



GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE MONTHLY PRESS RELEASE



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Almost half of females in rural areas are multidimensionally poor

Ghana Statistical Service shares statistics on the welfare of women and girls in rural areas on the International Day of Rural Women

Almost half (48.2%) of females in rural areas were multidimensionally poor during the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC), almost 20 percentage point higher than the national average (29.7%) for all females. Multidimensional poverty is a non-monetary measure that assesses deprivation in three dimensions (health, living conditions and education).

In the rural areas, six in every 10 (58.4%) females aged 15 years and older were employed in the agricultural sector more than twice the national average of three in every 10 (28.8%).

Eight in every 10 (84.0%) females in rural areas were in vulnerable employment i.e., either self-employed without employees (78.0%) or a contributing family worker (6.0%). The vulnerable employment for females in rural areas is over 10 percentage points higher than the national average (71.2%). In all, **1.5 million females in rural areas were in vulnerable employment**.

A little over one-third (35.3%) of females in rural areas aged 6 years and older had never attended school and **more than two in every five (44.8%) were not literate** i.e. could not read and write with understanding in any language. In comparison, 24.5 percent of all females 6 years and older had never attended school and 34.4 percent were not literate.

Among the population 6 to 14 years (primary and JHS school age), **14.9 percent of girls in rural areas were not attending school** during the census, compared to 9.1 percent at the national level.

With respect to health insurance coverage, **one in every three (32.4%) females in rural areas was not covered by health insurance** during the census, higher than the national average of 27.2 percent.

The 2022 Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey (AHIES) Third Quarter Labour Statistics Report indicates that **the median hourly earnings for paid female employees in rural areas was GHC 3.10**, about one Ghanaian cedi less than the national average (GHC 4.00).

International Day of Rural Women is commemorated annually on 17th October to promote the implementation of policies and programmes to improve the lives of women in rural areas. The theme for 2023 is "Rural women confront the global cost-of-living crisis".

Disaggregated data on women and girls in rural areas can be accessed directly from the [GSS StatsBank](#). The 2022 AHIES Third Quarter Labour Statistics Report can be downloaded from www.statsghana.gov.gh.

About the Ghana Statistical Service

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) provides comprehensive, reliable, quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information to guide national development as stipulated in Section 3 of the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). The organisation's vision is to be a trusted provider of official statistics for good governance and its mission being the efficient collection, production, management, and dissemination of quality official statistics based on international standards, using competent and motivated staff for evidence-based decision-making, in support of national development.

The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as inflation, Consumer Price Index, Producer Price Index, and Gross Domestic Product. GSS also regularly generates periodic population, housing, demographic and economic data at the locality, district, and national levels from routine surveys and censuses. The statistics generated by GSS can be utilised by a wide cross-section of users including public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. For more information visit www.statsghana.gov.gh.

GSS for the first time has developed an online database for accessing disaggregated census statistics. The StatsBank (<https://statsbank.statsghana.gov.gh>) is an innovative and user-friendly results dissemination method that allows users to generate customised tables and maps at the national, and sub-national levels at no cost. The StatsBank is also a repository for macroeconomic indicators and, in the long term, will provide data on other censuses and surveys. The StatsBank is accessible from: The Census Atlas (<https://phc-geospatial-results.netlify.app/>) has been built atop the StatsBank to showcase district-level indicators using percentages instead of absolute numbers. GSS has also transformed population and housing census data into statistics with a 1000m-by-1000m resolution, allowing users to quickly profile any geographic area in Ghana (<https://geospatial.statsghana.gov.gh/>).