



GOVERNANCE SERIES – WAVE 2

BRIBERY & CORRUPTION



The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) established the Governance Series to generate reliable nationally representative data on citizens' perceptions on inclusiveness and responsiveness of governance and corruption experiences (SDGs 16.7.2). Using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI), the second wave, conducted from July 28 to August 20 with a reference period of January to June 2025, builds on the first wave to track emerging trends in citizens' experiences. The Series provides evidence-based insights to inform policy, strengthen accountability, and advance Ghana's progress toward a peaceful, inclusive, and transparent society. This factsheet summarizes findings related to SDG Indicator 16.5.1: "Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months."

Bribery: The act of giving, offering, or receiving something of value such as money, gifts, or favours in exchange for influence or action in violation of legal, ethical, or official duties, particularly in dealings with public officials.

(Aligned with SDG 16.5.1 metadata, UNODC 2018)

Corruption: The misuse of entrusted power for private gain through acts such as bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation, trading in influence, abuse of office, illicit enrichment, concealment, obstruction of justice, patronage, nepotism, or conflict of interest. (Based on UN Convention against Corruption, SDG 16 metadata).

Reference period | | **Wave 1** : January to December 2024 | **Wave 2** : January to June 2025

Demographics

Wave 1

The population that has come into contact with public officials

Wave 2

5.0 Million (55.7%)



6.7 Million (74.2%)

The population that gave gifts to public

By Sex

1.2M
(77.4%)

1.6 Million
Persons Gave
Gifts

376k
(22.6%)

1M
(76.7%)

1.3 Million
Persons Gave
Gifts

304k
(23.3%)

By Locality

Urban
1.01M
(61.9%)

Rural
634.1k
(38.1%)

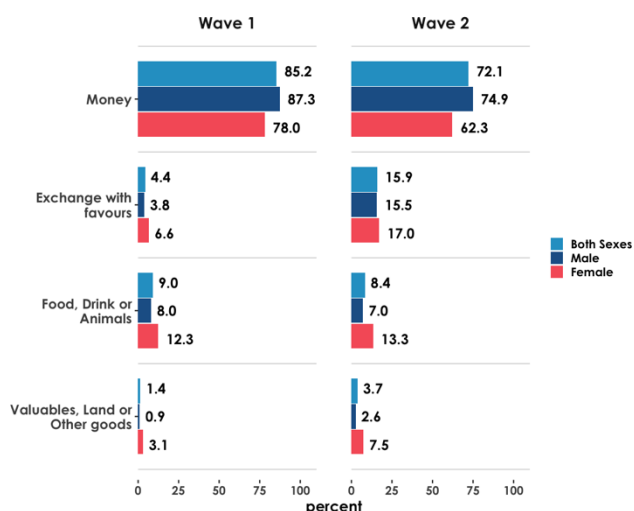
By Locality

Urban
899.9k
(68.9%)

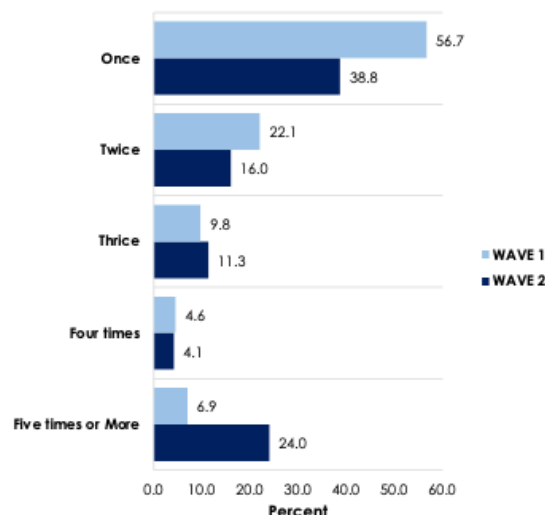
Rural
404.4k
(31.1%)

