

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

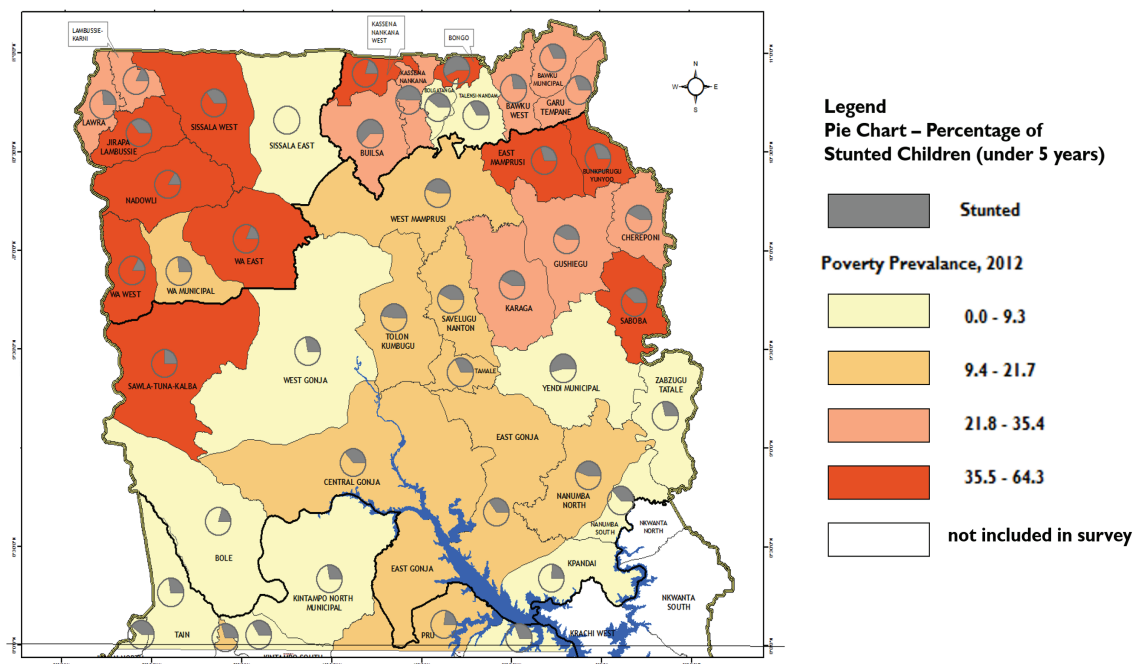
Issue 2, June 2015

The 2015 Population Based Survey: Making Sense of Poverty and Stunting Reduction Targets in Ghana's Savannah Zone of Influence

This year a mid-term Population Based Survey (PBS) will be carried out in 59 districts of Ghana's Savannah Zone which includes the Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. The 2015 edition of the PBS, with a baseline being established in 2012, will see a nearly 40% increase in household respondents from 4,410 to 7,161. The core function of the PBS is to track progress being made towards poverty and stunting reduction targets set by the Feed the Future Initiative in Ghana and will occur every two years with the next slated for July/August 2017.

Ghana's Savannah Zone is one of the most impoverished area of Ghana with a poverty rate of 22.2% (percent of people living on less than \$1.25 per day) and a stunting rate of 36% (children under 5 years of age whose normal growth is hindered by nutritional challenges) measured at the household level (PBS, 2012). Due to the high rates of poverty and stunting, USAID under its Feed the Future Initiative in Ghana, has committed 80% of its development assistance to this area called the Zone of Influence .

Prevalence of Poverty / Prevalence of Childhood Stunting (2012 PBS)



Population Based Survey (PBS) Statistics		
Survey Year	2012	2015
Data Collection Time Period	1 July-17 Aug, 2012	July-Aug 2015
Zone of Influence (above Latitude 8 degrees N)	45 districts	59 districts
Primary Sampling Unit	Enumeration Areas (EAs)	
Total # of EAs	229	377
Sampled Households Per EAs	20	20
# of Surveyed Households in Selected Four Regions	4,410	7,161
Total # of Individuals in Sample	24,860	39,386
Number of EAs in Region (Percent of Total)		
Brong Ahafo	30 (13.1%)	55(15.0%)
Northern	137(59.8%)	175(47.7%)
Upper East Region	38(16.6%)	69(18.7%)
Upper West Region	24(10.5%)	68(18.6%)

The USAID METSS project is implemented by Kansas State University and the University of Cape Coast, particularly the Directorate of Research Innovation and Consultancy for the PBS, that have preparation activities well underway and over 100 enumerators will soon start visiting households in 377 enumeration areas; up from 229 EAs in 2012. The primary reason for expanding the scope of the PBS is to obtain statistically viable data at a district level this year. (Continued on page 3...)

