



FSDA-ECOWAS NON STATE ACTORS PROJECT

**TITLE: EMPOWERING WOMEN, THE YOUTH AND ECONOMIC OPERATORS ON
THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF ECOWAS**

**STUDY REPORT ON LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF ECOWAS AND ITS PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED
AT KETU SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE VOLTA REGION OF GHANA –**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOWAS PROTOCOL ON FREE MOVEMENT OF
PERSONS, RIGHT OF RESIDENCE AND ESTABLISHMENT**

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LTD, FEBRUARY 2011

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1. Introduction

The FSDA has been commissioned by the ECOWAS Commission to undertake a project entitled “Empowering Women, Youth and Economic Operators on the Regional Integration Process of ECOWAS” in the Ketu South District of the Volta Region. The purpose of the project is to create awareness about ECOWAS and its programs at the level of NSAs in the District with a view to involving them in the integration process. This project has been necessitated by the numerous complaints of the citizenry about their non involvement, as well as the non- implementation of ECOWAS programmes at the level of member states.

1.1 Overview of the KETU South District

The **Ketu South District** is one of the 18 [districts](#) located in the [Volta Region](#) of Ghana. It was formerly called the Ketu District but in February 2008 it was divided into two Districts when the new [Ketu North District](#) was carved out of it.

The population of the District is 235,852 (2002) and has an area of 779km sq. It is bounded in the north east by the [Republic of Togo](#) and the north west by [Ketu North](#) District. To the south west is found the [Keta District](#) and on the south east is the Gulf of Guinea. While the District’s capital is located at DENU, the most popular commercial town, other important commercial towns include Agbozume, Ehi, Klikor, Akame, Adina, Agavedzi, Denu, Aflao, Tokor. The predominant

occupation of the population of these towns is agriculture and trading. The District shares a common border with the Republic of Togo and its capital Lome and therefore it is strategically located as the eastern gate-way to Ghana where continuous cross-border trading activities take place throughout the

1.2 Project Background & Objective

As part of the implementation of this project, the FSDA is conducting a baseline study to determine (in a quantitative manner) the level of awareness of the ECOWAS integration process by NSAs especially women, youth, economic operators- traders, farmers, artisans etc. in the Ketu District of the Volta Region of Ghana which has a common border with Togo and is strategically located as the gateway to Ghana. In view of the strategic location on the Lagos-Abidjan corridor of intra regional trade the people in the District are expected to know more about ECOWAS and its free movement and trade facilitation programmes. The study would assess the people's perceptions, levels of awareness, knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to the integration programmes and activities of ECOWAS. On the basis of the information obtained from the survey relevant sensitization and capacity building activities could be designed for the people in the District in order to enlighten them about ECOWAS and fill any knowledge gaps existing so as to facilitate their participation in the regional integration process.

1.3 Report Organization Plan

Besides the introductory part in Section 1, the Report is divided into four other main sections. The second section on methodology spells

out the approach adopted in conducting the survey, the design of the questionnaire, the research team, the conduct of the interviews in the field, the towns and villages covered, the sample size and the respondents; the third section is on findings of the study in terms of the level of awareness of ECOWAS and its programmes in a few critical areas of ECOWAS intervention by various groups of people women, youth, etc. interviewed. The fourth section is a summary and Conclusions of the Report. The final section is Annexes- Charts and supporting background information and sample of the Questionnaire.

2. Methodology

The study was undertaken by a two- man research team headed by Mr R.D. ASANTE of Afrinvest Consult Ltd. assisted by Mr A. SEWOR a research assistant and five local field assistants with knowledge of the District. The baseline study was conducted through the use of a structured questionnaire administered through face to face interviews. A stratified random sampling method was used involving the division of the population into three main sub-groups: women, youth, and economic operators and the selection of a random sample out of each sub- group. The survey area covering over 30 towns and villages was divided into five zones with each of the five local research assistants allocated a set of towns and villages in each zone to conduct interviews. The list of towns and villages covered by the local field assistants are attached to this Report as annex 1.

2.1 Survey Questionnaire and Interviews

The Questionnaire containing a total of 38 questions was divided into two parts: Section A, on Demographic information and Section B on information on ECOWAS Programmes. The respondents were given

simple multiple choice questions to respond to in many cases and a few cases straight forward yes or no responses. Interviews were conducted among the sample group of 177 over a five day period covering women, youth and economic operators on random basis in the selected zones indicated about. The group interviewed included the following:

a.) The Organized Sector

The organized sector operators were:

-Ghana Private Road Transport Union members,

-PROTOA

-Clearing Agents, Youth Groups/Associations, Students/ Teachers, Traditional Authorities, Exporters/Importers, Filling Station operators, Hoteliers, Religious Bodies etc.

b) The Unorganized Sector

The unorganized sector operators included:

Head porters, Truckers, Traders, Fisher Folks, Farmers/ vegetable exporters, Shopkeepers, Food vendors, Kiosk operators, Mechanics, Drivers/Taxi/Bus/Truck, Okada operators, Communication centre operators, Travellers

3. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The analysis of the responses to the questionnaire was done using the SPSS software to help determine in quantitative terms the level of awareness/knowledge about ECOWAS in terms of its programmes among the people- women, men, youth, economic operators in the catchment area of Ketu South and parts of Ketu North of the Volta Region of Ghana next to Togo.

3.1 General Demographic Findings: Gender Composition

An analysis of the 177 individuals interviewed indicated that 100 were females (56.49%) and 77 males (43.5%) (See Annex 2)

3.2 Age Group

An analysis indicated that out of the sample of 177 individuals interviewed the youth formed the largest group accounting for of 41% of the sample followed by the middle age 31 % and the elderly 28%. (See Annex 3)

3.3 Knowledge About ECOWAS & Its Programmes

Since 1979 ECOWAS has initiated a number of integration programmes to promote socio-economic development of West Africa. Among them are the following: Free Movement of People, Free Movement of Goods, ECOWAS Common Currency, ECOWAS Brown Card Insurance, ECOWAS Travel Certificate, ECOWAS Passport

In order to find out whether people in the Ketu South District were conversant with these programmes questions were posed which required a yes and no answer. The results derived from the questionnaire administered by the local research assistants who did the field interviews of the 177 individual respondents are analyzed and presented below.

SURVEY OUTCOME:Level Of Awareness/Ignorance of ECOWAS

ECOWAS Programme	KNOWLEDGE %	IGNORANCE %	TOTAL %
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1. Free Movement of People	59	41	100
2. Free Movement of Goods	56	44	100
4. Common Currency	88	12	100
5. ECOWAS Travel Certificate	21	79	100
6. ECOWAS PASSPORT	28	72	100
7. ECOWAS BROWN CARD	36	64	100
8. General Knowledge	67	33	100

3.4 Cross Border Movement

In order to determine the cross border movement of the 177 border residents questions were posed about the frequency of crossing the border- daily, weekly, monthly etc. On the basis of the responses received the following results were obtained. Out of the 177 people interviewed most of them about 79.1% indicated they crossed the border frequently (See Annex 4). But the surprising observation was that most of them about 70% had formed the habit of crossing the border without any form of identification.

