



# BASELINE STUDY

**Bridging The Gap: Promoting Socio-Economic Inclusion, Social Cohesion, & Peacebuilding for Vulnerable Communities**

This report is a baseline study by the Security Sector Governance team at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) as part of the CDD-Ghana-Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund Project to empower vulnerable communities against violent extremism.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ACSS	African Center for Strategic Studies
CDD-Ghana	Ghana Center for Democratic Development
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing
FRAs	Field Research Assistant
GCERF	Global Community Engagement And Resilience Fund
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ISIS	Islamic State
KII	Key Informant Interviews
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
SMART	Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant and Time-Bound
VE	Violent Extremism

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The CDD-Ghana and GCERF initiated this baseline study aimed at understanding the socio-economic conditions, livelihoods, vulnerability to violent extremism and market needs of selected communities in the Upper East, Upper West, and North-East regions of Ghana. Specifically, the baseline assessed the root causes of conflicts prevalent in the communities, existing peace-building mechanisms, and the prevailing peace and security situation in the target communities. Furthermore, the baseline assessed the skills gaps and market needs of the target population, particularly focusing on employability and income-generating opportunities.

The study adopted a cross-sectional design using the mixed-methods approach. In order to achieve these objectives, a total of 15 districts across the Upper East (Bulsa North, Bawku Municipal, Nadbam, Bongo, Kassena-Nankana East, Bolgatanga East), Upper West (Lambussie, Nandom, Wa West, Lawra Municipal), and North-East (Bunkpurugu-Nyakpanduri, Yunyoo-Nasuan, Chereponi, East Mamprussi, West Mamprussi) regions were studied. A random sample of 677 respondents was selected from a total population of 1,334,399. In addition, 42 key informants which include members from the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities, Immigration Officers, Presiding Members of the District Assemblies, radio journalists, opinion leaders, and public servants, women youth group leaders were interviewed. A structured questionnaire and KII guides were the main tools for the data collection.

### Summary of key findings

#### Socio-economic inclusion

1. An alarming 70% of community members lack adequate productive assets, severely impacting their livelihoods and heightening their susceptibility to economic shocks. Factors influencing socio-economic vulnerability include climate change, youth unemployment, and limited access to resources especially for Fulbe women and youth. The frequent occurrence of shocks, especially environmental ones like drought, highlights the fragility of their economic circumstances.

2. The sustainability of livelihoods is significantly compromised, with only 30% of community members possessing sufficient resources, such as land or livestock. Key productive assets identified include land, livestock, and traditional farming and herding tools. The productive assets that are crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity were mainly land, seeds, fertilizers, and water. The findings suggest limited access to these assets leading to disparities within the communities studied.
3. The assessment of financial management and marketing skills reveals a mixed picture. While a majority of respondents (51.40%) rated their skills as "good" or "very good," a notable minority (19.9%) struggle with basic skills. This disparity suggests that while some community members possess a solid understanding of financial practices, others such as Fulbe women may face barriers to accessing training or resources necessary for skill development.
4. The findings point to a high level of vulnerability to shocks. Nearly 50% of respondents reported experiencing shocks (such as drought or disease) in the past year, with limited capacity to recover, particularly noted in the Upper West region. The lack of access to essential resources, such as water, agricultural inputs, and financial aid, severely limits the community's ability to recover from shocks. Fulbe leaders and youth point to insufficient government intervention and lack of secure grazing land, water points, and better market access as a critical barrier to recovery.
5. The findings regarding the ability to recover from shocks and stresses within the surveyed communities reveal disparities in capacity for resilience and vulnerability. The average recovery score of 1.92, with a range from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 3, indicates that while some individuals possess the capacity to bounce back from adverse events, a significant portion of the population remains at risk due to limited resources and support systems.
6. The predominance of environmental shocks, particularly drought, underscores the community's reliance on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. The interconnectedness of farming and herding means that adverse environmental conditions can have cascading effects on food security and economic stability. This vulnerability is exacerbated by climate change, which poses ongoing threats to agricultural productivity and livestock health.

7. The findings also indicate that systemic barriers, such as limited access to financial resources, healthcare, and public services, hinder recovery efforts. This lack of access to essential resources, such as water, agricultural inputs, and veterinary services, severely limits the community's ability to recover from shocks.
8. Social capital plays a crucial role in recovery efforts. Community members, particularly women, often rely on informal support networks, such as savings groups and food-sharing practices, to cope with shocks. These social ties can enhance resilience and provide a safety net during difficult times.
9. A significant minority (19.9%) struggle with basic skills. This disparity highlights the urgent need for targeted training programs that cater for the specific needs of marginalized groups, particularly women and the Fulbe community, who may face additional barriers to skill development.
10. Approximately 58.15% of community members are engaged in economic activities, primarily in farming and animal rearing. However, the effectiveness of these activities is often compromised by inadequate skills, which can limit productivity and hinder recovery from economic shocks. The findings suggest that enhancing skills in these areas is crucial for maximizing the potential of existing economic activities.
11. The data reveals that farming, animal rearing, and traditional crafts (such as weaving and soap making) are the predominant economic activities in the community. This indicates a strong reliance on agriculture and livestock for livelihoods, suggesting that any market needs assessment should prioritize enhancing productivity and market access in these sectors.
12. The assessment indicates a variety of skills and trades across the study districts, with significant engagement in agricultural production and traditional crafts. This diversity presents opportunities for developing tailored training programs that align with local market demands, enabling community members to enhance their skills and improve their economic prospects.
13. Despite the presence of viable economic activities, many community members face barriers to accessing markets. These barriers include inadequate infrastructure, limited access to financial resources, and lack of market information.

14. The data highlights gender disparities in market engagement, with women often facing additional barriers to accessing economic opportunities. Fulbe women prioritize access to resources, such as water and veterinary services, as essential for improving their economic activities. This suggests that any market needs assessment should consider the broader context of resource availability and infrastructure development.

### **Social cohesion, and access to public services**

1. The study reveals moderate social cohesion, with 60.94% of respondents expressing trust in their neighbors. This level of trust can foster community cohesion encouraging individuals to engage in collaborative activities. However, 24.22% of respondents reported distrust highlighting the underlying tensions especially between the Fulbe and the non-Fulbe members of the communities that could hinder social cohesion. Addressing these tensions through community-building initiatives that promote dialogue, and understanding could enhance overall resilience.
2. Trust levels in neighbors are relatively similar between genders, 62.4% and 59.6% respectively which is essential for fostering social cohesion. The findings further reveal that women exhibit slightly higher levels of distrust compared to men, 25.6% and 22.7% of females and males respectively. This indicate that women have heightened concerns about safety or community dynamics, which could stem from the high level of crime, experiences of discrimination and vulnerability to violence. A similar proportion of men and women feel ambivalent about their trust in neighbors. This neutrality may reflect a lack of strong feelings about community relationships.
3. The data indicates that trust levels generally increase with age. Older individuals tend to have more confidence in their neighbors compared to younger age groups. Higher trust levels among older individuals may lead to greater participation in community activities and decision-making processes. This engagement can further strengthen community cohesion and resilience. In contrast, the lower trust levels among the 15-24 age group highlight potential vulnerabilities. Young people feel disconnected from their communities or face challenges in building relationships, which could make them more susceptible to negative influences, including radicalization or extremist narratives.

4. A significant portion of community members (approximately 62.6%) trust local authorities to listen to their voices. This level of trust is considered crucial for effective governance and civic engagement. The high levels of trust in local authorities are likely to encourage greater civic engagement among community members. Despite the overall trust in local authorities, the data shows that 34.4% of respondents feel disempowered to participate in local decision-making. This indicates that while trust exists, there are barriers preventing full engagement. Addressing these barriers is essential for enhancing trust and ensuring that all community members feel included in governance processes.
5. The disparity between those who trust local authorities and those who feel disempowered suggests a potential gap in communication and perception. Local authorities may need to improve their outreach and engagement strategies to ensure that all community members are informed and feel empowered to participate.
6. The findings highlight significant differences in trust levels between the Fulbe and the non-Fulbe community members regarding security services. The higher trust among Fulbe may be attributed to factors such as economic engagement and positive interactions with security personnel. In contrast, the non-Fulbe community members' lower trust levels reflect a need for improved representation and engagement.
7. The average SDI score of 3.18 indicates a moderate level of social distance within the community, suggesting that while there is some interaction among different ethnic groups, significant barriers to full integration still exist. More than half of Fulbes (58.73%) fall into the low social distance category, indicating strong community ties and a willingness to engage with others. Approximately 42.88% of the non-Fulbe community members are in the low social distance category, which is significantly lower than the Fulbe.
8. The regional variations in social distance show that North-East exhibits strong integration (56.23%). Upper-East shows high percentage of moderate social distance (53.63%) indicating systemic barriers to integration. In contrast the Upper-West shows significant levels of polarisation with 16.18 percent experiencing high social distance. Furthermore, there is significant barriers to interaction between the Fulbe and the non-Fulbe communities due to mistrust and discrimination.
9. Perceptions of Public Service Delivery were mixed. Both Fulbe and non-Fulbe groups show mixed perceptions regarding access to public services, with notable dissatisfaction

among a significant percentage of respondents. The Fulbe group has a higher percentage of respondents who strongly disagree (40.00%) compared to the non-Fulbe group (34.67%). The findings highlight significant barriers to accessing public services, particularly for minority groups like the Fulbe. Challenges such as discrimination based on historical narratives, inadequate infrastructure, limited engagement as well as past government policies impede their ability to obtain essential public services.

10. Health Services (40.03%), Education (33.04%) and Clean Water (29.46%) were the three top-ranked public services that needed improvement across the three regions. Lower priorities were Security (73.21%) and Telecommunication (93.60%). While security is important in the three study regions, immediate needs for health, education, and water take precedence.
11. The challenges in accessing public services by minority groups such as the Fulbe include discrimination in education, inaccessibility of health facilities due to geographic isolation and the often-non-functional nature of many public amenities.

### **Awareness on PVE and conflict prevention and resolution structures**

1. There is high opposition to the use of violence across age groups with older individuals (36+) showing the highest level of opposition. The 15-24 age group has the highest percentage of support for violence (10.37%), indicating a potential vulnerability among younger individuals.
2. Both genders largely reject the use of violence, with females showing slightly higher opposition (83.01%) compared to males (81.68%).
3. The data shows that individuals from different ethnic backgrounds (Fulbe and others) have varying levels of opposition to violence, with the Fulbe community showing slightly stronger opposition (85.72%).
4. The findings point to a critical gap of awareness on VE. Nearly 64 percent of the respondents failed to identify the recruitment strategies employed by extremist's organizations. This lack of awareness, coupled with high youth unemployment rates, makes the study communities susceptible to exploitation by extremist narratives.

5. There is a significant portion of respondents who feel disempowered to participate in local decision-making (34.4%). This sense of disempowerment can lead to feelings of isolation, making individuals more vulnerable to radicalization.
6. Key informant interviews (KIIs) reflect a general disapproval of violence for personal or political goals, emphasizing a preference for dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution.
7. Only 25.40% of respondents believe that their community is well-prepared to deal with violent extremist acts and propaganda while a slightly lower proportion (24.52%), feel otherwise. The majority of respondents (50.07%) remain uncertain about their community's preparedness to respond to violent extremism.

## **Recommendations**

### **Socio-economic inclusion**

1. CSOs and if possible, MMDAs, should undertake public awareness campaigns to educate community members about the importance of social cohesion, trust, and collaboration.
2. MMDAs and traditional authorities should implement programs that provide access to essential productive assets such as land, livestock, seeds, fertilizers, and water resources.
3. CSOs, MMDAs, and traditional authorities should develop targeted initiatives to support Fulbe women in acquiring productive assets, including livestock and farming tools, to enhance their economic participation and independence.
4. CSOs should initiate training programs focusing on financial management, marketing skills, and agricultural best practices, specifically designed for marginalized groups including Fulbe women and youth.
5. Establish market information systems that provide community members with timely information about market prices, demand, and opportunities. This can empower them to make informed decisions about their economic activities.
6. Encourage diversification of livelihoods by promoting alternative income-generating activities, such as traditional crafts (weaving, soap making).

7. Implement programs that focus on climate-smart agricultural practices to enhance resilience against environmental shocks, such as drought. This could include training on sustainable farming techniques and water conservation methods.
8. Promote the formation of savings groups, cooperatives, and community support networks that can provide financial and emotional support during times of crisis. These networks can enhance resilience and foster community solidarity.
9. Advocate for increased government intervention and support for vulnerable communities, particularly in providing secure grazing land, water points, and better market access.

### **Social cohesion, and access to public services**

1. CSOs and MMDAs should implement programs that promote dialogue and understanding between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities to discuss their concerns and build mutual understanding. This could include community forums, and collaborative projects that encourage interaction and cooperation.
2. CSOs should develop targeted programs for young people (ages 15-24) to foster connections within their communities. This could involve mentorship programs, skills training, and youth-led initiatives that empower them to take an active role in community affairs. In addition, these interactions could be extended to different age groups to facilitate understanding and build trust.
3. Incorporate peace education into school curricula to teach children and adolescents about the importance of non-violence, empathy, and conflict resolution from an early age. This can help shape attitudes toward violence and promote a culture of peace.
4. Launch awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of non-violence and the benefits of peaceful conflict resolution. Use various media platforms, including social media, community radio, and local events, to disseminate messages that promote dialogue over violence.
5. MMDAs and CSO should design community programs that build trust specifically among women to address their unique concerns and experiences. Such initiatives should include workshops on safety, conflict resolution, and community engagement to empower women to participate actively.

6. MMDAs should prioritize investments in health services, education, and clean water access as these are the top-ranked public services needing improvement. Engaging community members in the planning and implementation of these services can enhance their effectiveness and ensure they meet local needs.
7. CSOs and the RCCs should develop and implement conflict resolution mechanisms to address tensions between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities. This could involve training community leaders in mediation and conflict resolution skills to facilitate dialogue and understanding.
8. CSOs should foster positive interactions between security personnel and community members through community policing initiatives, workshops, and joint activities. This can help build trust in security services, particularly among the local communities, and improve perceptions of safety and security.
9. CSOs should advocate for local authorities to develop and enforce policies that address discrimination in public service delivery, particularly for minority groups like the Fulbe. This can involve training public service providers on cultural sensitivity and inclusivity, as well as establishing grievance mechanisms for community members to report discrimination.
10. CSO should advocate for MMDAs to use the participatory forums stated in the Local Governance Act, 2016, Act 936 to enable MMDAs to implement feedback mechanisms that allow community members to voice their concerns and suggestions regarding socio-economic initiatives. This could involve regular community meetings, feedback and interface engagement mechanisms.
11. Introduce economic initiatives aimed at fostering community ties and reducing isolation, especially in the Upper East region where economic engagement is lower.

### **Awareness on PVE and conflict prevention and resolution structures**

1. Develop and implement community awareness programs focused on the dangers of violent extremism and the recruitment strategies used by extremist organizations. These campaigns should target all age groups, with a particular focus on youth, to educate them about the risks and signs of radicalization.

2. Design and implement initiatives that engage young people in constructive activities, such as vocational training, mentorship, and community service. By providing opportunities for personal and professional development, these initiatives can reduce the appeal of extremist narratives and foster a sense of belongingness.
3. Address the sense of disempowerment among community members by creating inclusive platforms for local decision-making.
4. Work with local leaders, including religious and traditional authorities, to promote messages of peace and non-violence. Their influence can be instrumental in shaping community attitudes and countering extremist narratives.
5. Encourage dialogue and collaboration between different ethnic groups, such as the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities, to build mutual understanding and trust. Inter-ethnic initiatives will help reduce tensions and promote social cohesion.

# SECTION ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the study

In recent years, the global security landscape has been increasingly challenged by the rise of violent extremism, which poses significant threats to peace, stability, and development in various regions. Since 2021, extremist groups continue to threaten the peace and security of the Sahelian countries with violence and instability. In addition to the growth of violent extremist activity, the Sahel region is also a nexus of criminal networks and illicit trafficking and has experienced a rise in farmer-herder violence. According to the African Centre for Strategic Studies (2025), high-profile attacks by groups affiliated with the Islamic State (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda have increased in the Sahel with an estimated 10,400 deaths in 2024, constituting 55 percent of all related fatalities for the continent. The growing strength of violent extremist groups in the Sahel especially in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, has implications for the security of littoral states along the Gulf of Guinea such as Ghana, Benin and Togo.

With the increase in violent extremism and terrorism in the Sahelian countries, especially Burkina Faso, experts are concerned about the contagion effects of the phenomenon in Ghana due to palpable vulnerabilities. Factors such as socio-economic disparities, political grievances, and the influence of extremist ideologies have raised concerns about the vulnerability of certain communities in Ghana to radicalization and recruitment by extremist groups. Besides the fact that Ghana shares boundary with Burkina Faso, potential risks factors include protracted communal and chieftaincy conflicts, high youth unemployment and the growing influx of irregular and labor migrants from Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and the Middle East to work in artisanal gold mining in the northern parts of the country (Aubyn, 2021). These vulnerabilities can easily be exploited by extremist groups.

Ghana has not yet experienced direct attacks probably due to several measures that have been instituted to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism (PVE) in the country. Ghana has developed a comprehensive framework for the prevention and countering of violent extremism. The approach involves institutional frameworks, community engagement, inter-agency collaboration, and regional cooperation. Within this dynamic framework, that emphasizes a "whole-of-society" approach, to mitigate the risks associated with violent extremism and promote peace and stability within its borders is the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSO). CSO

involvement is essential for fostering community resilience, promoting dialogue, and implementing grassroots initiatives. In line with Ghana's PVE efforts, CDD-Ghana, in partnership with other organizations, has received a grant support from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) to help reduce tensions and create peaceful environments in 15 districts across three regions – Upper East, Northe-East, and Upper West regions.

This baseline report provides data and information on the targeted areas, including information on the root causes of conflicts, existing peace-building mechanisms, and citizens' perception on the prevailing peace, safety and security situation in their communities. As part of efforts to gain a better understanding of the potential impact of the project “Bridging the gap: promoting socio-economic inclusion, social cohesion, peacebuilding for vulnerable communities in northern Ghana”, it is essential to analyze, in depth, the context in which the intervention is taking place. Therefore, the Baseline Report provides a contextual understanding of violent extremism and radicalization within project communities. The findings from the baseline study are expected to provide the foundation for setting SMART targets against which project success can be measured. A market needs assessment is provided in this report, which assesses the marketable skills and trades within the various districts. This provides a clear picture of the market needs of the project areas which will be instrumental in developing suitable and targeted training programs for project target groups.

## **1.2 Terms of reference for the baseline study**

The assignment clearly articulates the intentions of CDD-Ghana to conduct a baseline study and market needs assessment to serve multiple purposes. The specific objectives of the assignment are as follows:

- a. Review the project documents, proposal, resource frameworks and the project Fact Sheet extensively to understand the project strategies and objectives.
- b. Examine the root causes of conflict, existing peace-building mechanisms, and the prevailing peace and security situation in the target communities,
- c. Assess the skills gaps and market needs of the target population, particularly focusing on employability and income-generating opportunities.

### 1.3 Project summary

The project aims to empower vulnerable communities to achieve greater socio-economic inclusion, social cohesion, and resilience against violent extremism.

#### 1.1 Project Objectives

The project objectives are formulated under thematic areas in the ToR as follows:

a. **Socio-economic inclusion:**

- Objective 1: Increase skills-based employment among the target groups; increase access to micro-loans by community members including minority groups, and reduce vulnerability level to recruit youth, minority groups, and other community members.

b. **Social cohesion:**

- Objective 2: Increase social cohesion among community members; increase access to public services by minority groups and other community members.

c. **Conflict prevention and mediation:**

- Objective 3: Increase awareness of violent extremism and ways to prevent it; reduce intolerance of minority groups; and enhance the effectiveness of conflict resolution structures/mechanisms in mediating and resolving conflicts in the communities.

### 2.1 Introduction

This section presents the study methodology. Specifically, it highlights the study design, the scope and sampling techniques, data management and quality assurance, data collection and pretesting, as well as ethical considerations.

### 2.2 Study design

The study adopted a cross-sectional design using the mixed-methods approach. This approach uses both qualitative and quantitative methods. The adoption of this design was informed by its effectiveness in providing a better understanding of the issues, given the complex nature of the subject matter under study. While these methodologies were used to complement each other, the quantitative method was employed in order to help generalize the findings, and the qualitative helped to provide nuanced meanings to the findings.

#### 2.2.1 Study population and sampling procedures

The ToR specified a total of 15 districts across the Upper East (Builsa North, Bawku Municipal, Nadbam, Bongo, Kassena-Nankana East, Bolgatanga East), Upper West (Lambussie, Nandom, Wa West, Lawra Municipal), and North-East (Bunkpurugu-Nyakpanduri, Yunyoo-Nasuan, Chereponi, East Mamprussi, West Mamprussi) regions. These districts were selected due to their proximity to neighboring countries who have recorded incidents of violent extremism. The districts were thought to be potential entry points for violent extremist groups to capitalize on the prevailing tensions that exist among/and between ethnic groups and ethnic minorities, and prevailing political, social and economic challenges.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by District

District	Number	Percent
Bawku Municipal	60	8.81
Bolgatanga East	21	3.08
Bongo	60	8.81
Builsa North	29	4.26
Bunkpurugu-Nakpanduri	39	5.73
Chereponi	44	6.46
East Mamprusi	96	14.10
Kassena-Nankana East	52	7.64
Lambusie	27	3.96
Lawra Municipal	31	4.55
Nabdam	26	3.82
Nandom	29	4.26
Wa West	49	7.20
West Mamprusi	89	13.07
Yunyoo-Nasuan	29	4.26
Total	681	100.00

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

## 2.3 Quantitative study

### Study population

The population for the quantitative component of this study were individuals aged 15 years and above who were residents in the fifteen (15) selected districts.

#### 2.3.1 Sample size, distribution, and procedure

The study adopted the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Sampling guide to sample 677 respondents from a population of 1,334,399 with 90% confidence interval and 0.05 margin of error. This sampling guide is useful in sampling from a known population. The sample size computation took cognizance of the proportionate shares of the populations of the districts.

Therefore, a district's sample share was based on their share contribution to the total population (of the fifteen districts) from which the sample was derived. A total of 681 individuals participated in the survey, representing a response rate of 100.6 percent.

The study employed both simple random and purposive sampling methods to sample communities and respondents for the survey. The purposive sampling technique was used to select communities in each district for the study. For each district, 25 percent of the interviews were conducted in urban communities (where non-pastoral Fulbes mostly resided) and the remaining 75 percent of the interviews were conducted in at least three (3) rural communities within the district. The purposive sampling approach was, again, used to select Fulbes who largely constituted the minority ethnic group in these districts and whose participation in this study was necessary. This population subgroup was sampled using the purposive technique due to the difficulty in determining their population and identifying their residence in the districts. With regards to the simple random sampling, the following steps were followed to select respondents for the study:

**Step 1: Sampling unit and household Sampling interval**

Interviews were conducted in each district based on the proportionate sample allocation. To reach the required number of respondents in each district, Field Research Assistants (FRAs) determined the sample interval based on the household population of the community. FRAs moved around the community to estimate the number of households within the community and identified community boundaries.

- i. Communities with less than 170 houses or households, every third household was selected,
- ii. Communities with 320 houses or households, every fifth household was selected

**Step 2: Selecting household**

In each village, two starting points were randomly selected. These starting points were either a junction or crossroad, such that the team of FRAs could divide the community into sections (depending on their number). In each direction, the FRA used a random walk to select households using the agreed sampling interval for the community. This was repeated until the desired number of interviews were conducted.

### **Step 3: Respondents' selection**

Respondents were randomly selected from each household. The gender of the respondents was alternated at each interview until the required number was attained for each district. In addition, consideration was given to youth aged 15-35 (60% of total interviews) and Fulbes (about 25%) in each district.

#### **2.3.2 Data collection tool and method**

A structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from the study participants. The questionnaire bordered areas such as demographics of the respondent, socio-economic condition, livelihood assessment, social cohesion assessment, knowledge and experience of violent extremism, vulnerability and resilience to violent extremism, and conflict resolution mechanisms, and market/skills needs assessment.

The study employed the face-to-face approach to interview respondents. The interviews were conducted by trained and experienced field research assistants. The designed questionnaire was scripted in xlsforms and was further deployed electronically on Kobotoolbox. The kobo collect application – a computer-assisted personal interviewing (capi) application – was used to record responses on tablets. The 9-day data collection commenced on march 5, and ended on march 13, 2025.

#### **2.3.3 Data management and quality assurance checks**

The data collected were hosted on the Kobotoolbox platform which served as a database and was managed by CDD-Ghana. Frequent spot-checks were carried out to verify the data and check for consistency. The embedded geo-point was utilized to ensure that FRA diligently followed the sampling procedure and to track the spread of responses from the districts. In instances where discrepancies were observed, the responsible FRAs were contacted for further details. These measures were utilized to ensure quality of the data collected.

### **2.4 Qualitative study**

#### **Study population**

The population for the qualitative study comprised leaderships of key groups and institutions including the youth groups (15-24, and 25-35), opinion/traditional leaders, Fulbe community,

journalists, and leadership of public institutions (public service providers). Sample size, distribution, and procedure in addition, a total of 42 key informant interviews (KII) were conducted with 14 interviews conducted in each region. The purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the respondents with specific knowledge and expertise in the subject area in each region.

#### *Data Collection Tool and Method*

Key Informant Interview guide was developed and used for the data collection. The guide comprised semi-structured questions that was used to elicit information from respondents on areas including socio-economic condition, livelihood assessment, social cohesion assessment, knowledge and experience of violent extremism, vulnerability and resilience to violent extremism, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Interviews were audio-taped and transcribed for analysis. Data collection was conducted from March 5 to March 13, 2025.

#### *Data Management and Analysis*

The audio-taped interviews were transcribed for further analysis. The transcripts were exported into MAXQDA for thematic analysis to be performed. Patterns and meanings were gleaned to support the findings.

## **2.5 Preparatory activities for field data collection**

#### *Recruitment and Training of Field Research Assistants for Data Collection*

FRAs were recruited from the 3 sampled regions – Upper West, Upper East, and North-East. The selection criteria included: 1) prospective enumerator must be proficient in the English Language and at least one local language; and 2) must have an appreciable experience conducting interviews and/or undertaking research/surveys. A total of 14 FRAs (11 for survey, and 3 for KII) were recruited to participate in this study. A two-day training was organized for the FRAs in Tamale, which served as a central location for FRAs in the Upper West, Upper East, and North-East regions. A manual was developed for the purpose of this training. The training focused on concepts such as understanding violent extremism, and ethics of data collection. The survey instrument and the KII were thoroughly discussed, after which a simulation exercise was conducted in the various local dialects to ensure that culturally-appropriate terms, and phrases were used to explain the key concepts.

