

# Institute for Peace and Development

## Summary of Survey Findings.

### The Citizens Voices, Views, and Participation in Local Governance.

### The Lyssah Community Local Government Placement Survey.

#### Survey Conduct and Reporting by:



#### **Institute for Peace and Development**

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## **I. Background to Survey**

### ***1.1 The Rationale Behind Development of Local Government System***

Ghana's 1992 Constitution institutionalized the processes of decentralization. Chapter 20 of the Constitution clearly states that Ghana shall run a local governance and administrative system in a practical decentralized manner as humanly possible. The base of this system is metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies whose boundaries can be reconstituted and redrawn through laws enacted by parliament. Institutionalized

The framers of the constitution envisioned a nation where development was not a top-bottom approach but one that vested power in the people at the grassroots and allowed them to decide their developmental trajectory at the local level. It was also intended to be implemented as practicable as possible to provide rapid development and facilitate swift communication between different levels of the decentralization architecture.

The many protests and disagreements that follow the creation of new metropolitan, municipal, or district assemblies show that these noble ideals have often been sabotaged by the processes through which new boundaries are drawn, as many communities have found themselves placed in local government areas that they believe serve as impediments to their progress and development. This arises from a myriad of reasons including but not limited to the geographical location of towns and villages relative to their district capitals, poor and nonexisting infrastructure, the meddling of political parties and governments in the demarcation of districts to favour their electoral fortunes, none and poor consultation with communities in the demarcation and realignment of districts, etc. This has seen a rise in the call from towns, villages, and communities over the years to be taken out from current districts and realigned to different ones based on several factors.

The Lyssah community finds itself in this quandary, after the creation of the Nandom district, now the Nandom Municipal Assembly out of the then Lawra district, also now the Lawra Municipal Assembly. Falling on the northern side of the Dangbang river, the community shares dual allegiances to the Lawra and Nandom areas. Traditionally, the community chiefship has been associated with the Lawra Traditional Council. However, the community has been strongly linked to the Nandom area for its socio-economic and religious activities since the colonial era. The placement of Lyssah in the Lawra Municipality, therefore, generated considerable emotional debates among community members about its importance to their development. The lack of prior consultation with community members before the drawing of the boundaries that affected the placement of Lyssah has meant that community debates over whether or not they should remain in the Lawra municipality or demand a relocation into the Nandom municipality have been based more on individualized opinions and emotions rather than empirical evidence that shows where the community members prefer to be placed.

The issues involved are multifaceted, with different political, social, historical, traditional, and economic interests crisscrossing each other to complicate the nature and direction of community debates. This has forced groups and individuals within the community to take sides, sometimes under very tense circumstances. The associated agitations between different groups and the prospects of degeneration of the arguments into open conflicts with potential

violent outcomes informed IPD's decision to support the community to generate some independent data to aid the dialogue processes.

## **1.2 Purpose of the Study**

This survey is part of the Institute for Peace and Development's (IPD) goal to assist and create the space and opportunities for individuals, groups, communities, and institutions to have evidence-based dialogues that promote sound decision-making devoid of emotional sentiments. It aims to promote peace and development through informed and consensual dialogue that leads to collective decision-making for the common good. As part of our corporate social responsibility, IPD took on the challenge to assist the people of the Lyssah Community to undertake a research intended to allow members of the Lyssah community to express their views on how they would like to see their community aligned administratively to enable them get the best attention to their developmental needs.

IPD hopes that the findings from this research will allow the discussions to be grounded in evidence and create an avenue for parties to engage each other and reach an understanding of how to proceed in arriving at a collective decision on which local government area they would like to be placed under. With these findings, we hope to create a platform for further deliberations among all the relevant stakeholders in the community to institute measures on where, when and how to proceed from this stage. We believe through this, the citizens of Lyssah can put forward a united front in pursuit of their collective development aspirations for the prosperity of the community.

## **1.3 Survey Methodology**

The sampling process determined that a minimum of 384 respondents chosen through a systematic random process would be sufficient to have a representative sample for the study. The field sampling process resulted in a total of 416 respondents participating in the study. This was above the minimum, required and was good for the study.

In the conduct of our survey, we employed a quantitative research method using a largely closed ended questionnaires. The deployment of the electronic-based data collection instruments primarily took two major forms:

- Interviews conducted by enumerators in the Lyssah Community covered 381 out of the total of 416 respondents in the study (91.6%)
- Self-administered questionnaires covered 35 out of the 416 respondents (8.4%)

