



# Ghana

## Sectoral Scenarios for Ghana

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## Sectoral Scenarios for Ghana

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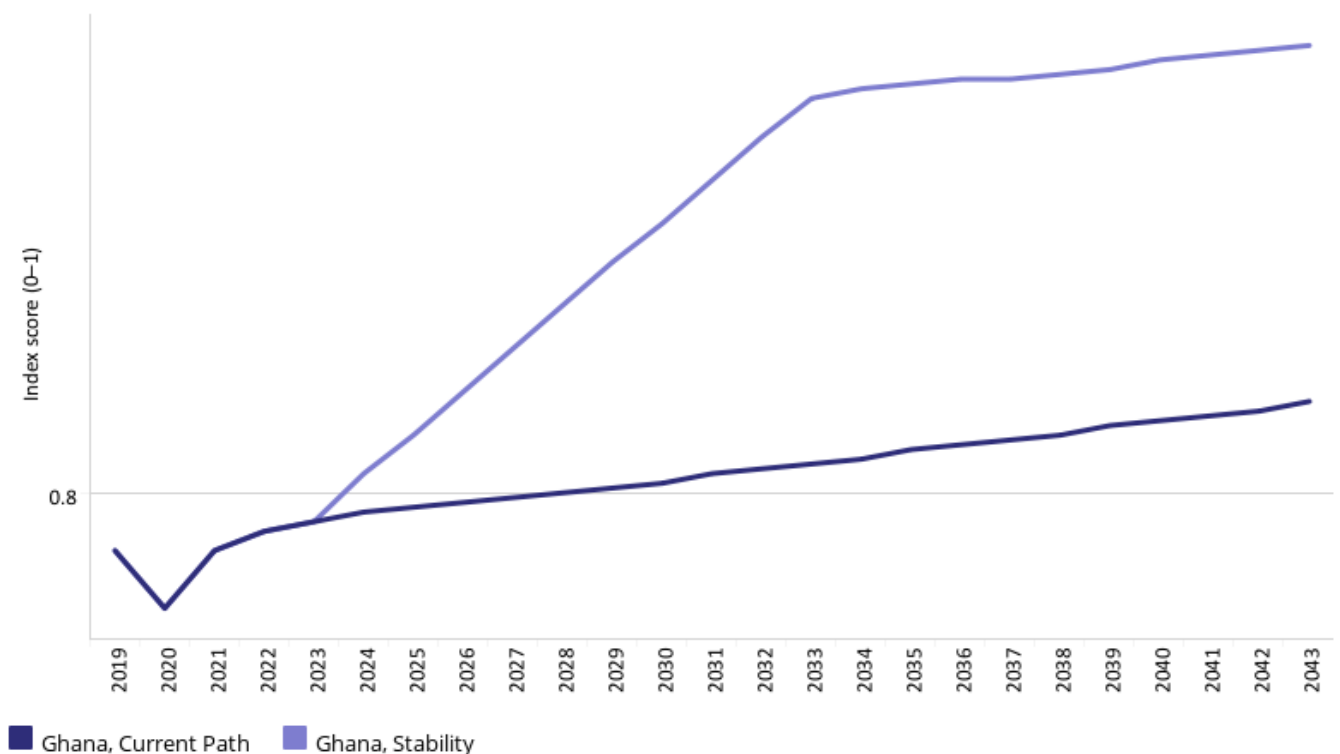


### Stability scenario

Chart 13: Governance security in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043  
IFs index 0–1



Ghana



Source: IFs 7.63 governance security index using internal war and government risk

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The Stability scenario represents reasonable but ambitious reductions in risk of regime instability and lower levels of