3.5 Awareness of ECOWAS

It is interesting to note that the name ECOWAS is known by about 67% of the people interviewed. But there are small variations when you consider age group and gender. In the category of age groups the middle age know more about ECOWAS 69%, while among the youth it is 67% and the elderly 65%. This result is rather disappointing since after over 36 years of existence ECOWAS should have been a household name among all age groups. When it comes to gender breakdown 88% of the males know about ECOWAS compared to only 51% of the females. The big gender differences may be a reflection of the level of literacy among males and females (See Annex Figure 5).This has implication for any planned sensitization programme under this project, that is women who are in the majority in the Ketu district should be especially targeted for attention.

3.6 Free Movement Of People

On the ECOWAS free movement programme involving visa abolition for travel by citizens within the Community contrary to expectation, only 59% of the respondents said they knew about it (see Annex figure 6).

3.7 Free movement of Goods

Concerning the Free movement of Goods involving duty free import of unprocessed agricultural products and traditional handicrafts as well as approved industrial products, the figure was even lower only 56% of the respondents indicated they were aware of it (see Annex figure 7).

3.8 ECOWAS Common Currency(Eco)

This programme which is yet to be implemented seemed to be the most well known among the respondents with 88% of them claiming they had heard about it (see Annex figure 8). The increased awareness

of the people of the District in the Common currency programme is due mainly to the high level of publicity done in the past including the mounting of billboards in strategic places in the District.

3.9 ECOWAS Travel Certificate

This common regional instrument for travel within ECOWAS which was introduced for use in intra-regional travel in addition to national passports was known to only 21% of the respondents (see Annex figure 9).

3.10 ECOWAS Passport

This harmonized international passport adopted by ECOWAS to be which is currently being issued by various governments is known by only 28% of the respondents (See figure 10).

3.11 ECOWAS Brown Card Insurance

The third party insurance cover for vehicles engaged in interstate road transit popularly known as the Brown Card, was known by only 36% of the respondents (see figure 11). This relatively low figure may be due to the fact that this may be a specialized instrument for use of transporters.

3.13 Benefits/Advantages of ECOWAS

The respondents were asked whether they have benefitted in any way from any of the above ECOWAS programmes. The response was disappointing as only 13% of the respondents indicated yes, while an overwhelming number 87% said they had not benefitted from any

ECOWAS programme (See Annex 12). It is pertinent to observe that what most of the people were not aware was that they were enjoying the crossing of the border without producing a visa mainly because of the implementation of the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of persons which abolished visa requirement among member states.

3.14 Challenges Encountered

In response to the question whether the respondents encountered any challenges at the borders in their cross border movement for business or social reasons the response was once again overwhelming yes as over 95% of respondents indicated they faced considerable challenges (see Annex 13). The most common ones mentioned were harassment, extortion, delays and humiliation suffered at the hands of officials.

3.15 Suggestions Proffered by the Respondents

In order for the people in the border area of Ketu South District to benefit more from the ECOWAS programmes the respondents made a number of suggestions including:

3.15.1 Physical Presence: The need for an ECOWAS physical presence at the border for monitoring of developments on a daily basis in order to receive complaints and to effectively deal promptly with any non-compliance with the protocol on free movement on the part of officials;

3.15.2 Sensitization Seminars: The need for regular sensitization seminars, workshops, consultations etc. to be organized for NSAs at the border areas by ECOWAS Commission was deemed of paramount importance;

3.15.3 Identity Cards: In view of the large number of border residents who cross the border frequently without any form of documentation/identification (about 70%) there was the need for the introduction of special identity cards by ECOWAS and national governments for use by border residents to facilitate cross borders movements.

4. Summary & Conclusion

As part of the process of involving NSAs in the integration process, FSDA was commissioned by ECOWAS Commission to undertake a sensitization programme at the level of NSAs in the Ketu South District of the Volta Region of Ghana which shares a common border with Togo. As part of the process this baseline study was undertaken to determine the level of awareness of the people especially the women, youth and economic operators of the ECOWAS integration programmes in order to facilitate the design and focus of the enlightenment and sensitization activities geared towards building their capacity. The study which started in the last week of January with a field mission by a research team dispatched to the Ketu South district to conduct interviews based on a structured questionnaire. At the end of the survey covering over 30 towns and villages in the District a total of 177 NSAs- women, youth and economic operators were interviewed over a five day period.

The findings of the study were that ECOWAS and its programmes were known on the average by over two thirds of the people interviewed. That means that about one third of the people do not know anything about ECOWAS, this percentage is rather high when you consider the fact that ECOWAS has been in existence for over 35 years. When you

analyze the results on gender basis the situation is worse as about 50% of women respondents were ignorant of ECOWAS. The study also observed significant variations in the level of awareness when it comes to individual ECOWAS programmes such as the free movement of people, goods, the common currency etc. Surprisingly the least known were the ECOWAS instruments to facilitate travel- the Travel Certificate and the Passport, while the most well know programme was the common currency with 88% knowledge rate among respondents.

The overall findings of the study indicate that ECOWAS and its programmes are not universally known to the people especially, the women and other economic operators of the Ketu South District, who by their location are to be conscious beneficiaries of the ECOWAS programmes. The current project should therefore undertake remedial action based on the outcome of the study to conduct vigorous sensitization programmes and activities aimed at enlightening the NSAs in the District about ECOWAS. The focus should be the women, the youth and economic operators in the District who are expected to be active participants and beneficiaries of the integration programmes. This enlightenment exercise should be a regular and continuous one that ECOWAS should introduce for all the NSAs in the Districts of the border areas of Ghana and all member states in order to ensure the effective participation of all citizens of the community in the integration process.

ANNEX:1

LIST OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHERE INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE LOCAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

ZONE A: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY W.S. AGBENATOE
BLEKUSU, AGAVEDZI, SALAKOPE, AMUTINU, ADINA

ZONE B: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY RICHARD AMENUKU-
TETEKORPE, AGORKO, ADAFIENU, XEDRANAWO, DENU, VIEPE,
AGBOZUME, AKAME, PENYI, AKANU