### *Pre-Testing of Instrument and Interview Guide*

After the 2-day training, FRA pre-tested the survey instrument and the interview guide. The pre-testing was aimed at helping FRAs to familiarize themselves with questions, and ascertain the potency of the questions to elicit the right information from respondents. Issues such as limited response options, ambiguous questions, and culturally-insensitive questions were flagged and reworked. The pre-testing took place in Tamale. Tamale was selected because residents share similar characteristics with project participants in terms of culture, and demographics. Survey FRAs interviewed a minimum of four (4) individuals while FRAs in charge of the KIIs interviewed 2 individuals each. Comments from the pre-testing were incorporated in the survey instrument and the interview guide.

### **2.6 Ethical considerations**

Before interviews were conducted, an informed consent statement was read and explained to prospective respondents before FRAs could proceed with the interviews. The statement had components of voluntary participation, duration of interview, purpose of study, and respect for the individual's choices. All FRA were given official introductory letters about the study and the data collection exercise. This was intended to facilitate a smooth community entry process and data collection.

# SECTION THREE

## STUDY RESULTS

### 3.1 Background information of respondents

About 55 percent of the respondents were between the 25-35 age group. Nearly 53 percent of the respondents were females. About 40 percent of the respondents had SSS/SHS education. About 50% were Christians followed by Islam (43%). Nearly 54% of the respondents were married. 10% of the respondents had disability. Majority (82%) of the respondents were non-Fulbes while the rest were Fulbes (18%). Many of the respondents were unemployed (34%), self-employed (23%) and Employed (6%). Nearly 32% received incomes between GHC100-500. Nearly 40% had household size between 4 and 6.

Table 2: Background characteristics of respondents

Characteristic	Categories	Number	Percent
Age Group	15-24	241	35.39
	25-35	372	54.63
	36+	68	9.99
Sex	Male	322	47.28
	Female	359	52.72
Level of Education	No education	144	21.15
	Primary	73	10.72
	Middle school/JSS/JHS	123	18.06
	SSS/SHS	267	39.21
	Tertiary	74	10.87
Religion	Christianity	340	49.93
	Islam	295	43.32
	African Traditional Religion	40	5.87
	No religion	6	0.88
Marital Status	Single	289	42.44
	Married	370	54.33
	Divorced	9	1.32
	Widowed	13	1.91
Disability Status	Yes	67	9.84
	No	614	90.16
Ethnic Group	Fulbe	126	18.5
	Non-Fulbe	555	81.5
Employment Status	Apprentice	51	7.49
	Casual Worker	43	6.31
	Student	154	22.61
	Self Employed	163	23.94

	Employed	42	6.17
	Unemployed	228	33.48
<b>Household Income</b>	No income	201	29.52
	Below GHC 100	141	20.7
	GHC 100 to 500	216	31.72
	GHC 501 to 1000	78	11.45
	GHC 1001 to 2000	35	5.14
	GHC 2001 and above	10	1.47
<b>Household Size</b>	1 to 3	164	24.08
	4 to 6	269	39.5
	7 to 10	183	26.87
	11 and above	65	9.54

### 3.2 Social economic inclusion

#### Productive assets and livelihoods

Figure 1 shows that only 30% of community members have sufficient productive assets, while 70% lack them.

Figure 1: Adequacy of productive assets to strengthen their livelihood.

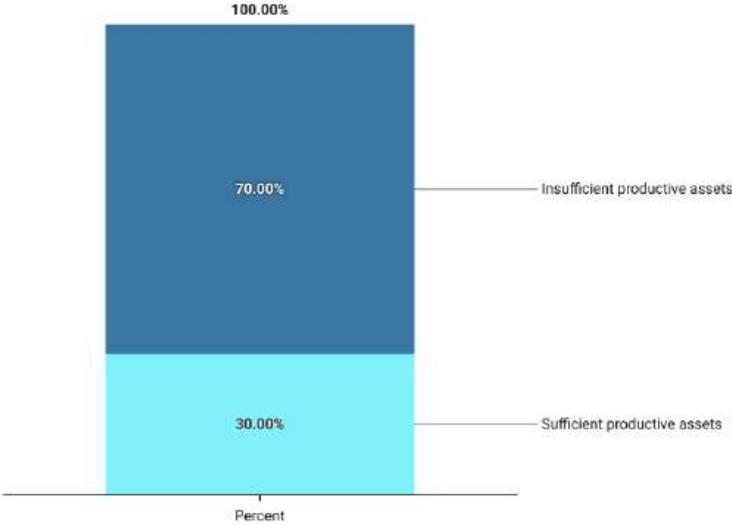
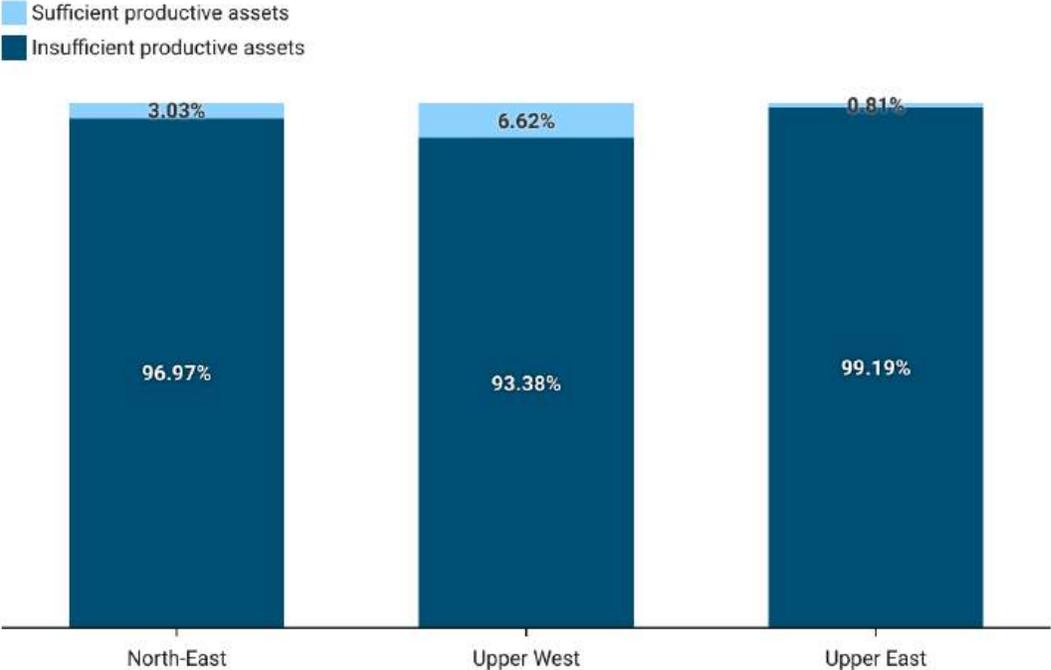


Figure 2 presents the regional distribution of access to productive assets. Majority of individuals classified as having insufficient productive assets. In the North-East Region, a high percentage (96.97%) of individuals have insufficient productive assets, with only 3.03% having sufficient assets. Similarly, the Upper West Region shows that 93.38% lack sufficient productive assets,

while 6.62% have adequate assets. The Upper East Region shows the highest percentage of individuals with insufficient productive assets at 99.19%, with only 0.81% having sufficient assets.

Figure 2: Regional distribution of access to productive assets



### 3.3 Community members' experience of shocks and stresses

Nearly half (49.63%) of the respondents reported experiencing shocks or stresses in the past year, (Figure 3). Conversely, 50.37% managed to avoid significant disruptions.

Figure 3: Experienced shocks and stresses in the last 12 months

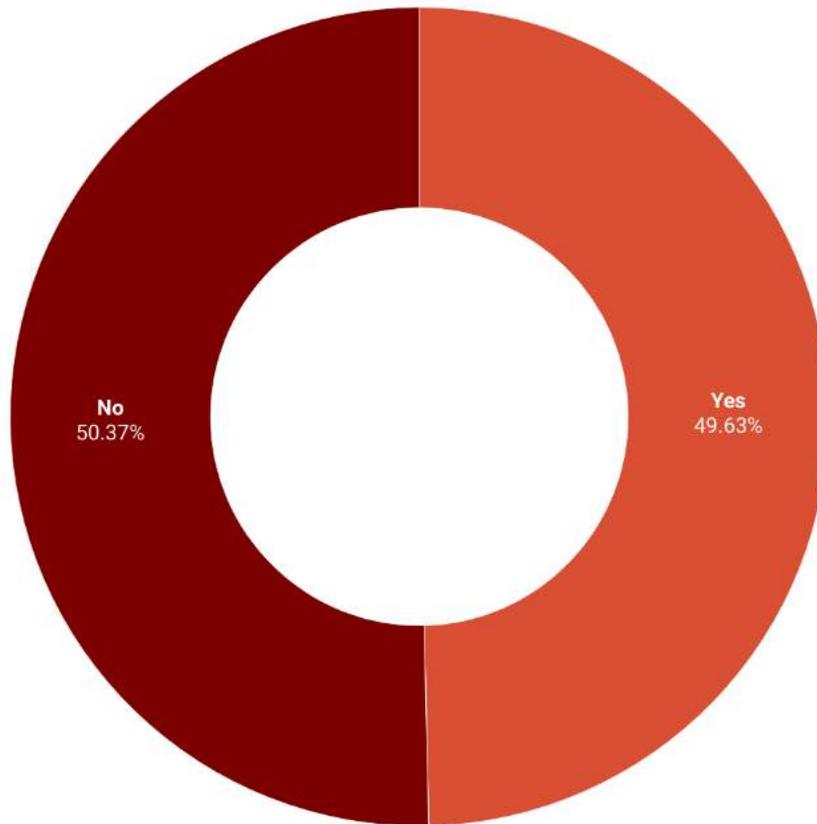


Table 3 presents the types of shocks experienced revealed that drought was the most prevalent (45.0%), followed by illness (34.6%). Other significant stressors included crime/violence (15.4%), floods (14.2%), pest outbreaks (14.5%), and extreme poverty (11.8%). Less common stressors included job loss (9.8%), bereavement (7.7%), and inter-group conflict (4.4%). Social exclusion and property loss were relatively rare (<2% each).

Table 3: Type of shock and stresses experienced by persons in the last 12 months

Shock/Stress	Number	Percent
Illness	117	34.62%
Loss of job	33	9.76%
Social exclusion/discrimination	6	1.78%
Flood	48	14.20%
Pest outbreak	49	14.50%
Drought	152	44.97%
Inter-group conflict	15	4.44%
Extreme poverty	40	11.83%
Crime violence	52	15.38%
Loss of loved one	26	7.69%
Loss of property	5	1.48%

### 3.4 Ability to recover from shocks and stresses:

The respondents' ability to recover from shocks was assessed using an index score, with a minimum score of 1.0 and a maximum score of 3.0, resulting in an average score of 1.92. Upper East scored the highest at 4.26, followed by North-East at 3.76, and Upper West with the lowest at 3.44; all regions had a minimum score of 2, while Upper East recorded the highest maximum score of 8.

Table 4: Ability to recover from shocks and stresses index

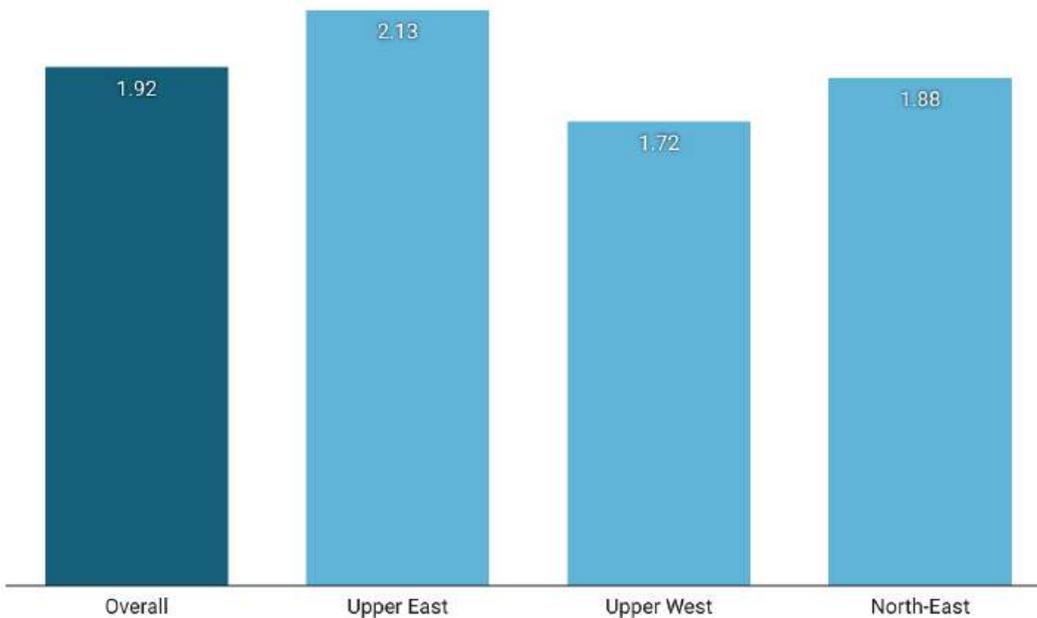
Ability to recover from shocks and stresses index	
Summary	Score
Minimum	1
Maximum	3
Average	1.92

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

### 3.4.1 Regional analysis of recovery ability:

The analysis of recovery ability by region is presented in Figure 4. The Upper East has the highest average score of 2.13, indicating a relatively better capacity to recover from shocks. The North-East follows with an average score of 1.88, while the Upper West has the lowest average score of 1.72.

Figure 4: Ability to recover from shocks and stresses index by region



### 3.5 Management of financial resources

A majority of respondents (62.85%) actively manage finances in their work or household. A significant minority (37.15%) do not manage finances.

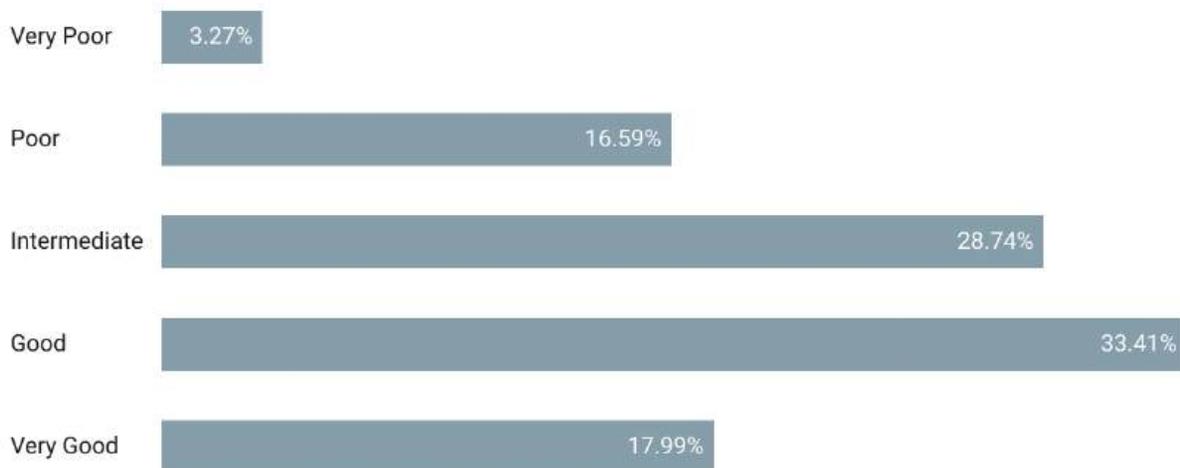
Table 5: Financial management at work or household

Financial management	Number	Percent
Yes	428	62.85%
No	253	37.15%
Total	681	100.00%

### 3.5.1 Financial management skills

Only 3.27% rated their financial management skills as "very poor." Nearly 16.59% reported "poor," 28.74% "intermediate," 33.41% "good," and 17.99% "very good." A substantial portion (51.40%) rated their skills as "good" or "very good"<sup>1</sup>

Figure 5: Financial management skills



On barriers to skill development, a significant minority (19.9%) struggle with basic skills, indicating potential barriers in training accessibility or individual capacity constraints. KII with Fulbe women highlighted that past initiatives often focus on men and indigenous individuals, neglecting women's roles in dairy production and small-scale business support.

### 3.6 Engagement in promoting or selling any products or services

As shown in Table 6, approximately 36.1% of respondents actively participate in product or service marketing, while 63.9% do not engage in such activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Analysis of this section were applicable to **only** individuals who responded 'Yes' to the question on whether they manage finances in the work or household.

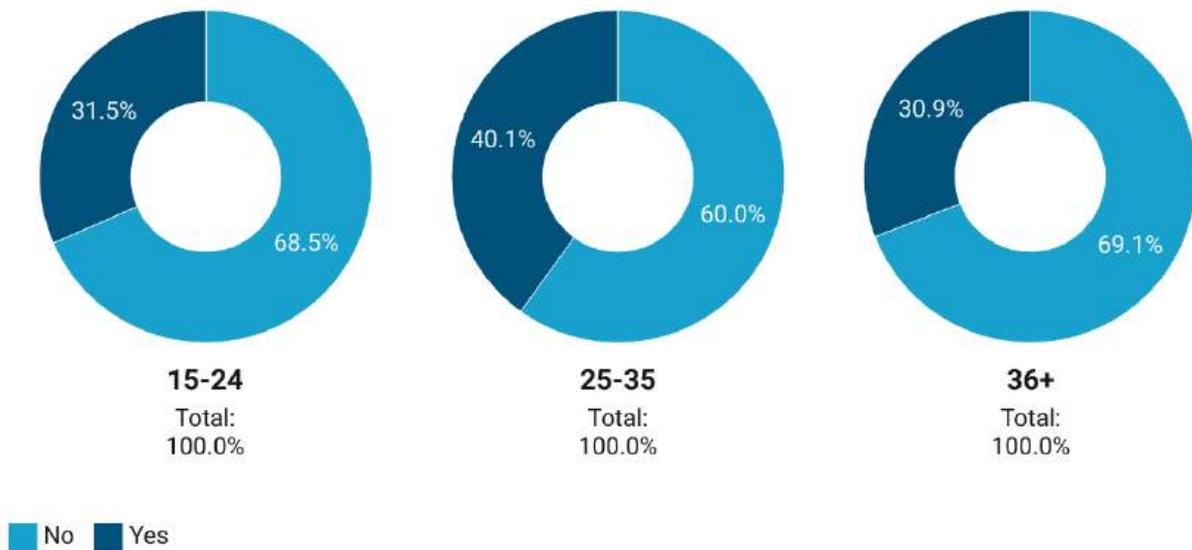
Table 6: Engagement in promoting or selling any products or services

Engage in Marketing	Number	Percent
Yes	246	36.12
No	435	63.88
Total	681	100.00

### 3.6.1 Engagement in marketing by age group

The highest participation rate is among 25–35-year-olds (40.1%), followed by 15–24-year-olds (31.5%) and those 36+ (30.9%).

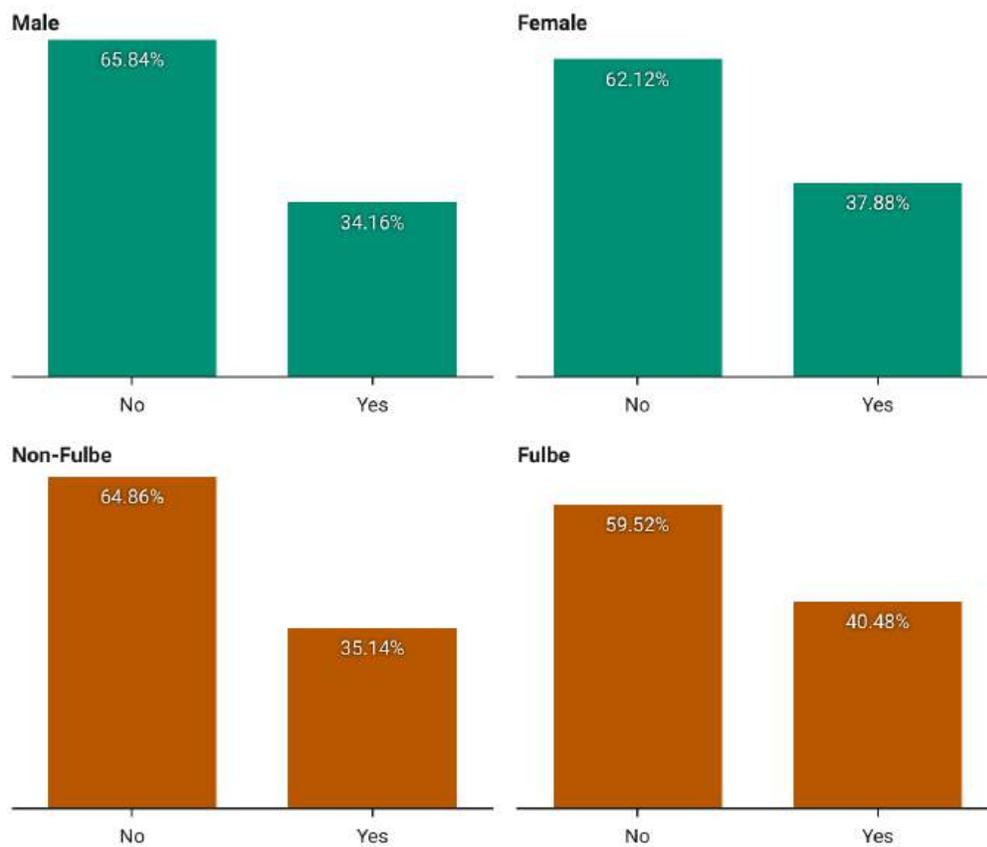
Figure 6: Engagement in promoting or selling any products or services by age group



### 3.6.2 Marketing participation by gender and ethnic group

Marketing participation shows near gender parity, with women (37.9%) slightly more engaged than men (34.2%). Fulbe respondents show higher engagement (40.5%) compared to non-Fulbe (35.1%).

Figure 7: Engagement in promoting or selling any products or services by gender and ethnic group



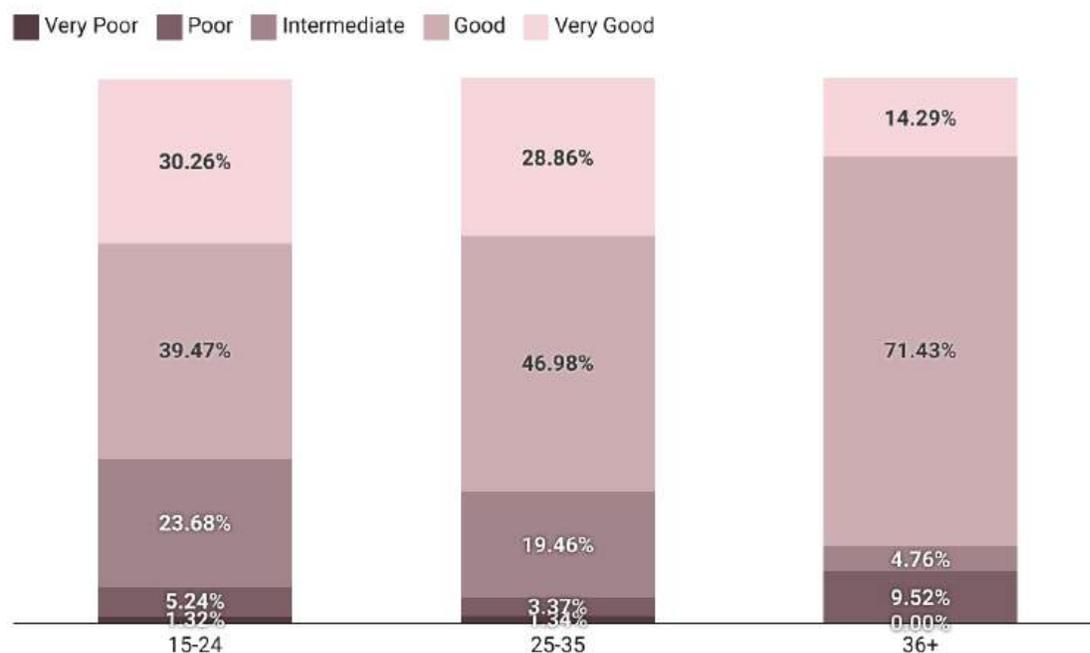
### 3.7 Improvement in marketing skills by age group, sex, and ethnic identity

#### Improvement in marketing skills by age group

The analysis of marketing skill improvement reveals significant variations across age groups. The 15-24 age group shows the highest proportions in "Good" (39.47%) and "Very Good" (30.26%) categories, with only 6.56% rating their skills as low. Similarly, the 25-35 age group has a majority rating their skills as "Good" (46.98%) and "Very Good" (28.86%), with only 4.71% rating their skills as low. Finally, the 36+ age group has the highest proportion in "Good" (71.43%) but the lowest in "Very Good" (14.29%).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Analysis of this section were applicable to **only** individuals who responded 'Yes' to the question on whether they are engaged in promoting or selling any products or service.

Figure 8: Improvement in marketing skills by age group



### 3.7.1 Improvement in marketing skills by sex

The analysis of marketing skills by gender shows notable differences in self-assessment. Female community members demonstrate stronger marketing skill development, with 72.8% achieving "Good" or "Very Good" competency compared to 77.3% of males. The slightly elevated rates of "Poor" and "Very Poor" among women (6.6% vs. 4.6%) indicate potential barriers to foundational skill acquisition.

Table 7: Improvement in marketing skills by Gender

Gender	Very Poor		Poor		Intermediate		Good		Very Good	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	1	0.91	4	3.64	20	18.18	60	54.55	25	22.73
Female	2	1.47	7	5.15	28	20.59	55	40.44	44	32.35

### 3.7.2 Improvement in marketing skills by ethnic identity

Significant ethnic disparities emerge in marketing skill development. The non-Fulbes show stronger outcomes, with 72.8% rating their skills as "Good" or "Very Good," compared to 65.6% of Fulbe. The highest percentage for non-Fulbes is in the "Good" category (45.13%), while Fulbe have a significant portion in the "Poor" category (23.44%).