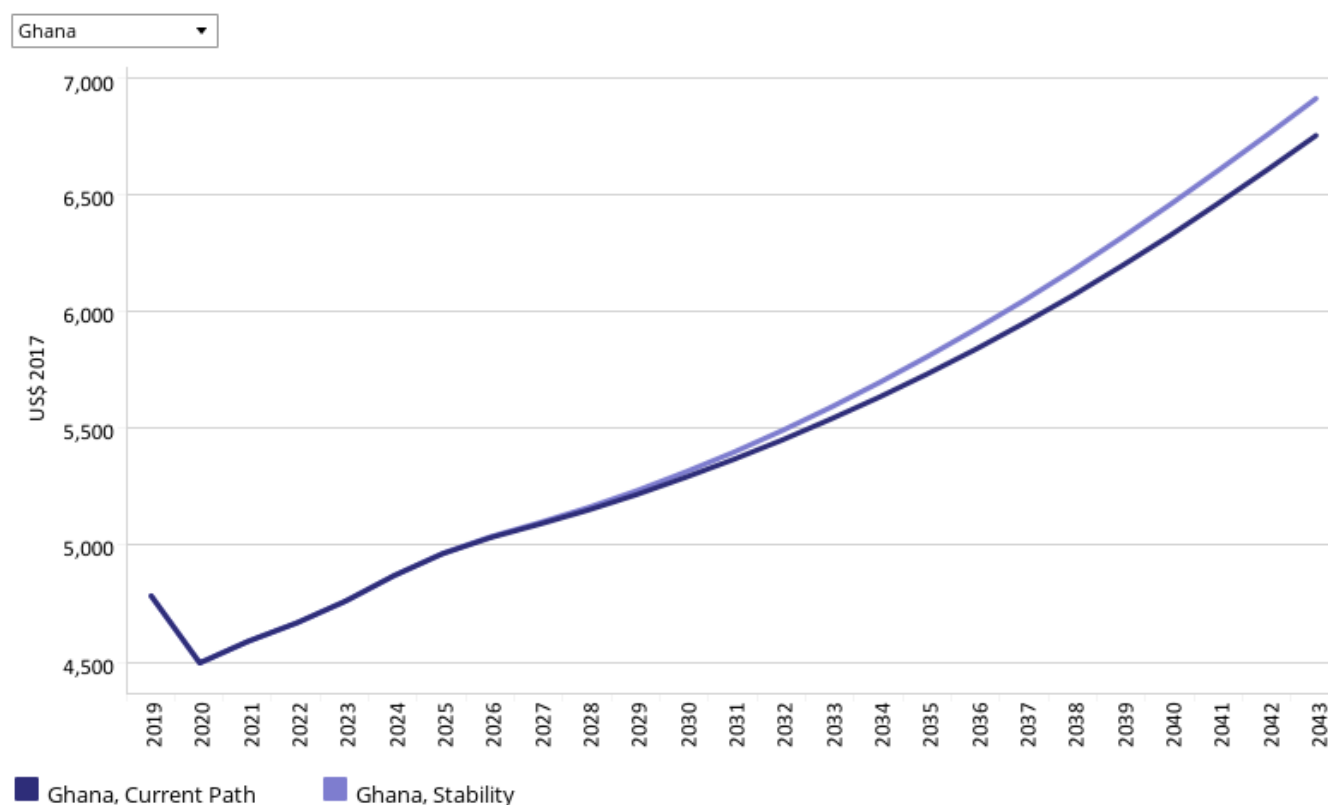
internal conflict. Stability is generally a prerequisite for other aspects of development and this would encourage inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI), amongst others. Better governance through the accountability that follows substantive democracy is modelled separately.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 13 shows the governance security index for Ghana based on the Current Path forecast and the Stability scenario from 2019 to 2043. The scenario generally signifies increased political stability, reduced internal conflict, high FDI inflows, improved accountable governance and low levels of corruption in the country. Ghana's score on the governance security index for 2019 was 0.79 which is above the average of 0.72 for lower middle-income countries in Africa; this suggests that Ghana has performed better compared to the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa. The country has enjoyed a degree of political stability since returning to multiparty democracy in 1992 and has conducted eight successive and relatively peaceful general elections that have included an alternation of power between the two main political parties in the country. Using the Stability scenario, Ghana's score on the government security index is projected to rise further to 0.89 by 2043. This will be higher than the projected 0.82 under the Current Path and 0.76 average for lower-middle income African countries.