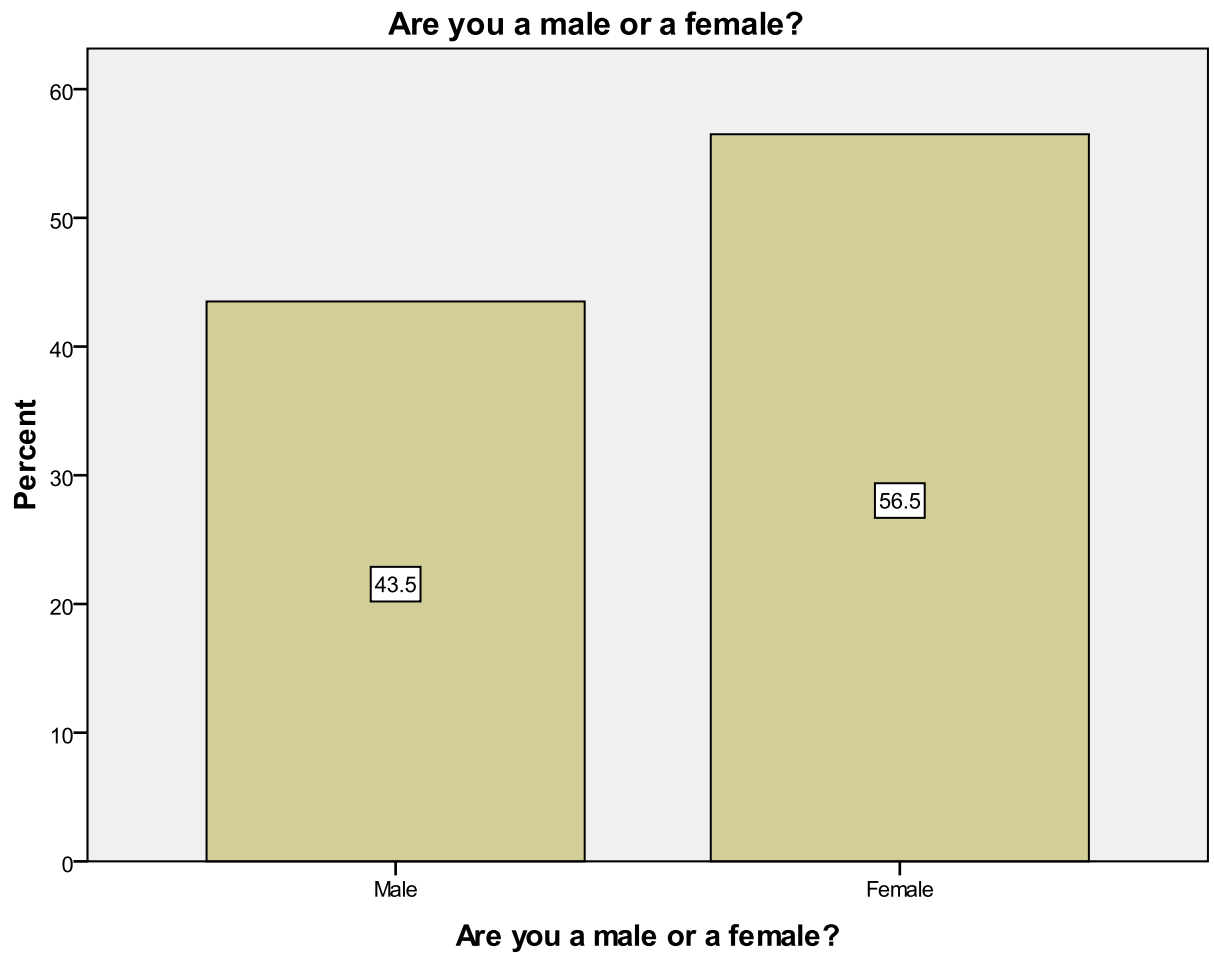
ZONE C: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY EVANS AMEWODE
AVOEME, AFLAO, KILIKOR, AKANE, PENYI, DZODZE

ZONE D: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY SYLVANUS DAMEKPOR
BEAT ZERO – PILLAR 6, NOGOKPO, AKANU, PENYI, DZODZE

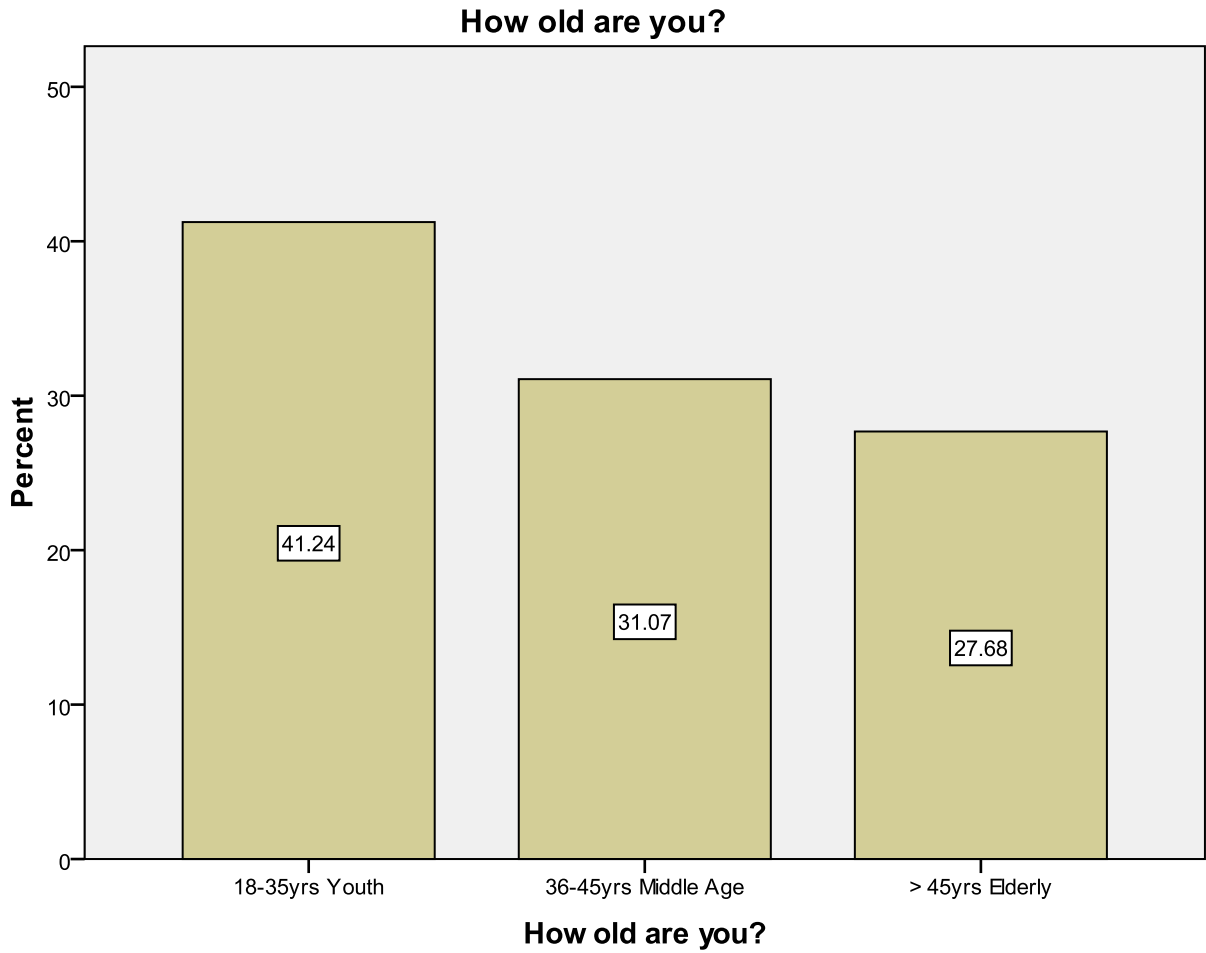
ZONE E: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY FRED NUMKPOR

