



## Inequity in Government's COVID-19 mitigation measures to community members during the peak of COVID-19

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### Introduction

- At the peak of COVID-19 in 2020, the government of Ghana received funds to support the pandemic.
- This led to the implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures such as subsidised electricity, free water, \$170million support to small-medium scale firms, extension of tax filing date, reduction in interest rate and a \$510 million support facility for local industries and food distribution.
- This study examined the equity implications of these mitigation measures.

### Methods

- Study design: Cross sectional using mixed Method(Quantitative and Qualitative)
- Period: Data were collected from October to December 2020 among rural and urban-slum dwellers.
- Sample size:
  - Quantitative :400 community members;
  - Qualitative: 6 IDIs , 8 FGDs.
- Analysis: Quantitative STATA 16, qualitative NVivo 12
- Site:
  - Urban-slum in Oforikrom Municipality in the Ashanti region
  - Rural area in the Adaklu District of the Volta Region of Ghana

### Results

- 94% reported that the COVID-19 negatively affected their ability to afford food
- 89% mentioned COVID-19 (94%) affected health seeking.
- The majority (76%) did not benefit from the government subsidies since these areas had insufficient access to businesses, water, power, and other necessities.
- Furthermore, there was an uneven allocation of the government's food supplies because the majority (69%) of people, especially women, the elderly and the disable who really need these supports were not reached.

*“It seems they [gov’t] have forgotten about those of us in the villages. There are a lot of old men and women in here who are not doing any work” (IDI with a pastor, rural resident)*

Vulnerable populations have been neglected

*“There was community support but it did not reach us. Even if the gov’t should provide support for us through the leaders, they would eat everything with their families. (IDI with a urban slum)”*

Mistrust of gov’t leaders and preference for community mobilized support

Study site



Urban-slum in Oforikrom Municipality in the Ashanti region



### Conclusions

- Most vulnerable groups were marginalized in the government COVID-19 mitigation measures.
- To ensure equity in governance, there is the need for proper needs assessments and effective community engagement to be able to identify vulnerable groups and to use appropriate techniques to reach these groups in situations like this