

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

Flyer No. 4

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 Western region in the survey.

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

The adult literacy rate for Western Region is 56.5 per cent, which is higher than the national average (53.4 per cent). The rate ranges from 42.1 per cent in Juabeso/Bia to 72.7 per cent in Shama/Ahanta East Metropolitan Area. Only two districts (Shama/Ahanta East Metropolitan Area and Wassa West (62.2 per cent)) have adult literacy rates above the regional average. There are marked differences between males and females, with males being more literate and Jomoro District recording the widest gap of about 37.6 per cent.

Youth Literacy

The Youth literacy rates in all the districts in the region are higher than the adult literacy rates. The rate for the region is 72.6 per cent, which is higher than the national average (68.7 per cent). Four out of the eleven districts (Jomoro, Shama/Ahanta East, Wassa West and Wassa Amenfi) have higher youth literacy rates than the regional average. Shama/Ahanta East records the highest literacy rate (84.3 per cent) and Juabeso/Bia the lowest (56.4 per cent). Also, among the youth, at the regional and district levels, males are more literate than females with lower sex differentials than among the adults.

Net Enrolment

The region records a net primary school enrolment rate of 74.9 per cent, which is higher than the national rate (69.9 per cent). Primary school enrolment rates for the region's districts are generally high, varying from 69.0 per cent for Ahanta West to 81.6 per cent for Sefwi Wiawso. On average, the net primary school enrolment rate for males is higher than the female rate. However, seven districts (Jomoro, Nzema East, Shama/Ahanta East, Mpohor/Wassa East, Wassa West, Aowin/Suaman and Sefwi/Wiawso) out of the eleven have higher female net primary school enrolment rates than their male counterparts.

The net secondary school enrolment rate for the region is 39.5 per cent, almost half of the net primary school enrolment rate. The regional average is slightly higher than the national (by about 1 per cent) and only three districts in the region (Shama/Ahanta East, 51.6 per cent; Wassa West, 45.1 per cent; and Sefwi/Wiawso, 42.4 per cent) record rates above the regional average. Mpohor/Wassa East has the lowest enrolment rate (31.1 per cent). A higher percentage of males (41.3 per cent) than females aged 11 to 17 years, (37.5 per cent) are enrolled in secondary school, with eight districts recording higher rates for males.

Access to School

Most primary school children in the region (85.3 per cent) take less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest school, about the same proportion as the national average (85.4 per cent). Nine out of the eleven districts have higher access to primary school than the regional average. The other two districts, Wassa/Amenfi and Aowin/Suaman, have substantially lower rates than the regional average of 61.1 per cent and 72.2 per cent respectively.

Access to secondary school (secondary school less than 30 minutes away) in the region (35.0 per cent) is lower than the national average (43.3 per cent). Four districts (Nzema East, Ahanta West, Shama/Ahanta East and Wassa West) have higher secondary school access rates than the regional average, while for some districts accessibility is highly limited. Mpohor/Wassa East (3.8 per cent), Aowin/Suaman (7.6 per cent) and Wassa Amenfi (8.5 per cent) have rates less than 10 per cent that is four to nine times lower than the regional average.

Satisfaction with Education

The proportion of pupils in the region who are satisfied with their primary education (66.8 per cent) is lower than the national average (68.0 per cent). The proportions for districts in the region range from 45.0 per cent in Nzema East to 94.6 per cent in Wassa West. For secondary schools, the proportion among students from the region is 72.6 per cent, 5.8 percentage points higher than that of primary, but slightly below the national average (75.0 per cent). Districts in the region record varying levels of satisfaction with secondary school education, ranging from 45.8 per cent in Nzema East to 93.3 per cent in Wassa West.

Access to Health Facilities

Nearly half of the persons in households have a health facility less than 30 minutes away from their residence - it is 46.9 per cent, for the region, and almost 11 percentage points lower than the national average of 57.6 per cent. Marked disparities, however, exist in access to health in the districts, with rates as high as 77.0 per cent for Shama/Ahanta East and as low as 13.5 per cent, for Wassa Amenfi.

