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GHANA

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The goal of USAID's Economic Growth program is to realize sustainable and broadly shared economic growth in Ghana.

OVERVIEW

Ghana faces significant challenges that pose a threat to its long-term economic growth. These include insufficient and unreliable supply of power, low access to credit and high borrowing costs, low agricultural productivity, weaknesses in the business climate that undermine private sector growth, regional income disparities, and constraints in regional trade.

INCREASING AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS

Ghana is a focus country under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's agriculture and food security initiative. USAID's Economic Growth Program focuses on boosting the productivity of rice, maize, and soy in northern Ghana, which is the poorest and most vulnerable region in Ghana. The program also engages women and strives to address the effects of climate change on food production.

- Introduced more than 100,000 farmers to improved seeds and technologies to plant more than 80,000 hectares of maize, rice, and soybean;
- Maize profits increased 81 percent, rice profits increased over 73 percent, and soy profits increased over 700 percent amongst beneficiaries in FY2015.

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STIMULATING PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

USAID supports macroeconomic policy reform, facilitates public-private dialogue on policy and regulation, helps farmers access markets and supports access to credit by guaranteeing bank loans.

- The Partnership for Growth facilitated the establishment of the Ghana Alternative Exchange (GAX) for small and medium enterprises to access alternative sources of finance;
- Facilitated \$38 million of financing to over 500 private sector businesses.

EXPANDING TRADE AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO MARKETS

USAID helps the private sector to access and supply domestic, regional and international markets, and links smallholder farmers to domestic, regional, and international markets. In addition, USAID works with companies to improve market information, meet required food safety and health standards, and improve their technology and environmental practices.

- Linked more than 180 outgrower businesses to markets;
- Work with the Government of Ghana to promote trade facilitation, remove technical barriers to trade, and encourage policies to promote regional trade and attract investment.

REBUILDING FISH STOCKS

USAID works with local communities and district governments to protect ecosystems and fisheries in the Western Region in order to protect incomes and prevent the depletion of fish stocks.

- Supporting the implementation of Ghana's National Marine Fisheries Management Plan, which contains initiatives that will reduce the strain on fish stocks such as capping of fleet sizes and establishing a closed season;
- Supporting the establishment of the Centre for Coastal Management at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, which is pioneering demand-driven research and community services for building more resilient coastal communities;
- Supporting short-and long-term training in fisheries and coastal management.

INCREASING CAPACITY AND ELECTRICITY ACCESS

Through the U.S. Government Power Africa Initiative, USAID works with the Government of Ghana to increase its generation capacity and electricity access, and define and implement institutional, regulatory, financial and commercial strategies in the development of the oil, gas, and power sectors.

- Supporting transactions to add about 2000 MW to Ghana's grid, increasing current capacity by about 60 percent, and extend electricity access to about 1.2 million new customers;
- Assisting the Government of Ghana to improve planning, pricing, and efficiency of power sector, and natural resource management for reduced environmental impact;
- Supported the Government of Ghana in implementing a Gas development and supply for thermal generation, and enabling it to sign the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact II for the reform of electricity distribution utilities.