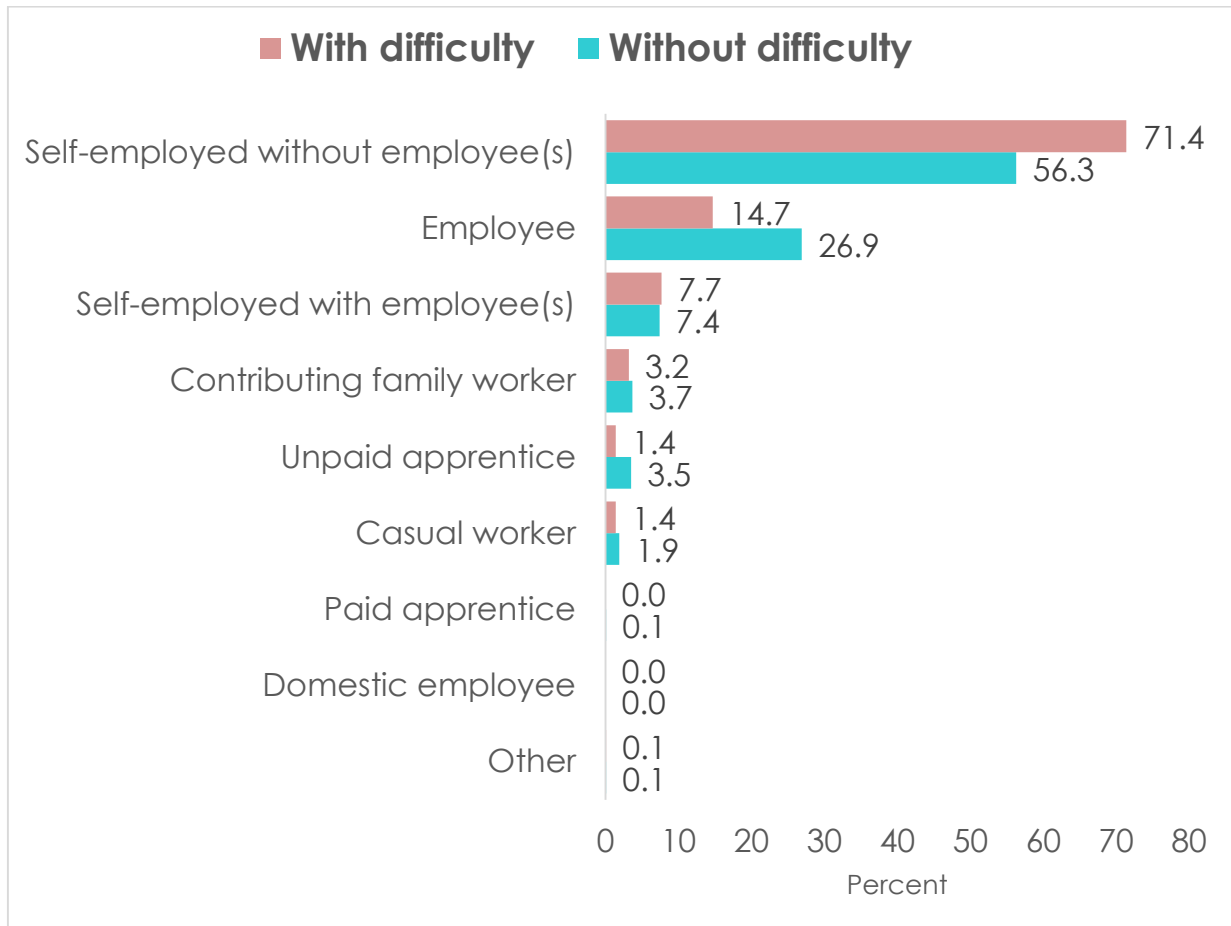
About half (53.4%) of persons with difficulty in performing activities are outside the labour force with a higher proportion of females (57.1%) than males (48.1%).

**FIGURE 4.22: ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS AND SEX**



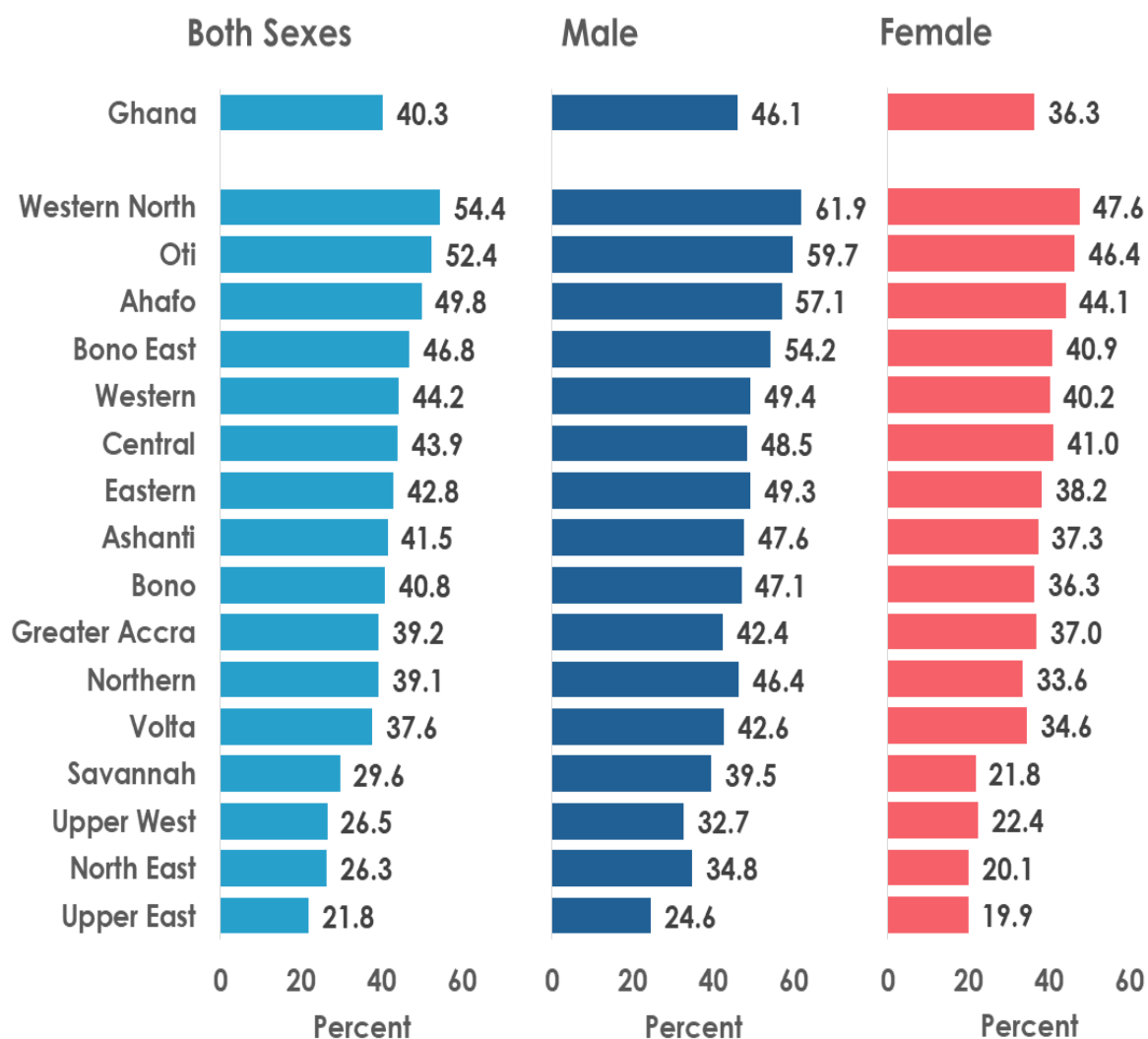
Among persons 15 years and older with difficulty in performing activities who are employed, seven in every ten (71.4%) are self-employed without employee(s) compared to almost six in every 10 (56.3%) of those without difficulty.

