



# GHANA

*COI Briefing at ZAR,  
Nov. 3, 2020*

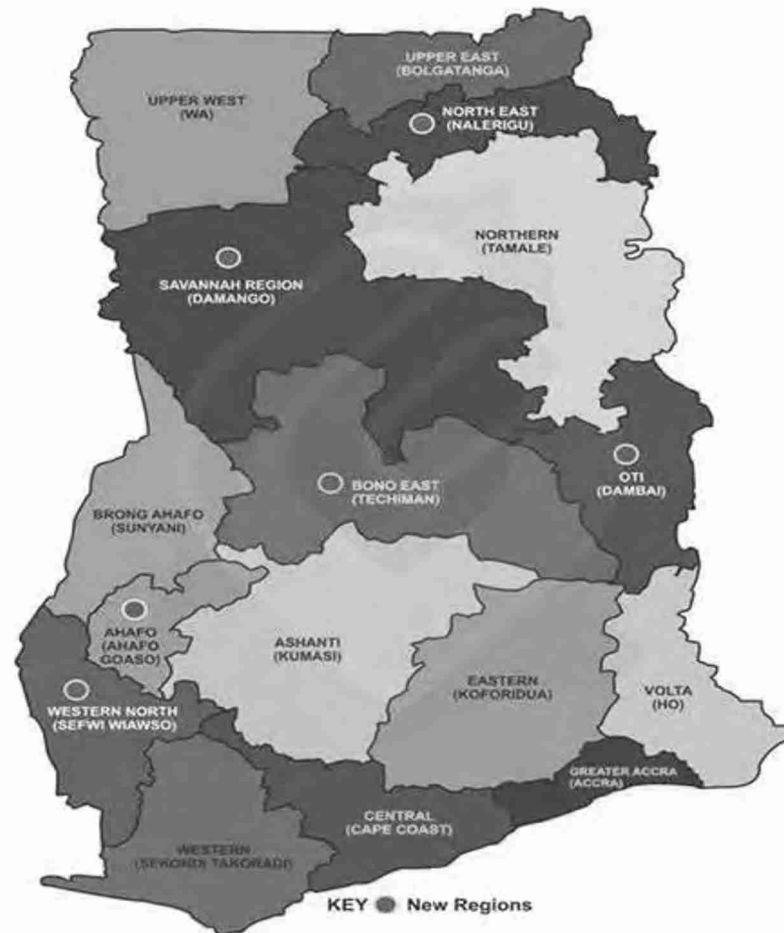
*By the RAIO Research  
Unit*



# Neighboring Countries



# 16 Administrative Regions (from 10 to 16 in 2016)



# General Information

Capital: Accra

Population: 29,340,248 (July 2020 est.)

Size: slightly smaller than Oregon

Languages: English (official); indigenous language

Life Expectancy: 63.8 years (2019)

Literacy: 76.6% (2015)

GDP; GDP per capita: \$69.76 billion; \$2,270 (2020)

