

2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey, Ghana

Northern Region Districts Summary

Flyer No. 18

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 5,265 households, i.e., 10.7 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Northern region in the survey sample.

This Flyer presents district variations in selected indicators within the region. It is one of two flyers presenting key survey findings for the Northern 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

Less than one-quarter (22.6 per cent) of adults (15 years and older) in the Northern Region are literate compared to the national average of 53.4 per cent. The adult literacy rate for males (32.2 per cent) is about two and a half times that of females (12.9 per cent). At the district level, Gushiegu/Karaga records the lowest rate (9.3 per cent) while Tamale has the highest (46.4 per cent). Apart from Tamale Municipality, all the other districts register adult literacy rates below 30 per cent. In all the districts, adult literacy rates for males are substantially higher than females, with rates more than twice those of females except for Tamale which is one and a half times. Gushiegu/Karaga records the lowest rates for both females (3.2 per cent) and males (16.1 per cent).

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate for the region (35.7 per cent) is slightly over half of the national average (68.7 per cent); with Tamale having the highest rate (62.9 per cent) while Gushiegu/Karaga (18.9 per cent) has the lowest. The rates for males exceed those of females in all the districts, still by wide margins, and Gushiegu/Karaga records the lowest youth literacy rates for both females (9.6 per cent) and males (25.7 per cent).

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate is 49.9 per cent, 20 percentage points less than the

national average (69.9%). Tolon/Kumbungu, East Mamprusi and Tamale are the only three districts out of the thirteen in the region that record primary school enrolment rates above 60 per cent. With the exception of three districts (Bole, East Gonja and Saboba/Chereponi) net primary school enrolment rates for males are higher than females. For Saboba/Chereponi, girls' enrolment rate exceeds boys' by as much as 10 percentage points, while the difference for the two other regions is 2 to 3 percentage points.

The net secondary school enrolment rate is 16.2 per cent, which is less than half the national average of 38.1 per cent. Gushiegu/Karaga records the lowest female enrolment rate of 6.4 per cent, while the lowest male enrolment rate (7.4 per cent) is recorded in Nanumba.

Access to School

About four out of every five (80.1 per cent) primary school children in the region live within 30 minutes of the nearest school. Apart from Bole, which records an access rate of 48.6 per cent for primary school and Saboba/Chereponi with a rate of 58.5 per cent, the rates for the districts are over two-thirds (66.6 per cent). The highest access rate of 96.7 per cent is reported in the Tolon/Kumbungu District.

At the secondary school level only about one in five students (21.5 per cent) reside less than 30 minutes away from the nearest school. Six districts, namely: East Gonja (5.5 per cent), Saboba/Chereponi (5.9 per cent), Bole (8.1 per cent), West Gonja (8.2 per cent), East Dagomba (8.9 per cent) and Gushiegu/Karaga (9.3 per cent) record secondary school access rates of less than 10 per cent. Students in Tamale have the highest access rate in the region; at 54.6 per cent, it is higher than the national average of 43.3 per cent, and 20 percentage points higher than the next highest.

Satisfaction with Education

Less than half (45.8 per cent) of the primary school children report being satisfied with the schools they attend. The satisfaction rates among primary school pupils range from 19.0 per cent in East Gonja to 67.2 per cent in Zabzugu/Tatale.

The satisfaction rate for secondary school (58.5 per cent) is higher than that of primary school but lower than the national average of 75.0 per cent. The highest satisfaction rate (74.9 per cent) for secondary education is recorded in Tamale, which is almost the same as the national average. The other districts with comparatively high rates are Bole (70.3 per cent), West Mamprusi (74.2 per cent) and East Mamprusi (71.0 per cent).

Access to Health Facilities

About 35.0 per cent of households in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility, compared to the national average of 57.6 per cent. The Tamale district records the highest access rate (57.3 per cent), followed by Savelugu/Nanton (54.4 per cent) and Tolon/Kumbungu (54.2 per cent). The remaining districts have access rates ranging from 11.1 per cent in Bole and Saboba/Chereponi to 41.3 per cent in West Gonja.

Adequacy of Health Services

About 16.0 per cent of households in the region report being sick or injured and need medical services, four weeks prior to the survey. About the same proportion (15.6 per cent) of household members consulted a health practitioner in the same four-week period. A significantly high proportion (73.7 per cent) of persons who consult a health practitioner are

satisfied with the services they receive. The rate is consistently high for all districts ranging from 60.5 per cent (Gushiegu/Karaga) to 87.8 per cent (Tolon/Kumbungu).

