

Public Opinion

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OVERVIEW

SURVEY ON KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN GHANA

SUMMARY

The 2015 Socio-economic and Governance Survey (SEGS 3) is the third in the series of surveys conducted by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) on public perception and assessment of socio-economic and governance conditions in the country. The survey was carried out in November/December, 2015 and consisted of a regionally representative sample of 1,500 respondents aged 18 years and above from the 10 regions of Ghana.

The study provides a comprehensive information on individuals' perception on the following: (i) economic/living conditions; (ii) safety and security; (iii) media abuse of freedoms; (iv) discrimination and relations between ethnic groups; (v) factors which influence voters in elections; (vi) trust in institutions; (vii) most important problems confronting the country; (viii) performance of current government; (ix) corruption among state institutions; (x) bribery; and (xi) access to public services in Ghana.

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The Editor, The Institute of Economic Affairs, P.O. Box OS 1936, Accra.

Tel. +233-302 244716/226333/226359/226388, 030 7010713/4. Fax:+233-302-222313.

Email:iea@ieagh.org. Website:www.ieagh.org. Facebook:www.facebook.com/ieagh.

Twitter:www.twitter.com/IEAGhana

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Key Findings

The proportion of respondents who reported that their living conditions were bad increased slightly from 63% in 2014 to 64% in 2015. Those who said their conditions were good declined from 25% in 2014 down to 23% in 2015.

The overall food security situation improved in the country from 52% in 2014 to 61% in 2015. Regionally, respondents in Upper East, Northern, Upper West and Western regions reported of going without food many times in the last six months.

The proportion of persons who had access to clean water declined slightly from about 60% in 2014 down to 59% in 2015. However, access to safe drinking water improved in the Central, Volta, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo regions while access to safe drinking water in the Northern, Upper East and Western regions deteriorated between the same periods.

The medical situation in the country has remained virtually the same between 2014 and 2015 with about 50% of respondents declaring that they had no access to medical treatment. A large proportion of the respondents in the Western, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Upper East and Upper West regions reported declined access to medical services.

Despite improvement in the proportion of households with difficulties in meeting school expenses, more than half of households could not meet educational expenses in 2015. The percentage which could meet school expenses dropped from 66% in 2014 to 58% in 2015. Rural households were more likely to default in the payment of educational expenses compared to their urban counterparts. The problem was more serious in the Northern (77.8%), Western (74.8%), Upper East (71.4%), Upper West (66.7%) and Brong Ahafo (63.2%) regions.

About 66% of the people interviewed stated that the three most important problems which confronted people in Ghana in 2015 were either: (i) unemployment; or (ii) poverty; or (iii) unreliable power supply. The unemployment problem continued to worsen. About 26% of the people reported unemployment as the most important problem in 2015 compared with about 25% in 2014.

Generally, a greater proportion of people in Ghana felt safe in their neighbourhood. However, the proportion of households who felt safe while walking in their neighbourhood at night dropped by 5.4% from 74.3% in 2014 to 68.9% in 2015.

The relations between ethnic groups in Ghana are generally good. Approximately 8 out of 10 of the respondents indicated that the ethnic groups in the country related well. However, 10% of respondents in the Central and Volta regions felt that relations were bad.

The three areas in which the government had performed badly are: (i) checking price increases; (ii) creating jobs; and (iii) narrowing gaps between the rich and the poor. In fact, compared to the situation in 2014, the three areas where respondents felt that the situation worsened more are: (i) providing reliable supply of electricity; (ii) ensuring that everyone had enough to eat; and (iii) fighting corruption in the government.

The police service, judiciary and tax officials (as GRA etc.) were regarded as the most corrupt institutions. The Office of the President dropped from the second spot on the corruption scale to

the fourth position in 2015 compared to 2014. The police, the ruling party and the judiciary were the least trusted institutions.

Over 70% of people believed that anyone was free to say what he/she thinks, while a further 90% and over were of the view that one was free to join any political organisation and chose who to vote for without any hindrance. However, respondents' perception of citizen's freedom of speech, association and choice of candidates in Ghana seemed to be falling.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

As the year 2015 drew closer, the United Nations in June 2013 held a Conference on Sustainable Development with the theme “The Future We Want”. The Conference declared a new set of global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that should be integrated into the new development framework beyond 2015. The declaration recognized that sustainable development requires good governance and the rule of law, as well as effective, transparent and democratic institutions -- features that have all too often been lacking in fragile states. Consequently, “on September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years” (United Nations, 2016). For the goals to be achieved, all the stakeholders need to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and the citizenry.

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) has taken up the challenge of collecting information aimed at promoting good political and socio-economic governance on the following: (i) economic and living conditions; (ii) public safety and security; (iii) media freedom and abuse; (iv) discrimination and relations between ethnic groups; (v) factors which influence elections; (vi) trust in public institutions; (vii) problems confronting the country; (viii) government performance; (ix) corruption; (x) bribery; (xi) access to public services, among others.

Justification

In Ghana data on issues relating to peace, safety, security, justice, freedom, discrimination, corruption and rights of political participation are either non-existent or where they do exist, have limited national coverage. It becomes difficult therefore to come up with effective and efficient measures to dealing with security and safety threats to the population. In order to be able to make an objective measure of the level of security in the country, it is important to have in place a nationwide scientific survey using a nationally representative sample to collect credible information from individuals of voting age on their perception of economic well-being, peace, discrimination, corruption, security and safety.

The 2015 Socio-economic and Governance Survey (SEGS 3) is the third in the series of surveys conducted by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) on public perception and assessment of socio-economic and governance conditions in the country. The SEGS 3 was carried out in November/December, 2015 and consisted of a regionally representative sample of 1,500 respondents aged 18 years and above from the 10 regions of Ghana. The SEGS 3 represents the views of the 1,500 respondents and not the views of the researchers.

There are other surveys, which have been undertaken in the country by other bodies such as the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), National African Peer Review Mechanism-Governing Council (NAPRM-GC), Centre for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG), SEND-Ghana and Imani Centre for Policy and Education. The IEA's survey is, however, unique because of its ability to assemble the views of businesses and the public, analyze and channel them for input into the policymaking processes. The IEA's surveys are also distinctive in terms of coverage and content because the SEGS is a household survey that is conducted across the country and covers eleven (11) or more wide-ranging issues.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sample Design

The survey provides a regionally disaggregated representative data for the 10 regions of Ghana. The survey uses a probability sample design whereby each person aged 18 years and above in Ghana has a known non-zero chance of being included in the sample.

The sample design is a three-stage stratified and clustered design that employed sampling with probability proportional to the size (PPS) of the population. Stratification was based on the 10 regions as domain of analysis. The sub-domains are the rural and urban localities. The selection of households and individuals within the primary sampling units (PSUs) and households respectively, followed the strict sampling procedures recommended by the United Nations (2005).

2.2 Sample Size and Allocation

A number of factors including resources and logistical considerations influenced the choice of sample size used in the study. In addition, key indicators such as: present living conditions, most important problem confronting the country, discrimination, safety and security, level of corruption, trust in institutions, media abuse of freedoms, and performance of government were considered to calculate the sample size. However, the guiding principle was the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially, SDG1 & SDG2, which refer to “Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere” and “Ending hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” respectively, by 2030.

The final determination of the sample size was based on the following conservative and yet important methodological assumptions:

1. Significance level (probability of type I error) of 5%;
2. The lowest domain of estimation is the region;
3. The expected level of precision for most of the indicators (present living conditions, most important problem confronting the country, discrimination, safety & security, level of corruption, trust in institutions, media abuse of freedoms, and performance of government) at the regional level should be around 5% to 10% of coefficient of variation (CV);
4. The response distribution was assumed to be 50% since the distribution of most of the questions in the questionnaire was unknown;
5. A sample size which will yield the smallest sampling error for any test that will be conducted with the survey;
6. Analysis of proportions will be used to handle many variables of interest so it is assumed that the tests will compare opinions of individuals against a split decision of 50-50 chance of answering yes or no to a particular question;
7. A minimum sample of 100 eligible individuals is fixed as the initial sample size for each domain (region); and
8. Available human and financial resources.

Therefore, using the mathematical relation: $n = \frac{k^2(PQ)}{E^2}$

Where,

P is the proportion of persons 18 years and above with living conditions very bad;

$Q = (1 - P)$;

K is a multiple of the sampling error selected to achieve the specified degree of confidence level (95%);

E is the error; and

n is the sample size.

On the basis of this mathematical relation, a minimum of 1,469 households would have been enough to interview if a simple random sampling approach had been used.

However, to ensure that a minimum sample size of 100 eligible individual respondents was obtained per domain, this number was adjusted upwards to 1,500. The allocation of the PSUs and SSUs for each region and implied number of households is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: The Distribution of Enumeration Areas (PSUs) Across the Regions

Region	Estimated Population 18 years and above*	Percent of population (18 years and above)*	Number of PSUs per PPS	Required number of households per PPS	Adjusted No. of PSUs	Adjusted No. of households for field work
Western	1,449,497	9.8	10	147	9	135
Central	1,242,547	8.4	8	126	8	120
Greater Accra	2,483,709	16.8	17	252	15	225
Volta	1,270,417	8.6	9	129	8	120
Eastern	1,591,877	10.8	11	161	10	150
Ashanti	2,951,044	19.9	20	299	18	270
Brong Ahafo	1,409,076	9.5	10	143	9	135
Northern	1,420,110	9.6	10	144	9	135
Upper East	598,414	4.0	4	61	7	105
Upper West	388,144	2.6	3	39	7	105
Total	14,804,835	100.0	100	1,500	100	1,500

*Source: GSS: 2010 Population and Housing Census

2.3 Sample Selection

The selection of eligible respondents from selected enumeration areas and households was undertaken in the following three stages:

1. In the first stage, working closely with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), the most current list of primary sampling units (PSUs) also called enumeration areas (EAs) was obtained. From this list, 100 PSUs were selected with probability proportional to size (PPS). The PSUs were independently selected randomly from the list of PSUs in each region. PSUs for Upper East and Upper West regions were over sampled to allow for a reasonable number of households to be interviewed in these regions.

2. In the second stage, a complete household listing was conducted in all the selected PSUs to provide a sampling frame for the second stage selection of households. Fifteen (15) households were systematically selected as the target sample in each selected PSU. In addition, five (5) households were systematically selected as the reserve sample in each selected PSU.

3. At the third stage, the Kish Grid was applied to the selected households in each of the selected households visited in the PSU from among all household members aged 18 years and above for the

selection of the eligible respondent. Substitution of the selected respondent within the household was not allowed.

2.4 Implementation of Field Data Collection

The personal interview method was used as it yields high response rate. A structured questionnaire was developed and used to ensure uniform responses.