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Partnership for Growth - Addressing Economic Constraints

METSS June Calendar was loaded with high profile activities including two Mid-term Review Retreats for the Partnership for Growth (PFG). The PFG is a joint USG-GoG initiative that began in March 2013 and seeks to address major constraints to Ghana's economic prosperity through a deep and committed partnership. Following Ghana's selection as one of only four (4) PFG countries, also including the Philippines, El Salvador and Tanzania, a constraint analysis of the Ghanaian economy revealed 1) unreliable and inadequate supply of electric power, and 2) the lack of access to credit as paramount challenges. Subsequently, two high level GoG/USG technical teams – one for power and the other for credit - developed Joint Country Action Plans (JCAP) to address these challenges.

The JCAP monitors the performance of key program indicators - GDP growth, private fixed investment as a percentage of GDP, and the ease of doing business score. Aside from these, the JCAP teams are working towards five goals under the two initiatives.

(1) Reliable and adequate supply of electric power: policy, strategy and planning; institutional, regulatory and structural reform; electricity demand and generation capacity; transmission and distribution infrastructure and operations, and rural access.

(2) The Access to Credit component goals include reducing government engagement in the banking sector; strengthening financial regulation and supervision; develop financial sector infrastructure; broaden and deepen the financial sector; and encourage development of finance and support SME access.

The recent workshops took stock of PFG-JCAP progress in the last two and a half years, with Co-Chairs from the USG and GoG leading the technical discussions, content, and direction, in collaboration with stakeholders and partners, with assistance from the USAID METSS project. The timing of both of these retreats, given the current status of power and finance in Ghana, was appropriate, and contributions from participants were outstanding. The outputs from both retreats are updated JCAPs, plans for capacity building in M&E, technical work plans for Year 3, and a draft communication strategy.

Those present at the power retreat were senior representatives from the Ministries of Power and Petroleum, energy sector agencies such as, VRA, GRIDCo, ECG, NEDCo, Energy Commission, Petroleum Commission, PURC, two independent power providers (Sunon Asogli and CEN Power), Millennium Challenge Corporation, and representatives of the USG's Power Africa initiative. The Honorable Deputy Ministers for Power and Petroleum opened and closed the retreat, respectively. The Access to Credit Component pooled technical experts from the Ministry of Finance, Bank of Ghana (BoG), Ministry of Trade and Industry, Association of Ghanaian Industries, National Board for Small Scale Industries, Securities and Exchange Commission, FinGAP, and Export Trade, Agricultural and Industrial Development Fund. The Deputy Governor of the BoG, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the African Bureau in USAID Washington, USAID/Ghana Acting Mission Director and Acting Deputy Mission Director, and Acting Director of the Economic Growth Office were also in attendance.

For more information please visit www.mofep.gov.gh

Left: PFG Power Retreat

Below: PFG Access to Credit Retreat

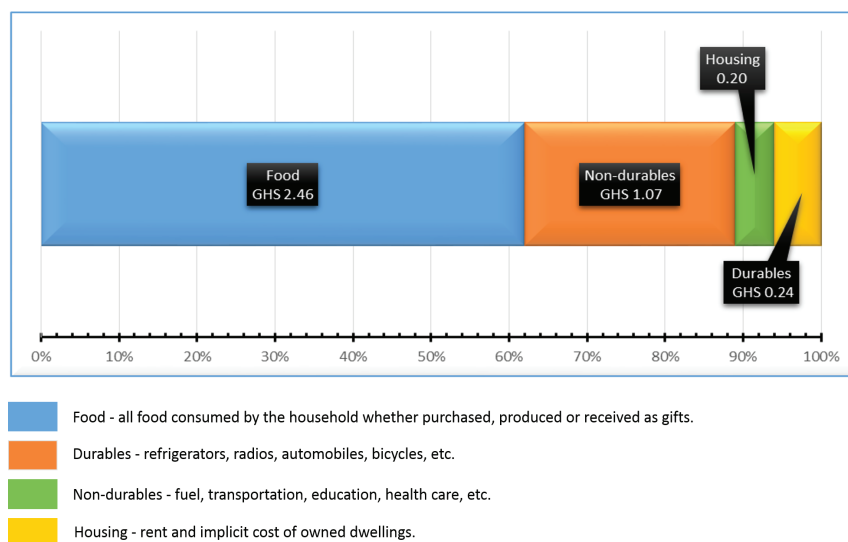


PBS Continued ...

The household data collected by the PBS is intended to track progress made towards poverty and stunting targets in Northern Ghana and to provide a strong evidence base for decision makers in the public, private and civil society sectors.

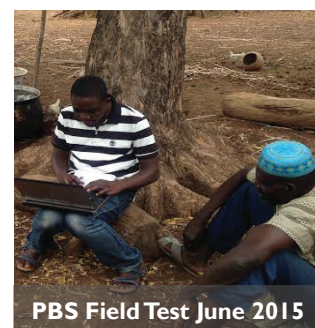
One of the indicators tracked is the average total daily per capita household expenditure in 2012, which was GHC 4.01 (approximately USD \$2 at the time); and its distribution across the four tracked categories. The overall household consumption chart shows that food made up the largest portion of daily expense with households spending an average of GHC 2.46 per day (61.3%). Together, food and non-durables, account for 88% of average daily per capita household expenditures, with housing and non-durables making up the difference.

