



Homeland Ghana
Educational Foundation

EDUCATION INGHANA

A **Fact Sheet** For Understanding And Action

Updated
2025



WHY EDUCATION MATTERS :

Ghana has made important progress in expanding access to education. But for many children—especially in rural areas and among the poorest communities—education remains an unfinished promise.

Our work is focused on strengthening basic education in Ghana: the critical years from kindergarten through junior high school. This is where lifelong outcomes are shaped, where learning gaps begin or are closed, and where the foundation for equality is laid.

GHANA AT A GLANCE :

 Population: 34.1 million (2025 est.)

 Geographical Area: 238,533 sq km

 Official Language of Instruction: English

 Literacy Rate: 81.5% (2025 est., World Bank)

STRUCTURE OF BASIC EDUCATION :

- ✓ 2 years of Kindergarten
- ✓ 6 years of Primary School
- ✓ 3 years of Junior High School
- ✓ Compulsory Education Age: 6–15 years
- ✓ Academic Calendar: August to May (may vary year to year)

THE EDUCATION PATHWAY :

LEVEL	AGE RANGE	FOCUS
Kindergarten	4–6	Early language, social development, pre-literacy
Primary School	6–12	Literacy, numeracy, science, civic understanding
Junior High	12–15	Foundational academic and technical preparation
Senior High/TVET	15–18	General, technical, vocational, and agricultural tracks

After completing Junior High School, students sit the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), which determines placement into Senior High School or Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions

At the Senior High level, students take the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

CHALLENGES IN BASIC EDUCATION :

While policies are in place to ensure access to free basic education, implementation remains uneven, especially in low-income and rural communities.

KEY CHALLENGES INCLUDE :

- **Infrastructure:** Many schools lack adequate classrooms, toilets, and learning materials.
- **Teacher shortages:** Particularly in rural regions, qualified teachers are often unavailable or unsupported.
- **Gender disparities:** Girls, especially from the poorest households, face greater risks of dropping out due to early marriage, pregnancy, or domestic responsibilities.
- **Economic barriers:** Though tuition is free, associated costs (uniforms, transportation, supplies) remain prohibitive for some families.
- **Dropout rates:** Nearly 1 in 4 children do not complete primary school, and only about 49% complete secondary education (UNICEF, 2024).



INEQUALITY IN OUTCOMES :

The gap between wealthier and poorer children remains significant:

- Children from the wealthiest families are over seven times more likely to complete secondary school than those from the poorest households.
- Girls from the poorest quintile average just 4 years of schooling, compared to 13 years for girls from the wealthiest

These disparities not only limit individual opportunities—they reinforce cycles of poverty, particularly in rural communities.

OUR FOCUS :

Our work is centered on improving the quality and accessibility of basic education.

This includes:

- Supporting early-grade literacy and numeracy, where learning gaps often begin
- Providing teacher training and development in under-resourced schools
- Improving school infrastructure and learning environments
- Promoting inclusive education for girls and children with disabilities
- Encouraging community and parent engagement in education

We collaborate closely with local schools, communities, and educational authorities to ensure our interventions are relevant, sustainable, and rooted in local priorities.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW :

Pre-Primary & Primary (KG–P6):

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Natural and Environmental Science
- Creative Arts
- “Our World, Our People” (Citizenship Education)
- Reading and Writing in both English and local language (in early years)



Junior High School (JHS 1–3):

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Integrated Science
- Social Studies
- Basic Design & Technology
- ICT
- Ghanaian Language
- Religious and Moral Education

WHAT'S NEXT :

Education in Ghana has potential. But to fulfill that potential, the system must work for every child—regardless of gender, income level, or geography.

Progress is possible. We see it every day in classrooms where a child learns to read for the first time, where a girl decides to stay in school, or where a teacher gains new tools to engage their students.

That's why we do this work. That's why it matters.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

We invite you to:



Learn more and share
what you've learned



Collaborate with us through
funding, partnerships, or
advocacy



Stay engaged in the ongoing
effort to make education in
Ghana more equitable and
effective

Together, we can help ensure that every child has the opportunity not
just to attend school—but to learn, grow, and thrive there.



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