

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

Flyer No. 3

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 5,265 households, i.e., 10.7 per cent of the 49,003 households in the national sample, represent the Western 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 Western 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 in Western Region (56.5 per cent) is slightly higher than the national average (53.4 per cent). The male literacy rate (71.1 per cent) is 1.7 times higher than that of females (42.1 per cent). It is twice as high as that of females in rural areas and less than 1.5 times in the urban areas. The adult literacy rate for urban areas (69.7 per cent) is higher than that of rural areas (49.1 per cent). Both male and female adult literacy rates for urban areas are higher than the rural rates.

Youth Literacy

The youth literacy rate exceeds the adult literacy rate by 16.1 percentage points and there has been very little change in the rates between 1997 and 2003. It increased from 69.6 per cent in 1997 to 72.6 per cent in 2003; the female rate in 2003 increased by four percentage points to 63.8 per cent in 2003 compared to two percentage points for males (81.2 per cent in 2003). The literacy rate among the urban youth (81.3 per cent) is considerably higher than that of the rural youth (67.2 per cent). Urban-rural differentials are much higher for females (19.1 percentage points) than for males (8.8 percentage points).

Net Enrolment

The net primary school enrolment rate (74.9 per cent) is almost the same as was recorded for 1997 (74.6 per cent). There is a slight difference between urban and rural areas, both recording over 70 per cent. However, the rate for the urban poor (71.1 per cent) is quite close to the regional average (74.9 per cent) and to the rural rate (73.7 per cent), while that of the rural poor (65.8 per cent) is considerably lower than the regional average. The proportion of males aged 6 to 11 years enrolled in primary school (75.2 per cent) is slightly higher than that of females (74.5 per cent) of the same age category.

The net secondary school enrolment rate for the region (39.5 per cent), is about half the rate for primary and almost the same as that of 1997. The rate is 34.3 per cent for rural children compared to 49.0 per cent for urban children. About a quarter (26.1 per cent) of the children in rural poor households are enrolled in secondary school, compared to 35.4 per cent of the urban poor. Sex differences exist with males having higher enrolment rate (41.3 per cent) than females (37.5 per cent), but are less pronounced relative to the rural-urban differentials, and to the urban/rural poor.

Access to School

The proportion of school-going children aged 6 - 11 years, with a (primary school within 30 minutes of the household, declined slightly or marginally from 86.1 per cent in 1997, to 85.3 per cent in 2003. The proportions for urban and rural children are 93.5 per cent and 81.8 per cent respectively.

By contrast the proportion of students who have access to a secondary school within 30 minutes of the household, almost tripled from 12.8 per cent in 1997 to 35.0 per cent in 2003. Only 14.9 per cent of the children from rural poor households live within 30 minutes of a secondary school compared to 30.9 per cent for the urban poor households.

Satisfaction with Education

The level of satisfaction with primary school education has improved substantially from 23.2 per cent in 1997 to 66.8 per cent in 2003. Similarly, the rate of satisfaction with secondary school education has improved from 32.8 per cent in 1997 to 72.6 per cent in 2003. Children from urban households record higher levels of satisfaction in both primary and secondary schools than their rural counterparts. The urban poor has slightly higher level of satisfaction than the average urban student (in secondary) but the rural poor have significantly lower levels of satisfaction with their primary and secondary school than the average rural children.

Access to Health Facilities

Although less than half (46.9 per cent) of households spend less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility, this is 18.9 percentage point increase over the reported average of 28.0 per cent in 1997. Access to a health facility in urban areas (68.9 per cent) is nearly twice that of the rural areas (35.7 per cent); and for the rural poor households, it is 15.3 per cent compared to 49.0 per cent for the urban poor.

Adequacy of Health Services

About one in five (19 per cent) households in the region have need for medical services (having been sick or injured four weeks prior to the survey). There is no perceptible difference between rural (19.1 per cent) and urban areas (18.8 per cent). About 19 per cent of household members consulted a health practitioner, which is similar to the

proportion in 1997 (20.1 per cent). Nevertheless, for those who use health services, 79.8 per cent report being satisfied with the services, which is almost double the rate in 1997 (41.2 per cent).