**Chart 14: GDP per capita in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043**

Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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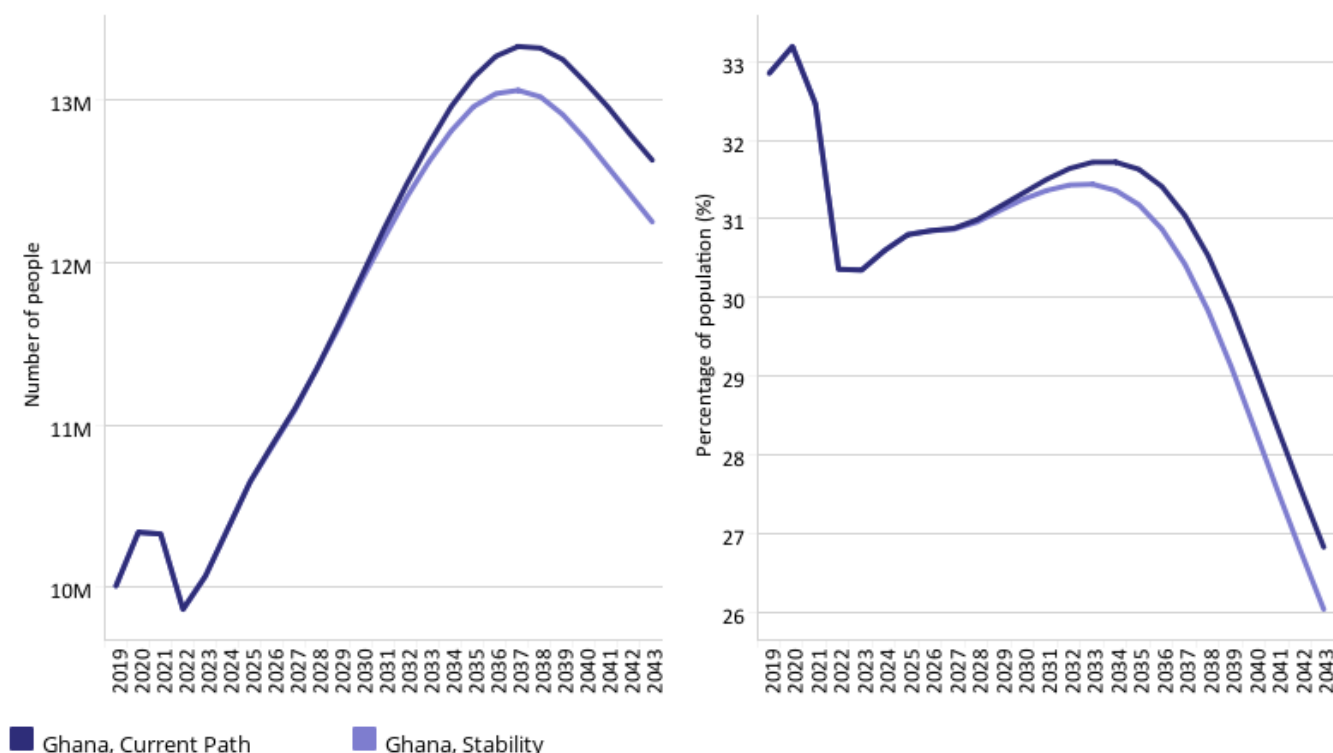
Chart 14 presents GDP per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP) in the Current Path forecast and based on the Stability scenario for Ghana. GDP per capita for Ghana in 2019 is US\$4 784, which is US\$2 205 less than the average for a lower middle-income country on the continent. In the Stability scenario, GDP per capita will increase to US\$6 910 by 2043. This will be US\$158 more than in the Current Path forecast and US\$2 232 below the average for lower middle-income countries

in Africa. Regime stability and a peaceful environment inspire investors' confidence and attract FDI into the country. It is therefore not surprising that the Stability scenario leads to higher GDP per capita.

