

2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey, Ghana

Central Region Summary

Flyer No. 5

Introduction

The 2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey is a nationwide sample survey, designed to provide indicators for monitoring poverty and living standards in the country, at national, regional and district levels. 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 regional aggregates, including rural/urban and sex differentials, for selected indicators. It is one of two flyers presenting key survey findings for the Central Region. The other flyer shows district variations within the region. 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 in the region increased from 47.2 per cent in 1997 to 51.9 per cent in 2003. The change is primarily from a 6.2 percentage point increase in female literacy rate (from 32.5 per cent to 38.7 per cent) while the male rate remained virtually unchanged, 67.4 per cent and 67.9 per cent respectively over the same period.

The male literacy rate (67.9 per cent) is higher than the rate for females (38.7 per cent), by 29.2 percentage points, and is almost the same as the 1997 figure (67.4 per cent). The literacy rate for urban areas (62.5 per cent) is higher than that of rural areas (45.3 per cent), region-wide, as well as for males, (76.8 compared to 62.3 per cent) and females (50.8 compared to 31.1 per cent)

In general, the literacy rate is lower for females than males. In urban households, it is two-thirds of the male rate and in rural it is half that of males.

Youth Literacy

The literacy rate among the youth has increased by 5.9 per cent from 67.4 per cent in 1997 to 71.4 per cent in 2003. The male literacy rate (79.4 per cent) is higher than that for females (63.8 per cent). However, the female literacy rate increased while the male

rate remained almost the same as in 1997. Also the literacy rate for the urban youth (78.5 per cent) is higher than that for rural youth (66.5 per cent).

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate showed no appreciable change over the period: 72.0 per cent recorded in 1997 compared to 72.6 per cent in 2003. There is generally no remarkable difference between primary enrolment rates for urban and rural areas. Substantial differences exist however, between urban poor and rural poor children (72.0 per cent and 59.0 per cent, respectively).

The net secondary school enrolment is low compared to primary enrolment. For children aged 12-17 years there has been a slight decline in overall enrolment since 1997 (from 42.8 to 41.0 per cent). While female enrolment increased by approximately 4 percentage points, that of males declined by about 6.9 percentage points.

Access to School

About 91 per cent of children in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest primary school, a 9.5 per cent increase from rates reported in 1997. Access to primary schools for urban and rural households is 95.8 per cent and 88.5 per cent respectively.

Similarly the region recorded an increase in access to secondary school from 15.2 per cent in 1997 to 52.1 per cent in 2003. Children of urban households have higher access to secondary school (66.6 per cent) compared to children from rural households (43.9 per cent).

Satisfaction with Education

About seven out of ten (74.0 per cent) primary school children have no problem with the schools they are attending. Both rural and urban children have high levels of satisfaction. The level of satisfaction among secondary school-going children increased from 48.1 per cent in 1997 to 74.1 per cent in 2003, similar to that of primary school children which rose from 45.4 to 74.0 per cent. Secondary school children in urban households have higher levels of satisfaction (80.1 per cent) with their school, compared to children from rural areas (69.3 per cent).

Access to Health Facilities

Close to three out of four (67.2 per cent) households in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility, compared to 35.9 per cent in 1997. Access to health services is better in urban areas (79.4 per cent) than in rural areas (60.3 per cent); while barely half of the rural poor households (49.7 per cent) are within 30 minutes of a health facility.

Adequacy of Health Services

One out of five persons (21.2 per cent) in the region need medical services compared to 1997 (14.9 per cent). There is no appreciable difference between the rural (21.0 per cent) and urban rates (21.5 per cent). About the same proportion, (21.1 per cent) consulted a health practitioner four weeks prior to the survey, with a slightly higher proportion in urban (22.8 per cent) than in rural areas (20.2 per cent).

There is not much difference between the proportion of those who use health services in urban and rural areas nor between the urban and rural poor. Of those who seek health

services from health practitioners, 79.9 per cent report being satisfied with the service provided. Differences in satisfaction rates for rural and urban households are also minimal with urban households reporting a slightly higher satisfaction rate (80.5 per cent) compared to rural households (79.5 per cent).

