

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

Flyer No. 19

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 2,430 households, i.e., 5 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Upper East 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 East 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 region records an adult literacy rate of 23.0 per cent compared to 17.2 per cent reported in 1997. The rate for males is 29.5 per cent compared to 16.9 per cent for females. The literacy rates for both males and females, though quite low, represent appreciable increases from the 1997 levels of 22.9 per cent and 12.0 per cent respectively. The literacy rate for urban households (52.1 per cent) is about three times that of rural households (17.3 per cent), while that for the urban poor households (36.5 per cent) is more than twice that of the rural poor (15.3 per cent). Rural poor females have the lowest literacy rate of less than 10 per cent compared with the rates for other female sub-groups as well as the male sub-groups.

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate increased from 37.2 per cent in 1997 to 45.0 per cent in 2003. Youth literacy rate for males (47.9 per cent) is higher than the rate for females (41.6 per cent). The rate for urban households (69.6 per cent) is much higher than that of rural households (38.7 per cent). Generally, youth literacy rates are substantially higher than adult literacy rates.

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate for Upper East increased from 45.1 per cent in

1997 to 56.1 per cent in 2003. The net primary school enrolment rate for females increased by 15.9 percentage points from 41.0 per cent in 1997 to 56.9 per cent in 2003, while that of males increased by 6.7 percentage points from 48.7 per cent to 55.4 per cent. The net enrolment rate for females in primary schools (56.9 per cent) is about the same as that of males (55.4 per cent).

In contrast with primary school enrolment, the net secondary school enrolment rate for the region records a substantial decline from 31.7 per cent in 1997 to 19.5 per cent in 2003. The rate for males declined from 33.8 per cent in 1997 to 18.6 per cent in 2003, and that of females, from 29.2 per cent to 20.8 per cent. Female net secondary school enrolment rate (20.8 per cent) is only slightly higher than the rate for males (18.6 per cent). Males in rural poor households have the lowest net secondary school enrolment rate (11.1 per cent). It is less than half the rate for urban poor males (27.8 per cent).

Access to School

About six in ten (61.9 per cent) primary school-going children in the region live less than 30 minutes from the nearest school compared to 45.7 per cent in 1997. Primary school access rates for urban and rural households are 71.3 per cent and 60.6 per cent respectively.

The corresponding rate for students of Secondary school in the region is 7.9 per cent about one-eighth of that for primary schools and a marginal decline from the 1997 level of 8.4 per cent. The rate for secondary education in urban households (21.2 per cent) is more than four times that of rural households (5.2 per cent) and about five times (4.3 per cent) that of the secondary school-going children in rural poor households.

Satisfaction with Education

About 48 per cent primary school pupils are satisfied with the school they attend, which is an improvement over the 1997 level (35.9 per cent).

The proportion of secondary school children who are satisfied with the school is higher (52.4 per cent), than that reported for primary school, and also an improvement over the 1997 level (40.9 per cent).

Access to Health Facilities

A low proportion, (26.7 per cent) of households in the region live within 30 minutes of the nearest health facility. Although this rate has more than tripled compared to 1997 (8.2 per cent) for the region, the current rate for rural households (23.4 per cent), is substantially lower than the rate for urban households (45.2 per cent).

Adequacy of Health Services

About twenty per cent (19.4 per cent) of households in the region need medical services, with little difference between rural (19.0 per cent) and urban (21.4 per cent) households. Only 16.8 per cent of household members in the region consult a health professional compared to 11.0 per cent in 1997.

For those who consult health practitioners, 66.7 per cent report being satisfied with the services received, compared to 59.4 per cent in 1997. The satisfaction level for urban households (72.1 per cent) is higher than that of rural (65.4 per cent).

Prenatal Care

Majority (93.1 per cent) of females aged 12-49 years who had a live birth in the 12 months prior to the survey, received prenatal care with over 90.0 per cent coverage in both rural and urban areas.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Nearly a quarter (24.2 per cent) of births of children under-five were assisted by trained health professionals (doctor, nurse, or midwife). Although it is an improvement over the 1997 coverage (15.1 per cent), the rate remains low. The proportion of births that are assisted by trained health professionals among women in urban households (67.0 per cent) is much higher than in the rural households (18.1 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years declined from 53.4 per cent in 1997 to 28.8 per cent in 2003, implying improvement. The level of underweight has also improved, declining from 48.8 per cent in 1997 to 21.1 per cent in 2003. However, the proportion of children who are wasted increased from 11.4 per cent in 1997 to 16.6 per cent in 2003.

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons aged 15 years and older who are unemployed in the region has increased substantially from 0.4 per cent in 1997 to 13.2 per cent in 2003, with the rate for males (14.4 per cent) being slightly higher than that of females (12.1 per cent). Unemployment is higher in rural areas (13.6 per cent) than in urban areas (11.4 per cent). The rate of underemployment has increased from 0.1 per cent in 1997 to 13.2 per cent in 2003.

Meeting Food Needs

Two-fifths of households in the region have difficulty in meeting their basic food requirements. The problem is more pronounced in rural areas (44.2 per cent) than urban (20.9 per cent). Nearly half (47.3 per cent) of the rural poor households have difficulty in meeting their basic food needs compared to less than a third (31.0 per cent) of urban poor households.

Access to Water

Nine out of ten households in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach their main water source compared to 80.9 per cent in 1997. Access to water is high among both rural (89.6 per cent) and urban (92.2 per cent) households.

Improved Water Source

Majority of households in the region (79.4 per cent) obtain their drinking water from improved water sources, which represents a slight change over the proportion in 1997 (78.9 per cent). Similarly, substantial proportions of both rural (78.9 per cent) and urban (81.6 per cent) households obtain their drinking water from improved water sources.

Safe Sanitation

Only one-tenth (10.7 per cent) of households in the region use safe sanitation facilities. A wide disparity in the use of safe sanitation facilities exists between rural and urban

households, with urban households recording 53.4 per cent compared to only 2.2 per cent for the rural households. A much lower proportion (0.8 per cent) of the rural poor households use safe sanitation facilities compared to 26.8 per cent for the urban poor.

Improved Waste Disposal

Less than one-tenth of households (8.7 per cent) in the region use improved waste disposal methods with only 1.4 per cent of rural households using it, compared to 45.2 per cent by urban households. Use of improved waste disposal methods is very low among rural poor households (0.5 per cent) compared to 24.1 per cent for the urban poor.

Electricity

Only 14.7 per cent of households in the region have access to electricity compared to the national average of 50.6 per cent. The proportion of rural households with electricity (4.2 per cent) is extremely low compared to the urban households (67.4 per cent). The situation among the rural poor households is even worse (1.6 per cent).

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

About one-third of households in the region use non-wood fuel for cooking, compared to 1.4 per cent in 1997. The rate for rural households is 38.4 per cent compared to 15.6 per cent in urban households. Again the rural poor households in the region report higher levels of non-wood fuel use (29.6 per cent) compared to 9.9 per cent for the urban poor. The non-wood fuel used in this region is mostly traditional unimproved fuel (crop/animal residue), as compared to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), kerosene etc., that are used in some other regions.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

Almost 46 per cent of households in the region perceive that their economic situation has worsened compared to one year ago, with 47.7 per cent of rural households compared to 36.6 per cent of urban households reporting that their economic situations have deteriorated. Moreover, about one in ten of the region's households report that they have less land than a year before, while only 2 per cent have more.