Figure 1: Maps of Locations where Interviews were conducted

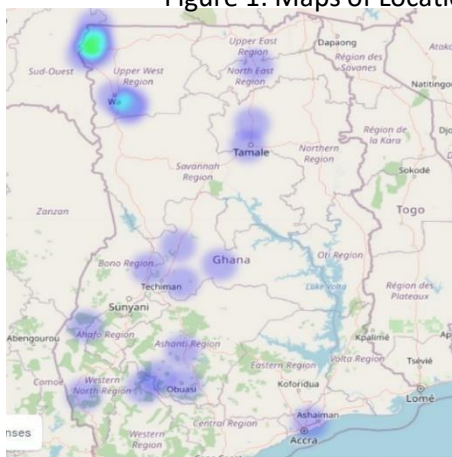


Figure 1: Heatmap of Self-Administered Questionnaire

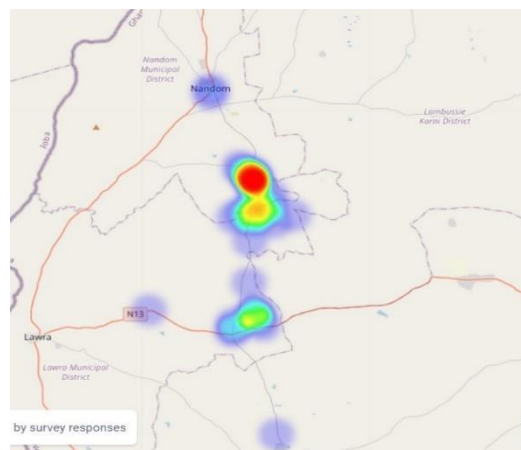


Figure 2: Heatmap of interviews conducted by enumerators.

Analysis of the collated and cleaned data was done using M.S Excel and SPSS.

#### 1.4 Limitations of Study

**Language:** The study instruments were in English and required instantaneous translation into the local language for respondents who were not literate in the English language. However, the enumerators were thoroughly grilled in the training process on how to stick to the agreed vocabulary in translating the questions for some respondents. Nonetheless, interviewer errors in translation remained possible, although this is expected to have very minimal effects on the study outcomes, given that there were very few technical words involved in this study.

**Terminology:** This study covered both historical recalls and contemporary views relating to the location of Lyssah in the local government structure. Historically, both Lawra and Nandom were known as District Assemblies at the time of the split. They remained so until 2018 and 2020 respectively when they were both elevated to the status of Municipal Assemblies. Most community members in Lyssah, however, still use the term “District” in reference to the two administrative units. This study, therefore, retained the use of that term with no intention of devaluing the current status of the two administrative units.

**Coverage:** The study anticipated the involvement of a broad range of the citizens of Lyssah to ensure the views of community members living in and outside the community are expressed in the study. However, while the study witnessed a massive response from citizens living in Lyssah, the representation of natives of Lyssah living outside the community was rather small, despite the prolonged interview period. It is hoped, however, that this category of citizens will have an opportunity to make input during community discussions on the way forward.

## II. Major Findings from the Survey

### 2.1 Profile of Respondents.

The gender representation in this study was fairly balanced.

- 42.3% females (176/416)
- 57.7% males (240/416)

The age categories of participants depict a highly youthful community.

- 47.1% aged 14-34 (197/416)

Majority of the respondents were natives of the Lyssah Community.

- 96.4% (401/416) are natives of Lyssah.
- 92% of respondents living in the community.

All sections of the community were represented equitably, based on the size of their section • 53% (213/402) have their family house in Gandour.

- 62.5% farmers (258/413).

More than 50% of respondents have either never been to school or have very limited education

- 24.6% (102/415) have never been to school.
- 25.8% (107/415) have completed middle or Junior high school.

### 1.1 Respondents' Views on Lyssah Community's Relations with Current District Boundaries.

#### i. Accessibility to District/Municipal Capitals and Service Outlets

This section explores findings from questions posed to the respondents to find out which of the four surrounding municipal capitals, Lawra, Nandom, Jirapa, and Lambussie, they access both government and private services from.

*Accessibility to Local Government Offices:* Majority of the participants said Nandom Municipal capital was the closest to them and accessible all year round.

**Question: Of the district/municipal capitals that are close to your community, which of them is it easier for you to go to at any time of the year?**

**Table 2: Promixity to District/Municipal Capitals**

Municipal Capital	Frequency	Valid %
Jirapa	1	.2
Lawra	9	2.2
Nandom	405	97.6
<b>Total</b>	415	100.0