The recruitment and training of interviewers and supervisors were done as follows:

In all 40 people across the regions were recruited. For supervisors, the minimum qualification was tertiary while the GCE “O-Level”/SSSCE/WASSCE were used for the interviewers. They were given a three-day thorough training in Accra before deploying them to the field. They were carefully instructed on the purposes of the survey and how the results were going to be used. Furthermore, they were well trained in the concepts and definitions used in the questionnaire. The training covered topics on the survey instruments (questionnaire), manual and interpretation of the Enumeration Area (EA maps). Inputs from the training and field practice were incorporated into the final questionnaires and manual. Coordinated field supervision and monitoring were instituted during the data collection exercise.

The Census Processing Software (CSPPro) was used for data capture. The captured data was exported into STATA for data cleaning, validation and consistency checks and all anomalies corrected. Thereafter, SPSS and Excel were used for the tables and data analysis.

Simple descriptive analyses were used for all relevant characteristics.

2.5 Demographic Background of Respondents

The regional and sex distribution of respondents are presented in Tables 2a and 3. The results mirror closely the 2010 Population and Housing Census figures (Table 2b). The region with the highest proportion of respondents is Ashanti (18.0%) and Upper East/West regions have the least (7%). Again, females made up 60% of respondents as against 40% males.

Table 2a: Regional Distribution of Respondents

Region	Number	Percent
Western	135	9.0
Central	120	8.0
Greater Accra	225	15.0
Volta	120	8.0
Eastern	150	10.0
Ashanti	270	18.0
Brong Ahafo	135	9.0
Northern	135	9.0
Upper East	105	7.0
Upper West	105	7.0
Total	1,500	100.0

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

Table 2b: Regional Distribution of Respondents

Region	Percent of population (18+ years)
Western	9.5
Central	8.7
Greater Accra	18.6
Volta	8.6
Eastern	10.6
Ashanti	19.5
Brong Ahafo	9.0
Northern	8.9
Upper East	4.0
Upper West	2.6
Total	100.0

Source: GSS: 2010 Population and Housing Census

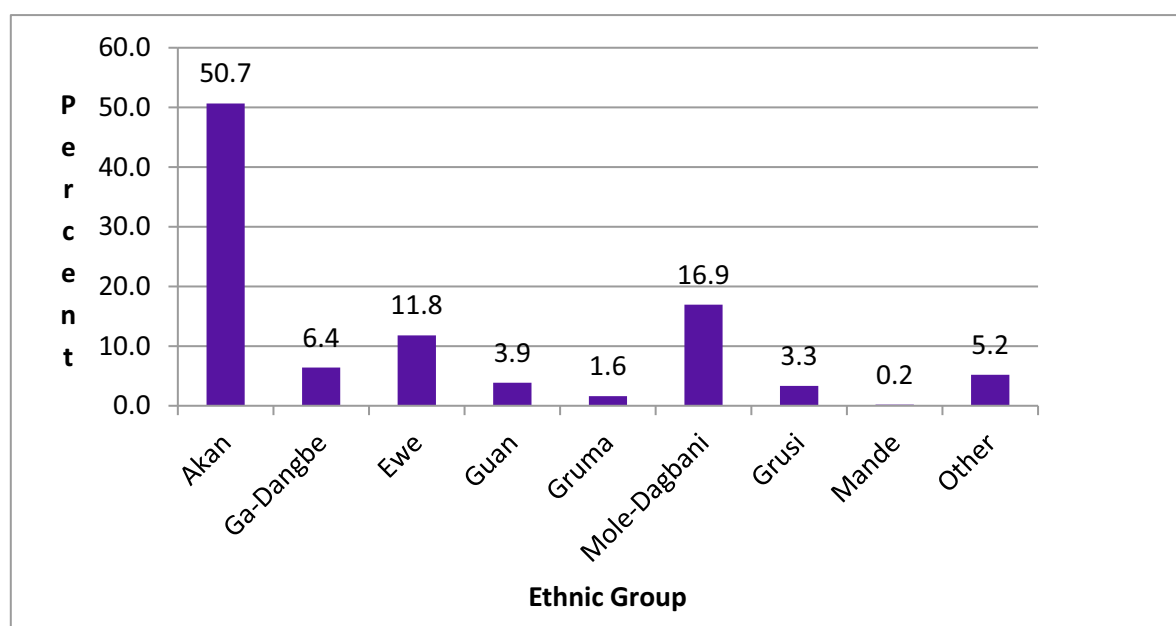
Table 3: Percent Distribution of Respondent by Type of Locality and Sex

Sex	Locality		Total country
	Urban	Rural	
Male	37.9	41.8	39.9
Female	62.1	58.2	60.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

The Akan group constitutes more than half (50.7%) of the respondents followed by the Mole-Dagbani group (16.9%) and Ewe (11.8%) (Fig.1).

Fig 1: Ethnic Group Composition of Respondents



Source: 2015 IEA Survey

2.6 Strengths and Weaknesses of the Methodology

The major strengths of the SEGS are the quality control measures put in place, namely:

- The use of probability sampling to ensure that each person 18 years and above had a known non-zero chance of being included in the sample;
- The use of structured questionnaire;
- The use of qualified and seasoned supervisors and interviewers;
- Strict training regime;
- Coordinated field supervision and monitoring;
- Strict data processing procedures; and
- Incorporation of feedback from stakeholders into the questionnaire and methodology.

Originally, as part of its effort to inform on and advocate for good political and economic governance, the IEA envisaged instituting a longitudinal survey whereby data is collected from the same sample units in order to track changes in people's attitude and perceptions over a period of time. Thus, having conducted the second SEGS in 2014, the IEA had wanted to track the respondents who featured in the second round of the SEGS in subsequent SEGSs.

Though the purpose for conducting such surveys is to measure changes in some characteristics for the same population over a period of time, the major problems with this type of surveys are: (i) the high attrition rate of respondents; (ii) conditioning effect on the respondents thus compromising the quality of the responses; (iii) reluctance of respondents to cooperate thereby increasing non-response in later survey rounds; (iv) respondents learn that some responses mean additional questions, so they may avoid giving certain answers; (v) respondents may actually change their behavior because of the survey; and (vi) respondents may not be as diligent in providing accurate responses in later interviews once they become bored with the survey process (United Nations Statistics Division 2005, p. 70).

For these reasons, a completely new set of sample was used. However, to ensure comparability of the 2015 SEGS with the 2014 SEGS, the same sample design, common concepts and definitions were used.

It is instructive to note that the weaknesses do not, however, affect the scientific basis of the survey, the data analysis, findings and conclusions because they are prevalent in almost all surveys undertaken elsewhere. The key thing is the methodological control measures put in place to deal with the weaknesses, which, as already indicated, were addressed.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 People's Living Condition

Present living conditions worsen slightly

Living conditions generally have not improved over the past two years. In all, 22.6% of respondents remarked that their living conditions were good, signifying a drop in the percentage of respondents who reported good living conditions in 2014 (Table 4). The proportion of respondents who reported bad living conditions increased marginally from 63.3% in 2014 to 63.8% in 2015. Factors which could be responsible for the deteriorating living conditions in 2015 are high prices and increase in the proportion of unemployment (see Section 3.7).

Living conditions worsened in Greater Accra, Volta, Eastern, Upper East and Upper West regions. The proportion of respondents who reported bad living conditions in these regions increased from the rates recorded in 2014. Again, there was a significant reduction in the proportion of respondents who reported good living conditions in all the regions except the Central, Brong Ahafo and Upper East regions (Table 4).

Table 4: Present Living Conditions by Religion, Sex and Locality

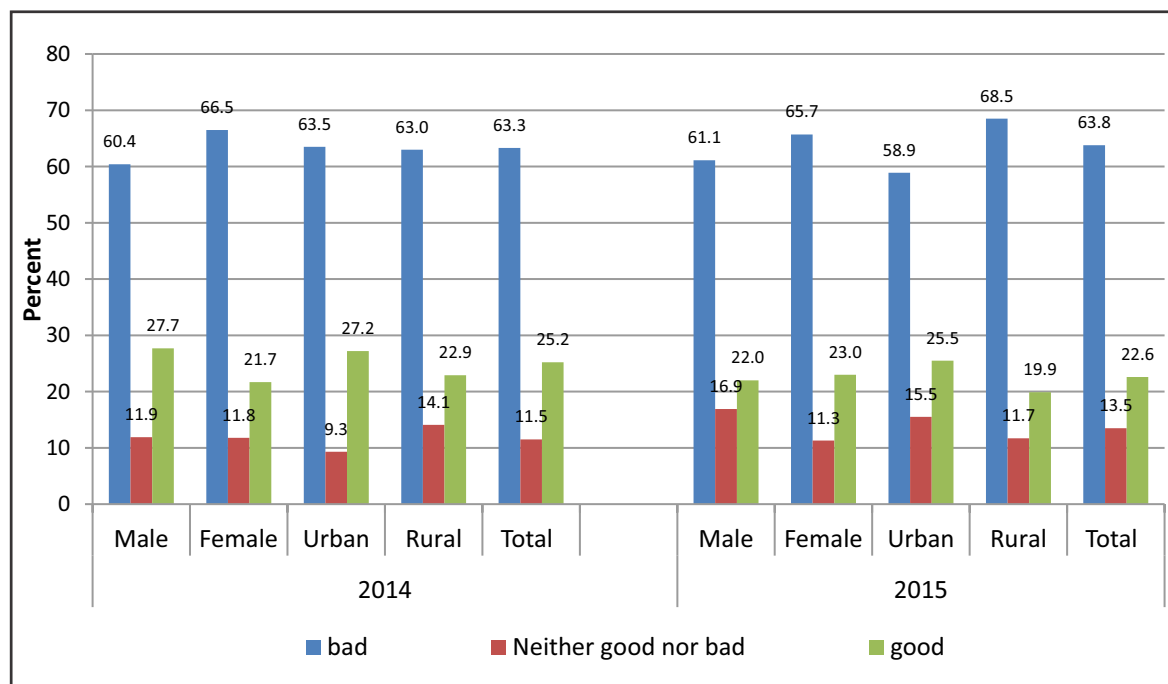
	2015					2014				
Region	Bad	Neither Good nor Bad	Good	Total	Number	Bad	Neither Good nor Bad	Good	Total	Number
Western	65.2	17	17.8	100	135	74.1	7.7	18.1	100	116
Central	70.9	10.8	18.3	100	120	84.5	5.7	9.7	100	123
Greater Accra	62.2	7.6	30.2	100	225	49.8	12.3	37.9	100	211
Volta	68.4	12.5	19.1	100	120	52.4	15.5	32	100	103
Eastern	78.6	8.7	12.7	100	150	61.2	12.9	25.9	100	116
Ashanti	60.7	19.3	20	100	270	71.4	5.7	22.9	100	227
Brong Ahafo	61.5	13.3	25.2	100	135	70.3	13.9	17.9	100	101
Northern	51.1	17	31.8	100	135	56	12	32	100	100
Upper East	60	10.5	29.5	100	105	48.4	28.3	23.4	100	60
Upper West	62.8	17.1	20	100	105	48.9	27.9	23.3	100	43
Sex										
Male	61.1	16.9	22	100	599	60.4	11.9	27.7	100	724
Female	65.7	11.3	23	100	901	66.5	11.6	21.7	100	388
Locality										
Urban	58.9	15.5	25.5	100	721	63.5	9.1	27.2	100	640
Rural	68.5	11.7	19.9	100	779	63	13.9	22.9	100	560
Total	63.8	13.5	22.6	100	1500	63.3	12.2	25.2	100	1200

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

More males (16.9%) than females (11.3%) could not tell whether their living conditions were good or bad (Figure 3). Whereas the proportion of males who reported good living conditions dropped from 27.7% in 2014 to 22.0% in 2015, that for their counterpart increased from 21.7% in 2014 to 23.0% in 2015.

