

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

Flyer No. 11

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 6,075 households, i.e., 12.4 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Eastern 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 Eastern 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 Eastern Region has changed little since 1997 with the 2003 rate at 56.6 per cent compared to that of 1997, 56.1 per cent. The male literacy rate is 71.3 per cent compared to the female rate of 44.1 per cent. Literacy rates for urban and rural households are 66.8 per cent and 50.5 per cent respectively. The adult literacy rate among urban poor households (60.1 per cent) is higher than that of the rural poor households (49.4 per cent).

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate for the region declined from 76.7 per cent in 1997 to 72.8 per cent in 2003. However the youth literacy rate is appreciably higher than the adult literacy rate. The rate for the urban youth is 82.8 per cent compared to that of the rural youth (66.2 per cent). The rural poor have lower rates of youth literacy than the urban poor, but the lowest rate is found among the rural poor females (56.6 per cent).

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate declined from 78.1 per cent in 1997 to 75.6 per cent in 2003. The rates for urban and rural households are 81.5 per cent and 72.9 per cent respectively. The rate for females (76.5 per cent) is slightly higher than that of males (74.8 per cent), which is a reversal of the direction of the gender gap in 1997 when

primary enrolment was higher for males than females (80.1 as 76.1 per cent respectively). The net secondary school enrolment rate (40.3 per cent) remained unchanged from 1997 (40.4 per cent). The urban and rural rates are 51.0 per cent and 34.2 per cent respectively.

Access to School

Most of the primary school children in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest school (88.4 per cent) in 2003 compared to 78.5 per cent in 1997. The corresponding proportions for urban and rural households are 95.7 per cent and 84.9 per cent respectively.

For secondary schools, less than half of the students 47.1 per cent are less than 30 minutes from the nearest secondary school though it has increased over the 1997 level of 23.4 per cent. The proportion of students (67.2 per cent) that have access to secondary schools is higher in urban than in rural areas (35.4 per cent). The proportion for the urban poor (69.0 per cent) is three times that for the rural poor (22.9 per cent).

Satisfaction with Education

About 65.0 per cent of the primary school-going children in the region are satisfied with the schools they attend, an improvement over the 1997 level of 38.3 per cent. Similarly, the proportion of secondary school children who are satisfied with their schools increased from 33.1 per cent in 1997 to 71.8 per cent in 2003. For urban as well as rural households the proportion of children who are satisfied with their school is higher among secondary students relative to primary pupils (80.7 and 78.6 per cent respectively for urban and 69.8 and 48.2 per cent respectively for rural poor).

Less than half of the rural poor primary pupils (48.2 per cent) compared to three quarters (75.9 per cent) of the urban poor pupils are satisfied with their schools. Higher proportions of students in these groups are satisfied with their secondary school (69.8 and 78.1 per cent respectively).

Access to Health Facilities

Three out of five households (60.1 per cent) in the region spend less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility compared to 32.8 per cent in 1997. The rate for urban households is 81.1 per cent compared to 48.7 per cent for rural households, and for urban poor households, 83.8 per cent compared to 35.6 per cent for the rural poor.

Adequacy of Health Services

One-fifth (20.8 per cent) of households in the region need medical services, almost the same proportion as in 1997 (20.4 per cent). No marked difference exists between rural and urban households. The proportion of household members who consult a health practitioner is 21.7 per cent, a decline from the 1997 level of 26.5 per cent. About 74.0 per cent of households who seek health services are satisfied with the services received; an improvement over the 1997 level of 66.5 per cent.

Rural households have higher proportion of satisfied members (74.5 per cent) compared to the urban households (72.3 per cent), and for the poor the corresponding proportions are 82.8 per cent and 69.5 per cent for rural and urban households respectively.

