



Ghana

Ghana has made significant progress in its development over the past decade. In 2024, its [GDP](#) grew by 5.7%, driven by a diversified economy that includes agriculture, industry, and services. However, critical challenges persist. About 35% of the country's [workforce](#) depends on rainfed smallholder agriculture, which is vulnerable to climate change. Unemployment remains high, with over 38% of [youth](#) lacking decent jobs. Illegal mining and deforestation continue to degrade the environment, threatening the resource base that many Ghanaians rely on. Rapid coastal erosion is endangering coastal communities and industries.

Since 1992, SNV has worked closely with government institutions and other partners to stimulate inclusive development by advancing gender equality, climate resilience, and good governance in the agri-food, water, and energy sectors.

Through projects implemented over the past decade, SNV and partners have facilitated the creation of green jobs, resilient smallholder systems, strengthened market linkages, and improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities. These improvements have led to enhanced livelihoods and health outcomes.

As Ghana makes progress towards its Agenda 2030 commitments, SNV remains committed to supporting the country in achieving sustainable, equitable, and impactful results through strong partnerships and systems transformation.



More than 1K
decent and sustainable jobs
created for youth and
women



165K people
gained access to safe
sanitation and hygiene
facilities



3.2K MSMEs
across the agri-food, water,
and energy sectors gained
access to financing



Approximately 126K
smallholder farmers
use more productive and
resilient systems

*** 2014-2024 achievements*



Responding to the climate crisis

Ghana's abundant natural resources underpin its economy. However, unsustainable farming practices, deforestation, and illegal mining are destroying forests, soil health, and water resources. Climate change is bringing more extreme weather events, pests, and diseases, which threaten smallholder rainfed agriculture.

In response, the government is committed to strengthening resilience through sustainable land use, boosting agricultural production systems, conserving biodiversity, and supporting clean energy investment to reduce emissions.

SNV supports smallholder farmers in building the resilience of food and livestock production systems by promoting climate-resilient practices, improved seeds and breeds, timely climate information, and E-extension services. In addition, SNV supports resource mobilisation and data-driven decision-making for resilient livelihoods.

2SCALE II | Multi-country | 2019-25 | €50M

Towards Sustainable Clusters in Agri-Business through Learning in Entrepreneurship (2SCALE) advanced inclusive agribusinesses via public-private partnerships and capacity building, empowering youth and women, promoting green innovations, enhancing supply chain coordination, and bottom of the pyramid marketing across Sub-Saharan Africa.

In Ghana, 2SCALE worked with over 2,000 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to strengthen inclusive value chains. The programme empowered over 50,000 smallholder farmers to access vital inputs, created 24,000 non-farming jobs, and reached nearly 100,000 consumers with affordable, healthy food. Further, it mobilised €12 million in financial services and introduced eco-efficient farming practices across 46,000 hectares, contributing to sustainable sourcing and value chain coordination from farm to market.

Partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, BoPInc, IFDC, and SNV

PS3G | Northern region | Phase 1 ends 2026 | €4.22M

The Partnership for Sustainable Sorghum Sourcing in Ghana (P3SG) has facilitated climate-resilient agriculture and improved land management practices across 6,380 hectares of sorghum farmland in the northern regions. P3SG is helping to boost smallholder farmers' incomes by facilitating their access to a larger market, specifically by selling directly to suppliers contracted by Guinness Ghana Ltd. at a guaranteed minimum farm-gate price.

To date, PS3G has created over 140 jobs for youth and women, trained over 11,000 smallholder farmers and stakeholders in good agronomic practices, regenerative agriculture, and post-harvest management, and empowered MSMEs with entrepreneurial skills, business planning, and revenue forecasting. These gains support rural and youth empowerment through market-driven sourcing models that foster inclusive development across the sorghum value chain.

Partners: Guinness Ghana Breweries/Castel, Aggregations Businesses, SNV, Department of Agriculture, Financial Institutions, SARI, Seed Producers and Retailers, Equipment and inputs companies



Accelerating inclusive development

Ghana's pursuit of inclusive development remains constrained by structural inequalities across regions and social groups. While 90% of the population has access to [basic drinking water](#), coverage drops to 83% in [rural areas](#), where households spend an average of 22 minutes collecting water, and 31.3% still practise open defecation. At the same time, around 1.3 million young people are [unemployed](#), underscoring the scale of exclusion. These gaps disproportionately affect women, youth, and some communities, undermining health, productivity, and job creation, particularly in rural and climate-vulnerable areas. SNV supports national inclusion efforts through integrated programmes that link basic services, livelihoods, and social inclusion. By closing skills gaps, expanding access to finance, and promoting sustainable WASH and agricultural practices, SNV enables communities to increase productivity, build small businesses, and create meaningful jobs that advance health, gender equity, and inclusive economic growth.