Prenatal Care

About 93 per cent of women who had live births in the 12 months prior to the survey received prenatal care. For both rural and urban areas, the coverage is more than 90.0 per cent.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Most births are still not professionally attend to, with only 47 per cent of births (pertaining to children below 5 years) in the region being assisted by trained health professionals (doctor, nurse, or midwife); compared to 39.0 per cent reported in 1997. The proportion of assisted deliveries is higher in urban areas (69.8 per cent) than in rural areas (37.3 per cent).

Child Nutritional Status

Almost 40 per cent of the children under 5 years are stunted (too short for their age), 7.4 per cent are wasted (underweight for their height) and 22.4 per cent are underweight (underweight for their age). Stunting and wasting have worsened since 1997, while prevalence of underweight among children has remained the same during the period. There are only marginal differences between urban and rural areas in the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight, but the difference in stunting between the urban poor and rural poor is about twice that between all urban and all rural.

Availability of Employment

The proportion unemployed among persons 15 years and older in the region increased marginally from 4.8 per cent in 1997 to 4.9 per cent in 2003. While the level of unemployment for males decreased from 7.1 per cent in 1997 to 4.6 per cent in 2003; the rate for females increased from 2.7 per cent in 1997 to 5.1 per cent in 2003. The proportion unemployed in urban areas (7.3 per cent) is more than twice that in the rural areas (3.5 per cent).

The underemployment rate in the region increased from 1.2 per cent in 1997 to 14.3 per cent in 2003. The rate for the rural poor (22.5 per cent) is more than twice that of the urban poor (11.9 per cent).

Meeting Food Needs

About 1 out of every 10 households reports having difficulty in meeting their basic food requirements. A higher proportion of households in urban areas (12.3 per cent) have difficulties in meeting their food needs compared to rural areas (7.9 per cent). A similar pattern is observed between the urban poor (16.8 per cent) and the rural poor (5.0 per cent).

Access to Water

Almost all households (96.7 per cent) in the region are within 30 minutes of their main water source. A higher proportion of urban (99.2 per cent) than rural households (95.4

per cent) take are less than 30 minutes to reach their source of drinking water.

Improved Water Source

Seven out of every ten households in the region obtain their drinking water from an improved source (i.e., pipe-borne, borehole or protected well), an improvement from the 54 per cent rate reported in 1997. A higher proportion of urban households (91.8 per cent) use improved sources for their drinking water compared to 59.8 per cent of rural households. The gap between the urban and rural poor is much closer (13 percentage points) compared to 30 percentage points for the urban-rural differential.

Safe Sanitation

Access to safe sanitation facilities (flush, covered pit latrine, and VIP/KVIP) improved from 39.8 per cent in 1997 to 52.8 per cent for households in the region. Access remains substantially low among the rural poor at 24.5 per cent, a third of the proportion for urban poor (74.1 per cent).

Improved Waste Disposal

Seven in every ten households have improved means of waste disposal (refuse collected, or disposed off at public dump). The percentage for urban households (82.3 per cent) is higher than that for rural households (65.4 per cent).

Electricity

About half (50.6 per cent) of the households in the region use electricity. The proportion of urban households (84.2 per cent) that use electricity is over two and a half times, that of rural households (32.0 per cent). The use of electricity in urban poor households (64.5 per cent) is about four times that in rural poor households (14.5 per cent).

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

Less than 10 per cent of households in the region use non-wood fuel for cooking, though the proportion has almost tripled over the six-year period (from 2.6 per cent in 1997, to 7.5 per cent in 2003). The use of non-wood fuel among urban households is much higher (16.7 per cent) than among rural households (2.4 per cent). Less than 1 per cent of the rural poor and the urban poor, use non-wood fuel for cooking.

Households Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

A little over a quarter (27.5 per cent) of the households in the region perceive that their economic situation has improved compared to one year ago, while about half (49.0 per cent) think they are worse off. A higher proportion of urban households (50.7 per cent) than rural households (47.4 per cent) perceive that their economic situation has worsened.

Ownership of land has declined for some households (5.7 per cent) and increased for some others (5.3 per cent) among the urban and rural households, the rural poor has experienced substantial more changes in their ownership of land (15.3 per cent) compared to 11 per cent that own more land relative to a year ago.