Table 8: Improvement in marketing skills by ethnic identity

Ethnicity	Very Poor		Poor		Intermediate		Good		Very Good	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Non-Fulbe	3	1.54	9	4.62	41	21.03	88	45.13	54	27.69
Fulbe	0	0.00	15	23.44	7	10.94	27	42.19	15	23.44

### 3.7.3 Engagement in economic activities

Overall Engagement shows that 58.15% of community members are currently engaged in economic activities, while 41.85% are not.

Table 9: Engagement in economic activities

Engage in Economic activities	Number	Percent
Yes	396	58.15
No	285	41.85
Total	681	100.00

Age Group Participation shows that among individuals aged 15-24, only 43.57% are engaged in economic activities. In the 25-35 age group, economic engagement rises to 63.98%. The highest participation is observed among those aged 36 and above, with 77.94% actively engaged.

Figure 9: Engagement in economic activities by age group

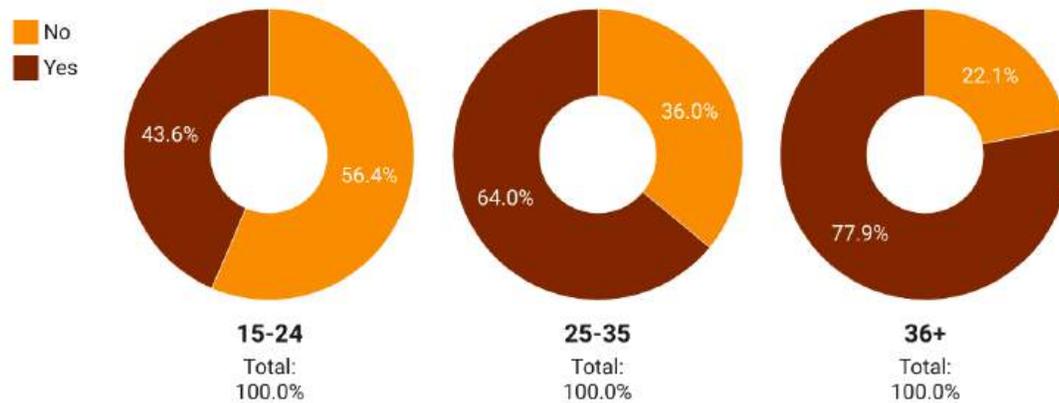
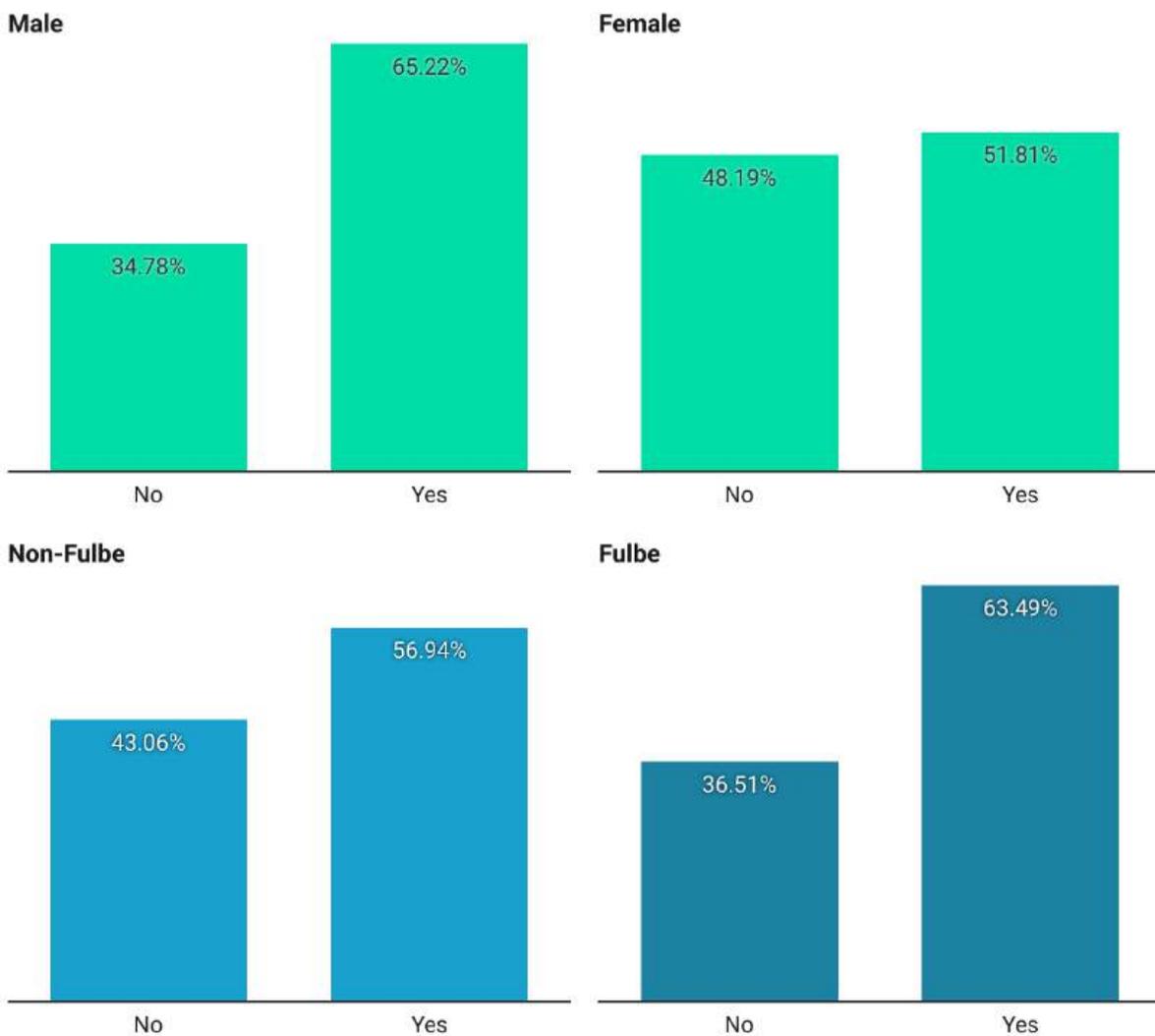


Figure 10 presents Engagement by gender and ethnicity. 65.22% of males are engaged in economic activities compared to 51.81% of females. A higher proportion of females (48.19%) are not engaged in economic activities compared to males (34.78%).

On ethnic participation, 63.49% of the Fulbe population is engaged in economic activities compared to 56.94% of the non-Fulbe group.

Figure 10: Engagement in economic activities by gender and ethnic group



Overview of economic activities reveal that the four dominant activities including farming (91.19%), animal rearing (88.11%), weaving traditional smocks (65.79%), Trading agricultural produce (57.56%).

Table 10: Top five (5) most economically viable trades

Economic Activity	Number	Percent	Ranks
Farming (millet, maize, sorghum, groundnut, etc)	621	91.19	1st
Animal rearing	600	88.11	2nd
Weaving traditional smocks (Fugu)	448	65.79	3rd
Trading agricultural produce	392	57.56	4th
Soap and detergent making	364	53.45	5th
Shea harvesting and processing	309	45.37	
Bead making	179	26.28	
Pottery and basket making	131	19.24	

### 3.8 Skills assessment

According to Figure 11, majority (68.18%) of individuals engaged in economic activities rate their skills as "Good" or "Very Good." However, 10.61% report having "Poor" or "Very Poor" skills, indicating a gap in capacity that may limit productivity. Similarly, age -group variations exist with 65.71% of the 15-24 age group reporting good or very good skills. In the 25-35 age group, this increases to 70.59%. Among those aged 36 and older, 62.26% report good or very good skills, but a notable 24.53% rate their skills as poor or very poor. Table 12 provides the Ethnic Group Differences. Among the non-Fulbe population, 65.51% report good or very good skills, while 22.78% rate their skills as intermediate. The Fulbe community shows a higher proportion (78.75%) rating their skills as good or very good, suggesting stronger economic skills potentially due to differences in livelihood activities and informal training.

Figure 11: Level of skills to carry out economic activities

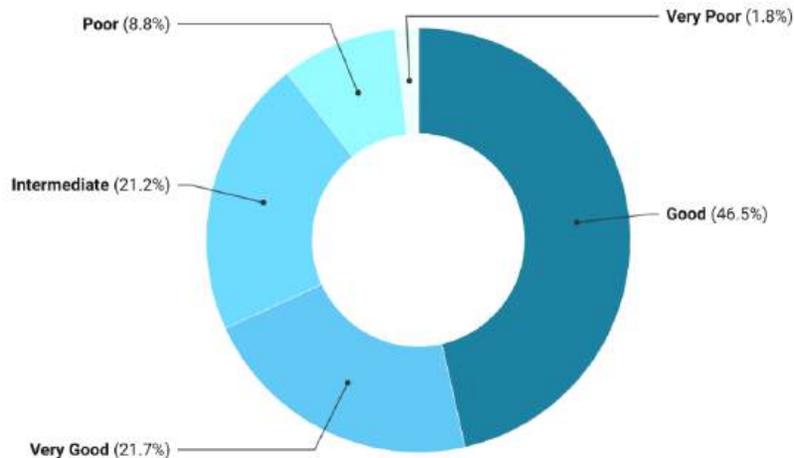


Table 11: Improved skills to carry out economic activities by Age

Age	Very Poor		Poor		Intermediate		Good		Very Good	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
15-24	2	1.90	10	9.52	24	22.86	44	41.90	25	23.81
25-35	4	1.68	13	5.46	53	22.27	115	48.32	53	22.27
36+	1	1.89	12	22.64	7	13.21	25	47.17	8	15.09

Table 12: Improved skills to carry out economic activities by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Very Poor		Poor		Intermediate		Good		Very Good	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Non-Fulbe	7	2.22	30	9.49	72	22.78	136	43.04	71	22.47
Fulbe	0	0.00	5	6.25	12	15.00	48	60.00	15	18.75

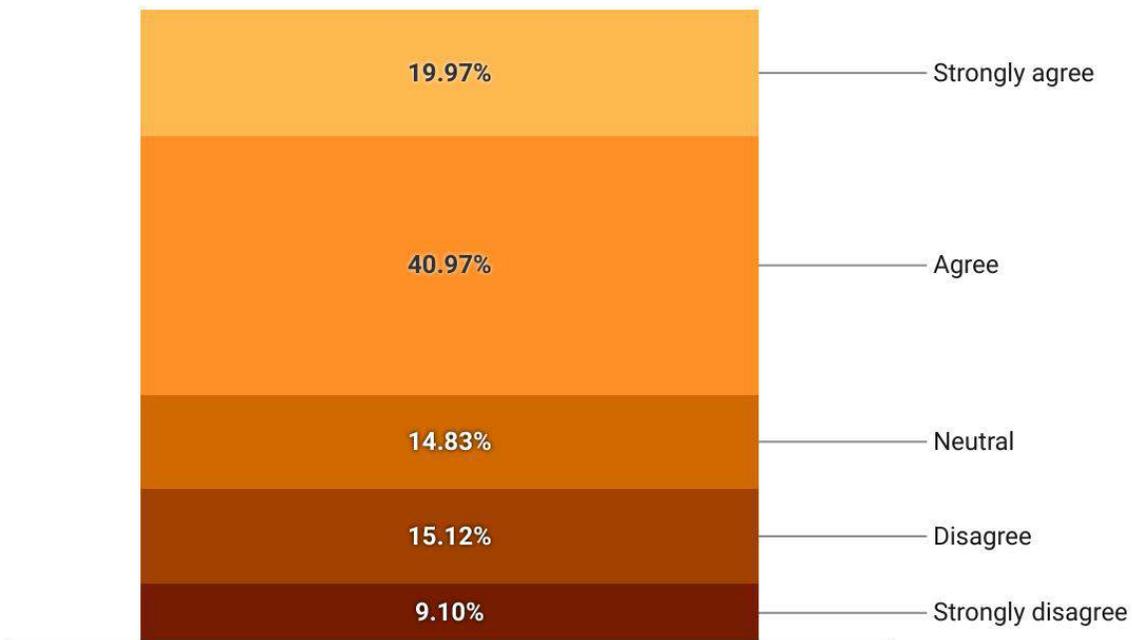
### 3.9 Social cohesion

#### 3.9.1 Trust in neighbors

As shown in Table 23, more than half of the respondents (60.94%) express trust for neighbors. However, nearly a quarter (24.22%) indicated distrust and Neutral (14.83%).

Figure 12: Trust for persons from other backgrounds in my community or neighborhood

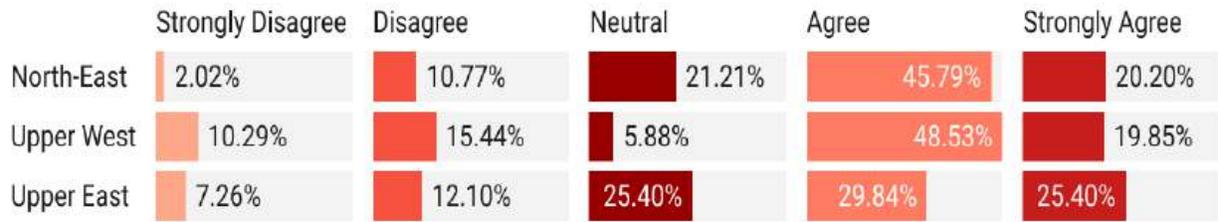
*The statement was “I trust persons from other background in my community or neighborhood”*



Regional analysis in Figure 13 shows that the North-East has the highest percentage of positive trust responses (65.99%) with low negative trust responses (12.79%). Upper-West has the highest negative trust (25.73%) while the Upper East has balanced distribution with a significant neutral group (25.40%). A KII with a Fulbe community member in the Upper West revealed that,

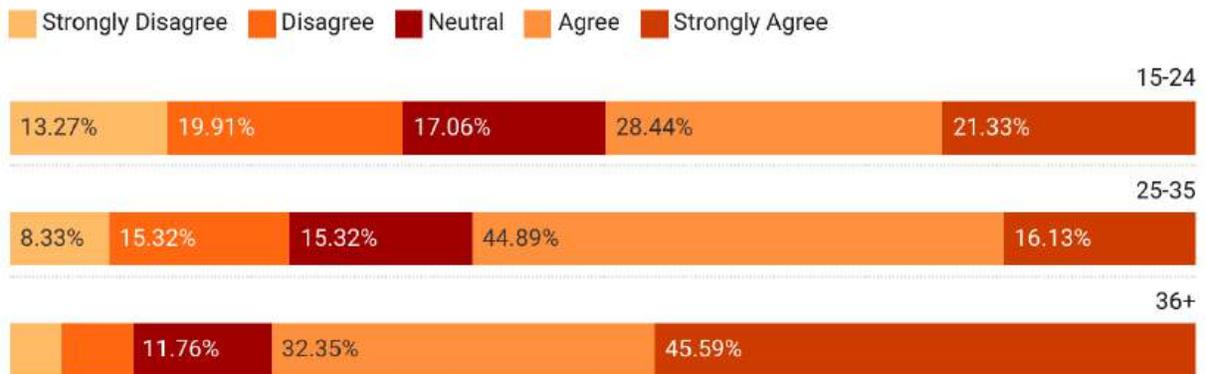
*“Trust is low among the non-Fulbes and my people but it is improving small, but there are still tensions. Some people still hold prejudices against the Fulbe, particularly when there are reports of cattle theft.*

Figure 13: Persons who trust people in their neighborhood by Region



The data provides trust in neighbors by age group. Trust increases with age; 36+ age group shows the highest trust at 77.94%. The 15-24 years exhibit mixed trust levels, with 33.18% expressing distrust. Most of the 25-35 years show a significant increase in trust (61.02%) compared to younger individuals.

Figure 14: Persons who trust people in their neighborhood by age group



Trust in neighbors was cross tabbed with gender. Trust levels were similar for both (62.4% of males and 59.6% of females), though women exhibit slightly higher distrust (25.6% vs 22.7% for men). Neutral percentages are nearly identical for both genders.

Figure 15: Persons who trust people in their neighborhood by gender

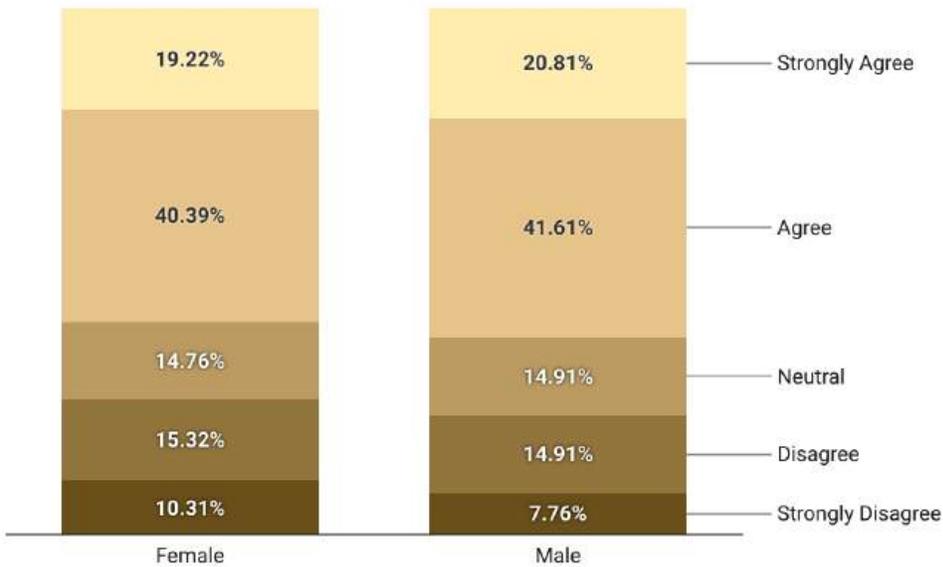
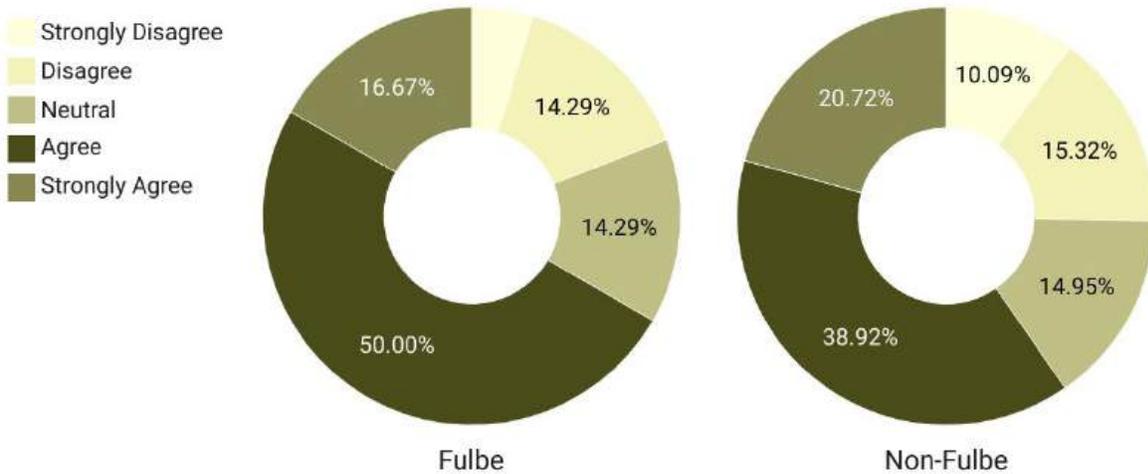


Figure 16 shows trust in neighbors by ethnicity. Fulbe have lower negative trust (19.05%) compared to non-Fulbe (25.41%). Nearly, 50.00% of Fulbe agree, but they have a lower percentage of strong agreement (16.67%) compared to non-Fulbe (20.72%).

The KIIs with Opinion Leaders and Fulbe Youth, shows that trust is fragile in many of the communities across the three northern regions. An Opinion Leader had this to say:

*Many people are quick to associate the Fulani with cattle theft, which has led to deep mistrust. Whether or not these accusations are always justified, the perception alone is enough to create tension. The situation is worsened by the lack of structured engagement between community leaders and the Fulani. If there were more dialogue and integration programs, I believe we could begin to rebuild trust.*

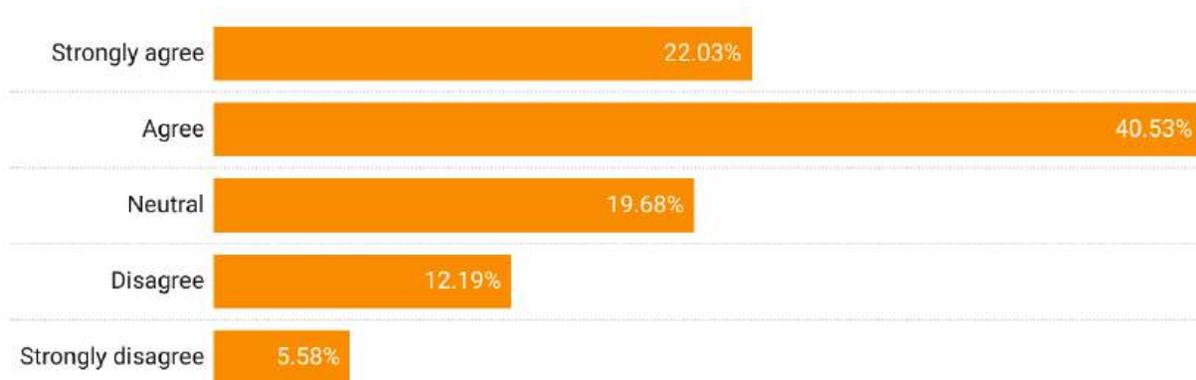
Figure 16: Persons who trust people in their neighborhood by ethnicity



### 3.9.2 Trust in local authorities

A majority of community members (62.6%) trust local authorities to listen to their voices, with 40.5% agreeing and 22.0% strongly agreeing. But 19.68% are neutral and 17.77% express distrust. Trust in authorities is slightly higher in positive and lower in negative as compared to neighbors.

Figure 17: Persons who trust local authorities to listen to their voice



The data on trust by local authorities to listen to their voice was disaggregated by region. The North-East exhibits the highest level of trust in local authorities (65.99%) and the lowest level of distrust (12.79%). Upper-West has the highest positive trust (68.38%) but it also has the highest level of distrust (25.73%). Upper East displays the lowest overall trust (55.24%) and a significant neutral group (25.40%).

Table 13: Persons who trust local authorities to listen to their voice by region

Region	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
North-East	6	2.02	32	10.77	63	21.21	136	45.79	60	20.20
Upper West	14	10.29	21	15.44	8	5.88	66	48.53	27	19.85
Upper East	18	7.26	30	12.10	63	25.40	74	29.84	63	25.40

### 3.9.3 Trust in security forces to protect the community from danger

Within the Fulbe community, 72.22% of respondents express trust in Security Services while among the non-Fulbe community, 69.19% express trust. In contrast, Fulbe (4.28%) and non-Fulbe (18.38%) express distrust while a significant minority were neutral, Fulbe (13.49%) and non-Fulbe (12.43%).

Table 14: Persons who trust security services to listen to their voice by region

Ethnicity	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Fulbe	6	4.76	12	9.52	17	13.49	57	45.24	34	26.98
Non-Fulbe	46	8.29	56	10.09	69	12.43	243	43.78	141	25.41

### 3.10 Social distancing

The Social Distancing Index (SDI) was used to assess the willingness to engage with persons from different ethnic groups. Table 30 shows moderate overall social distance (average score: 3.18), with significant ethnic variation. About 58.73% of Fulbe respondents fall into the low social distance category, indicating better social integration with only 4.76% experiencing high social distance. Nearly 43% of non-Fulbe respondents are in the low category with 11.35% reporting high social distance, which is nearly three times higher than the Fulbe.

The regional analysis shows that the North-East Exhibits strong integration with 56.23% in the low social distance category and only 4.04% in the high category. Upper West Region: shows significant polarization, with 16.18% experiencing high social distance. The Upper East Region: reports 32.26% in the low social distance category and 53.63% in moderate social distance.

Table 15: Social distance index

Summary	Score	The average score is considered as the final score. The higher the score, the higher the respondents/community members are socially distant					
Minimum	1						
Maximum	7						
Average	3.18						
Social Distance by Ethnic Group							
Ethnic Group	Low Social Distance		Moderate Social Distance		High Social Distance		Percent Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Fulbe	74	58.73	46	36.51	6	4.76	100.00
Non-Fulbe	238	42.88	254	45.77	63	11.35	100.00
Social Distance by Region							
Region	Low Social Distance		Moderate Social Distance		High Social Distance		Percent Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
North-East	167	56.23	118	39.73	12	4.04	100.00
Upper West	65	47.79	49	36.03	22	16.18	100.00
Upper East	80	32.26	133	53.63	35	14.11	100.00

### 3.11 Access to public services

#### Interaction with authorities or public service providers

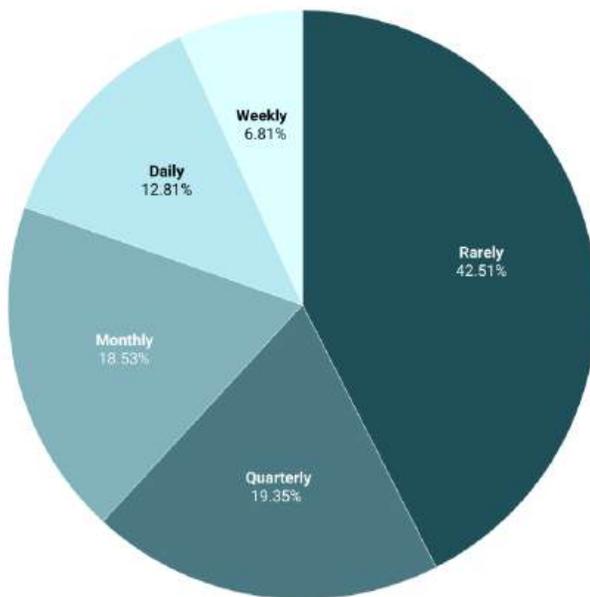
Table 16 presents the findings on the interactions with authorities or public service providers. While a considerable minority (46.1%) have no such engagement there is a 7.8 percentage-point difference between engaged and non-engaged groups.