**FIGURE 4.23: EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS**



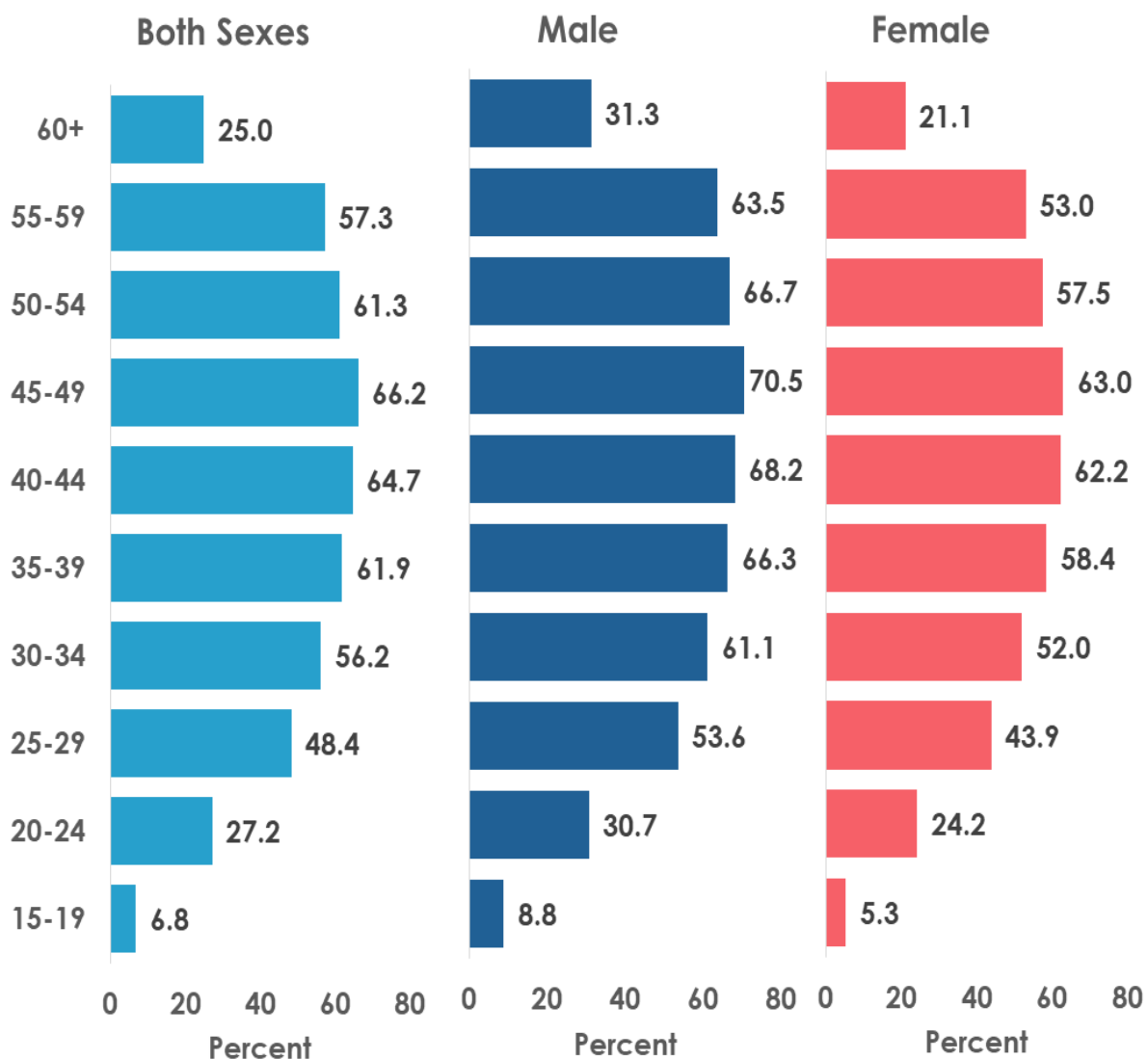
More than 50 percent of persons with difficulty in performing activities in Western North (54.4%) and Oti (52.4%) regions are employed. In the Upper East (21.8%), North East (26.3%), Upper West (26.5%), and Savannah (29.6%) regions, fewer than three in every 10 persons with difficulty in performing activities are employed.

**FIGURE 4.24: SHARE OF PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES EMPLOYED BY REGION AND SEX**



Among persons having difficulties in performing activities, the predominant age group for employment is 30 years and above. At least 50 percent of persons aged 30 to 59 years with difficulties are employed.

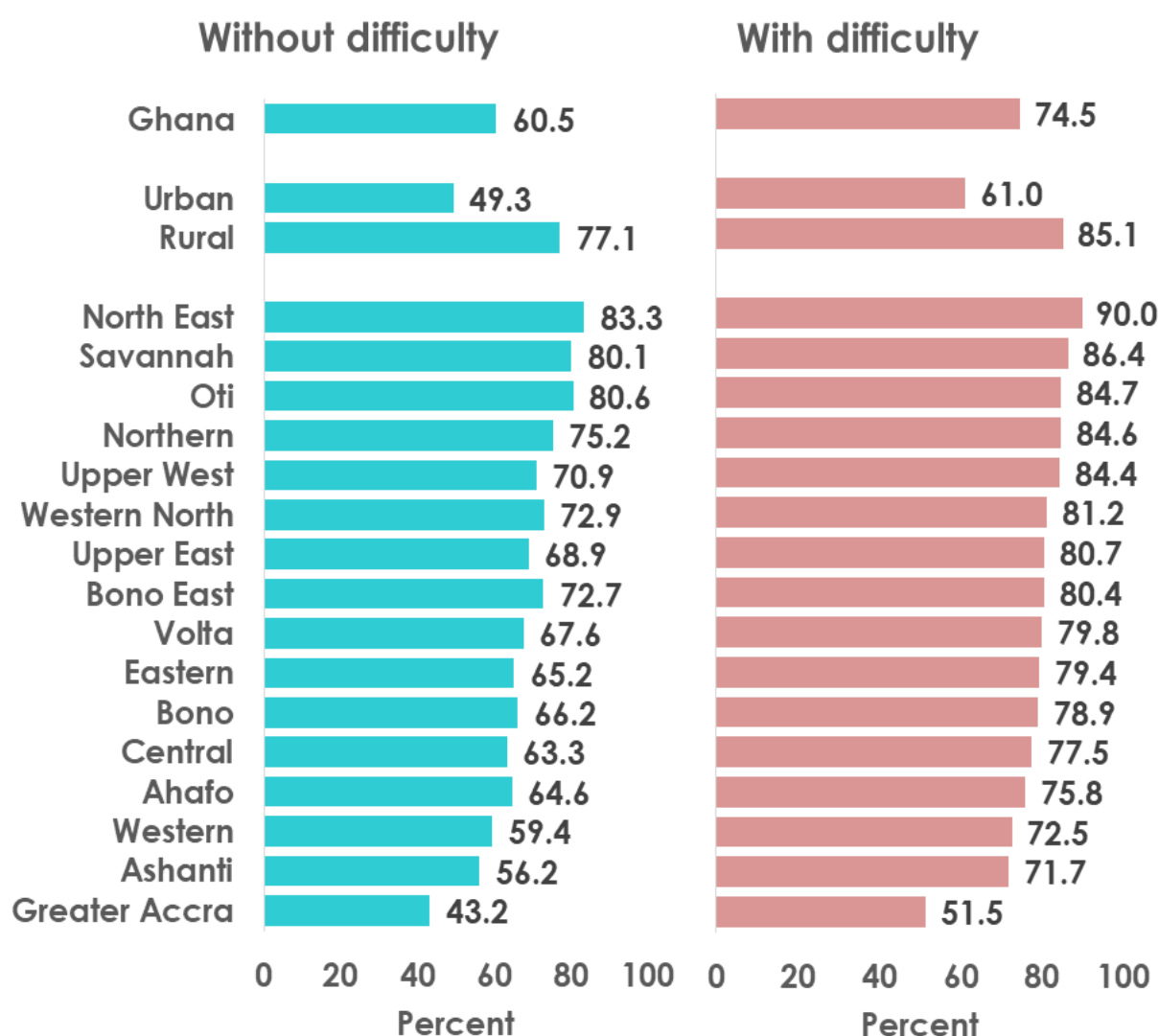
FIGURE 4.25: SHARE OF PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES EMPLOYED BY AGE AND SEX



Three in every four (74.5%) persons with difficulty in performing activities are engaged in vulnerable employment, which is higher than the percent for those without difficulty (60.5%).

There is substantial variation by region in the percent of employed persons with difficulty in performing activities in vulnerable employment ranging from five in every 10 (51.5%) in Greater Accra to nine in every 10 (90.0%) in North East.

