

2003 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey, Ghana

Volta Region Summary

Flyer No. 9

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 5,859 households, i.e., 9.9 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Volta 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 Volta 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 the Volta Region (53.0 per cent) is lower than the national average (53.4 per cent). The male literacy rate (65.9 per cent) is higher compared to that of female (42.1 per cent). Literacy rates for both males and females are lower in rural areas than urban areas. Females in rural poor households have the lowest literacy rate of 22.7 per cent, which is less than half the rate for rural poor males (47.7 per cent) and urban poor females (46.8 per cent).

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate for the region declined from 74.4 per cent in 1997 to 68.2 per cent in 2003. The decline in youth literacy is observed for both sexes. The rate for the rural poor (38.1 per cent) is lower than that of the urban poor (61.9 per cent), as is the case for rural households in general, (58.4 per cent) as compared to urban households (73.6 per cent).

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate declined from 70.2 per cent in 1997 to 64.7 per cent in 2003. The net enrolment for the rural poor is 43.7 per cent compared to 68.6 per cent for the urban poor. Differences of similar magnitude exist for males as for females, while the rural-urban gap is less marked for each sex. There are no appreciable sex

differences in enrolment rates by sex for both rural and urban areas.

The net secondary school enrolment rate declined as well from 46.7 per cent in 1997 to 33.8 per cent in 2003. The secondary school enrolment rate for the urban poor (40.4 per cent) is twice that of the rural poor (20.2 per cent). A slightly higher proportion of males (34.3 per cent) relative to females (33.3 per cent) are enrolled in secondary school.

Access to School

A high proportion (83.9 per cent) of school-going children have access to primary school education even though it is a decline from the 88.0 per cent reported in 1997. Urban poor households (94.3 per cent) have higher access to primary school than the rural poor (73.2 per cent).

The proportion of secondary school children in households within 30 minutes of a secondary school almost doubled from 22.0 per cent in 1997 to 39.4 per cent in 2003. About one out of five rural poor households (20.9 per cent) have access to secondary school, compared to 53.6 per cent for the urban poor.

Satisfaction with Education

More than half (55.3 per cent) of the primary school children are satisfied with the school they attend. The proportion of secondary school children who are satisfied with their school almost tripled from 21.9 per cent in 1997 to 62.6 per cent in 2003. Children from urban households have higher satisfaction levels than their rural counterparts for primary and secondary schools, by about 20 percentage points in both cases, and the differences are equally marked between the urban and rural poor.

Access to Health Facilities

Almost half (49.5 per cent) of households in the region take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility, representing a 7.8 percentage-point increase in access compared to the 1997 average (41.7 per cent). Access to health services is significantly better in urban areas (70.2 per cent) than in rural areas (43.4 per cent) as well as the rural poor with 32.0 per cent of these households within 30 minutes of the health facilities.

Adequacy of Health Services

About one out of every five (22.1 per cent) household members in the region has a need for medical services, having been sick or injured in the month preceding the survey. There are no marked differences between the rate for urban (22.4 per cent) and rural (22.0 per cent) households, or between the urban poor (17.6 per cent) and rural poor (19.6 per cent).

Only 18 per cent of persons in households consult a health practitioner compared to 25.6 per cent in 1997. Of those who seek health services from health practitioners, 78.4 per cent are satisfied with the services, an increase of about 25 percentage points over that reported in 1997.

Prenatal Care

Majority (86.7 per cent) of women aged 12 - 49 years who had live births in the 12

months prior to the survey received prenatal care. The proportion of women in rural areas (86.9 per cent) who receive prenatal care is just about the same (85.8 per cent) as in urban areas. However, 76.1 per cent of the rural poor women receive prenatal care compared to 81.8 per cent of the urban poor women.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Births of children under five that are assisted by trained professionals remained at the same level between 1997 (42.2 per cent) and 2003 (42.3 per cent), with the proportion of assisted deliveries in urban areas as high as 75.9 per cent compared to that of rural areas, 34.7 per cent. The rate for the rural poor (20.5 per cent) is lower than that of the urban poor (69.1 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

About a third (31.9 per cent) of the children under 5 years in the region are stunted compared to 27.9 per cent in 1997. The level of wasting more than doubled, from 5.0 per cent in 1997 to 11.6 per cent in 2003, while the proportion of underweight children remained almost the same 21.7 per cent in 1997, and 21.2 per cent in 2003.

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons 15 years and older who are unemployed in the region barely changed, from 3.9 per cent in 1997, to 4.4 per cent in 2003. The proportion unemployed for males (3.9 per cent) is lower than for females (4.8 per cent). The level of unemployment for urban areas (5.4 per cent) is higher than for rural areas (4.0 per cent).

The underemployment rate increased from 2.4 per cent in 1997 to 12.6 per cent in 2003. Rural and urban rates are 12.9 per cent and 11.7 per cent, respectively, with the rate for males (12.9 per cent) being almost equal to that of females (12.4 per cent).

Meeting Food Needs

About 22.0 per cent of households in the region have difficulties in meeting their basic food needs, with very slight variations in the proportion of households in rural areas (22.8 per cent) and urban (19.1 per cent) that have difficulties in meeting their basic food needs. The proportion is higher for rural poor households (32.5 per cent) than for urban poor (25.6 per cent).

Access to Water

Majority (88.8 per cent) of households in the region takes less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest water source. The proportion of urban households (95.6 per cent) that live in proximity to the source of drinking water is higher than rural households (86.4 per cent).

Improved Water Source

More than half (52.1 per cent) of households in the region obtain their drinking water from improved water sources compared to 35.3 per cent in 1997. Urban households have a higher rate (65.0 per cent) than rural households (47.4 per cent).

Safe Sanitation

Less than forty per cent (37.5 per cent) of households in the region use safe sanitation facilities, compared to 31.9 per cent in 1997. The proportion of households that use safe sanitation facilities in urban areas (64.9 per cent) is over twice that of the rural areas (27.7

per cent).

Improved Waste Disposal

Less than half (44.9 per cent) of the region's households use improved waste disposal methods. The rates for the urban and rural households are 62.3 per cent and 38.7 per cent respectively.

Electricity

Less than four out of every ten (36.0 per cent) households in the region have electricity. The rate for the urban areas (60.6 per cent) is more than twice that of the rural areas (27.2 per cent), with an even lower proportion of rural poor households (11.2 per cent) using electricity.

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

The proportion of households that use non-wood cooking fuel increased from 2.2 per cent in 1997 to 3.1 per cent in 2003 but is still negligible. The proportion of households that use non-wood fuel for cooking in urban areas (8.5 per cent) is substantially higher than rural (1.1 per cent). However, less than one per cent of both the rural poor (0.5 per cent) and the urban poor (0.8 per cent) households use non-wood fuel for cooking.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

Over two-thirds (68.7 per cent) of the households in the region perceive their economic situations to have worsened over a one year period. The proportions for the rural and urban households are 69.6 per cent and 66.3 per cent respectively. The land ownership has hardly altered over the one year, with 2.8 per cent reporting to have less land and 2.0 per cent, reporting to have more.