

2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey, Ghana

Regional Summary

Flyer No. 2

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. It is a district-based probability sample that covered a total of 49,003 households nationwide, with 405 households drawn from each district, except for the metropolitan areas, which had samples of households as follows: Accra (2,430), Kumasi (1,620) and Shama/Ahanta East (1,215), as well as Tema Municipal Area (810).

This flyer is one of two that present key survey findings for the country as a whole. It focuses on regional variations, while the other (Flyer No. 1) analyses national level indicators. Other flyers are devoted to the regions, with two per region. The first of the regional flyers presents regional aggregates, including rural/urban and sex differentials, while the second presents district variations within the region. Other outputs from the survey include:

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

Literacy, defined as the ability to read or write in any language, is estimated at a rate of 53.4 per cent for persons aged 15 years and older. Four regions, Western, (56.5 per cent), Greater Accra, (77.6 per cent), Eastern, (56.6 per cent) and Ashanti, (60.5 per cent) record rates above the national average. Greater Accra, the most urbanized region, records the highest adult literacy rate. The lowest rates are recorded in the three northern regions, Northern (22.6 per cent), Upper East (23.0 per cent) and Upper West (24.4 per cent). The male literacy rates are higher than those of females in all the regions, as observed in 1997, with a wide gap of 20 percentage points or more in every region .

In six regions, the male adult literacy rate is higher than the national average. In Brong Ahafo (57.4 per cent), Northern (32.2 per cent), Upper West (30.9 per cent) and Upper East (29.5 per cent) the rates are lower than the national average for males (65.8 per cent). In contrast, the female literacy rate is higher than the national average for females (42.3 per cent), in only three regions, Greater Accra (68.0 per cent), Ashanti (48.2 per cent) and Eastern (44.1 per cent).

Youth Literacy

The literacy rate for the youth (persons aged 15 - 24 years) is 68.7 per cent, with five regions

(Western, Central, Greater Accra, Eastern and Ashanti) recording rates higher than the national average. The Northern Region had the lowest rate of 35.7 per cent and Greater Accra the highest (86.3 per cent). Generally, youth literacy rates are higher than adult literacy rates for both females and males in all regions. The rates for both adult and youth are higher for males than for females in all the regions.

Net Enrolment

In five regions (Western, Central, Greater Accra, Eastern and Ashanti), the net primary enrolment rate for children aged 6-11 years is higher than the national average of 69.9 per cent. Northern Region records the lowest rate of 49.9 per cent, followed by Upper West (51.1 per cent) and Upper East (56.1 per cent).

Net secondary enrolment rate, for children aged 12-17 years in Junior and Senior Secondary School, is much lower than that for primary. Except for Central, Eastern and Upper East regions, males in all the other regions have higher net secondary enrolment rates than females.

The marked differences in primary and secondary school enrolment suggest a high drop-out at the primary level, with substantially fewer pupils who complete primary proceeding to secondary schools.

Access to School

More than 80 per cent of households in most regions have reasonable access to primary education facility (school within 30 minutes for households with primary school going children) with the exception of Upper East (61.9 per cent) and Upper West (67.1 per cent). Access to secondary school (school within 30 minutes for households with secondary school going children) is by contrast significantly lower, ranging from 7.9 per cent in Upper East to 63.4 per cent in Greater Accra.

Satisfaction with Education

A majority of primary school children (68.0 per cent) are satisfied with their school. With the exception of the three regions of the north, Northern, Upper East and Upper West, at least 55.3 per cent of the pupils have no problems with their school. The highest proportion is recorded in Greater Accra (87.9 per cent), followed by Ashanti (78.4 per cent), Central (74.0 per cent) and Brong Ahafo (69.3 per cent) all higher than the national average. Volta, Eastern, and Western have proportions below the national average.

In all regions, almost equal (Central, Greater Accra and Ashanti regions) or higher proportions of secondary school students compared to primary school pupils have no problem with their schools. Greater Accra records the highest proportion, while Upper East records the lowest.

Access to Health Facilities

Households in Greater Accra reported the most favourable access to health facilities. More than 80 per cent of them were within 30 minutes of the nearest health facility, compared to 57.6 per cent for the entire country. The access to a health facility was lowest (26.7 per cent) in Upper East.

Adequacy of Health Services

Volta Region reported the highest proportion of people sick or injured during the four-week period preceding the survey, and needed medical services. Central, Eastern, Western and Upper East regions also recorded rates higher than the national figure of 18.3 per cent. The need for medical services is lowest in Greater Accra (14.0 per cent). On the average, 18.4 per cent of household members consult a health practitioner, with the proportions ranging from 13.2 per cent in Upper West to 21.7 per cent in Eastern Region. More than two-thirds of those who visit a

medical service provider or facility during the four-week period preceding the survey report being satisfied with their visit. The satisfaction rate is highest in Ashanti Region, 85.6 per cent.

