



Ghana

© 2005 Phil Borges



Country Snapshot

Population:	23,837,000
Life expectancy at birth:	57 years
Adult literacy rate:	66%
Access to improved water source:	82%
GDP per capita (PPP)*:	US\$1,533
Infant mortality rate:	47 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate:	450 per 100,000 live births
HIV prevalence:	1.8%

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2011, *UNDP Human Development Report 2010

Program Overview

CARE began operations in Ghana in 1994 by working to educate mining areas about sexual health and the prevention of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Today, CARE Ghana focuses on a participatory approach, working in partnership with local and civil society organisations, the government and the private sector. This enables CARE to support the priorities of local populations, while bringing in resources and partnerships to spur innovation and durable solutions. Our goal is to impact the lives of the rural and vulnerable poor—women in particular—through implementing programs in the following areas: Food Security & Nutrition, Livelihood Strategies & Poverty Reduction, Women's Empowerment & Gender Equity, Water & Sanitation, Health and Education.

Food Security & Nutrition

CARE Ghana uses a holistic approach to food security by combining the areas of agriculture, economic development, climate change, gender, and nutrition; this allows us to develop coordinated efforts to address the underlying causes of food insecurity. The vast majority of the farmers we work with are subsistence farmers, who are increasingly graduating into commercial production. Our approach to food security is based on a combination of increasing productivity and promoting equity through sustainable methods by focusing on locally available and appropriate inputs, materials and tools. CARE supports Conservation Agriculture as an effective farming strategy in the context of climate change, particularly in the northern part of Ghana.

CARE Ghana also works to support and empower communities and individuals to make optimal maternal nutrition choices. We focus on improved access to adequate and appropriate complementary foods and strengthen women's decision-making power for child feeding and their own nutrition.

continued on back



Nana Kofi Acquah / CARE



© 2005 Phil Borges



Nana Kofi Acquah / CARE

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity

CARE Ghana's programs include a focus on women's empowerment and gender equity as a top line objective. In Ghana, women are disproportionately affected by poverty, despite the economic and social contributions they make. CARE has adopted a number of tools and resources to promote more effective integration of gender analysis and issues into our programs by looking at women's empowerment through the lens of every woman's abilities and relationships.

Livelihood Strategies and Poverty Reduction

CARE's research has shown that limited access to credit and other financial services is not the only challenge poor people face in growing their enterprises and livelihoods. In order to fuel inclusive growth that allows people to rise above the poverty line, CARE is addressing other factors, such as access to market information and technologies that spur value addition; a positive business environment; financial and market literacy; the ability to manage risk; and the means to overcome exclusionary socio-economic traditions and power imbalances. CARE also supports the rural poor in Ghana to become financially self-sufficient through the creation and support of local, self-selected village savings and loan associations.

Education

CARE supports improving girls' access to quality education through ensuring that schools are sensitive to the special needs of the girl child, whilst improving sexual and reproductive health among girls. CARE supports the creation of girls' clubs to promote tutoring services, to disseminate health-related information, to allow girls to discuss issues that affect them and to access positive role-models.

Water & Sanitation

CARE in Ghana contributes to ensure increased ownership and sustainability of water resources. Our interventions address issues of water access, improved sanitation, environmental management and climate variability, while proactively addressing the needs of the marginalized such as women, the aged, the physically challenged, and pastoralists. CARE Ghana has built partnerships at various levels to effect

broader change, including at the regional, national, district and community levels of government and civil society.

Health

CARE Ghana strives to achieve health related Millennium Development Goals through sustained and coherent social and behaviour change communication interventions in the areas of: maternal health, neonatal and child health, family planning, malaria prevention and treatment, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene. These interventions focus on fostering positive health practices in households and communities by creating and strengthening social norms around healthy thinking behaviour and sustaining these practices.

CARE has also worked with traditional chiefs, queen mothers and female leaders and the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS to support and de-stigmatize those living with HIV/AIDS.

A year in review

- 21,000 households benefited from livelihood and poverty reduction interventions
- 46,000 people reached with food security interventions
- 7,000 vulnerable women impacted by our women empowerment programs
- 1,200,000 pupils benefitted from our education initiatives
- 26,000 people have benefited from water and sanitation interventions
- 5,000 flood-affected households assisted in northern Ghana
- 3,500 refugees from the Cote d'Ivoire conflict assisted with clean water

Major Donors

Ajinomoto, Cadbury, Cargill, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Danish International Development Assistance (Danida), UK Department for International Development (DFID), European Commission (EC), General Electric Foundation, Howard G. Buffet Foundation, Kraft, Embassy of the Netherlands in Ghana, Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP), and private donors.

Last updated January 2012

CARE Ghana

Philip Christensen, Country Director, Philip.Christensen@co.care.org
Christine Achieng, Assistant Country Director, Christine.Achieng@co.care.org
T: + 233 30 701 2993
@: caregog@co.care.org

West Africa Regional
Management Unit
Bamako, Mali
reception@warmu.care.org



www.care-international.org