**Table 1: In which section of Lyssah is your family house located?**

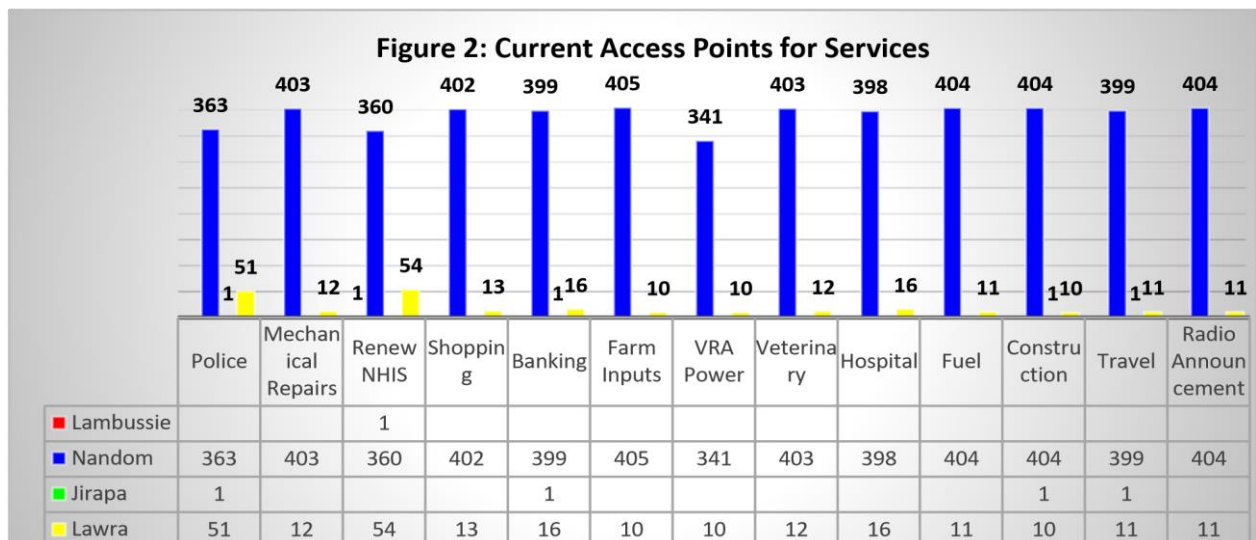
Location	Frequency	Valid %
<b>Gondour</b>	213	53.0
<b>Gyangvuur</b>	10	2.5
<b>Muogagn</b>	82	20.4
<b>Dalinpoo</b>	44	10.9
<b>Naverikpe</b>	53	13.2
<b>Total</b>	402	100.0

**ii. Current Access Points for Social and Economic Services.**

*a) General Access to Services*

Respondents were asked to indicate from which district/municipal capitals community members frequently go to access a broad range of social and economic services such as police protection and security, technical services for the repair of farm and household equipment and machinery, shopping, banking, veterinary, health, construction, and communication services, among others.

The chart below presents the findings. It shows across all service categories, more than 340 out of the 416 respondents said they usually go to Nandom for the 13 different kinds of services as listed in the questionnaires. Lawra, which is currently the Municipal capital for the Lyssah community consistently had less than 60 respondents citing it as a point of service for any of the categories of social and economic services listed.



*b) Access for Health Services to Maternal Health Services:*

Respondents were asked to which health facilities pregnant women in the Lyssah community would normally go for maternal health care. In response, 97% (405/416) of the respondents said pregnant women from Lyssah always visit facilities located in the Nandom Municipality as shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Point of Access for Maternal Health Care for the Women of Lyssah.**

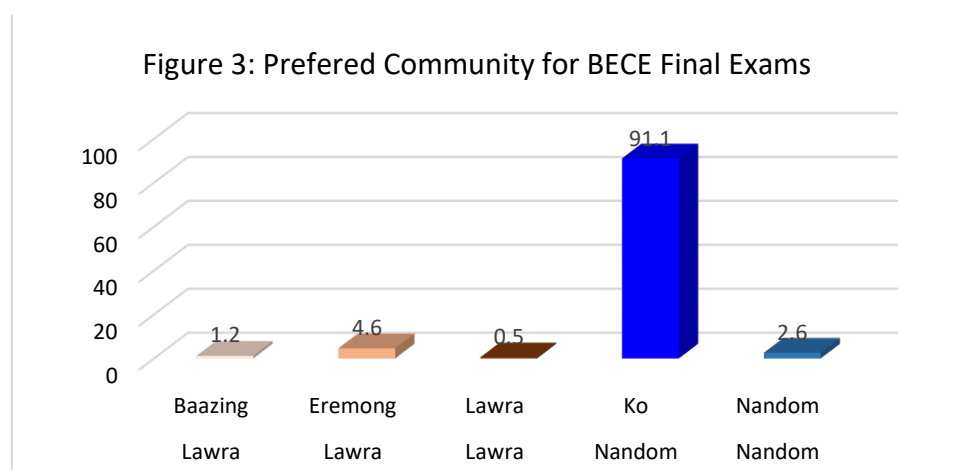
Hospital	District	Frequency	Valid Percentages
Lawra Hospital	Lawra	4	1.0
Domwine Hospital	Lawra	1	0.2
Ko Polyclinic	Nandom	110	26.4
Nandom Hospital	Nandom	148	35.3
Ko Polyclinic and Nandom Hospital	Nandom	147	35.3
Ko Polyclinic, Nandom Hospital, and Domwine Hospital		3	0.7
Jirapa and Domwine Hospital		1	0.2
Lawra Hospital and Ko Polyclinic		2	0.5
Total		416	100

## 2.2 Preferred Alignment of Lyssah Community and Service Access Points.

a) Preference for where Final Year JHS Students from Lyssah should go for their examination:

Currently, final year students of the Junior High School (JHS) in Lyssah take their final exam in Eremon, the nearest examination center in the Lawra Municipality to the Lyssah Community. Students usually have to relocate and set up camp in Eremon for the week or two it takes to write their examinations. While there, they fend for themselves in terms of boarding and lodging. To assess community members' views on this, respondents were asked: "if it is not possible for your final year JHS students to write their exams here in the community, which of the following places would you prefer to send them to go and write their final exam?"