GrEEn | Western and Ashantin Regions | 2020-23 | €10M

Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana (GrEEn) fostered self-employment and generated green jobs. A joint SNV-United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) initiative, GrEEn contributed to building the capacities of communities and entrepreneurs by addressing skills gaps, improving access to finance, and promoting job creation for youth, women, and people returning to Ghana.

GrEEn enhanced over 5,200 people's skills and employment prospects, including among young people, women, and returnees who accounted for 40% of all new jobs secured through job fairs. 72 MSMEs that benefited from business development grants saw profit margins increase by approximately 75%. Of these, 26 received additional training on product improvement and digital marketing, expanding their market reach.

Partners: European Union, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana, UNCDF, Ghanaian Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, IOM, and SNV

HF4A II | Upper west region | 2025-27 | €2.6M

Healthy Future for All (HF4A) enhances WASH practices and services for children under 15, who are especially vulnerable to diarrhoeal diseases, responsible for a quarter of deaths among under-fives. Inadequate WASH contributes to illness and school absenteeism, and for girls, missed classes during menstruation, perpetuating cycles of poverty.

Regionwide, 30,000 people now have access to safe drinking water. In the remote districts of Nandom and Lambussie, HF4A has delivered 45 boreholes (solar-powered and handpumps) and 25 disability-friendly, gender-segregated toilets in schools, communities, and healthcare facilities, alongside hygiene education for more than 4,500 children.

The initiative aims to construct 25 additional WASH facilities, prioritising girls' safety and privacy, and to improve health outcomes and well-being for a further 22,000 people.

Partners: Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, District Assemblies of Nandom and Lambussie, and SNV

"Compared to the old single facility, the SNV-supported washrooms are a major upgrade. They are disability-friendly, female-inclusive, with bathrooms and reliable water. This has greatly improved sanitation, privacy, and patient care at the clinic."

David Salormey
Health Services Administrator,
Hamile Polyclinic, UWR



Strengthening governance and institutions

Ghana's governance faces significant hurdles, including weak decentralisation, limited accountability, under-resourced local governments, and coordination gaps between institutions, which frequently delay or undermine service delivery. These challenges are compounded by conflicts over natural resources, such as land and water, where insecure land tenure and inadequate conflict resolution marginalise pastoralists, smallholder farmers, youth, and women. Additionally, the lack of effective multi-stakeholder inclusive platforms hinders transparent decision-making. Nevertheless, opportunities for improvement exist, such as in Ghana's Land Act (Act 1036), which seeks to strengthen land governance. SNV supports this by strengthening institutional coordination and community-led governance for inclusive land management and social stability. This approach includes training, enhancing evidence-based decision-making, partnering with the private sector, and fostering dialogue, all aimed at ensuring fair access to resources and reinforcing sustainable systems.

MOPSS II | Sahel Region including Northern Ghana | 2023-28 | €9.7M

The Peaceful Cross-Border Pastoral Mobility and Social Stability in the Sahel (MOPSS II) project enhances social cohesion in cross-border zones by strengthening local governance, supporting pastoral livelihoods, and building climate resilience. It trains stakeholders in conflict-sensitive communication and facilitates social cohesion by increasing access to water. The project has installed solar-powered boreholes, managed by water committees to ensure equitable access and community ownership. District assemblies in Kassena-Nankana West, Builsa North, and Builsa South now include pastoral mobility, land use, and resource governance in their development plans. Pastoralists are also being integrated into value chains, strengthening socio-economic and ecological resilience.

Partners: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Danish International Development Agency, and SNV

TLI | Eastern, Ashanti, and Greater Accra | 2022-25 | €3M

Transformative Land Investment (TLI) supported responsible land-based investments by aligning local governance with national regulations and sustainable food systems. Through its establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), TLI supported the development of the Legislative Instrument for the Land Act 2020, built stakeholder capacity to engage in large-scale land acquisitions, and enabled landowners to report investor non-compliance and seek legal redress. The MSP also produced a simplified version of the Land Act and a policy brief on incentives for responsible land investment for public education and awareness.

In parallel, TLI established a community of practice (CoP) among CSOs in the land sector, strengthening community capacity in accountability, advocacy, compliance with free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), and land tenure security.

Partners: Swiss Development Cooperation, SNV, CIFOR-ICRAF, Land Equity International, and RECOFTC



SNV is a global development partner deeply rooted in the African and Asian countries where we operate. With 60 years of experience and a team of approximately 1,600 people, we strengthen capacities and catalyse partnerships that transform agri-food, energy and water systems. Working on the core themes of gender equality and social inclusion, climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong institutions and effective governance, we tailor our approaches to different contexts to achieve large-scale impact and create sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

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Visit the SNV website for an overview of our projects in Ghana.

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that matters