Table 16: Person interacting with Authorities or Public Service Providers

Interaction	Number	Percent
Yes	367	54
No	314	46
Total	681	100

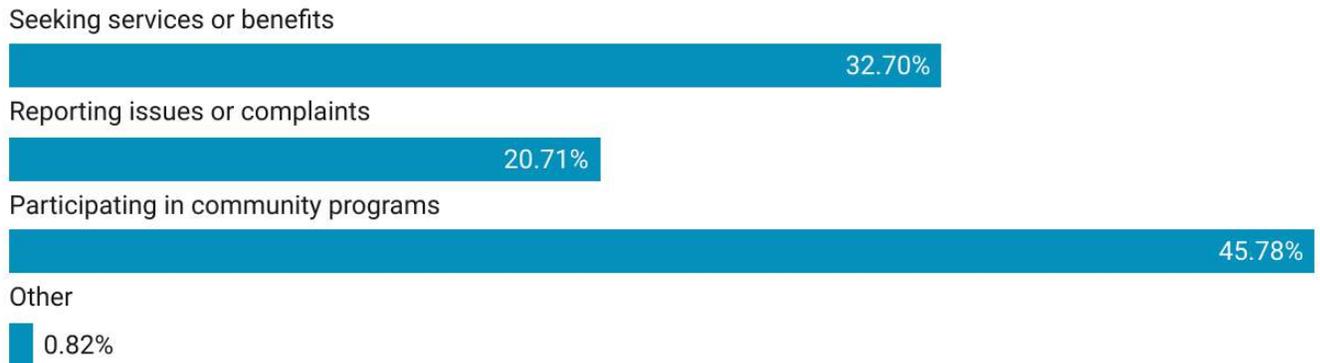
Among community members who interact with authorities or service providers, 42.51percent do so rarely, while more regular engagement is limited (19.4% quarterly, 18.5% monthly). As shown in Figure 18, only 19.6 percent report weekly or daily contact, rare interactions (42.5%) and daily engagement (12.8%)

Figure 18: Frequency of Interaction with Authorities or Public Service Providers



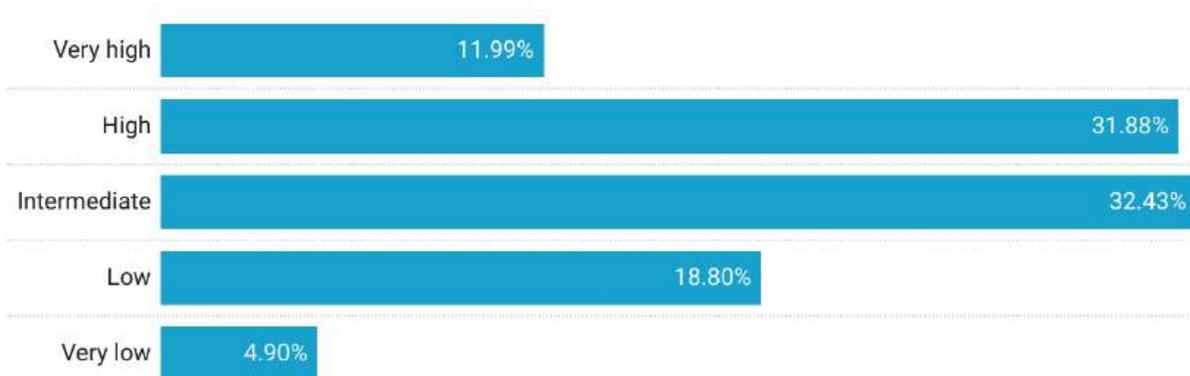
The primary purpose of community members' interactions with authorities was participation in community programs (45.8%), seeking services/benefits (32.7%) and reporting issues (20.7%).

Figure 19: Purpose of interaction with Authorities or Public Service Providers



Community members reported mixed quality in their interactions with authorities, with a plurality (32.4%) rating it as intermediate and nearly equivalent proportions describing high (31.9%) or low (23.7%) quality experiences, while only 12.0% report very high satisfaction (see Figure 20).

Figure 20: Quality of interaction with authorities or public service providers



Nearly two-thirds of community members (65.6%) feel empowered to participate in local decision-making, while a significant minority (34.4%) report lacking such empowerment.

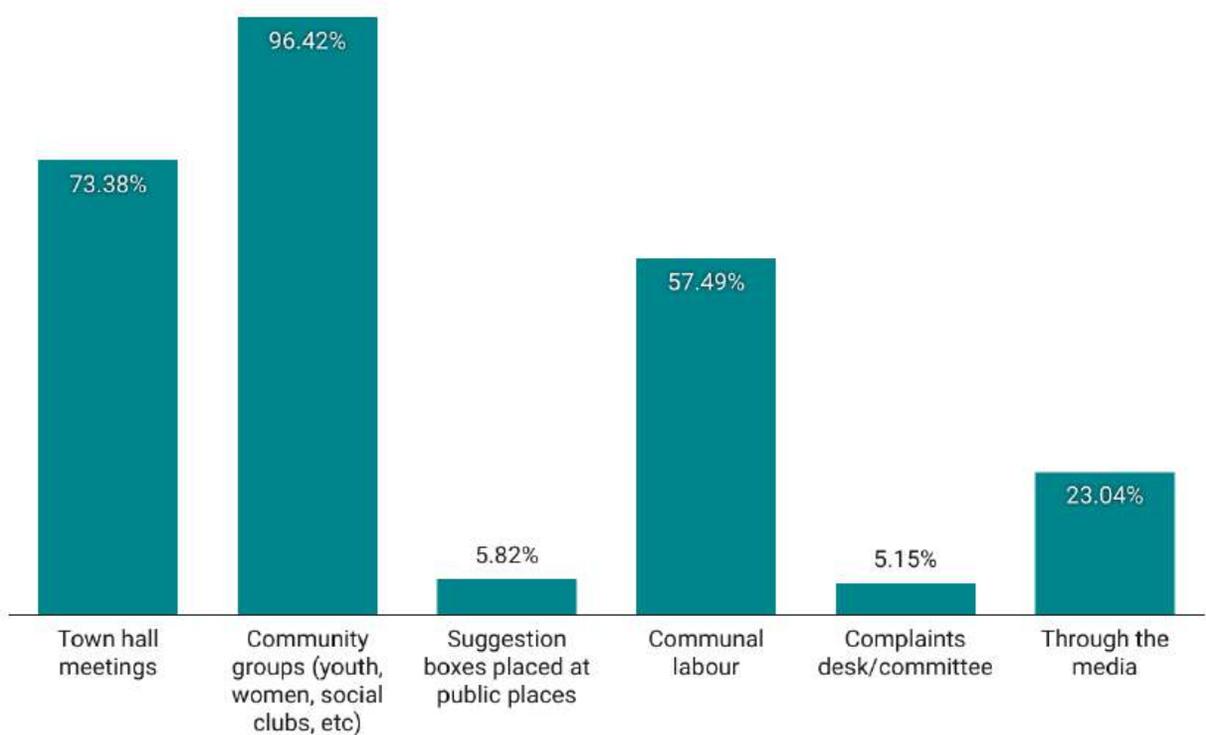
Table 17: Persons feel empowered to participate in community decision making

Feeling empowered to participate in community decision-making	Number	Percent
Yes	447	65.64
No	234	34.36
Total	681	100.00

Community members mainly access decision-making forums through groups (96.4% via community organizations) and town halls (73.4%), communal labor (57.5%) while formal grievance mechanisms (5.2%) and suggestion boxes (5.8%) remain underutilized (see Figure 21). For most Fulbe women, the KII revealed that they had information through word-of-mouth and local radio stations. However, many Fulbe women do not have access to smartphones or social media, making it harder to get timely updates. As a Fulbe woman put it,

*“I believe that greater inclusion in economic programs, improved access to resources, and better recognition of our contributions will help strengthen our community. If we are truly part of decision-making processes, we can build a more united and resilient society”.*

Figure 21: Available community decision-making forums



**3.12 Public services delivery**

As shown in Table 18, the Fulbe group has a higher percentage of respondents who strongly disagree (40.00%) compared to the non-Fulbe group (34.67%). However, both groups have similar percentages of respondents who agree (40.00% for Fulbe and 34.67% for non-Fulbe). The neutral responses are relatively low.

Table 18: Persons reporting improved access to public services by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Fulbe	72	40.00	8	4.44	12	6.67	72	40.00	16	8.89
Non-Fulbe	260	34.67	69	9.20	74	9.87	260	34.67	87	11.60

### Improvement in public services

The findings (see Table 19) indicate that community members prioritize the improvement of various public services, with health services, education, and clean drinking water being the top three priorities. The ranking of these services suggests that systematic deficiencies exist in these areas, which can impact the well-being and resilience of community members. Respondents listed the priority for improvement as follows, Health (40.03%), Education (33.04%) and Clean Drinking water (29.46%). On the other hand, Security (73.21%) and Telecommunication (93.60%) were the seventh and eight priorities.

The KIIs with Fulbe youth and opinion leaders revealed that water, education, health and security are the public services that require urgent attention. An Opinion Leader from the Upper West commented that,

*“water is a key public service that requires improvement. The biggest shock we experienced was a severe drought that led to water shortages and cattle deaths. Many families lost a significant portion of their livestock, which directly impacted their ability to buy food and other essentials.”*

Another Opinion Leader from the Upper West also put it this way,

*“we need better access to water reservoirs for livestock, veterinary services, and financial assistance programs for herders...”*

A Fulbe Youth Leader in the Upper East had this to say,

*to become more resilient, we need secure grazing land, water points, and better market access. Government and local leaders should also help resolve conflicts between farmers and the herders to reduce tensions... Public services such as health, education, and water are available, but not always easily accessible... Many of our children do not attend school because of discrimination. Healthcare services are also difficult to access because we live*

*deep inside the bushes... Water access is another major issue, as boreholes and water sources are often far from where we graze our cattle.”*

On the public services that require improvement, a Fulbe from the Upper East captured it this way:

*“We the Fulbe do not have access to water, education and healthcare services because we stay far from the community. Some of our children used to go to school but they are always discriminated so they fear even to go there again and that is very bad. Water for instance we do not have access to our own sources of water and sometimes it becomes difficult for us especially when you are in the bush.”*

A non-Fulbe from the Upper East explained the main challenges faced by the communities in accessing public services,

*“Most of the public infrastructures here are not working. Now a lot of even the nurses, the doctors, they are running away from here. Because they are afraid of losing their lives. So, it is very poor. But the infrastructure is there. Water is still there. But they are not enough. Actually, my brother, you know here, I don't want to say here is a war zone. I don't want to say that. But it is not peaceful here. People are even afraid to go out. Because of the insecurity.*

Table 19: Ranking of public services that need improvement

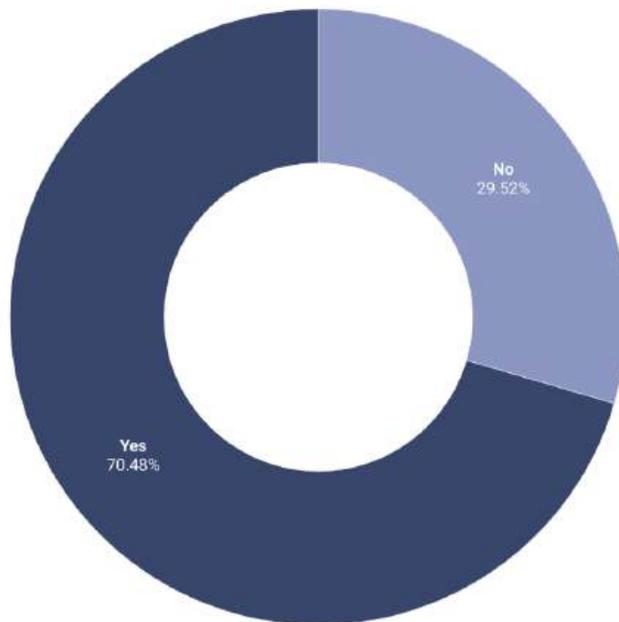
<i>Public Service</i>	<i>Rank 1 (Percent)</i>	<i>Rank 2 (Percent)</i>	<i>Rank 3 (Percent)</i>	<i>Rank 4 (Percent)</i>	<i>Rank 5 (Percent)</i>	<i>Rank 6 (Percent)</i>	<i>Rank 7 (Percent)</i>	<i>Rank 8 (Percent)</i>
<i>Health services</i>	<b>40.03</b>	29.61	21.58	7.44	1.19	0.15	0	0
<i>Education</i>	12.8	<b>33.04</b>	27.83	19.79	5.21	1.19	0.15	0
<i>Clean drinking water</i>	15.63	13.54	<b>29.46</b>	28.72	9.82	2.53	0.3	0
<i>Sanitation</i>	11.01	8.63	9.08	<b>35.71</b>	28.27	6.25	0.89	0.15
<i>Electricity</i>	5.21	8.63	4.61	3.13	<b>50.45</b>	22.77	5.06	0.15
<i>Transportation services</i>	3.42	3.27	2.83	2.68	2.08	<b>63.99</b>	19.49	2.23
<i>Security</i>	11.16	2.23	3.87	1.64	2.08	1.93	<b>73.21</b>	3.87
<i>Telecommunication</i>	0.74	1.04	0.74	0.89	0.89	1.19	0.89	<b>93.6</b>

### 3.13 Awareness on PVE and conflict resolution structures

#### 3.13.1 Crime reporting

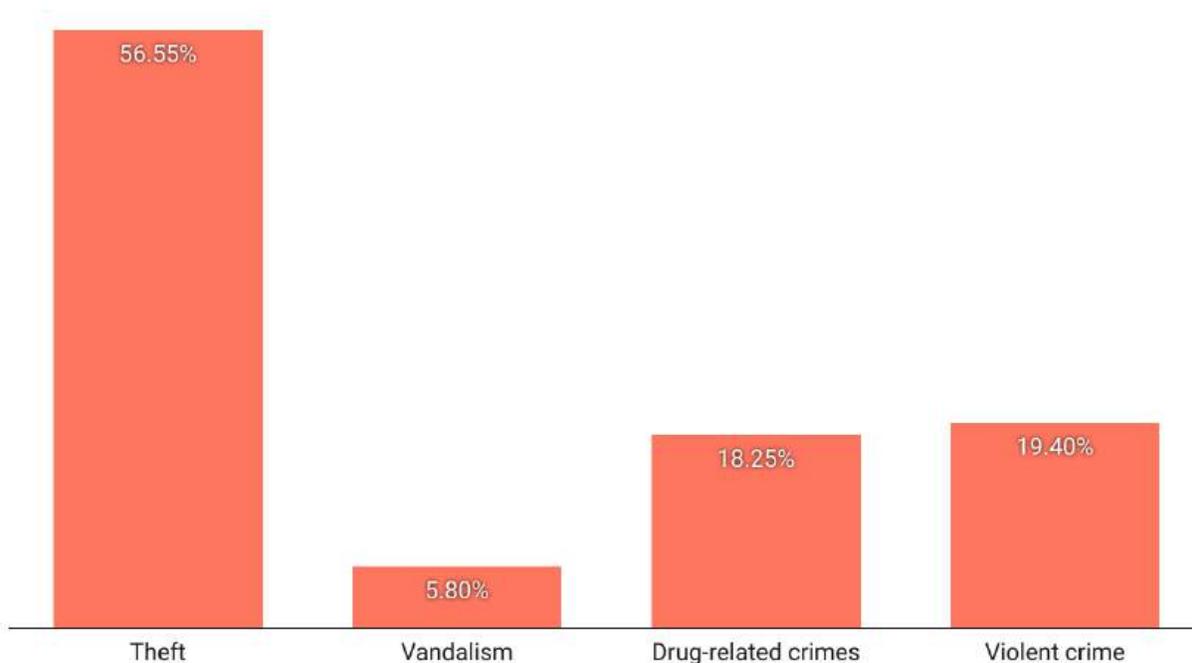
The survey indicates a high crime reporting rate, with 70.48% of respondents reporting that crimes occur in their communities, while 29.52% reported no crime incidents.

Figure 22: Persons who report crimes in their communities



The data reveals four primary types of crimes reported by respondents: theft, vandalism, drug-related crimes, and violent crime. The findings are as follows: Theft (56.55%), violent crime (19.40), Drug-related crimes (18.25) and Vandalism (5.80%).

Figure 23: Forms of crime experienced



Crime statistics were analyzed across three regions: North-East, Upper West, and Upper East. The findings show that In the North-East, theft is the most common crime at 54.06%, followed by violent crime at 30%. In the Upper West, theft is extremely high at 78.5%, with vandalism at 15.89%. Drug-related and violent crimes are very low. In the Upper East, theft is reported at 51.71%, with drug-related crimes at 30.53%, followed by violent crime at 14.64% and vandalism at 3.12%.

Table 20: Forms of crime experienced by region

Region	Crime								
	Theft		Vandalism		Drug-related crimes		Violent crime		Percent Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
North-East	173	54.06	17	5.31	34	10.63	96	30.00	100.00
Upper West	84	78.50	17	15.89	4	3.74	2	1.87	100.00
Upper East	166	51.71	10	3.12	98	30.53	47	14.64	100.00

The qualitative data shows that crime, particularly theft, is a persistent problem across the three regions. People have reported stolen livestock, vandalized farms, and other forms of property

damage. These issues contribute to a general sense of insecurity and make people hesitant to invest in long-term agricultural ventures. KII with a Fulbe woman revealed that, cases of cattle theft have increased, and Fulbe men are often suspected first, even without evidence creating tensions between groups. Furthermore, the KII with both Fulbe youth and Opinion Leaders show that generally, there is a rise in crime levels. A 27-year-old Refugee in the Bawku in the Upper East region, had this to say,

*“Crime has increased in some areas, particularly cattle theft. This has made many in our community feel unsafe. We have been unfairly accused of being involved in criminal activities, leading to further tensions with the community and security forces.”*

An educational planner from Bolgatanga in the Upper East region had this to say on crime:

*“The rising incidence of drug use is a case that is of worry. Definitely, there have been some cases of thefts, especially concerning motorbikes and others in the townships. We have also heard cases of cattle rustling across the landscape within the region... You go to the mining areas and they will tell you there are certain areas that you cannot move at a particular time because of the fear of armed robbery... A lot of the youth are involved. And when you ask them, the reason they will give you is that they are not employed”.*

Another Journalist from the North East region mentioned a recent theft case where

*“a grocery shop was broken and all the goods in the store was taking away during the curfew hours. I reported that incident. “*

These qualitative insights reinforce the quantitative data, indicating that crime, particularly theft and drug-related offenses, is a significant concern across the regions studied.

### **3.14 Use of violence to achieve personal, political or social goals**

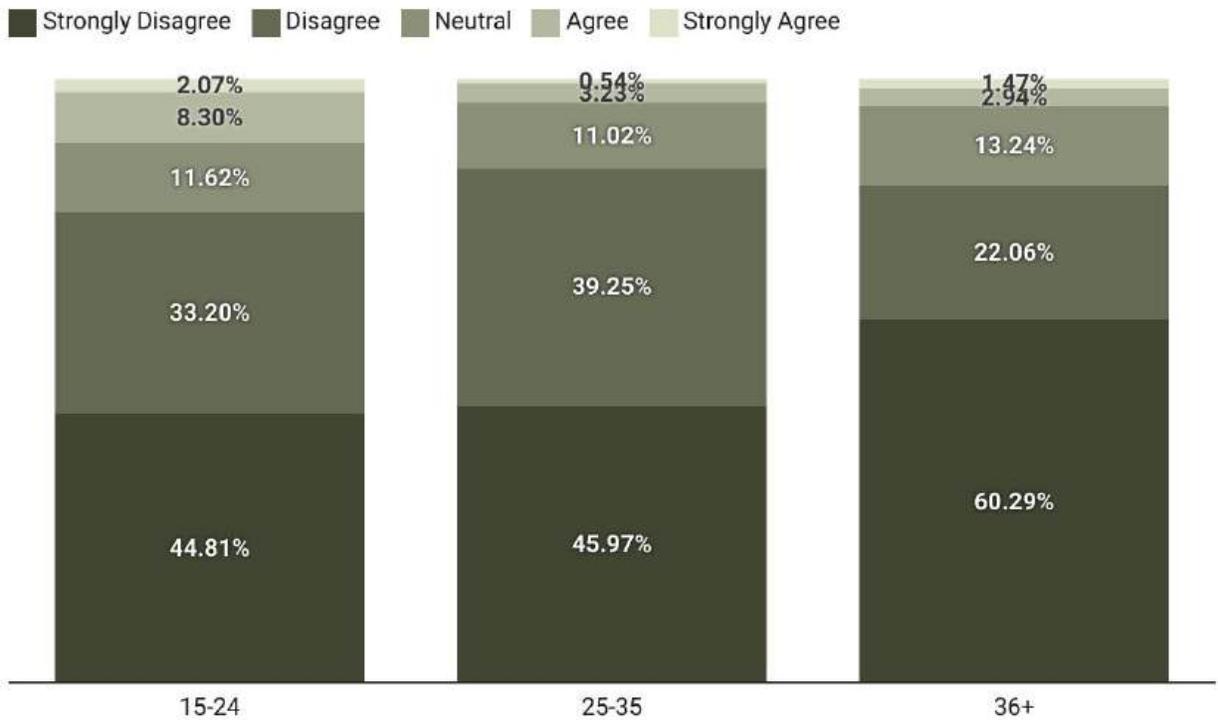
As presented in Table 21, the total opposition to violence is 83.38% with only 6.16% supporting violence. Attitudes Toward Violence by Age Group (Figure 24) shows that opposition to violence varies across different age groups, with older individuals generally being less supportive of using violence to achieve personal, political, or social goals. Among respondents aged 15-24, 78.01% disagree with the use of violence, while 11.62% remain neutral, and 10.37% approve the use of

violence. In the 25-35 age group, opposition to violence is slightly higher, with 45.97% strongly disagreeing and 39.25% disagreeing, bringing the total opposition to 85.22%.

Table 21: Persons supportive of using violence to achieve personal, political or social goals

Supportive of violence	Number	Percent
Strongly disagree	320	46.99
Disagree	241	35.39
Neutral	78	11.45
Agree	34	4.99
Strongly agree	8	1.17
Total	681	100.00

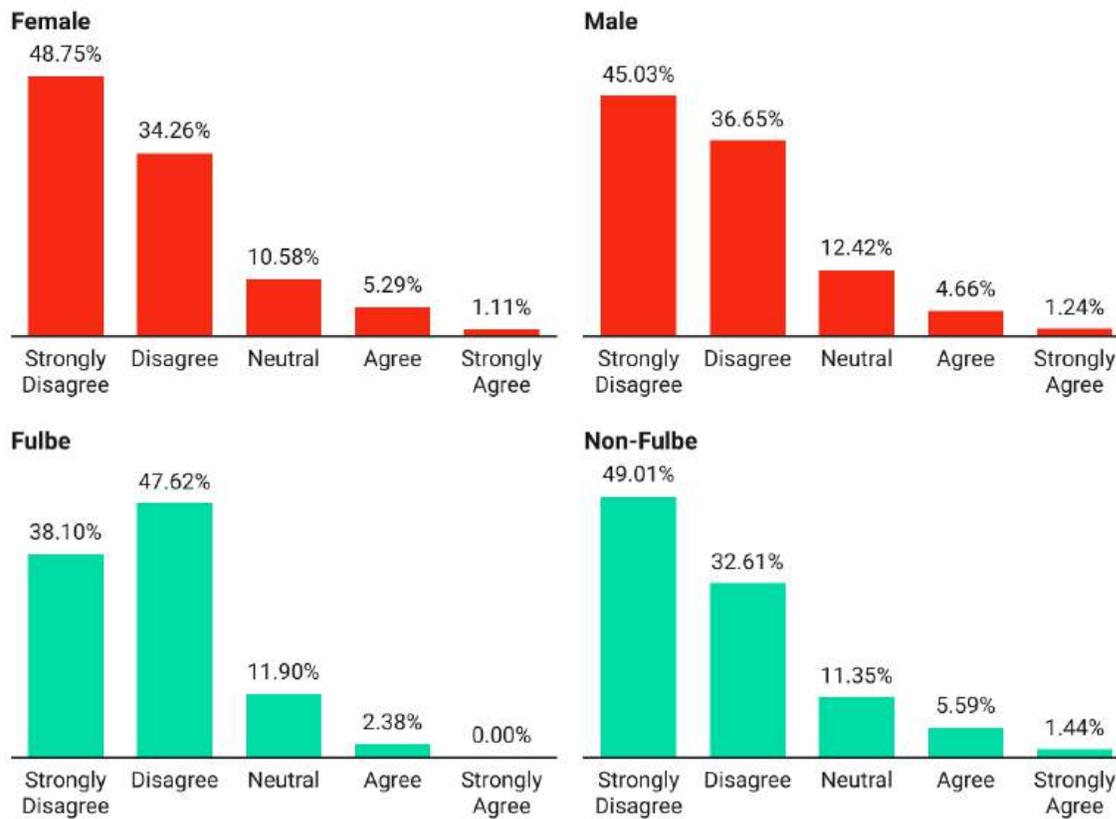
Figure 24: Persons supportive of using violence to achieve personal, political or social goals by age group



On gender, the data indicates that both men and women largely reject the use of violence to achieve personal, political, or social goals, though there are slight differences in their levels of opposition. Among females, 48.75% strongly disagree with using violence, while 34.26% disagree, bringing the total opposition to 83.01%. A smaller percentage, 10.58%, remain neutral, while 6.4% either agree or strongly agree (see Figure 25).

In Figure 25, Fulbe and non-Fulbe groups display differing levels of opposition. Opposition to the use of violence is significantly high for both groups, Fulbe (85.72%) and non-Fulbe (81.62%). Fulbe show slightly stronger opposition overall, but non-Fulbe (49.10%) have a larger share of strong opposition as compared to the Fulbe (38.10%).

Figure 25: Using violence to achieve personal, political or social goals by gender and ethnicity



Majority of the KIIs disapproved of the use of violence for personal or political goals. This is summarized by the view of a Fulbe Leader that

*“the majority of people believe in dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution but not violence”*  
(Fulbe Leader, Upper West).

A KII with a non-indigene in the North-East region supported the appropriate use of violence to achieve personal or political goals. His position was that.

*“sometimes think the security personnel will not help us restore justice to individuals that suffer from this violence meted to us as community members.”*

### 3.15 Awareness of methods used by violent extremist groups to recruit and radicalize people

As shown in Table 22, more than half of the survey respondents (63.73%), are unable to identify at least three ways through which violent extremist (VE) groups recruit and radicalize individuals, while only 36.27 percent can do so.

