

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 720,000 cocoa farmers in Ghana and Ghanaian cocoa is considered to be among the world's finest. Most Ghanaian cocoa is produced on small farms of 3 to 4 hectares.

Ghana is about the same size as the UK, and has a population of 23.8 million*.

The money used in Ghana is Cedi
£1 = 2 cedis

Ghana is one of the poorest countries in the world.

As a result:

- Only 67.3%** of adults can read and write
- Twice as many men as women attended secondary school
- Nearly a quarter of all people who live in the countryside do not have safe water to drink
- 8 in 100 children die before that are 5
- Only 3% of homes in rural areas have running water***

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 £325 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.

*UN, 2009

** UN Development Programme Report 2010

*** WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for water supply and sanitation