

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

Flyer No. 12

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 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 district variations in selected indicators within the region. It is one of two flyers reporting key survey findings for the Eastern 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 for the Eastern Region is 56.6 per cent compared to the national average of 53.4 per cent. Six of the 15 districts of the region; Akwapim North (57.9 per cent), Suhum/Krabo/Coaltar (58.6 per cent), East Akim (59.8 per cent), Kwahu South (61.7 per cent), Asuogyaman (63.9 per cent) and New Juaben (77.9 per cent) - record adult literacy rates above the regional average. West Akim has the lowest adult literacy rate (45.6 per cent). The male literacy rate (71.3 per cent) is substantially higher than that of females (44.1 per cent) for the region as well as for each of the districts. The widest sex differential is in Birim North District, where male literacy rate is higher than the female's by 37.2 percentage points. The lowest gap of 17.3 percentage points is found in New Juaben.

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate is 72.8 per cent compared to the national average (68.7 per cent). Only five of the fifteen districts in the region, record youth literacy rates that are higher than the regional average. New Juaben (87.1 per cent) records the highest youth literacy rate with Afram Plains (62.7 per cent) the lowest. In all the districts, higher proportions of male youth than female youth are literate as is the case with adult literacy, but the gender gap is narrower, ranging from 3.3 percentage points (New Juaben) to 24.3 (Manya Krobo). Again, youth literacy rates are higher than adult literacy in all the districts.

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate is 75.6 per cent compared to the national average of

69.9 per cent. The net primary school enrolment rates for the districts range from 59.2 per cent in Afram Plains to 84.7 per cent in New Juaben. The rate for females (76.5 per cent) is slightly higher than that of males (74.8 per cent).

The net enrolment rate at secondary level is 40.3 per cent, with no difference between the enrolment of boys and girls. Seven districts - Birim South (47.8 per cent), East Akim (42.7 per cent), Fantekwa (40.5 per cent), New Juaben (54.4 per cent), Akwapim South (47.6 per cent), Asuogyaman (46.6 per cent) and Kwahu South (40.7 per cent), record rates either equal to or above the regional average. In all but five districts male secondary school enrolment rate is higher than that of females. For the five, the rates are higher for females than for males by a difference ranging from less than 1 percentage point (Birim South, Afram Plains and Manya Krobo) to 9.4 percentage points (Akwapim North). Moreover, Afram Plains records the lowest secondary enrolment rate (26.3 per cent).

Access to School

There is a primary school within 30 minutes of the majority of households (88.4 per cent) of primary school-going children compared to the national average of 85.4 per cent. At the secondary school level, 47.1 per cent of the school-going children take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest school compared to the national average of 43.3 per cent. Afram Plains records the lowest access rate of 71.9 per cent for primary school and is 4.7 percentage points to the next lowest (West Akim). Secondary School students are greatly disadvantaged in the Afram Plains, only 2.0 per cent have secondary schools within 30 minutes of their household, while the next lowest is 29.8 per cent (Birim South) and the highest is recorded in Asuogyaman (72.5 per cent).

Satisfaction with Education

The level of satisfaction with primary education is 64.9 per cent, which is lower than the national average of 68.0 per cent. Five districts record satisfaction rates higher than the regional average with Birim North recording the lowest (37.6 per cent).

The level of satisfaction with secondary school is 71.8 per cent, which is higher than that of primary school (64.9 per cent). There are varying levels of satisfaction with secondary school education ranging from 43.0 per cent in Birim North to 93.0 per cent in Suhum/Krabo/Coaltar.

Access to Health Facilities

Three out of five households (60.1 per cent) in the region have access to a health facility (that is, household members take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility) compared to the national average of 57.6 per cent. New Juaben records the highest access rate of 80.2 per cent while Afram Plains records the lowest rate of 14.8 per cent.

Adequacy of Health Services

About one-fifth (20.8 per cent) of household members in the region were sick or injured within the four weeks prior to the survey, and would have needed medical services. The proportions for the districts vary from 10.8 per cent in West Akim to 30.4 per cent in Akwapim North.

About 22.0 per cent of household members consult a health practitioner. At the district level, West Akim records the lowest rate (14.5 per cent) while Akwapim North records the highest (37.4 per cent). Majority (73.7 per cent) of the household members who consult a health practitioner are satisfied with the services received but only 53.5 per cent in Birim South and

as high as 86.0 per cent in Akwapim North are satisfied with the health services.