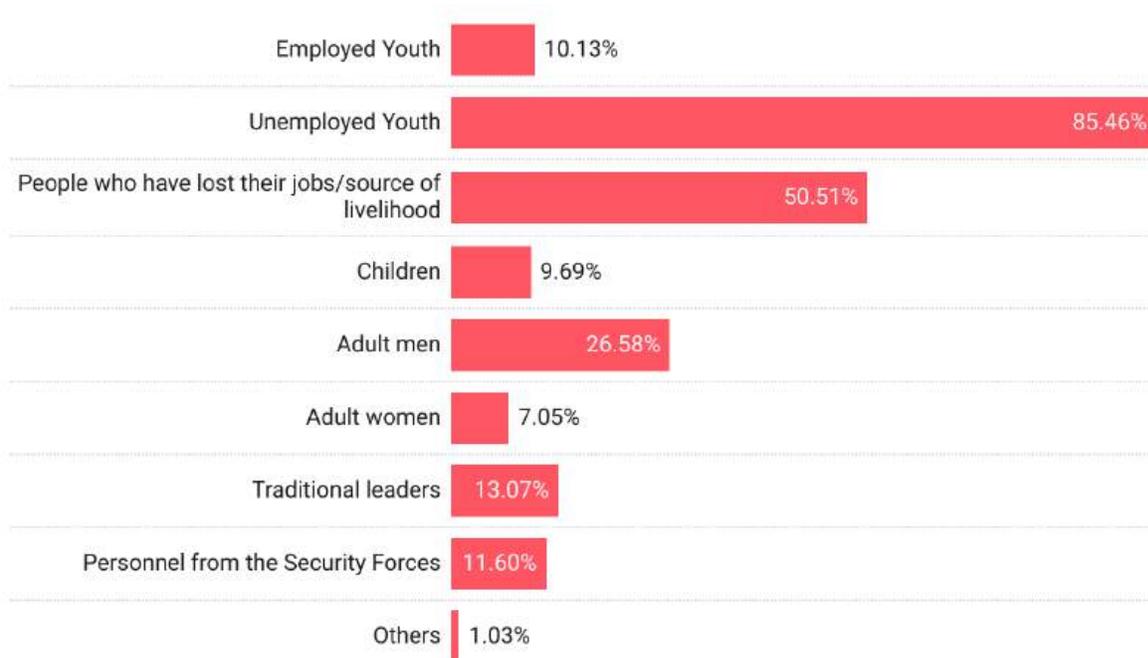
Table 22: Persons able to identify three ways that VE groups use to recruit and radicalize people

Ability to identify ways of recruitment	Number	Percent
Less than 3	434	63.73
3 or more	247	36.27
Total	681	100.00

#### 3.15.1 Category of people usually targeted for recruitment by violent extremist groups

The data in Figure 26 shows that unemployed youth were the most targeted group by violent extremist (VE) groups, accounting for 85.46% of cases. Additionally, people who have lost their jobs or sources of livelihood are also heavily targeted, making up 50.51% of the total. Adult men are another significant target group, comprising 26.58% of cases. Traditional leaders (13.07%) and personnel from security forces (11.60%) are also targeted, employed youth (10.13%) and children (9.69%) are also at risk. Adult women represent 7.05% of cases and "others" (1.03%).

Figure 26: Category of people targeted by violent extremist group

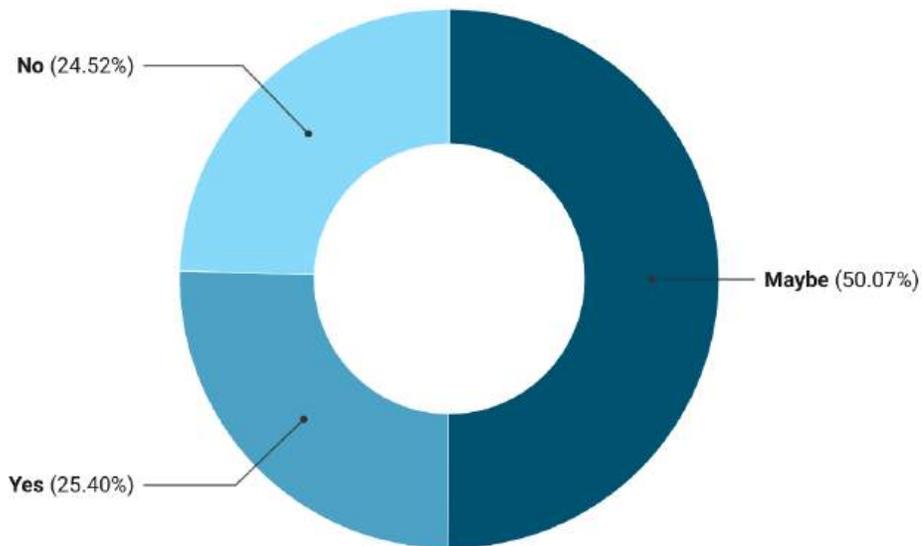


The KII with opinion leaders revealed that the provision of job opportunities is one of the ways to recruit people into VE because they are desperate to work but sometimes, they are no job opportunities. In other interviews, the provision of social amenities in deprived communities came out strongly. In other interviews, the use of emotive language in social groups to attract persons who feel disaffected or marginalized was mentioned.

### 3.15.2 Preparedness to deal with violent extremist acts and propaganda

Figure 27 indicates that community perceptions of preparedness to handle violent extremist acts and propaganda are mixed, with only 25.40% of respondents believing their community is well-prepared. A nearly equal proportion, 24.52%, believe their community is not prepared, while the majority, 50.07%, remain uncertain.

Figure 27: Persons believing their community is well-prepared to deal with VE acts/propaganda



### 3.16 Vulnerability to VE

The scores range from a minimum of 29 to a maximum of 145, indicating a wide variability in vulnerability levels among community members. The average score of 89.87

Table 23: Vulnerability to violent extremism

Summary	Score	Note
Minimum	29	The average score is considered as the final score. The higher the score, the higher the community members are vulnerable to violent extremism
Maximum	145	
Average	89.87	

#### Vulnerability to VE by demographics

The data categorizes individuals into three levels of vulnerability (low, moderate, high) based on their age, ethnicity, and gender. Vulnerability to violent extremism varies significantly across age groups, ethnicities, and genders. The 15–24-year group shows the highest percentage of individuals classified as highly vulnerable (85.06%). Similar to the younger group, the 25-35 age group also exhibits a very high level of vulnerability (91.13%). While those above the 36 years

still show a high percentage of vulnerability (83.82%), this group has a slightly lower percentage of high vulnerability compared to the younger age groups. The Fulbe ethnic group shows an extremely high level of vulnerability (93.65%) while the non-Fulbe group also show a high level of vulnerability (87.03%), though slightly lower than the Fulbe. Females show a high level of vulnerability (88.86%), while the males also exhibit a high level of vulnerability (87.58%).

Table 24: Vulnerability to VE by age, sex and ethnicity

Age Group	Low vulnerability		Moderate vulnerability		High vulnerability		Percent Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
15-24	32	13.28	4	1.66	205	85.06	100
25-35	28	7.53	5	1.34	339	91.13	100
36+	9	13.24	2	2.94	57	83.82	100
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
Fulbe	7	5.56	1	0.79	118	93.65	100
Non-Fulbe	62	11.17	10	1.80	483	87.03	100
<b>Gender</b>							
Female	34	9.47	6	1.67	319	88.86	100
Male	35	10.87	5	1.55	282	87.58	100

### 3.17 Resilience to VE

The scores range from a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 60, indicating resilience levels among community members. The average score of 44.15 suggests that, on average, community members exhibit a relatively high level of resilience to VE.

Table 25: Resilience to violent extremism

Summary	Score	Note
Minimum	12	The average score is considered as the final score. The higher the score, the higher the community members are resilient to violent extremism
Maximum	60	
Average	44.15	

#### Resilience to VE by demographics

The majority of individuals in this 15-24 age group demonstrate high resilience (95.44%) to violent extremism. Similar to the younger group, the 25-35 age group also shows a very high level of resilience (97.58%). All individuals who are 36 years and above exhibit high resilience

(100%). The Fulbe ethnic group (98.41%) and non-Fulbe (96.76%) show a high level of resilience. On gender, majority of females show high resilience (96.38%). Males also exhibit a high level of resilience (97.83%).

Table 26: Resilience to violent extremism by age, sex and ethnicity

Age Group	Low Resilience		Moderate Resilience		High Resilience		Percent Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
15-24	10	4.15	1	0.41	230	95.44	100
25-35	6	1.61	3	0.81	363	97.58	100
36+	0	0.00	0	0.00	68	100.00	100
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
Fulbe	2	1.59	0	0.00	124	98.41	100
Non-Fulbe	14	2.52	4	0.72	537	96.76	100
<b>Gender</b>							
Female	10	2.79	3	0.84	346	96.38	100
Male	6	1.86	1	0.31	315	97.83	100

# SECTION FOUR

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

### 4.1 Productive assets and livelihood

The findings from the analysis of productive assets and their impact on livelihoods reveal critical insights into the economic landscape of the community. The following points summarize the implications of the results: The findings point to a prevalence of insufficient productive assets across the three study regions. The analysis indicates that only 2.94% of community members possess sufficient productive assets to sustain their livelihoods, while a staggering 97.06% lack adequate resources (Table 2). This highlights a significant economic vulnerability within the community. Key productive assets identified include land, livestock, and traditional farming and herding tools. The productive assets crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity were mainly land, seeds, fertilizers, and water. The findings suggest limited access to these assets leading to disparities. The overwhelming majority of community members lacking sufficient productive assets indicates a high level of economic vulnerability. This situation necessitates targeted support to enhance financial independence and resilience, as the lack of assets directly correlates with limited income opportunities.

The data suggests that insufficient productive assets significantly hinder the ability of community members to sustain their livelihoods. Without access to essential resources, individuals struggle to maximize their potential, leading to a cycle of poverty and economic instability. Generally, the findings point to limited access to credit, irrigation systems, and veterinary services. Many people cannot fully maximize their assets. For example, livestock owners struggle with diseases and theft, while farmers face climate-related challenges and limited market access. Fulbe youth emphasized the importance of livestock as a primary asset, although access to grazing land has become increasingly difficult due to financial constraints. A major challenge faced by minority group such as the Fulbe in accessing or maintaining productive assets is land ownership. Since most Fulbe are traditionally nomadic, they do not have documented land rights, which sometimes leads to conflicts with farmers when grazing lands overlap with farmlands. Another challenge is access to veterinary services for livestock, which affects the health and productivity of their animals. Additionally, language barriers sometimes create misunderstandings between the Fulbe and the larger community.

The Fulbe people's livelihoods are closely tied to livestock and grazing land. Restrictions on these resources not only affect milk and meat production but also threaten their overall economic stability. This dependence makes them particularly vulnerable to environmental changes and policy decisions that impact land use, leading to food insecurity and economic challenges. The lack of familiarity with formal banking systems significantly hampers the vulnerable group, especially the Fulbe people's ability to engage with financial institutions. Financial literacy is crucial for understanding how to manage finances, access credit, and make informed decisions about savings and investments. Without financial literacy, individuals may miss out on opportunities for economic participation, which can perpetuate cycles of poverty and limit community development. The nomadic lifestyle of the Fulbe people presents unique challenges in accessing financial services. Traditional banking systems often require stable addresses and documentation, which nomadic individuals may not possess. This creates barriers to opening bank accounts or applying for loans. The inability to provide necessary documentation can lead to exclusion from formal credit markets, forcing individuals to rely on informal lending, which may come with higher risks and costs.

The challenges faced by Fulbe women highlight significant gender disparities in access to resources. Their lack of landownership and financial independence restricts their ability to participate fully in economic activities. This situation exacerbates existing inequalities and limits women's empowerment within the community. In cases of land disputes, women are particularly vulnerable. Their reliance on livestock for livelihood means that any restrictions on grazing land directly impact their economic stability and food security.

The challenges associated with securing loans from financial institutions, high interest rates and documentation can deter individuals from seeking loans, even if they are available. This creates a barrier to accessing necessary capital for investment in productive assets or business ventures. The diversification of productive assets among youth indicates a potential for economic growth and innovation. Supporting this trend through access to training, capital, and infrastructure can help create sustainable livelihoods and reduce reliance on traditional employment avenues.

The systemic discrimination faced by Fulbe herders highlights the importance of inclusive policies that recognize and address the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities. Efforts

should focus on fostering social cohesion and equitable resource distribution to ensure that all community members can access productive assets. The significant regional disparities in access to productive assets call for comprehensive strategies tailored to the specific needs of each region. Interventions should consider local contexts, including socio-political dynamics and economic conditions, to effectively address the challenges identified. The lack of access to credit, irrigation systems, and veterinary services indicates a need for holistic support systems that integrate financial services, education, and infrastructure development. Such systems can help maximize the potential of existing productive assets and improve livelihoods.

#### **4.2 Shocks and stresses**

The findings from the analysis of community members' experiences with shocks and stresses reveal critical insights into their vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms. The fact that nearly half of the respondents experienced shocks in the past year indicates a high level of vulnerability within the community. This vulnerability can significantly impact economic stability, health, and overall quality of life, suggesting a need for targeted interventions to enhance resilience. The coexistence of minimum and maximum scores within the community highlights acute inequality in access to resources, social capital, or institutional support that enable shock recovery. This disparity suggests that while some individuals may have developed resilience strategies, others remain vulnerable and lack the necessary support to recover effectively.

The predominance of environmental shocks, particularly drought, highlights the community's reliance on agriculture and livestock. The interconnectedness of farming and herding means that adverse environmental conditions can have cascading effects on food security and economic stability. The reported health issues further emphasize the need for improved healthcare access and resources.

The qualitative insights from the Fulbe community emphasize the importance of social capital in recovery efforts. Women supporting each other through 'Susu' savings groups and food-sharing during times of stress indicates the importance of social capital in recovery efforts. The support networks highlight community resilience and the role of social ties in coping with shocks. These informal support systems can be crucial in enhancing recovery and should be recognized and strengthened in recovery strategies.

The regional analysis indicates that recovery capacity is not uniform across the communities. The Upper East region's higher average score suggests better access to resources or support systems, while the lower scores in Upper West indicate that this region may face more significant challenges in recovery. This disparity underscores the need for targeted interventions that consider regional differences in vulnerability and recovery capacity.

The KIIs with Fulbe leaders point to insufficient government intervention as a critical barrier to recovery. The lack of access to essential resources, such as water, agricultural inputs, and financial aid, severely limits the community's ability to recover from shocks. This finding underscores the importance of external support in recovery efforts, suggesting that government and non-governmental organizations should prioritize assistance to enhance the community's resilience.

### **4.3 Financial management**

The data indicates that a significant majority (62.85%) of respondents actively manage their finances, which suggests a foundational level of financial engagement within the community. However, the 37.15% who do not manage their finances represent a substantial minority that may be vulnerable to financial instability. This lack of financial management can lead to increased susceptibility to extremist narratives, as individuals facing economic hardship may be more easily influenced by radical ideologies that promise solutions to their struggles. The Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with opinion leaders further highlight the community's lack of financial literacy, record-keeping, and savings management, which are critical skills for effective financial management. The absence of these skills can hinder individuals' ability to make informed financial decisions, thereby exacerbating their vulnerability.

The assessment of financial management and marketing skills reveals a mixed picture. While a majority of respondents (51.40%) rated their skills as "good" or "very good," a notable minority (19.9%) struggle with basic skills. This disparity suggests that while some community members possess a solid understanding of financial practices, others may face barriers to accessing training or resources necessary for skill development. The KII with Fulbe women underscores the gender disparities in training initiatives, indicating that programs often focus on men and indigenous individuals, neglecting the critical roles women play in dairy production and small-scale

businesses. This lack of targeted support for women can limit their economic empowerment and further entrench gender inequalities within the community.

The low participation rate in marketing activities (36.1%) indicates significant barriers to entry-level entrepreneurship. The majority of respondents (63.9%) who do not engage in commercial ventures suggest that many individuals may lack access to capital, products, or market knowledge, which are essential for successful marketing. This untapped potential for local economic development is concerning, as it indicates that many community members are not fully utilizing their skills and resources to improve their economic situations. The correlation between moderate financial management skills and low marketing participation highlights the need for comprehensive training programs that not only enhance financial literacy but also provide practical marketing skills.

The analysis of marketing engagement by age group reveals that the 25–35-year-old demographic shows the highest participation rate (40.1%). This age group likely represents the most economically active segment of the population, possibly due to greater risk-taking capacity and immediate livelihood needs. The consistently low participation among those aged 36 and older may indicate established alternative income sources or barriers to adopting new marketing activities. The similar rates of participation between youth (15-24) and older adults (36+) suggest that lifecycle factors may influence economic participation, with younger individuals potentially facing different challenges than their older counterparts.

The near gender parity in marketing participation, with women (37.9%) slightly more engaged than men (34.2%), is noteworthy. This finding contrasts with common patterns in many developing contexts, where women often face greater barriers to economic participation. The minimal gender difference suggests that systemic constraints affecting marketing activities are shared across genders, indicating that both men and women face similar challenges in accessing commercial opportunities. However, the persistent two-thirds non-participation rate across genders highlights the need for systemic changes to support broader economic engagement.

The differences in marketing participation between ethnic groups show that Fulbe respondents (40.5%) engage more than non-Fulbe (35.1%). This disparity may reflect better access to commercial opportunities or stronger trading traditions among the Fulbe. However, the

predominant non-participation across both groups indicates that systemic barriers, such as limited access to resources and market knowledge, are significant factors limiting marketing activities. This suggests that addressing these barriers is crucial for enhancing economic participation across all ethnic groups.

The results highlight the critical role of financial management and marketing skills in mitigating vulnerability to violent extremism. While a majority of respondents engage in financial practices, significant gaps in financial literacy and marketing participation remain. Targeted interventions that address these gaps, particularly for marginalized groups such as women and those with lower skill levels, are essential for fostering economic stability and resilience against extremist narratives. Additionally, addressing systemic barriers to entrepreneurship and enhancing access to training and resources will be vital for unlocking the community's economic potential and reducing susceptibility to radicalization.

#### **4.4 Improvement in marketing skills**

##### **Age group insights**

The data reveals significant variations in marketing skill improvement across different age groups. The 15-24 age group demonstrates the highest levels of confidence in their marketing skills, with 69.73% rating their skills as "Intermediate" or higher. This suggests that younger individuals are not only more optimistic about their abilities but may also be more adaptable to learning new marketing techniques, possibly due to their exposure to modern technologies and social media platforms. In contrast, the 36+ age group, while having the highest proportion of respondents rating their skills as "Good" (71.43%), shows a notable decline in the "Very Good" category (14.29%). This indicates that while older individuals may have accumulated experience, their self-perception of excellence in marketing skills does not match their experience level. The presence of 9.52% rating their skills as "Poor" further emphasizes that age does not necessarily correlate with confidence in marketing capabilities. This mismatch between experience and self-assessment may suggest a need for targeted training programs that not only enhance skills but also build confidence among older community members.

##### **4.4.1 Gender disparities**

The analysis of marketing skills by sex indicates that female community members exhibit strong marketing skill development, with 72.8% achieving "Good" or "Very Good" competency. This is

slightly lower than the 77.3% of males, but the distribution of skills among females shows a bimodal pattern, with higher representation in both the "Very Good" and lower categories ("Poor"). The slightly elevated rates of "Poor" and "Very Poor" among women (6.6% vs. 4.6% for men) warrant attention, as they may indicate barriers to foundational skill acquisition that disproportionately affect women.

The findings suggest that while both genders perceive significant skill improvement, the self-assessment patterns differ. Programs aimed at enhancing marketing skills should adopt a gender-inclusive approach, ensuring that women receive the necessary support and training to overcome barriers. Leveraging the advanced performance of women (32.4% rating "Very Good") could create opportunities for peer mentoring, fostering a supportive environment for skill development.

#### 4.4.2 Ethnic disparities

Significant ethnic disparities in marketing skill development are evident, with the other community members showing stronger outcomes (72.8% rating "Good" or "Very Good") compared to Fulbe (65.6%). The distribution of skills among non-Fulbes is more positive, with a higher percentage in the "Good" category (45.13%) and a lower percentage in "Poor" (4.62%). In contrast, Fulbe respondents have a notable portion rating their skills as "Poor" (23.44%), which may reflect limited access to training opportunities, language barriers, or cultural factors that hinder skill development. The higher "Poor" ratings among Fulbe individuals suggest that targeted interventions are necessary to address the specific challenges they face. Community support systems, such as peer networks or targeted training programs, could play a crucial role in enhancing the marketing skills of Fulbe individuals. By fostering an inclusive environment that recognizes and addresses the unique needs of different ethnic groups, the community can work towards improving overall marketing competencies.

The findings highlight the importance of tailored training programs that consider age, gender, and ethnic differences in marketing skill development. By recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of various demographic groups, community leaders and organizations can design interventions that effectively enhance marketing skills and, consequently, economic opportunities. Moreover, the strong confidence among younger individuals and the potential for skill improvement with experience suggest that mentorship programs could be beneficial. Pairing younger individuals with

older, more experienced community members could facilitate knowledge transfer and build confidence across age groups.

The findings with marketing skills improvement across the three northern regions aligns with existing literature that emphasizes the importance of targeted training programs and community support. Studies highlight the role of age, gender, and ethnic disparities in skill development, suggesting that tailored interventions can enhance marketing competencies and economic opportunities for diverse groups. Furthermore, the literature indicates that younger populations in northern Ghana are more adaptable to modern marketing techniques, which is consistent with findings that show higher confidence levels among the 15-24 age group. This adaptability is often attributed to their familiarity with digital platforms and social media, which are increasingly relevant in contemporary marketing strategies. In terms of gender, previous studies have noted that women in northern Ghana face unique challenges in skill acquisition, echoing the findings that indicate a higher percentage of females rating their skills as "Poor" or "Very Poor." This suggests a need for gender-sensitive approaches in training programs that not only enhance skills but also address barriers to participation and confidence.

Ethnic disparities, particularly between non-Fulbe and Fulbe, are also well-documented in the literature. The significant differences in marketing skill development reflect broader socio-economic factors, including access to education and training resources. The literature advocates community-based initiatives that leverage the strengths of various ethnic groups while addressing the specific challenges faced by marginalized communities.

Overall, the findings on marketing skills improvement in northern Ghana reinforce the need for comprehensive strategies that consider demographic factors, ensuring that all community members have equitable access to skill development opportunities. This approach is vital for fostering economic resilience and reducing vulnerabilities within the region.

#### **4.5 Overview of economic engagement**

The findings indicate that a significant portion of the community (58.15%) is engaged in economic activities, while a notable 41.85% are not actively participating in income-generating work. This disparity highlights the existence of barriers to employment and economic opportunities, which

can contribute to vulnerability to violent extremism. The data suggests that policies aimed at promoting job creation, skills development, and entrepreneurship are essential, particularly for the economically inactive population, to mitigate the risk of individuals turning to extremist groups for support.

#### 4.5.1 Age group analysis

The analysis of economic engagement by age group reveals a clear trend: older individuals are more likely to be engaged in economic activities. Among those aged 15-24, only 43.57% are engaged, indicating potential barriers such as ongoing education or limited job opportunities. This low engagement rate among younger individuals may reflect the challenges they face in transitioning from education to the workforce. In contrast, the 25-35 age group shows a higher engagement rate of 63.98%, suggesting that individuals in this age range are more established in their careers and have likely completed their education. The highest participation is observed among those aged 36 and above (77.94%), reflecting greater job stability and experience. This trend underscores the importance of age in economic participation, indicating that as individuals mature, they are more likely to engage in economic activities, which can enhance their financial stability and reduce susceptibility to extremist influences.

#### 4.5.2 Gender disparities

The findings reveal significant gender disparities in economic engagement. A higher percentage of males (65.22%) are engaged in economic activities compared to females (51.81%). The higher proportion of females (48.19%) not engaged in economic activities suggests potential gender-based barriers, such as caregiving responsibilities, limited access to economic opportunities, or societal norms that influence workforce participation. This gender gap in economic engagement is concerning, as it indicates that women may be disproportionately affected by economic inactivity. Addressing these barriers and promoting gender equality in economic participation could significantly enhance community productivity and income. Initiatives aimed at empowering women, such as providing access to training, resources, and support networks, could help close this gap and foster greater economic resilience.

#### 4.5.3 Ethnic group differences

The data also highlights differences in economic engagement between ethnic groups. The Fulbe population shows a higher engagement rate (63.49%) compared to the non-Fulbe group (56.94%).

This disparity may reflect differences in economic opportunities, livelihood strategies, or socio-cultural factors that influence workforce participation. The Fulbe community's stronger economic participation could be attributed to cultural prioritization of economic activities, such as trade and pastoralism, as well as better access to resources and networks. However, it is noteworthy that despite their higher engagement, the Fulbe community reports weaker self-assessed marketing skills. This could indicate that their economic activities are concentrated in low-skill or informal sectors, which may limit their potential for economic advancement. Addressing skill gaps and providing training opportunities could enhance the Fulbe community's economic capabilities and overall productivity.

The findings underscore the importance of economic engagement as a critical factor in community stability and resilience against violent extremism. The significant barriers to employment faced by younger individuals, women, and certain ethnic groups highlight the need for targeted interventions to promote job creation, skills development, and gender equality in economic participation. By addressing these challenges, communities can enhance their economic stability, reduce vulnerability to extremist influences, and foster a more inclusive and resilient society

#### 4.5.4 Economic activity

The data indicates that farming is the predominant economic activity in the community, underscoring its critical role in ensuring food security and providing income. The high participation rate in animal rearing/livestock complements farming, suggesting that many households engage in both activities, which can enhance overall livelihood security. The diversity of crops cultivated indicates a strategic approach to agriculture that may help mitigate risks associated with market fluctuations and climate variability. The presence of traditional crafts, such as weaving and soap making, not only contributes to the local economy but also plays a vital role in preserving cultural heritage. The trading of agricultural produce reflects a level of market integration that can enhance economic resilience, allowing farmers to secure better prices for their goods.

#### 4.6 Skills assessment

The assessment of skills reveals a generally positive outlook, with a significant majority of individuals rating their skills as good or very good. However, the 10.61% of respondents who

report poor or very poor skills highlight a potential barrier to economic advancement. This gap in capacity may limit productivity and hinder the community's ability to fully capitalize on economic opportunities.

