

Assessing the Methylmercury Load in the Ankobra River and the Socioeconomic Impacts on the Inhabitants of Sanwoma

Section A: General Information of Respondents

1. Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐
2. Age: < 18yrs ☐ 18- 24yrs ☐ 25- 31yrs ☐ 32- 38yrs ☐ 39- 45yrs ☐ 46- 52yrs ☐ Above 52yrs ☐
3. Are you a native of Sanwoma? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes go to question 8
4. If No, where do you come from? Town..... Country.....
5. Years of residence in Sanwoma
6. When did you migrate to this area?.....
7. Reason(s) for emigration
.....
8. Educational level: None ☐ Adult literacy ☐ Primary ☐ JHS/Middle Sch ☐ SHS/Tech/Voc ☐ Tertiary ☐
9. Marital Status: Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Other specify

Section B: Perceptions and Assessment of Methylmercury Levels in Ankobra River/Estuary

10. Do you know what mercury is? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, go to question 17
11. Do you know what mercury is used for? Yes ☐ No ☐
12. Do you know what methylmercury is? Yes ☐ No ☐
13. Do you know of the sources of mercury in the Ankobra River? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, go to question 15
14. If Yes, what are the sources?.....
15. Do you know of other sources of mercury exposure apart from the Ankobra River? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, go to question 17
16. If Yes, name them.....

17. Do you engage in activities directly related to the Ankobra River? Yes [] No [] If no, go to question 20

18. If yes, What activities do you primarily engage in? Choose all that apply

- Fishing Yes [] - Agriculture (farming) Yes [] - Recreational activities (swimming) Yes []

- Others (please specify).....

19. How frequently do you engage in these activities [circle one]

- Daily - Several times a week - Once a week - Several times a month - Rarely

20. Have you observed any changes in the Ankobra River ecosystem in recent years? Yes [] No []. if no, go to question 22

21. If Yes, mention the changes.....

.....

22. Have you noticed any changes in fish populations caught in the Ankobra River? Yes [] No [] If no, go to question 24

23. If yes, please describe.....

24. Have you noticed any changes in the quality of fish caught in the Ankobra River? Yes [] No [] If no, go to question 26

25. If yes, please describe.....

26. Are you concerned about the levels of mercury/methylmercury in the Ankobra River Yes [] No [] If no, go to question 28

27. If yes, please explain your concerns.....

28. Have you received education/training on the consumption of fish from the Ankobra River? Yes [] No [] If no, go to question 30

29. If yes, what did the training entail.....?

30. Do you consume fish or other aquatic organisms from the Ankobra River Yes [] No [] if no, go to question 32

31. If yes, how frequently do you consume fish or other aquatic organisms from the Ankobra River?

- Daily - Several times a week - Once a week - Several times a month -
Rarely

Section C: Health Impacts

32. Do you know the health impacts of methylmercury? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, go to question 34

33. If _____ Yes, _____ mention them.....

34. Are you familiar with the symptoms of methylmercury poisoning in humans? Yes ☐ No ☐

35. How aware are you of the presence of methylmercury in the Ankobra River and its potential impact on human health? 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 1 = not aware
5 = highly aware

36. Have you or any of your family members experienced any health issues that could potentially be related to methylmercury exposure? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, go to question 38

37. If _____ Yes, mention.....

38. Have you ever experienced any health issues that could potentially be related to eating fish from the Ankobra River? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, go to question 40

39. Have you experienced any health issues in the past year (check all that apply)

- Neurological problems (e.g. numbness, tremors, memory loss, depression)

- Gastrointestinal issues (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea)

- Skin problems (e.g. rashes. Itching)

- Respiratory problems (e.g coughing, difficulty in breathing)

- _____ Others _____ (please specify)
...

.....
.....

Section D: Socio-economic Impacts of Methylmercury Pollution

40. Do you know the socio-economic impacts of methylmercury pollution? Yes []
No [] If no, go to question 42

41. If Yes,
mention.....

42. How would you describe the economic condition of Sanwoma before the Ankobra River pollution?

- Very rich - Prosperous - Stable - Struggling -
Poor

43. In your opinion, how has methylmercury pollution affected the local economy of Sanwoma?

- Increased job opportunities - Decreased job opportunities - Decreased fishing activities

- Decreased tourism - Loss of livelihood - No significant impact

- Other (please specify).....

44. Have you noticed any changes in the local agricultural practices since the Ankobra River pollution?

- Yes - No - Not applicable (e.g. not involved in agriculture) if no, go to question 46

45. If yes, please describe the changes you have observed

46. Are you aware of the health risks associated with consuming fish contaminated with mercury? Yes [] No []

47. How often do you consume fish in your diet?

- Daily - Weekly - Monthly - Rarely

48. Have you made changes to your diet due to concerns about methylmercury contamination? Yes [] No [] If no, go to question 50

49. If yes please specify.....

50. Are there any government or non-governmental initiatives in place to address the issue of methylmercury pollution in the Ankobra River? Yes [] No [] Unsure [] If no/unsure, go to question 52

51. If yes,
specify.....
.....

52. Do you believe that certain groups of people are more susceptible to the health impacts of methylmercury pollution? Yes [] No []

53. If Yes, which of these? Choose all that apply

-Men

-Children

-Women

54. Do you think that methylmercury pollution disproportionately affects certain socioeconomic groups in your community? Yes [] No []

55. If Yes, which of these? Choose all that apply

-The rich

-The poor

-Children

-Pregnant women

-Fishermen

56. Have you observed any disparities in the distribution of methylmercury pollution impacts among different groups of people? Yes [] No []

Other Questions

57. Do you think enough measures are being taken to address the methylmercury pollution in the Ankora River? Yes [] No [] Unsure []

58. What actions do you think should be taken to mitigate methylmercury pollution and its impacts on the community? Please provide your suggestions:

Geriatric Depression Scale (Short Form)

Circle the answer that best describes how you felt over the past week

1. Are you basically satisfied with your life? Y/N

2. Have you dropped many of your activities and interests? Y/N

3. Do you feel that your life is empty? Y/N

4. Do you often get bored? Y/N
5. Are you in good spirits most of the time? Y/N
6. Are you afraid that something bad is going to happen to you? Y/N
7. Do you feel happy most of the time? Y/N
8. Do you feel helpless? Y/N
9. Do you prefer to stay at home, rather than go out and do things? Y/N
10. Do you feel that you have more problems with memory than most? Y/N
11. Do you think it is wonderful to be alive now? Y/N
12. Do you feel worthless the way you are now? Y/N
13. Do you feel full of energy? Y/N
14. Do you feel that your situation is hopeless? Y/N
15. Do you think that most people are better off than you are? Y/N