Adequacy of Health Services

About a fifth (19.0 per cent) of persons in households in the region reported sick or injured in the 4-week period preceding the survey, which is almost the same as the national average (18.3 per cent). People's need for medical services in the districts range from 8.2 per cent in Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai, to 23.6 per cent in Nzema East.

Nearly one-fifth of household members (18.8 per cent) consulted a health practitioner compared to the national average of 18.4 per cent. Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai records the lowest rate (7.5 per cent) and Nzema East the highest (25.4 per cent). The proportion of people in the region who are satisfied with the medical services received, is high (79.8 per cent) and slightly above the national average (78.6 per cent). The satisfaction rate is above 60 per cent in all the districts and range from Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai (64.3 per cent) to Wassa West (92.9 per cent).

Prenatal Care

About nine out of every ten women in the region (95.5 per cent) aged 12-49 years, who had a live

birth 12 months prior to the survey received prenatal care. Prenatal care is slightly higher for the region than for the country as a whole (93.4 per cent). All districts except Wassa Amenfi (85.4 per cent) and Aowin/Suaman (89.0 per cent) record rates of over 90 per cent.

Births Assisted by Trained Health Professionals

Less than half (46.9 per cent) of the children under five, in the region were delivered with the assistance of a trained health professional (doctor, nurse and midwife). In five out of the 11 districts the proportions are above the regional average. Marked disparities are observed at the district level, ranging from 28.4 per cent in Nzema East to 69.5 per cent in Shama/Ahanta East.

Child Nutritional Status

Three nutritional status indicators (stunting, wasting and underweight) are captured for children under five years. The proportion of children who are stunted (short for their age) is 38.5 per cent and higher than the national average (32.4 per cent). Substantial variations are recorded in the stunting rates for the districts. Nzema East record the lowest rate (9.6 per cent) with the next to lowest rate being twice as high, 19.8 per cent in Jomoro District and Sefwi/Wiawso the highest (62.2 per cent). Wasting (children underweight for their height) is 7.4 per cent almost half the national average (15.5 per cent). The proportion of wasted children in the districts varies from 2.1 per cent in Sefwi-Wiawso to 10.4 per cent in Wassa Amenfi. The region records 22.4 per cent of children underweight, which is lower than the national average (25.8 per cent). The proportion of underweight children in the districts ranges from 10.0 per cent in Nzema East to 35.8 per cent in Sefwi/Wiawso.

Availability of Employment

The proportion of persons aged 15 years and over, who are unemployed is 4.9 per cent for the region, and lower than the national average (5.4 per cent). Unemployment is most prevalent in Jomoro (8.6 per cent) and very low in districts such as, Aowin/Suaman, Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai, Juabeso/Bia and Sefwi Wiawso which have proportions ranging from 0.6 per cent to 2.0 per cent. On average slightly more females (5.1 per cent) than males (4.6 per cent) are unemployed.

The underemployment rate for the region (14.3 per cent) is less than one percentage point higher than the national rate (13.6 per cent). Underemployment is very high in Nzema East (49.5 per cent) and Jomoro (43.1 per cent), followed by Sefwi Wiawso (23.7 per cent). The lowest rates are recorded in Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai (1.0 per cent), Ahanta West (1.7 per cent) and Wassa West (1.8 per cent). The rates are almost the same for males and females, with differences of less than 1 percentage point, except in Ahanta West, Juabeso/Bia and Jomoro, where the rate of males exceed that of females by up to 5 percentage points; and Aowin/Suaman where the rate of females exceed that of males, (14.4 and 9.0 per cent respectively).

