

## Ghana Brief

### Context

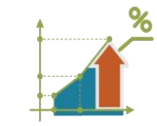
The **Feed the Future (FtF) Ghana Policy LINK Activity** is a five-year project supporting the Government of Ghana and policy actors as they implement evidence-based, inclusive development processes. The GoG is working to consolidate its social and economic advancements, in part by transforming the agriculture and food security system—a focus of “Ghana Beyond Aid” and pivotal to broad-based economic growth.

The government views improving the agriculture sector, which is characterized by low production and productivity, as a means to increase employment, address income and social inequalities, reduce poverty, improve food security, and contribute to improved nutrition. To accomplish this transformation, Ghana is transitioning from a largely government-led and implemented policy development paradigm to an evidence-based, inclusive, and coordinated policy development process.

### Landscape of Ghana

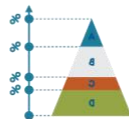
#### GHANA AT A GLANCE

Over the past 20 years



**6.65%**

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate from 2000 to 2019.



**23.4%**

of the population live below the poverty line as of 2019.



**50%**

of the population

Women, still experience inequitable access to land, agricultural inputs, financing, family planning, and health care, resulting in economic and social imbalances.



**57%**

of the population is made up of youth who have not reaped the full benefits of Ghana's impressive economic growth. They currently, face high unemployment rates (13.7% of youth aged 15-24).



### Challenges

The Government faces numerous challenges in its efforts to implement effective policy, including for the agriculture sector. The two main challenges are inadequate levels and quality of public investment in agriculture and a lack of inclusive policy making systems.

“Ghana Beyond Aid” seeks to realign the policy making process in Ghana through behavior change and a complete paradigm shift from the current government-led approach. This has been echoed in the USAID Ghana Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) 2020-2025, which seeks to have an inclusive stakeholder engagement process where the government, private sector, and citizens take up roles as primary actors in defining, planning, financing, and implementing solutions to meet the country’s development challenges.

## The Policy LINK Ghana Approach

The Policy LINK Ghana activity therefore seeks to support inclusive, multi-stakeholder, evidence-backed, and more sustainable policy outcomes by:

- Strengthening collaborative governance systems that drive better and more sustainable outcomes.
- Building capacity for strong and inclusive policy systems.
- Bolstering systems for evidence-informed policymaking.

## Policy LINK Theory of Change

- If policy system actors have **increased human and social capital**, then they will more effectively lead and participate in collaborative governance and perform key roles in the reform process.
- If **policy system actors can engage meaningfully in the collaborative process** and make use of improved capacity (such as information, resources, skills, relationships, and improved processes), then a virtuous cycle of shared vision, commitment, open dialogue, and trust will lead to development of innovative policy solutions, faster policy cycles, better implementation, increased alignment, and improved mobilization of resources. Over time, successful collaboration will lead to increased interdependence among policy actors and increased reliance on collaborative decision-making processes, which will help to shift stakeholder incentives toward engaging in collaborative governance.
- If **platforms, processes, and mechanisms for collaborative governance are more effective and inclusive**, then interdependence and incentives for participation among a diverse set of stakeholders will increase.
- Policy LINK will expand and better integrate information-sharing, evidence, and the knowledge base to accelerate learning. By building dynamic learning systems and feedback loops into the collaborative process, Policy LINK will ensure that processes are continuously improved through adaptive responses. **If systems for collaborative learning and knowledge-sharing are strengthened, then local actors will be better able to apply, leverage, and aggregate locally generated insights, data, evidence, and knowledge.** As incentives to collaborate increase and platforms to sustain collective action and support/advance the knowledge-to-action continuum become more effective, a critical mass of committed actors will help to institutionalize the sustainable mechanisms and learning processes by which ongoing, incremental positive change and reform lead to improved, broad-based food security policy outcomes.

## Desired Outcomes

Through research and implementation processes, Policy LINK Ghana will measure its influence on relevant stakeholders to enact inclusive and representative policies and policy making processes as detailed below:

- a. Government – improved evidence-based policy decision-making
- b. Private sector – participation in common platforms to influence policy
- c. Development partners – coordination of funding and messages more consistently
- d. Policy research institutes – generation of more policy relevant evidence

This is with the aim of improving the efficacy of the entire policy process and, thus, supporting the GoG objectives of inspiring sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth, strengthening the resilience of people and systems, and creating a well-nourished population, especially women and children.