Forms and frequency of gifts

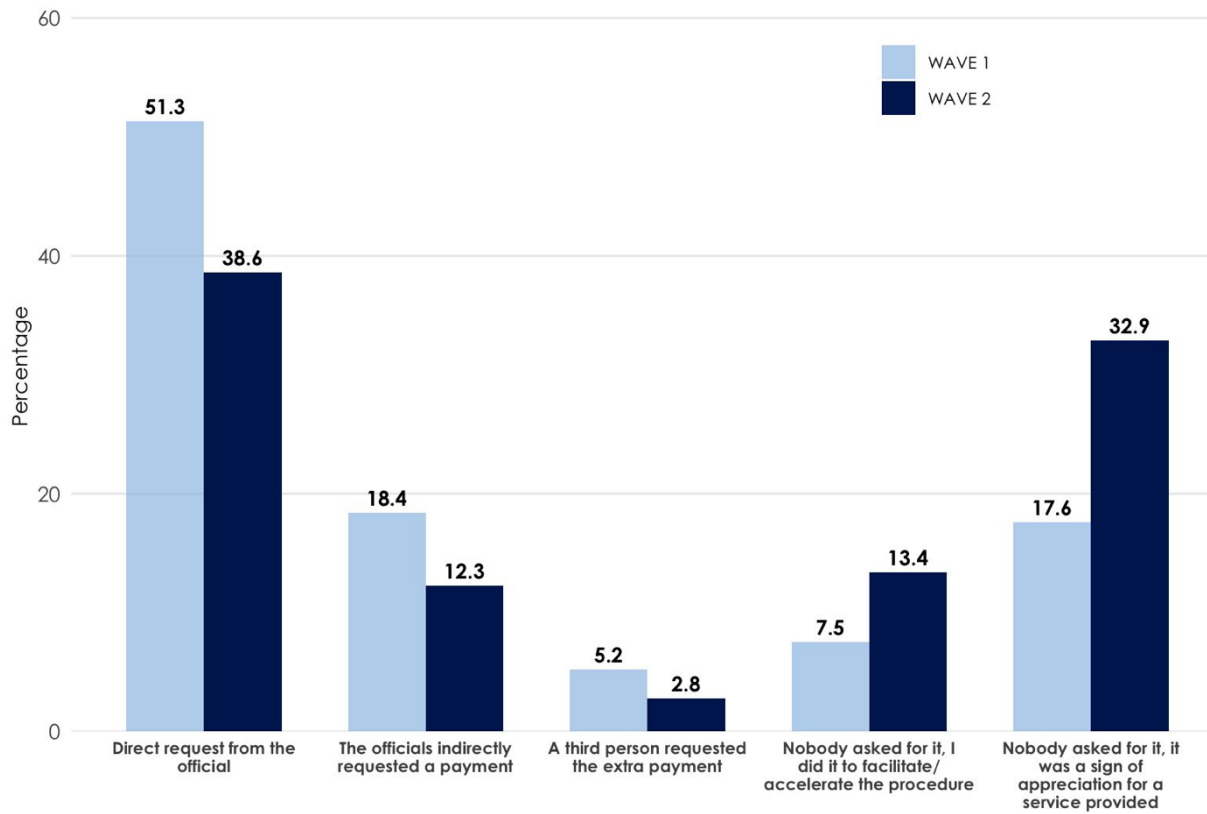
Forms of Gifts Given to Public Officials



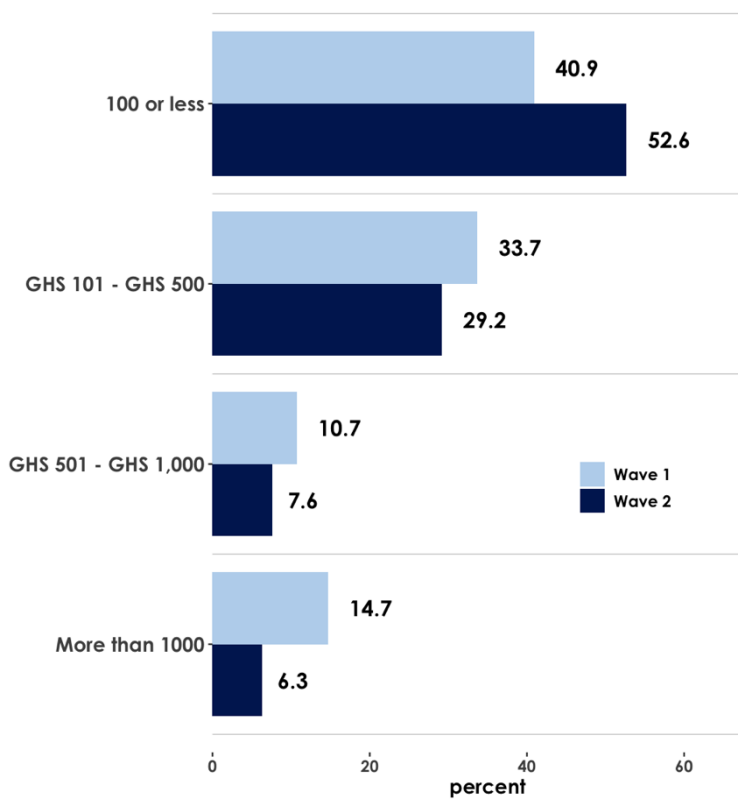
Frequency Of Giving Gifts to Public Officials