Average Daily per Capita Household Expenditure by Category



Key Population Based Survey Indicators	2012 PBS Baseline Value
Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	18.41%
Prevalence of stunted children under five years of age	36.08%
Prevalence of wasted children under five years of age	10.99%
Prevalence of underweight women	12.01%
Prevalence of households with moderate or severe hunger	39.42%
Prevalence of Poverty: Percent of people living on less than \$1.25 per day	22.2%
Poverty Depth : Poverty Depth for people living on less than \$1.25 per day	New indicator (2015)
Prevalence of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet	15.54%
Prevalence of children consuming nutrient-rich value chain commodities	New indicator (2015)
Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding of children under six months of age	60.92%
Women's dietary diversity score (Mean number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age)	4
Minimum Dietary Diversity-Women	New indicator (2015)
Prevalence of women consuming nutrient-rich value chain commodities	New indicator (2015)
Per capita expenditures (proxy for income)	GHC 4.01
Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (A score of 1 represents full empowerment)	0.714

Fifteen key PBS indicators are broadly divided into poverty, effects of nutrition and women's dietary habits including consumption of nutrient-rich commodities. These indicators are being compared to other countries that benefit from the Feed the Future Initiative. For more on 2012 PBS results and the 2015 process please visit www.metssghana.org



Advancing Data Quality

The USAID Automated Directive System (ADS) 203.3.5.1 expects USAID Country Missions to routinely conduct data quality assessments (DQA) for each indicator reported externally to Washington, D.C. As the M&E service provider for the Economic Growth office of USAID in Ghana, METSS supports both contract and agreement officers representatives (COR/AOR) to conduct high quality DQAs and report back.

In June 2015, METSS supported the USAID ADVANCE project, the Economic Growth Office's flagship value chain intervention, to conduct a DQA of twelve of externally reported indicators. This was the fourth in a series of DQAs carried out by METSS since 2012, and ADVANCE's second in three years. The methodology used was two-fold and involves 1) conducting an assessment of the data management and reporting system, and 2) verifying the quality of indicator data reported by the project by applying five data quality standards (validity, reliability, precision, integrity and timeliness). Assessments comprise of visits to the field head office to review the data storage, management and reporting mechanisms, and from there visit field offices to validate the original sources of data collection, use of M&E templates (e.g. technology transfer forms, gross margin forms, training forms) that flows into the head project office.

For ADVANCE's DQA it started in the head office in Accra, with visits to regional offices in the Ashanti, Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. Structurally, the USAID ADVANCE project has a strong data management and reporting structure in place with all of its required staffing position being filled. In addition, all of the M&E staff received training on M&E policies and procedures, with data collection tools and protocols in place to guide staff in their functions. The DQA team also found that indicators reported by ADVANCE were valid and directly measured the results they were designed to measure, and the project currently meets USAID data quality standards.

METSS STAFF SPOTLIGHT: M&E Team Leader Saaka Adams



Saaka Adams has been leading Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) teams for USAID projects and mentoring aspiring M&E specialists for over a decade. Evidence of his advanced technical and managerial leadership can be clearly seen through his numerous mentees, many of whom are now managing their own M&E units within the USAID portfolio of projects in Ghana.

Saaka and his M&E team (Charles Acquah, Eva Adomaa Kyereboah, Nana Adwoa Konadu) directly support the Economic Growth office of USAID in Ghana and its implementing partners by: ensuring compliance with USAID M&E regulations and data quality standards; promoting the use of cutting edge

M&E data collection technology to improve efficiency and mitigate potential human error; and leading on indicator harmonization where it makes sense.

Saaka's passion is focused on translating the indicators and associated results from individual development initiatives in order to tell the powerful 'big picture' narratives that only become apparent when individual initiatives are combined with sophistication. In line with that passion, his team works to ensure that the results from development initiatives are clearly connected to the development resources, both technical and financial, that sponsor them.

On a personal level he cultivates young M&E professionals' knowledge, skills and attitudes. As he puts it, "the tasks ahead are daunting, but collectively, and with the support of many, quality monitoring and evaluation services will lead to decision making in Ghana that is based on facts and evidence, rather than politics and privilege".

The 2015 Agricultural Joint Sector Review

On June 16, 2015 the Annual Agricultural Joint Sector Review (JSR) was held in Accra. Over 100 participants, including the Honorable Minister of Food and Agriculture FiFi Kwetey, from the public, private and civil society sectors engaged in a productive dialogue about the status and forward progress of Ghana's agricultural sector. The days program also included the public release of the 2014 Agricultural Sector Annual Progress Report. Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture led the JSR process with technical and financial support from the donor community including GIZ, Canada and USAID.

For more information please visit www.mofa.gov.gh

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/USAIDEG> for Details on Economic Growth Events and Activities in Ghana.

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Implemented Through:

