

Ghana Key Facts

Ghana is in West Africa.

The capital city is called Accra.

People speak English and African languages including Akan, Ewe and Twi.

Ghana is famous for its cocoa.

There are about 800,000 cocoa farmers in Ghana. Most Ghanaian cocoa is produced on small farms of 3 to 4 hectares. (To visualise one hectare, think of a rugby pitch, or Trafalgar Square.)

Ghana is about the same size as the UK, and has a population of 28 million.

The money used in Ghana is Cedi
£1 = 6 cedis

Life in Ghana.

Ghana is a developing country and people living there generally have a low income. As a result:

- Only 76.6% of adults can read and write.
- The average girl in Ghana receives only four years of education.
- 20% of the population do not have access to safe water to drink.
- 3-4 in 100 children die before they are 5 years old.

What are the problems faced by cocoa farmers?

Cocoa farmers' lives are hard. They get only a fraction of the money we pay for a bar of chocolate. On average, cocoa farmers in Ghana earn £380 a year. They grow most of their own food, but they need cash to pay for many essentials such as farm machinery and fertilisers, school fees, medicine, doctor's fees, transport and clothes – and these are expensive.

The price they receive for their cocoa can also vary enormously, making it very difficult to plan for the future – and they can be cheated by local cocoa buyers. Added to this are the challenges of climate change. Farmers are increasingly having to adapt the way they grow cocoa in order to deal with droughts, floods, higher temperatures, and changing growing seasons.

The experiences of Ghanaian cocoa farmers are typical of many farmers all over the world, caught in a trading system that benefits multinational companies.