Living conditions generally were better in urban localities than rural localities. Figure 2 shows that more rural dwellers (68.5%) reported bad living conditions compared to their urban counterparts (58.9%).

Fig. 2: Present Living Conditions, by Sex and Locality



Source: 2015 IEA Survey

A relatively higher number of respondents (35.7%) reported that their living conditions today were worse (much worse and worse) than it was six months ago. The proportion of respondents who reported much better living conditions decreased from 3.6% in 2014 to 1.7% in 2015 (Table 5). Living conditions were getting much worse for females than males.

Only two regions, the Central and Volta regions, recorded one in four respondents reporting better living conditions today as compared to six months ago. More urban dwellers (10.7%) as against 7.7% of their rural counterparts reported of much worse living conditions now than they were six months ago (Table 5).

Table 5: Present Living Conditions Compared to Six Months Ago by Region, Locality and Sex

	2015						2014							
	Much Worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much Better	Total	Number	Much Worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much Better	Total	Number
Western	5.2	25.9	43.7	22.2	3.0	100.0	135	10.3	36.2	25.8	16.4	11.2	100	116
Central	11.7	31.7	25.8	25.8	5.0	100.0	120	4.1	16.3	43.1	34.1	2.4	100	123
Greater Accra	12.1	27.2	33.5	24.1	3.1	100.0	224	6.2	25.1	48.8	18	1.9	100	211
Volta	0.0	30.8	42.5	25.8	.8	100.0	120	6.8	26.2	39.8	23.3	3.9	100	103
Eastern	18.0	26.0	38.0	17.3	.7	100.0	150	5.2	24.1	46.6	22.4	1.7	100	116
Ashanti	13.8	21.6	43.1	21.2	.4	100.0	269	16.7	21.6	28.2	30	3.5	100	227
Brong Ahafo	12.7	31.3	31.3	23.1	1.5	100.0	134	8.9	14.9	45.5	30.7	0	100	101
Northern	4.4	25.9	49.6	17.8	2.2	100.0	135	4	15	47	34	0	100	100
Upper East	0.0	21.9	57.1	21.0	0.0	100.0	105	0	13.3	48.4	33.3	5	100	60
Upper West	1.9	26.7	55.2	15.2	1.0	100.0	105	4.7	27.9	37.1	16.3	14	100	43
Male	7.5	27.1	40.5	22.9	2.0	100.0	598	7.3	23.2	38.6	27.2	3.7	100	724
Female	10.2	26.0	41.6	20.6	1.6	100.0	899	8.5	21.9	41.5	24.6	3.5	100	388
Urban	10.7	27.5	38.1	21.4	2.2	100.0	719	9.1	23.6	38.3	25.3	2.8	100	640
Rural	7.7	25.4	43.9	21.6	1.3	100.0	778	6.8	21.1	38.1	26.3	4.5	100	560
Total	9.2	26.5	41.1	21.5	1.7	100.0	1497	8.0	22.4	40.3	25.8	3.6	100	1200

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

Fewer people (3.8%) believed that the future will be much better compared to the 7.9% of respondents who believed that the future would be much better in 2014. On the contrary, the number of respondents who believed that the future will be much worse is relatively high (16.1%) in 2015 than those who held similar belief (7.3%) in 2014.

The Volta Region recorded a remarkable decline in the number of respondents who believed that the future will be much worse from 3.9 percent in 2014 to 0.8% in 2015. Whereas the Upper West Region recorded zero percent for those who believed that the future would be much worse in 2014, 7.7% of respondents in the region believed that the future will be much worse off (Table 6).

Table 6: Present Living Conditions Compared to Six Months Ahead by Region, Locality and Sex

	2015								2014							
	Much Worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much Better	Don't know	Total	N	Much Worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much Better	Don't know	Total	N
Western	25.9	16.3	20.7	16.3	1.5	19.3	100	135	7.8	13.8	19.0	31.9	4.3	23.3	100	116
Central	15.4	27.4	5.1	21.4	2.6	28.2	100	117	1.6	11.4	12.2	32.5	19.5	22.8	100	123
Greater Accra	10.7	10.7	12.9	34.7	10.2	20.9	100	225	5.2	11.8	21.8	38.9	9.0	13.3	100	211
Volta	0.8	3.3	7.5	57.5	1.7	29.2	100	120	3.9	30.1	11.7	41.7	2.9	9.7	100	103
Eastern	16.7	18	15.3	39.3	0.7	10.0	100	150	10.3	18.1	29.3	28.4	2.6	11.2	100	116
Ashanti	28.3	19.3	17.8	24.9	0.4	9.3	100	269	16.3	15.9	18.5	35.7	7.0	6.6	100	227
Brong Ahafo	17.8	9.6	25.9	30.4	3.7	12.6	100	135	7.9	17.8	10.9	26.7	2.0	34.7	100	101
Northern	14.4	3.8	22	43.2	5.3	11.4	100	132	3.0	11.0	19.0	31.0	3.0	33.0	100	100
Upper East	9.5	8.6	17.1	52.4	7.6	4.8	100	105	3.3	10	11.7	53.3	16.7	5.0	100	60
Upper West	7.7	6.7	21.2	46.2	3.8	14.4	100	104	0.0	7.0	16.3	51.2	23.3	2.3	100	43
Male	15.1	13.9	16.1	36.1	4.4	14.4	100	596	7.2	14.5	18.3	37.3	7.3	15.4	100	724
Female	16.7	12.5	16.9	34.2	3.3	16.4	100	896	7.5	15.8	17.2	34.1	8.5	16.9	100	388
Urban	16.7	14.2	16	32.5	4.5	16.2	100	718	8.4	14.5	16.9	35.5	8.8	15.9	100	640
Rural	15.5	12	17.1	37.2	3.1	15.1	100	774	6.1	15.7	19.1	35.9	7.0	16.3	100	560
Total	16.1	13.1	16.6	34.9	3.8	15.6	100	1492	7.3	15.1	17.9	35.7	7.9	16.1	100	1200

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.2 Food Security

Food situation improved countrywide but not promising in the Upper East, Northern, Upper West and Western regions

Food was not a problem for most households in the country. Majority of households (60.7%) in the country never went without having enough food to eat in the six months under review (Table 7). Also, the proportion of households who reported going without food always had reduced significantly from 4.2% in 2014 to 2.3% in 2015.

However, at the regional front, food security had worsened in the Brong Ahafo Region. More than one in every ten households in the Brong Ahafo Region reported always going without enough food in the six months preceding the interview (Table 7). The current proportion of households always going without enough food in the Brong Ahafo region represents 8.5 percentage points increase over what was recorded in 2014. The Volta Region has the highest proportion of households (75.9%) who never went without enough food in the six months preceding the survey period.

In terms of households who were without food many times in the six months under review, the Upper East (21.9%), the Northern (20.0%), the Upper West (13.3%) and the Western (12.6%) regions were the worst off probably due to the prolonged drought in 2015.

Table 7: Household without Enough Food to Eat (in Last Six Months) by Region and Locality

	2015						2014					
	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Total	N	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Total	N
Western	42.2	44.4	12.6	0.7	100.0	135	45.6	44.7	7.9	0.9	100	114
Central	66.7	29.2	3.3	0.8	100.0	120	54.5	13.0	31.7	0.8	100	123
Greater Accra	74.1	21.9	3.1	0.9	100.0	224	70.6	14.7	12.8	1.9	100	211
Volta	75.9	20.7	2.6	0.9	100.0	116	61.2	11.7	15.5	11.7	100	103
Eastern	69.8	17.4	9.4	2.7	100.0	149	50.0	24.1	16.3	9.5	100	116
Ashanti	65.6	23.7	8.9	1.9	100.0	270	44.9	26.4	22.9	5.7	100	227
Brong Ahafo	60.9	21.1	6.8	10.5	100.0	133	51.5	14.9	31.6	2.0	100	101
Northern	40.0	36.3	20.0	3.7	100.0	135	27.0	25.0	43.0	5.0	100	100
Upper East	48.6	27.6	21.9	1.9	100.0	105	50.0	23.3	26.7	0.0	100	60
Upper West	44.8	41.9	13.3	0.0	100.0	105	46.5	25.6	25.6	2.3	100	43
Urban	67.0	24.0	6.3	2.4	100.0	716	56.8	19.7	19.4	4.1	100	639
Rural	54.8	30.4	12.5	2.3	100.0	776	46.0	24.5	25.1	4.3	100	559
Total	60.7	27.3	9.5	2.3	100.0	1492	51.8	22.0	22.0	4.2	100	1198

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.3 Access to Safe Drinking Water

Access to safe drinking water in Northern, Upper East and Western regions worsened between 2014 and 2015

The continuous provision of clean water for drinking could be a foundation for the prevention and control of water-borne diseases. Even though more than half of households never stayed without water in the six months preceding the survey, it could be said that access to water had improved since 2014 with a relatively low percentage of households (5.9%) in 2015 going without water always compared to 7.5% recorded in 2014. About 3 in every 5 persons (58.5%) reported that they never stayed without clean water in the last six months (Table 8).

The Northern and Upper East regions had less than half of their households (33.6% and 48.6% respectively) having access to water always while about half (49.6%) of the households in Western Region went without enough water up from 40.6% in 2014.

Table 8: Household without Clean Water in Last Six Months by Region and Locality

	2015						2014					
	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Total	N	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Total	N
Western	50.4	36.3	10.4	3.0	100.0	135	59.6	21.9	12.2	5.3	100	114
Central	72.5	19.2	3.3	5.0	100.0	120	63.4	13.8	16.3	6.5	100	123
Greater Accra	63.6	22.7	7.6	6.2	100.0	225	65.9	13.7	19.4	0.9	100	211
Volta	59.8	18.8	12.8	8.5	100.0	117	55.3	3.9	22.3	18.4	100	103
Eastern	56.4	20.1	13.4	10.1	100.0	149	62.1	10.3	14.7	12.9	100	116
Ashanti	72.4	13.8	9.3	4.5	100.0	268	61.7	10.1	22.1	6.2	100	227
Brong Ahafo	55.3	15.9	16.7	12.1	100.0	132	53.5	5.0	28.7	12.9	100	101
Northern	33.6	36.6	23.1	6.7	100.0	134	47.0	14.0	27.0	12.0	100	100
Upper East	48.6	29.5	21.9	0.0	100.0	105	60.0	13.3	26.7	0.0	100	60
Upper West	54.3	36.2	7.6	1.9	100.0	105	62.8	9.3	25.6	2.3	100	43
Urban	64.9	22.1	8.4	4.6	100.0	716	64.6	12.1	17.4	5.9	100	639
Rural	52.6	24.9	15.4	7.1	100.0	774	54.6	11.4	24.5	9.3	100	559
Total	58.5	23.6	12.0	5.9	100.0	1490	59.9	11.8	20.7	7.5	100	1198

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.4 Access to Medical Services

Access to medical services worsened in Western, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Upper East and Upper West regions between 2014 and 2015

Societies are being encouraged to devote much effort to preventive or curative health measures which are believed to have a large measurable effect on the life expectancy of the population as a whole. A substantial medical effort must be devoted to improve the quality of life through the minimization of the poor quality of life associated with chronic disease, and, to a very large extent, increase the relief of pain, disfigurement, and disability.