**FIGURE 4.26: PERCENT OF EMPLOYED PERSONS IN VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS, TYPE OF LOCALITY AND REGION**



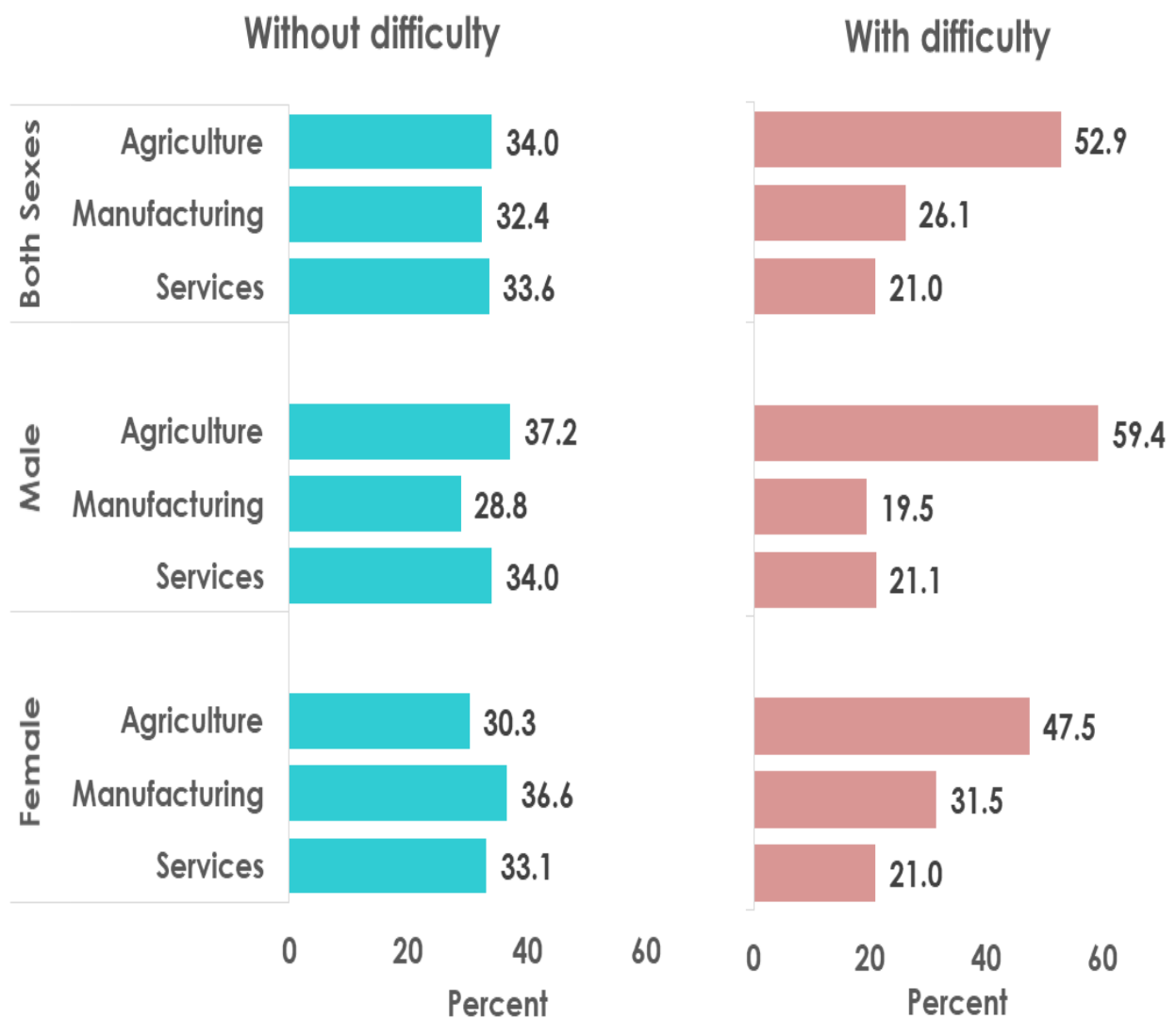
Across various age groups, females with difficulty in performing activities have a higher share of vulnerable employment compared to males, with a notable 20 percentage point difference for persons aged 40 to 44 years.

**FIGURE 4.27: SHARE OF VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY SEX**



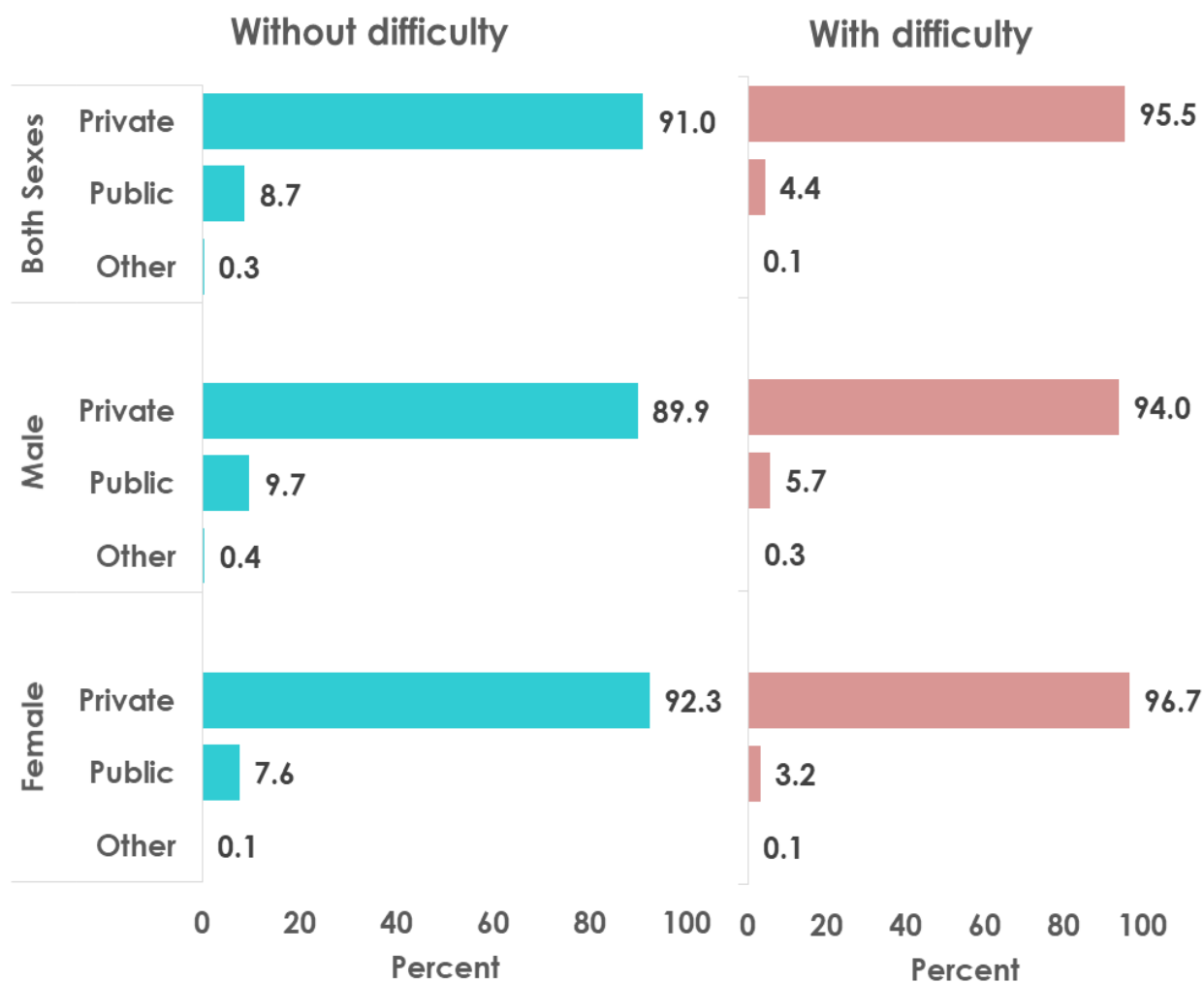
More than half (52.9%) of persons with difficulty in performing activities are employed in the agricultural sector relative to 34.0 percent of persons without difficulty in performing activities. The services sector employs 21.0 percent of persons with difficulty in performing activities and more than one-third of persons (33.6%) with no difficulty.

