Gender Profile: Ghana

General
Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 4,988,823
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 8,104,906

Health
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 38.52
Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 77.3
Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 66.4
Births attended by a skilled health professional (2011) (WHO, 2014b): 67.2%
Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 1.2%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 1.7%

Education
Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2013) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 87.81%


Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 12.6%
Teachers in primary education who are female (2013) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 37.9%

**Economic Activity**

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (2010) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 73%
Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (2010) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 72%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 32%
Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 27%

**Decision-Making**

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 11%

**Human Rights**

Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 14%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 22.9%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 44.5%

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Gender Gaps

Health
• Women comprise nearly 60% of those living with HIV, and the rates of newly infected women have been increasing. Women are disadvantaged by a lack of knowledge about how to prevent HIV transmission and by limited access to family planning. For example, one study in 2012 reported that only 17% of women were using a modern family planning method. The same study reported that only 32% of urban and 19% of rural women had comprehensive knowledge on prevention of HIV transmission (Dixon, 2012).

Education
• Female enrolment in technical and vocational institutions for the 2013/14 year was 18.3% (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2014, p. 10).

• In 2012/13, the percentage of women in public universities was 33.6%, in polytechnics 33.1%, and in colleges of education 43.3% (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2014, p. 10).

• The Ghanaian government noted in 2014 that numerous barriers still hinder girls and women from obtaining education: “The presence of anti-girl-child socio-cultural beliefs and practices; irresponsible parenting; perceptions of the roles of girls by families and communities; girls having to travel long distances to school; remoteness of schools and communities; general inadequacy of funding of girls’ education . . . inadequate number of female teachers and role models in deprived areas and communities; child labour; teenage pregnancy as a result of over-aged girls in basic schools; early marriage; lack of girl-friendly school environment; misuse of contact hours by teachers; poor performance (low quality of teaching and learning outcomes) . . . low self-esteem; gender biases in school/classroom practices; gendered division of labour in school, at home and community levels; inadequate teaching and learning materials leading to poor teaching and learning outcomes; general negative attitude of teachers” (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2014, p. 12–13).

Economic
• According to a 2014 report by the Ghanaian Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, women’s access to land ownership and their decision-making abilities concerning land are limited. The report also indicated that food insecurity affects mostly women of reproductive age, as well as female-headed households.

• The same report noted: “Women in the fish-processing industry still [face] some major challenges including: Easy access concessionary loans from credit institutions; [i]nability of women to organise themselves into professional groups capable of influencing policies in their favour; [l]ack of support from Ministries, Departments and Agencies of State (MDAs) for the organisation of women’s groups (p. 9). According to the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the fishing sector brings in an estimated $60 million per year and provides an income for approximately 10% of the country’s population (Anderson & McTernan, 2014).
Decision-Making

• As of 2014, the government noted that Ghana has not yet reached the goal of having 30% women in decision-making positions at all levels (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2014, p. 3).

• The most recent Millennium Development Goals report for Ghana (2012) noted the following percentages of women as of 2010: 29% of Supreme Court judges and 25% of High Court judges; in the civil service, 24% of chief directors; and at the local government level, only 8.2% of the municipal chief executives and district chief executives, combined (NDCP & UNDP, 2012, p. 30).

Human Rights

• Although legislation exists against female genital mutilation, and its prevalence has declined, it continues to occur in some areas of the country (Government of Ghana, 2013).

• From 2006 to 2011, both male and female attitudes (in persons aged 15–49) towards violence against women worsened. In 2011: 60% of women overall (70% in rural and 51% in urban areas) and 36% of men (45% in rural and 26% in urban areas) believed wife beating was justified (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2014, p. 19).

• The numbers of domestic violence cases reported to the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service were 17,965 in 2011, 2,470 in 2012, and 9,974 in 2013; notably, however, the DOVVSU covers only 50% of the country (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2014, p. 39).

References