Prenatal Care

About 90.0 per cent of females with live births in the 12 months prior to the survey report having received prenatal care. A higher proportion (93.7 per cent) of urban households compared to rural households 88.1 per cent received prenatal care.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Among the under fives about half (51.4 per cent) were delivered with the assistance of trained health professionals (doctor, nurse, midwife etc.) at their birth. The proportion of births assisted by trained medical personnel is much higher for urban areas (76.0 per cent) than for rural areas (40.2 per cent). Rural poor households are less likely to use trained health professionals, with the proportion of births assisted by trained health professionals being only a third of that for the urban poor.

Child Nutritional Status

About one-third (32.0 per cent) of the children under age 5 in the region are stunted (short for their age), 11.9 per cent are wasted (underweight for their height) and 22.1 per cent are underweight for their age. Wasting among children in the region has worsened since 1997 with the proportion of wasted children more than doubling. There is hardly any variation between rural and urban areas for all the three nutritional status indicators, but substantial differentials exist between rural and urban poor with respect to prevalence of stunting (9.6 per cent compared to 18.3 per cent) and underweight (24.0 per cent and 33.3 per cent respectively).

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons 15 years and older who are unemployed declined marginally from 3.2 per cent in 1997 to 3.1 per cent in 2003. The level of unemployment for males (3.1 per cent) is almost the same as that of females (3.0 per cent). The proportion unemployed in urban areas (4.4 per cent) is twice that of the rural areas (2.2 per cent). Unemployment is, however, highest among the urban poor households (4.8 per cent).

The underemployment rate increased substantially from 1.4 per cent in 1997 to 12.1 per cent in 2003. The rate is 3.8 percentage points higher in rural than in urban areas.

Meeting Food Needs

One out of ten households in this region has difficulties in meeting their basic food requirements. A slightly higher proportion of households in the rural areas (10.6 per cent) have difficulties in meeting their basic food needs compared to urban households (9.9 per cent). The rural poor experienced greater difficulties (17.5 per cent) in meeting their food needs when compared to the urban poor (12.6 per cent).

Access to Water

Almost all (96.6 per cent) households in the region spend less than 30 minutes fetching

water. Similar proportions of both urban households (98.8 per cent) and rural (95.3 per cent) households spend less than 30 minutes fetching water.

Improved Water Source

Eight out of ten (80.9 per cent) households in the region obtain their drinking water from improved water sources. However, the rate for the urban households (87.4 per cent) is higher than that of the rural households (77.0 per cent).

Safe Sanitation

More than half (56.5 per cent) of the households in the region have access to safe sanitation. This is a 10.4 percentage point increase over the 1997 level of 46.1 per cent. Availability of safe sanitation in the urban households (74.2 per cent) is one and a half times higher than in rural households (45.7 per cent).

Improved Waste Disposal

About three out of four (73.4 per cent) households in the region have improved means of waste disposal (collected and public dump). Use of improved waste disposal methods is higher in urban areas than rural.

Electricity

About half (49.4 per cent) of the households in the region have access to electricity. The rate for the urban households (74.7 per cent) is more than twice that of the rural households (33.9 per cent). Only 29.5 per cent of the rural poor have access to electricity, compared to 56.0 per cent of urban poor households.

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

Only 5.8 per cent of the households use non-wood fuel (excludes use of firewood and charcoal) for their cooking purposes compared to the 1997 figure of 2.6 per cent. An even smaller percentage (1.8 per cent) of the rural households use non-wood fuel compared to 12.3 per cent in the urban areas.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

About one in two households (49.7 per cent) perceive their economic situations to have worsened. No major differences exist between rural and urban households with just about 50 per cent of the households in both rural and urban areas of the view that their economic situation has worsened. On the other hand, 27.6 per cent of the households perceive their economic situation to have improved compared to one year ago.

The ownership of land is relatively stable with less than 4 per cent reporting that they have either less or more land compared to a year ago.