Table 9 shows that 17.1% of all people reported to have always stayed without medicine or medical treatment either once or severally in the last six months. A relative higher proportion of people (21.9%) in the rural communities compared to their urban counterparts (11.9%) reported to be without medicine or medical treatment throughout the entire six months preceding the interview. The proportion of households that went without needed medicines or medical treatment has reduced significantly from 7.0 % in 2014 to 2.4 % in 2015.

However, almost a quarter of persons in the Northern Region (25.1%), Western Region (23.6%) and Eastern Region (23.5%) reported to be without medicine or medical treatment for several times, if not always, in the last six months under review. The situation was more serious in the Brong Ahafo Region where almost 30% reported to be without medicine or medical treatment for several times, if not always, in the last six months. The situation in the Central Region (6.8%) and the Greater Accra region (8.9%) is quite different as a relatively small number of persons in these regions reported to be without medicine or medical care for several times within the last six months under review.

The Volta Region witnessed a remarkable decline in the proportion of households that always went without needed medicines or medical treatment from 11.7 % in 2014 to zero percent in 2015. Medical care is still a challenge in rural localities as compared to urban localities. Less than 40% of households living in rural localities had continual access to needed medicines or medical treatment.

Table 9: Household without Medicine or Medical Treatment in Last Six Months by Region and Locality

Region	2015						2014					
	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Total	N	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Total	N
Western	32.1	42.7	22.1	1.5	100.0	131	48.2	33.3	15.0	3.5	100	114
Central	55.9	37.3	5.1	1.7	100.0	118	52	14.6	30.1	3.3	100	123
Greater Accra	69.2	20.1	7.6	1.3	100.0	224	65.4	19.4	13.3	1.9	100	211
Volta	61.5	29.1	9.4	0.0	100.0	117	45.6	17.5	25.2	11.7	100	103
Eastern	53.7	21.5	20.8	3.7	101.0	149	42.2	24.1	25.8	7.9	100	116
Ashanti	62.6	23.3	13.3	0.4	100.0	270	64.2	10.6	19.9	5.3	100	226
Brong Ahafo	43.5	26.7	19.8	9.2	100.0	131	46.5	18.8	30.7	4.0	100	101
Northern	29.8	45.0	19.8	5.3	100.0	131	22.0	34.0	34.0	10.0	100	100
Upper East	35.0	48.5	14.6	1.0	100.0	103	36.7	6.7	41.6	15.0	100	60
Upper West	29.5	48.6	19.0	2.9	100.0	105	53.5	4.7	23.2	18.6	100	43
Locality												
Urban	62.5	24.5	10.1	1.8	100.0	714	61.8	16.8	17.5	3.9	100	638
Rural	39.3	38.4	19.0	2.9	100.0	765	39	21.3	30.6	9.1	100	559
Total	50.5	31.7	14.7	2.4	100.0	1479	51.1	18.9	23.0	7.0	100	1197

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.5 Schooling Expenses

More than half of households could not meet their educational expenses. The problem was more pronounced in the Northern, Western, Upper East, Upper West and Brong Ahafo regions. Rural households faced more challenges meeting educational expenses compared to their urban counterparts

Education enables people to read and write and also earn respect and recognition in society. It must be emphasized that acquiring education at any level comes with a cost to the individual, his/her parents and the state. The ability of the individual to progress to higher levels of education depends on his/her (parent's) ability to meet education expenses.

More than half of households interviewed (53.6%) could not meet educational expenses at one time or the other (Table 10). The proportion of households who were able to meet all educational expenses at all times increased from 34.0% in 2014 to 42.4% in 2015.

Rural households were more likely to default in the payment of educational expenses compared to their urban counterparts. The number of households in rural localities who could not meet educational

expenses at all times was more than double (7.3%) the number of urban households (3.1%) who could not meet educational expenses at all times.

On the regional front, a greater proportion of households in the Northern (77.8%), Western (74.8%), Upper East (71.4%), Upper West (66.7%), Brong Ahafo (63.2%) and Central (60.6%) regions could not meet their school expenses.

Table10: Household without Money for School Expenses in Last Six Months by Region and Locality

	2015								2014							
	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Refused to answer	Don't know	Total	N	Never	Few times	Many times	Always	Refused to answer	Don't know	Total	N
Western	25.2	40.7	25.2	5.2	0.7	3.0	100.0		30.7	30.7	29.8	1.8	0	7.0	100	114
Central	39.4	23.9	22.0	4.6	0.0	10.1	100.0		14.6	7.3	55.3	12.2	0	10.6	100	123
Greater Accra	63.5	18.5	8.6	2.3	0.0	7.2	100.0		38.4	15.2	26.1	3.3	0.5	16.6	100	211
Volta	52.1	32.5	11.1	4.3	0.0	0.0	100.0		30.4	5.9	40.1	8.8	1.0	13.8	100	102
Eastern	47.0	22.1	16.1	7.4	5.4	2.0	100.0		34.5	25.0	28.5	3.4	0	8.7	100	116
Ashanti	50.0	27.4	20.4	1.5	0.0	0.7	100.0		42.3	15.9	25.1	8.4	0	8.3	100	227
Brong Ahafo	36.8	22.6	29.3	7.5	0.0	3.8	100.0		45.5	13.9	31.7	1.0	0	7.9	100	101
Northern	22.2	45.9	21.5	8.9	0.0	1.5	100.0		24.0	39.0	30.0	4.0	0	3.0	100	100
Upper East	28.6	40.0	23.8	6.7	0.0	1.0	100.0		40.0	13.3	30.0	1.7	0	15.0	100	60
Upper West	33.3	28.6	21.0	11.4	1.0	4.8	100.0		27.9	34.9	32.5	0.0	0	4.7	100	43
Urban	50.9	26.0	14.8	3.1	0.8	4.4	100.0		36.8	15.3	29.4	7.0	0.3	11.1	100	639
Rural	34.6	32.0	23.3	7.3	0.5	2.3	100.0		30.8	22.4	34.7	3.0	0	9.0	100	558
Total	42.4	29.1	19.2	5.3	0.7	3.3	100.0		34.0	18.6	31.9	5.2	0.2	10.1	100	1197

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.6 Access to General Public Services

Access to health insurance is still a challenge to some Ghanaians

Public institutions could be described as being efficient and effective based on the ease with which the citizenry are able to access their services. It has been observed that the more difficult it is to access services provided by public sector institutions, the easier it is for corruption to thrive in the society.

Access to health insurance is still a challenge to some Ghanaians. About 30% of households found it very difficult to obtain a national health insurance card, which represents an increase of about 10.6% over the reported figure in 2014 (Table 11). This makes demand for quality healthcare a challenge to some households.

More households (70.9%) in Ghana had never tried to acquire a passport. On the other hand, obtaining help from the Police in 2015 was much easier (28.8%) than in 2014 (20.5%). This could be attributed to the increase in the public sensitization campaign instituted by the Police Administration to improve their image.

Table 11: Access to Public Services

Service	2015							2014						
	Very Difficult	Difficult	Easy	Very Easy	Never Tried	Total	N	Very Difficult	Difficult	Easy	Very Easy	Never Tried	Total	Number
A birth certificate	6.7	21.3	29.2	11.0	31.9	100	1495	6.6	18.6	28.9	6.0	39.8	100	1197
A driver's license	7.6	12.6	3.8	1.3	74.7	100	1496	9.2	16.1	7.3	1.7	65.7	100	1197
A passport	9.2	13.3	4.9	1.8	70.9	100	1496	9.9	15.0	6.4	1.3	67.3	100	1197
A voter's card	1.4	7.6	48.2	33.6	9.2	100	1495	1.0	5.9	52.4	28.9	11.2	100	1198
A national identification card	2.8	12.1	38.5	15.8	30.8	100	1490	9.1	17.5	36.6	13.3	23.5	100	1198
A national health insurance card	7.5	21.6	38.9	21.4	10.6	100	1488	4.4	14.1	47.6	17.7	16.2	100	1195
Water for household use	6.0	18.5	34.8	12.5	28.2	100	1495	9.3	27.5	29.5	5.9	27.8	100	1198
Electricity	6.8	22.7	31.3	8.6	30.6	100	1499	12.0	26.4	29.5	4.6	27.6	100	1195
Sanitation	2.2	17.4	36.7	10.0	33.7	100	1495	7.7	29.5	28.3	4.4	30.1	100	1198
Help from the police	6.6	19.7	21.7	7.1	44.9	100	1464	9.8	25.5	18.2	2.3	44.3	100	1193
Primary school for a child	1.0	9.0	43.0	21.6	25.5	100	1497	2.0	11.4	44.7	14.5	27.5	100	1197
Senior High School for a child	2.8	18.4	23.4	8.3	47.1	100	1498	4.3	22.5	25.7	5.8	41.8	100	1197
Tertiary institution for a child	4.7	15.2	14.0	5.8	60.4	100	1494	7.1	22.9	15.0	2.3	52.8	100	1197
Medical Treatment (at a clinic, health center or hospital)	3.9	20.9	43.2	13.0	19.1	100	1496	4.8	20.9	39.8	8.2	26.3	100	1198

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.7 Most Important Problems Confronting the Country

Unemployment, poverty and unreliable power supply as well as high electricity tariffs were the three most important problems bedevilling the populace

After decades of pursuing development policies and reforms, Ghana like any other developing country is confronted with many socio-economic problems that require attention.

The unemployment problem continued to worsen. About 26% of the people reported unemployment as the most important problem in 2015 compared with about 20% in 2014.

Poverty/destitution (23.4%) and unreliable electricity (16.3) were mentioned as the next most important problems confronting the country in 2015. Poverty as a major problem, moved from the eighth position in 2014 to the second spot in 2015. Poverty featuring as a major problem in 2015 compared to 2014 could be due to the fact that many of the respondents reported that the government could not check price increases and also create more jobs. Similarly, in 2015, 16% of the respondents compared with 7% in 2014 reported that unreliable power supply and high electricity tariffs affected them seriously.

It is worth mentioning that corruption, which was not considered a major problem in 2014, was considered a major area of concern in 2015 with about 10% of respondents reporting that corruption is the most important problem facing the country compared with just 3.9% in 2014. In fact, 2015 witnessed corruption scandals among some public institutions.

