



Ghana

Country Fact Sheet 2023

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 **IOM**
UN MIGRATION

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration office.

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1 Health Care

General information on health care

In Ghana, health care is provided privately and publicly. The government provides most of the health care in the country, while most of the administration is done by the Ghana Health Services and the Ministry of Health. Primary care within the health care system of Ghana takes place in health posts, followed by bigger health centers, hospitals on district level, hospitals on regional level, and tertiary hospitals.

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Ghana has both private and public medical facilities in all its regions. Private medical facilities are generally more expensive than the public ones. Generally speaking, urban areas tend to be better served than rural areas. It is not uncommon to travel greater distances for health care if living in rural areas.

Admissions to medical facilities

It is recommended that the returnee signs up for national health insurance as soon as he or she returns to Ghana. The health insurance covers basic health care needs in all public and some private hospitals. Please refer to the relevant website: <http://www.nhis.gov.gh/benefits.aspx>. It is important to note that not all private medical institutions accept the national health insurance and that certain drugs and specific services may not be covered by it. The cost of public health insurance coverage is approximately EUR 5 (GHS 30) per year. For more information, please visit <http://www.nhis.gov.gh/membership.aspx>. Anybody can walk

into a health facility and be attended to with or without an ID. However, to benefit from health insurance you will need to register with any national ID and pay the annual premium. A few persons are exempt from paying for the public insurance scheme (they are listed under above link on membership). For public insurance you can register at any public hospital or designated registration site. For private insurance one must visit a provider's office in person to register. Ghana has a walk-in policy for all medical facilities. You do not book an appointment for outpatient services but will have to wait for your turn once you are there. If you need specialized or in-patient care, you need to book an appointment. For the major hospitals like Korle Bu you will need to get a referral from a doctor or other medical institution. You can either pay cash or use an insurance card.

Availability and costs of medication

Medication is generally available in Ghana. The cost of medication depends on the brand of drug. Public hospitals tend to offer cheaper alternatives. For AVRR cases the availability of medication should be cross checked with IOM Ghana on a case by case basis.

1 Health Care

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Anybody can walk into a health facility and be attended to with or without an ID. However, to benefit from health insurance you will need to register with any national ID and pay the annual premium. A few persons are exempt from paying for the public insurance scheme (they are listed under above link on membership).

Registration procedure: For public insurance you can register at any public hospital or designated registration site. For private insurance one must visit a provider's office in person to register.

Required documents: It depends on the type of insurance done and the individual service providers requirements. The national ID is necessary.



Photo: IOM Ghana; Angela Bortey

2 Labour Market

General information on labour market

In 2023, the unemployment rate in Ghana was at 14.88 percent according to the Ghana Statistical Service report. The same institution revealed that 13.4 percent of the total working population in the age of 15 years and more, were unemployed in the first quarter of 2022.

The minimum wage in Ghana is GHC 14.88 equivalent to EUR 1.3 per day. Most of the working population is employed in the informal sector. Young persons are particularly prone to unemployment and underemployment even if well educated. The most important (informal) job provider in Ghana is agriculture. According to the world bank, it's the main stay of the Ghanaian economy. <https://www.world-bank.org/en/country/ghana/publication/ghana-economic-update-agriculture-ghana-s-engine-of-growth-for-jobs-creation> Other important employment opportunities are services (sales, transport, hair dressing, tailoring, etc.) and - to a lesser extent - industry (mining, oil, food processing, light manufacturing, etc.)

Finding employment

The Public Employment Centres (PEC) under the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations are mandated to provide job seeking assistance. Since 2019, the Government launched the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) with the intent to fill complement the PEAs efforts in providing job matching services. Please refer to: <https://www.yea.gov.gh/>.

Unemployment assistance

For general unemployment assistance any person (migrant or not) can visit the PECs under the Labour Department or the YEA to register. They both provide CV enhancement and job matching services for the public. There are also Private Employment Agencies (PEAs) that provide job matching services at a fee. The State, however, does not provide special financial assistance to returnees or unemployed persons.

Further education and training

Several educational institutions exist in Ghana, both informal and formal. Technical training can be accessed from institutions such as the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) or the Council for Technical and Vocational Educational Training (COTVET). For more information kindly visit the NVTI website, www.nvitghana.org.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: For general unemployment assistance any person (migrant or not) can visit the PECs under the Labour Department to register or the YEA. There are also Private Employment Agencies (PEAs) that provide job matching services at a fee. There are no restrictions in assessing PECs, YEA or PEAs.