**FIGURE 4.28: INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS AND SEX**



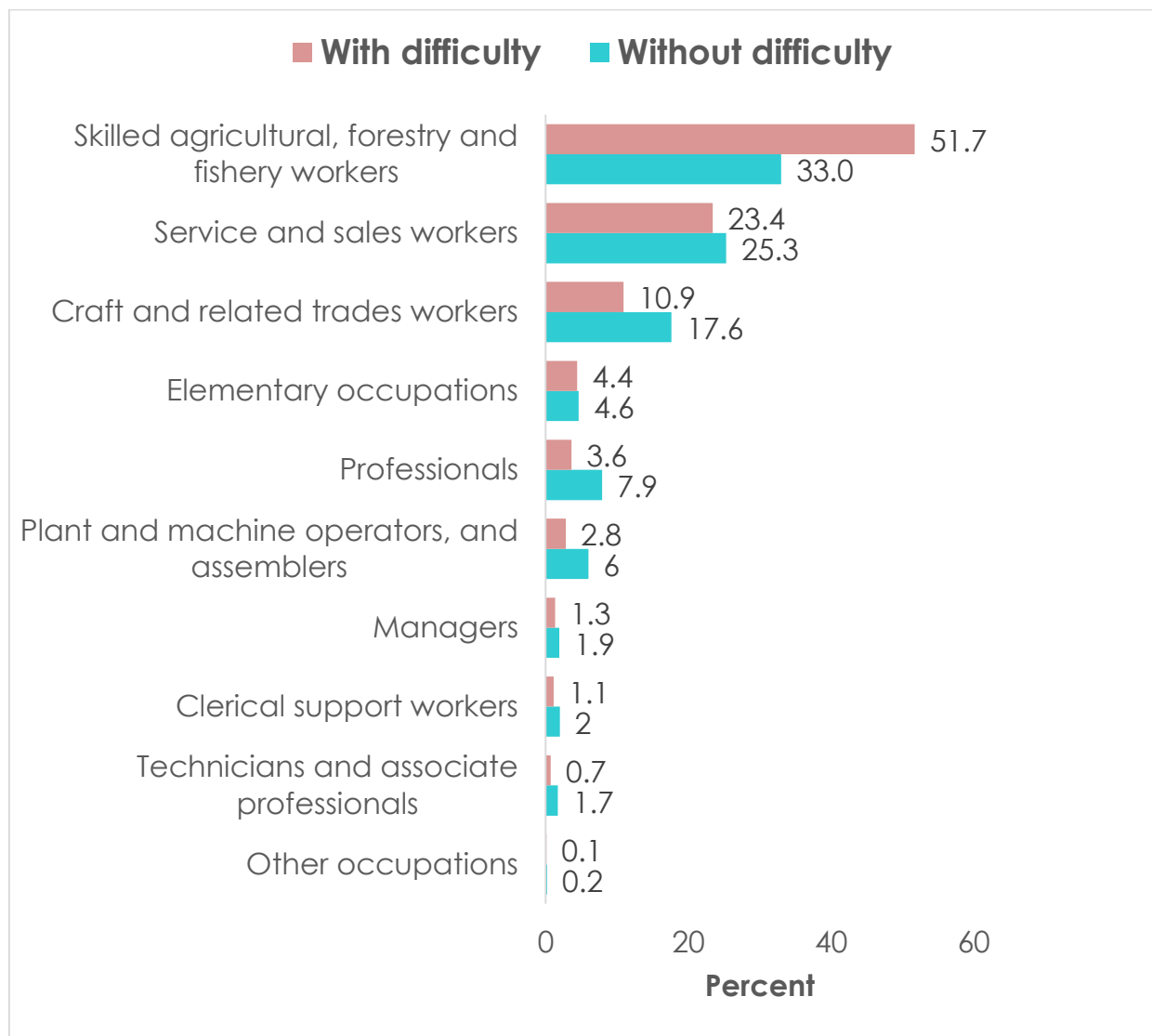
The proportion of persons with difficulty in performing activities employed in the public sector is 4.4 percent compared to 8.7 percent of persons without difficulty working in the public sector.

FIGURE 4.29: SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS AND SEX



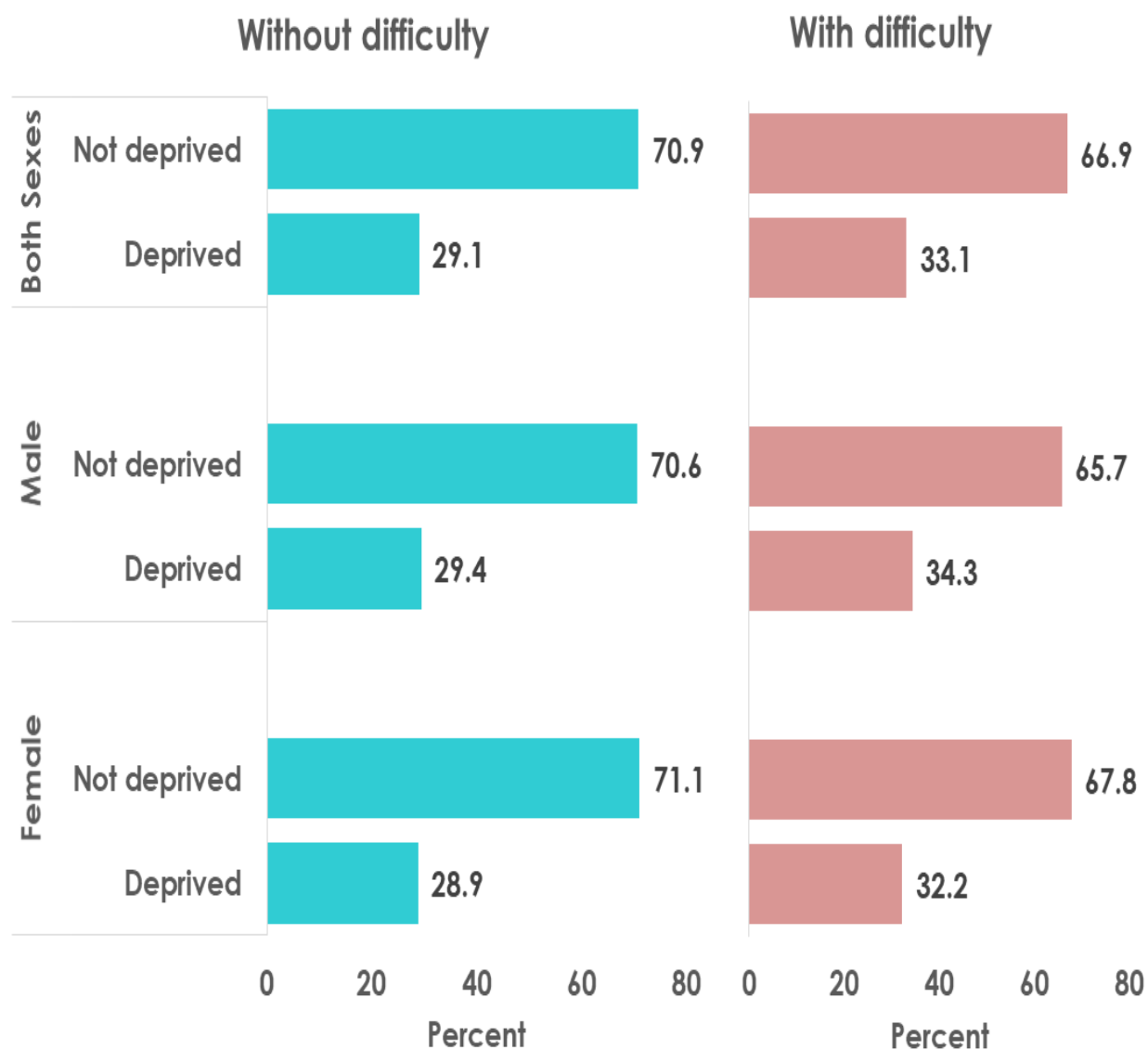
Five in every 10 (51.7%) employed persons with difficulty in performing activities are engaged in skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery work relative to three in every 10 (33.0%) employed persons with no difficulty.