#### 4.6.1 Variation in skill levels by age group

The variation in skill levels by age group suggests that younger individuals (15-24) may be more susceptible to challenges in skill acquisition, as evidenced by a higher percentage of neutral or poor ratings. In contrast, the 25-35 age group demonstrates stronger commitments to skill development, likely due to life experiences and responsibilities. The older age group (36+) shows a more varied skill assessment, indicating potential challenges in adapting to new economic demands.

#### 4.6.2 Ethnic group differences

The differences in skill levels between ethnic groups are noteworthy. The Fulbe community's higher self-assessment of skills may be attributed to their engagement in diverse livelihood activities and community-based learning mechanisms. This perception of stronger economic skills could enhance their ability to navigate economic challenges effectively. In contrast, the non-Fulbe population, while still demonstrating a majority of good skills, shows a higher percentage of individuals rating their skills as poor or very poor, indicating potential barriers to economic engagement.

The findings highlight the importance of agriculture and traditional crafts in the local economy, as well as the need for targeted interventions to address skill gaps and enhance economic opportunities. By focusing on skill development, particularly for younger individuals and marginalized groups, the community can strengthen its economic resilience and improve overall livelihoods. Additionally, fostering cultural preservation through traditional crafts can further enhance community cohesion and economic stability.

### 4.7 Social cohesion, and access to public services

#### 4.7.1 Trust in neighbors

The results indicate a complex landscape of trust within communities, influenced by regional dynamics, age, gender, and ethnicity. More than half of the respondents (60.94%) express trust in their neighbors, indicating a generally positive sentiment towards community relationships.

However, the significant portion of distrust (24.22%) and neutral responses (14.83%) suggests that there are underlying tensions and areas for improvement in community cohesion.

The regional analysis points to varied outcomes with the North-East region having the highest level of trust (65.99%) and the lowest level of distrust (12.79%). This suggests a more integrated community where individuals feel secure in their relationships with neighbors. The Upper West region has the highest negative trust (25.73%), indicating significant polarization and potential issues related to community dynamics. The KII with a Fulbe community member highlights ongoing tensions and prejudices, particularly related to perceptions of cattle theft. In contrast, the Upper-East region provides balanced distribution of responses, with a significant neutral group (25.40%), which indicates a divided opinion. This suggests that while some individuals trust their neighbors, others remain uncertain, pointing to a need for community engagement initiatives.

Age group analysis shows that trust increases with age. The 36+ age group exhibits the highest trust (77.94%), while the younger cohort (15-24 years) shows mixed trust levels, with 33.18% expressing distrust. This trend may reflect the development of stronger community ties and relationships over time. The lower trust levels among younger individuals suggest that targeted initiatives aimed at fostering relationships and community engagement among youth could be beneficial.

The gender disaggregation of trust in neighbors shows similar trust levels with 62.4% of males and 59.6% of females expressing trust. However, females exhibit slightly higher levels of distrust (25.6% vs. 22.7% for males). This indicates that while both genders generally trust their neighbors, women may have heightened concerns about safety or community dynamics.

The ethnic analysis reveals that the Fulbe community has a lower negative trust (19.05%) compared to the non-Fulbe (25.41%), indicating a more favorable view of their neighbors. However, the Fulbe have a lower percentage of strong agreement (16.67%) compared to the non-Fulbe (20.72%), suggesting that while they may agree with the notion of trust, it is not as deeply rooted. However, The KIIs with opinion leaders and Fulbe youth reveal that trust is fragile across communities, particularly due to negative stereotypes associated with the Fulbe. The perception of cattle theft contributes to mistrust, emphasizing the need for structured engagement and dialogue

to rebuild relationships. While there are positive sentiments towards neighbors, significant distrust and neutrality highlight the need for targeted interventions to enhance community cohesion and trust.

The Fulbe community has a higher level of trust in the security services compared to the non-Fulbe community. This is characterized by lower negative trust and a higher percentage of positive responses. The Fulbe's lower negative trust (14.28%) compared to the non-Fulbe (18.38%) indicates that fewer Fulbe respondents' express distrust towards security services. This could reflect more positive experiences or perceptions of security personnel among the Fulbe. The neutral response rates are similar for both groups, with Fulbe at 13.49% and non-Fulbe at 12.43%. This suggests that a comparable number of respondents from both communities are uncertain about their trust in security services. The presence of neutral responses indicates an opportunity for security services to engage with both communities to address concerns and improve perceptions. Targeted outreach and communication strategies could help convert neutral sentiments into positive trust. Higher trust in security services can lead to increased cooperation between the community and law enforcement, which is essential for effective crime prevention and community safety. For example, building this trust will encourage Fulbe individuals to report crimes or suspicious activities, thereby enhancing overall community security.

The findings highlight significant differences in trust levels between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities regarding security services. The higher trust among Fulbe may be attributed to factors such as economic engagement and positive interactions with security personnel. In contrast, the non-Fulbe community's lower trust levels may reflect a need for improved representation and engagement. Addressing these disparities is essential for fostering community cohesion and ensuring that all groups feel valued and secure. Security services should prioritize building trust through inclusive practices, targeted outreach, and economic opportunities to enhance community relations and overall safety.

#### 4.7.2 Social integration

The results from the Social Distance Index (SDI) provide critical insights into the social dynamics between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities, as well as the regional variations in social integration. The average SDI score of 22.56 indicates a moderate level of social distance within

the community. This suggests that while there is some level of interaction and engagement among different ethnic groups, significant barriers to full integration still exist. A moderate score highlights the need for initiatives aimed at fostering community cohesion. Programs that encourage interaction and collaboration between ethnic groups could help reduce social distance and promote a more inclusive environment.

The Ethnic Disparities in Social Distance was obvious from the data. The Fulbe's high percentage of respondents in the low social distance category (58.73%) indicates strong community ties and a willingness to engage with others. Their low percentage of high social distance (4.76%) suggests effective integration and social cohesion. The Fulbe's cultural practices, shared values, and possibly geographic clustering may contribute to their stronger social integration. This cohesion can enhance community resilience and collective identity. In contrast, the non-Fulbe community shows a lower percentage of respondents in the low social distance category (42.88%) and a higher percentage in the high social distance category (11.35%). This indicates a greater degree of separation and potential marginalization. The non-Fulbe community's diversity may lead to less interaction among subgroups, resulting in social fragmentation. This fragmentation can hinder collective action and weaken community bonds.

On the Regional Variations in Social Distance, The North-East region stands out with 56.23% of respondents in the low social distance category and only 4.04% in the high category. This strong integration suggests effective community networks and positive relationships among different ethnic groups. The high level of integration in the North-East aligns with previous findings of high trust in neighbors and local authorities, indicating that social cohesion is linked to community safety and governance. The Upper West region shows significant polarization, with 16.18% experiencing high social distance. This suggests challenges in community cohesion and may reflect underlying tensions or conflicts. The high isolation in this region correlates with polarized trust in authorities, indicating that addressing social distance could improve perceptions of governance and community safety. The Upper East region's findings reveal 32.26% in the low social distance category and 53.63% in moderate social distance, indicating fragile cohesion. The high percentage of moderate social distance suggests ambivalence or systemic barriers to integration. The region's lower economic engagement may contribute to higher social distance, highlighting the need for economic initiatives to foster community ties and reduce isolation.

The findings from the Social Distance Index (SDI) results can be contextualized within the broader literature on conflicts in Northern Ghana, which has historically been characterized by ethnic tensions, resource competition, and social fragmentation. Historical factors, such as past conflicts and existing ones as well as policies, may have shaped the current social dynamics. The Fulbe's strong intra-group cohesion could be a response to historical marginalization, while the non-Fulbe's diversity may lead to varied experiences and perceptions of community.

#### **4.8 Interaction with authorities and public service providers**

The data presented in Tables 31 to 38 provides a comprehensive overview of community interactions with authorities and public service providers, revealing important insights into the nature of these engagements, perceptions of service delivery, and the overall empowerment of community members.

A slight majority (53.9%) of community members reported interacting with authorities or public service providers, indicating a near-even split in institutional connectedness. The high non-interaction rate (46.1%) suggests that while some community members engage with authorities, a significant portion does not, which could reflect either adequate service delivery requiring minimal contact or systemic barriers to access. The near-even split indicates that there is partial integration between communities and public institutions. Efforts to enhance engagement could focus on understanding the reasons behind the non-interaction, whether they stem from satisfaction with services or barriers to access.

The analysis of the frequency of interaction shows that among those who interact with authorities, a significant portion (42.5%) does so rarely, with only 19.6% reporting weekly or daily contact. This suggests that most relationships with authorities are transactional rather than sustained. The predominance of rare interactions may indicate that community members do not feel the need for frequent engagement, possibly due to satisfactory service delivery. However, it could also suggest a lack of ongoing dialogue and relationship-building between communities and authorities, which is essential for fostering trust and collaboration.

On the purpose of interactions, program participation was dominant for most of the respondents. The primary purpose of interactions is participation in community programs (45.8%), followed by

seeking services (32.7%) and reporting issues (20.7%). This indicates a strong program-driven engagement model, with limited grievance reporting. The high rate of program participation suggests that authorities are effective in mobilizing residents for organized initiatives. However, the low issue-reporting rate may indicate either satisfactory service delivery or underutilized feedback mechanisms. Authorities may need to create more accessible channels for community members to voice concerns and report issues. However, Community members reported mixed quality in their interactions with authorities, with only 12.0% reporting very high satisfaction and low-quality experience (23.7%). The concentration of responses in the intermediate-to-high range, 32.4% rating it as intermediate and nearly equal proportions describing high (31.9%), suggests generally adequate service delivery, but there is significant room for improvement. The relatively low percentage of very high satisfaction indicates that authorities may need to enhance the quality of their interactions and services to build stronger community trust.

On empowerment in decision-making, nearly two-thirds (65.6%) of community members feel empowered to participate in local decision-making, while 34.4% report lacking such empowerment. This indicates substantial but incomplete inclusion in participatory processes. The gap between those who feel empowered and those who engage with authorities (11.7 percentage points) suggests that while many community members believe they have a voice, barriers still exist that prevent full participation. Addressing these barriers is crucial for fostering inclusive governance.

Community members primarily access decision-making through structured groups (96.4% via community organizations) and town halls (73.4%), with traditional forums like communal labor (57.5%) also playing significant roles. However, formal grievance mechanisms remain underutilized (5.2%). The strong reliance on community groups indicates a robust civil society infrastructure, but the minimal use of formal feedback tools suggests a preference for interpersonal engagement or distrust in anonymous systems. Authorities should consider enhancing formal mechanisms to encourage broader participation and feedback.

Perceptions of Public Service Delivery were mixed. Both Fulbe and non-Fulbe groups show mixed perceptions regarding access to public services, with notable dissatisfaction among a significant percentage of respondents. The Fulbe group has a higher percentage of respondents who strongly

disagree (40.00%) compared to the non-Fulbe group (34.67%). The dissatisfaction expressed by both groups highlights the need for ongoing efforts to improve public service delivery and address the specific needs of minority groups. Structural barriers and potential discrimination may hinder access, necessitating targeted interventions to ensure equitable service delivery.

#### **4.9 Improvement in public services**

The data presented in Table 47 reveals community members' perceptions regarding various public services that require improvement. It is evident that there are systematic deficiencies in healthcare delivery (40.03%). This concern is particularly pressing in regions where access to quality health services can significantly impact community well-being. The emphasis on education (33.04) as second ranked services indicates a recognition of the need for better educational infrastructure and resources. The importance placed on clean drinking water (29.46%) reflects ongoing public health concerns. Access to safe water is fundamental for preventing waterborne diseases and ensuring overall community health.

The qualitative insights gathered from the key informant interviews (KIIs) with Fulbe youth and opinion leaders reveal significant challenges and perceptions regarding public services, particularly in the areas of water, education, and health. These challenges are compounded by socio-economic factors and cultural dynamics that affect the Fulbe community's access to essential services.

##### **4.9.1 Water access and management**

Water emerged as a critical public service requiring improvement, with multiple respondents highlighting its importance for both human consumption and livestock. The severe drought mentioned by an opinion leader underscores the vulnerability of the community to climate-related shocks, which have direct implications for food security and economic stability. The loss of livestock due to water shortages not only affects the immediate livelihood of families but also has long-term repercussions on their ability to purchase food and other essentials.

The call for better access to water reservoirs and veterinary services indicates a need for comprehensive water management strategies that consider the dual needs of both people and livestock. The suggestion to create early warning systems for droughts reflects an understanding of the need for proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate variability. Such systems

could enhance community resilience by allowing for better planning and resource allocation during periods of drought.

#### 4.9.2 Education and discrimination

Education is another area identified as needing significant improvement. The Fulbe youth leader's comments about discrimination faced by Fulbe children in schools highlight a critical barrier to educational access. This discrimination not only discourages attendance but also perpetuates cycles of marginalization and socio-economic disadvantage. The need for government and local leaders to intervene in resolving conflicts between farmers and the Fulbe community is crucial, as these tensions can further exacerbate educational disparities and hinder community cohesion. The lack of accessible education for Fulbe children is a pressing concern, as it limits their future opportunities and contributes to the community's overall vulnerability. Addressing these issues requires targeted interventions that promote inclusivity and ensure that all children, regardless of their ethnic background, have equal access to quality education.

#### 4.9.3 Health services accessibility

The challenges in accessing healthcare services, particularly for those living in remote areas, are compounded by infrastructural deficiencies and insecurity. The comments from the non-Fulbe respondent about healthcare professionals leaving due to safety concerns highlight a critical issue affecting the quality and availability of health services. The perception of the area as a "war zone" reflects the broader context of insecurity that can deter healthcare providers and limit access to essential services.

The Fulbe community's experiences of living "deep inside the bushes" further complicate their access to healthcare, as geographical barriers can prevent timely medical attention. This situation necessitates innovative solutions, such as mobile health clinics or telemedicine services, to reach underserved populations effectively.

#### 4.9.4 Socio-economic challenges for minority groups

The specific challenges faced by the Fulbe community, including limited access to land and resources, underscore the socio-economic disparities that exist between ethnic groups. The Fulbe's reliance on landowners for farming and the lack of land ownership for their wives highlight systemic inequalities that restrict their economic opportunities. This situation is exacerbated by the

cultural dynamics that limit women's access to land and resources, further entrenching gender disparities within the community. The restrictions on fetching water from community boreholes illustrate the social hierarchies that can exist within communities, where access to resources is controlled by those in positions of power. This dynamic not only affects the Fulbe community's ability to secure basic needs but also contributes to feelings of exclusion and marginalization.

The KII with minority groups such as the Fulbe revealed challenges in accessing public services especially in education, healthcare and functionality of some services. For example, discrimination in education was mentioned as a barrier for Fulbe children, leading to lower school attendance rates. Furthermore, healthcare services are often inaccessible especially to Fulbe communities due to geographic isolation, with many living in remote areas. Lastly, existing public infrastructure is often non-functional, leading to a lack of trust in public services.

#### **4.10 Awareness on PVE and conflict resolution structures**

##### **4.10.1 Crime reporting rate**

The results from the crime reporting survey and qualitative insights provide a comprehensive overview of the crime landscape in the studied regions, highlighting significant concerns regarding safety, security, and community well-being. The high crime reporting rate of 70.48% suggests that crime is a prevalent issue within the communities. This figure indicates that many residents are experiencing or witnessing criminal activities, which can contribute to a pervasive sense of insecurity. The 29.52% of respondents who reported no crime could reflect genuinely safer neighborhoods or potential underreporting, particularly in areas where fear of retaliation or distrust in law enforcement may discourage individuals from reporting crimes.

The data reveals that theft is the most commonly reported crime, accounting for 56.55% of incidents. This prevalence of property crime suggests that individuals are particularly concerned about the security of their belongings, which can deter investment in long-term agricultural ventures and contribute to economic instability. The significant rates of violent crime (19.40%) and drug-related crimes (18.25%) further indicate that while property crime is a major issue, there are also serious concerns regarding personal safety and substance abuse within the community. Vandalism, while reported at a lower rate (5.80%), still represents a concern, as it can contribute to the overall deterioration of community trust and cohesion. The qualitative data supports these

findings, with reports of stolen livestock and vandalized farms highlighting the tangible impacts of crime on residents' livelihoods.

The analysis of crime statistics across the three regions, North-East, Upper West, and Upper East, reveals distinct patterns. The Upper West region stands out with an exceptionally high rate of theft (78.5%) and vandalism (15.89%), suggesting that property crime is particularly acute in this area. The low rates of violent and drug-related crimes in this region may indicate a different social dynamic or community response to crime. In contrast, the Upper East region shows a notable incidence of drug-related crimes (30.53%), which raises concerns about substance abuse and its potential link to economic factors, such as unemployment and lack of opportunities for youth. The North-East region presents a more balanced distribution of theft and violent crime, indicating a complex interplay of factors influencing crime rates.

The qualitative insights from key informant interviews provide a deeper understanding of the community's perceptions of crime. The increase in cattle theft, particularly affecting the Fulbe community, has led to heightened tensions and feelings of insecurity. The unfair suspicion directed at Fulbe individuals, even without evidence, exacerbates existing ethnic tensions and can lead to social fragmentation. Furthermore, the comments from the educational planner regarding rising drug use and theft, particularly of motorbikes, highlight the broader socio-economic challenges facing the community. The mention of armed robbery in certain areas underscores the need for improved security measures and community safety initiatives.

#### **4.11 Using violence to achieve personal, political or social goals**

The findings presented in the tables indicate a strong opposition to the use of violence as a means to achieve personal, political, or social goals among the surveyed population. With a total opposition rate of 83.38%, it is clear that the majority of community members favor peaceful conflict resolution over violent methods. This inclination towards nonviolence is further supported by qualitative insights from key informant interviews (KIIs), which emphasize a collective belief in dialogue and peaceful means of addressing disputes.

The age group analysis shows that attitudes toward violence reveals notable differences in perspectives. Among respondents aged 15-24, 78.01% express opposition to violence, but a

significant 10.37% still support it. This suggests that younger individuals may be more susceptible to justifying violence under certain circumstances, possibly due to factors such as peer influence, socio-economic pressures, or a lack of life experience. In contrast, the 25-35 age group shows a slightly higher total opposition to violence at 85.22%, indicating that as individuals mature, they may develop stronger commitments to nonviolent approaches, likely influenced by increased responsibilities and life experiences. The 36+ age group demonstrates the highest opposition to violence, with 82.35% rejecting it. This trend suggests that older individuals may have a more profound understanding of the consequences of violence, leading to a greater preference for peaceful conflict resolution.

The data analysis points to gender differences in the use of violence. The findings also highlight slight differences in attitudes toward violence between genders. Among females, 83.01% oppose the use of violence, with a higher percentage of women (48.75%) strongly disagreeing compared to men (45.03%). This may reflect women's roles in communities as caregivers and peacekeepers, which could influence their perspectives on conflict resolution. The qualitative insight from a Fulbe woman, who expressed concerns about being ignored in disputes, underscores the importance of considering women's voices in discussions about conflict and violence. Men, while also largely opposed to violence (81.68%), show a slightly higher rate of neutrality (12.42%) compared to women (10.58%). This could indicate that men may feel more pressure to conform to societal expectations regarding masculinity, which can sometimes include justifying violence.

The data on attitudes toward violence by ethnicity reveals that both the Fulbe and non-Fulbe groups exhibit high levels of opposition to violence, with 85.72% of Fulbe respondents and 81.62% of non-Fulbe respondents rejecting violent means. However, the Fulbe group shows a slightly stronger overall opposition, while the non-Fulbe group has a larger share of strong opposition (49.10% compared to Fulbe's 38.10%). Interestingly, the support for violence is notably higher among the non-Fulbe group (7.03%) compared to the Fulbe (2.38%). This disparity may be linked to the differing experiences and perceptions of security and justice within these communities. The qualitative insights suggest that some individuals, particularly from the non-Fulbe group, may feel that violence is a necessary response when they perceive a lack of support from security personnel in restoring justice.

The overall rejection of violence as a means to achieve goals reflects a community ethos that values dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution. However, the presence of individuals who remain neutral or supportive of violence indicates underlying tensions and frustrations that may need to be addressed. Factors such as socio-economic conditions, political influences, and experiences of injustice can contribute to these attitudes.

The qualitative insights from KIIs reinforce the quantitative findings, highlighting the importance of community dialogue and the need for effective conflict resolution mechanisms. The sentiment expressed by the Fulbe leader, that the majority believe in peaceful resolution, suggests a potential pathway for community leaders and policymakers to foster nonviolent approaches to conflict.

The findings indicate a strong community preference for nonviolence, with significant variations in attitudes based on age, gender, and ethnicity. While the majority of respondents reject violence, the presence of neutral and supportive views highlights the need for ongoing dialogue and engagement to address the underlying factors that may lead individuals to consider violence as an option. Promoting inclusive conflict resolution strategies that incorporate the voices of all community members, particularly marginalized groups, will be essential in fostering a culture of peace and resilience.

#### **4.12 Awareness of methods used by violent extremist groups to recruit and radicalize people**

The findings regarding the methods used by violent extremist (VE) groups to recruit and radicalize individuals reveal significant insights into the vulnerabilities within communities and the strategies employed by these groups. The data indicates a concerning lack of awareness among the population about the tactics used by VE groups, as well as the specific demographics that are most susceptible to recruitment.

##### **4.12.1 Awareness of recruitment methods**

The survey results show that 63.73% of respondents are unable to identify at least three methods used by VE groups for recruitment and radicalization. This lack of awareness is alarming, as it suggests that a significant portion of the population may be ill-equipped to recognize the signs of radicalization or the strategies employed by these groups. The ability to identify these methods is

crucial for community resilience and prevention efforts, as it enables individuals to be more vigilant and proactive in countering extremist narratives.

The 36.27% of respondents who can identify recruitment methods may represent a more informed segment of the population, but this number is still relatively low. This gap in knowledge highlights the need for educational initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the tactics used by VE groups, including the use of propaganda, social media, and community engagement strategies.

#### 4.12.2 Target demographics for recruitment

The data in Table 45 reveals that unemployed youth are the most targeted demographic by VE groups, accounting for 85.46% of cases. This finding underscores the critical link between unemployment and vulnerability to radicalization. Young people who lack job opportunities may be more susceptible to the promises of VE groups, which often exploit their desperation and desire for purpose.

Additionally, individuals who have lost their jobs or sources of livelihood represent 50.51% of the targeted population. This highlights the economic instability that can lead to feelings of hopelessness and marginalization, making these individuals prime candidates for recruitment. The response reveals that adult men (26.58%) and traditional leaders (13.07%) are also targeted. This further illustrates the strategic focus of VE groups on influential figures and those who may have the capacity to mobilize others.

The presence of employed youth (10.13%) and children (9.69%) among responses for the targeted groups indicate that VE groups are not solely focused on the unemployed but are also looking to recruit individuals from various backgrounds. The relatively low percentage of adult women (7.05%) as targets suggests that VE groups may prioritize male recruits, although this does not negate the importance of addressing the vulnerabilities of women in the context of radicalization. The qualitative insights from key informant interviews (KIIs) provide additional context to the quantitative findings. Opinion leaders emphasized that the lack of job opportunities is a significant factor driving individuals toward VE groups. This aligns with the data showing that unemployed youth are the primary targets for recruitment. The desperation for work can lead individuals to seek out alternative avenues, including those offered by extremist groups.

The mention of the provision of social amenities in deprived communities as a recruitment strategy highlights the importance of addressing underlying socio-economic issues. VE groups often exploit the lack of basic services and opportunities in marginalized areas, positioning themselves as alternative providers of support to community.

Furthermore, the use of emotive language in social groups to attract disaffected or marginalized individuals is a critical tactic employed by VE groups. This strategy capitalizes on feelings of alienation and disenfranchisement, creating a narrative that resonates with those who feel overlooked by mainstream society. By framing their messages in a way that appeals to emotions, VE groups can effectively recruit individuals who are seeking belonging and purpose.

The findings indicate a significant gap in awareness regarding the methods used by violent extremist groups to recruit and radicalize individuals, particularly among vulnerable populations such as unemployed youth. The data underscores the need for targeted educational initiatives to raise awareness and build resilience within communities. Addressing the socio-economic factors that contribute to radicalization, such as unemployment and lack of social amenities, is essential in mitigating the appeal of VE groups. Additionally, understanding the emotional and psychological tactics used by these groups can inform more effective counter-narratives and community engagement strategies. By fostering economic opportunities and promoting social cohesion, communities can work towards reducing the risk of radicalization and enhancing overall security.

#### **4.13 Community perceptions of vulnerability preparedness**

The data suggests a mixed perception of preparedness within the community, with a notable lack of confidence (50.07%) in their readiness to confront violent extremism. Across the study regions, there is a significant gap in awareness regarding the methods used by violent extremist groups to recruit and radicalize individuals. This low confidence can be explained by the lack of first, a comprehensive understanding of what violent extremism entails, including its causes, signs, the tactics used by extremist groups and secondly, the policies, strategies and frameworks developed by the state to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE).

#### 4.13.1 Vulnerability to violent extremism

The average score of 89.87 suggests that, on average, community members exhibit a moderate level of vulnerability to VE. Since the average score is closer to the midpoint of the range (87), it indicates that while some individuals may be highly vulnerable, others are significantly less so. This suggests a mixed landscape of vulnerability within the community. An average score of 89.87 suggests that a significant portion of the community may be at risk of radicalisation or recruitment by VE groups. This level of vulnerability may be influenced by various factors, including socioeconomic conditions, social cohesion, and exposure to extremist ideologies. The wide range between the minimum (29) and maximum (145) scores suggests that there are significant differences in vulnerability levels among community members. This variability may be influenced by factors such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and personal experiences. In addition, isolation as mentioned by the Fulbe groups may serve as a contributing factor to vulnerability. The feelings of neglect as captured in the narratives of the respondents can contribute to a sense of vulnerability, making individuals more receptive to extremist ideologies.

The data presents a clear picture of vulnerability to violent extremism across different demographics. The overwhelming trend across all categories indicates a high level of vulnerability to violent extremism. The data indicates that both younger individuals (15-35 years) and both genders (male and female) are highly vulnerable to violent extremism, with percentages consistently above 85%. This age groups, 15-24 (85.06%) and 25-35 (91.13%), show the highest percentage of individuals classified as highly vulnerable. Young people are often in a transitional phase of life, facing identity crises, peer pressure, and socio-economic challenges. These factors can make them more susceptible to extremist ideologies that promise belonging, purpose, or a sense of identity. Older individuals above 36 years may have more established social networks and coping mechanisms, which could provide some resilience against extremist influences. However, the data still indicates that a significant portion of this demographic is vulnerable.

