

Ghana – Bono Region

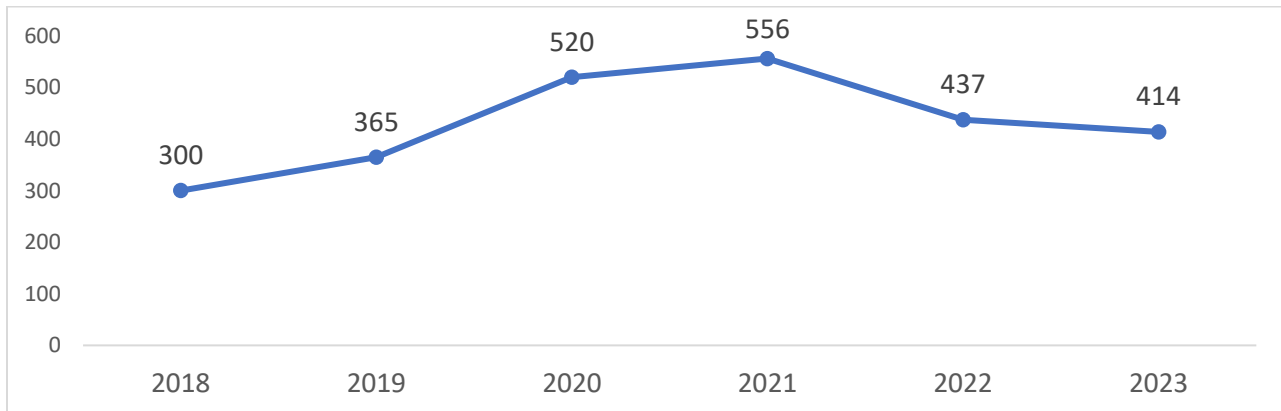


Access to Anti-Snake Venom at Health Facilities, Bono Region Ghana 2023

1. Background

Bites by venomous snakes can cause paralysis that may prevent breathing, bleeding disorders that can lead to a fatal haemorrhage, irreversible kidney failure and tissue damage that can cause permanent disability and limb amputation (1). Neurotoxic signs may improve within 30 minutes but usually take several hours (4). Agricultural workers and children are the most affected. Children often suffer more severe effects than adults, due to their smaller body mass (1). Cases of snake bites are more predominant in forested area and farming communities.

Table 1: Trend of Snake Bites, Bono Region Ghana, 2018-2023



Focus:

It is estimated that, 5.4 million people are bitten by snakes with about 2.7 million cases of envenoming each year globally. Around 81,410 to 137,880 people die each year because of snake bites (1). An average of 9,600 snakebites are recorded in Ghana each year (2). In 2023, 414 cases of snake bites were reported to health facilities in the Bono Region (3). The average yearly number of snake bites reported to health facilities from 2018 to 2023 was 432 cases.

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2. Snake bites cases reported



Figure 1: Reported cases of snake bites at Health Facilities by sub-districts, Bono Region 2023