**FIGURE 4.30: OCCUPATION OF PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS**



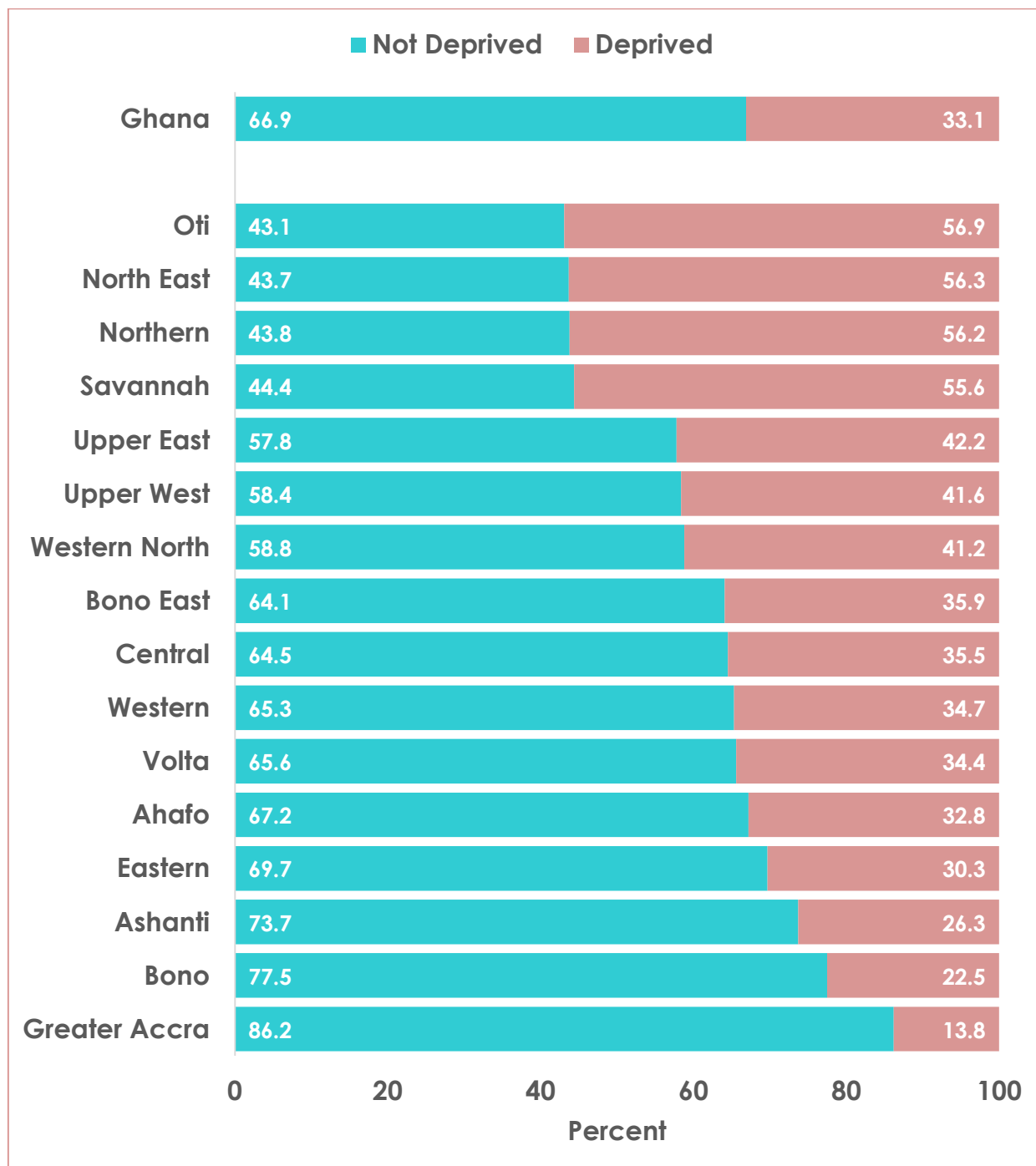
The incidence of multidimensional poverty is higher for persons with difficulty in performing activities, which is about 33.1 percent compared to 29.1 percent for persons with no difficulty.

FIGURE 4.31: MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY STATUS BY DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES STATUS AND SEX



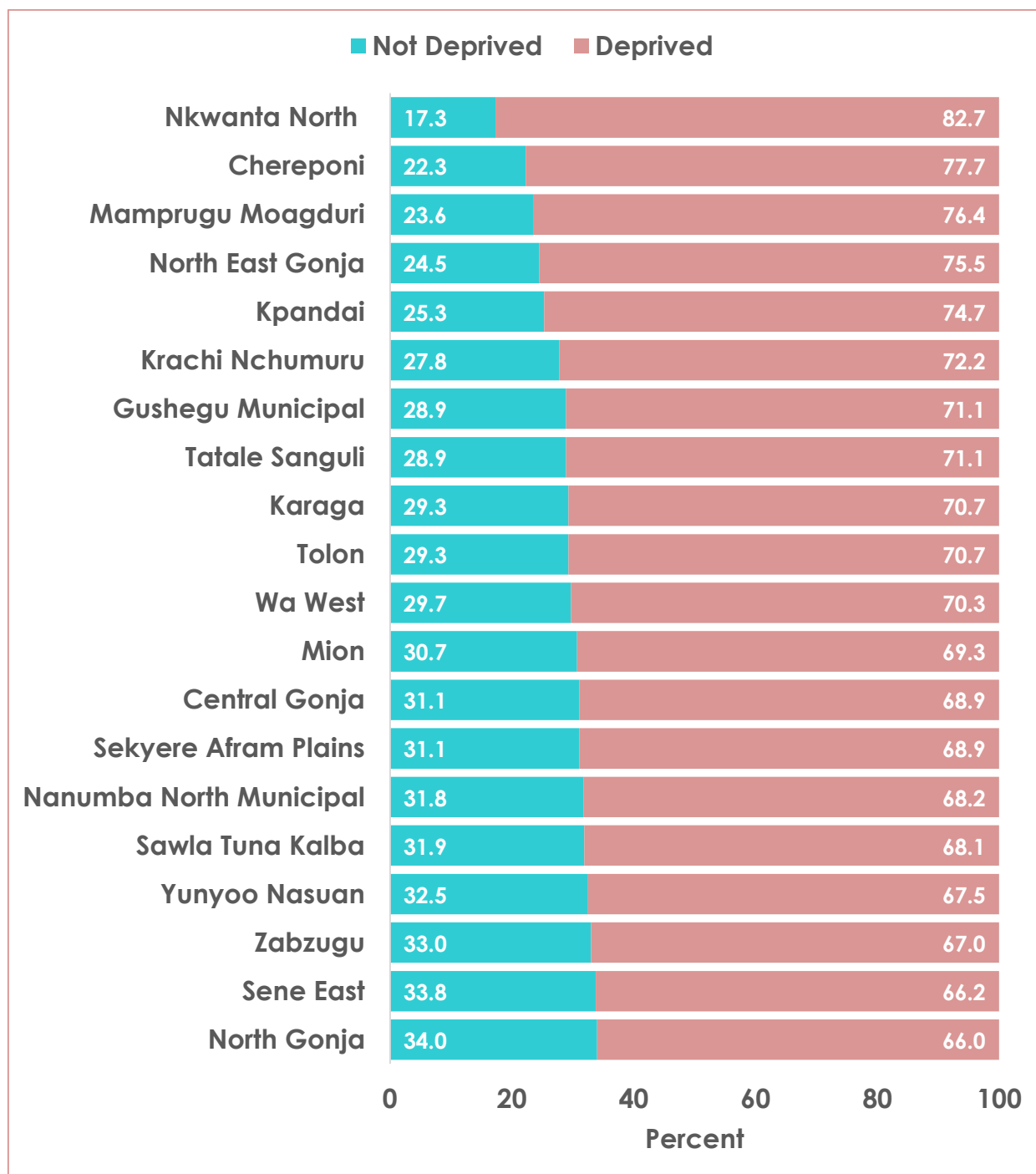
In four regions more than half of the persons with difficulty in performing activities are multidimensionally poor: Oti (56.9%), North East (56.3%), Northern (56.2%), and Savannah (55.6%).

