

2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey, Ghana Upper West Region Summary

Flyer No. 21

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 2,024 households, i.e., 4.1 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Upper West 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 Upper West 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

Educational levels in the Upper West Region remain very low as in the Northern and Upper East regions. The region records an adult literacy rate of 24.4 per cent, which is only a slight improvement over the 1997 rate of 22.4 per cent. Male literacy rate shows a modest increase from 25.2 per cent in 1997 to 30.9 per cent in 2003, while, female literacy rate fell slightly from 20.3 per cent in 1997 to 18.3 per cent in 2003. Thus, male adult literacy rate (30.9 per cent) is much higher than the female rate (18.3 per cent).

Urban and rural disparities are substantial, with the urban households recording 54.5 per cent adult literacy rate, compared to 16.6 per cent for the rural households. The rate for urban males is 67.0 per cent and for rural males, 21.7 per cent. For females the rates are 43.0 per cent for urban and 11.9 per cent for rural; that is, urban females have a rate which is more than three and half times that of rural females.

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate increased from 40.1 per cent in 1997 to 46.2 per cent in 2003. The youth literacy rate for females increased from 41.8 per cent in 1997 to 44.4 per cent in 2003, while that of males increased from 38.5 per cent in 1997 to 47.8 per cent in 2003. The rate for urban youth (74.1 per cent) is about twice that of rural youth (36.9 per cent). Males in

rural poor households record the lowest literacy rate of 32.6 per cent, relative to both the urban household and urban poor, and all rural youth both males and females.

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate increased from 36.0 per cent in 1997 to 51.1 per cent in 2003, which is an increase of more than 40 per cent. Female enrolment rate (55.4 per cent) is higher than the rate for males (47.5 per cent). Net primary school enrolment rate for urban households (68.3 per cent) is higher than that of rural households (48.3 per cent). The rate for urban males is 63.6 per cent compared to 45.0 per cent for the rural males. Similarly, the rate for the urban females is 73.3 per cent compared to 52.3 per cent for their rural counterparts.

In contrast, the net secondary school enrolment rate for the region declined from 32.4 per cent in 1997 to 21.3 per cent in 2003. While the rate for males declined marginally from 23.1 per cent in 1997 to 21.9 per cent in 2003, that of females declined by over 50 per cent from 44.1 per cent in 1997 to 20.6 per cent in 2003.

Access to School

About two-thirds (67.1 per cent) of the primary school children in the region are in households that are within 30 minutes of a primary school, compared to 56.8 per cent in 1997. The rates for urban and rural households are 85.1 per cent and 64.2 per cent respectively. Access to a secondary school almost tripled, increasing from 6.4 per cent in 1997 to 17.2 per cent in 2003.

Despite the increase in access to secondary school (17.2 per cent), it is only about a quarter of that of primary school. While urban households record an access rate of 45.4 per cent to a secondary school, rural households register only 9.9 per cent.

Satisfaction with Education

The level of satisfaction with primary education increased from 35.2 per cent in 1997 to 50.0 per cent in 2003. In spite of the increase, it is much lower than the national average (68.0 per cent). Satisfaction with school at primary level (72.5 per cent) is higher for urban than rural households members (44.7 per cent).

The level of satisfaction among secondary school students increased from 39.0 per cent in 1997 to 58.1 per cent in 2003 with the corresponding proportions being higher for urban (72.2 per cent) than rural households (49.3 per cent).

Access to Health Facilities

Less than one-third (30.4 per cent) of household members in the region are (within 30 minutes of a health facility). Although this reflects a substantial increase over the 1997 rate (19.8 per cent), it is significantly lower than the national average of 57.6 per cent. The access rate for urban households (54.2 per cent) is more than twice that of the rural (25.1 per cent), with the rural poor households showing a slightly lower rate (23.6 per cent).

Adequacy of Health Services

Less than one-fifth (14.7 per cent) of household members in the region reported being sick or injured in the four weeks preceding the survey. The rates for the urban and rural households are 17.9 per cent and 14.0 per cent respectively. Only 13.2 per cent of household members consult a health practitioner, compared to 10.9 per cent in 1997.

Seven out of ten (70.4 per cent) household members who seek medical services from health

practitioners are satisfied with the service they receive, compared to 55.8 per cent in 1997. Urban households report a higher satisfaction rate (74.2 per cent) than rural households (69.3 per cent).

