



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana



1960 - 2020: diplomatic relations with

GHANA.

FACTSHEET

May 2020

Swiss activities and contributions in Ghana

HISTORY & BILATERAL RELATIONS

- **Basel Missionaries:** the Basel Missionaries, in 1854, published the first compilation grammatical rules on Twi (Ghana's predominantly spoken language); including Twi-English; English-Twi Dictionary. This publication formed an invaluable resource for the beginning of research on Twi.
- **Cocoa:** Swiss Missionaries were among the first to experiment planting cocoa on a large scale in the Gold Coast. The missionaries introduced cocoa from Mexico in 1868, in an attempt to produce small amounts of chocolate.
- **60 years of diplomatic relations:** Switzerland recognized the Republic of Ghana on 6 March 1957, the day independence was declared. Three years later, the former Swiss Consulate in Accra (established in 1938) was upgraded to a full-fledged Swiss Embassy (one out of 11 in Sub-Saharan Africa). Today, the Swiss Embassy in Accra is responsible for the diplomatic and consular affairs in Ghana, Benin, Togo. Since 1.1.2020, the Embassy in Accra is in charge of consular affairs in Saõ Tomé and Príncipe.
- **Historic State Visit:** In February 2020, H. E. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo travelled to Switzerland for an official state visit where he was received by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councilor Simonetta Sommaruga and the entire Swiss Government. The Ghanaian President is the first head of State of a sub-Saharan African state since 1957 to whom this honor was granted.

PEACE & SECURITY

- Switzerland supports the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC) in Teshie (Accra) as part of regional capacity building for peacekeeping training with civilian and military expertise as well as with funding of courses and specific projects (USD 250'000/year). Since 2006, Members of the Armed Forces are seconded to the KA IPTC. Currently, three staff officers (one Colonel and two Majors) are deployed. The support is based on a Memorandum of Understanding concluded between Switzerland and Ghana.

ECONOMY & INVESTMENTS

- **Companies:** More than 55 Swiss companies operate in Ghana, employing an estimated 8'500 persons. More than half of the companies operate in the agri-business, manufacturing and logistics sectors.
- **Trade:** Total trade volume between Switzerland and Ghana amounted to CHF 2.5 billion in 2019. Imports from Ghana amounted to CHF 2.4 billion. Gold and cocoa are the most significant imports. Swiss exports amounted to CHF 37.4 million. **Ghana is Switzerland's second most important trade partner in Africa.**
- **Investment:** Switzerland's total stock of investments stood at USD 534 million (2016).

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAMS

- Ghana is a **priority country** for Switzerland's **economic development cooperation** since 2002.
- Since 1960, Ghana benefited from more than **CHF 365 million** in official development assistance from Switzerland.
- For 2017 to 2020 the pledged budget is **CHF 75 million**, an average of CHF 18 million disbursements.
- Switzerland implements **more than 30 projects** to contribute to **inclusive economic development**.
- Switzerland aims to strengthen accountable **institutions** and the effective **public service delivery** through decentralized budget support, domestic revenue mobilization, public financial management, debt management, electricity sector reforms and clean energy, urban mobility.
- Switzerland supports measures to improve **competitiveness** and **diversification** of the economy: business environment, value chain development (cocoa, cashew, palm oil), skills development, financial sector reforms, climate change and resource efficiency.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE

- **Swiss Scholarships:** Since 1963, Ghanaian students and researchers have received a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship for foreign scholars and completed their academic studies in Switzerland.
- **Excellence in Africa:** In 2020, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, EPFL, launched "Excellence in Africa (EXAF)", a joint initiative intended to foster excellent scientific research throughout the African continent. The first pillar of initiative, the "Junior Faculty Development program", is designed to pair up junior professors at African academic institutions and EPFL professors. Ghana is in the programme's top 5 countries with the highest number of applications.
- **El Anatsui:** The Kunstmuseum Bern is mounting a large-scale exhibition of the work of Ghanaian artist El Anatsui since March 2020. During the state visit, both Head of States from CH and Ghana enjoyed a special tour through the large sculptures of arguably Africa's most renowned contemporary artist and famous for his large sculptures of recycled bottle caps that decorate whole walls like magnificent tapestries.

SWISS IN GHANA & GHANAIANS IN SWITZERLAND

- 380 Swiss are currently living permanently in Ghana (April 2020).
- 1'269 Ghanaians are resident in Switzerland (November 2019).

SWITZERLAND'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO COVID-19 RELIEF

- Decentralization: re-allocation of US 6.2 million of the 2019 decentralized budget support to scale up preventive care activities at the district level.
- Trade and private sector development: extension of the trade facilitation support to the quality and standards testing of personal protective equipment and face masks; roll out of hygiene trainings for up to 18'000 beneficiaries in the palm oil sector; support to Ministry of Food and Agriculture to equip farming communities in the cashew sector with hygienic materials and handwashing stations; support cashew processors to implement social distancing and guarantee the safety of factory workers.
- Skills development: deliver virtual trainings to SMEs on workplace safety measures and resilience, digitizing COTVET's services, developing a cloud-based mobile learning platform, strengthening trainings to the informal sector.
- Financial and material contributions of Swiss companies operating in Ghana towards the Covid-19-Fund set up by President Akufo-Addo.

Further information and contact details

The Swiss Embassy in Accra: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/accra>

On Facebook: @SwissEmbassyAccra

Mail to: accra@eda.admin.ch