In response, the majority of respondents i.e 91.1% (379/416) said they would prefer to send their JHS final year students to Ko, which is located in Nandom Municipality, to write their exams. An additional 2.6% would prefer to send their children to Nandom, bringing the total of respondents who prefer to send their children to locations in the Nandom Municipality up to 390/416 or 93.7% of respondents. Instructively, only 6.2% of the respondents would like to send their children to locations in the Lawra Municipal Assembly area.





**b) Consultation on Lyssah Community's Current Alignment in Local Government Structure.**

To ascertain community members' preferences for the alignment of their community in the adjoining Municipal assemblies, respondents were first asked whether this question: *When new districts were being created out of the old Lawra District, were the Lyssah community members asked in which of the new districts they would like Lyssah to be placed in?*

The table below 4 shows that of the 415 participants who responded to this question during the survey; 81.2% (337) said they were not asked. 4.8% (20) said they were asked. 14% (58) said they couldn't recall being asked.

Of the 20 respondents who said they were consulted when the Lawra district was to be carved up to create new districts; 17 out of the 20 said they chose that Lyssah should belong to the Nandom District.

- Only 3 out of the 20 chose to have Lyssah placed in the Lawra District.

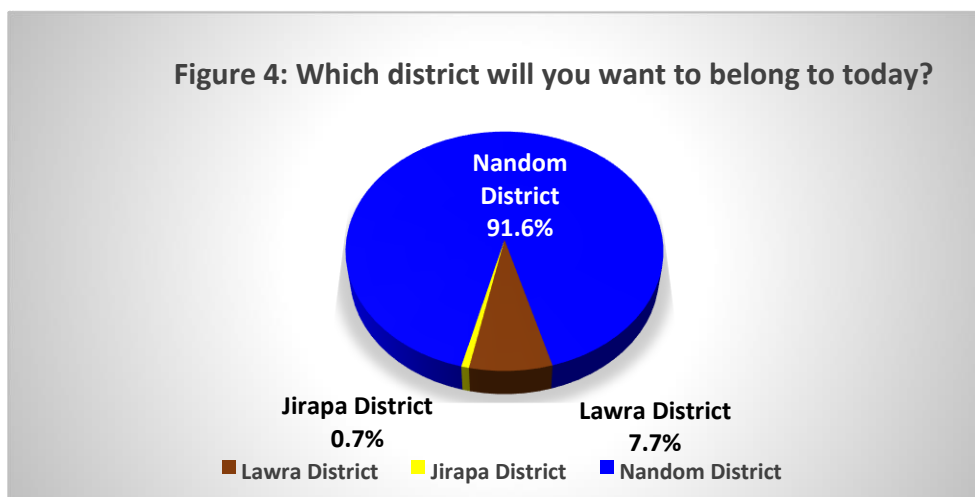
**Table 4: Consultation of Lyssah Community Members on Alignment in New Districts.**

<b>Were you asked?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Yes	20	4.8
No	337	81.2
I can't recall	58	14.0
Total	415	100.0

**c) Preferred Location of Lyssah in Local Government Structure.**

Respondents were then asked if now they are given a choice in deciding in which local government area they would like the Lyssah community to be placed new district boundaries between Lawra and Nandom Municipalities are to be drawn up. In response 91.6% representing 380/415 of the respondents said they would want to belong to the Nandom District. In comparison, only 7.7% representing 32/415 of the respondents said they would want to remain the Lawra District. The remaining respondents 0.7% (3/415) said they would want to belong to the Jirapa district.

Figure 4: Which district will you want to belong to today?