Registration procedure: Any person seeking employment can register at the above-mentioned institutions in his/her region.

Required documents: The required documents include School Certificates, CVs and ideally a national ID Card.

2 Labour Market



3 Housing

General information on housing

Rent costs largely depend on the type of accommodation and the location. Rents in the city for a single self-contained room would cost an average of EUR 83 (GHS 1000) per month. It is common to pay 1 or 2 years of rent in advance. Electricity and water are on a prepaid basis and relatively expensive compared to the cost of living. Demand for accommodation is quite high and far exceeds supply. It is not easy to find accommodation, especially in urban areas. However, the further away from the urban centers, the less the cost of living. Ghana does not have special housing facilities for returnees and no social housing system is available.

Finding accommodation

Finding accommodation is usually done informally through friends and family members. One can also contact informal property agents who charge a service fee of 10% of the total rent of two years. For high-end apartments one will have to contact a formalized real estate agent. Their services are regulated and expensive. They usually charged in in USD.

Social grants for housing

Ghana does not provide grants for housing. There are however a few institutions such as the Ghana Home Loans and other financial institutions that give mortgages. Clients however must have a stable and formal employment to benefit from the mortgage facilities. Interests on mortgages are high.

Access for returnees

Temporary housing assistance: Shelters exist for only Victims of Trafficking and child migrants. . Patronizing the shelter is on referral basis and comes at a fee, mainly for feeding and utility. This could be negotiated with the shelter prior to arrival.

Social housing: Ghana does not have a Social Housing System.

Required documents: For VoTs and official letters is sent to the Ministry of Genders and Children's Affairs.

3 Housing



Photo: Unsplash, Virgil Sowah / 2019

4 Social Welfare

Social Welfare System

Besides the governmental system there are traditional systems of Social Protection which are based on the help and support of the extended family.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Every one is eligible for social welfare assistance.

Registration procedure: Apart from pensions all social welfare packages are handled by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. Persons will have to visit the office to be interviewed and registered.

Required documents: National ID card, Voters ID or Passport.

Pension System

Pensions is a percentage of wage. The worker contributes 5.5% of wage towards the national pensions. If the worker is in the informal sector, he/she contributes, voluntarily the total 18.5% or can negotiate a percentage of his/her wages to be deducted. The National Health Insurance is as stated in the health section. National social security scheme contributors and pensioners are exempted from the annual premium for the National Health Insurance Scheme although they will have to register to benefit. The scheme does not provide child allowance. Government social security trust has a primary duty to collect contributions to pay pensions and other benefits as they as soon as one turns 65.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: All returnees can access the SSNIT Pensions Scheme. The minimum age to enter the SSNIT is 15.

Registration procedure: Please find registration procedure in the link <https://www.ssnit.org.gh/>.

Required documents: For information kindly access the website <https://www.ssnit.org.gh/>.

4 Social Welfare



5 Education

General information on education

The national education system in Ghana is divided into the following levels of education: primary education, as defined by the country, begins at age 6 and has a duration of 6 years. The entry age of lower secondary education (Junior high school) is 12 years, and it lasts 3 years. These two levels combined comprise basic education. Upper secondary education (Senior high school) begins at 15 years old and has a duration of 4 years. Tertiary or post-secondary education begins at age 19.

Coast, loans and stipends

Student loans are available for tertiary students under the Social Security Trust Fund Student Loan Scheme. Please find more information on their website <https://www.ssnit.org.gh/faqs/what-is-the-students-loan-scheme/> Students Loan Trust Fund also provides loans for Tertiary education. More information can be got on their website, www.slrf.gov.gh. Public education from nursery to Secondary School is free.

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

The National Accreditation Board is responsible for evaluating and establishing the equivalence of local and foreign qualifications. For processes please refer to their website <http://www.nab.gov.gh/>.

Access for returnees

Registration procedure: Ghana, everyone has access to both public and private educational facilities. There is usually an entrance examination to determine the grade level of the pupil or student entering a new school. Entrance procedures are no different for returnees. Cost of education in public schools from basic to secondary school level is free for all.

Required documents: A birth certificate and if needed transcripts from previous schools.

5 Education



Photo: IOM Ghana, Juliane Reissig/ 2021

6 children

General Situation of children and migrants

Children in Ghana are protected by the Children's Act, 1998 – Act 560 and the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. Social status does not affect a child's access to health care or education. All persons are equal under the law irrespective of migrant status. Ghana signed the Convention of the Rights of the Child on 29th January 1990 and one week later, on 5th February 1990, Ghana became the first country in the world to ratify the treaty – committing to adopt it into national law. Ghana is also party to the Children's Charter, adopted on the 11th of July 1990 and came into effect in 1999. It was developed to emphasize the specific issues, cultural values and experiences impacting the African Child.

(Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

There are several (non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights in Ghana. Amongst the most active are:

World Vision International. World Vision is a religious development, relief, and advocacy organization with a special focus on children and families. It works with some of the most vulnerable communities through empowerment. For more information, visit www.wvi.org or call +233 30 222 7216.

Ghana Coalition on the Rights of the Child. The NGO focusses on the promotion and protection of children's rights in Ghana, including fighting slavery.

They partner with several development partners and civil society organizations. For more information visit <http://crighana.org/> or call +233 30 250 3744.

Child Rights International. The NGO is working on the promotion and protection of children's rights. Also, they focus on the realization of a positive development of children's general situation in the country. For more information visit <http://crighana.org/> or call +233 30 250 3744.

Plan International. The organization is independently working on humanitarian issues and development. They stress the importance on their work with girls and young women. For more information visit <https://plan-international.org/ghana>.

Compassion International Ghana. A Christian organization which focusses on advocacy and the empowerment of children. They provide physical, emotional and economic relief through and are affiliated with the church. For more information visit www.compassion.com or call +233 20 264 2506.

Access for returnees

Entry requirements: For day care they might as for immunization cards and birth certificates. This however does not prevent one from accessing health care or education.

Immediate steps upon return: None.

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Contacts

Ghanaian-European Centre
for Jobs, Migration and
Reintegration
Reintegration assistance
Starlets 91, Rd
+233 (0) 556758516
migrationadvicecentregha-
na@giz.de

Caritas Ghana
Charity
National Catholic Secretariat,
P.O. Box KA 9712, Airport
+233 (0) 307 010 368
szan@ighmail.com Internet:
www.caritas-ghana.org

Challenging Heights
NGO, human trafficking,
children
Box KN 1979, Kaneshie
+233 (0) 24 451 5761
info@challengingheights.org
https://challengingheights.
org

BOK Africa Foundation
NGO, social justice, rural
development
P.O Box SY458
+233 (0) 278 657 690
bokafrica@gmail.com

FYSSO Ghana
NGO, human trafficking,
children
P. O. Box SK 117 Sogakofe-Volta
Region
+233 (0) 200360144
info@fyssoghana.org

Ministry of Employment and
Labour Relations
Government body
P.O.Box M84
Ministries, Accra
+233 (0) 577701808
info@melr.gov.gh Internet:
http://www.melr.gov.gh

National Health Insurance
Scheme
Government body
No. 36-6th Avenue, Opposite
AU Suite, Ridge Residential
Area, Accra
+233 (0) 302 238136 /216970
info@nhia.gov.gh Internet:
http://www.nhis.gov.gh

Labour Department
Government body
+233 (0) 302 664 511
chieflabour@yahoo.com
www.labourdepartment.gov.gh

Petra Trust
Pensions
P.O.Box CT3194 Cantonments
Accra113, Airport West
Dzorwulu, Accra
+233 (0) 302740963
+233 (0) 242435037
info@petratrust.com
www.petratrust.com

Social Security and National
Insurance Trust
Insurance
+233 (0) 302 611 622
0800 1100 94
contactcentre@ssnit.org.gh
www.ssnit.org.gh
http://www.website.org

Nationwide Health Insurance
Health
No. 21, Independence Avenue
Ridge Vanguard House 2nd
Floor
+233 (0) 302 22 6892
info@nationwidemh.com
www.nationwidemh.com

Ghana HR Solutions
Employment
1st Otwe Street, Labadi Road,
Accra
+233 (0) 302797657
www.ghanahrsolutions.com

Quick Fix
Housing
12 Nii Amaah Ollenu Street,
Airport West Address
+233 (0) 302 764 998
info@quickfixpm.com
Internet: www.quickfixpm.
com

Labor Power Recruitment &
Staffing Solutions Ltd
Employment
Rev. Dagadu Street, commu-
nity 10, Tema
+233 (0) 303 309039
www.laborpowerltd.com

Youth Employment Agency (YEA)
Employment, youth
Liberation Towers, Castle Road,
Ridge, Accra
info@yea.gov.gh
Digital Address: GA-052-9469

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Contacts

Nyaho Medical Center
Medical facility
35 Kofi Annan St, Airport
Residential Area,
Accra, Ghana
+233 (0) 30-708-6490
info@nyahomedical.com
<https://www.nyahomedical.com>

