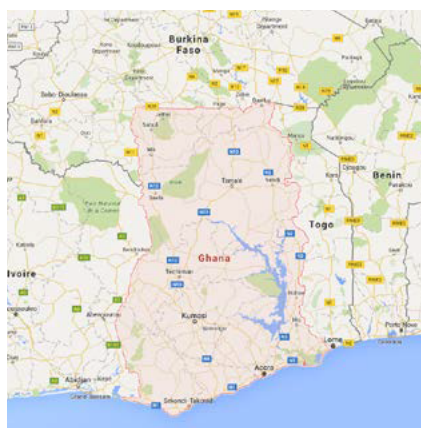


GHANA



Basic Indicators to the top

| | |
|--|--------|
| Under-5 mortality rank, 2013 | 36 |
| Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 1990 | 128 |
| Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 2014 | 60 |
| U5MR by sex 2014, male | 78 |
| U5MR by sex 2014, female | 62 |
| Infant mortality rate (under 1), 1990 | 80 |
| Infant mortality rate (under 1), 2014 | 41 |
| Neonatal mortality rate, 2014 | 29 |
| Total population (thousands), 2014 | 27,043 |
| Annual no. of births (thousands), 2015 | 884 |
| Annual no. of under-5 deaths (thousands), 2012 | 56 |
| GNI per capita (US\$), 2014 | 1,590 |
| Life expectancy at birth (years), 2014 | 61 |
| Total adult literacy rate (%) 2008-2012 | 71.5 |
| Primary school net enrolment ratio (%), 2014 | 89 |

SOURCES: UNICEF DATA. <https://data.unicef.org/country/gha/>.

| | |
|--|---|
| Partners in Brazil | Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (MDS) |
| Partners in Ghana | Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection |
| Objective of Cooperation | Strengthen, redesign and achieve governmental approval of social protection policy, and expand coverage of Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme to the most vulnerable populations |
| Component within Ghana National Plan of Action | Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda II, 2014-2017 key policy objectives to develop a comprehensive social development policy framework; improve the targeting mechanism of social protection interventions; enhance funding and cost-effectiveness in social protection delivery; and ensure availability of timely, reliable and disaggregated data for policy-making and planning. ²⁸ |

Situation of children

Ghana has almost halved its monetary poverty rate from 51.7 per cent in 1992 to 28.5 per cent in 2006. In 2011, the country had one of the fastest growing GDPs in the world. In 2010 it reached lower–middle income country status. This progress has brought about improved conditions for children, such as increased school enrolment, closing of the gender gap at the basic education level, and a decline in child mortality.²⁹ However, challenges still remain as a third of the 11 million children in Ghana still live in poverty. Inequality has increased between the poor regions of the north and the more prosperous south.³⁰ These disparities by location and population group greatly affect children born in the three northern regions of the country, where approximately 50 to 71 per cent of the population live in poverty without adequate coverage of basic services.³¹

Objective of cooperation

In 2008, the Government of Ghana launched the **Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)** programme to provide its people with a sustainable social protection mechanism. Inspired by Brazil's *Bolsa Família* LEAP is a cash transfer programme aimed at the most vulnerable and excluded groups and those living in extreme poverty. Its impacts can be seen in the areas of education, health, basic food needs, production and local economy. Some results include a 10 per cent decrease in grade repetition and a 34 per cent increase in children (aged 0-5) enrolled in the National Health Insurance Scheme.³² The LEAP programme grew rapidly each year so the Government sought Brazilian cooperation to understand

how to achieve political commitments for the sustainable expansion of LEAP, and to ensure that it reaches all vulnerable families in Ghana. By adequately expanding the programme, the Ghanaian Government sought to address the aforementioned regional and group disparities that affect children throughout the country. Specifically, the cooperation request aims to support processes to improve the programme's coverage, boost results and improve the quality of life of the Ghanaian population, through ensuring government commitment to social protection implementation. It hopes to achieve these goals via: increase access to health services; increase the number of children enrolled in school, as well as the attendance rate and grade retention in primary and secondary education; improve household consumption and nutrition; and facilitate access to complementary services to increase the productive capacity of Ghana's most vulnerable citizens.

Cooperation activities

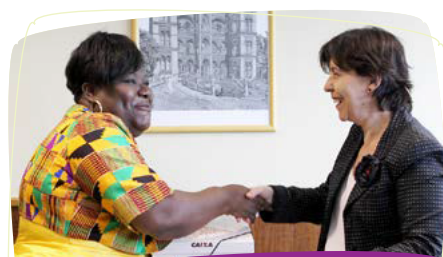
Brazil and Ghana have cooperated since 2007, when both countries were involved in the Brazil-Africa Cooperation Programme on Social Protection.³³ During this initial phase, experts from the Brazilian MDS visited Ghana to assist the design of the LEAP programme.