Table 12: The Most Important Problem Confronting The Nation

Rank	Area of Concern	2015			Rank	Area of Concern	2014		
		Urban	Rural	Total			Urban	Rural	Total
1	Unemployment	27.6	24.1	25.8	1	Unemployment	29.5	20.4	25.2
2	Poverty/destitution	17.7	28.5	23.4	2	Education	14.5	17.2	15.8
3	Unreliable Electricity (Low access and high tariff)	22.5	10.7	16.3	3	Electricity	9.8	8.7	9.3
4	Corruption	10.8	9.0	9.9	4	Infrastructure / roads	6.1	12.1	9.0
5	High prices	8.0	7.8	7.9	5	Water supply	6.8	10.8	8.6
6	Poor education system	1.3	4.9	3.2	6	Transportation	4.9	8.2	6.5
7	Unreliable water supply	1.3	4.8	3.1	7	Health	5.9	5.9	5.9
8	Poor infrastructure/transportation	2.5	3.2	2.9	8	Poverty/destitution	6.6	4.1	5.4
9	Other	3.2	1.7	2.4	9	Wages, incomes and salaries	5.3	5.3	5.3
10	Low income/salaries	1.6	1.6	1.6	10	Corruption	4.7	3.0	3.9
11	Poor healthcare system	1.2	1.9	1.5	11	Other (i.e.,some other problem)	3.5	2.7	3.1
12	Crime and Security	0.9	0.7	0.8	12	Crime and security	0.8	0.5	0.6
13	Clashes between government and opposition	0.9	0.4	0.6	13	Housing *	0.6	0.5	0.5
14	Ethnicity	0.4	0.3	0.3	14	Political instability /political divisions/ethnic tensions**	0.6	0.2	0.4
15	Immigration	0.0	0.4	0.2	15	Communications*	0.2	0.5	0.3
16	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	16	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
17	Number	684	754	1438	17	Number	488	437	925

*These variables were dropped from the 2015 Survey.

**Political instability /political divisions/ethnic tensions split into “Clashes between government and opposition and Ethnicity” in 2015 following stakeholder discussion before the 2015 survey.

3.8 Public Safety

Human security is a necessary condition for human survival, dignity and development. The African Union (AU), in its Non-Aggression and Common Defense Pact (2005, p.5), defined human security as "the security of the individual in terms of satisfaction of his/her basic needs;...Including the creation of social, economic, political, environmental and cultural conditions necessary for the survival and dignity of individual, the protection of and respect for human rights, good governance and the guarantee for each individual of opportunities and choice for his/her full development".

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana guarantees freedom of movement for all persons except for those who are in lawful custody. Every person should feel safe to go about his/her activities freely in the community.

Table 13 presents information on how safe Ghanaians felt walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. The table indicates that in 2015, almost seven out of every ten persons felt "very safe" walking in the neighbourhood at night (68.9%), and three out of every ten persons felt unsafe (30.3%). More

males (72.8%) than females (66.3%) felt safer walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. The proportion of persons who felt safe dropped by 5.4% from 74.3% in 2014 to 68.9 % in 2015 in spite of the increase in the presence of police visibility, community and highway patrols of the police and other security forces. Conversely, the proportion of persons who reported unsafe, moved up from 23.7% in 2014 to nearly 30.3% in 2015.

More persons in the Northern (82.2%) and Eastern (81.3%) regions felt very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night compared to 2014. Furthermore, walking alone in rural (74.1%) neighbourhood at night was slightly safer compared to the urban 63.3% neighbourhood. The elderly, 60 years and older (74.9%) felt safe walking alone compared to 68.4% age group 25-59 years and 18 to 24 years (66.9%) in neighbourhood at night. Generally, Ghanaians felt safer walking alone in their neighbourhood at night in 2015 compared to 2014.

Table 13: Felt Unsafe Walking in the Nighbourhood during the Day or Night by Region, Sex and Locality and Age Group

	2015				2014			
	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	Yes	No	don't know	Total
Western	36.3	63.0	0.7	100	18.4	67.5	14	100
Central	40.0	59.2	0.8	100	28.2	70.2	1.6	100
Greater Accra	31.4	67.3	1.3	100	19.5	79.6	0.9	100
Volta	30.8	67.5	1.7	100	19.3	78.8	1.9	100
Eastern	18.0	81.3	0.7	100	30.1	69.0	0.9	100
Ashanti	35.9	63.3	0.7	100	32.4	67.1	0.4	100
Brong Ahafo	38.5	61.5	0	100	19.6	80.4	0	100
Northern	17.8	82.2	0	100	19.8	80.2	0	100
Upper East	29.5	69.5	1	100	25.0	75.0	0	100
Upper West	18.1	81.0	1	100	11.7	88.4	0	100
Male	26.7	72.8	0.5	100	19.6	79.6	0.9	100
Female	32.7	66.3	1	100	27.4	71.1	1.4	100
Urban	35.5	63.3	1.3	100	28.7	69.8	1.4	100
Rural	25.5	74.1	0.4	100	17.8	81.4	0.9	100
18-24	32.0	66.9	1.1	100	25.0	74.5	0.5	100
25-59	31.0	68.4	0.5	100	25.4	73.6	1.0	100
60 +	23.6	74.9	1.5	100	14.8	84.0	1.2	100
Total	30.3	68.9	0.8	100	23.7	74.3	2.0	100

Feared crime in your own home

Table 14 provides responses from households on whether they feared crime in their own home. The table shows that 69.9% of respondents felt safe from crime and 30.2% reported that they feared crime in their own home. Male (73.0%) than female (67.3%) felt safe from crime in their own home. The table again shows that a higher proportion of respondents in rural (75.9%) compared to urban (62.7%) localities indicated that they felt safer from crime in their own home.

Within the regions, a high proportion of respondents indicated that they felt safe from crime in own homes with the Northern (86.7%) and Upper West regions (86.7%) having the highest responses. In terms of age distribution, the proportions of respondents who reported to feel safe from crime in their own home were 74.7% for the elderly (60+ years); followed by the 25-59 age group (70.0%) and 18 to 24 years (66.9%).

Table 14: Feared Crime in your Own Home, 2015

	Yes	No	Do not know	Total	Number
Western	37.6	62.4	0	100	133
Central	45	55	0	100	120
Greater Accra	36.3	63.2	0.4	100	223
Volta	28.3	71.7	0	100	120
Eastern	19.3	80	0.7	100	150
Ashanti	37.9	61.7	0.4	100	269
Brong Ahafo	27.4	72.6	0	100	135
Northern	13.3	86.7	0	100	135
Upper East	31.4	68.6	0	100	105
Upper West	13.3	86.7	0	100	105
Male	26.6	73.0	0.3	100	597
Female	32.6	67.3	0.1	100	898
Urban	36.9	62.7	0.4	100	718
Rural	24.1	75.9	0	100	777
18 – 24	34.1	65.7	0.3	100	367
25 – 59	29.8	70.0	0.2	100	934
60 +	25.3	74.7	0	100	194
Total	30.2	69.6	0.2	100	1495

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

Incidence of Theft

The incidence of theft tells how vulnerable people are when it comes to safety and security. Table 15 shows the incidence of theft by region, sex and locality. The table indicates that 72.9 % of respondents reported that they had not experienced any incidence of theft (including robbery and burglary) or anything stolen from their house during the past year. The table further shows that 27.1% had experienced theft and something stolen from them during the past year. Respondents in the Eastern (89.9%), Upper West (85.7%), Volta (81.5%) and the Brong Ahafo (78.5%) regions recorded the lowest incidence of theft during the past year.

The proportion of respondents who had not experienced an incidence of theft is slightly high among rural (78.1%) compared to the urban 67.3%) dwellers. High proportion of female (74.0%) compared to male (71.2%) respondents reported that they have not experienced any incidence of theft nor have anything stolen from them during the past year.

Table 15: Incidence of Theft by Region, Sex and Locality, 2015

	No	Yes(once)	Yes(twice)	Yes(three or more times)	Don't know	Total
Western	64.4	16.3	11.9	7.4	0.0	100.0
Central	74.2	11.7	6.7	7.5	0.0	100.0
Greater Accra	70.7	15.6	8.9	4.4	0.4	100.0
Volta	81.5	10.1	5.0	3.4	0.0	100.0
Eastern	89.9	6.1	1.4	2.7	0.0	100.0
Ashanti	64.6	12.7	11.6	11.2	0.0	100.0
Brong Ahafo	78.5	10.4	5.9	5.2	0.0	100.0
Northern	69.6	12.6	7.4	9.6	0.7	100.0
Upper East	59.0	15.2	16.2	9.5	0.0	100.0
Upper West	85.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	100.0
Male	71.2	12.7	7.9	8.2	0.0	100.0
Female	74.0	11.4	8.5	5.9	0.2	100.0
Rural	78.1	9.3	6.3	6.2	0.1	100.0
Urban	67.3	14.8	10.3	7.5	0.1	100.0
Total	72.9	11.9	8.2	6.8	0.1	100.0

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

Physical Attack

Table 16 presents information on physical attacks in the past year by region and locality. Physical attack is the violent attack on persons in an attempt to try to hurt, injure or kill them and make people feel insecure to go about their lawful activities without fear. The table shows that 94.3% of all persons indicated that they never experienced any physical attack on them or any member of their household during the past year.

The proportion of respondents who never experienced or suffered any form of physical attack during the past year rose from 3.2% in 2014 to 5.7 in 2015. Slightly more females (94.7%) compared to 93.8% males never suffered any form of attack in 2015.

With the exception of Eastern and Brong Ahafo regions, the proportion of respondents who reported that they never suffered from physical attack in the past year compared to 2014 declined implying that physical attacks increased in all the other regions. The Western Region led in physical attacks as 10.4% of persons in the region reported that they were physically attacked at least once during the past year. A relatively lower proportion of respondents in rural (92.8%) compared to their counterparts in urban communities (95.8%) indicated that they did not suffer any physical attack during the past year.