**BORDER AREA AFLAO, AVEYIBUME, WUDOBA, AKPORKPLOE,
AGBAWOEME, ANOENU, LENTE, AFESHIVE**

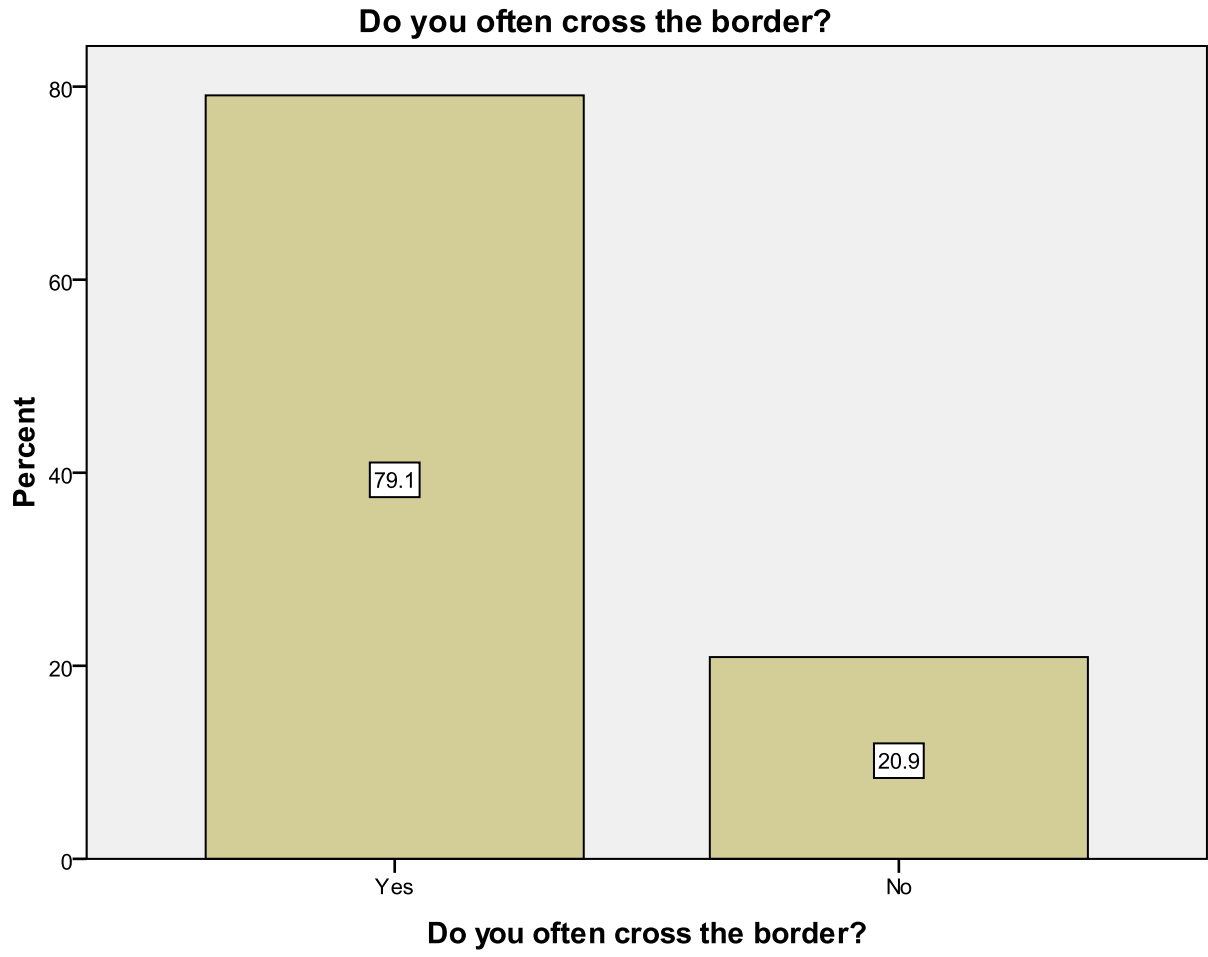
ANNEX: 2 Gender Composition