Meeting Food Needs

Nearly one in ten households (9.5 per cent) have difficulty meeting their basic food needs, compared to 12.8 per cent nationwide. Districts that experience greater difficulty meeting their food needs than both the national and regional averages include Nzema East (17.2 per cent), Shama/Ahanta East (16.8 per cent), Jomoro (16.4 per cent) and Aowin/Suaman (14.2 per cent). Ahanta West (1.7 per cent), Wassa West (1.7 per cent) and Juabeso/Bia (2.4 per cent) districts have the least difficulty.

Access to Water

Most households (96.7 per cent) in the region have their water source within 30 minutes of their dwelling, with each district recording over 90 per cent access; the lowest, Wassa West has 90.8 per cent of its households within 30 minutes of their water source.

Improved Water Source

About seventy per cent (71.2) of households in the region obtain their drinking water from improved water sources (pipe-borne, borehole, protected well). There is a wide variation among the districts, with Aowin/Suaman recording the lowest (43.3 per cent), while Shama/Ahanta East records the highest rate (89.3 per cent).

Safe Sanitation

About 53.0 per cent of households in the region use safe sanitation facilities (flush toilet, covered pit latrine, VIP/KVIP) compared to 55.0 per cent nationwide. The lowest rate is recorded in the Aowin/Suaman district (19.3 per cent) and the next lowest; Mpohor/Wassa East is more than twice as high (43.2 per cent); while Shama/Ahanta East records the highest rate (89.3 per cent).

Improved Waste Disposal

Majority of households in the region (71.4 per cent) use improved waste disposal methods (refuse collected, public dump), which is above the national average (65.8 per cent). Six districts Ahanta West (72.1 per cent), Shama/Ahanta East (82.8 per cent), Mpohor/ Wassa East (80.4 per cent), Wassa West (81.2 per cent), Juabeso/Bia (74.7 per cent) and Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai (84.5 per cent) record higher rates than the regional average. Aowin/Suaman is the only district where just about half of the households (49.3 per cent) use improved waste disposal methods.

Electricity

The region records the same proportion (50.6 per cent) of households with electricity supply as the national average. Out of the eleven districts, five record higher access to electricity than the regional average, the highest being Shama/Ahanta East (86.6 per cent) and the lowest being Mpohor/Wassa East (20.5 per cent).

Non-wood Fuel Used for Cooking

About 8 per cent of households use non-wood fuel for cooking (excludes use of firewood and charcoal), compared to 11.4 per cent nationwide. Apart from Shama/Ahanta East Metropolitan Area (20.7 per cent) and Wassa West (13.2 per cent), all the other districts have rates lower than the regional average, with Juabeso/Bia recording the lowest (0.7 per cent). Mpohor/Wassa East, Wassa Amenfi, Aowin/Suaman and Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai have rates less than 2 per cent.

Household Economic Situation Compared to One Year Ago

About 49 per cent of households in the region report that their economic situation has worsened over a period of one year, which is below the national average of 51.5 per cent. The economic situation has worsened much for a substantially higher proportion of households in Ahanta West (72.5 per cent), Wassa West (67.3 per cent), Jomoro (63.9 per cent), Nzema East (56.7 per cent), Shama/Ahanta (56.8 per cent) and Wassa Amenfi (52.6 per cent).

Conversely, the situation has improved for smaller proportions of households in these districts; 7.7 per cent in Ahanta West and 12.4 per cent in Wassa West. In three of the districts, Sefwi/Wiawso, Juabeso/Bia and Bibiani/Anhwiaso/Bekwai, about half of the households report being better off.

About equal proportions of households in the region report less land as those with more land compared to a year ago. At the district level the proportion with less land are less than 2 per cent in all but four district, Jomoro, Aowin/Suaman, Nzema East and Wassa Amenfi where the proportions range from 6.3 to 19.3 per cent. Six districts, Ahanta West, Wassa West, Wassa Amenfi, Juabeso/Bia, Aowin/Suaman and Sefwi/Wiawso record at least 6.8 per cent of their household with more land compared to a year before.