

FEBRUARY 2010

Welcome to the newsletter of the Department for International Development - the government department leading the UK's fight against global poverty.

This newsletter is designed to keep those in the UK with an interest in Ghana informed of the work we are doing to reduce poverty.

This edition gives an overview of the poverty challenge and what the UK is doing to help.

NEWSLETTER

ON UK DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

DFID IN GHANA

Ghana's goal is to reach middle income status by 2020. As the country prepares to enter the oil era, DFID aims to help Ghana increase its capacity to effectively manage its natural resources to reduce poverty, ensure equitable growth and target accelerated, sustainable, progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. International partners need to work together to support Ghana adapt to these challenges but, with the right support, there are significant opportunities for Ghana to ensure that it achieves its goals.

Over the course of 2008/09 DFID has contributed to:

- Ensuring 23,000 children under one year old were vaccinated against measles
- Providing antiretroviral treatment for 23,000 HIV patients
- Ensuring that more than 9 out of every 10 pregnant women attended at least one antenatal clinic
- Over 10 million Ghanaians (about half the population) registering for free medical treatment
- Provided emergency relief for an estimated 75,000 people affected by flooding
- Helped provide social security for 8,200 poor households
- Supported the participation of socially excluded groups in the 2008 elections.



Ghanaian child receiving polio vaccination

How we are working in Ghana

The UK is committed to helping Ghana meet its poverty reduction targets. In 2008 we signed a ten-year UK/Ghana Development Partnership Arrangement which outlines our vision of how we will work together.

The UK is Ghana's largest bilateral donor. Since 2001 DFID has provided over £600 million to government and grants to civil society.

Our plan for the next three years focuses on:

- Helping Ghana achieve the MDGs;
- Reducing inequalities between the different regions in Ghana;

- Improving the government's capacity to deliver services

We will achieve this by working closely with the Government of Ghana, local and international non-governmental organisations, and international development partners.

We also work closely on a range of issues, such as climate change, good governance, and education with the British High Commission and British Council. For more information about their work in Ghana, see:

<http://ukinghana.fco.gov.uk/en/>

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa.htm>



For more information about DFID Ghana, write to us at:

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Or visit:
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/where-we-work/africa-west-central/ghana/>



A Blue Skies employee cuts a pineapple

Juicy News

With a £250,000 grant from DFID, and support from UK partner Waitrose, Blue Skies Holdings are getting ready to launch Akwaaba, a range of high quality Ghanaian juices and smoothies.

Blue Skies sources its fruit from local suppliers, and produces its range of exotic juices in Ghana, creating local jobs and generating tax revenue for the Government of Ghana to spend on vital services like health and education.

Blue Skies will provide its farmer-suppliers with long-term financial and technical support to help them increase their capacity, whilst maintaining high quality standards and sustainable agricultural practices.

A sustainable future

Around 5% of Akwaaba's profits will go to the Blue Skies Foundation, which aims to improve the lives of farm workers and their communities by investing in area such as education, housing, health care, and sanitation.

UK assistance to this project was through the [Food Retail Industry Challenge Fund](#), which supports projects that help farmers in Africa to meet Fairtrade standards.



Nana Frimpomaa-Arhin
DFID Ghana's Private Sector Development Adviser

Ghana is open for business

Nana has been working with DFID Ghana for six years, but has been involved in private sector development for over a decade.

During her time with DFID, she has witnessed an expansion of services and the removal of barriers to trade in Ghana. This has made it easier to do business both locally and internationally. However, volatility of the economy has had a significant impact on those involved in import and export.

Further challenges remain: the economy is still heavily reliant on revenues from cocoa and gold, and innovation among small and medium enterprises is restricted by the regulations around doing business.

DFID support

DFID Ghana is providing £6.7 million towards a multi-donor project aimed at enhancing the business environment. This five year project (2005-2010) is fully aligned with Government of Ghana's Private Sector Development Strategy. Benefits of the project so far include:

- Establishing a commercial court to make it quicker and easier for businesses to enforce contracts;
- Halving the number of days it takes to start a business, from 81 (2006) to 42 (2009);
- Developing an interactive website for the Ghana Investment Promotion Council that gives businesses access to the latest information, Government incentives for investments and market opportunities. <http://investinghana.org/home.aspx>

The onset of oil is adding a further dimension to Nana's work. "The impact of oil revenue cannot be ignored. We are also interested in non-traditional export sectors such as fruits and handicrafts, which employ a vast number of ordinary Ghanaians."

Nana is one of 19 members of local staff who work in varying positions, and says: "It's one of the great things about working for DFID that local staff are able to grow and lead in key areas".

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