Prenatal Care

About 93 per cent of the women aged 12-49 years who had live births 12 months prior to the survey, received pre-natal care. The proportion of women (98.9 per cent) who receive pre-natal care in urban areas is about 9 percentage points higher than in rural areas.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Half (50.3 per cent) of children aged under five years had their births assisted by trained health professionals (doctor, nurse or mid-wife), which represents an improvement over the 1997 rate of (41.0 per cent). The rate for urban households is 76.1 per cent compared to that of rural households (39.4 per cent). For poor households, the proportion of these births that were assisted is more than twice for urban as for rural (70.5 compared to 32.4 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

The level of stunting among children under five years of age increased from 24.5 per cent in 1997 to 30.0 per cent in 2003. The rate for the rural poor is 48.1 per cent compared to 27.5 per cent for the urban poor. The proportion of children wasted doubled more than from 4.4 per cent in 1997 to 11.6 per cent in 2003; while the proportion of underweight children, remained almost the same at 22.9 per cent in 2003 from 22.5 per cent in 1997.

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons 15 years and older, who are unemployed declined from 4.9 per cent in 1997 to 3.7 per cent in 2003. The level of unemployment for males (3.2 per cent) is slightly lower than for females (4.1 per cent). The proportion unemployed in urban areas (5.0 per cent) is higher than that in rural areas (2.9 per cent).

The level of underemployment registered a substantial increase from 0.9 per cent of the employed in 1997, to 16.4 per cent, in 2003. Underemployment rate for males increased from 1.7 per cent in 1997 to 18 per cent in 2003, while the female rate increased from 0.4 per cent in 1997 to 15.1 per cent.

Meeting Food Needs

About ten per cent of households in the region have difficulty in meeting their basic food requirements. The proportion is higher in urban areas (11.9 per cent) than in rural areas (10.1 per cent). The proportion of urban poor households (15.4 per cent) is higher than the average for urban and also higher than that of the rural poor (11.1 per cent).

Access to Water

Most households in the region (95.3 per cent) take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest source of water an improvement in access over that of 1997 (76.5 per cent). The proportions of households in urban (97.8 per cent) and rural areas (93.8 per cent) are relatively high.

Improved Water Source

About 71.0 per cent of households in the region obtain their drinking water from improved water sources up from 45.1 per cent in 1997. A higher proportion of the urban households 84.1 per cent obtain their drinking water from improved water sources but only 63.5 per cent of the rural households drink water from an improved source.

Safe Sanitation

Three out of five households (60.3 per cent) in the region use safe sanitation facilities. The proportion of households for urban areas (78.8 per cent) is higher than rural (49.2 per cent). The rural-urban gap is much wider among the poor with (73.2 per cent) of the urban poor compared to (27.0 per cent) of the rural poor using safe sanitation facilities.

Improved Waste Disposal

About 64.0 per cent of the households in the region use improved waste disposal methods. The rate for urban households is 83.4 per cent compared to 52.3 per cent for rural households. The rates for the urban poor and the rural poor are 76.2 per cent and 31.9 per cent respectively.

Electricity

Slightly more than 40 per cent of households in the region use electricity. The rate for the urban households (69.1 per cent) is more than double the rate for rural households (25.9 per cent). Only 13.1 per cent of the rural poor households use electricity, but 43.1 per cent of the urban poor have electricity.

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

The proportion of households that use non-wood fuel for cooking is still very low (5.9 per cent) even though it is double the proportion in 1997 (2.6 per cent). The rate for urban households (12.2 per cent) is twice as high as the regional average and six times as high as for the rural (2.1 per cent).

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

About 58.0 per cent of households in the region perceive that their economic situations have worsened since one year ago compared to 27.5 per cent of them that perceive the situation to have improved. A higher proportion of rural households (60.5 per cent) than urban households (53.6 per cent) perceive that their economic situations have deteriorated, while the same proportions (27.1 and 27.8 per cent respectively) indicated that there had been an improvement.

Land ownership has not changed much in the region since 1997 when about the same proportions (6 per cent) reported less land as did report more land compared to the preceding year. In 2003, the corresponding proportion is just about 1 per cent. More of the rural poor households gained land (3.9 per cent) than lost land (2.5 per cent) relative to the previous year.