Komfo Anokye Teaching
Hospital
Medical facility
Kumasi
+233 (0) 266083585
info@kathhsp.org
<http://www.kathhsp.org/>

University of Ghana Medical
Center
Medical facility
P. O. Box 77, Korle Bu
+233 (0) 302-674-066
info@kbth.gov.gh
<https://kbth.gov.gh/>

Korlebu Teaching Hospital
(also psy. Department)
Medical facility
P. O. Box 77, Korle Bu Tel.: +233
(0) 302-674-066 Email: info@
garh.gov.gh
<https://kbth.gov.gh/>

Greater Accra Regional Hospital
Medical facility
AP. O. Box GP 473
Address Line 2
+233 (0) 302428460
info@garh.gov.gh
<https://garh.gov.gh/>

Cape Coast Teaching Hospital
Medical facility
P.O. Box: CT 1363, Cape Coast
+233 (0) 201380902
info@cctghghana.org
<http://www.cctghghana.org/>

Eastern Regional Hospital
Medical facility
+233 (0) 30420 23021
Email: info@erhk.org
Internet: <http://erhk.org/>

World Vision International
Relief for children, religious
Kotei Robertson St, Accra
+233 (0) 30 222 7216
www.wvi.org

Ghana Coalition on the Rights
of the Child
NGO, children's rights and
protection
+233 (0) 30 276 8551

Child Rights International
NGO, children's rights and
protection
50 Odum Rd, Accra
+233 (0) 30 250 3744
<http://crighana.org/>

Plan International
NGO, development, children,
girls
<https://plan-international.org/ghana>

Compassion International
Relief for children, church
affiliated
Seed House (1st & 2nd Floor)
33 Westland Boulevard,
Madina
+233 (0) 20 264 2506
www.compassion.com

Challenges Ghana
NGO-Reintegration/Business
Training
6/14 Koi Street,
Osu Ako-Adjei,
Accra-Ghana
ghana@thechallengesgroup.com

MIDWAY Clinic
+233 548 348 900 / +233
302 950 173
Email:
info@midwayclinicgh.com
Post:P.O. Box 12104, Accra
North, Accra - Ghana

Migrant assistance in Ghana

The Virtual Counselling project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Germany. Migrants living in Germany who are considering a return are offered return and reintegration counselling by IOM staff in Ghana. Local IOM staff can be contacted in English through online messengers.

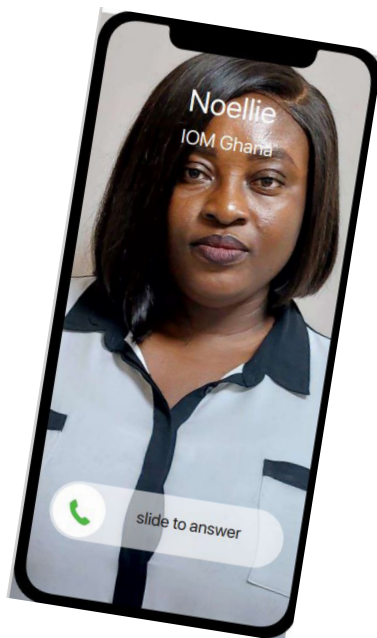
This service aims to empower migrants to return in dignity by informing them about various return and reintegration options and assistance programmes.

Migrant assistance in Ghana

WhatsApp:

+233 50 157 9799

+233 50 129 5271



8 At a glance

Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Documents:** Make sure to have all documents relating to return and reintegration, including a copy of the Travel Certificate (TC) or passport.
- **Accommodation:** Organize for overnight stay if final destination is outside the capital city, Accra.
- **Reintegration:** Get contact number of IOM operations staff (for airport assistance,) and/or AVRR mobile number.
- **Covid:** Make sure you are fully vaccinated with the approved COVID vaccination. If you have not been vaccinated you will be required to produce a negative PCR test and might be asked to take the vaccine at the airport.

Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Travel certificate:** If Travel Certificate (TC) is used for return, the returnee should ask for a copy at the immigration desk. In some cases, the original is taken from them by immigration upon arrival. Make sure to contact IOM within two weeks after arrival.
- **Health:** Make sure to get a health insurance card (cannot be used for banking).
- **Documents:** Make sure to get a Ghana card as soon as possible as it is the only official documentation for banking services. Voters ID; driver's license, and a passport are the most important documents to navigate daily life and meet basic necessities.

Learn more at:

www.returningfromgermany.de/en/countries/ghana



Federal Office
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