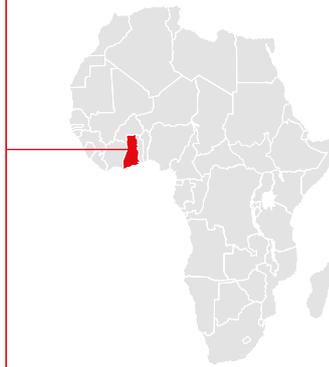


Get to know Ghana



Welsh Baptists support mothers in Ghana

Facts about Ghana

Geography

Ghana is a country situated on the southern coast of West Africa. With a total area of 239,460 square kilometres, Ghana is about the size of the UK. It is mostly low-lying land, with its highest mountain, Mount Afadja, at 885m (2,904ft) above sea level (compared to Snowdon at 1,085m). With a population of 2.2 million, the capital city Accra is situated on the south coast.

The climate is tropical and the eastern coastal belt is warm and comparatively dry, the south-west corner of Ghana is hot and humid, and the north of Ghana is hot and dry. The average temperature in January is 31°C, and in June 27°C. Recorded temperature has never been lower than 15°C. Average rainfall in January is 0.63 inches and in June 7.6 inches.

History

Today, Ghana is an independent country. In the past, however, it has been controlled by a number of European countries mostly drawn to the region because of the gold found there. Before the Europeans landed, Ghana was a number of small kingdoms, mostly of Akan descent. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive. They called the region they controlled Costa do Ouro, or the Gold Coast. They were followed by the Dutch and the Scandinavians, but in 1874 the territory was taken over by the British Empire. Ghana gained its independence in 1957.

Politics



Since 1993, Ghana has been a functioning and flourishing democracy. It is a multiparty state with free and fair elections. Before 1993 there was a period of much instability with the country run democratically but also at times by the military. Today Ghana compares particularly well with other countries in Africa – being the fifth most stable democracy on the continent. It is also the fifth least corrupt state in Africa.

The country is divided into 10 administrative regions. It is the three districts in the north of the country that are the focus of our appeal: Upper West, Upper East, and Northern, with a combined population of 4.1 million. This region is mainly savannah grassland with scattered trees and has a diverse, though depleted wildlife.

Wealth

Ghana has been classified as a lower-middle-income country by the World Bank. Other countries in this category include India, Philippines, and Vietnam. It has a mixed economy with a growing digital-based manufacturing sector, assembling tablet computers and mobile phones. Ghana has a vision of becoming Africa's first developed country by 2029.

Ghana and Wales: compare and contrast

	Ghana	Wales
Population	26.3 million	3.06 million
Land area	238,000 km ²	20,779 km ²
Percentage of population under 14yrs	38%	17%
Languages	English (official) Akan, Ewe, Dagbani, and over 70 others.	Welsh, English
Religion	71.2% Christian 17.6% Muslim Traditional 5.2% None 5.2% Other 0.8%	57.6% Christian 1.5% Muslim Not stated 7.6% None 32.1% Other 1.2%
Health expenditure	5.4% of GDP	9% of GDP
Life expectancy		
Male	61 years	78 years
Female	64 years	82 years
Number of people with HIV	250,000	2,245
Infant mortality (deaths per live births)	37/1000	4/1000
Maternal deaths per live births	380/100,000	8/100,000