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Federal Department of Economic Affairs.
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Ghana

Cooperation Programme 2025–2028



A More Resilient and Forward-Looking Economy

Ghana is a priority country for SECO's economic development cooperation and is recognised as a frontrunner in economic growth and poverty reduction in the region. It is striving for economic and social development and environmental sustainability. Ghana has a rapidly growing young population, driving high demand for jobs and sustainable practices. However, systemic economic challenges and environmental concerns, exacerbated by climate change, continue to exert pressure on the country.

The SECO Cooperation Programme 2025-2028 aims to support the country in seizing the opportunities and addressing the challenges. It will contribute to a more resilient and forward-looking economy that promotes local governance, job creation and environmental integrity.

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Opportunities and Challenges

Ghana has a long-standing tradition of democratic transitions and has served as an anchor of stability and rule of law in an increasingly fragile region. The country achieved middle-income status in 2010 thanks to 20 years of high growth. It has also managed to reduce poverty significantly and made strides in human development. Its vibrant culture, dynamic population, and entrepreneurial spirit contribute to a robust foundation for economic progress.

In recent years, however, Ghana's growth momentum has slowed, and inequality has increased. The initial growth progress relied heavily on commodities such as oil, gas, and gold, leaving the economy undiversified and citizens vulnerable to economic shocks. Rising inequality and stagnating poverty reduction have been exacerbated by frequent economic crises that have weakened Ghana's fragile macroeconomic position. They have highlighted systemic challenges, including inefficient public spending, a narrow tax base and a weak currency. These underlying issues have contributed to high inflation, rising debt levels, and constrained public revenues, which in turn hinder investment growth and private sector development. In addition, a slow response to the effects of climate change have left the country vulnerable to environmental degradation, resource scarcity and economic fragility. Governance issues, including corruption and lack of accountability, further strain development efforts.

To revitalize Ghana's economy and tackle these challenges, the country aims to create jobs, improve the business environment, enhance effective governance, and promote environmental preservation.



Vision and Priorities

The SECO Cooperation Programme Ghana 2025–2028 aims to contribute to strengthening Ghana's resilience and fostering a forward-looking economy.

With strengthened local governance, a thriving private sector that generates jobs and incomes, and a commitment to environmental integrity, Ghana is poised to build a resilient and diversified economy. As a result, the country will be capable of seizing opportunities, withstanding global challenges and generating prosperity for its citizens.



To realise this vision, SECO will prioritise the following areas:



Improve Local Governance and Performance

Switzerland is supporting service delivery at the local level by improving framework conditions and empowering local governments. This is achieved through decentralized budget support, and capacity building initiatives. In addition, urban development projects and targeted support for strategic value chains and enterprises in selected regions aim to accelerate local development and promote sustainable growth.



Support the Private Sector to Provide Jobs and Increase Income Opportunities

Switzerland focuses on promoting the business enabling environment, access to finance and increasing competitiveness and productivity in selected industries. This includes improving the framework for international trade standards, promoting sustainable integration into local, regional, and international value chains. Working in key strategic value chains offers potential for linkages with the Swiss private sector and scientific cooperation with Swiss universities.



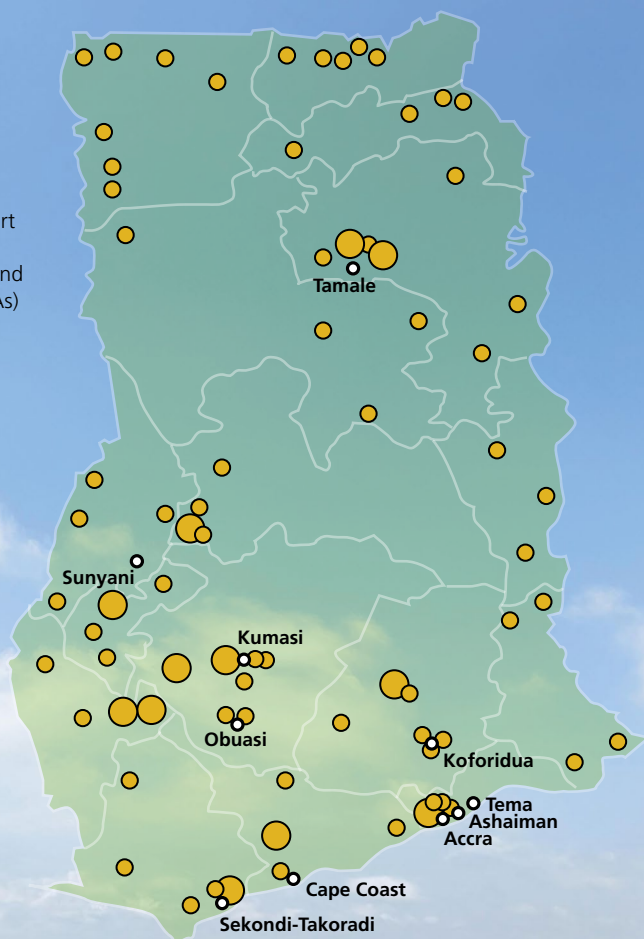
Enhance Environmental Integrity

Switzerland prioritizes the promotion of ecological integrity by supporting renewable energy, sustainable supply chain management and the circular economy. This includes working on framework conditions and scaling up affordable solutions for both SMEs and private households, as well as improving end-of-life management.

Location of SECO Projects

- Few projects
- Several projects
- City or Metropolitan Area

In addition, the Swiss Subnational Budget Support program benefits all 261 Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) across Ghana.



Past Achievements

- Infrastructure for quality assurance has been established in the cocoa, cashew, and palm oil sectors. **7** laboratories staffed by **120** trained professionals are now able to perform quality tests for EU market entry. Additionally, **30** standards have been promoted to enhance compliance, benefiting approximately **650** value chain actors.
- Productivity and working conditions in the textile and shea sectors have improved, with **156** SMEs supported, positively impacting around **12,000** workers, **85%** of whom are women.
- Budget support and capacity-building initiatives have strengthened local service delivery across all **261** districts.
- **3** solar-powered mini-grids have been constructed to provide electricity to island communities in the Volta River Delta (Greater Accra Region), alongside efforts to enhance the adoption of renewable energy technologies.
- Teaching materials on green buildings have been integrated into tertiary education curricula. A total of **755** individuals have attended workshops and events to deepen their understanding of green buildings and enhance resource efficiency

These are some highlights from the Cooperation Programme 2021–2024.



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