Table 16: Physically Attacked in the Past Year by Region and Locality

2015						2014				
	No	Yes (once)	Yes (twice)	Yes (three or more times)	Total	No	yes once	yes twice	yes three or more times	Total
Western	89.6	8.1	0.7	1.5	100	99.1	0.9	0.0		100
Central	94.2	4.2	0.8	0.8	100	96.8	0.8	0.0	2.4	100
Greater Accra	91.6	5.3	1.8	1.3	100	96.2	1.9	0.9	0.9	100
Volta	96.6	2.5	0.8	0	100	98.1	1	1	0.0	100
Eastern	98.7	0.7	0.7	0	100	90.5	2.6	1.7	5.2	100
Ashanti	90.7	5.6	3	0.7	100	96.4	2.2	0.9	0.4	100
Brong Ahafo	98.5	1.5	0	0	100	98	0.0	1	1	100
Northern	97.8	2.2	0	0	100	98	0.0	1	1	100
Upper East	94.3	2.9	1.9	1	100	98.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	100
Upper West	97.1	1	1.9	0	100	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Male	93.8	4.2	1	1	100	96.5	1.6	0.9	1	100
Female	94.7	3.4	1.6	0.3	100	97	1.1	0.6	1.3	100
Urban	95.8	2.4	1.2	0.6	100	96.6	1.3	1.1	1.1	100
Rural	92.8	5.1	1.5	0.6	100	97	1.4	0.4	1.2	100
Total	94.3	3.7	1.3	0.6	100	96.8	1.3	0.8	1.2	100

Report of Incident to Police

The incidents of theft, physical attack, and burglary are supposed to be reported to the appropriate security agencies, especially the police for investigation and culprits if culpable, made to face the law. Table 17 shows that only 24.8% of the proportion of respondents who experienced theft, physical attack, burglary or had anything stolen from them at home reported the incident to the police. The Central (35.5%) and Upper East (31.7%) regions have the highest proportion of reported crime to the police.

The proportion of reported incidents of crime to the police moved slightly up from 24.3% in 2014 to 24.8% in 2015. Similarly, unreported incidents of crime in 2014 also went up slightly from 71.4% in 2014 to 74.3% in 2015.

At the regional level, more than seven out of every ten respondents who suffered theft or physical attack did not report to the police (74.3%) with the Eastern Region (88.2%) having the highest incident not reported to the police. The table further shows that slightly high proportion of females (74.7%) compared to their males (73.7%) counterparts did not report the incident of crime at home to the police. However, the table suggests that males (25.7%) compared to females (24.0%) reported incident of crime at home to the police.

Table 17: Reporting of Incidence to the Police by Region and Locality

	2015				2014			
	No	Yes	Don't know	Total	No	Yes	Don't know	Total
Western	77.3	20.5	2.3	100	100	0.0	0.0	100
Central	64.5	35.5	0.0	100	87.5	12.5	0.0	100
Greater Accra	74.6	25.4	0.0	100	36.4	54.5	9.1	100
Volta	84.2	15.8	0.0	100	25.0	25.0	50.0	100
Eastern	88.2	11.8	0.0	100	82.4	17.6	0.0	100
Ashanti	74.2	24.7	1.0	100	75.0	25.0	0.0	100
Brong Ahafo	78.6	21.4	0.0	100	50.0	50.0	0.0	100
Northern	75.0	25.0	0.0	100	-	-	-	-
Upper East	63.4	31.7	4.9	100	100	0.0	0.0	100
Upper West	75.0	25.0	0.0	100	100	0.0	0.0	100
Male	73.7	25.7	0.6	100	73.3	23.3	3.3	100
Female	74.7	24.0	1.3	100	70.0	25.0	5.0	100
Rural	73.5	26.5	0.0	100	67.5	27.5	5.0	100
Urban	74.8	23.5	1.7	100	76.7	20.0	3.3	100
Total	74.3	24.8	1.0	100	71.4	24.3	4.3	100

More than seven out of every ten (74.3%) of respondents who suffered physical attack or burglary and did not report to the police had various reasons for not doing so. Notable among the reasons are that they did not have enough time to report crimes (13.8%); they thought that it was a waste of time through repeated visits (27.9%) while 12.5% said there was no policeman or police station in the area or the nearest police station was too far (Table 18).

The reasons differ by sex and locality. About 29.5% males compared to 26.9% females and 32.0% urban compared to 22.1% rural dwellers believed that it would be a waste of time going through a repeated visit to the police station.

For the age groups, the belief was more pronounced among the 60 years and over year group (35.7%) compared to the 18-24 (30.8%) and 25-59 year (25.3%) groups. The proportion of respondents (23.2%) who shared this belief in 2014, rose to 27.9% 2015.

The table suggests that people who did not have enough time to report a crime dropped by 6.3% in 2015.

More importantly, the reason that the police would have demanded money or bribe dropped significantly by 11.4% from 17.1% in 2014 to 5.7% in 2015. It appears that the vigorous sensitization campaign mounted by the Police Administration helped minimize this perception.

Table 18: Reasons why Crimes are not Reported to the Police

Reasons	2015								2014					
	Sex		Locality		Age group			Total	Type of locality		Age			Total
	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	18 - 24	25 - 59	60 +		Urban	Rural	18-24 years	25-59 years	60+ years	
People don't have enough time to report crimes	12.3	14.9	9.8	16.6	7.7	17.4	10.7	13.8	20.1	20.1	17.5	20.9	18.5	20.1
Waste of time through repeated visits	29.5	26.9	22.1	32	30.8	25.3	35.7	27.9	26.2	19.7	23	24	19.1	23.2
No police man or police station in the area / nearest police station too far	13.9	11.4	27	2.3	12.1	11.2	21.4	12.5	4.9	17.1	11.5	9.6	14.8	10.6
Police don't listen or care	3.3	5.7	2.5	6.3	5.5	3.9	7.1	4.7	7.3	3.8	8.2	5.1	5.6	5.6
Police would have demanded money or bribe to help	3.3	7.4	4.9	6.3	3.3	7.9	0.0	5.7	20.7	12.9	18.6	16.8	16.7	17.1
Police wouldn't have been able to do anything	2.5	4	1.6	4.6	5.5	1.7	7.1	3.4	4.1	2.3	4.4	3.2	2.5	3.3
Police may be involved in the robbery or assault	0.8	1.1	0	1.7	2.2	0.6	0.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.6	0.7	2.5	1.1
Victim feared reprisal from attacker	2.5	0	0	1.7	1.1	1.1	0.0	1.0	4.1	3.6	2.7	4.4	2.5	3.9
Victim too ashamed or embarrassed	2.5	2.3	3.3	1.7	1.1	3.4	0.0	2.4	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.7	1.2	1.5
Crime was reported to some other authority like local government or traditional leaders	6.6	4	10.7	1.1	6.6	3.9	7.1	5.1	3.0	9.7	3.8	6.3	8.0	6.1
Other(specify)	23	21.7	18	25.1	23.1	23.6	10.7	22.2	4.3	2.0	5.5	3.0	1.9	3.2
Don't know	0	0.6	0	0.6	1.1	0	0	0.3	2.8	6.1	2.2	4.4	6.8	4.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.9 Relationships between Ethnic Groups

Relations between ethnic groups are generally good. However, 10% of respondents in the Central and Volta regions feel that relations are bad

The relations between ethnic groups in Ghana are generally good. Table 19 indicates that majority (82.3% very good and good) of the respondents indicated that the ethnic groups in the country related well, while nearly 8.0% felt that relations were bad and 8.1 percent were indifferent (neither good nor bad). More males (83.7% very good and good) indicated that the ethnic groups related well compared to 81.4 females. Nearly 7.0% of females considered the relationship between ethnic groups to be bad (6.9%).

The table also shows that one in every ten respondents in the Central and Volta regions saw the relationship among ethnic groups to be very bad. Ethnic relations among rural (84.5%) were very good compared to 80.5 % urban dwellers. Among the various age groups, the over 60 years (85.1%) followed by the 25-59 group (82.9%) and the 18-24-year group (79.4.2%) saw the relationship between them and other ethnic groups as good.

Table 19: Relations between Ethnic Groups by Region, Sex, Locality and Age Group, 2015

	Good	Neither good nor bad	Bad	Do not know	Total	Number
Western	80.4	9.8	8.3	1.5	100	133
Central	81.6	5	10	3.3	100	120
Greater Accra	81.3	8	7.6	3.1	100	225
Volta	74.2	12.5	10	3.3	100	120
Eastern	75.4	13.3	9.4	2	100	150
Ashanti	80.4	10.7	5.2	3.7	100	270
Brong Ahafo	88.2	3.7	5.9	2.2	100	135
Northern	88.8	4.5	6.7	0	100	134
Upper East	93.4	3.8	1.0	1.9	100	105
Upper West	84.8	4.8	1.9	8.6	100	105
Male	83.7	7.8	6.3	2.2	100	599
Female	81.4	8.2	6.9	3.5	100	898
Urban	79.9	9.4	7.2	3.5	100	721
Rural	84.5	6.8	6.2	2.4	100	776
18 – 24	79.4	9.2	8.1	3.3	100	369
25 – 59	82.9	7.9	6.3	2.9	100	934
60 +	85.1	6.7	5.6	2.6	100	194
Total	82.3	8.1	6.7	2.9	100	1497

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.10 Perception of Discrimination

There is a general perception that one's ethnic background or gender affects his/her chances of getting a government job, contract, public housing, loans from government banks or even admission into educational institutions and the security services.

Ethnic Background

Table 20, however, shows that 47.4% of respondents believed that ethnic background did not affect one's chances of getting government jobs compared to 45.3% who reported ethnic background could affect one's chances of securing a government job. Relatively, more males (48.1%) than females (46.9%), believed that securing government jobs was not affected by one's ethnic background. The table also indicates that 51.0% of urban and rural (40.0%) dwellers were of the view that ethnic background affected one's ability to secure government jobs. The table shows a similar view (49.5%)

being expressed among 18-24 age groups. The over 60 years (55.4) and 25-56 age groups (46.6%) also believed that one's ethnic background did not affect securing government jobs.

In the award of government contracts, the table further indicates that 47.7% of respondents believed that government contracts were awarded based on one's ethnic background. This belief is more prevalent among rural (49.9%), and the over 60 years (51.3%) groups.

Table 20: Perception that Someone's Ethnic Background Affects one's Chances of Getting Government Jobs/Contracts, 2015

	Government jobs					Government contracts				
	No	Yes	Refused to answer	Do not know	Total	No	Yes	Refused to answer	Do not know	Total
Male	48.1	45.9	0.5	5.5	100.0	47.3	45.5	0.7	6.5	100.0
Female	46.9	44.9	0.2	8.0	100.0	47.9	42.7	0.3	9.1	100.0
Rural	51.2	40.0	0.4	8.4	100.0	49.9	39.7	0.4	10.0	100.0
Urban	43.3	51.0	0.3	5.4	100.0	45.2	48.3	0.6	6.0	100.0
18 – 24	45.1	49.5	0.3	5.2	100.0	46.5	46.7	0.5	6.3	100.0
25 – 59	46.6	45.8	0.4	7.1	100.0	47.4	44.2	0.5	7.9	100.0
60 +	55.4	34.7	0.0	9.8	100.0	51.3	36.3	0.0	12.4	100.0
Total	47.4	45.3	0.3	7.0	100.0	47.7	43.8	0.5	8.1	100.0

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

Effect of Gender

The campaign against gender discrimination seems to be yielding good results and must be intensified. The 2015 survey shows that 37.3% of Ghanaians believed that someone's gender affected his or her chances of getting government jobs down from 48.6% in 2014 (Table 21).