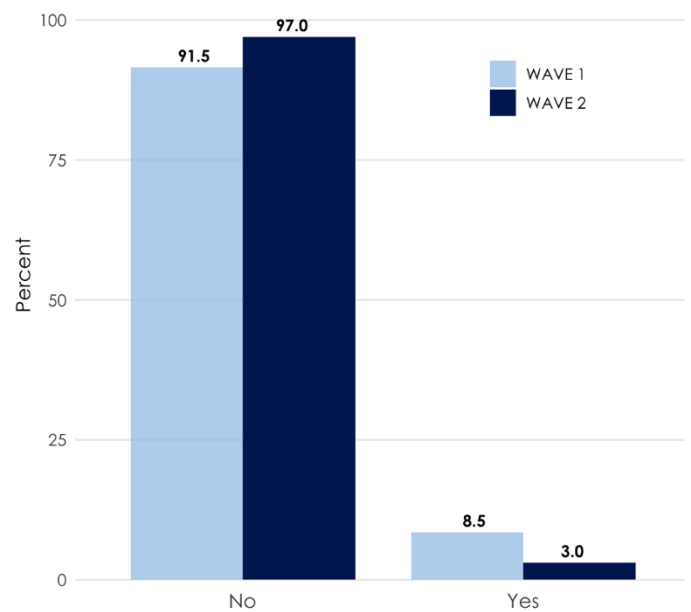
Knowledge of expected additional payment or gift



