

My World Survey Report - Ghana

What development needs, problems, and solutions do Ghanaians Prioritise?



The Post 2015 Priorities of Ghanaians

During the MyWorld national survey in Ghana, 8,388 respondents were asked to select top six development priorities that, in their opinions, would impact on their lives the most. These priorities were put under 16 development priority categories. The table below gives the summary of the responses.

'Better healthcare' (14.3%) topped the list of priorities, followed by 'Access to clean water and sanitation' (11.9%), 'Better job opportunities' (11.8%) and 'Good education' (11.3%). Other priorities that scored more than 5 percent are 'Better transport and roads' (9.2%), 'Reliable energy at home' (7.8%), 'An honest and responsive government' (6.6%), 'Affordable and nutritious food' (6.6%), and 'Support for people who cannot work' (5.6%).

Actions that violate the most basic human right and also have wider social and economic consequences such as 'Equality between men and women' (2.5%) and 'Freedom from discrimination and persecution' (1.8%) are among the least priorities, re-echoing the freedom and justice majority of Ghanaians are enjoying. Action on climate change (0.6%) is the least priority.

MY World Priorities	Cumulative responses	Percent	Rank
Better healthcare	7,081	14.3	1
Access to clean water and sanitation	5,929	11.9	2
Better job opportunities	5,854	11.8	3
Good education	5,619	11.3	4
Better transport and roads	4,569	9.2	5
Reliable energy at home	3,880	7.8	6
An honest and responsive government	3,299	6.6	7
Affordable and nutritious food	3,279	6.6	8
Support for people who cannot work	2,782	5.6	9
Protection against crime and violence	1,675	3.4	10
Political freedoms	1,284	2.6	11
Equality between men and women	1,247	2.5	12
Protecting forests, rivers and oceans	1,161	2.3	13
Freedom from discrimination and persecution	909	1.8	14
Phone and internet access	779	1.6	15
Action taken on climate change	275	0.6	16
Total	49,622	100.0	



Introduction

In 2000 the United Nations (UN) provided a global leadership in the adoption of eight international goals (Millennium Development Goals – MDGs) that became reference points providing guidance to all countries and development oriented institutions all over the world. As the duration set for the attainment of the MDGs draws closer, some development practitioners believe that effort made by all towards the attainment of these goals have impacted positively on the lives of billions across the globe. However others believe that there is still more to be done in improving quality of life of the world populace.

The question on the mind of many is “What will be the post MDGs development agenda?” The UN and its partners are again up to the challenge by launching a global citizen survey tagged MY World. The survey aims to capture people's voices, priorities and views; so that global leaders can be informed as they begin the process of defining the new development agenda for the world.

The survey employs the use of both online and offline facilities and methodologies by seeking the individuals' opinion on which six of the sixteen possible issues they think would make the most difference to their lives.

This report is an outcome of an offline representative sample survey conducted in Ghana, nation-wide, between April and May 2013 based on the Ghana Living Standards Survey 6 (GLSS 6).framework. It involved 3,600 households (8,388 respondents) selected from 18,200 sampled households for the (GLSS 6).

The results obtained in this report feed into the global MY World survey (www.myworld2015.org) as part of the post-2015 development agenda consultations process. More importantly, it is hoped that the findings will also be relevant for national conversations and planning processes.

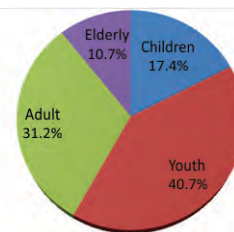
The survey in Ghana was facilitated by the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service whose personnel did the data collection, analysis

and contributed immensely in the report writing, and supported by the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC).

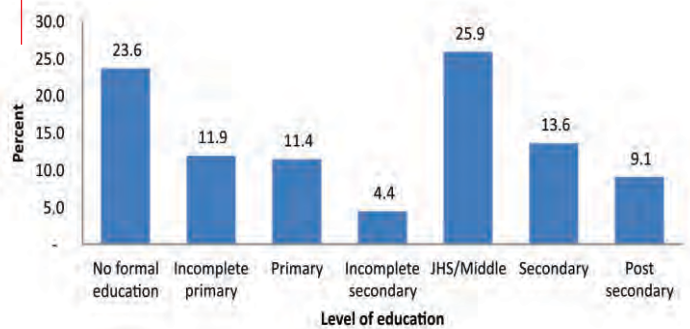
The Survey

The conduct of MY World survey is a call by the United Nations and partners to invite citizens everywhere to join the post-2015 process to define the world we want after 2015. The survey conducted in Ghana covered 8,388 respondents nationwide. The questionnaire used was designed by the United Nations Millennium Campaign.

Females constituted 52.6 percent of the respondents, and 55.6 percent of the respondents resided in rural localities. The Youth group (40.7%) constituted the largest proportion, followed by the Adult group (31.2%), Children group (17.4%), and the Elderly group (10.7%).



Considering the educational level of the respondents, the largest proportion (25.9%) had completed the Junior High School/Middle School. See the graph below for details.



The dominant economic activity or source of livelihood is farming/agriculture, which is engaged by 30.4 percent of the respondents. With regards to the main economic activity/source of livelihood categories, Children had the largest proportion of 'Dependents', the Youth had the largest proportion in 'Unemployed' and 'Skills trading', the Adult in



'Formal employment', 'Business' and 'Petty trading', and the Elderly in 'Farming/agriculture' and 'Pensioners'.