Prenatal Care

In each of the ten regions, more than 80 per cent of the women who reported a live birth in the 12 months preceding the survey received prenatal care. Western, Greater Accra, Eastern, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Upper East record rates higher than the national average of 93.4 per cent.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Greater Accra Region records the highest proportion of births (87.4 per cent) assisted by trained health professionals (doctor, nurse and midwife) compared to the national average (51.8 per cent). This is followed by Ashanti (68.2 per cent) and Brong Ahafo (56.7 per cent) regions. The three northern regions record proportions of births assisted by health professionals, that are lower than the national average, with Northern region ranking lowest with 16.5 per cent, followed by Upper East, 24.2 per cent, and Upper West, 31.5 per cent.

Child Nutritional Status

The nutritional status of children is measured by three key anthropometric indicators: stunting (short for their age), wasting (underweight relative to height) and underweight (relative to their age). Stunting among children under 5 years of age is worst in Northern Region (39.0 per cent) and the only region whose proportion is higher than the national average (32.4 per cent). Wasting among children under 5 years is most prevalent in Ashanti Region (27.1 per cent), followed by Greater Accra (23.8 per cent), compared to the national average of 15.5 percent. It is lowest in the Western Region (7.4 per cent) followed by Brong Ahafo (8.5 per cent). Ashanti Region reports the highest incidence (36.6 per cent) of children who are underweight for their age, followed by Greater Accra (29.4 per cent).

Availability of Employment

The proportion of the unemployed among persons aged 15 years and older is highest in the Upper East Region (13.2 per cent), followed by Greater Accra (8.8 per cent) and Ashanti (6.5 per cent). The level of Unemployment in all the other regions are lower than the national average (5.4 per cent), with the Northern Region recording the lowest rate (2.0 per cent). The proportions are higher for females than males in all regions except Central, Greater Accra, Upper East and Upper West where the rates are lower for females.

The underemployment rate (persons aged 15 years and older who worked 35 hours or less in the seven days preceding the survey and sought to increase earnings) were substantially higher than the unemployed in all the regions, except Upper East, where the two are almost equal. The underemployment rate was highest in Ashanti Region (16.6 per cent) followed by Eastern (16.4 per cent), and lowest in the Northern Region (6.7 per cent).

Meeting Food Needs

Brong Ahafo Region registered the lowest level (5.4 per cent) of difficulty in meeting their basic food needs. At the other extreme, is the Upper East Region where 40.3 per cent of households have difficulty in meeting their food needs, followed by Upper West (23.3 per cent) and Volta (21.9 per cent). The other regions record lower proportions of households that have difficulty in meeting their food needs relative to the national average of 12.8 per cent.

Access to Water

Majority, (94.0 per cent) of the households in the country have their main source of water less than 30 minutes from their household. Greater Accra, records the highest level of access to source of water (97.1 per cent) and the Northern Region, with the lowest (80.2 per cent).

Improved Water Source

Upper West Region reports the highest percentage of households (90.0 per cent) that has one of the improved sources for drinking water, followed by Ashanti Region (84.9 per cent), while the Volta Region records the lowest (52.1 per cent).

Safe Sanitation

Safe sanitation (flush toilet, covered pit latrine, VIP/KVIP) is most in use in Greater Accra, (82.7 per cent), followed by Ashanti (65.6 per cent). Upper East Region has the lowest level of use of safe sanitation facilities (10.7 per cent). Other regions where use of safe sanitation is below the national average (55.0 per cent) include Volta, Brong Ahafo, Northern and Upper West.

Improved Waste Disposal

The highest proportion of households which use improved waste disposal methods is Ashanti (89.2 per cent) followed by Greater Accra (79.5 per cent), while the Upper East Region records the lowest (8.7 per cent). The next lowest proportion (18.4 per cent), found in Northern Region is more than twice that of Upper East.

Electricity

The proportion of households in the country that have access to electricity is 50.6 per cent. Greater Accra has the highest proportion of households with access to electricity (83.1 per cent), followed by Ashanti Region (59.0 per cent) while Upper East records the lowest (14.7 per cent). The two other regions of the north, Northern (28.8 per cent) and Upper West (18.0 per cent) also have relatively low access to electricity.

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

The proportion of households that use non-wood fuel (all types except firewood and charcoal) for cooking in the country is 11.4 per cent. Upper East recorded the highest rate (34.6 per cent), followed by Greater Accra (33.0 per cent); while Volta (3.6 per cent), Northern (1.8 per cent) and Upper West Region (1.6 per cent) have the lowest level of use of non-wood fuel.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One-Year Ago

About half (51.5) per cent of households in the country perceive that their economic situation has worsened compared to one year ago, while 27.0 per cent perceive that there has been improvement. The Volta Region records the highest percentage (68.7 per cent) of households that perceive that their economic situations have worsened, followed by Upper West with 59.5 per cent.

Households' ownership of land has hardly changed over the period of one year, and with the exception of Northern and Upper East regions about the same proportions of households believe they have less land as those who believe they have more, compared to the year before the survey. For the Northern region, 10.7 per cent of households think they have more land (compared to 5.3 per cent who have less); and for Upper East, 12.3 per cent report that they have less land, (compared to 2.0 per cent that have more land).