In 2014, the two countries renewed their cooperation to offer technical support for the expansion of LEAP, with a specific focus on children. UNICEF and ABC facilitated high-level ministerial exchanges with Ghana regarding the intersectoral approach to social protection programmes and the promotion of inclusive economic growth. These exchanges focussed on Brazil's experiences with *Bolsa Família*, its sustainability and its legal and political support. Initially, the Ghanaian Minister of State for Gender, Children and Social Protection and high-level representatives of the government travelled to Brazil in March 2014, to participate in the Ninth International Seminar on 'Social Policies for Development'. The visit focused on successful Brazilian social policies and included a field visit to a local social assistance centre.

Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)

LEAP is Ghana's flagship programme of the National Social Protection Strategy, which enables the most vulnerable families living in extreme poverty to meet basic needs in health, education, nutrition and empowerment. The cash transfer programme is designed as a safety net to the poorest populations in Ghana, including 2.2 million people living in extreme poverty. Launched in 2008, it is based on the Brazilian *Bolsa Família* and now reaches over 143,552 households in all regions of the country. An additional 50,000 households are expected to be enrolled onto the programme by the end of 2016. LEAP has contributed to reduce school absenteeism by 8 per cent and has significantly increased enrolment in school for children aged 3-17. Girls already in school experienced an improvement in their attendance, whereas boys experienced an increase in secondary school enrolment.

Video link: <http://bit.ly/1QdbTcC>



Nana Oye Lithur, Minister of Gender, Social Protection and Children of Ghana, meets Brazilian Minister of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Tereza Campello at Intl Seminar

The cooperation between the Brazilian Government and the Government of Ghana has contributed to the development and approval of the Ghana National Social Protection Policy, which was approved by the cabinet in 2015. Following this, the then minister of Social Development and Fight against Hunger, Márcia Lopes was invited to engage in high-level discussions on the importance of political commitment and structured frameworks for sustainable and functional social protection programmes.

Progress to date

Following the high-level mission to Brazil in March 2014, the Ghanaian Cabinet reviewed and approved a national policy on sustainable social protection in 2014. The policy established fundamental political commitment and dedicated funding. This step was a direct result of the lessons learned from the Brazilian experience, which demonstrated the need for solid political commitment in order to successfully deliver social programmes to effectively reach the most vulnerable children and families. Furthermore, LEAP coverage has expanded from 77,006 households in 2014 to 143,552 in 2015, representing an 86.4% increase.³⁴ Brazil responded to a request from the Ghanaian Parliament and pledged to continue its support to Ghana's implementation of innovative programmes and solutions for social protection and the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.



© Nyani Quarimye

2007

Brazil-Ghana cooperation to support creation of LEAP

2014

Formal request from Gvt. of Ghana received

MARCH: Ghanaian ministerial mission to Brazil for MDS seminar

NOVEMBER: Visit to Ghana of former MDS Minister Márcia Lopes

Ghanaian Cabinet approves national policy on sustainable social protection

2015

- 28 Government of Ghana, Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) II, 2014-2017, <http://bit.ly/1TY5w2J>
- 29 UNICEF Ghana, A Situation Analysis of Ghanaian Children and Women, 2011.
- 30 UNICEF, Estimating the Impact on Poverty of Ghana's Fuel Subsidy Reform and a Mitigating Response, <http://uni.cf/1o8sJ5X>, 2014.
- 31 UNICEF Ghana Country Programme Document, 2012-2016, <http://uni.cf/1RxVlKT>
- 32 Building a Better Future for the Extreme Poor in Ghana. The Case of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme, International Seminar Ghana-Brazil, <http://bit.ly/1TY8TXv>, March 2014.
- 33 The Brazil-Africa Cooperation Programme on Social Protection was financed by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and supported by the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth-IPC-IG of the UNDP. The initiative was launched during a study tour organized by the MDS and the DFID that gathered delegations from African countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, South Africa, Nigeria and Zambia) in Brasilia to exchange experiences in Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes. In the case of Ghana, the initial study tour to Brazil was followed by another three technical missions of representatives from MDS to Ghana in support of the development and implementation of the LEAP programme.
- 34 UNICEF Ghana, personal communication.