

Poverty & Equity Brief

Sub-Saharan Africa

Ghana

April 2019

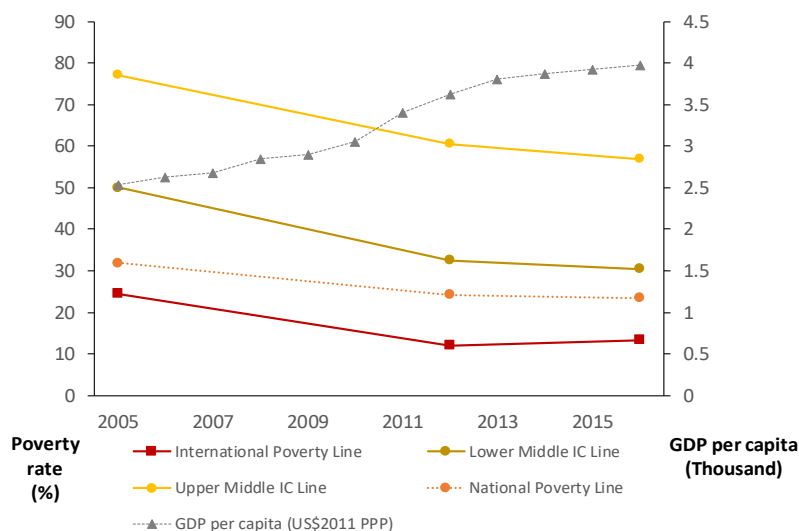
Ghana realized significant poverty reduction and reduced the poverty rate by half in line with the first Millennium Development Goal target with little increase in income inequality. Ghana's poverty rate at 2011 PPP \$1.90 per person per day was 47.4 percent in 1991. In 2016, Ghana's poverty rate at \$1.90 was down to 13.3 percent, lower than not only the mean poverty rate of Sub-Saharan Africa but also the mean poverty rate of middle-income countries. Ghana's largest fall in poverty was experienced from 1991 to 1998. Since then, poverty reduction has slowed down, and the growth elasticity of poverty has decreased remarkably.

Spatial inequality widened, and poverty and vulnerability became more concentrated in the Northern three regions (Northern, Upper East, and Upper West) and the Volta region. The extreme poverty rate declined from 5.2 percent to a negligible share in Greater Accra between 2005 and 2016, while the extreme poverty rate fell from 76 percent to only 45.2 percent in Upper West region during the same period. The spatial inequities reflect both ecological conditions and disparities in service delivery. Agriculture remains the dominant employer in the three Northern regions, but the climate is not suitable for cocoa and other cash crops. The percentage of households using electricity increased from 45 percent to 81 percent between 2005 and 2016 in Ghana. However, only 49 and 59 percent of households had access to electricity in Upper East and Upper West regions, respectively, in 2016.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	6.6	23.4	2016
International Poverty Line 2.5 in Ghanaian cedi (2016) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	3.7	13.3	2016
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 4.2 in Ghanaian cedi (2016) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	8.6	30.5	2016
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 7.3 in Ghanaian cedi (2016) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	16.1	56.9	2016
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		-0.20	2012-2016
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		43.5	2016
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		-1.47	2012-2016
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		2.3	2012-2016
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		1.27	2012-2016

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of March 2019, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

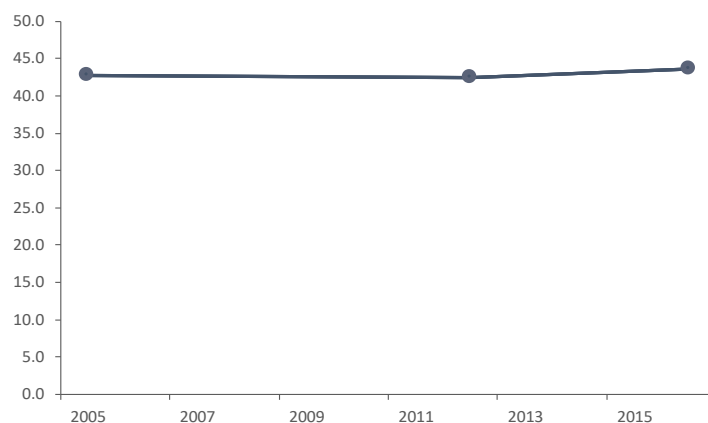
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2005-2016



Source: World Bank using GLSS-VI/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2005-2016

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using GLSS-VI/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS (distribution among groups)

	International Poverty Line (%)		Relative Group (%)		Year
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population	97	3	20	80	2016
Rural population	76	24	61	39	2016
Males	87	13	40	60	2016
Females	87	13	40	60	2016
0 to 14 years old	83	17	48	52	2016
15 to 64 years old	89	11	34	66	2016
65 and older	86	14	40	60	2016
Without education (age 16 and older)	75	25	58	42	2016
Primary education (age 16 and older)	86	14	44	56	2016
Secondary education (age 16 and older)	95	5	27	73	2016
Tertiary/post-secondary education (age 16 and older)	99	1	8	92	2016

Source: World Bank using Global Monitoring Database

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Ghana regularly conducts household surveys, measures poverty rates, and produces poverty maps. The Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) has been implemented in 1987, 1988, 1991, 1998, 2005, 2012, and 2017. The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) completed estimating a new national poverty rate using data from the most recent round, GLSS7, and announced the new national poverty rate in September 2018.

GSS produced the first poverty map using the GLSS4 and the 2000 Population and Housing Census in 2005. GSS created the second poverty map using the data from GLSS 6 and 2010 Population and Housing Census. GSS is planning to conduct the next Population and Housing Census in 2020 and GLSS8 in 2021, and produce a new poverty map.

Poverty reports and the poverty maps are all made public on the GSS website. There is a data access policy developed by GSS allowing users free access to microdata.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 44 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.