

2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey, Ghana Central Region Districts Summary

Flyer No. 6

Introduction

The 2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey is a nationwide sample survey, designed to provide at national, regional and district levels, indicators for monitoring poverty and living standards in the country. A total of 4,860 households, i.e., 9.9 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Central region in the survey sample.

This Flyer presents district variations in selected indicators within the region. It is one of two flyers presenting key survey findings for the Central region. The other flyer portrays regional aggregates, including rural/urban and sex differentials. Other outputs from the survey that may be used as reference include:-

Flyers for other regions, national and regional summaries;

Statistical Abstract, presenting tables on the survey results

Summary Bulletins based on selected themes of the Ghana Poverty reduction Strategy (GPRS)

CD-ROM, containing all the reports on the survey, and the basic survey data.

Statistics from this survey will also be available on the GhanaInfo database.

Key Findings

Adult Literacy

The adult literacy rate of 51.9 per cent for the Region is slightly lower than the national average (53.4 per cent). Only three of the districts, Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem (55.7 per cent), Cape Coast (69.5 per cent), and Agona (59.0 per cent) have adult literacy rates above the regional average. Adult literacy is lowest in Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa district (41.6 per cent). A higher proportion of males than females are literate in all the districts, with some districts showing a difference of as high as 30 percentage points or more (Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese, Gomoa, Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam, Upper Denkyira and Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira).

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate is 71.4 per cent for the region and 68.7 per cent for the country as a whole. Youth literacy rates in six districts, Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem (78.3 per cent), Cape Coast (84.1 per cent), Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese (74.0 per cent), Gomoa (76.2 per cent), Awutu/Efutu/Senya (72.0 per cent) and Agona (76.1 per cent), are higher than the regional average. Cape Coast has the highest rate while Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira reports the lowest (56.3 per cent). Higher proportions of males than females are literate in all the districts, except Cape Coast, where the rate for females is just 1.6 percentage points higher than that of males. In the other districts the male-female gap, though also substantial, is lower than that of the adult literacy, and are all less than 30 percentage points except for Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira where the difference is as high as 36.3 percentage points. Youth literacy rates in all the districts are higher than the adult rates.

Net Enrolment

The net primary enrolment rate is 72.6 per cent, with marked sex differences within the districts. Net primary enrolment rates for the districts are high, and range from 62.7 per cent in Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem to 81.7 per cent in Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa.

The net secondary enrolment rate for the region (41.0 per cent) is low compared to the net primary enrolment. There is hardly any difference between the enrolment rates for females (41.4 per cent) and for males (40.6 per cent). Five districts Cape Coast (51.6 per cent), Gomoa (45.3 per cent), Agona (43.5 per cent), Upper Denkyira (44.3 per cent) and Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem (41.9 per cent) have rates higher than the regional average; and Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira has the lowest rate (31.4 per cent).

Access to School

Nine out of every ten primary school children (90.9 per cent) take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest primary school, compared to the national average (85.4 per cent). Except Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira (76.9 per cent), Upper Denkyira (76.8 per cent) and Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese (77.0 per cent), over 90.0 per cent of the pupils in the districts take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest primary school.

The region has better access to secondary school (52.1 per cent) relative to the national average (43.3 per cent). At the district level, it varies from 96.2 per cent in Cape Coast to 20.3 per cent in Upper Denkyira.

Satisfaction with Education

Three in four primary school pupils in the region are satisfied with their education (74.0 per cent); 6 percentage points higher than the national average. Five districts namely, Cape Coast (82.4 per cent), Agona (95.3 per cent), Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa (87.6 per cent), Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira (93.4 per cent) and Upper Denkyira (92.9 per cent) have proportions above 80.0 per cent; Gomoa records the lowest (53.3 per cent) proportion of pupils, who are satisfied with their education.

Satisfaction with secondary school in the region (74.1 per cent) is about 1 percentage point below the national average (75.0 per cent). Four districts; Agona, Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira, Upper Denkyira and Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa have satisfaction levels above 90 per cent. Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira has about the same levels among primary (93.4 per cent) and secondary school (94.0 per cent) children.

Access to Health Facilities

About two-thirds (67.2 per cent) of the region's households take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility, which is about 10 percentage points higher than the national average (57.6 per cent). Except for three districts, Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese (49.4 per cent), Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira (40.3 per cent) and Upper Denkyira (35.7 per cent), over 60.0 per cent of the households in the districts spend less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility. Cape Coast (94.5 per cent) has the highest rate while Upper Denkyira has the lowest.

Adequacy of Health Services

Need, defined as being sick or injured in the four-week period preceding the survey, is registered among 21.2 per cent of persons, higher than the national average by just about 3 percentage points. District averages range from a low of 3.3 per cent in Awutu/Efutu/Senya to a high of 28.1 per cent in Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem. The proportion of households that consult health practitioners in the region is 21.1 per cent. Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem is the district with the highest rate (31.2 per cent) and Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira (11.7 per cent), the lowest rate.