The Fulbe ethnic group shows the highest vulnerability, which may be linked to historical marginalization, socio-economic challenges, and cultural factors. This suggests that targeted interventions are necessary to address the specific grievances and needs of this group to prevent radicalization. The non-Fulbe group also shows a high level of vulnerability, though slightly lower than the Fulbe. This indicates that while they may have some protective factors, they are still

significantly at risk. The data suggests that both groups may face similar socio-economic challenges that contribute to their vulnerability.

The high percentage of vulnerability among females (88.86%) indicates that women are not only victims but can also be targeted for recruitment into extremist groups. This challenges traditional narratives that often focus solely on male recruitment and highlights the need for gender-sensitive approaches in countering violent extremism. Similarly, males show a high level of vulnerability, consistent with the understanding that young men are often the primary targets for extremist recruitment. The data suggests that both genders are at risk, but the motivations and roles may differ.

#### 4.13.2 Resilience to VE

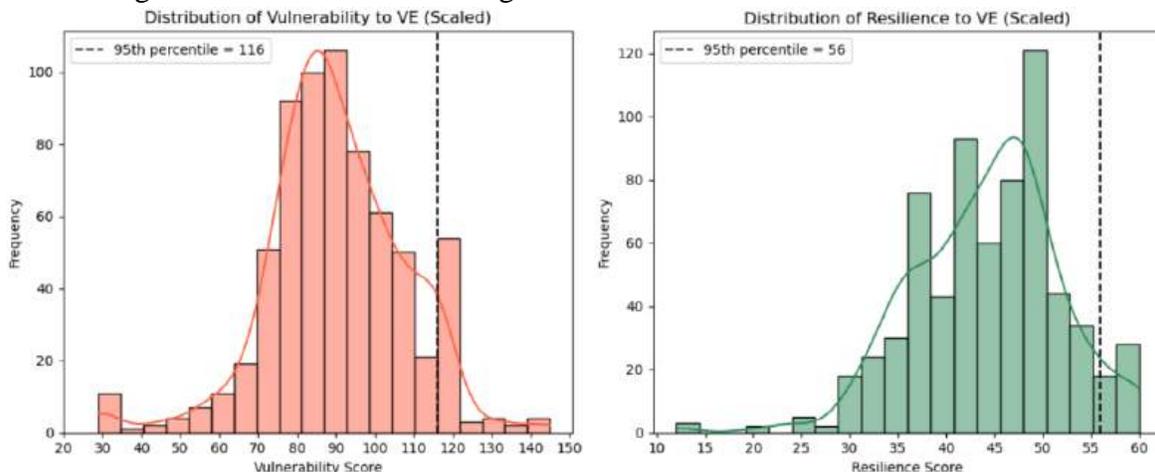
The scores range from a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 60, indicating variability in resilience levels among community members. The average score of 44.15 suggests that, on average, community members exhibit a relatively high level of resilience to VE. The average score of 44.15 is closer to the upper end of the range, indicating that many individuals in the community possess protective factors that help them resist radicalization and recruitment by VE groups. The relatively high average score may reflect positive community dynamics, such as strong opposition to violence, trust in neighbors, strong social cohesion, effective local leadership, and active engagement in community affairs. The strong family ties, friendships, and community connections evidenced in the study practical support, enhancing resilience against VE. The findings regarding resilience to violent extremism across different demographics present a positive outlook, indicating that a significant majority of individuals in the three regions exhibit high resilience. The high resilience levels among the age groups suggest that many young people possess effective coping mechanisms, social support networks, and access to resources that help them navigate challenges. The complete resilience (100%) observed in the 36+ age group indicates that older individuals have well-established social networks and life experiences that contribute to their ability to resist extremist influences.

The resilience observed in both the Fulbe (98.41%) and non-Fulbe (96.76%) suggest that these communities have strong social ties and cultural values that promote solidarity and support. The resilience observed in these ethnic groups may be linked to cultural practices that emphasize

community cohesion, mutual support, and shared identity. The high resilience level among females (96.38%) and males (97.83%) indicates that both women and men play a significant role in community stability and resistance to radicalization. While they may be seen as more vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups, the data suggests that many have strong resilience factors in place.

Notably, the correlation between the vulnerability and resilience indices is positive but weak ( $r = 0.20$ ). This finding challenges the assumption that resilience is merely the absence of vulnerability. Instead, it suggests that individuals can simultaneously experience conditions that heighten their vulnerability to violent extremism (eg., marginalization, unemployment) while also possessing strong protective factors (eg., trust in community, strong personal values). This duality was further confirmed by the distribution patterns, where many respondents scored relatively high on both indices. Such complexity underscores the importance of designing interventions that do not treat resilience and vulnerability as opposing forces, but rather as coexisting realities that must be addressed in parallel.

The distribution curves further support the interpretation that vulnerability and resilience can coexist. From a programmatic perspective, the 95th percentile thresholds can be used to identify individuals who may benefit most from targeted interventions. Specifically, individuals scoring 116 or higher on the vulnerability scale represent the top 5% most vulnerable and could be prioritized for support. Likewise, those scoring below 56 on the resilience scale fall outside the most resilient group and may lack key protective factors. These thresholds provide a data-driven basis for beneficiary selection, ensuring that programming reaches those with the greatest need for both risk mitigation and resilience-building efforts.



# SECTION FIVE

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERVENTIONS

### 5.1 Introduction

The CDD-Ghana and GCERF initiated this baseline study aimed at understanding the socio-economic conditions, livelihoods, vulnerability to violent extremism and market needs of selected communities in the Upper East, Upper West, and North-East regions of Ghana. Specifically, the baseline assessed the root causes of conflicts prevalent in the communities, existing peace-building mechanisms, and the prevailing peace and security situation in the target communities. Furthermore, the baseline assessed the skills gaps and market needs of the target population, particularly focusing on employability and income-generating opportunities.

The study adopted a cross-sectional design using the mixed-methods approach. In order to achieve these objectives, a total of 15 districts across the Upper East (Builsa North, Bawku Municipal, Nadbam, Bongo, Kassena-Nankana East, Bolgatanga East), Upper West (Lambussie, Nandom, Wa West, Lawra Municipal), and North-East (Bunkpurugu-Nyakpanduri, Yunyoo-Nasuan, Chereponi, East Mamprussi, West Mamprussi) regions. A random sample of 677 respondents was selected from a total population of 1,334,399. In addition, 42 key informant which include members from the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities, Immigration Officers, Presiding member of the assembly, radio journalists, opinion leaders, and public servants, women youth group leaders. A structured questionnaire and KII guides were the main tools for the data collection.

### 5.2 Summary of key findings

#### Socio-economic inclusion

1. An alarming 97.06% of community members lack adequate productive assets, severely impacting their livelihoods and heightening their susceptibility to economic shocks. Factors influencing socio-economic vulnerability include climate change, youth unemployment, and limited access to resources especially for Fulbe women and youth. The frequent occurrence of shocks, especially environmental ones like drought, highlights the fragility of their economic circumstances.
2. The sustainability of livelihoods is significantly compromised, with only 2.94% of community members possessing sufficient resources, such as land or livestock. Key productive assets identified include land, livestock, and traditional farming and herding

tools. The productive assets that are crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity were mainly land, seeds, fertilizers, and water. The findings suggest limited access to these assets leading to disparities within the communities studied.

3. The assessment of financial management and marketing skills reveals a mixed picture. While a majority of respondents (51.40%) rated their skills as "good" or "very good," a notable minority (19.9%) struggle with basic skills. This disparity suggests that while some community members possess a solid understanding of financial practices, others such as Fulbe women may face barriers to accessing training or resources necessary for skill development.
4. The findings point to a high level of vulnerability to shocks. Nearly 50% of respondents reported experiencing shocks (such as drought or disease) in the past year, with limited capacity to recover, particularly noted in the Upper West region. The lack of access to essential resources, such as water, agricultural inputs, and financial aid, severely limits the community's ability to recover from shocks. Fulbe leaders and youth point to insufficient government intervention and lack of secure grazing land, water points, and better market access as a critical barrier to recovery.
5. The findings regarding the ability to recover from shocks and stresses within the surveyed communities reveal different levels of capacity of resilience and vulnerability. The average recovery score of 3.87, with a range from a minimum of 2 to a maximum of 6, indicates that while some individuals possess the capacity to bounce back from adverse events, a significant portion of the population remains at risk due to limited resources and support systems.
6. The predominance of environmental shocks, particularly drought, underscores the community's reliance on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. The interconnectedness of farming and herding means that adverse environmental conditions can have cascading effects on food security and economic stability. This vulnerability is

exacerbated by climate change, which poses ongoing threats to agricultural productivity and livestock health.

7. The findings also indicate that systemic barriers, such as limited access to financial resources, healthcare, and public services, hinder recovery efforts. This lack of access to essential resources, such as water, agricultural inputs, and veterinary services, severely limits the community's ability to recover from shocks.
8. Social capital plays a crucial role in recovery efforts. Community members, particularly women, often rely on informal support networks, such as savings groups and food-sharing practices, to cope with shocks. These social ties can enhance resilience and provide a safety net during difficult times.
9. Although a majority of respondents rated their financial and marketing skills as "good" or "very good," a notable 19.9% struggle with fundamental skills. This deficiency underscores the skills gaps that exist in the study communities and the constraints to economic participation.
10. A significant minority (19.9%) struggle with basic skills. This disparity highlights the urgent need for targeted training programs that cater to the specific needs of marginalized groups, particularly women and the Fulbe community, who may face additional barriers to skill development.
11. Approximately 58.15% of community members are engaged in economic activities, primarily in farming and animal rearing. However, the effectiveness of these activities is often compromised by inadequate skills, which can limit productivity and hinder recovery from economic shocks. The findings suggest that enhancing skills in these areas is crucial for maximizing the potential of existing economic activities.
12. The data reveals that farming, animal rearing, and traditional crafts (such as weaving and soap making) are the predominant economic activities in the community. This indicates a

strong reliance on agriculture and livestock for livelihoods, suggesting that any market needs assessment should prioritize enhancing productivity and market access in these sectors.

13. The assessment indicates a variety of skills and trades across the study districts, with significant engagement in agricultural production and traditional crafts. This diversity presents opportunities for developing tailored training programs that align with local market demands, enabling community members to enhance their skills and improve their economic prospects.
14. Despite the presence of viable economic activities, many community members face barriers to accessing markets. These barriers include inadequate infrastructure, limited access to financial resources, and lack of market information.
15. The data highlights gender disparities in market engagement, with women often facing additional barriers to accessing economic opportunities. Fulbe women prioritize access to resources, such as water and veterinary services, as essential for improving their economic activities. This suggests that any market needs assessment should consider the broader context of resource availability and infrastructure development.

### **Social cohesion, and access to public services**

1. The study reveals moderate social cohesion, with 60.94% of respondents expressing trust in their neighbors. This level of trust can foster community cohesion encouraging individuals to engage in collaborative activities. However, 24.22% of respondents reported distrust highlighting the underlying tensions especially between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities that could hinder social cohesion. Addressing these tensions through community-building initiatives that promote dialogue, and understanding could enhance overall resilience.
2. Trust levels in neighbors' distrust is relatively similar between genders, 62.4% and 59.6% respectively which is essential for fostering social cohesion. The findings further reveal

that women exhibit slightly higher levels of distrust compared to men, 25.6% and 22.7% of males respectively. This indicates that women have heightened concerns about safety or community dynamics, which could stem from the high level of crime, experiences of discrimination and vulnerability to violence. A similar proportion of men and women feel ambivalent about their trust in neighbors. This neutrality may reflect a lack of strong feelings about community relationships.

3. The data indicates that trust levels generally increase with age. Older individuals tend to have more confidence in their neighbors compared to younger age groups. Higher trust levels among older individuals may lead to greater participation in community activities and decision-making processes. This engagement can further strengthen community cohesion and resilience. In contrast, the lower trust levels among the 15-24 age group highlight potential vulnerabilities. Young people feel disconnected from their communities or face challenges in building relationships, which could make them more susceptible to negative influences, including radicalization or extremist narratives.
4. A significant portion of community members (approximately 62.6%) trust local authorities to listen to their voices. This level of trust is considered crucial for effective governance and civic engagement. The high levels of trust in local authorities are likely to encourage greater civic engagement among community members. Despite the overall trust in local authorities, the data shows that 34.4% of respondents feel disempowered to participate in local decision-making. This indicates that while trust exists, there are barriers preventing full engagement. Addressing these barriers is essential for enhancing trust and ensuring that all community members feel included in governance processes.
5. The disparity between those who trust local authorities and those who feel disempowered suggests a potential gap in communication and perception. Local authorities may need to improve their outreach and engagement strategies to ensure that all community members are informed and feel empowered to participate.

6. The findings highlight significant differences in trust levels between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities regarding security services. The higher trust among Fulbe may be attributed to factors such as economic engagement and positive interactions with security personnel. In contrast, the non-Fulbe community's lower trust levels reflect a need for improved representation and engagement.
7. The average SDI score of 22.56 indicates a moderate level of social distance within the community, suggesting that while there is some interaction among different ethnic groups, significant barriers to full integration still exist. More than half of Fulbes (58.73%) fall into the low social distance category, indicating strong community ties and a willingness to engage with others. Approximately 42.88% of non-Fulbes are in the low social distance category, which is significantly lower than the Fulbe.
8. The regional variations in social distance show that North-East exhibits strong integration (56.23%). Upper-East shows high percentage of moderate social distance (53.63%) indicating systemic barriers to integration. In contrast the Upper-West shows significant levels of polarisation with 16.18 percent experiencing high social distance. Furthermore, there is significant barriers to interaction between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities due to mistrust and discrimination.
9. Perceptions of Public Service Delivery were mixed. Both Fulbe and non-Fulbe groups show mixed perceptions regarding access to public services, with notable dissatisfaction among a significant percentage of respondents. The Fulbe group has a higher percentage of respondents who strongly disagree (40.00%) compared to the non-Fulbe group (34.67%). The findings highlight significant barriers to accessing public services, particularly for minority groups like the Fulbe. Challenges such as discrimination based on historical narratives, inadequate infrastructure, limited engagement as well as past government policies impede their ability to obtain essential public services.
10. Health Services (40.03%), Education (33.04%) and Clean Water (29.46%) were the three top-ranked public services that needed improvement across the three regions. Lower

priorities were Security (73.21%) and Telecommunication (93.60%). While security is important in the three study regions, immediate needs for health, education, and water take precedence.

11. The challenges in accessing public services by minority groups such as the Fulbe include discrimination in education, inaccessibility of health facilities due to geographic isolation and the often-non-functional nature of many public amenities.

### **Awareness on PVE and conflict prevention and resolution structures**

1. There is high opposition to the use of violence across age groups with older individuals (36+) showing the highest level of opposition. The 15-24 age group has the highest percentage of support for violence (10.37%), indicating a potential vulnerability among younger individuals.
2. Both genders largely reject the use of violence, with females showing slightly higher opposition (83.01%) compared to males (81.68%).
3. The data shows that individuals from different ethnic backgrounds (Fulbe and non-Fulbe) have varying levels of opposition to violence, with the Fulbe community showing slightly stronger opposition (85.72%).
4. The findings point to a critical gap on awareness on VE. Nearly 64 percent of the respondents failed to identify the recruitment strategies employed by extremist's organizations. This lack of awareness, coupled with high youth unemployment rates, makes the study communities susceptible to exploitation by extremist narratives.
5. There is a significant portion of respondents who feel disempowered to participate in local decision-making (34.4%). This sense of disempowerment can lead to feelings of isolation, making individuals more vulnerable to radicalization.
6. Key informant interviews (KIIs) reflect a general disapproval of violence for personal or political goals, emphasizing a preference for dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution.

7. Only 25.40% of respondents believe that their community is well-prepared to deal with violent extremist acts and propaganda while a slightly lower proportion (24.52%), feel otherwise. The majority of respondents (50.07%) remain uncertain about their community's preparedness to respond to violent extremism.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The study underscores the critical need for enhanced socio-economic inclusion within the surveyed communities, particularly among vulnerable groups such as Fulbe women and youth. The high proportion of community members without sufficient productive assets highlights the fragility of their livelihoods and their heightened susceptibility to economic shocks, particularly in the face of climate change and environmental challenges. In addition, the limited access to essential resources, coupled with systemic barriers to financial support and market engagement, significantly compromises the sustainability of livelihoods. While many community members express confidence in their financial management skills, a notable minority struggles with basic competencies, indicating a pressing need for targeted training programs that address these gaps. Moreover, the reliance on agriculture and livestock for economic stability reveals the interconnectedness of these sectors and the cascading effects of environmental shocks on food security. The role of social capital, particularly among women, is crucial in fostering resilience, yet the barriers to accessing markets and resources remain significant. The objectives under socio-economic inclusion can be realized if comprehensive strategies targeting the strengthening and development of productive asset, skill enhancement, and improved access to resources are promoted. By addressing these challenges, project beneficiaries can better equip themselves to withstand economic shocks, improve livelihoods, and foster a more inclusive and sustainable economic environment.

Secondly, the study reveals the complex reality of social cohesion and access to public services within the study communities. This is characterized by both strengths and significant challenges. The moderate level of trust existing among community members, strain relations, particularly between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities, pose barriers to deeper social integration. The higher levels of distrust reported by women and younger individuals highlight the need for targeted interventions to address safety concerns and foster inclusive community dynamics. In addition, the

high level of trust in local authorities, approximately 62.6%, provides prospects for cooperative efforts between the communities and local government to prevent radicalization and violence. The presence of community members who feel disempowered to participate in decision-making underscores a critical gap in civic engagement that must be addressed to enhance civic participation and governance. The disparities in trust levels between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities regarding security services further emphasize the need for improved representation and engagement strategies to build mutual trust. Lastly, minority groups like the Fulbe face significant barriers to accessing public services, including discrimination, inadequate infrastructure, and limited participation in decision-making. Therefore, prioritizing health services, education, and clean water is essential for addressing these disparities and improving overall community well-being.

Community members in the study community strongly oppose the use for violence for personal gain. The notable support for violence among the 15-24 age group highlights a concerning vulnerability among youth. This demographic's susceptibility to extremist narratives is compounded by high unemployment rates and a lack of awareness regarding recruitment strategies employed by extremist groups. In conclusion, addressing these gaps in awareness and empowerment is essential for strengthening community resilience against violent extremism. Initiatives aimed at enhancing understanding of PVE, promoting inclusive decision-making, and providing support for youth can significantly contribute to reducing vulnerability and fostering a culture of peace and dialogue within the community.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

### ***Socio-Economic Inclusion***

1. CSOs and if possible, MMDAs should undertake public awareness campaigns to educate community members about the importance of social cohesion, trust, and collaboration.
2. MMDAs and traditional authorities should implement programs that provide access to essential productive assets such as land, livestock, seeds, fertilizers, and water resources.

3. CSOs, MMDAs and traditional authorities should develop targeted initiatives to support Fulbe women in acquiring productive assets, including grazing land, access to veterinary services, livestock and farming tools, to enhance their economic participation and independence.
4. CSOs should initiate training programs focusing on financial management, marketing skills, and agricultural best practices, specifically designed for marginalized groups including Fulbe women and youth.
5. Establish market information systems that provide community members with timely information about market prices, demand, and opportunities. This can empower them to make informed decisions about their economic activities.
6. Encourage diversification of livelihoods by promoting alternative income-generating activities, such as traditional crafts (weaving, soap making).
7. Implement programs that focus on climate-smart agricultural practices to enhance resilience against environmental shocks, such as drought. This could include training on sustainable farming techniques and water conservation methods.
8. Promote the formation of savings groups, cooperatives, and community support networks that can provide financial and emotional support during times of crisis. These networks can enhance resilience and foster community solidarity.
9. Advocate for increased government intervention and support for vulnerable communities, particularly in providing secure grazing land, water points, and better market access.

### **Social cohesion, and access to public services**

1. CSOs and MMDAs should implement programs that promote dialogue and understanding between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities to discuss their concerns and build mutual

understanding. This could include community forums, and collaborative projects that encourage interaction and cooperation.

2. CSOs should develop targeted programs for young people (ages 15-24) to foster connections within their communities. This could involve mentorship programs, skills training, and youth-led initiatives that empower them to take an active role in community affairs. In addition, these interactions could be extended to different age groups to facilitate understanding and build trust.
3. Incorporate peace education into school curricula to teach children and adolescents about the importance of non-violence, empathy, and conflict resolution from an early age. This can help shape attitudes toward violence and promote a culture of peace.
4. Launch awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of non-violence and the benefits of peaceful conflict resolution. Use various media platforms, including social media, community radio, and local events, to disseminate messages that promote dialogue over violence.
5. MMDAs and CSO should design community programs that build trust specifically among women to address their unique concerns and experiences. Such initiatives should include workshops on safety, conflict resolution, and community engagement to empower women to participate actively.
6. MMDAs should prioritize investments in health services, education, and clean water access as these are the top-ranked public services needing improvement. Engaging community members in the planning and implementation of these services can enhance their effectiveness and ensure they meet local needs.
7. CSOs and the RCCs should develop and implement conflict resolution mechanisms to address tensions between the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities. This could involve training community leaders in mediation and conflict resolution skills to facilitate dialogue and understanding.

8. CSOs should foster positive interactions between security personnel and community members through community policing initiatives, workshops, and joint activities. This can help build trust in security services, particularly among the non-Fulbe community, and improve perceptions of safety and security.
9. CSOs should advocate for local authorities to develop and enforce policies that address discrimination in public service delivery, particularly for minority groups like the Fulbe. This can involve training public service providers on cultural sensitivity and inclusivity, as well as establishing grievance mechanisms for community members to report discrimination
10. CSO should advocate for MMDAs to use the participatory forums stated in the Local Governance Act, 2016, Act 936 to enable MMDAs to implement feedback mechanisms that allow community members to voice their concerns and suggestions regarding socio-economic initiatives. This could involve regular community meetings, feedback and mechanisms.
11. Introduce economic initiatives aimed at fostering community ties and reducing isolation, especially in the Upper East region where economic engagement is lower.

### **Awareness on PVE and conflict prevention and resolution structures**

1. Develop and implement community awareness programs focused on the dangers of violent extremism and the recruitment strategies used by extremist organizations. These campaigns should target all age groups, with a particular focus on youth, to educate them about the risks and signs of radicalization.
2. Design and implement initiatives that engage young people in constructive activities, such as vocational training, mentorship, and community service. By providing opportunities for personal and professional development, these initiatives can reduce the appeal of extremist narratives and foster a sense of belongingness.

# APPENDICES

3. Address the sense of disempowerment among community members by creating inclusive platforms for local decision-making.
4. Work with local leaders, including religious and traditional authorities, to promote messages of peace and non-violence. Their influence can be instrumental in shaping community attitudes and countering extremist narratives.
5. Encourage dialogue and collaboration between different ethnic groups, such as the Fulbe and non-Fulbe communities, to build mutual understanding and trust. Inter-ethnic initiatives will help reduce tensions and promote social cohesion.

## APPENDIX I: Survey Instrument

### BASELINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

**Project Title: “*Bridging the Gap: Promoting Socio-Economic Inclusion, Social Cohesion, & Peacebuilding for Vulnerable Communities*”**

#### **Introduction**

The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), in partnership with the Centre for Advancing Rural Opportunity (CARO), African Students for Interfaith Tolerance (ASFIT), and Rural Initiatives for Self-Empowerment-Ghana (RISE-Ghana), is conducting a research study to understand the current socio-economic conditions and peace dynamics within local communities.

The information gathered from this survey will help us develop effective interventions to empower vulnerable communities, promote social cohesion, and build resilience against violent extremism.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. Please feel free to skip any question that you are uncomfortable answering. All information provided will be kept strictly confidential and used solely for research purposes.

**Do you consent to participating in this survey?**

[1] Yes, I do

[2] No I don't (*end survey*)

## **SECTION I: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

*In the first part of the questionnaire, I will ask you questions about yourself*

1. District of residence [.....]
2. Community [.....]
3. How old are you? [.....]

*Hint: Age in completed years*

4. Gender of respondent

[1] Male

[2] Female

5. Do you identify yourself as a person with disability(ies)?

[1] No

[2] Yes

6. What is your marital status?

[1] Single

[2] Married

[3] Divorced

[4] Widowed

7. What is your religion?

[1] No religion

[2] Christianity

[3] Islam

[4] African Traditional Religion

[5] Other (please specify)

8. Which ethnic group do you belong to? [.....]

8A. How would you identify yourself?

[1] I am a Fulbe Ghanaian

[2] I am a Fulbe non-Ghanaian

[3] I am not a Fulbe

9. What is your highest level of education?

[1] No education

[2] Primary

[3] Middle school/JSS/JHS

[4] SSS/SHS

[5] Tertiary

10. What is your employment status?

[1] Unemployed

[2] Employed

[3] Self Employed

[4] Casual Worker

[5] Apprentice

[6] Student

11. What is your average monthly household income?

[1] No income

[2] Below GHC 100

[3] GHC 100 to 500

[4] GHC 501 to 1000

[5] GHC 1001 to 2000

[6] GHC 2001 and above

12. How many people (including yourself) are there in your household?

[1] 1 to 3

[2] 4 to 6

[3] 7 to 6

[4] 11 and above

13. Do you own a mobile phone?

[1] No

[2] Yes

14. Do you have access to the internet?

[1] No

[2] Yes

## **SECTION II: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION**

*Now we would like to talk about your socio-economic conditions.*

15. What is your main source of drinking water?

[1] Borehole

[2] Protected dug well

[3] Protected spring water

[4] Public standpipe

[5] Dam

[6] Public provided water/ Ghana water

[7] Vendor-provided water

[8] Others (specify)

16. What type of sanitation facility do you use?

[1] A public pit latrine with slab

[2] A public ventilated improved pit latrine

- [3] A public flush toilet or a composting toilet
- [4] Private pit latrine with slab
- [5] A private ventilated improved pit latrine
- [6] A private flush toilet or a composting toilet
- [7] Open defecation

17. Do you have access to healthcare services?

- [1] No
- [2] Yes

17A. Please specify the type of healthcare facility. *Select all that apply*

- [1] CHPS Compound
- [2] Community health center/clinic
- [3] District hospital
- [4] Regional hospital
- [5] Private hospital
- [6] Private maternity clinic
- [7] Other (please specify)

18. Do you have access to electricity?

- [1] No
- [2] Yes

### **SECTION III: LIVELIHOOD ASSESSMENT**

#### **A. Asset Ownership**

19. Do you own any land or property?

- [1] No
- [2] Yes

20. Do you have access to agricultural resources, such as farming equipment or livestock?

[1] No

[2] Yes

21. Do you own or have access to tools or equipment relevant to your trade or profession?

[1] No

[2] Yes

## **B. Financial Resources**

22. Do you have access to financial resources, such as savings, credit, or loans, to support your livelihood?

[1] No

[2] Yes

22A. Are these resources sufficient to meet your professional needs?