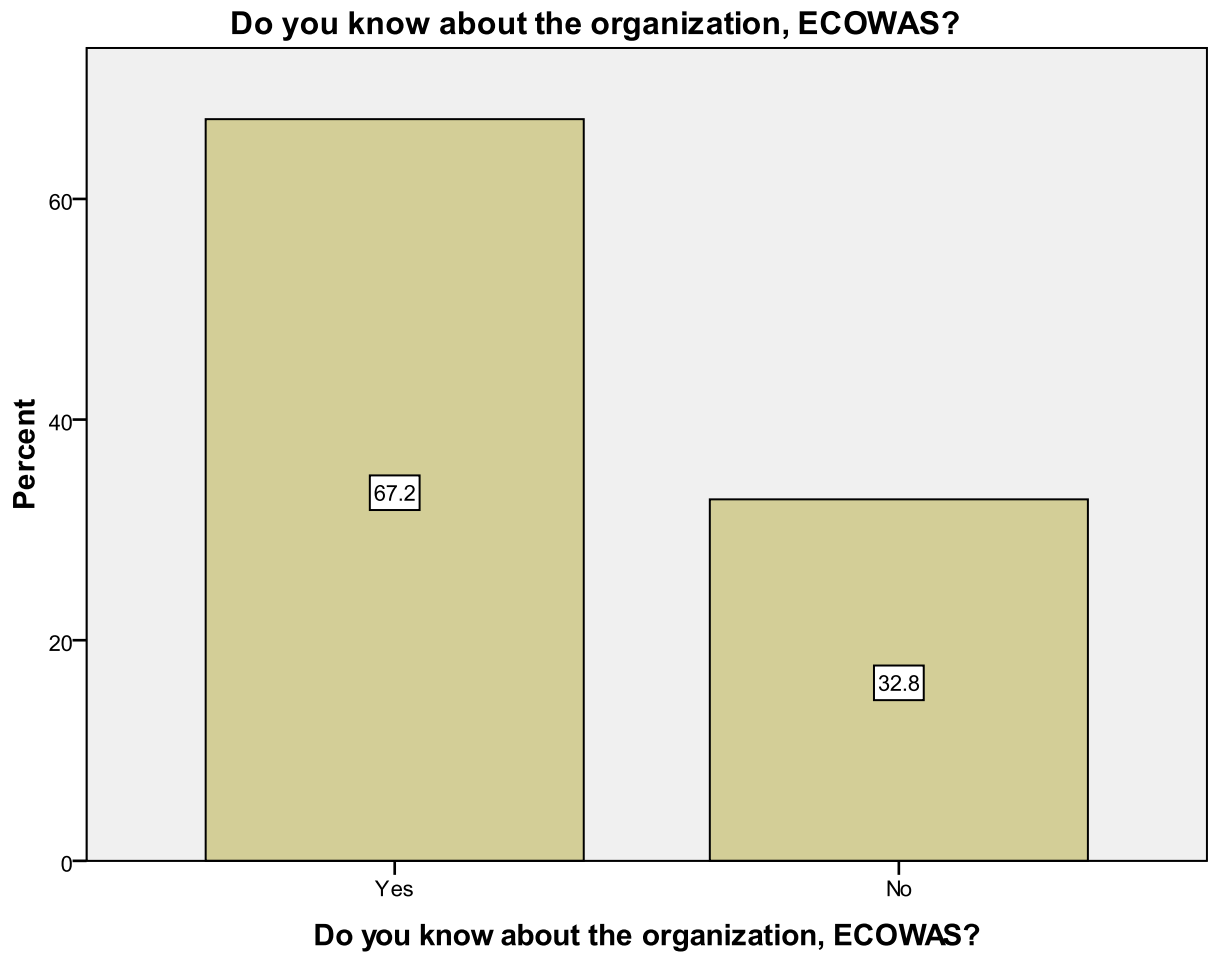
3.12 ANNEX 3: **Age Group**



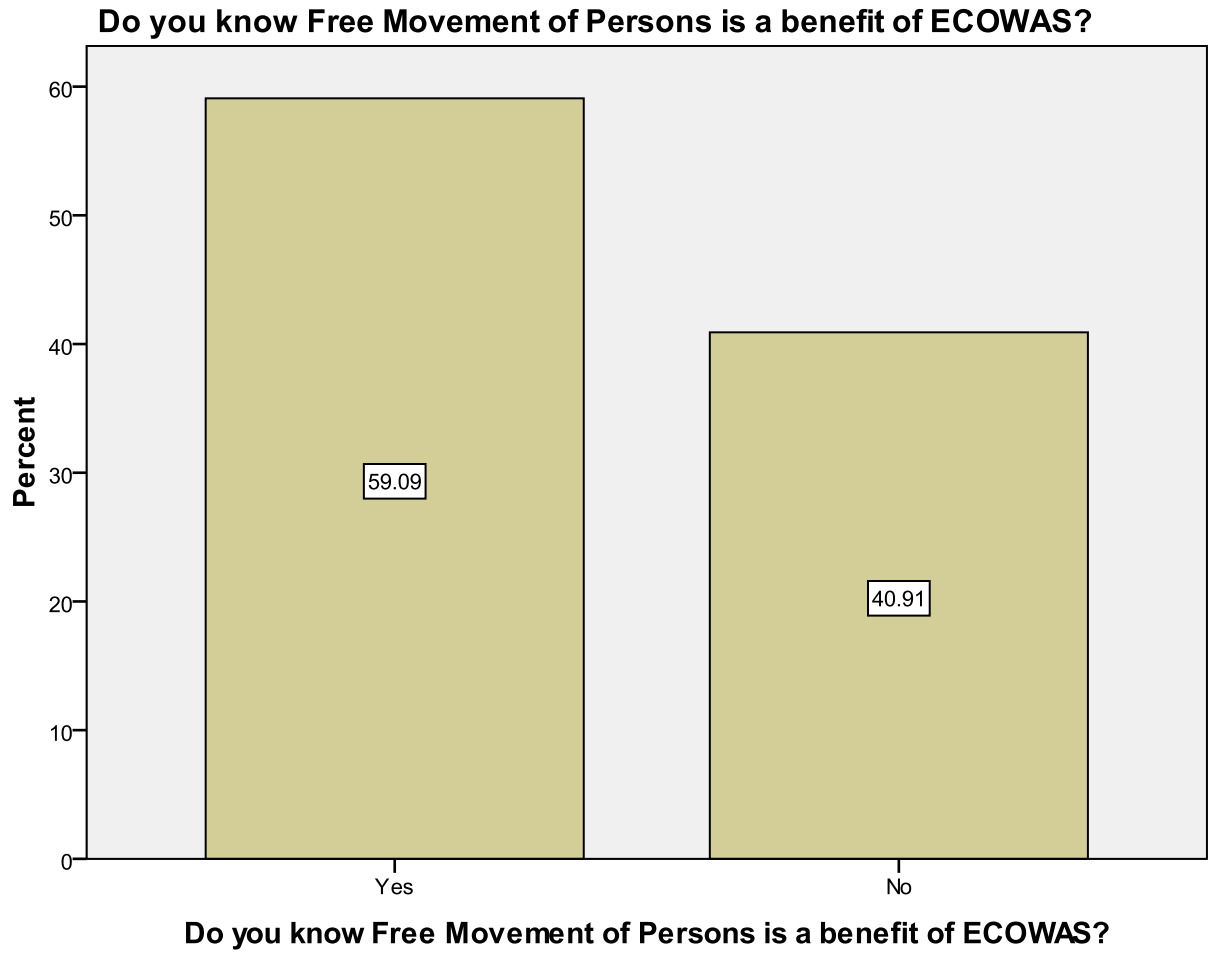
3.13 ANNEX 4: Cross Border Movement