Satisfaction with medical services in the region (79.9 per cent) is relatively higher and slightly above the national average (78.6 per cent), 1.3 percentage point. The proportion of those satisfied

with the medical service is relatively high in all the districts, ranging from 70.4 per cent in Assin and Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam to 93.4 per cent in Agona.

Prenatal Care

Over 90 per cent of women who had live births within the twelve months preceding the survey, received prenatal care which is about 2 percentage points lower than the national average (93.4 per cent). Six out of the twelve districts (Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem, Gomoa, Awutu/Efutu/Senya, Assin, Upper Denkyira and Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira) have rates for prenatal care lower than the national as well as the regional average, and Agona with a rate of 100 per cent.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

About half of all births of children aged under five years, were assisted by trained health professionals (doctor, nurse or mid-wife). The proportion of professionally assisted deliveries ranges from 30.9 per cent in Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira to 85.7 per cent in Agona. The average for the region (51.4 per cent) is about equal to the national average (51.8 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

About one-third (31.7 per cent) of children under five years in the region are stunted. Assin has the highest stunting rate (40.4 per cent) while Cape Coast has the lowest (23.7 per cent). About 12 per cent of children in the region are wasted compared to the national average of 15.5 per cent. The proportion of wasted children in the districts varies from 4.1 per cent in Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem to 20.2 per cent in Mfantseman. About 22 per cent of children in the region are underweight. Mfantseman again has the highest proportion (29.6 per cent) of underweight children while Agona has the lowest (10.1 per cent), though it has one of the highest rates of stunting in the region (39.4 per cent).

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons aged 15 years and older, who are unemployed is 3.1 per cent. It is lower than the national average (5.4 per cent) and the same for males as for females. Six districts in the region, have levels of unemployment below 2.0 per cent; five with levels equal to or above the regional average. Agona (6.8 per cent) has the highest proportion unemployed.

The underemployment rate (persons who seek to increase earnings and worked less or equal to 35 hours in the seven days preceding the survey) is 12.1 per cent, compared to the national average 13.6 per cent. A higher or equal proportion of females than males are underemployed in almost all districts except three, Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam, Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira and Upper Denkyira. The underemployment rate is high in Gomoa (17.1 per cent), Assin (24.5 per cent), Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam (19.1 per cent) and Awutu/Efutu/Senya (14.6 per cent), and lowest in Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa (2.3 per cent).

Meeting Food Needs

About 10 per cent (10.3 per cent) of households have difficulty in meeting their basic food needs compared to 12.8 per cent nationwide. Districts such as Mfantseman (20.4 per cent), Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese (18.4 per cent), Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem (17.9 per cent) and Cape Coast (16.2 per cent) have proportionately more households with difficulty meeting their basic food needs, compared to Upper Denkyira (3.4 per cent), Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa (3.4 per cent) and Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam (1.1 per cent) that have the lowest proportion of their households with such difficulty.

Access to Water

Most households (96.6 per cent) in the region are within 30 minutes of their water source. The same is the case in all the districts, with Gomoa reporting the lowest 91.3 per cent while

Awutu/Efutu/Senya (99.8 per cent) and Cape Coast (99.3 per cent) have the highest.

Improved Water Source

About 81 per cent of households in the region have access to improved water sources (piped water in the dwelling, public outdoor tap, borehole and protected well). The use of improved water sources by households range from 62 per cent in Awutu/Efutu/Senya to 93.0 per cent in Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese district.

Safe Sanitation

More than half (56.5 per cent) of the households in the region use safe sanitation facilities (flush toilet, covered pit latrine, VIP/KVIP), which is only slightly higher than the national average 55.0 per cent. There are district variations ranging from 34.7 per cent in Upper Denkyira to 72.7 per cent in Cape Coast.

Improved Waste Disposal

Most of the Region's households (73.4 per cent) use improved waste disposal methods (collected, public dump), compared to the national average (65.8 per cent). Three districts, Assin, Upper Denkyira and Twifu/Heman/Lower Denkyira, have rates of improved waste disposal method less than the national average.

Electricity

While only about half of the households in the region use electricity, nine in ten households (89.1 per cent) in Cape Coast use electricity. Mfantsiman (67.5 per cent) has the next highest rate and Assin (27.0 per cent) has the lowest.

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

About 6 per cent (5.8 per cent) of households use non-wood fuel for cooking (excludes use of firewood and charcoal), half the national average 11.4 per cent. The proportion for the districts range from a high of 19.6 per cent in Cape Coast to a low of 1.1 per cent in Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

About half (49.7 per cent) of the households in the region perceive their economic situation as having worsened compared to one year ago. Seven of the 12 districts record more than 50 per cent of their households as having a worsened economic situation: Cape Coast records the highest proportion of households 59.8 per cent, followed by Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem (59.0 per cent). The lowest is recorded in Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa (28.1 per cent).

Less than a third of the households in the region perceive their economic situation to have improved, with the proportions for the districts ranging from 13.2 per cent (Cape Coast) to 37.7 per cent (Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa).

There has been little change in land ownership in the region. As with the country as a whole under 3 per cent of households believe they have more land now (2.5 per cent) or less land now (1.8 per cent) compared to a year ago. The proportions in Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa are about 3 times the regional averages.