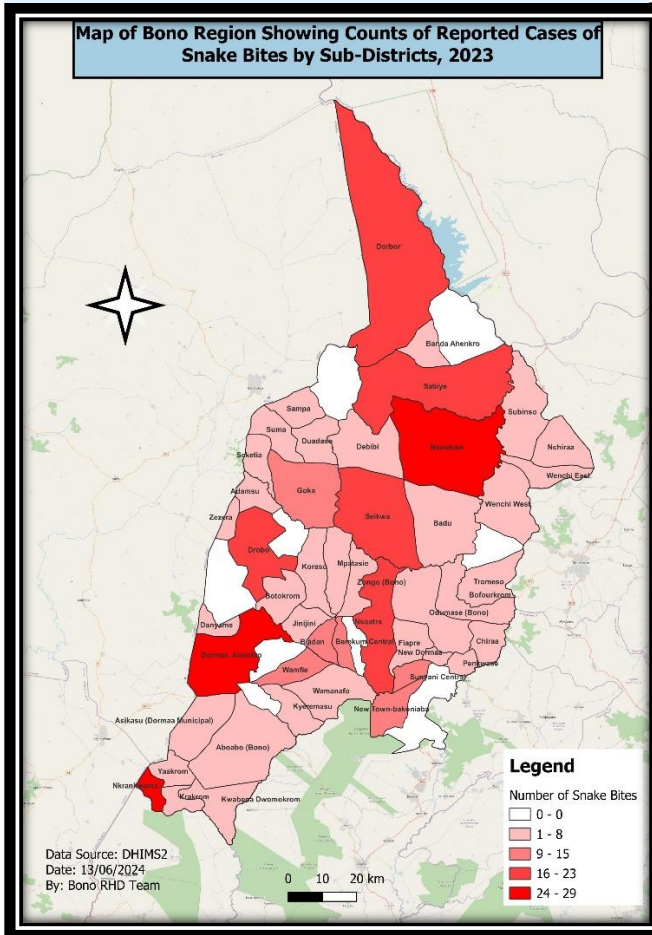
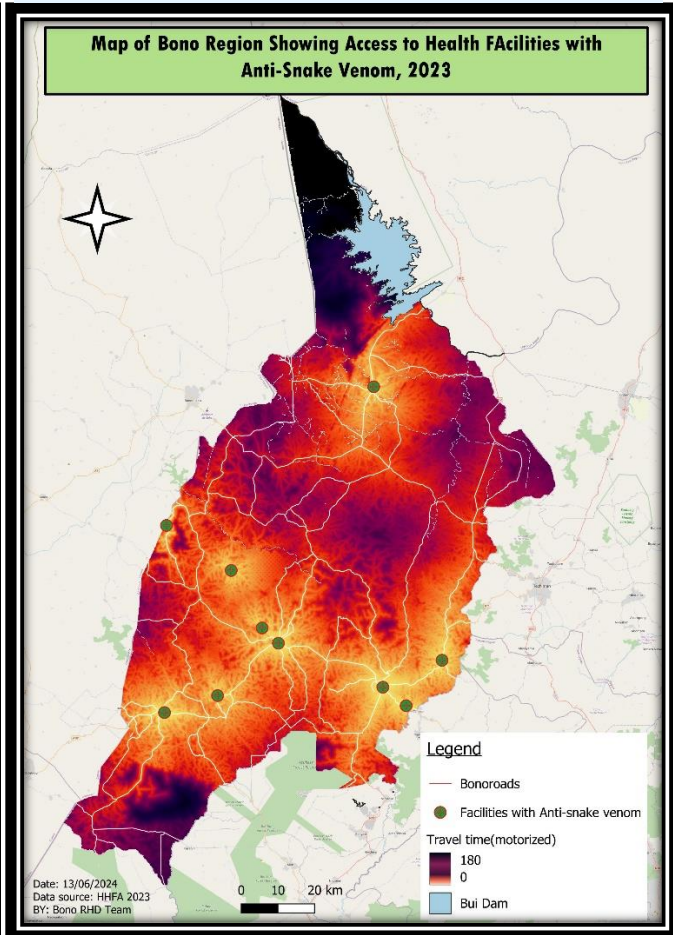


Figure 2: Access to Health Facilities with anti-snake venom in Bono Region, 2023



Ten (10) health facilities reported to have at least one nonexpired anti snake venom during the 2023 Holistic Health Facility Assessment in the Bono Region. Although access to the anti-snake venom was quite good, forested sub-districts like Seikwa, Dorbor, Sampa, Subinso, Aboabo, Nkrankwanta, Kwabena Dwomokrom, have high travel time to have access to anti-snake venom while the number of snake bites cases recorded and expected snake bites for such areas are high. In contrast, sub-districts like Sunyani Central, Penkwase, and New Dormaa which are not forested and recorded relatively low number of cases, have very good access to anti-snake venom (Fig.1 & 2). This indicates that the availability of anti-snake venom is not equitably distributed across the region.

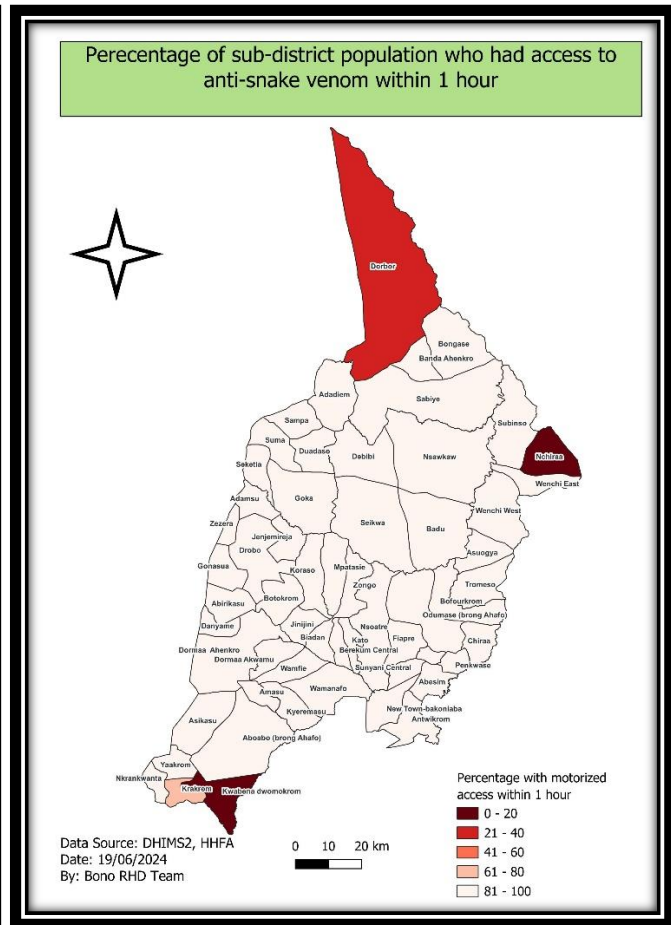
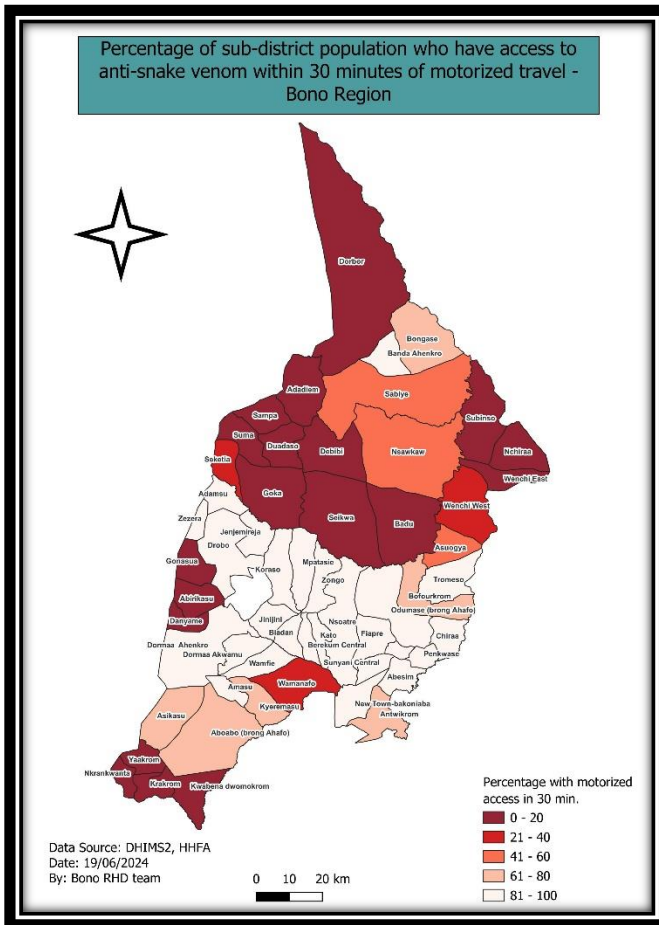
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3. Motorized Access by time to anti snake venom by times



Figure 3: Percentage of sub-district population with access to anti-snake venom within 30 minutes of motorized travel, Bono Region 2023

Figure 4: Percentage of sub-district population with access to anti-snake venom within 1 hour of motorized travel, Bono Region 2023



A total of 31 (59.6%) of sub-districts had less than 81% of their population having access to anti-snake venom within 30 minutes of motorized transport (Fig. 3). However, 48 (92.3%) of the subdistricts have more than 80% of their population having access to anti-snake venom within 1 hour of motorized travel (Fig. 4). Majority of the population are at a high risk of having adverse effect of neurotoxins that takes effect within 30 minutes after the snake bite.

4. Recommendations



- Anti-snake venoms should be supplied to all facilities within the region by the Regional Medical Store.
- The distribution should be done equitably to ensure sub-districts and communities that are forested or report more cases are prioritized.

References

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Sources

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Fact sheet produced by:

- **Dr. Kofi Amo-Kodieh**, Bono RDHS, +23324437446
- **George Asare-Tabi**, Regional Health Information Officer, +233244963394
- **Eric Kofi Nyarko**, Regional Network of Practice Coordinator, +233249892259
- **Bismark Dartey**, Ag. DDHS, Berekum West District, +233243141563
- **Collins Amankwaa Adu**, Health Information Officer, +233245634583