Key Exports: Oil, gold, cocoa, timber, tuna, minerals, diamonds

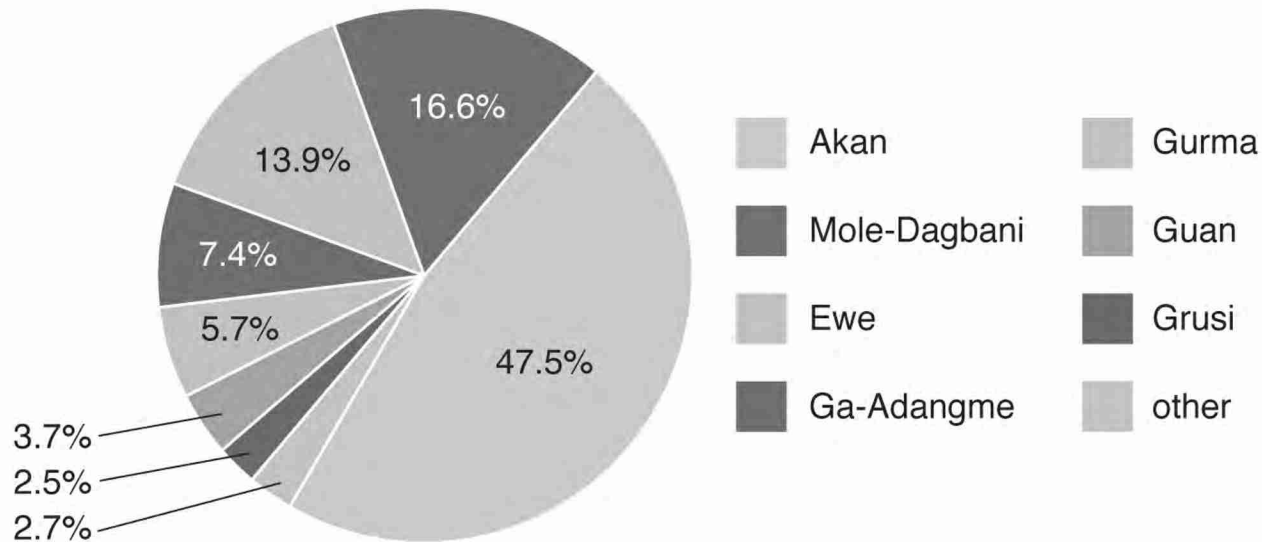
HDI Ranking: 142 of 189 (2019)

Dual Citizenship: allowed

Source: Map and facts from [CIA](#), GDP from [IMF](#), HDI and Life Expectancy from [UNDP](#).

# Ethnic/Linguistic Groups

## Ethnic composition (2010)

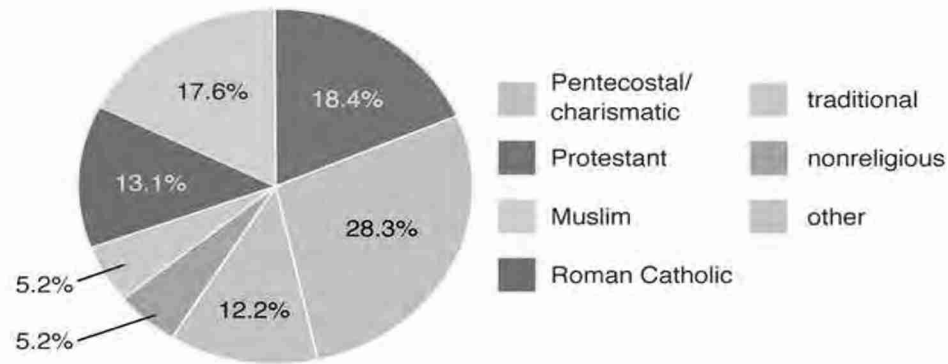


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There is no evidence that the government targets individuals on account of their ethnicity or language.

# Religious Affiliation (2010)

Religious affiliation (2010)



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No evidence that government targets individuals on account of their religion

# Treatment of LGBT People

- Widespread discrimination and abuse both in public and in family settings—LGBT are often victims of family violence...” (HRW, 2018)
- Violent attacks, discrimination in education, and a climate of homophobia. (Submission to the 117th Session of the Human Rights Committee, June-July 2016)
- Hate speech against LGBTI by some religious and political leaders and the media. (Amnesty International, 2019)

# Treatment of LGBT People (continued)

- Intimidation, arbitrary arrest, and blackmail and lack of access to remedies for such violations.” (UN Special Rapporteur, 2018)
- Stigma and discrimination against LGBT people undermines their ability to find meaningful work. (UN Special Rapporteur, 2018)
- Landlords and tenants urged to report anyone they suspected to be LGBT.
- Ghana Gay Blackmail List, which exposes “notorious persons who steal, abuse & blackmail gay men.”



# Same-sex Relationships are Criminalized

- Listed among sexual offenses under the 1960 criminal code, Chapter 6, section 104
- The law is a colonial legacy and doesn't explicitly refer to LGBT but is interpreted as such.
- Listed under the name “the crime of unnatural carnal knowledge,” which is defined as “sexual intercourse with a person in an unnatural manner or with an animal.”