Prenatal Care

Most of the females (91.4 per cent) aged 12-49 years who had a live birth in the 12 months prior to the survey, received prenatal care. The proportion of women who receive prenatal care in rural areas (91.5 per cent) is slightly higher than in urban areas (90.9 per cent). Similarly, a higher proportion of women from rural poor households (87.9 per cent) than the urban poor (63.1 per cent) receive prenatal care.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

The births of 31.5 per cent of children under five years of age are assisted by trained health professionals, representing a slight decline from the 1997 level of 34.4 per cent. The proportion of assisted deliveries in urban households (85.4 per cent) is nearly four times that of rural households (22.2 per cent). The rate in rural poor households is even lower (17.6 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

The level of stunting among children under 5 years decreased substantially from 46.8 per cent in 1997 to 25.0 per cent in 2003. The level of underweight declined considerably from 42.4 per cent in 1997 to 16.2 per cent in 2003. The rate of wasting among children, also declined, but only marginally from 10.4 per cent in 1997 to 9.7 per cent in 2003. The prevalence of wasting among children in the rural households (11.0 per cent) is almost five times that of the urban households (2.4 per cent). Similarly, the proportion of underweight children in the rural households (18.1 per cent) is three times as high as that of the urban (6.0 per cent). However, there is no substantial difference between the level of stunting in rural (25.1 per cent) and urban (24.6 per cent) children.

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons in the region aged 15 years and older who are unemployed increased from 0.5 per cent in 1997 to 4.0 per cent in 2003. The proportion for males (4.5 per cent) is higher than that for females (3.6 per cent). The rate of underemployment increased from 0.5 per cent in 1997 to 8.4 per cent in 2003. The underemployment rate for the urban households (10.8 per cent) is higher than that of the rural (7.8 per cent). The rate among males is about the same in urban (9.0 per cent) as in rural households (9.6 per cent). The rate of underemployment for females in urban areas (12.4 per cent) is twice that of the rural (6.2 per cent). The rate for females in urban poor households (14.2 per cent) is twice that of males in the same category and about thrice that of females in rural poor households.

Meeting Food Needs

About one-quarter (23.3 per cent) of households in the region have difficulty meeting their basic food needs. The problem is more pronounced among rural households (25.8 per cent) than urban households (14.3 per cent). Both the rural poor (30.7 per cent) and the urban poor (28.9 per cent) have more difficulty than average in meeting their basic food needs.

Access to Water

A higher proportion of the households (87.7 per cent) in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest source of drinking water, compared to 85.4 per cent in 1997. The rates for rural and urban households are 88.1 per cent and 97.0 per cent respectively.

Improved Water Source

Nine in ten households obtain their drinking water from an improved water source, a slight improvement over the 1997 average of 84.7 per cent. Both rural and urban households record relatively high rates (88.1 per cent and 97.0 per cent, respectively).

Safe Sanitation

The use of safe sanitation facilities (flush toilet, covered pit latrine, VIP/KVIP) by households in the region increased from 9.1 per cent in 1997 to 23.3 per cent in 2003. Marked disparities exist among rural and urban households, with a greater proportion of urban households (77.9 per cent) using safe sanitation facilities compared to 8.6 per cent in the rural households. Use of safe sanitation facilities is even rarer among the rural poor (4.3 per cent) compared to other rural households.

Improved Waste Disposal

About one-fifth (19.6 per cent) of households in the region use improved waste disposal methods. The rate for urban households (69.8 per cent) is much higher than that of rural households (6.0 per cent), with only 4.5 per cent of the rural poor using improved waste disposal methods, compared to 63.8 per cent of the urban poor.

Electricity

A very low proportion of households in the region (18.0 per cent) have access to electricity compared to the national average of 50.6 per cent. Similarly, access to electricity for rural households is also very low (4.2 per cent) compared to urban households (69.1 per cent), with the rural poor recording the lowest rate (2.0 per cent).

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

Less than 2 per cent (1.6 per cent) of households in the region use non-wood fuel for cooking. The situation is worse among the rural households, where only 0.4 per cent use non-wood fuel for cooking compared to 6.1 per cent for urban households; and virtually nil for both the rural poor and urban poor households.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

About three out of every five (59.5 per cent) households perceive that their economic situation has worsened compared to a year ago. No marked difference is observed among the rural and urban households. Slightly over one-quarter (26.3 per cent) of the households perceive that their economic situation has improved compared to one year ago.

A relatively small proportion of households have experienced slight changes in their ownership of land; 4.4 per cent have less now and an almost equal proportion, 4.5 per cent, have more now compared to a year ago. The relative position of the urban households appear to be better as 3 per cent of households, and 7.2 per cent of urban poor household have more land, with no households reporting less land.