**FIGURE 4.32: MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY REGION**



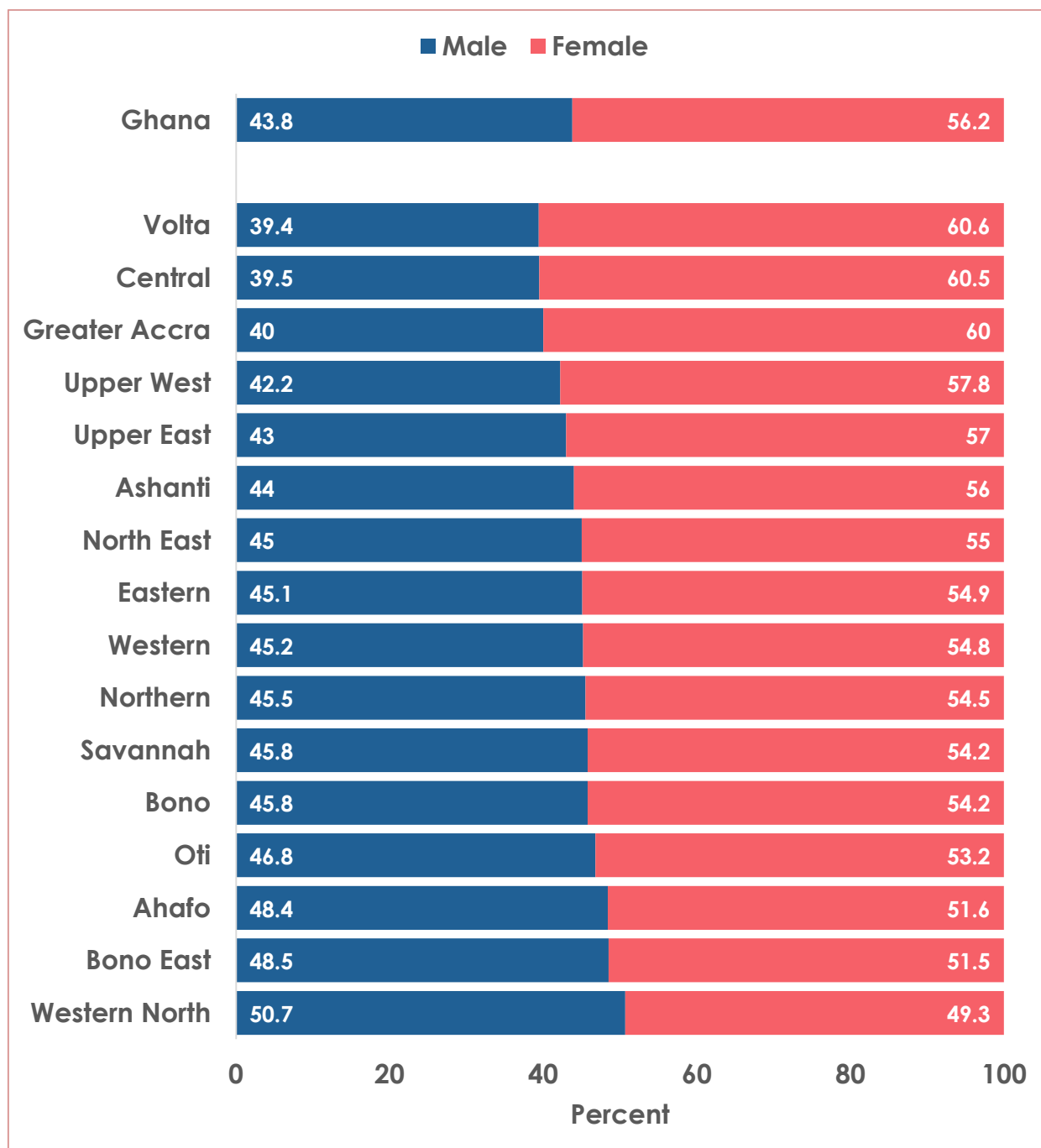
In the following districts, Nkwanta North (82.7%), Chereponi (77.7%) and Mamprugu Moagduri (76.4%), more than three-quarters of the persons with difficulty in performing activities are multidimensionally poor.

**FIGURE 4.33: TOP 20 DISTRICTS WITH HIGH PROPORTION OF PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES WHO ARE MULTIDimensionALLY POOR**



With regards to sex, except for the Western North Region where males with difficulty who are deprived (50.7%) is slightly higher than such females (49.3%), more than half of females with difficulty in performing activities in all the other regions are multidimensionally poor.

**FIGURE 4.34: DEPRIVED PERSONS WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY REGION AND SEX**



## 5. CONCLUSIONS

This thematic brief presents information on the vulnerabilities of persons with difficulty in performing activities in Ghana. The report contributes to a currently small body of evidence on the socio-economic status of persons with difficulties. This report highlights the relationships between difficulty in performing activities and education, employment, and multidimensional poverty. Given that socio-economic status of persons having difficulty differs across contexts, the brief provides evidence to enable policymakers to develop appropriate contextual and outcome-specific policies and programmes.

The findings indicate that persons with difficulty in performing activities are deprived in terms of education, employment, and poverty status relative to persons without any form of difficulty in performing activities. There are significant geographic disparities in socio-economic outcomes by region, district, and type of locality for persons with difficulty.

Despite the Free Compulsory Basic Education, Free Senior High School Education, and other government policy on Inclusive Education, a considerable number of persons of school age having difficulty performing activities are currently not attending school. This suggests a need to review these policy frameworks to understand the challenges to implementation and identify potential pathways to strengthen policies towards inclusive education.

Also, efforts are required to promote timely progression and inclusive learning environments for persons having difficulty who are currently in school to enable them to complete their education successfully without dropping out. The economic activity status of persons having difficulty sends signals to policymakers to advance employment initiatives toward persons having difficulty to enable them acquire the needed skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Given that most persons who have difficulty are vulnerable, it is imperative to implement capacity-building training for them to acquire alternative and sustainable income-earning avenues. Such opportunities can empower persons with difficulty and subsequently prevent them from experiencing adverse socioeconomic outcomes.

The finding that one-third of persons having difficulty in performing activities are multidimensionally poor requires policymakers to design inclusive programmes, while reviewing and improving on existing social intervention initiatives geared at enhancing the livelihoods of persons having difficulty performing activities.

The brief provides insights to support national and sub-national policies and programmes to improve the wellbeing of persons with difficulty. Further, it draws the attention of policymakers to the need to strengthen existing policies geared towards persons with difficulty which ensures that all persons thrive regardless of their functional ability.

Given the multiple areas where persons with difficulty are disadvantaged relative to those without, policy coordination across government agencies is required to build an effective and integrated system that supports the socio-economic wellbeing of persons who have any form of difficulty.

## 6. APPENDIX

TABLE 6.1: PERSONS 5 YEARS AND OLDER WITH DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES BY DISTRICT AND SEX

Region	District	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Western	Jomoro Municipal	10,091	4,293	5,798
Western	Ellembelle	7,769	3,311	4,458
Western	Nzema East Municipal	5,214	2,336	2,878
Western	Ahanta West Municipal	11,099	4,727	6,372
Western	Effia Kwesimintsim Municipal	11,941	4,863	7,078
Western	STMA-Takoradi	3,583	1,439	2,144
Western	STMA-Sekondi	4,737	1,863	2,874
Western	STMA-Essikado-Ketan	7,425	2,917	4,508
Western	Shama	12,095	5,056	7,039
Western	Wassa East	8,667	4,009	4,658
Western	Mpohor	3,142	1,515	1,627
Western	Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal	9,450	4,225	5,225
Western	Prestea/Huni Valley Municipal	11,461	5,351	6,110
Western	Wassa Amenfi East Municipal	9,247	4,620	4,627
Western	Wassa Amenfi Central	6,860	3,354	3,506
Western	Wassa Amenfi West Municipal	6,340	3,189	3,151
Central	Komenda Edina Eguafo Abirem Municipal	16,171	6,252	9,919
Central	CCMA-Cape Coast South	7,407	2,812	4,595
Central	CCMA-Cape Coast North	10,961	4,183	6,778
Central	Abura Asebu Kwamankese	13,446	5,232	8,214
Central	Mfantsiman Municipal	16,646	6,106	10,540
Central	Ekumfi	6,374	2,348	4,026
Central	Gomoa West	14,457	5,099	9,358
Central	Effutu Municipal	7,232	2,860	4,372
Central	Gomoa Central	5,526	1,954	3,572
Central	Gomoa East	11,574	4,868	6,706
Central	Awutu Senya East Municipal	9,134	3,895	5,239
Central	Awutu Senya	10,370	4,087	6,283
Central	Agona East	6,724	2,666	4,058
Central	Agona West Municipal	9,582	3,747	5,835
Central	Asikuma Odoben Brakwa	12,815	5,216	7,599
Central	Ajumako Enyan Essiam	16,955	6,391	10,564
Central	Assin South	9,248	3,816	5,432
Central	Twifo Heman Lower Denkyira	5,762	2,471	3,291
Central	Twifo Ati Morkwa	5,961	2,800	3,161
Central	Assin Fosu Municipal	8,510	3,559	4,951
Central	Assin North	8,864	3,907	4,957
Central	Upper Denkyira East Municipal	7,789	3,455	4,334
Central	Upper Denkyira West	6,100	2,843	3,257
Greater Accra	Ga South Municipal	20,397	8,722	11,675
Greater Accra	Weija Gbawe Municipal	8,799	3,733	5,066
Greater Accra	Ga Central Municipal	13,278	5,505	7,773
Greater Accra	Ablekuma North Municipal	9,689	3,832	5,857