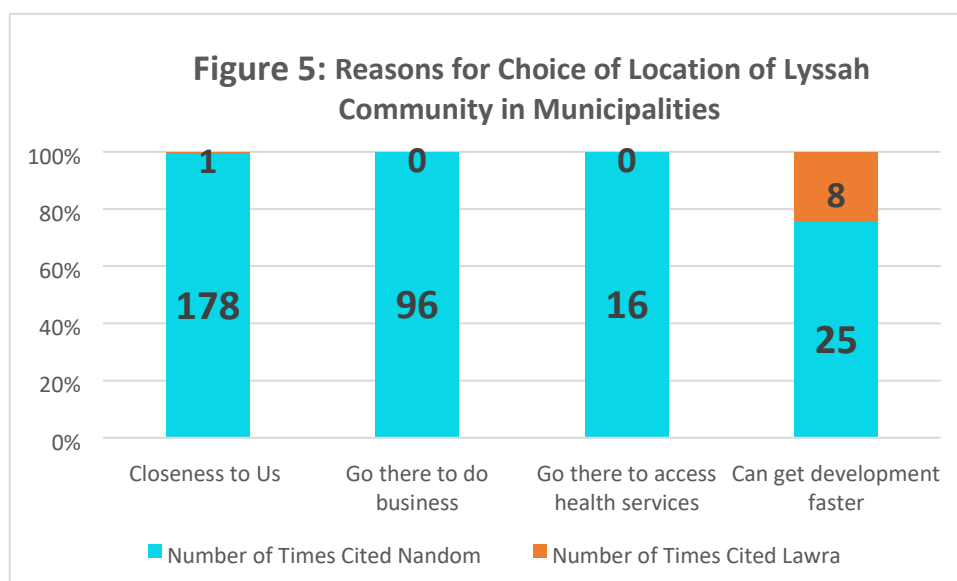


d) *Reasons for Choice of Relocation of Lyssah in new Municipal boundaries.*

Out of the 371 reasons respondents gave for the choice of Nandom Municipality as the place they would like to see Lyssah realigned to, 51.2% were geographical reasons, 30.7% were for economic reasons – see green shaded area.

Table 5: Choice of Location of Lyssah in Municipalities

Reasons	District/Municipality						Totals	
	Nandom		Lawra		Jirapa			
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Geographical Reasons	190	51.2	1	3.1	1	33.3	192	47.3
Economic Reasons	114	30.7					114	28.1
Political Reasons	25	6.7	8	25			33	8.1
Health Reasons	16	4.3					16	3.9
Social Reasons	9	2.4	18	56.3	1	33.3	28	6.9
Undecided	5	1.3	1	3.1	1	33.3	7	1.7
Educational Reasons	5	1.3					5	1.2
State Name District	3	0.8	2	6.3			5	1.2
Religious Reasons	2	0.5					2	0.5
Security Reasons	1	0.3	2	6.3			3	0.7
Transportation Reasons	1	0.3					1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Excerpts: Statements of Reasons from respondents on choice of Nandom over Lawra.**

**Geographical Proximity**

- *Because it is closer to us*
- *It is closer and easy to reach than Lawra Municipal and any time we go to Nandom for any service they usually ask us to go to our Municipal which is also not near.*
- *Is closer to us and we are familiar with the environment there.*

**Frequent place of business**

- *I do everything in Nandom Municipal that is why I want Lyssah to just join them.*
- *Everything of mine is done in Nandom.*
- *Because we do everything in Nandom district.*
- *Basically, Nandom provides all the essential services that are needed by the average person in the Lyssah community.*

**Developmental Needs**

- *A lot of Nandom youth have gotten employment but Lawra is developing slowly therefore I want us to join Nandom to also get development.*
- *If Lyssah belongs to Nandom district there will be better development as compared to Lyssah belonging to Lawra district.*
- *Nandom can give us more development than Lawra.*
- *No development in Lyssah.*

**Summary of Findings – The Exiters**

- ☞ Findings are the views and voices of ordinary citizens of Lyssah.
- ☞ Majority of respondents want to see their community realigned to the Nandom Municipal Assembly because:
  - It is closer to them, geographically
  - That’s where they go for essential health and economic services
  - They stand to benefit more from development when realigned to the Nandom Municipal Assembly
- ☞ Respondents believe the Lyssah Chiefship does not need to be realigned with the Nandom Traditional Council; it can remain with Lawra while the community belongs to Nandom Municipality, administratively

## Excerpts: Statements of Reasons from respondents on choice of Lawra over Nandom.

Below are some of the specific reasons stated by respondents who selected Lawra as the districts they wanted to belong to ;

### Historical Belongingness

- *That's where our fathers belonged to and for that matter we have to belong to that place.*
- *Since I was born we have been in Lawra hence we should still belong there.*
- *Lyssah should maintain there because that is where we belong to since she gave birth to me.*
- *We have belong to Lawra for a long time hence we should still be there.*

### Developmental Needs

- *We are doing everything in Nandom but we didn't benefit from Nandom district.*
- *For development.*
- *For development of the community.*
- *I want development for the community.*

### Summary of Findings – The Remainders

Those who want to remain administratively in the Lawra Municipality argue that:

- ☞ Historically, Lyssah has belonged to the Lawra District and should remain there
- ☞ Developmentally,
  - They hope to get more development from Lawra.
  - They currently do everything in Nandom but do not benefit from their development.