Fig. 3: Perception that Gender Affects ones Chances of getting Government Job/Contract, 2015

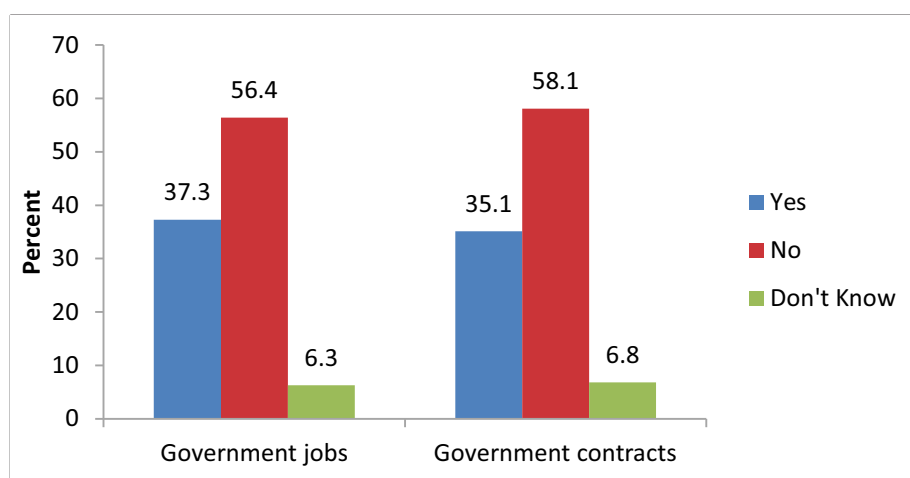


Table 20: Perception that Someone's Ethnic Background Affects one's Chances of Getting Government Jobs/Contacts, 2015

		Government jobs				Government contracts				
		Yes	No	Do not know	Total	Yes	No	Do not know	Total	Number
Gender	Male	38.1	56.9	5.0	100.0	34.8	60.3	4.9	100.0	597
	Female	36.7	56.2	7.1	100.0	35.3	56.6	8.1	100.0	898
Region	Western	43.7	50.4	5.9	100.0	40.0	52.6	7.4	100.0	135
	Central	45.4	50.4	4.2	100.0	40.3	55.5	4.2	100.0	119
	Greater Accra	42.9	49.1	8.0	100.0	41.7	50.2	8.1	100.0	223
	Volta	37.0	38.7	24.4	100.0	37.0	38.7	24.4	100.0	119
	Eastern	27.3	69.3	3.3	100.0	22.7	74.0	3.3	100.0	150
	Ashanti	40.4	58.9	0.7	100.0	38.1	61.5	0.4	100.0	270
	Brong Ahafo	34.8	60.7	4.4	100.0	30.4	65.2	4.4	100.0	135
	Northern	43.7	50.4	5.9	100.0	38.1	56.0	6.0	100.0	134
	Upper East	29.5	64.8	5.7	100.0	22.9	64.8	12.4	100.0	105
	Upper West	17.1	76.2	6.7	100.0	31.4	61.9	6.7	100.0	105
Locality Type	Urban	37.2	57.1	5.7	100.0	35.7	58.8	5.6	100.0	718
	Rural	37.3	55.9	6.8	100.0	34.6	57.4	8.0	100.0	777
Age group	18 - 24	38.2	56.6	5.1	100.0	36.9	57.2	6.0	100.0	369
	25 - 59	38.5	55.4	6.1	100.0	35.9	57.4	6.8	100.0	931
	60 +	29.7	61.0	9.2	100.0	28.2	63.1	8.7	100.0	195
	Total	37.3	56.4	6.3	100.0	35.1	58.1	6.8	100.0	1495

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.11 Performance of Current Government

Government performed badly in checking price increases, creating jobs, narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, improving the living standards of the poor and providing reliable supply of electricity in 2015

Of the 16 areas of concerns identified, it turned out that the government performed badly in checking price increases (87.6%), creating jobs (84.9%), narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor (83.5%), improving the living standards of the poor (79.7%) and providing reliable supply of electricity (77.5%) in 2015.

Though not among the first three areas of concern, the three areas which respondents felt the performance had worsened considerably (in terms of percentage increases) between 2014 and 2015 and are worth mentioning are; (i) providing a reliable supply of electricity (the proportion increased by 13.6 percentage points); (ii) improving health services (increase of 12%); and (iii) ensuring everyone has enough to eat (increase of 9.3%) (Table 22).

Table 22: Performance of Current Government in Handling the Following Matters

	2015					2014					
Area of Concern	Badly	Well	DK	Total	Number	Area of Concern	Badly	Well	DK	Total	Number
Checking price increases	87.6	9.4	2.9	100	1492	Checking price increases	89.0	8.3	2.7	100	1198
Creating jobs	84.9	11.7	3.3	100	1496	Creating jobs	83.1	13.6	3.3	100	1197
Narrowing gaps between rich and poor	83.5	11.6	4.9	100	1493	Improving the living standards of the poor	79.7	16.8	3.5	100	1197
Improving the living standards of the poor	79.7	16.9	3.3	100	1494	Narrowing the gap between rich and poor	79.4	16.3	4.3	100	1196
Providing a reliable supply of electricity	77.5	20.3	2.2	100	1493	Managing the economy	71.7	24.9	3.4	100	1197
Managing the economy	75.4	21.6	3.1	100	1498	Resolving Conflicts between communities	69.7	24.2	6.1	100	1195
Fighting corruption in government	73	19.6	7.4	100	1493	Fighting corruption in government	67.4	27	5.6	100	1197
Ensuring everyone has enough eat	69.1	25.2	5.7	100	1484	Maintaining roads and bridges	65	32	3	100	1195
Maintaining roads and bridges	66.7	31.6	1.7	100	1486	Providing a reliable supply of electricity	63.9	33.7	2.3	100	1193
Addressing educational needs	59.7	37.7	2.5	100	1491	Ensuring everyone has enough to eat	59.8	36.7	3.5	100	1195
Improving health services	58.7	38.6	2.7	100	1493	Providing water and sanitation services	59.5	38.4	2	100	1197
Providing water and sanitation services	55.3	42.8	1.9	100.0	1493	Addressing educational needs	51.1	46.1	2.8	100	1195
Reducing crime	52.3	42.8	4.9	100	1492	Improving health services	46.7	50.1	3.2	100	1197
Empowering women	41.5	46.9	11.6	100	1490	Reducing crime	45.3	50.8	3.9	100	1197
Resolving Conflicts between communities	35.1	55.6	9.3	100	1486	Empowering women	36.1	51.8	12.1	100	1196
Combating HIV/AIDS	27.1	59.3	13.6	100	1488	Combating HIV/AIDS	27.4	59.5	13	100	1197

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.12 Bribery and Corruption

The Police, Judges/Magistrates, Tax officials Regarded as the most Corrupt Institutions

Respondents' views on corruption of 10 state institutions were solicited. According to the results of the survey, 28.6% of the people are of the opinion that all police officials were corrupt up from 23% reported in 2014. Only 4.4% of them were deemed not to be corrupt (Table 23).

The Judiciary moved from the 7th spot in 2014 to the 2nd in 2015 while the Office of the President dropped to the 4th position. This is not surprising as the major scandal to befall the Judiciary was uncovered by the “Tiger Eye” investigative agency in 2015. Other institutions considered to be corrupt are tax officials (14%) and immigration officers (12.8%).

Expectedly, the army remains the least corrupt institution with only 7% of the respondents reporting them to be corrupt.

Table 23: Perception of Corruption in State Institutions

No.	Institution	2015							No.	Institution	2014						
		None	Some of them	Most of them	All of them	DK	Total	Number			None	Some of them	most of them	All of them	DK	Total	Number
1	Police	2.8	30.3	34	28.6	4.2	100	1492	1	Police	4.4	37.2	29.7	23	5.7	100	1199
2	Judges and Magistrates	2.4	39.3	34.5	18.4	5.4	100	1481	2	President and officials in his office	7.3	42.3	22.3	19.2	8.9	100	1199
3	Tax Officials (GRA-CEPS, IRS, VAT)	3.5	42.7	31.2	14	8.7	100	1491	3	Tax officials	4.4	41.2	28.2	15.4	10.8	100	1199
4	Office of the President	7.4	46.3	22.8	12.9	10.6	100	1493	4	Members of parliament	5.8	44.7	26	15	8.5	100	1199
5	Immigration	4.5	42.9	28.3	12.8	11.5	100	1482	5	Government officials	3.9	46	28.9	13.9	7.3	100	1199
6	Government officials	3.2	47.9	31.3	11.4	6.2	100	1491	6	District chief executives	5.2	49	25.5	13.3	7.1	100	1198
7	Members of Parliament	4.3	49.4	25.9	11.4	9.1	100	1497	7	Judges and magistrates	6.3	43	25.6	13.1	12	100	1194
8	District Chief Executives	5	51.3	24.1	10.3	9.3	100	1490	8	Assemblymen and women	9.9	51	19.9	11.9	7.2	100	1197
9	Assembly men and women	10.1	53.8	19.7	8.4	7.9	100	1489	9	Immigration	7.6	45.9	22.5	10.4	13.7	100	1197
10	Army	30.6	41.1	10.4	7.0	11	100	1487	10	Army	24.7	46.9	12.6	7.2	8.6	100	1198

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.13 Trust in Public Institutions

The Police, the Ruling Party and the Judiciary are the Least Trusted Institutions

Credible and effective public institutions are those that the populace and business community can rely on to commit to policies/rules, coordinate expectations, safeguard the 1992 Constitution and induce cooperation among diverse interests. Unfortunately, the public seems to have lost confidence in some state institutions as in Table 24.

The police are found to be the least trusted institution out of the 10 institutions covered in the survey. The ruling party (39.8%), the judiciary (38%) and the tax department (38%) also have no trust at all from the public.

In contrast, the army is the most trusted institution. Only 13% of the people said they did not trust the army at all; down from 15% in 2014. The army is followed by the opposition political parties (26.9%).