[1] No

[2] Yes

## **C. Support and Training**

23. Have you received any vocational training or skill development relevant to your livelihood?

[1] No

[2] Yes

24. Do you have access to support networks or groups that assist in strengthening your livelihood?

[1] No

[2] Yes

**D. Perceived Sufficiency**

25. On a scale of 1-5, how sufficient do you find your current productive assets in strengthening your livelihood?

[1] Very Insufficient

[2] Insufficient

[3] Neutral

[4] Sufficient

[5] Very sufficient

**E. Business Ownership and Skills Assessment**

26. Do you own a business?

[1] No

[2] Yes

26A. If yes, in which of the following sectors do you operate your business?

[1] Agriculture

[2] Industry/Manufacturing

[3] Services

[4] Other (specify)

26B. If yes to Q24, have you ever received any assistance from family, an NGO, or the government to boost your business?

[1] No

[2] Yes

26C. What was the nature of the assistance?

- [1] Financial (Microloans/grants)
- [2] Training
- [3] Agricultural extension services
- [4] Veterinary services
- [5] Other (specify)

27. In your work or household, do you need to manage finances?

- [1] No
- [2] Yes

27A. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your financial management skills?

- [1] Very Poor
- [2] Poor
- [3] Intermediate
- [4] Good
- [5] Very Good

28. Do you engage in promoting or selling any products or services?

- [1] No
- [2] Yes

28A. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your marketing skills?

- [1] Very Poor
- [2] Poor
- [3] Intermediate
- [4] Good
- [5] Very Good

29. Do you currently engage in any economic activities such as farming, and trading, services?

[1] No

[2] Yes

29A. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your skills to carry out economic activities?

[1] Very Poor

[2] Poor

[3] Intermediate

[4] Good

[5] Very Good

#### **F. Ability to Recover from Shocks and Stresses**

30. Have you experienced any shocks and stresses in the last 12 months?

[1] No

[2] Yes

30A. Which of the following shocks and stresses have you experienced in the last 12 months? *Select all that apply*

[1] Illness

[2] Loss of job

[3] Social exclusion/discrimination

[4] Flood

[5] Pest outbreak

[6] Drought

[7] Inter-group conflict

[8] Extreme poverty

[9] Crime violence

[10] Other (please specify)

30B. To what extent has your ability to meet food needs returned to the level it was before the shocks and stressors you experienced in the last 12 months?

[1] Worse than before

[2] Same as before

[3] Better than before

30C. In light of the shocks you faced in the last 12 months, to what extent do you believe you will be able to meet your food needs in the next year?

[1] Worse than before

[2] Same as before

[3] Better than before

#### **SECTION IV: SOCIAL COHESION ASSESSMENT**

**To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Use the following scale for Q31 to Q34**

[1] Strongly disagree

[2] Disagree

[3] Neutral

[4] Agree

[5] Strongly agree

31. I trust persons from other backgrounds who are in my community or neighborhood.

32. I feel supported by persons from other backgrounds who are in my community or neighbourhood.

33. I trust local authorities to care for our community needs.

34. I trust the security forces to protect our community from danger

The following questions seek to understand your level of willingness to engage with individuals from different ethnic groups in various contexts. For each statement, please indicate your level of willingness using this: 1 represents the closest level of willingness, 2 indicating strong acceptance; 7 represents the farthest level of willingness, indicating strong reluctance.

**35. Use the following scale for Q35A to Q35G**

[1] Closest distance

[2] Very near

[3] Near

[4] Moderately distant

[5] Far

[6] Very far

[7] Very distant

A. I would be willing to marry a Fulbe/Non Fulbe

B. I would be willing to have a Fulbe/Non Fulbe as my close personal friend

C. I would be willing to have a Fulbe/Non Fulbe as my neighbor

D. I would be willing to have a Fulbe/Non Fulbe as my colleague at work

E. I would be willing to have a Fulbe/Non Fulbe as a citizen of my country

F. I would be willing to have a Fulbe/Non Fulbe visit my country as a non-citizen

G. I would be willing to have a Fulbe/Non Fulbe be excluded from associating with my country in any way

**To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Use the following scale for Q36 to Q40**

[1] Strongly disagree

[2] Disagree

[3] Neutral

[4] Agree

[5] Strongly agree

36. I have equitable access to public services such as healthcare services

37. I have equitable access to quality education

38. I have equitable access to clean water and good sanitation

39. I have equitable access to electricity

40. I have equitable access to transportation services.

41. Which of the following public services do you feel need improvement in your community based on your needs? *Rank based on your order of priority*

[1] Health services

[2] Education

- [3] Clean drinking water
- [4] Sanitation
- [5] Electricity
- [6] Transportation services
- [7] Security
- [8] Telecommunication

**42. What are the primary sources of water for your community aside from taps/homes?**

- [1] Boreholes
- [2] Wells
- [3] River
- [4] Piped water
- [5] Others, specify

**43. How reliable is the water supply throughout the year?**

- [1] Very reliable
- [2] There are seasonal shortages
- [3] Not reliable at all

**44. Do you need to travel to fetch water?**

- [1] I do not need to fetch water (it is available at home)
- [2] It depends on the season
- [3] I rely on water vendors/trucks
- [4] I do not have access to a reliable water source

*45. If the response to the above question is 2,3, or 4, then:* **How far do you have to travel to fetch water?**

- [1] Less than 500 meters
- [2] 500 meters to 1 km
- [3] 1 to 2 km

[4] 2 to 5 km

[5] More than 5 km

## **SECTION V: KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

46. Do you experience crimes in your community?

[1] No

[2] Yes

46A. What forms of crimes do you experience in your community? *Select all that apply*

[1] Theft

[2] Vandalism

[3] Drug-related crimes

[4] Violent crime

[5] Other (please, specify)

### **To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

47. Sometimes I think it is better to use violence to achieve personal, political or social goals.

[1] Strongly disagree

[2] Disagree

[3] Neutral

[4] Agree

[5] Strongly agree

48. Do you perceive violent extremism as a threat to your community?

[1] No

[2] Yes

49. What factors do you think contribute to violent extremism in your community? *Select all that apply*

[1] Economic inequality

- [2] Lack of jobs
- [3] Poverty
- [4] Lack of education
- [5] Political instability
- [6] Social isolation
- [7] Other (please specify)

50. In your opinion, which of the following methods do violent extremist groups use to recruit and radicalize people? *Select all that apply*

- [1] By sponsoring their education
- [2] By promising them better livelihoods or employment opportunities
- [3] By assuring them of security and protection
- [4] By providing them money
- [5] By exploiting feelings of social or political exclusion
- [6] By spreading propaganda through social media and other platforms
- [7] By appealing to religious, cultural, or ideological sentiment
- [8] By leveraging personal or family connections to introduce individuals
- [9] By exploiting grievances
- [10] By offering access to influential networks or power
- [11] Other (please specify)

51. How confident do you feel in your ability to identify recruitment and radicalization methods?

- [1] Not confident at all
- [2] Slightly confident
- [3] Moderately confident
- [4] Confident
- [5] Very confident

52. In your opinion, which category of people do violent extremist groups usually target and recruit?  
*Select all that apply*

- [1] Employed Youth
- [2] Unemployed Youth
- [3] People who have lost their jobs/source of livelihood
- [4] Children
- [5] Adult men
- [6] Adult women
- [7] Traditional leaders
- [8] Personnel from the Security Forces
- [9] Other (please specify)

53. Do you believe that your community is well-prepared to deal with violent extremist acts and propaganda?

- [1] No
- [2] Maybe
- [3] Yes

## **SECTION VI: VULNERABILITY TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

54. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? **Use the following scale for Q54A to Q54AC**

- [1] Strongly disagree
- [2] Disagree
- [3] Neutral
- [4] Agree
- [5] Strongly agree

A. I think traditional values are no longer respected in my community.

- B. I think the schools in my area do not offer a good quality of education.
- C. I think society does not transmit strong positive values.
- D. There is a disconnect between what people have studied and the opportunities available in the job market.
- E. My community does not have sufficient infrastructure to pursue higher education.
- F. I am ready to stand up for my religion, no matter what the cost.
- G. I believe that there is only one correct interpretation of religion.
- H. There is a religious or community leader in my community who encourages support for non-state armed groups.
- I. There are not enough job opportunities in my community
- J. It is difficult to access funding and support for small businesses and initiatives.
- K. Joining a non-state armed group offers opportunities for financial and personal gain
- L. Young people in my community are struggling to access opportunities to marry and get respectable jobs.
- M. I feel that resources are being unfairly distributed in my community.
- N. I think people don't get punished enough when they do something wrong.
- O. I have grievances against the police or the military.
- P. The government is not in a position to ensure the safety of the citizens of my region.
- Q. The government does not provide basic services in my area
- R. The judicial system is not functioning properly
- S. There is anger in my community about some of the government's policies.
- T. There are self-advocacy groups that I trust and operate in my community.
- U. Being violent helps me gain the respect of others
- V. I think there are very few positive options for my life.
- W. I don't feel safe
- X. I think that in all circumstances it is a good thing to take the law into one's own hands
- Y. I am angry about the lack of equity or justice in the world/my country/community.
- Z. I'm ashamed because I'm late in life.

AA. I'm not sure what my life is going to be.

AB. Social media and online platforms influence my views about different ethnic or religious groups.

AC. I have family and friends who are involved in non-state armed groups.

## **SECTION VII: RESILIENCE TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

**55.** To what extent do you agree with the following statements? **Use the following scale for Q55A to Q55L**

[1] Strongly disagree

[2] Disagree

[3] Neutral

[4] Agree

[5] Strongly agree

A. I have clear principles and values that guide the way I live my life.

B. I have someone with whom I have constant conversations about life in general.

C. My community does not accept the use of violence to solve problems.

D. The different ethnic groups, religions and socio-professional groups communicate well and maintain good relations in my community.

E. I trust the police and the military to protect me from any danger.

F. I feel that my voice is being heard by the local authorities in my area.

G. I have the feeling that the national government takes citizens' views into account when making decisions.

H. There are structures within my community that allow for conflict and problem resolution.

I. Different beliefs and ways of life are respected in my community.

J. I trust people from different ethnic groups

K. I feel supported by my community

L. I fully understand how and why violent extremist groups recruit and operate in my region.

## SECTION VIII: ANCILLARY INFORMATION

### A. Community Engagement and Information Dissemination Channels

56. Do you have any community engagement events (sports and cultural)?

[1] No

[2] Yes

56A. If yes to **Q56**, do you participate in any of the community events?

[1] No

[2] Yes

56B. If yes to **Q56**, which of the following event(s) do you think is/are more effective in bringing different social groups together?

[1] Sports events

[2] Cultural events

[3] Communal labor

[4] Other (Specify)

57. Do you interact with authorities or public service providers?

[1] No

[2] Yes

57A. If yes to **Q57**, how often do you interact with these authorities or providers?

[1] Rarely

[2] Quarterly

[3] Monthly

[4] Weekly

[5] Daily

57B. If yes to **Q57**, what is the primary purpose of your interactions?

- [1] Seeking services or benefits
- [2] Reporting issues or complaints
- [3] Participating in community programs
- [4] Other (Specify)

57C. If yes to **Q57**, on a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the quality of your interactions?

- [1] Very low
- [2] Low
- [3] Intermediate
- [4] High
- [5] Very high

57D. If no to **Q57**, why don't you interact with authorities or public service providers?

- [1] Lack of trust
- [2] Services not relevant to my needs
- [3] Difficulty in accessing them
- [4] Other (Specify)

57E. If no to **Q57**, would you be interested in interacting with these providers if services were improved?

- [1] No
- [2] Yes

58. Do you feel empowered to participate in community decision-making?

- [1] No
- [2] Yes

58A. If yes to **Q57**, which of the following forums are available for people to participate in community decision-making? *Select all that apply*

- [1] Town hall meetings
- [2] Community groups (youth, women, social clubs, etc)
- [3] Suggestion boxes placed at public places

- [4] Communal labour
- [5] Complaints desk/committee
- [6] Through the media
- [7] Other (please specify)

59. What are your sources of information on public and community issues? *Rank the most sources of your information from 1 to 5*

- [1] The town Cryer/gon-gon
- [2] Radio
- [3] TV
- [4] Newspaper
- [5] The District Assembly/ Information Services Department
- [6] The Member of Parliament
- [7] The Assembly Member
- [8] The Unit Committee
- [9] Family and friends
- [10] Social media

60. If you have any challenges of harassment or crime, including assault and personal abuse, who do you report to? *Rank from 1 to 5 your trusted channel to get assistance when you lodge a complaint*

- [1] The Member of Parliament
- [2] The Assembly Member
- [3] The Unit Committee Members
- [4] The chief and elders of the community
- [5] My tribesmen (ethic leadership)
- [6] The police
- [7] The District Assembly (DCE)
- [8] The media

[9] My religious leaders

## **B. Conflict and Dispute Resolution Methods**

61. What methods are used to resolve conflicts in your community? *Select all that apply*

[1] Mediation by community leaders

[2] Legal intervention

[3] Informal discussions among parties involved

[4] Mediation structures established at the District Assembly

[5] At the chief palace (chief and his elders)

[6] Other (please specify)

62. Do you believe that conflict resolution processes in your community are fair?

[1] No

[2] Yes

## **C. Mechanisms for Crime Reporting**

63. Do you report crimes, criminals, and suspects when you notice one?

[1] No

[2] Yes

63A. If yes to **Q63**, what available channels do you use to report suspected crimes and criminals? *Select all that apply*

[1] Local police station

[2] Anonymous tip line

[3] Community watch groups

[4] Online reporting portal

[5] Social media platforms

[6] Other (please specify)

63B. If no to **Q63**, why don't you report when you notice one?

[1] Fear of retaliation

[2] Lack of trust in authorities

[3] Belief that nothing will be done

[4] Uncertainty about how to report

[5] Personal safety concerns

[6] Other (please specify)

63C. Will you be willing to report any crime you witness?

[1] No

[2] Yes

## **SECTION IX: MARKET SURVEY**

64. In this community, which top three economic activities/ skills would you say are most important?

*Select all that apply*

[1] Farming (millet, maize, sorghum, groundnut, etc)

[2] Animal rearing

[3] Shea harvesting and processing

[4] Weaving traditional smocks (Fugu)

[5] Bead making

[6] Pottery and basket making

[7] Trading agricultural produce

[8] Soap and detergent making

[9] Other (please specify)

65. If you have the opportunity to choose any entrepreneurial skill, which one will be your first, second, and third preference?

- [1] Farming (millet, maize, sorghum, groundnut, etc)
- [2] Animal rearing
- [3] Shea harvesting and processing
- [4] Weaving traditional smocks (Fugu)
- [5] Bead making
- [6] Pottery and basket making
- [7] Trading agricultural produce
- [8] Soap and detergent making

66. Which top 5 trade areas/economic activities do you consider to be more economically viable?  
*Select all that apply*

- [1] Farming (millet, maize, sorghum, groundnut, etc)
- [2] Animal rearing
- [3] Shea harvesting and processing
- [4] Weaving traditional smocks (Fugu)
- [5] Bead making
- [6] Pottery and basket making
- [7] Trading agricultural produce
- [8] Soap and detergent making

67. Which top 5 trades areas/economic activities do you think have ready market in your district?  
*Select all that apply*

- [1] Farming (millet, maize, sorghum, groundnut, etc)
- [2] Animal rearing
- [3] Shea harvesting and processing
- [4] Weaving traditional smocks (Fugu)

- [5] Bead making
- [6] Pottery and basket making
- [7] Trading agricultural produce
- [8] Soap and detergent making

**Thank you for participating in this study. Your time is well-appreciated.**

## **APPENDIX II: Key Informant Interview Guide**

**(Target Groups: Leadership of Minority Groups/Fulbes; Traditional/Opinion Leaders; Leadership of youth/women’s groups, and state security-related agencies)**

### **SECTION I: INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS**

1. Can you tell me about yourself? [Note the gender, ethnicity/social group of the respondent]
2. How long have you lived in this community? [Probe for the number of years of stay]
3. What is the main source of livelihood for members of this community?

### **SECTION II: LIVELIHOOD ASSESSMENT**

#### **A. Asset Ownership**

4. What are the most common productive assets (e.g., land, livestock, tools) available to community members, including minority groups, in this area?  
  
Probe: What productive assets are most relevant to youth (male and female) in this community, and how do they access them?
5. Are there specific challenges faced by community members, particularly minority groups (e.g., Fulbes/refugees), in accessing or maintaining productive assets?
6. How have local initiatives, programs, or interventions impacted access to these assets for vulnerable groups?
7. In your opinion, do these assets enable community members to strengthen their livelihoods? Why or why not? If not, what specific resources do you feel are lacking?

#### **B. Financial Resources**

8. How do community members typically secure financial resources such as savings, credit, or loans?
9. In your opinion, are these financial resources reliable and sufficient to meet the economic needs of community members?

10. What challenges do community members, especially minority groups (such as Fulbes, refugees) face in an attempt to secure financial resources?

### **C. Support and Training**

11. In situations of financial or economic difficulties, what support networks do members of your group/community members typically rely on to strengthen their livelihoods?  
*Probing:* How do these networks contribute to the economic stability of community members/ group?

### **E. Ability to Recover from Shocks and Stresses**

12. Can you share an experience of a significant shock or stress your community faced in the last 12 months?  
- *Probing:* How did this affect livelihood and well-being of different groups such as youth and minority groups (women, Fulbes/refugees)?
13. Do you believe community members have recovered from this shock? If yes, what are the different strategies that community members adopted to help them recover from the shocks? If not, what are the factors that are preventing community members from recovering from this shock?
14. How did the shock affect the ability of community members to meet food needs?
15. What measures do you think should be put in place to help community members become more resilient to such shocks in the future?
16. What financial management and marketing skills do community members typically need to strengthen their livelihoods? *Probe:* Could you provide specific examples of financial management skills (e.g., budgeting, record-keeping, savings planning) that community members lack? Are there any traditional practices or informal systems that people already use to manage finances or market their products?
17. Are there any training programs or initiatives aimed at improving these skills? If so, are they accessible to all groups, including youth and minority groups? *Probe:* What types of skills are taught in these programs, and are they relevant to the community's livelihood activities?  
How do community members usually hear about these programs? Is the information easily accessible?
18. In your opinion, how confident are community members in using financial or marketing skills to improve their livelihoods?

## **SECTION III: SOCIAL COHESION ASSESSMENT**

19. How would you describe trust within your community, especially towards people from different backgrounds? *Probing:* What experiences do you think have generally shaped people's level of trust?

20. What support systems exist in your community? Probe: Do members from minority groups (such as Fulbes and refugees) benefit from these support systems? Yes, why/ No, why not?
21. How would you describe the relationship between the community members and local authority?
22. In your opinion, do community members feel that their voices are heard and their concerns addressed by local authorities? Why or why not?
23. What existing infrastructure is in place for public services (health, education, water (pipelines, boreholes, rainwater harvesting systems))? Probe: How well is the infrastructure maintained? Are there any frequent challenges in service provision or supply disruptions for water? Who is responsible for managing and maintaining such services?
24. What are the main challenges faced by the communities in accessing public services (health, education, sanitation, water)?
25. Are there any particular communities or demographics (e.g. Women, children, marginalized groups) who are disproportionately affected by water scarcity?
26. How do local traditions, customs, or beliefs influence water usage and conservation practice?

**Targeted questions:**

**Q 27-30: For Public institutions:**

27. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that local authorities are responsive to community concerns?
28. Are there specific efforts by local authorities to engage with minority groups, youth, or vulnerable populations in decision-making processes for your community?
29. How do local authorities engage with vulnerable or underrepresented groups, such as youth and minorities, to build trust?
30. What is your level of trust in local authorities to address community needs? *Probing:* Can you provide examples of positive or negative experiences?

**Q31-34 – Target Group: Minority groups (Fulbes, refugees)**

31. To what extent does the Fulbe community trust the security forces to protect you and your community? *Probing:* Have there been instances where you felt particularly safe or unsafe?
32. Describe your willingness to engage with individuals from different ethnic groups. *Probing:* What factors influence your willingness or reluctance?
33. How would you describe community members' access to public services such as education, health, potable water etc? Do minority groups such as Fulbes also have access to these public services?
34. What challenges do Fulbes face in accessing public services?

#### **SECTION IV: KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

35. Has your community experienced any forms of crime recently? Please elaborate.  
*Probing:* How has this affected your sense of security?
36. In your opinion, do you think community members consider it appropriate to use violence to achieve personal or political goals? If yes, what experiences do you think have influenced community members' use of violence to achieve personal or political goals?
37. Do you perceive violent extremism as a threat in your community? Why or why not?
38. In your opinion, what factors contribute to violent extremism in your community?
39. What methods do you believe violent extremist groups use to recruit individuals?  
*Probing:* Have you observed any such methods being used locally? Have you heard or read of any method or people being recruited locally?
40. How prepared do you think your community is to deal with violent extremism? *Probing:* What measures could improve community resilience?
41. How do conflict resolution structures (traditional and opinion leaders, state sponsored local mediation structures, etc) mediate over conflict in this community?
42. What skills do you think have helped conflict resolution structures to mediate over conflict in this community? *Probe:* what skills do conflict resolution structures need to build to improve their effectiveness in resolving conflict in your community?

#### **SECTION V: VULNERABILITY TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

43. What are the key traditional values in your community and how are they respected today?  
*Probing:* Have these values changed over time? If so, what factors have influenced these changes?
44. What challenges do young people in your community face regarding education and employment opportunities? Are there specific barriers such as cost, distance, lack of infrastructure, etc? How do these challenges influence their future prospects for income generation, community involvement, etc? How do you perceive the fairness and effectiveness of government services in your area? *Probing:* What specific areas need improvement?
45. What role do grievances against authorities play in shaping community attitudes?  
*Probing:* Are there particular issues that cause widespread discontent?

#### **SECTION VI: RESILIENCE TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

46. How does your community address conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence? *Probing:* Are there effective structures for conflict resolution?
47. In what ways do community members support each other during times of crisis? *Probing:* Can you share examples of community solidarity?
48. How do you stay informed about the risks and threats related to violent extremism?  
*Probing:* What sources of information do you trust the most?



### APPENDIX III: Summary Baseline Data

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Baseline Value	Questions (as per questionnaire)	Method of Calculation
<b>Outcome A: Youth, women, men and vulnerable populations have increased skills-based employment, access to microloans and have businesses registered</b>				
OTCA-ind-1	% of community members including minority groups with sufficient productive assets to strengthen their livelihood.	30%	Q19-Q25: Section III	<b>Final %</b> = % of respondents that indicate “yes” for Questions Q19 to Q24 and the % of respondents who respond “Sufficient” or “Very sufficient” to Q25
OTCA-ind-2	Ability to recover from shocks and stresses index	Average Score: 1.92	Q30B and 30C Section III	<b>Final Score</b> = The average of the sum of each response to questions Q30B and Q30C. The combined response has a minimum value of 2 and a maximum value of 6.
OTCA-ind-3	% of community members who report improved financial management and marketing skills.	Financial management skills: 32%  Marketing skills: 27%	Q27 - Q28A	<b>Final % (financial management skills)</b> = % of respondents who indicate "yes" to Q27 and respond “Good” or “Very Good” to Q27A  <b>Final % (marketing skills)</b> = % of respondents who indicate "yes" to Q28 and respond “Good” or “Very Good” to Q28A
OTCA-ind-4	% of community members reporting improved skills to carry out economic activities through livelihoods trainings and have access to meaningful livelihoods	40%	Q29 and 29A	<b>Final %</b> = % of respondents who indicate "yes" to Q29 and respond “Good” or “Very Good” to Q29A
<b>Outcome B: Communities have enhanced social cohesion, and access to public services</b>				
OTCB-ind-1	% of community members who trust people in their neighbourhood (disaggregated by age and gender).	<b>Gender</b>  Male: 62%  Female: 60%	Q31, Q32: Section IV	<b>Final %:</b> % of population subgroup (for e.g., by gender) who indicate “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” to Q31

		<b>Age</b> 15-24: 50% 25-35: 61% 36+: 78%		
OTCB-ind-2	% of community members who trust local authorities to listen to their voice	62%	Q33: Section IV	<b>Final %:</b> % of respondents who indicate “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” to Q33
OTCB-ind-3	% of returnees/asylum seekers/minority groups reporting increased trust with the Security Forces and Local Government	74%	Q34: Section IV	<b>Final %:</b> % of Fulbes who respond “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” to Q34
OTCB-ind-4	Social Distance Index	Average Score: 3.18	Q35A – 35G: Section IV	<b>Final Score</b> = The average of the sum of each response for questions Q35A to Q35G. The combined response has a minimum value of 7 and a maximum value of 49.  <b>NB: Q35G is reverse-coded to take a positive direction.</b>
OTCB-ind-5	% of community members (minority groups) reporting improved access to public services	57%	Q36-Q40: Section IV	<b>Final %:</b> % of Fulbes who respond “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” to Q36 – Q40
<b>Outcome C: Communities have increased awareness on PVE, prevent and resolve conflicts through conflict resolution structures.</b>				
OTCC-ind-1	% of community members who are not supportive of using violence to achieve personal, political or social goals (by age and gender)	<b>Gender</b> Male: 82% Female: 83% <b>Age</b> 15-24: 78% 25-35: 85% 36+: 82%	Q47:  Section V	<b>Final %:</b> % of population subgroup (e.g., by age) who respond “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” to Q47

OTCC-ind-3	% of community members who can identify three ways through which VE groups recruit and radicalise people, demonstrating increased awareness and understanding of PVE through participation in campaigns, workshops, or media coverage	36%	Q50: Section V	<b>Final %:</b> % of respondents who select a minimum of 3 options in Q50
OTCC-ind-5	% of community members who believe their community is well-prepared to deal with violent extremist acts and propaganda	25%	Q53: Section V	<b>Final %:</b> % of respondents who indicate “yes” to Q53

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