Amount of Money Given as Gifts to Public Officials

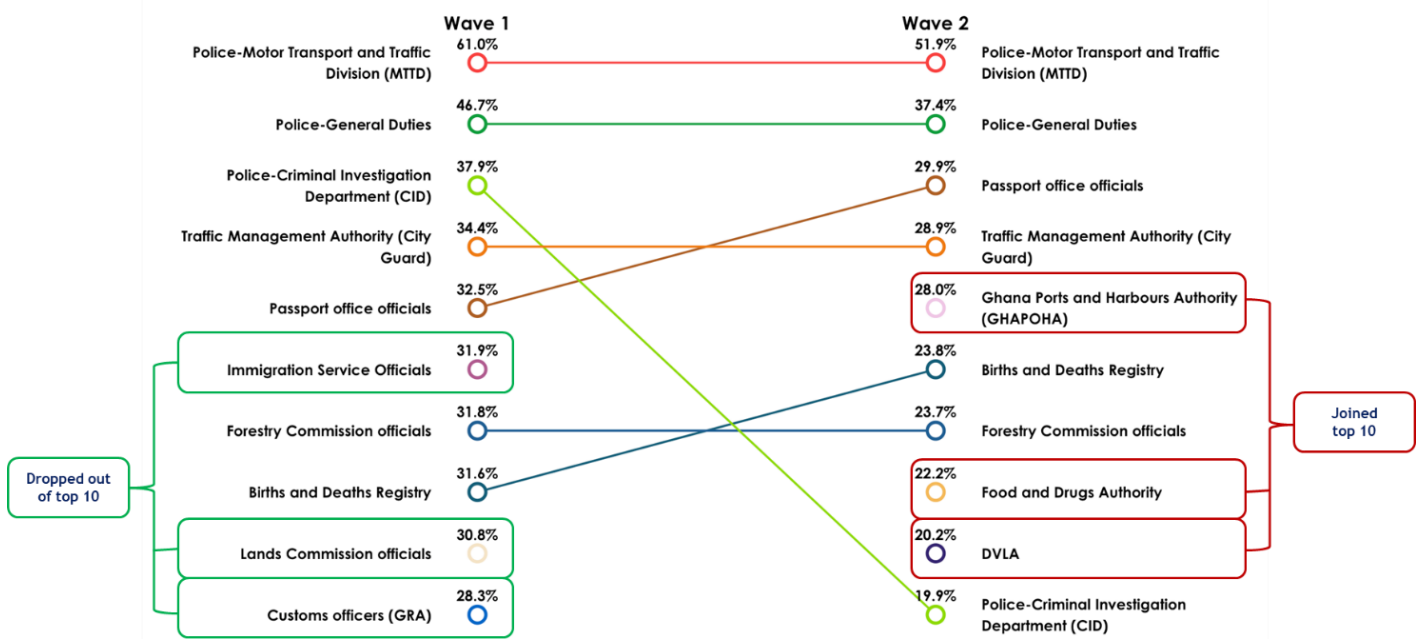


Persons Who Refused to Give/Pay Requested Gifts/Money

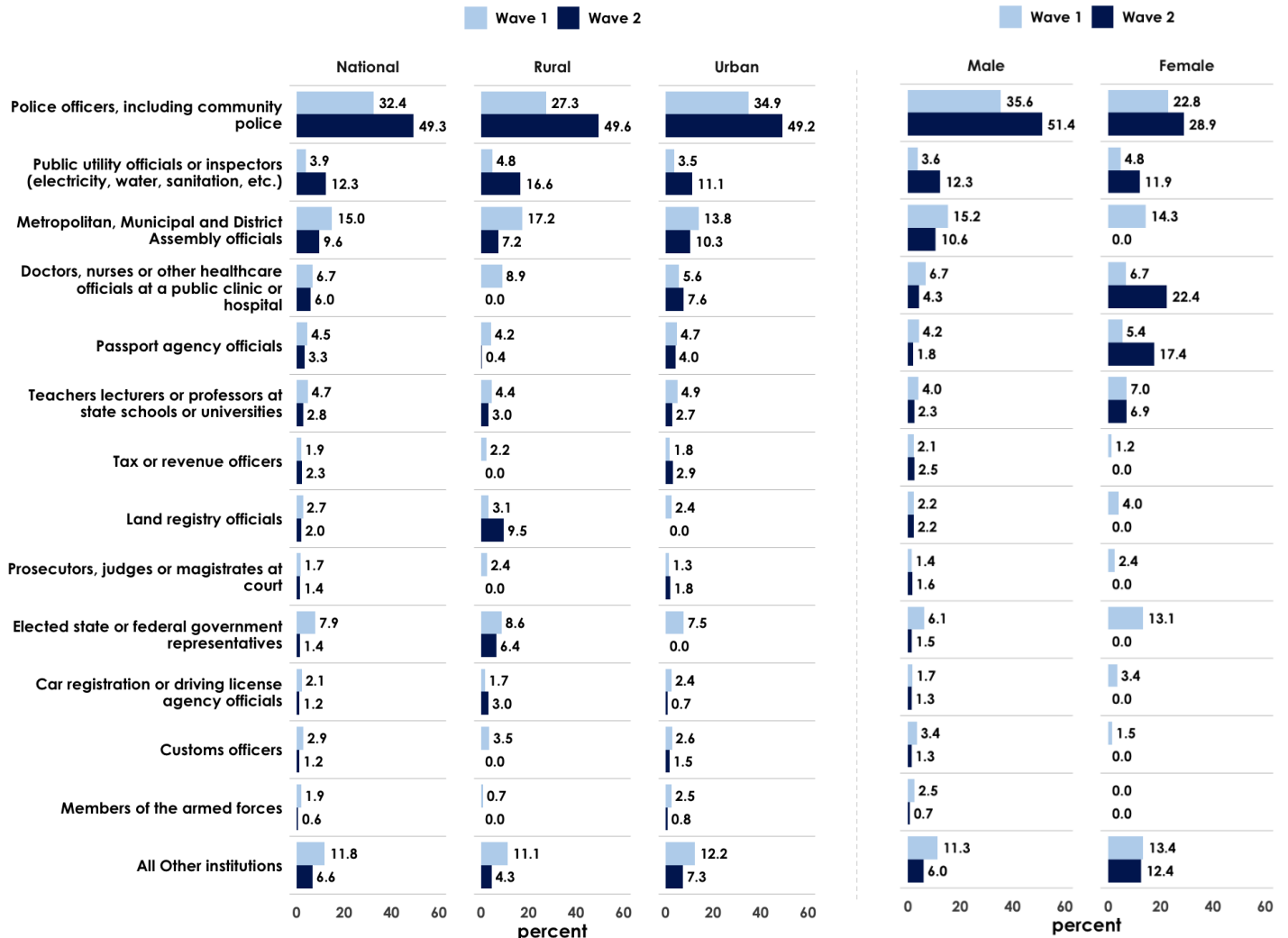


Gifts given in addition to an official fee

Top 10 institutions whose officers received money or gifts from citizens for services rendered.



Institutions whose officers requested bribe but were refused



Key Takeaways

1. Bribery in public institutions has declined, as has the number of citizens who refused to give bribes. Fewer people gave gifts or money to public officials (18.4% → 14.3%), and fewer citizens refused bribe requests (8.5% → 3.0%).
2. Money remains the most important gift; however, giving favours in exchange for services has increased, especially among females
3. Citizens reporting bribery to official or non-official institutions have declined
4. Despite the decline in bribery, the MTTD of the police service remains the leading institution in bribery. A significant reduction in Police–CID bribe-taking demonstrates the value of data disaggregation for better targeted interventions
5. Police and utility officials continue to be the leading institutions whose officers request bribery

Policy Recommendations

1. Government (including district assemblies) should deepen engagement with citizens to inform public policies that align with citizen expectations
2. Parliament may need to strengthen public engagement with constituents for feedback to inform their representation, oversight, and legislative functions.
3. Anti-corruption institutions may need to promptly act on reported acts of bribery and provide feedback to encourage citizens to use their facilities.

