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Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) provides insight on progress towards health sector targets

Ghana Statistical Service releases 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey Key Indicators Report

Findings from the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) Key Indicators Report have highlighted both areas of progress and retrogression within the health sector. These results were presented by Professor Samuel Kobina Annim, the Government Statistician at Ghana's Health Sector Annual Summit on Monday 5th June 2023 in Accra.

The presentation included an assessment of the 2022- 2025 Health Sector Medium Term Development Plan (HSMTDP) Targets using 15 selected indicators from the 2022 GDHS Key Indicators Report. **For six out of the 15 indicators (total fertility rate, prevalence of anaemia in children, stunting, wasting, infant mortality and under-five mortality), the 2022 target had been achieved or there was progress over time** between the 2014 and 2022 DHS. However, between the two surveys **there was an increase in the teenage pregnancy rate and the percent of children under 5 that were underweight**. For the remaining seven indicators, progress was indeterminate due to variations between the baseline figure in the HSMTDP and the 2014 GDHS.

The findings from the report also indicate that even when the target has been achieved at the national level, several regions fall short of the target. For instance, six regions (Oti (60.6%), Upper West (61.2%), Savannah (62.7%), North East (64.9%), Upper East (69.4%) and Northern (69.4%) do not meet the national target for anaemia prevalence of 60.0% with prevalence over 10 percentage points higher than the national average of 49.0%.

Substantial regional disparities are observed for all indicators. Notable examples are highlighted as follows. In the Savannah (72.0%), Northern (71.6%), and Oti (70.3%) regions, less than three-quarters of births were delivered by a skilled provider compared to eight regions with over 90% skilled birth attendance coverage, led by Upper East (98.0%). The percent of children 12 to 23 months with no vaccinations is highest in the Northern (9.0%) and Ahafo (8.3%) regions while five regions have less than 0.1% of

children without vaccinations. Stunting in children under 5 is highest in the Northern (29.6%) and North East (29.3%) regions where the prevalence is almost three times that of Eastern (10.4%), the region with the lowest percentage of stunted children under 5.

The 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey was implemented by the Ghana Statistical Service in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service. ICF provided technical assistance through the DHS Program, a USAID-funded project providing support and technical assistance in the implementation of population and health surveys in countries worldwide.

The main objective of the 2022 GDHS is to provide up-to-date estimates of basic demographic and health indicators. The 2022 GDHS is the seventh demographic and health survey conducted in Ghana since 1988. The survey is designed to provide estimates at the national level, and disaggregated statistics by type of locality and region. In all, 17,933 households; 15,317 women aged 15 to 49 years and 7,044 males aged 15 to 59 years were interviewed for the survey.

The 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey Key Indicators Report is available to download from www.statsghana.gov.gh

About the Ghana Statistical Service

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The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as Consumer Inflation, Producer Inflation and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). 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 is utilised by a wide cross-section of users including the public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. For more information on the statistics generated by GSS visit www.statsghana.gov.gh.