

BRIDGING THE EDUCATION GAP IN KARAGA DISTRICT

Evidence from the District Education League Table (DELT) Initiative

Produced by: Simba Ghana
Initiative: I Am Aware (IAA)
Support: CDD-Ghana & Hewlett Foundation
Focus: Karaga District, Northern Region

TARGETED POLICY LEADERSHIP: District Chief Executive (DCE) • District Education Oversight Committee (DEOC) • Member of Parliament (MP) • District Coordinating Director • District & Regional Education Directorates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: THE INFRASTRUCTURE-SERVICE PARADOX

The Karaga District Education League Table (DELT) reveals a stark institutional discrepancy: while teacher attendance and frontline operational delivery remain robust, physical infrastructure deficits—specifically a severe shortage of classroom desks—threaten learning outcomes. Karaga District achieved an overall performance score of **52.9%**, driven by a **30.9 percentage point gap** between Frontline Service Delivery (70.2%) and Infrastructure & Learning Environment (39.3%). Immediate intervention is required to realign capital allocation with frontline effort.

1 OVERALL DISTRICT SCORECARD & DIAGNOSTIC BREAKDOWN

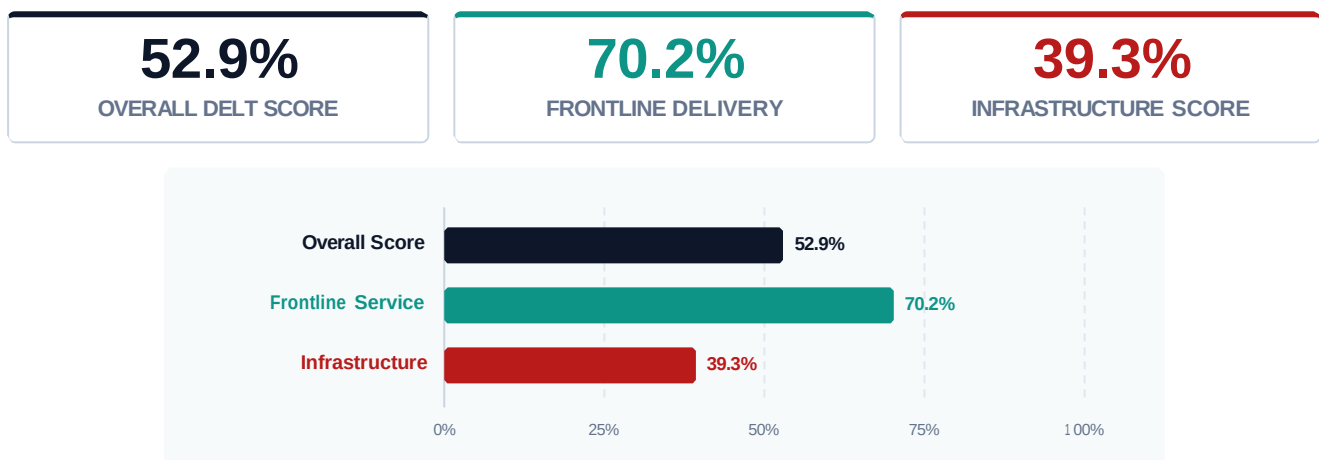


Figure 1: Comparison of Overall Performance vs Core Performance Dimensions

2 STRATEGIC KEY FINDINGS

- **High Teacher Presence:** Teacher attendance district-wide recorded a solid score of **80.9%**, proving that educators are actively present at basic schools.
- **Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) Balance:** The overall PTR score stands at **58.5%**, indicating moderate deployment efficiency across schools.
- **Infrastructure Breakdown:** School building soundness scores poorly at **47.3%**, indicating widespread structural repair needs.
- **Critical Desk Crisis:** Desk adequacy recorded a dismal **31.4%**—the lowest single indicator in the entire district survey.



Zankali D/A Primary School, Nyong Circuit

3 CIRCUIT RANKINGS & COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Evaluation across Karaga District's seven (7) education circuits reveals substantial intra-district inequality. While leadership and geography favor central circuits, peripheral areas suffer severe infrastructural neglect.

Rank	Circuit Name	Sampled Schools	Frontline Service (50%)	Infrastructure (50%)	Overall DELT Score
1	Karaga West	10	70.9%	48.1 %	59.5%
2	Nambrugu	11	68.7%	48.6%	58.7%
3	Karaga East	12	71.2%	43.4%	57.3%
4	Sung	7	77.3%	31.0%	54.1 %
5	Nyong*	6	62.3%	38.5%	50.4%
6	Nakundugu*	14	69.1 %	36.4%	50.3%
7	Zandua	13	71.1 %	29.1 %	41.9%

*Note: Nyong (50.4%) and Nakundugu (50.3%) are statistically tied. Sensitivity analysis adjusting for missing data elevates Nakundugu to 52.1 %.

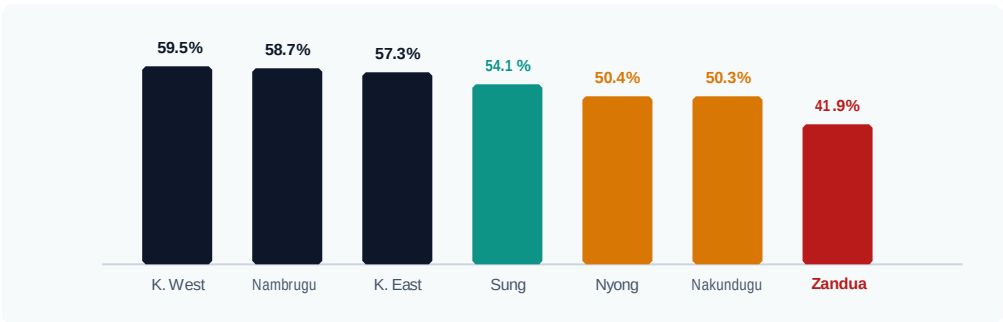


Figure 2: Circuit Overall Performance Comparison showing Zandua lagging behind

4 SPATIAL INEQUITY & ZANDUA PRIORITY CASE

The Zandua Bottleneck

Zandua Circuit ranks last at **41.9%** despite maintaining a high frontline service score of **71.1%**. This gap is directly driven by its critical infrastructure failure (**29.1%**), proving that local educators are performing but are constrained by a lack of physical assets.

Sung Circuit Paradox

Sung Circuit displays the largest single-circuit disparity: it ranks highest in Frontline Delivery (**77.3%**) but second-lowest in Infrastructure (**31.0%**). Without physical investments, Sung risks steep declines in educational output.



5 DEEP DIVE: THE CLASSROOM DESK CRISIS

Desk adequacy is the single primary driver of poor educational infrastructure across Karaga District. Across all sampled basic schools, **71.2% reported inadequate seating capacity**, forcing children to sit on bare floors or unplastered blockwork during instruction.

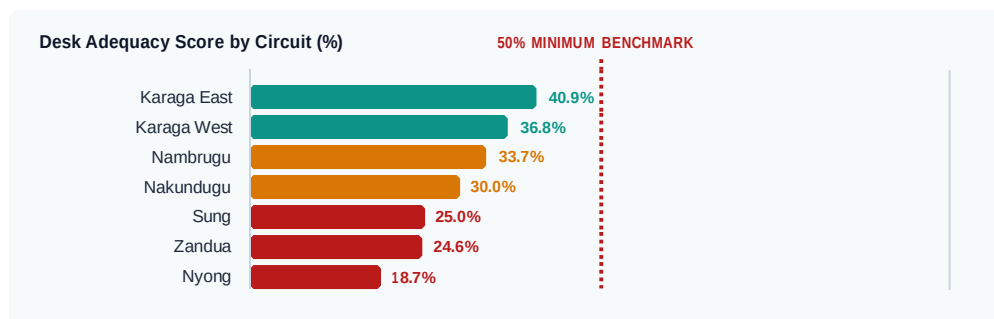


Figure 3: Desk Adequacy Index across Circuits — No circuit crosses the 50% threshold

6 STRUCTURAL IMPLICATIONS & LEARNING QUALITY

Cognitive & Physical Impact

Inadequate desk seating directly correlates with poor student concentration, spinal posture issues, and accelerated dropouts, particularly among female pupils. The absence of basic furniture nullifies the positive gains achieved through high teacher attendance (80.9%).

Inequitable Distribution

Even the highest-scoring circuit, Karaga East (40.9%), falls far short of acceptable standards, while Nyong (18.7%) and Zandua (24.6%) suffer from extreme deprivation. Capital allocation must abandon uniform distribution and adopt equity-based budgeting.

DISTRICT EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (DEOC) MANDATE

DEOC must immediately freeze non-essential administrative spending and direct available capital funds toward emergency procurement of dual-desks for basic schools in **Zandua, Nyong, and Sung circuits**.



A classroom at Ishadiya E/A Primary School in Karaga West Circuit with Inadequate

7. TARGETED STAKEHOLDER ACTION MATRIX

To convert DELT diagnostic evidence into measurable institutional improvements, specific policy actors must execute targeted interventions:

Stakeholder	Primary Policy Target	Core Action Item
District Chief Executive (DCE) & Assembly	DACF Capital Allocation & Infrastructure	Ring-fence at least 15% of District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) specifically for dual-desk procurement and classroom rehabilitation in Zandua and Nyong circuits.
Member of Parliament (MP)	MP's Common Fund & Capital Support	Allocate 20% of the MP's Education Fund towards furniture supply, directly targeting basic schools with desk adequacy below 25%.
DEOC & District Director of Education	Resource Equity & Oversight	Adopt the DELT scorecard as the official quarterly monitoring framework; rebalance teacher deployment and inspect infrastructure maintenance.
Circuit Supervisors & Headteachers	Local School Management	Institute community-led maintenance registers for existing furniture and maintain strict record-keeping of desk shortages.
SMCs, PTAs & Traditional Leaders	Social Accountability & Local Co-funding	Mobilize community durbars to advocate for equitable distribution and co-fund minor school repairs to protect school structures.

8. STRATEGIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implement Priority Equity-Based Allocation:** Shift from equal distribution to need-based deployment, prioritizing Zandua (41.9%), Nyong (50.4%), and Nakundugu (50.3%) in all upcoming infrastructure projects.
- Institutionalize the DELT Framework:** Formally incorporate the League Table indicators into the Karaga District Education Operational Plan (DEOP) for annual performance benchmarking.
- Establish an Emergency Desk Supply Taskforce:** Mandate a joint committee (Assembly, DDE, CSO representatives) to procure and distribute 2,500 dual-desks within 6 months.
- Enhance Social Accountability Channels:** Share Red-Amber-Green (RAG) scorecard findings at community durbars to empower PTAs and SMCs in tracking local service delivery.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

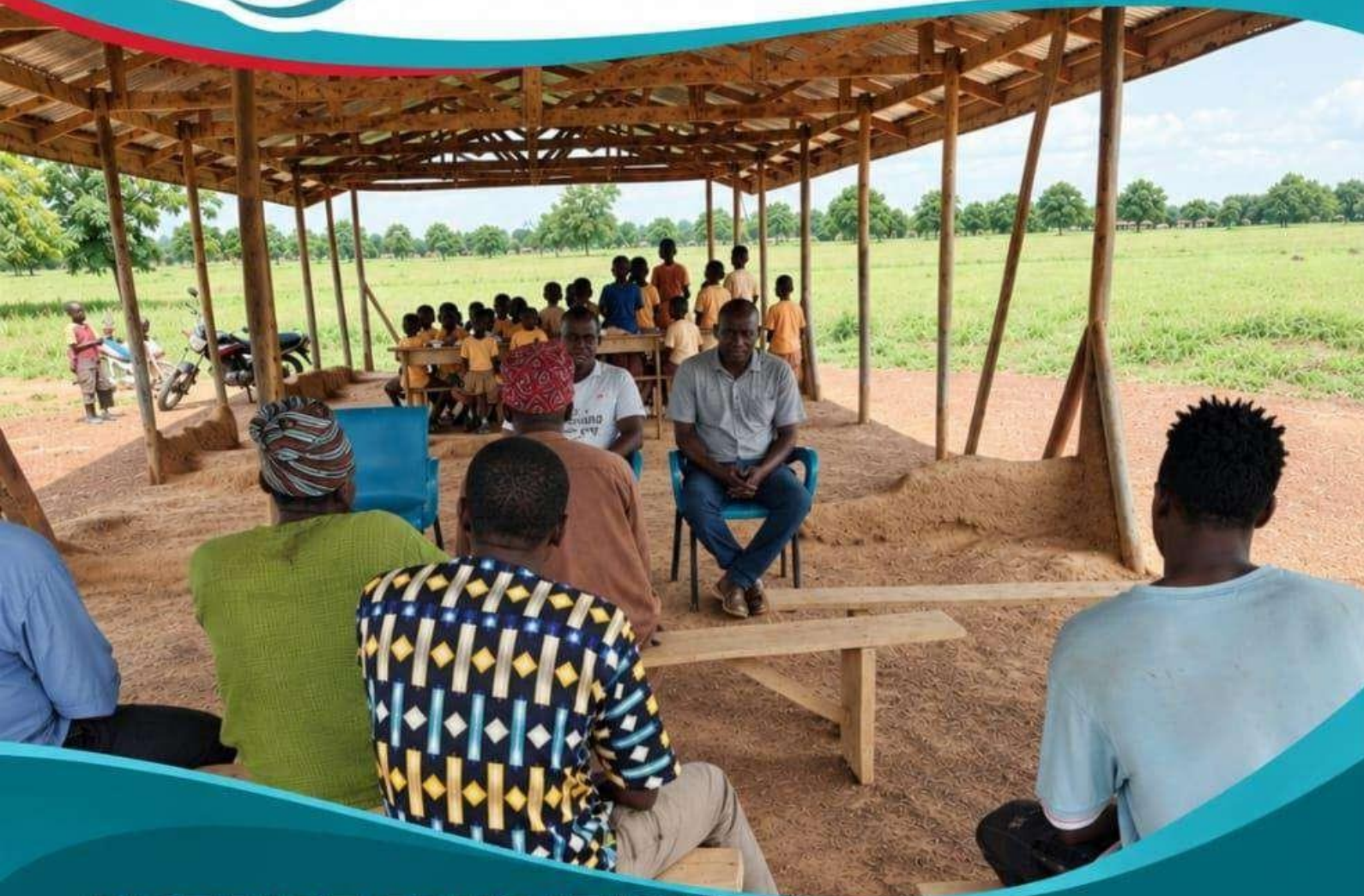
This Policy Brief is published under the **I Am Aware (IAA)** social accountability project by **Simba Ghana** in collaboration with the **Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)**, with generous support from the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**.



Ongoing teaching and learning in a dilapidated Tuyini D/A Primary in the Sung Circuit



Stronger Citizens
Better Education
Brighter Communities



DISTRICT EDUCATION LEAGUE TABLE REPORT

KARAGA DISTRICT

JUNE 2026



Better
Education



Stronger
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Evidence
for Change



Karaga
District

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