

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

Flyer No. 7

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 4,455 households, i.e., 9.1 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Greater Accra Region.

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 Greater Accra 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 for Greater Accra Region increased from 73.4 per cent in 1997 to 77.6 per cent in 2003 and is higher than the national average (53.4 per cent). The male literacy rate for the region is 88.1 per cent compared to (68.0 per cent) for females, a 20 percentage point difference. Adult literacy rate for rural households (59.0 per cent) is comparatively lower than that of urban households (80.2 per cent). Sex differentials within the rural areas is substantially bigger than in the urban areas. The adult literacy rate for rural poor households (57.9 per cent) is lower than that of the urban poor (73.5 per cent).

Youth Literacy

The literacy rate for the youth increased slightly from 82.8 per cent in 1997 to 86.3 per cent in 2003, with a rise of about 3 per cent for males and 6 per cent for females. The rates for urban and rural youth are 88.1 per cent and 73.2 per cent respectively.

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrollment rate in the region increased from 70.4 per cent in 1997 to 80.9 per cent in 2003. Both females and males record increases in enrolment. However, female enrolment rate increased by about 21 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent rise for males. Again while the rate for the urban poor is 70.0 per cent, the rural poor is 54.7 per cent.

Net secondary enrolment rate improved from 48.9 per cent in 1997 to 54.9 in 2003, a 12 per cent rise. Females show a higher increase in enrolment rate from 46.5 per cent to 54.8 per cent, a 17.8 per cent increase. Urban households record a substantially higher enrolment rate of 58.3 per cent than rural households (34.5 per cent).

Access to School

Nine out of every ten (90.2 per cent) primary school children in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest school, a slight decline from the 1997 level of 92.8 per cent. For the rural poor, only 67.0 per cent are within 30 minutes of a primary school compared to 89.5 per cent for the urban poor.

For secondary education, there was improvement from 44.9 per cent in 1997 to 63.4 per cent in 2003. However, there is marked disparity between urban and rural households, with rural households recording 34.5 per cent access compared to 58.3 per cent for urban households. Rural poor households (23.6 per cent) record the lowest access rate to secondary school facility, which is far lower than the national average.

Satisfaction with Education

The level of satisfaction with primary education improved from 76.9 per cent in 1997 to 87.9 per cent in 2003. Similarly, the level of satisfaction among students in secondary school improved from 77.0 per cent in 1997 to 89.0 per cent in 2003. Both rural and urban households record satisfaction levels of over 80 per cent.

Access to Health Facilities

About four-fifth of the households in the region have access to a health facility (take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility), a 3 percentage point rise over the 1997 level. The proportion of households that have access to health services in urban areas (84.4 per cent) is higher than in rural areas (59.5 per cent), and the rural poor have even more limited access to a health facility (45.9 per cent) compared to 79.0 per cent of the urban poor households.

Adequacy of Health Services

The need for medical services in the region the month preceding the survey is 14.0 per cent, as compared to the 1997 figure of 14.1 per cent. Only 15.4 per cent of persons in households consulted a health practitioner. Rural households report higher morbidity rate (16.5 per cent) compared to 13.6 per cent for urban households. Although the need for and use of medical services are generally low, the level of satisfaction among those who consulted health professionals is very high (76.0 per cent), not only in urban households (76.7 per cent) but also in rural households (71.6 per cent).

Prenatal Care

Over four-fifth (86.4 per cent) of women who had a live birth, twelve months prior to the survey received prenatal care. Urban households record 87.0 per cent compared to 83.0 per cent of rural households. Women in the rural poor households record only (52.1 per cent).

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

About nine in ten (87.4 per cent) births in the 5 years preceding the survey were assisted by trained health professionals, not much change from 1997 (86.1 per cent). The use of

trained personnel during delivery is high in urban areas (95.7 per cent) compared to 49.4 per cent in the rural areas. A little over one-quarter (26.1 per cent) of births among the rural poor households are assisted by trained health personnel.

Child Nutritional Status

All the three nutritional indicators suggest a worsening of the situation in the region. The level of stunting among children increased from 13.4 per cent in 1997 to 27.8 per cent in 2003; wasting in children increased from 8.4 per cent in 1997 to 23.8 per cent in 2003, and underweight in children increased from 10.8 per cent in 1997 to 29.4 per cent in 2003.

Availability of Employment

The proportion of unemployed among persons aged 15 years and older, for the region increased only slightly from 7.8 per cent in 1997 to 8.8 per cent in 2003. The proportion unemployed declined imperceptibly for males from 10.1 per cent in 1997 to 9.2 in 2003, but increased for females from 5.8 per cent in 1997 to 8.4 per cent in 2003. Overall, the level of unemployment for urban households (9.4 per cent) is more than double that for rural households (4.2 per cent). The underemployment rate increased more than six-fold from 2.0 per cent in 1997 to 13.2 per cent in 2003.

Meeting Food Needs

Over one-tenth (12.1 per cent) of households in the region have difficulties in meeting their basic food needs. Proportionately, fewer rural households (7.4 per cent) have difficulties in meeting their food needs than their urban counterparts (12.8 per cent).

Access to Water

Almost all (97.1 per cent) the households in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest source of water, representing an improvement over the 1997 average (93.7 per cent). Both rural and urban households report over 90 per cent rates of access.

Improved Water Source

About 82 per cent of the households in the region obtain their drinking water from improved water sources down from 94.3 per cent in 1997. Majority (86.4 per cent) of urban households use improved water sources for drinking compared to about half (50.2 per cent) of rural households. The proportion is still lower for rural poor households, with only 43.5 per cent getting their drinking water from improved water sources, compared to 83.2 per cent for the urban poor.

Safe Sanitation

A greater proportion (82.7 per cent) of households in the region use safe sanitation facilities compared to the 1997 average (70.7 per cent) for the region. The proportion of households that use safe sanitation facilities in the urban areas (85.9 per cent) is higher than that of the rural households (60.4 per cent). However, the rate for the rural poor (22.9 per cent) is substantially lower than that of the urban poor (74.3 per cent).

Improved Waste Disposal

About four-fifth (79.5 per cent) of households use improved waste disposal methods with a much higher proportion of urban households (83.5 per cent) than rural households (51.0

per cent) using improved methods.

Electricity

More than four-fifth (83.1 per cent) of households in the region use electricity. The rate for urban areas (89.5 per cent) is more than twice that of rural areas (38.1 per cent). Less than one-quarter (22.2 per cent) of the rural poor households have access to electricity.

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

About one-third (33.0 per cent) of households in the region use non-wood fuel for cooking compared to the national average of only 11.4 per cent. It has, however, increased over the 1997 figure of 22.8 percent. For the rural poor the fuel for cooking is almost exclusively wood-based. A relatively lower proportion of rural households (8.8 per cent) use non-wood cooking fuel compared to 36.4 per cent of urban households.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

Almost six in ten households perceive that their economic situation worsened compared to one year ago, and there is not much difference in perceptions between urban (58.1 per cent) and rural (56.9 per cent) households. However, 20.3 per cent of rural households and 15.7 per cent of urban households perceive that their economic situations have improved.

There has been little or no change in the land ownership of households over the year. Only among the rural poor is the increase in land owned reported for at least 5 per cent of the households. For both rural and urban poor there is decline in land owned for 2.7 and 2 per cent respectively of the households.