# Government Officials Attitudes towards LGBT People

- President Akufo-Addo: “This government has no plans to change the law on same-sex marriage.” 2017
- Speaker of Parliament Mike Oquaye: “ I would rather resign than subscribe to these delusions [referring to gay rights legislation].” 2018
- Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament Bagbin: “Homosexuality is worse than [an] atomic bomb...there is no way we will accept it in (this) country.” 2018

# General Negative Attitude towards LGBT People

- According to a 2018 survey, approximately 60 percent of citizens “strongly disagree” or “disagree” that LGBTI persons deserve equal treatment with heterosexuals. (US Country Reports 2019)
- Posting at the airport until May 2016: The posting further warned: “Ghana imposes extremely harsh penalties on such sexually aberrant behavior....If you are in Ghana for such activity, then for everybody’s good, including your own, we suggest you go elsewhere.”

# Cases of LGBT People Being Caught in the Act

- Entertainment personality (Albert Appiah, a.k.a Kinto) beaten by a mob after he was allegedly caught attempting to have intimate relations with fellow man.
- Two men arrested after having been caught during a homosexual act in Amasaman, in Accra.
- Two students of St Paul's Boys High School in Denu, a small town in south-eastern Ghana, attacked by fellow students who caught them having sex
- Two men were arrested and forced to pose naked after they were caught having sex in Accra hotel.
- Three boys suspended from school following a 'caught-in-the-act' report."

# Cases of LGBT People Being Caught in the Act (Continued)

- Three girls reported, arrested, jeered at by a crowd, intimidated by police, kicked out of their soccer training camp, and rejected by their families. All for being suspected of homosexuality. (HRW, 2018).
- “A mother of a young woman organized a mob to beat up her daughter and another woman because she suspected they were lesbians and in a same-sex relationship. The two young women were forced to flee the village.” (HRW 2018)
- August 2005, a lesbian obtained arrested in Accra for "luring an 18-year-old girl into lesbianism." Refworld 2006

# Steps to Protect LGBT People

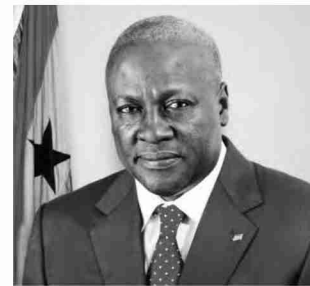
- “Police officials and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) have taken some steps to protect LGBT people.” (HRW, 2018).
- No reports of convictions for LGBT-related “offenses.”
- A coalition of LGBTI-led organizations from throughout the country, officially registered in November 2018. (US Country report 2019).
- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) has been vocal for Ghanaian LGBTs.
- Apparent existence of local LGBT organizations: LGBT+ Rights Ghana and The Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana

# Political Stability

- “Since 1992, Ghana has held competitive multiparty elections and undergone peaceful transfers of power between the two main political parties.” (Freedom House 2020)
- “Ghana continues to be seen as one of the most democratic countries in Africa.” (2020 World Press Freedom Index).
- “International and domestic observers generally praised the 2016 parliamentary and presidential elections. The NPP captured 169 seats, while the NDC, which held a majority going into the vote, took the remaining 106 seats.” (Freedom House 2020)

# Ghana: one of the few Stable Countries

- No record of civil war
- Peaceful transfer of power since the 1990s (see the last 3 presidents)
- Home for refugees from neighboring countries



H.E. PROF. JOHN EVANS ATTA MILLS  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA



# Overall Government's Human Rights Record

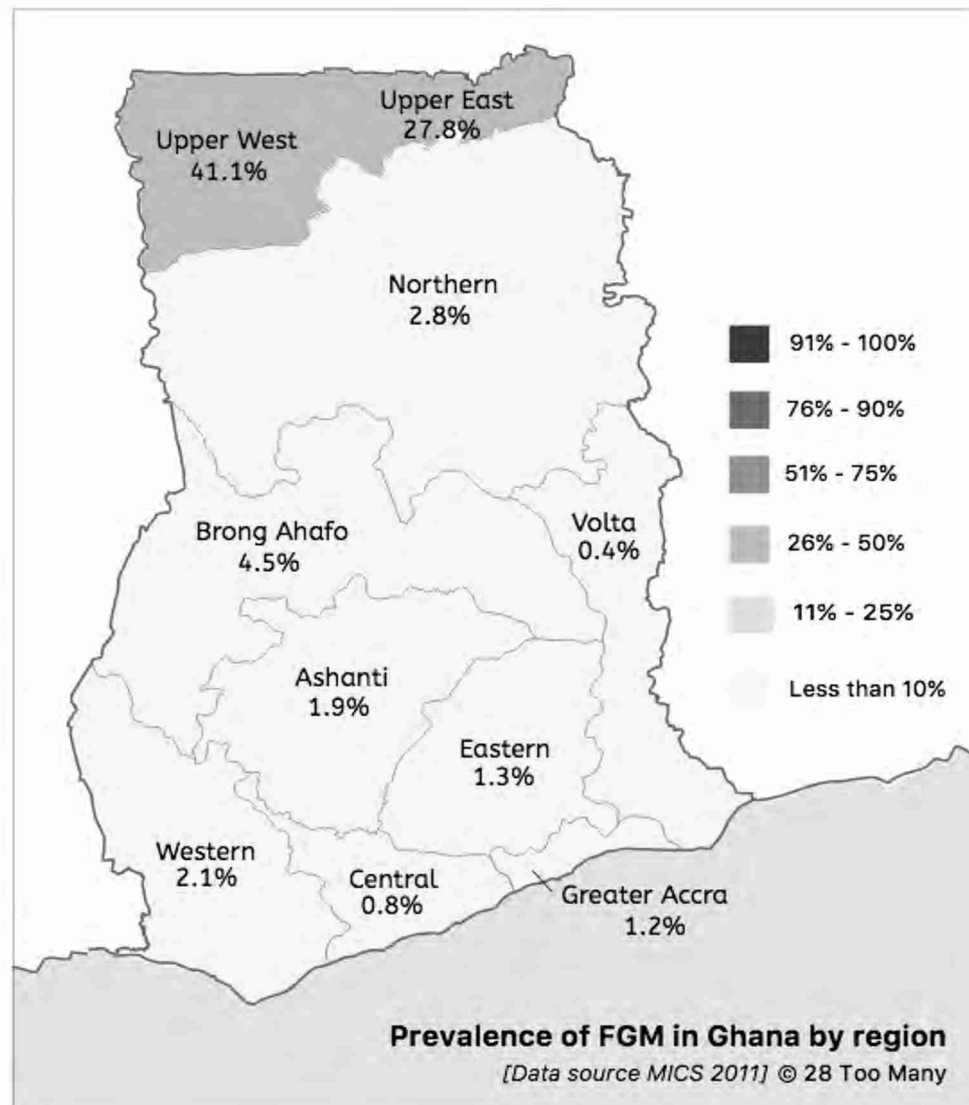
- There were no reports of disappearances by or on behalf of government authorities...There were a few reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings. In some cases authorities claimed the victims were suspected robbers. (US Country Report 2019)
- Ranked 30<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries surveyed in the 2020 report on freedom of speech. (2020 World Press Freedom Index)
- Ranked as FREE in the 2020 Freedom in the World (Freedom House)

# Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Girls usually undergo FGM before the age of 5
- 84% of FGM cases are carried out by traditional practitioners called *wanzams*
- FGM has been illegal since 1994
- Limited cases of prosecutions
- 94.2% of women aged 15-49 believe FGM practice should be stopped

# Prevalence of FGM

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15-49 is 3.8%.



# Questions?

- Q&A session
- If you have more questions, please submit them to the RAIIO Research Unit, [RAIOResearch@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:RAIOResearch@uscis.dhs.gov)