## 2.3 Fulfillment of Developmental Aspirations.

Access to development services have been central to much of the arguments across Ghana in respect of the location of communities within regions or local government areas. To gauge to what extent this was an issue in the Lyssah community, respondents were asked to state their level of agreement on where they believed Lyssah stands the better chance of getting its share of development. Respondents provided answers to a two-part question as follows:

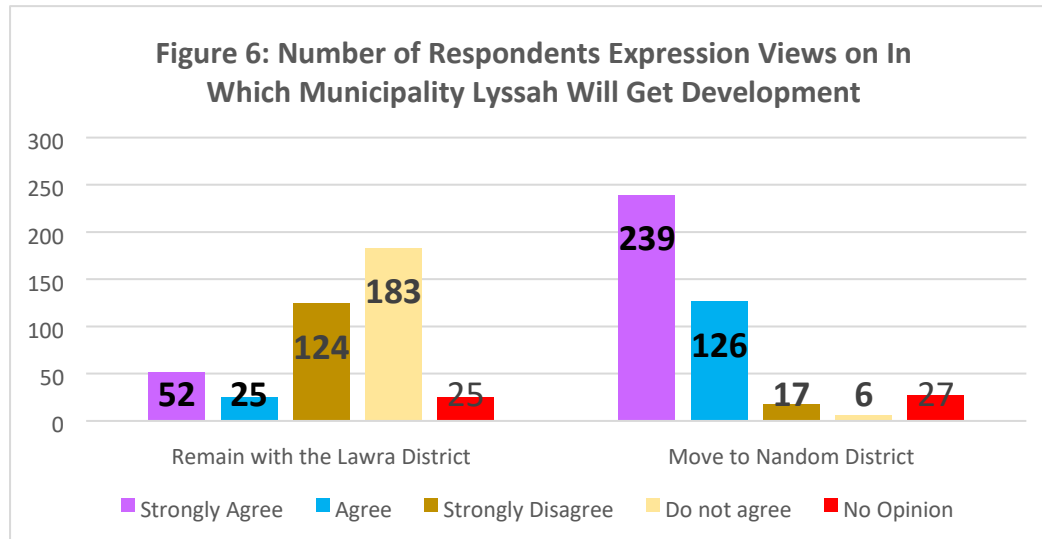
- a) **Question 1:** “To what extent do you agree that the people of Lyssah will get better development services if they remain in the **Lawra district?**” In response to the question ;
- 75% (307/409) either said they strongly **disagreed** or **did not agree** that Lyssah would get its fair share of development if it remained in the Lawra Municipality.
  - 18.8% (77/409) said they strongly agreed or agreed with the view that Lyssah stands to get its fair share of development by remaining in the Lawra Municipality.
  - 6.1% (25/409) said they had no opinion on the matter.

In other words, the majority of the respondents (93.8% (i.e 384 out of 409 respondents who answered the question) strongly disagreed or did not agree that Lyssah would get its fair share of development if the community stayed as part of the Lawra Municipality.

- b) **Question 2:** For the question ““To what extent do you agree that the people of Lyssah will get better development services if they move into the **Nandom District.**”
- a. 88% (367/415) of the respondents said they strongly agreed or agreed.
  - b. 5.5% (23/415) of the respondents said they strongly disagreed or did not agree.

c. 6.5% (27/415) of the respondents had no opinion on the matter.

This means that 93.5% of the 415 people who provided answers to the question either strongly agreed or agreed that moving to the Nandom district would bring them better development.



#### 2.4 Access to Improved Educational and Health Care Services.

The study probed respondents’ views on access to education and health services relative to their location in a local government area. With respect to education, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statement that “*The children of Lyssah will have better access to educational services if the community is relocated in another district*”. In the same vein, respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement that “*The women of Lyssah will have better access to health care services if the community is relocated in another district.*” In response to the two questions:

- **Education:** 91.3% (379/415) of the respondents **strongly agreed** or **agreed** that children in the community will have improved access to better education if the community belonged to another district
- **Health:** 92.1% (383/416) of respondents **strongly agreed** or **agreed** that **women in the community will have** improved access to health care if the community belonged to another district.