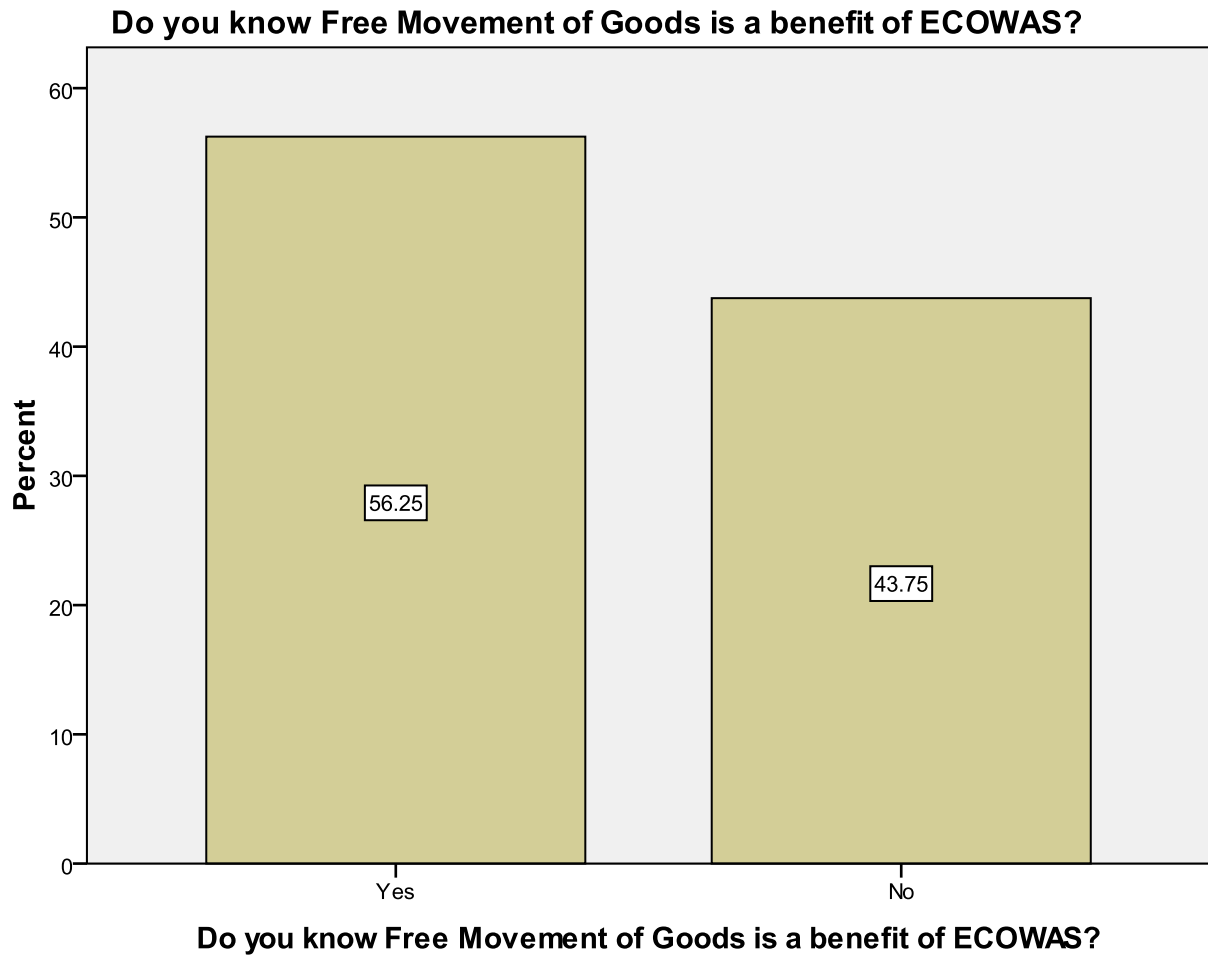
3.14 ANNEX 5: Awareness of ECOWAS



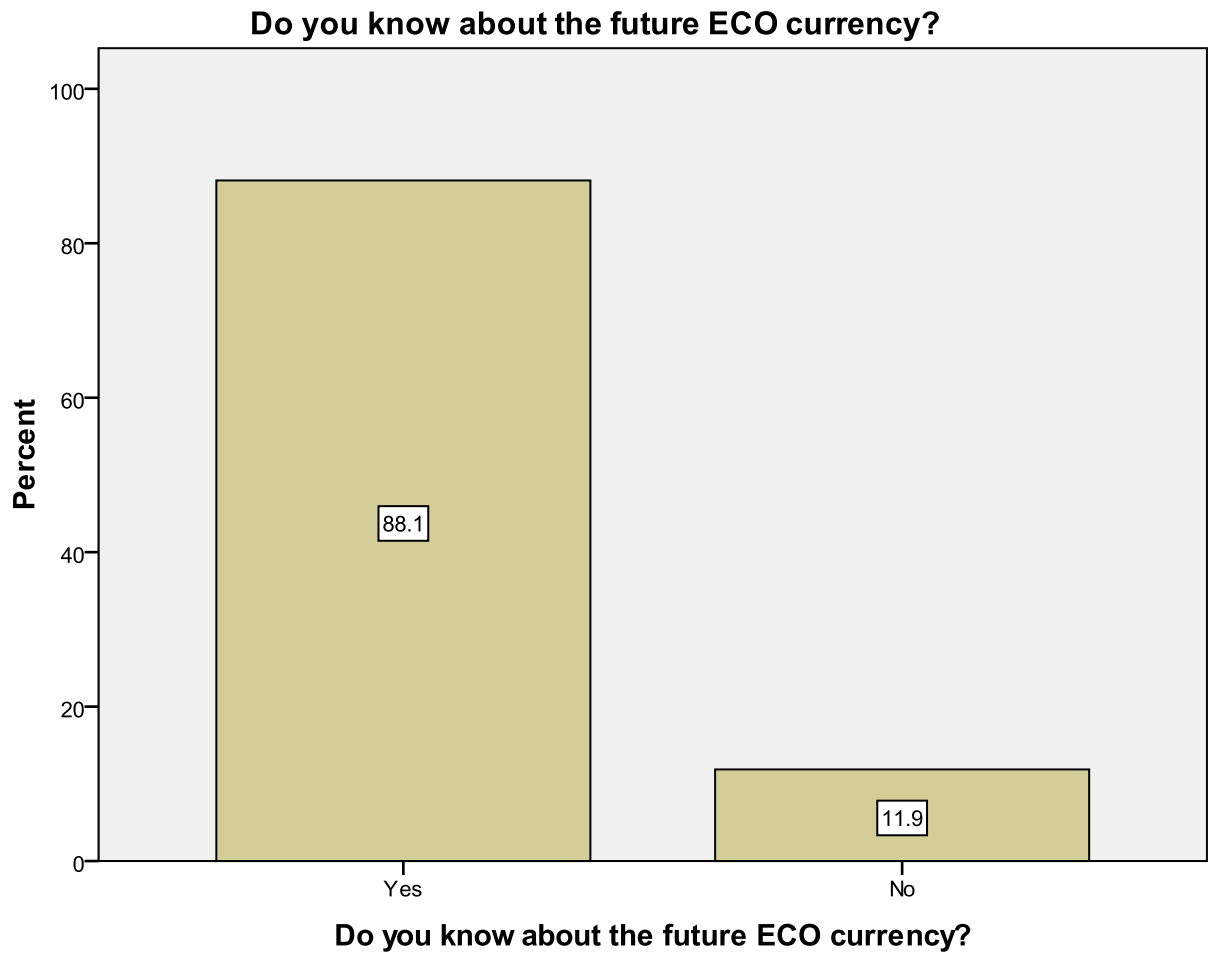
3.15 ANNEX 6: Free Movement Of People