Table 24: Trust in Institutions

NO.		2015							Institution	2014						
		Not at all	Just a little	Some what	A lot	DK	Total	N		Not at all	Just a little	Some what	A lot	DK	Total	N
1	The Police	46.0	27.1	13.1	11.6	2.2	100.0	1495	Tax Department (i.e. Ghana Revenue Authority)	37.4	23.0	20.8	10.4	8.4	100	1197
2	The Ruling Party	39.8	28.7	14.4	14.0	3.0	100.0	1496	Electoral Commission	35.8	18.9	22.4	18.6	4.3	100	1198
3	The Judiciary	38.0	32.4	16.5	8.5	4.5	100.0	1495	The Ruling Party	35.6	20.8	22.6	17.8	3.2	100	1196
4	The Tax Department (i.e. Ghana Revenue Authority)	38.0	33.5	15.7	6.1	6.8	100.0	1496	The police	35.1	21.6	25.0	15.6	2.6	100	1198
5	Ministers of state	34.8	38.6	14.7	7.3	4.6	100.0	1499	Metropolitan, Municipal or District Assembly	33.9	22.7	25.8	12.8	4.7	100	1196
6	Office of the president	33.9	33.7	13.5	12.4	6.4	100.0	1497	The President	33.8	17.8	21.5	25.0	1.9	100	1198
7	The Electoral Commission	33.5	28.3	17.3	16.2	4.7	100.0	1498	Parliament	33.1	21.5	26.6	15.5	3.3	100	1198
8	Parliament	32.3	38.3	17.9	8.0	3.4	100.0	1497	The judiciary	29.5	20.5	25.5	13.4	11.1	100	1198
9	Your Metropolitan, Municipal or District Assembly	30.0	38.0	18.3	8.1	5.6	100.0	1488	Opposition political parties	26.0	24.3	26.2	16.3	7.2	100	1193
10	Opposition Political Parties	26.9	33.2	21.6	14.0	4.2	100.0	1493	The Immigration	23.2	20.9	26.4	14.5	15.1	100	1199
11	The Army	13.3	19.7	17.4	44.8	4.8	100.0	1494	The army	15.0	14.4	26.1	40.8	3.8	100	1197

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.14 Participation in the Democratic Process

Citizens' freedom of speech, association and choice of candidates remains very high in Ghana but seems to be dwindling

Genuine and sustainable democracy thrives on political participation through the freedom to: say what one thinks, join any political organization, vote for a candidate and political party of choice without feeling pressured, register as a voter, to vote on policies and above all, engage in protests. Furthermore, political participation is one of the key determinants of the quality and satisfaction of life.

Citizens Freedom to Speech, Association and Vote

Despite the high sense of freedom of speech, association and electing a candidate of choice, the proportion of respondents who felt that one was completely free to say what one thinks fell by 7% from 80% in 2014 to 73% in 2015. The largest percentage fall of 8% occurred among the urban respondents.

Similarly, the proportions for the freedom of association and choice fell from 95% to 92% and 96% to 93% in 2014 and 2015 respectively (Table 25).

Table 25: Citizens' Freedom by Sex and by Locality

2015							2014				
Freedom to say what one thinks											
	Not free	Not very free	Somewhat free	Completely free	Don't know(DNR)	Total	Not free	Not very free	Completely free	Don't know(DNR)	Total
Male	1.7	5.9	15.6	76.6	0.3	100	3.7	13.7	81.4	1.2	100
Female	1.9	5.4	20.6	71.3	0.8	100	3.8	15.8	78.3	2.1	100
Urban	2.4	6.1	18.6	72.6	0.3	100	2.5	16.6	80.6	0.3	100
Rural	1.3	5.1	18.6	74.1	0.9	100	5.2	13.1	78.5	3.2	100
Total	1.8	5.6	18.6	73.4	0.6	100	3.8	15.0	79.6	1.7	100
Freedom to join any political organisation											
Male	0.3	1.3	5.7	92.3	0.3	100	1.1	3.2	95.4	0.4	100
Female	0.4	0.6	5.8	92.2	1.0	100	0.8	4.8	93.6	0.8	100
Urban	0.6	1.3	4.0	93.6	0.6	100	0.7	4.5	94.5	0.3	100
Rural	0.3	0.5	7.3	91.0	0.9	100	1.3	3.4	94.4	0.9	100
Total	0.4	0.9	5.7	92.3	0.7	100	0.9	4.0	94.5	0.6	100
Freedom to choose who to vote for without feeling pressured											
Male	0.3	1.3	5.4	92.3	0.7	100	1.2	1.6	96.8	0.4	100
Female	0.3	0.3	4.9	93.7	0.8	100	1	4.3	94.2	0.5	100
Rural	0.1	0.8	5.6	92.7	0.8	100	0.6	4.6	94.8	0	100
Urban	0.6	0.7	4.5	93.6	0.7	100	1.6	1.3	96.2	0.9	100
Total	0.3	0.7	5.1	93.1	0.7	100	1.1	3	95.5	0.4	100

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.15 Media Freedom in Ghana

Sources of News

Radio as a source of news dominates the airwaves. Internet has overtaken newspapers as a source of news regardless of sex, locality or age of the individual

The importance of news in Ghana has been enhanced by the introduction of constitutional rule and the liberalisation of the air waves. This has led to the proliferation of newspapers, radio and television stations as well as the establishment of many telecommunication networks. Together, they help to promote communication and political participation among the populace.

Radio remains the most dominant source of news for all citizens regardless of region, locality sex or age. Seven out of ten people got their daily news from the radio. This is followed by television with 24%. Interestingly, close to 30% of females got their information from television compared to 18% for males (Table 26).

Table 26: Sources of News by Locality, 2015

		Main source of news							
		Radio	Television	Newspapers	Internet	Phones	Other	Total	Number
Region	Western	72.6	22.2	1.5	0.7	2.2	0.7	100.0	134
	Central	61.7	32.5	0.0	3.3	0.8	1.7	100.0	119
	Greater Accra	49.3	40.9	0.9	5.3	1.8	1.8	100.0	223
	Volta	70.0	23.3	0.0	2.5	0.8	3.3	100.0	119
	Eastern	82.7	14.0	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.7	100.0	149
	Ashanti	72.6	23.0	0.0	2.2	1.1	1.1	100.0	270
	Brong Ahafo	66.7	24.4	0.0	2.2	1.5	5.2	100.0	134
	Northern	72.6	14.8	0.0	0.7	2.2	9.6	100.0	134
	Upper East	73.3	14.3	1.9	1.0	1.9	7.6	100.0	105
	Upper West	79.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.7	100.0	103
Sex	Male	74.5	18.0	0.8	4.0	1.5	1.2	100.0	596
	Female	65.4	27.4	0.3	1.0	1.2	4.7	100.0	894
Locality Type	Urban	58.9	33.1	0.8	3.9	2.1	1.1	100.0	716
	Rural	78.3	14.9	0.3	0.6	0.6	5.3	100.0	774
Age group	18 – 24	61.5	29.5	0.3	3.8	3.5	1.4	100.0	367
	25 – 59	69.6	23.6	0.7	1.9	0.7	3.4	100.0	930
	60 +	80.5	12.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	6.2	100.0	193
	Total	69.0	23.7	0.5	2.2	1.3	3.3	100.0	1490

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

News media abuse of freedoms

Media abuse of freedoms remains high

The media plays a vital role in the dispensation of modern democracy by promoting peace and security. The media landscape of Ghana has changed for the better under the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. In fact, many people rely on the media for the latest news and believe everything that is reported by the news agencies without reservation. Since majority of the people believe in the media, any news which is reported wrongly either calculatingly or by mistake could cause irreparable damage to the society and the country. On the other hand, the media could also through its reportage persuade the government, businesses and the development partners to undertake developments to the benefit of the people. It is for this reason that the media has to be circumspect in whatever they say or print.

The results of the survey indicate that less than 46% of the respondents believed that the news media abused their freedom by printing or saying things they knew were not true. The good news is that the proportion fell from 56% in 2014 to 46% in 2015 (Table 27).

Table 27: News Media Abuse its Freedom by Printing or Saying Things that are nit true

News media abuse of freedoms	2015			2014		
	Locality		Total	Locality		Total
	Urban	Rural		Urban	Rural	
Never	8.3	11.6	10.0	7.3	6.5	6.9
Rarely	29.8	26.1	27.9	19.4	19.2	19.3
Often	41.4	35.6	38.4	46.1	33.8	40.3
Always	10.6	5.5	8.0	18	12.4	15.4
don't know	9.9	21.2	15.7	9.3	28.1	18.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	708	761	1469	634	556	1190

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

3.16 Factors which Influenced Voters in the 2012 Presidential Election

Proposed policies, qualifications and competence of candidates and political ideology are the three most important factors which informed the voters' choice of the 2012 presidential election

Normally, the attributes voters would consider during presidential election are qualification and competencies of the candidates vying for the position. The survey results depict that 84% of voters in Ghana in the last presidential election considered the proposed policies of the candidates. The second most important factor is qualification and competencies of candidates (82%) and in third place is the political ideology (78%). The least considered factors are the candidate's gender and religion (Table 28).

Table 28: Factors which Influenced Voters in the 2012 Presidential Election

Factors	Not important	Important	Do not know	Total	Number
Proposed policies	15.2	83.9	0.8	100	1417
Qualifications and competence of candidate	16.5	82.3	1.2	100	1422
Political ideology	20.8	77.5	1.7	100	1420
Past record	22.7	76.3	0.9	100	1421
Personality	35.1	63.5	1.4	100	1413
Political Party	41.2	57.6	1.2	100	1414
Physical appearance of the candidate	63.3	35.9	0.9	100	1394
Candidates region	75.5	23.2	1.3	100	1415
Candidates ethnicity	78.7	20.1	1.3	100	1415
Candidate's gender	79.0	20.1	1.0	100	1418
Religion	79.5	19.5	1.0	100	1415

Source: 2015 IEA Survey

4. CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Poor living conditions are influenced mostly by low incomes/wages, lack of access to safe drinking water and medical facilities as well as high prices among others. These problems need to be worked on immediately to improve living conditions.
2. Food insecurity is still endemic in the Upper East, Northern, Upper West and Western regions. It is about time the government puts in concrete measures to fully implement all national, sub-regional and regional food security policies and programmes such as the Economic Community of West Africa States' (ECOWAS) Zero Hunger Initiative and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), among others, which the Government of Ghana is a signatory. Through this, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) four pillars of food security and nutrition, namely; availability (increased food production), access (improved road and rail infrastructure), stability (implementation of irrigation and maintenance of political stability and absence of violence/terrorism) and utilization (improved water sources and sanitation) would be achieved.
3. The erratic power supply worsened in 2015. While a lasting solution is being found to address this, the providers and regulators in the industry should also be mindful of the high tariffs and develop appropriate mitigating strategies.
4. There were difficulties meeting school expenses in the Northern, Western, Upper East, Upper West and Brong Ahafo regions despite the general improvements in the proportion of households which met school expenses in 2015. Government intervention programmes such as the capitation grant and school feeding programme need not only be expanded, but also reviewed for more efficiency.
5. Neighbourhood security was gradually becoming a major issue in the country despite the proportion of households who were safe walking alone in the night in their neighbourhood in 2015 compared to 2014. There is the need for more security intervention.
6. There was difficulty in accessing health insurance, particularly the insurance card. This must be addressed to ensure more equity in healthcare delivery.
7. The problem of price increases, creating jobs, and narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor should be addressed.
8. The three areas of concern are (i) the provision of reliable electricity supply; (ii) ensuring that everyone has enough to eat; and (iii) fighting corruption. Dealing with these areas of concern should attract top priority and the implementation of appropriate strategies by the government.
9. Trust in the police service, the judiciary and tax officials (especially the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) has been undermined as a result of their perceived corruption. Measures such as applying sanctions swiftly must be adopted to restore trust in these institutions.
10. Media abuse of freedom improved compared to 2014. However, it continues to be high which means that the regulatory authorities – the National Media Commission (NMC) and the National Communication Authority (NCA) should strengthen their monitoring role.
11. Citizens' freedoms (speech, association and voting) remained high in 2015. However, there is the need to deepen them through more collaboration among all institutions and citizens.

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