**Table 6: Respondents’ Views on Location of Community in district and Access to Improved Services.**

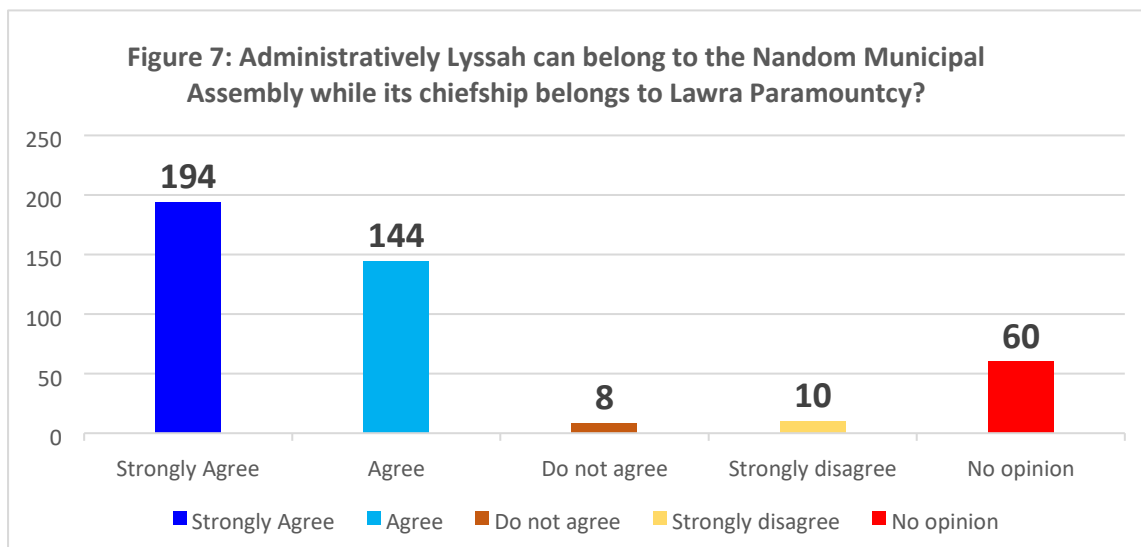
Level of Agreement with suggestions	Better Access to Improved			
	Education		Health Care	
	Frequency	% (n=415)	Frequency	% (n=416)
Strongly Agree	198	47.7	201	48.3
Agree	181	43.6	182	43.8
Strongly Disagree	14	3.4	15	3.6
Do not agree	7	1.7	6	1.4
No Opinion	15	3.6	12	2.9
Total	415	100	416	100

**2.5 Separate Location of Lyssah’s Traditional Authority and Local Governance Placements.**

As indicated in the background of this study, the historical alignment of the Lyssah chiefship to the Lawra Traditional Council was never a problem when both the Lawra and Nandom Traditional Councils were part of the then Lawra District. However, the separation of Nandom from Lawra has triggered questions on i) to the boundaries of Traditional Council have to necessarily be coterminous with those of local government structures i.e. Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies? ii) by extension, would the Lyssah chiefship of the Lyssah Community have to automatically be realigned with a Traditional Council in a new district should the community decide to join a different district other than the one they are currently assigned to?

Unlike in the case of Regional Houses of Chiefs, there are no constitutional or other legal mandates that the boundaries of Traditional Councils must be coterminous with those of the MMDA to which they belong. The arguments within the Lyssah community have therefore been based more on perceptions than facts. To support the community in coming to some agreement on what they would like to do on this issue, the study asked respondents to indicate to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the statement that “Administratively, Lyssah can belong to the Nandom Municipal Assembly while its chiefship belongs to the Lawra Paramountcy”. In response:

- Out of the 416 who responded to this question, 338 representing 81.2% of the participants said they **strongly agreed** or **agreed** that Lyssah can administratively belong to one Municipality or District while its chieftaincy institution belongs to a Traditional Council in a different Municipality or district.
- However, 18 participants out of the 416 who responded to this question said they **strongly disagreed** or **did not agree** with this view.
- The remaining 14.4% (60/416) of the participants said they had no opinion on the issue.



**Conclusion.**

The majority of respondents in this survey are natives of Lyssah who live in the community. The study participants demographically represent the broader population of the Lyssah Community. The findings confirm that Lyssah is an agrarian community with a predominantly youthful population. Hence, the findings are grounded in the lived experiences of the ordinary men and women of the Lyssah community. Consequently, the views and voices expressed in this report must be accorded the weight that respects the rights of the people to free expression of their the community and development they want.

The study reveals that the majority of the members of the Lyssah community would like to be administratively realigned to the Nandom District. This is because the majority of respondents (97.6%) considered the distance from Lyssah to the Nandom municipal capital to be shorter for their community and easier to access all year round. This is relatively true when the distances are considered in real-time on the ground. The distance from Lyssah to Nandom by road is approximately 8.2 miles which is the shortest in comparison to that of Lyssah to Lambuissie, 9.6 miles, Lyssah to Lawra, 15.9 miles, and that of Jirapa being 16.7miles.

