

Ghana key facts

Ghana is in West Africa.

The capital city is called Accra.

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

Ghana is famous for its cocoa.

There are about two million cocoa farmers in Ghana and Ghanaian cocoa is considered to be the world's finest. Most Ghanaian cocoa is produced on small farms of 3 to 4 hectares.

21.4 million people live in Ghana*, which is about the same size as the UK.

**The money used in Ghana is Cedi
£1 = 17,000 Cedis**

Ghana is one of the poorest countries in the world.

As a result:

- only 64.5% of adults can read and write
- almost twice as many women as men cannot read or write
- half of all people who live in the countryside do not have safe water to drink
- 1 in 10 children die before they are 5
- 37% do not have running water in their homes.

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. Many earn on average £160 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, who tell them their cocoa weighs less than it does, or who pay them with cheques or vouchers, which are of little practical use to the farmers.

The experiences of Ghanaian cocoa farmers are typical of many farmers all over the world, caught in a trading system that benefits the multinational companies, which are based in the richest countries, such as the UK.