

Annex 1: Political and Administrative System

Ghana at a Glance

Geography. Ghana is a small country located on the coast of West Africa. It borders the Gulf of Guinea to the South, Côte d'Ivoire to the West, Burkina Faso to the North and Togo to the East, three French-speaking countries (see map below). It covers an area of 238,540 square kilometres (92,085 square miles) and its coastline stretches along 540 kilometres. Ghana's Lake Volta is created by a hydroelectric dam in the East and is the largest manmade lake in the world. Due to its proximity to the Equator, Ghana has a warm and tropical climate, supporting crops such as cocoa, maize, cassava, sorghum, millet, yam and rice. It is also endowed with natural resources such as gold, timber, diamond, bauxite and manganese. Commercial quantities of oil were discovered in 2007 containing up to 3 billion barrels, and explorations and findings continue.

People. As of 2009, Ghana had a population of about 24 million people, consisting of over 100 ethnic groups, who speak over 250 languages. Although the vast majority of Ghanaians speak a minimum of one local language, English is the official language and the most common language in administration, schooling and commerce. As census data from 2000 indicates, about 69 percent of Ghanaians practice Christianity, 16 percent Islam and 15 percent traditional beliefs.

Politics. Internationally, Ghana has been and continues to be recognized as one of the most peaceful countries in Africa. It was the first sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to gain independence, declared on March 6th, 1957. In that year Ghana was founded as a sovereign parliamentary democracy, led by Kwame Nkrumah. In subsequent decades, power alternated between civilian and military rule of the government. With the adoption of the 1992 Constitution, the division of powers laid the political framework to help consolidate one of the most stable democracies on the continent.

Administration. The administrative structure divides the country into 10 regions and 170 districts. Every district has its own District Assembly. Districts are subdivided into town, area and zonal councils, and unit committees at the lowest level. Accra, the executive, legislative and judicial capital city, is located within the Greater Accra region, and is home to over two million Ghanaians. Having won the 2008 presidential and parliamentary elections, the National Democratic Congress is the current ruling party.

Economy. In Ghana, a country rich in natural resources, the economy depends strongly on exports of cocoa, gold, timber, manganese ore, diamonds, aluminium, bauxite, horticulture and tuna. Worldwide, Ghana is one of the leading producers of gold and the second largest cocoa producer. In 2008, the labor force in Ghana constituted about 11.5 million people, the majority of whom were employed in the agricultural sector, representing about 40 percent of GDP. Thus, many Ghanaians are heavily dependent on

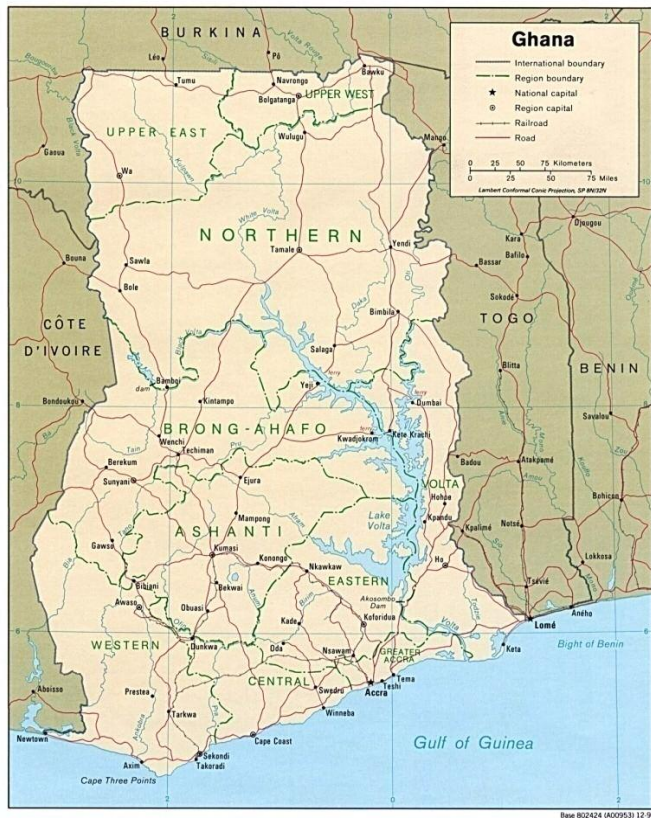
agriculture and are subsistence farmers. In 2006, more than a quarter of Ghanaians (28.5 percent) lived below the national poverty line. Gross National Income (GNI) per capita reached US\$670 in 2008 (\$1,430 using PPP), below the sub-Saharan average of US\$1,082. While GDP growth in 2008 reached 6.2 percent, Ghana's GNI totalled US\$15.7 billion in that year (\$33.4 billion using PPP). In 2008, nearly two thirds of GDP represented imports of goods and services (63.2 percent), resulting in only about one third of GDP from exports (36.8 percent). In Ghana, official development assistance flows constituted US\$1.2 billion in 2007 (US\$49 per capita), net foreign direct investment averaged US\$970 million in 2007, and remittances and employee compensation totalled US\$128 million in 2008. The total debt serviced in 2007 was 3.1 percent of all exports of goods, services and income.