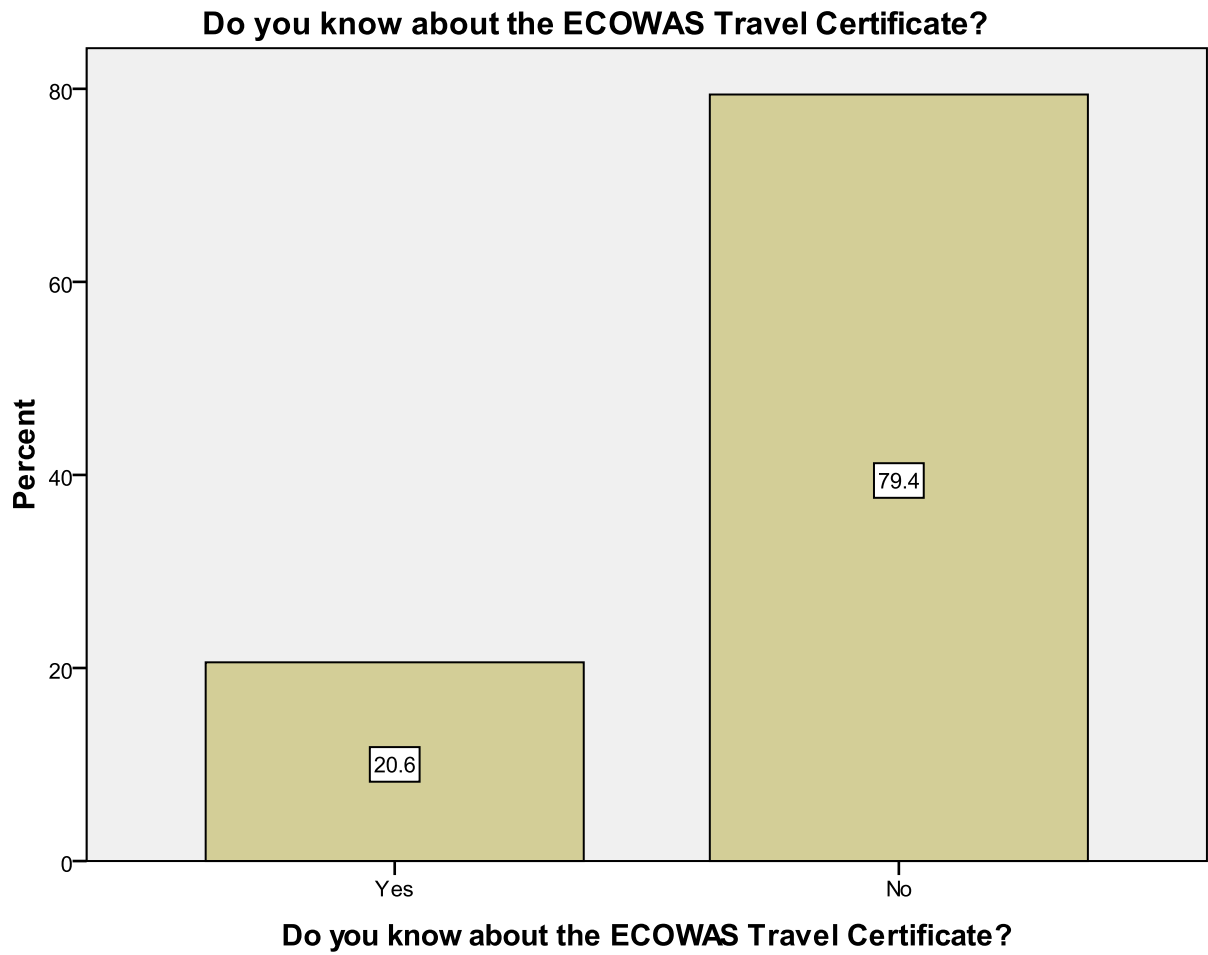
ANNEX 7: Free Movement of Goods



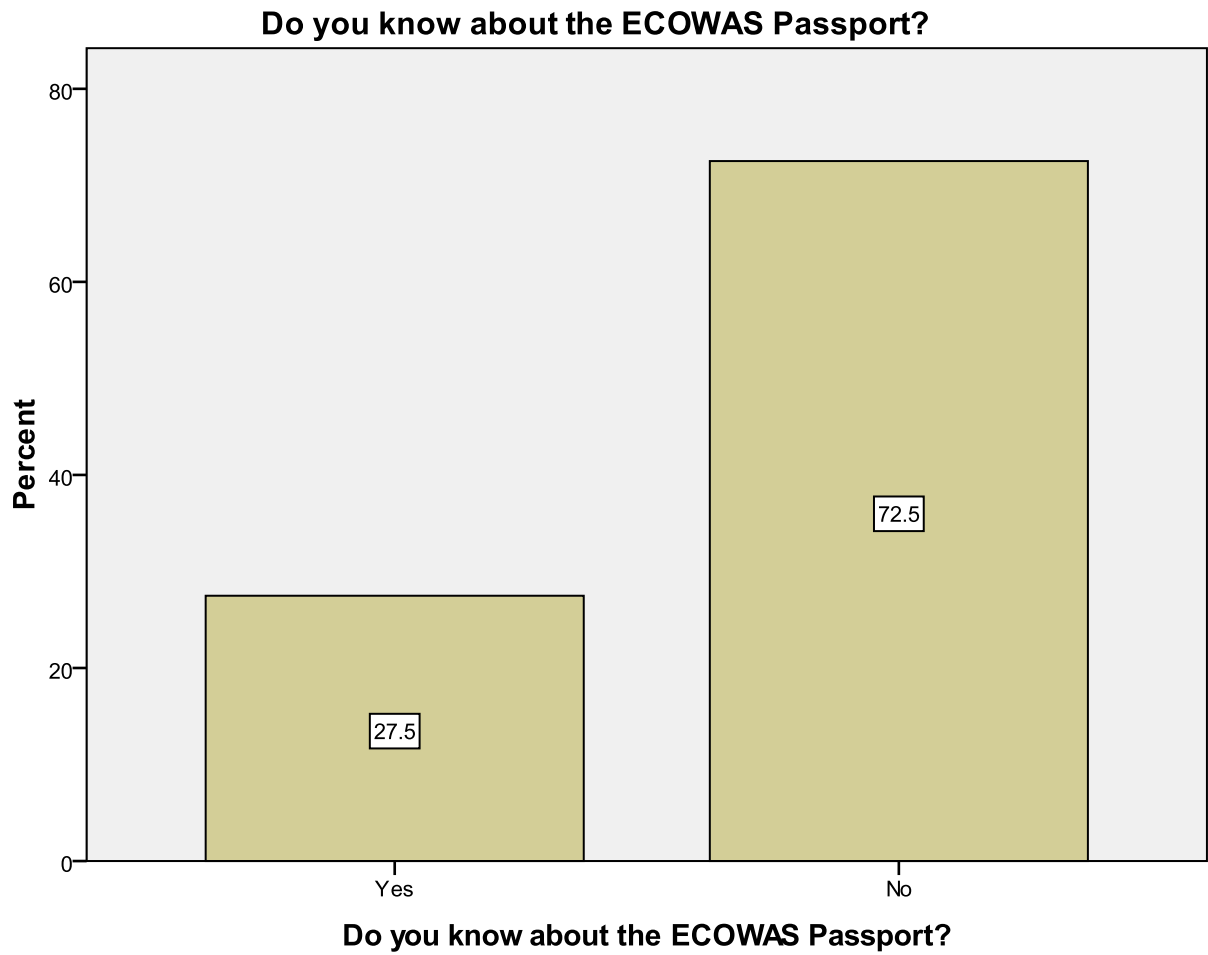
ANNEX 8: ECOWAS Common Currency (Eco)



