Ghana

Sources:
World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database 2002
Deininger & Squire, World Bank 2004
World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004

Surveys:
Ghana Living Standards Measurement Survey 1-4, 1987, 1989, 1992, 1998
The first two surveys are very similar to each other as are the two last ones. The methodology was improved considerably between the second and the third survey. In the first two surveys, two interviews were made two weeks apart. Many questions refer to the last twelve month period but daily expenses and food consumption refers to the approximately two week's period between the interviews. The consumption part looks quite comprehensive including the use value of durables, imputed rent and self-consumption (the last mentioned unfortunately from a twelve month period). The income concept includes earning in-cash and in-kind, income from remittances and other income.

The methodology was improved in 1991-92 and the survey was especially concentrating on income and consumption. To reduce recall error the households were visited every second or every third day during 8-11 days. Income and consumption items were asked on a more disaggregated level and daily consumption referred to the period when the interviewer was visiting. The consumption aggregate includes home production, the use-value of durables and imputed rents. The income includes both in-cash and in-kind earnings, scholarships, in-kind transfers, rents, remittances and miscellaneous items. Home production is probably also included. In 1998-99 consumption and income were asked about in the same way as in the previous survey but the households were visited 7 times at 5 day intervals and a diary was kept for the daily consumption.

For some reason the Deininger & Squire (2004) estimates jump up and down whereas the World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database estimates are more consistent.