Region	District	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Greater Accra	Ablekuma West Municipal	8,077	3,143	4,934
Greater Accra	Ablekuma Central Municipal	11,024	4,666	6,358
Greater Accra	AMA-Ablekuma South	6,887	2,481	4,406
Greater Accra	AMA-Ashiedu Keteke	5,444	1,980	3,464
Greater Accra	AMA-Okaikoi South	5,440	2,249	3,191
Greater Accra	Korle Klottey Municipal	5,897	2,268	3,629
Greater Accra	Ayawaso Central Municipal	6,105	2,505	3,600
Greater Accra	Ayawaso East Municipal	3,777	1,498	2,279
Greater Accra	Ayawaso North Municipal	3,495	1,329	2,166
Greater Accra	La Dade-Kotopon Municipal	9,686	3,741	5,945
Greater Accra	Ledzokuku Municipal	10,643	4,393	6,250
Greater Accra	Krowor Municipal	7,127	2,870	4,257
Greater Accra	Adentan Municipal	11,365	5,105	6,260
Greater Accra	Ayawaso West Municipal	4,376	1,921	2,455
Greater Accra	Okaikoi North Municipal	7,652	3,173	4,479
Greater Accra	Ga North Municipal	11,337	5,017	6,320
Greater Accra	Ga West Municipal	13,036	5,535	7,501
Greater Accra	Ga East Municipal	12,547	5,213	7,334
Greater Accra	La Nkwantanang Madina Municipal	10,427	4,442	5,985
Greater Accra	Kpone Katamanso Municipal	16,939	7,454	9,485
Greater Accra	Ashaiman Municipal	11,333	4,721	6,612
Greater Accra	Tema West Municipal	10,127	4,273	5,854
Greater Accra	TMA-Tema Central	3,591	1,441	2,150
Greater Accra	TMA-Tema East	6,619	2,797	3,822
Greater Accra	Ningo-Prampram	10,023	4,218	5,805
Greater Accra	Shai-Osudoku	5,473	2,374	3,099
Greater Accra	Ada West	6,830	2,819	4,011
Greater Accra	Ada East	5,279	2,139	3,140
Volta	South Tongu	10,398	3,766	6,632
Volta	Anloga	11,843	4,300	7,543
Volta	Keta Municipal	11,578	4,264	7,314
Volta	Ketu South Municipal	23,755	9,365	14,390
Volta	Ketu North Municipal	13,385	4,825	8,560
Volta	Akatsi North	4,933	1,842	3,091
Volta	Akatsi South Municipal	12,744	4,897	7,847
Volta	Central Tongu	8,767	3,325	5,442
Volta	North Tongu	10,435	4,141	6,294
Volta	Ho West	8,966	3,598	5,368
Volta	Adaklu	3,652	1,540	2,112
Volta	Agortime-Ziope	5,531	2,280	3,251
Volta	Ho Municipal	17,130	6,654	10,476
Volta	South Dayi	6,207	2,581	3,626
Volta	Afadzato South	8,839	3,839	5,000
Volta	North Dayi	8,288	3,338	4,950
Volta	Kpando Municipal	4,494	1,819	2,675
Volta	Hohoe Municipal	9,760	3,996	5,764
Eastern	Birim South	4,176	1,717	2,459

Region	District	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Eastern	Birim Central Municipal	4,128	1,713	2,415
Eastern	Achiase	6,799	2,831	3,968
Eastern	Asene Manso Akroso	6,952	2,950	4,002
Eastern	West Akim Municipal	9,748	4,034	5,714
Eastern	Upper West Akim	11,262	4,663	6,599
Eastern	Ayensuano	11,169	5,024	6,145
Eastern	Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipal	9,937	4,106	5,831
Eastern	Akwapim South Municipal	6,465	2,580	3,885
Eastern	Akwapim North Municipal	11,960	4,345	7,615
Eastern	Okere	4,881	1,912	2,969
Eastern	New Juaben South Municipal	9,747	3,936	5,811
Eastern	New Juaben North Municipal	5,760	2,617	3,143
Eastern	Suhum Municipal	10,335	4,326	6,009
Eastern	Abuakwa North Municipal	5,294	2,072	3,222
Eastern	Abuakwa South Municipal	7,167	3,014	4,153
Eastern	Denkyembuor	7,834	3,283	4,551
Eastern	Akyemansa	7,709	3,243	4,466
Eastern	Kwaebibirem Municipal	9,069	3,875	5,194
Eastern	Birim North	5,699	2,483	3,216
Eastern	Atiwa West	6,824	2,986	3,838
Eastern	Atiwa East	6,487	2,763	3,724
Eastern	Fanteakwa South	3,636	1,580	2,056
Eastern	Yilo Krobo Municipal	10,472	4,512	5,960
Eastern	Lower Manya Krobo Municipal	9,978	3,918	6,060
Eastern	Asuogyaman	9,968	3,995	5,973
Eastern	Upper Manya Krobo	6,278	3,113	3,165
Eastern	Fanteakwa North	4,923	2,294	2,629
Eastern	Kwahu South Municipal	7,122	2,877	4,245
Eastern	Kwahu West Municipal	9,710	3,850	5,860
Eastern	Kwahu East	8,036	3,198	4,838
Eastern	Kwahu Afram Plains South	8,055	4,025	4,030
Eastern	Kwahu Afram Plains North	3,971	1,972	1,999
Ashanti	Amansie South	8,669	4,059	4,610
Ashanti	Amansie Central	8,810	4,005	4,805
Ashanti	Akrofuom	4,989	2,437	2,552
Ashanti	Adansi South	7,806	3,478	4,328
Ashanti	Adansi Asokwa	6,078	2,784	3,294
Ashanti	Obuasi East	5,328	2,230	3,098
Ashanti	Obuasi Municipal	5,428	2,189	3,239
Ashanti	Adansi North	4,327	1,808	2,519
Ashanti	Bekwai Municipal	9,739	3,828	5,911
Ashanti	Amansie West	7,213	2,963	4,250
Ashanti	Atwima Kwanwoma	10,092	4,179	5,913
Ashanti	Bosomtwi	10,456	4,304	6,152
Ashanti	Bosome Freho	5,401	2,326	3,075
Ashanti	Asante Akim Central Municipal	6,337	2,589	3,748
Ashanti	Asante Akim South Municipal	10,725	4,653	6,072