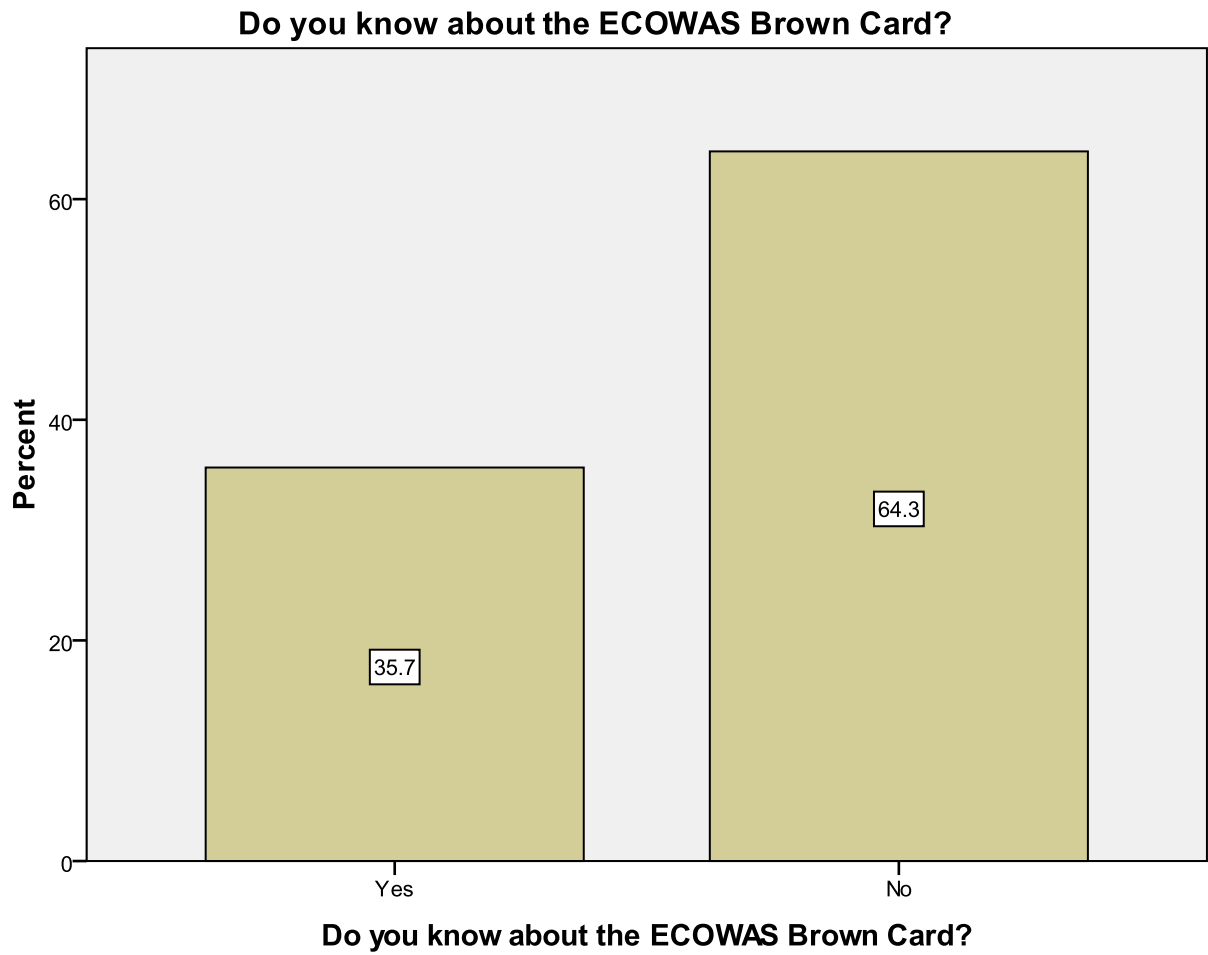
ANNEX 9: ECOWAS Travel Certificate



ANNEX 10: ECOWAS Passport

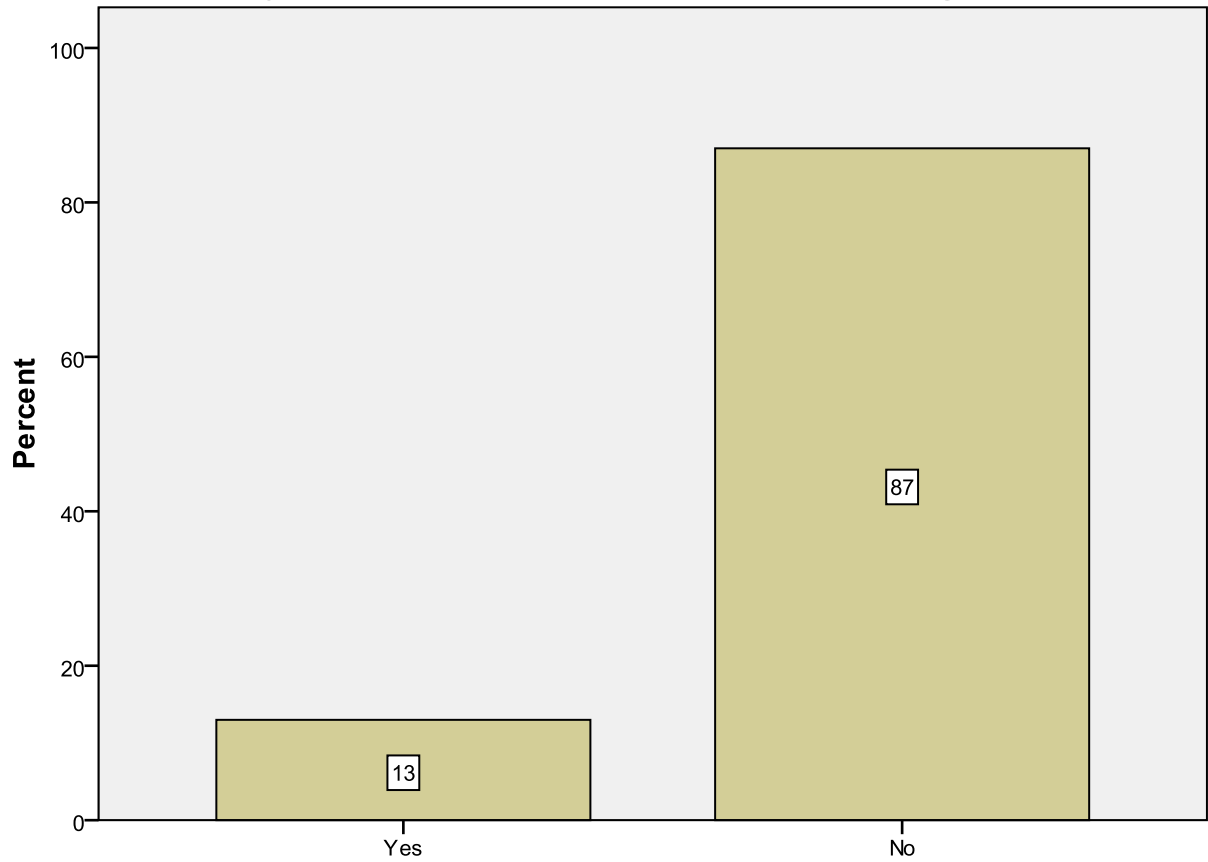


Annex 11: ECOWAS Brown Card



Annex 12: Benefit of ECOWAS

Infact have you ever benefitted from these ECOWAS Programmes?



Infact have you ever benefitted from these ECOWAS Programmes?

Annex 13: Challenges Encountered