Political and Administrative System

The 1992 Constitution founded the Fourth Republic of Ghana. Since that year the country has undergone two peaceful democratic transitions, in 2000 and 2008. The constitution supports a hybrid presidential regime, with the president elected by an absolute majority. The two major political parties in Ghana are the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC). As leader of the NDC, President Atta Mills has held office since January of 2009. Internationally, Ghana's elections are widely recognised as credible and transparent. Based on a number of political indicators, Ghana is internationally classified as a free country (Freedom House 2009). With the high degree of political freedom its citizens enjoy, Ghana is a strong outlier in sub-Saharan Africa. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (2009) ranked Ghana 69th out of 180 analyzed countries, thereby ranking better than about 62 percent of the countries examined. However, only 11 percent of seats in Ghana's parliament are held by women (World Bank). In contrast, in many other sub-Saharan countries the share of women holding parliamentary seats is significantly higher, such as in Mozambique (35 percent), Angola (37 percent) and Rwanda (51 percent) (UNDP 2009). In Ghana, the parliament is elected every four years, there is an independent judiciary, and the media is known to be one of the most vibrant in West Africa.

Annex 2: Map

Map: Ghana and Bordering Countries, with Main Cities and Regions



Source: Ghana, Political Map 1995.

All Annex graphs, figures and tables are in the separate document titled “CSR Annex” in the folder: “Ghana Education CSR 2009”

Table: Selected Economic and Infrastructure Indicators in Ghana

Indicator Value	Value
<i>(Macro-)Economic</i>	
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$), 2008	670
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$), 2008	1430
GNI, Atlas method (current US\$), 2008	15.7 billion
GNI, PPP (current international \$), 2008	33.4 billion
GDP (current US\$), 2008	16.1 billion
GDP growth (annual %), 2008	6.2
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %), 2008	18.0
Imports of goods and services (% of GDP), 2008	63.2
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP), 2008	36.8
Merchandise trade (% of GDP), 2008	99.5
Services, etc., value added (% of GDP), 2008	41.7
Official development assistance and official aid (current US\$), 2007	1.2 billion
Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, current US\$), 2007	970,380,000

Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$), 2008	128,000,000
Time required to start a business (days), 2008	34
<i>Infrastructure Access</i>	
Roads, paved (% of total roads), 2005	14.9
Electric power consumption (kWh per capita), 2006	311.9
Energy use (kg of oil equivalent per capita), 2006	424.4
<i>Other indicators</i>	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita (cubic meters), 2007	1324.8
Military expenditure (% of GDP), 2008	0.7

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database.

Note: Value indicated is for the latest year with available data.

ⁱ The scale of reported improvements between 2007 and 2009 raises questions about the consistency in the methodology of the subsequent tests and/or the reliability of data collection and reporting.