Region	District	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Ashanti	Asante Akim North Municipal	5,983	2,516	3,467
Ashanti	Sekyere Kumawu	6,405	2,452	3,953
Ashanti	Sekyere East	7,303	2,856	4,447
Ashanti	Juaben Municipal	6,130	2,418	3,712
Ashanti	Ejisu Municipal	11,210	4,423	6,787
Ashanti	Oforikrom Municipal	12,912	5,150	7,762
Ashanti	Asokwa Municipal	6,561	2,494	4,067
Ashanti	KMA-Nhyiaeso	6,231	2,544	3,687
Ashanti	KMA-Subin	6,006	2,553	3,453
Ashanti	KMA-Manhyia South	3,465	1,193	2,272
Ashanti	KMA-Manhyia North	6,049	2,165	3,884
Ashanti	KMA-Bantama	8,099	3,087	5,012
Ashanti	Kwadaso Municipal	7,497	2,872	4,625
Ashanti	Suame Municipal	8,655	3,172	5,483
Ashanti	Old Tafo Municipal	6,137	2,391	3,746
Ashanti	Asokore Mampong Municipal	13,267	5,236	8,031
Ashanti	Kwabre East	16,999	6,630	10,369
Ashanti	Afigya Kwabre South	10,797	4,211	6,586
Ashanti	Atwima Nwabiagya North	7,555	3,185	4,370
Ashanti	Atwima Nwabiagya South Municipal	8,449	3,520	4,929
Ashanti	Atwima Mponua	13,042	6,121	6,921
Ashanti	Ahafo Ano South West	5,834	2,706	3,128
Ashanti	Ahafo Ano North Municipal	6,869	3,082	3,787
Ashanti	Ahafo Ano South East	5,029	2,324	2,705
Ashanti	Offinso North	5,808	2,507	3,301
Ashanti	Offinso Municipal	7,683	3,191	4,492
Ashanti	Afigya Kwabre North	4,539	1,937	2,602
Ashanti	Sekyere South	10,331	4,105	6,226
Ashanti	Mampong Municipal	9,460	3,821	5,639
Ashanti	Ejura Sekyedumase Municipal	10,218	4,631	5,587
Ashanti	Sekyere Central	5,752	2,355	3,397
Ashanti	Sekyere Afram Plains	1,648	878	770
Western North	Aowin Municipal	8,610	4,388	4,222
Western North	Sefwi Akontombra	4,214	2,121	2,093
Western North	Suaman	2,330	1,169	1,161
Western North	Bodi	3,794	1,779	2,015
Western North	Sefwi Wiawso Municipal	9,220	4,112	5,108
Western North	Bibiani Anhwiaso Bekwai Municipal	9,320	3,997	5,323
Western North	Juaboso	4,509	2,115	2,394
Western North	Bia West	9,115	4,648	4,467
Western North	Bia East	4,267	2,280	1,987
Ahafo	Asunafo South	6,800	3,114	3,686
Ahafo	Asunafo North Municipal	8,072	3,768	4,304
Ahafo	Asutifi South	3,159	1,448	1,711
Ahafo	Asutifi North	4,485	2,101	2,384
Ahafo	Tano North Municipal	9,092	3,897	5,195
Ahafo	Tano South Municipal	6,346	2,710	3,636

Region	District	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Bono	Dormaa West	2,942	1,502	1,440
Bono	Dormaa Central Municipal	7,446	2,996	4,450
Bono	Dormaa East	4,143	1,766	2,377
Bono	Sunyani Municipal	9,238	4,022	5,216
Bono	Sunyani West Municipal	7,855	3,345	4,510
Bono	Berekum East Municipal	5,138	2,043	3,095
Bono	Berekum West	2,889	1,105	1,784
Bono	Jaman South	5,361	2,195	3,166
Bono	Jaman North	6,647	2,685	3,962
Bono	Tain	6,483	2,865	3,618
Bono	Wenchi Municipal	5,928	2,616	3,312
Bono	Banda	3,025	1,419	1,606
Bono East	Nkoranza South Municipal	6,972	2,990	3,982
Bono East	Techiman Municipal	9,754	4,224	5,530
Bono East	Nkoranza North	4,113	1,805	2,308
Bono East	Techiman North	6,517	2,686	3,831
Bono East	Atebubu Amantin Municipal	6,545	2,952	3,593
Bono East	Sene West	3,059	1,409	1,650
Bono East	Sene East	4,399	2,220	2,179
Bono East	Pru West	5,391	2,526	2,865
Bono East	Pru East	3,884	1,827	2,057
Bono East	Kintampo South	7,053	3,288	3,765
Bono East	Kintampo North Municipal	6,798	3,078	3,720
Oti	Biakoye	9,734	4,240	5,494
Oti	Jasikan Municipal	5,364	2,400	2,964
Oti	Kadjebi	7,399	3,353	4,046
Oti	Krachi East Municipal	7,651	3,690	3,961
Oti	Krachi West Municipal	5,651	2,681	2,970
Oti	Krachi Nchumuru	5,716	2,611	3,105
Oti	Nkwanta South Municipal	9,986	4,582	5,404
Oti	Nkwanta North (Kpassa)	7,945	3,623	4,322
Oti	Guan	4,285	1,841	2,444
Northern	Kpandai	11,898	5,364	6,534
Northern	Nanumba South	8,361	3,906	4,455
Northern	Nanumba North Municipal	12,269	5,441	6,828
Northern	Zabzugu	3,786	1,770	2,016
Northern	Tatale Sanguli	6,000	2,638	3,362
Northern	Saboba	5,866	2,709	3,157
Northern	Yendi Municipal	10,037	4,457	5,580
Northern	Mion	5,742	2,666	3,076
Northern	Nanton	2,669	1,231	1,438
Northern	TMA-Tamale South	9,295	4,094	5,201
Northern	TMA-Tamale Central	7,494	3,160	4,334
Northern	Sagnarigu Municipal	13,204	6,162	7,042
Northern	Tolon	4,987	2,215	2,772
Northern	Kumbungu	5,728	2,494	3,234
Northern	Savelugu Municipal	6,760	3,007	3,753

Region	District	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Northern	Karaga	5,396	2,342	3,054
Northern	Gushegu Municipal	6,518	3,014	3,504
Savannah	Bole	5,446	2,561	2,885
Savannah	Sawla Tuna Kalba	10,789	4,451	6,338
Savannah	North Gonja	2,165	924	1,241
Savannah	West Gonja	4,321	2,073	2,248
Savannah	Central Gonja	6,387	3,087	3,300
Savannah	East Gonja Municipal	5,605	2,560	3,045
Savannah	North East Gonja	2,165	983	1,182
North East	Mamprugu Moagduri	2,235	971	1,264
North East	West Mamprusi Municipal	6,347	2,725	3,622
North East	East Mamprusi Municipal	13,546	6,041	7,505
North East	Bunkpurugu Nakpanduri	6,452	2,776	3,676
North East	Yunyoo Nasuan	3,662	1,700	1,962
North East	Chereponi	4,440	2,042	2,398
Upper East	Builsa South	2,515	1,043	1,472
Upper East	Builsa North Municipal	6,903	2,818	4,085
Upper East	Kasena Nankana Municipal	9,188	3,752	5,436
Upper East	Kasena Nankana West	10,739	4,433	6,306
Upper East	Bolgatanga Municipal	8,343	3,359	4,984
Upper East	Talensi	6,261	2,569	3,692
Upper East	Bolgatanga East	2,961	1,121	1,840
Upper East	Bongo	10,257	4,046	6,211
Upper East	Nabdram	3,516	1,518	1,998
Upper East	Bawku West	9,069	3,951	5,118
Upper East	Binduri	6,767	2,825	3,942
Upper East	Bawku Municipal	7,672	3,276	4,396
Upper East	Garu	6,081	2,556	3,525
Upper East	Tempane	7,385	3,163	4,222
Upper East	Pusiga	4,334	1,911	2,423
Upper West	Wa West	10,058	4,011	6,047
Upper West	Wa East	6,857	3,263	3,594
Upper West	Wa Municipal	9,921	4,204	5,717
Upper West	Nadowli Kaleo	7,702	2,940	4,762
Upper West	Daffiama Bussie Issa	2,762	1,162	1,600
Upper West	Sissala East Municipal	5,045	2,052	2,993
Upper West	Sissala West	6,783	2,867	3,916
Upper West	Jirapa Municipal	9,009	3,467	5,542
Upper West	Lawra Municipal	5,059	2,038	3,021
Upper West	Lambussie Karni	4,189	1,687	2,502
Upper West	Nandom	5,523	2,351	3,172

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Name	Email	Institution	Role
Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim	samuel.annim@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Government Statistician
Dr. Faustina Frempong-Ainguah	faustina.frempong-ainguah@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Deputy Government Statistician
Mr. Michael Beckoe	michael.beckoe@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Author
Mr. Christopher Amewu	christopher.amewu@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Author
Ms. Josephine Baako-Amponsah	josephine.baako@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Author / Data Analyst
Prof. Emmanuel Gyimah	egyimah@ucc.edu.gh	University of Cape Coast	Reviewer
Dr. Mumuni Abu	mabu@ug.edu.gh	University of Ghana	Reviewer
Dr. Pearl Kyei	pkyei@ug.edu.gh	University of Ghana	Reviewer
Mrs. Samilia Mintah	samilia.mintah@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Reviewer
Ms. Jennifer Ama Gyamesi	Jenniferamag5@yahoo.com	Ghana Statistical Service	Report Formatting
Mr. Felix Adjei	felix.adjei@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Graphic Design
Nana Akua Agyemang-Badu	nana.akuya2014@gmail.com	Fluent Communication Ltd	Report Editor



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