Linked with the relative distance to get to Nandom from Lyssah, an overwhelming majority of respondents said they visited Nandom for various services that ranged from going to Nandom to access health services, banking services, mechanics for various repairs to their vehicles and farm equipment, to buying farming inputs. Hence, for their everyday needs and transactions, Nandom is the preferred destination in comparison to the others. For this reason, when asked which municipality they would like to belong to, if they were given the chance to choose, to 91.6% of the 415 respondents said they would prefer to belong to the Nandom Municipality. Several reasons accounted for the overwhelming selection of Nandom as the preferred districts they would like to belong to. Top on the list was the proximity of Nandom to their community, community members’ frequently going to Nandom as a business hub, and the development benefits they hope to attain if they realigned with Nandom. In respective of the proximity and accessibility factor, a female respondent in the study captured this aptly when she state that

Nandom “*is closer and easy to reach than Lawra Municipal and any time we go to Nandom for any service they usually ask as to go to our Municipal which is also not near.*”

A young, male respondent from the Gondur section of Lyssah summarized the view that Nandom is their business hub as members of the community frequently go there for their various business transactions in the following words: “*Basically, the Nandom provides all the essential services that are needed by the average persons in the Lyssah community and especially it is the closest and easily accessible as compared to the other districts.*” In terms of the developmental arguments made in support of the reason to join the Nandom Municipal another male youth of Mougagn said “*If Lyssah belongs to Nandom district there will be better development as compared to Lyssah belonging to Lawra district.*” A colleague agreed with this view, adding that “*A lot of Nandom youth have gotten employment but Lawra is developing slowly therefore I want us to join Nandom to also get development.*” Indeed, the perception of the majority of respondents (88% of 416) is that they will receive better developmental services if they were moved to the Nandom Municipal Assembly. Conversely, 75% of the same respondents said they strongly disagreed or agreed with the suggestion that they will receive better development if they remained in the Lawra Municipality.

A thorny issue in the debate on whether Lyssah should relocate to the Nandom Municipality or not is how that would affect the location of the chieftaincy institution of the community. Historically, the Lyssah community has been a subunit of the Lawra Traditional Council and there are strong emotional reasons for keeping it there. The question has been whether the Lyssah chiefship will have to relocate its allegiance to the Nandom Traditional Council, in the event that the community realigns with the Nandom Municipal Assembly.

This study sought the views of community members on the question. In response, the majority of respondents saw no need to tie the movement of the community to the Nandom Municipality with the relocation of allegiance of their chief to the Nandom Traditional Council. They saw the two issues as completely separate. Therefore, they held the view that there is no problem with the chieftaincy of Lyssah belonging to Lawra paramountcy while the community administratively belongs to Nandom Municipality. The majority of respondents (81.2% of 416) strongly agreed or agreed that the separation can be done.

In sum, this study provides strong evidence on what the people of Lyssah want to see in relation to the placement of their community within the local government structure of the Upper West Region. They want to see a realignment towards the Nandom Municipality. They see no contradiction if their chiefship continues to pay allegiance to the Lawra Traditional Council while the community belongs to the Nandom Municipal Assembly. The position of the majority would find legal support in the fact that there is currently no constitutional or other legal requirement that aligns the boundaries of traditional authorities with local government ones. The people of Lyssah therefore have the information they need to deepen their discussions and advocacy efforts for the change that they want in more collaborative and peaceful ways.



## Recommendations:

1. **To the Lyssah Community:** Findings of this study provide a strong basis for informed discussion on whether or not the community needs to advocate for a realignment within the local government structure of the Upper West Region. Such deliberations must reach concrete decisions:
  - a. **What needs to be done:** The Chief and youth of the community need to organize a participatory process to discuss the findings of the report dispassionately in order to arrive at clear and firm decision on whether or not the community is to seek a realignment to another Municipal or District Assembly Area or remain in the current one.
  - b. **Who needs to lead the actions:** The community needs to set up an **Implementation Committee** to design and lead the processes for the implementation of whatever final decisions are made by members of community based on the findings of this study
  - c. **When this needs to happen:** the community will have to agree on concrete timeframes for the implementation of the decisions arrived at. Otherwise, things might fall between the cracks of time and create frustrations that would be unhealthy for the community.
  - d. **Stakeholder Engagement:** The Implementation Committee will have to engage other stakeholders within the Lawra and Nandom Municipalities to ensure that they are informed and support smooth implementation of the community's decision.
2. **To Central Government:** The Lyssah community is not the only one that bears grudges for being placed in a district or municipal area they don't want to be in. Several instances are dotted around the country.
  - a. *To support the Lyssah community*, relevant government agencies involved in the decision making in respect of demarcation of boundaries of local government units need to take serious note of the expressed views of the people of Lyssah and provide all material and technical support to enable them maximise their opportunities for development.
  - b. *To avoid unnecessary intra and inter community tensions*, we strongly recommend that government must create avenues for communities to have a say in which administrative units they are placed under. Above all, governments must take into account the views, voices, and needs of local communities in the (re)demarcations of administrative units.
3. **National Commission on Civic Education:** Some members of the Lyssah community who mostly conduct their business in the Nandom districts have complained that they didn't attain development from the Nandom Municipal. These lines of argument highlight the misunderstanding of the structure and operations of the local government system and can create misplaced dissatisfactions that can be toxic to relationships in some communities. To avert this, there is the need for further education on how the various administrative units within the country function. In particular there is need for educating citizens on how they generate and spend their resources.