Almost half (48.4%) of respondents in rural localities were engaged in farming/agriculture, compared to 7.8 percent in urban localities.

'Money' as the main constraint to the achievement of livelihood ambitions dominated the responses, as was indicated by 32.5 percent of the respondents. The second largest livelihood constraint attributed by 12.2 percent of the respondents is 'Access to capital'. This picture cuts across gender, place of residence, and population groups.

'Discrimination', 'Gender bias', 'Ethnic tension', and 'Marginalization' are among the least of the constraints preventing the achievement of livelihood constraints.

Approximately one-fifth of the respondents (the largest proportion) attributed 'Inaccessibility to capital' as the main factor responsible for the constraints to their livelihood ambitions. 'Lack of jobs' (14.0%) was cited as the second most important factor, followed by 'high cost of living' (11.0%). The order of importance of these factors as responsible for the livelihood constraints is the same when analysed by gender and place of residence. By population groups, only the Children group did not have its largest proportion attributing 'Inaccessibility to capital' as the main factor for the livelihood constraint.

On the actions to be taken to counteract the factors constraining the achievement of livelihood ambitions, action on 'Access to finance' had the largest proportion of respondents (31.3%), followed by 'Job creation' (23.1%) and 'Improve governance' (16.5%). For the Children group, 'Better education' (26.1%) was the largest suggested action.

On the issue of who is responsible to implement the suggested actions, majority (85.9%) of the respondents want the government to take the necessary action to solve the problems.

The 2015 Priorities

'Better healthcare' (14.3%) topped the list of overall MY World priorities, followed by 'Access to clean water and sanitation' (11.9%), 'Better job opportunities' (11.8%) and 'Good education' (11.3%).

The same pattern of prioritization of development issues as captured in the list of overall priorities was evident when analysed by gender. However, proportions of females that advocated for 'Better healthcare', 'Access to clean water and sanitation', 'Affordable and nutritious food' and 'Support for people who cannot work' are larger than that of their male counterparts. On the other hand, larger proportions of males than females are also found in the following recognizable priority groups: 'Good education', 'Better transport and roads', and 'Honest and responsive government'.

Almost the same proportion of the Children group selected 'Better healthcare' (14.1%) and 'Good education' (14.0%) as the topmost priorities. 'Better job opportunities' is the second-ranked priority for the Youth group, while 'Access to clean water and sanitation' is the second-ranked priority for the Adult and Elderly groups.

Differences exist in the order of importance of the six top priorities between the rural and urban localities. 'Better healthcare' is also the top priority for both rural and urban respondents, with the rural proportion (14.5%) being higher than the urban (14.0%). The next five priorities in the order of importance for rural respondents are 'Access to clean water and sanitation' (12.4%), 'Good education' (11.7%), 'Better job opportunities' (11.2%), 'Better transport and roads' (10.6%) and 'Affordable and nutritious food' (7.0%).

However, as 'Access to clean water and sanitation' is ranked the second priority of respondents in rural localities, 'Better job opportunities' is the second priority for urban respondents. 'An honest and responsive government' is among the six top priorities of the urban respondents.

'Better healthcare' is the topmost priority of all regions except Upper East that has 'Access to



clean water and sanitation' as its top-ranked. 'An honest and responsive government' featured in the top six priorities of only the Greater Accra region.

'Support for people who cannot work' featured in the top six priorities of only the Volta and Upper East regions, while 'Affordable and nutritious food' featured in the Central and Upper West regions only.

The three-killer constraints/factors identified by respondents include lack of capital, high cost of living and lack of job opportunities.

Key actions required for abating constraints were identified as access to finance, jobs and good governance. Social protection was a priority in only the Volta and upper East regions. This has implications for how society is prepared to take responsibility for those who fall through the cracks in the market place. It may also be that the scattered government initiatives like LEAP, SADA, etc have not yet started yielding fruits or is not yet registering enough impacts;

However, good governance was not identified as a constraint. In terms of development priorities, all regions except Upper East who chose water/sanitation, identified health as number one, followed by access to clean water/sanitation and then job opportunities.

Climate change received the least attention even though we know that health priority chosen by respondents has a climate change dimension. This suggests that we need to intensify our awareness creation and linking climate change to health, livelihoods, disasters and development generally

There were regional or geographical differences in priorities. Whereas all regions had health as a priority, the upper east region chose water, sanitation and hygiene. This may be viewed as a result of the fact that most OPD attendance is due to water-borne illnesses like malaria, diarrhoea, etc. Our health education may have to be more holistic in terms of building the link between water and health.

An open and honest government featured as a priority in Accra only, an urban area. This may be due to the fact that urban and infact, people in Accra are nearer power holders than in rural areas. What is a bit surprising is the low score this received in the other urban areas. This has implications on our work on linking corruption and lack of development. Rural people have more confidence in NGOs than urban dwellers. This raises the question on whether NGOs are supplanting the state in rural Ghana.

Interestingly, telephone and internet access were not identified as priorities even among the youth.

It is important to note that even though respondents identified the need to protect forests, rivers and oceans, they did not identify it as a constraint or development priority. This may require more work to determine if this is low awareness or low appreciation of the links between these and climate change.

For the full version of the report visit
www.isodec.org.gh