Prenatal Care

Over eight in every ten (84.6 per cent) women in the region who had live births in the 12 months preceding the survey received prenatal care. With the exception of Bole (54.2 per cent) all the other districts record rates of more than 70 per cent.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Only 16.5 per cent of women aged 12-49 years who had live births of children under five years were assisted by trained health professionals during delivery, compared to the national average of 51.8 per cent. The proportions are generally lower across the districts but four of them above the regional average. The Zabzugu/Tatale District records the lowest level of professionally assisted deliveries (5.2 per cent) followed by Tolon/Kumbungu (5.6 per cent), while Tamale reports the highest (38.9 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

Of the children under 5 years in the region, 39 per cent are stunted compared to the national average of 32.4 per cent. A lower proportion (10.7 per cent) than the national average (15.5 per cent) are wasted. The prevalence of underweight children (25.5 per cent) is almost the same as the national average (25.8 per cent). Stunting among children is high in most districts in the region with Nanumba and Gushiegu/Karaga recording the highest rates (49.4 per cent and 49.3 per cent respectively). The rate of wasting among children is relatively low in most districts, with only five districts (West Mamprusi, 15.2 per cent, West Gonja, 15.9 per cent, Tolon/Kumbungu, 17.0 per cent, Zabzugu/Tatale, 17.5 per cent, and Tamale, 17.4 per cent) recording rates at least 15.0 per cent. East Gonja reports the lowest level of wasting (2.9 per cent). The prevalence of underweight among children under five years of age is high with about one in four children being underweight in the region. Gushiegu/Karaga and Nanumba districts record the highest levels of underweight children (34.6 per cent and 32.3 per cent respectively).

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons aged 15 years and older who are unemployed in the region is 2.0 per cent compared to the national average of 5.4 per cent. The proportion for females (2.3 per cent) is slightly higher than that of males (1.7 per cent), and they are generally low for both males and females in all the districts. However, the level of unemployment is higher for females than for males in all districts except in Savelugu/Nanton, Nanumba, East Mamprusi and Tolon/Kumbungu, where the levels for males are either higher or about equal to the levels for females.

The underemployment rate (6.7 per cent) in the region is about half the national rate (13.6 per cent). The lowest underemployment rate is reported in West Gonja (0.5 per cent) followed by West Mamprusi (2.3 per cent), but is as high as 14.8 per cent in Nanumba.

Meeting Food Needs

One in every twelve households (8.7 per cent) in the region have difficulty in meeting their basic food needs, compared to the national average (12.8 per cent). The proportion of households with difficulty meeting their food needs is more than double the regional average in three districts, namely; Zabzugu/Tatale (37.6 per cent), East Dagomba (23.6 per cent) and Bole (22.4 per cent). Households in West Gonja (1.4 per cent) and Tolon/Kumbungu (1.8

per cent) are the least likely to have difficulty in meeting their basic food needs.

Access to Water

About four out of five (80.2 per cent) households in the region require less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest source of drinking water. More than 60 per cent of the households in all the districts have good access to water, except Saboba/Chereponi (49.5 per cent) and Gushegu/Karaga (58.2 per cent).

Improved Water Source

A little over half (54.4 per cent) of the households in the region obtain their drinking water from an improved water source compared to the national average of 74.1 per cent. Large district variations exist with Tamale having the highest access rate of 79.8 per cent followed by Bole with 72.8 per cent while East Gonja (19.9 per cent) reports the lowest.

Safe Sanitation

There is wide variation among in the districts in the proportion of households that use safe sanitation facilities. Tamale reports the highest level of safe sanitation (58.7 per cent) higher than the national average and more than double the regional average. Five districts (Zabzugu/Tatale and Gushiegu/Karaga (4.9 per cent each), Bole (9.7 per cent), Saboba/Chereponi (5.2 per cent), and West Gonja (8.1 per cent)] record comparatively low rates which are less than half the regional average.

Improved Waste Disposal

Less than twenty per cent (18.4 per cent) of the households in the region use improved waste disposal methods. The only districts that have higher rates than the regional average are Tamale (40.9 per cent), East Dagomba (40.2 per cent) and Savelugu/Nanton (20.8 per cent). West Mamprusi records the lowest rate 0.7 per cent.

Electricity

There are wide variations among districts with respect to access to electricity. Tamale has the highest access to electricity (as high as 62.8 per cent of households). It is followed by East Dagomba (35.8 per cent), while Saboba/Chereponi records the lowest rate of only 7.8 per cent.

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

Less than 2 per cent (1.8 per cent) of households in the region use non-wood fuel for their cooking. The Tamale district, with the highest proportion shows only 4.9 per cent, of households using non-wood fuel while the lowest proportion (0.0 per cent) is recorded in Savelugu/Nanton. The fuel source is almost exclusively of wood.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

About 46 per cent of households in the region perceive that their economic situation has worsened compared to one year ago. Three districts; Bole (68.1 per cent), East Gonja (66.9 per cent), and Nanumba (65.5 per cent) have over 60 per cent of the households reporting that their economic situations have worsened compared to one year ago. West Gonja reports the lowest proportion of households (26.7 per cent) that perceive that their economic situations have worsened.

More than a quarter of the households in the region see their situation as having improved compared to the previous year, 43.7 per cent in Savelugu/Nanton compared to 18.1 per cent in Bole.

The land ownership has somewhat improved over the one year period, with 10.7 per cent saying they have more land compared to a year ago. In Districts such as Bole, West Gonja, Saboba/Chereponi and Gushiegu/Karaga higher proportions report increased land ownership.