Prenatal Care

A high proportion (92.6 per cent) of women aged 12 - 49 years who had a live birth during the twelve months prior to the survey received prenatal care compared to the national average of 93.4 per cent. Most districts in the region, 8 out of 15 record rates of prenatal care above the national average.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

About half (50.3 per cent) of births of children under five years are assisted by trained health professionals. In seven districts the proportion exceeds 50 per cent. Yilo Krobo records the lowest rate (30.5 per cent) while New Juaben records the highest (81.4 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

Less than a third (31.1 per cent) of the children under 5 years are stunted compared to the national average of 32.4 per cent. Large disparities exist among the districts with New Juaben recording the lowest stunting rate (15.8 per cent) and Birim South the highest (43.7 per cent). The proportion of children under 5 years who are classified as wasted in the region is 11.6 per cent. Akwapim South registers the highest rate of wasting (34.2 per cent). About one-fifth (22.9 per cent) of children under 5 years are underweight. At the district level, New Juaben records the lowest rate of 8.0 per cent with Akwapim South registering the highest (51.6 per cent).

Availability of Employment

The proportion of person unemployed is 3.7 per cent compared to the national average of 5.4 per cent. A higher proportion of females (4.1 per cent) than males (3.2 per cent) are unemployed. Manya Krobo records the highest unemployment level of 11.3 per cent. Two other districts; East Akim (5.9 per cent) and Asuogyaman (9.0 per cent) record unemployment levels at least one and a half times the regional average.

The underemployment rate is 16.4 per cent, which is higher than the national average (13.6 per cent). A higher proportion of males (18.0 per cent) than females (15.1 per cent) are underemployed. The three highest rates are recorded in West Akim (34.5 per cent), Manya Krobo (31.0 per cent) and Yilo Krobo (26.7 per cent) while the lowest (1.9 per cent) is recorded for East Akim.

Meeting Food Needs

About one in ten households (10.8 per cent) of in the region have difficulty in meeting their basic food needs as compared to 12.8 per cent nationwide. The proportions for the districts range from 2.0 per cent in the Afram Plains to 28.2 per cent in the Birim South.

Access to Water

About 95 per cent of households in the region spend less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest source of water. At the district level, accessibility of water sources ranges from 83.4 per cent in Fanteakwa to 100 per cent in Kwaebibirem.

Improved Water Source

About 71.2 per cent of households in the region obtain their drinking water from an improved water source. This varies from 44.6 per cent in Afram Plains to 87.4 per cent in Birim North. The only other districts with less than 60 per cent of households whose drinking water is from an improved source are Fanteakwa (49.9 per cent) and Yilo Krobo (54.5 per cent).

Safe Sanitation

About 60 per cent of households use safe sanitation facilities, compared to 55.0 per cent nationwide. In six of the fifteen districts the proportion of households that use safe sanitation facilities is higher than the regional average, and they range from 64.5 per cent (Kwaebibirem) to 81.2 per cent (East Akim). Afram Plains (28.8 per cent) records the lowest proportion in the region and is closely followed by Akwapim South (31.3 per cent) and Yilo Krobo (40.4 per cent).

Improved Waste Disposal

Almost two-thirds (64.0 per cent) of households use improved waste disposal methods. Afram Plains records the lowest rate of 25.0 per cent while Birim South records the highest (86.6 per cent). Seven of the fifteen districts (Birim South, 86.6 per cent, New Juaben, 85.4 per cent, Kwahu South, 82.2 per cent, Kwaebibirem, 74.5 per cent, West Akim, 74.3 per cent, Birim North, 72.4 per cent, Akwapim South 67.0 per cent, and East Akim 65.9, record higher rates than the regional average (64.0 per cent).

Electricity

A little over two-fifth (42.1 per cent) of the households in the region have access to electricity, which is lower than the national average (50.6 per cent). The highest proportion of households that have access to electricity in the region is recorded by the New Juaben district (83.5 per cent) while seven districts register less than the regional average (less than half of that of New Juaben), with Afram Plains recording the lowest (11.4 per cent).

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

The proportion of households using non-wood fuel for cooking in the region is 5.9 per cent compared to the national average of 11.4 per cent. At the district level, New Juaben records the highest (24.7 per cent) while Afram Plains records the lowest (0.2 per cent).

Households Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

Almost three out of five households (57.9 per cent) in the region perceive that their economic situations have worsened compared to one year ago. Higher proportions of households in Afram Plains (59.6 per cent), East Akim (63.5 per cent), Suhum/Krabo/Coaltar (65.9 per cent), Birim South (68.1 per cent), West Akim (73.3 per cent), Asuogyaman (77.8 per cent), and Manya Krobo (83.4 per cent) report a worsening of their economic situations. New Juaben reports the lowest rate of 33.5 per cent.

Over a quarter of the households (27.5 per cent) perceive their situation to have improved over the one year period. Only 11.5 per cent of households (the lowest), in Manya Krobo but as high as 51.8 per cent in Fantekwa see their economic situation as having improved.