**Chart 15: Poverty in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Ghana \$3.20



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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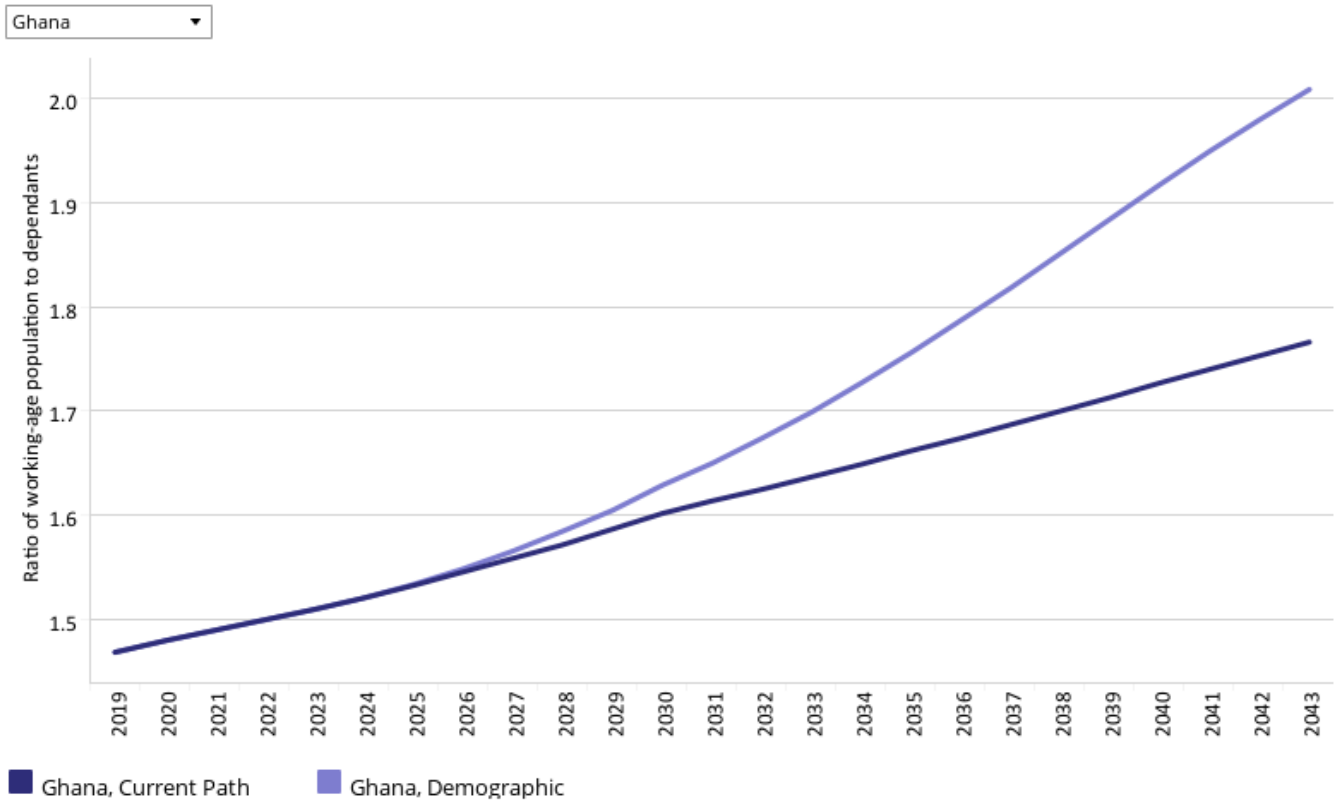
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Chart 15 presents the number and portion of people living below the extreme poverty line. As Ghana is a lower middle-income country, it uses the global benchmark of US\$3.20 per person per day. In 2019, the number of poor people living on less than US\$3.20 was around 10 million, equivalent to 32.9% of the population. The Stability scenario will reduce the number of people living below the poverty line to 12.3 million people by 2043 instead of the 12.6 million (26.8%) in the Current Path forecast. This means that the materialisation of the Stability scenario could lead to 0.28 million fewer poor people than in the Current Path forecast by 2043. Also, the proportion of poor people in Ghana by 2043 will be 12.3 percentage points less than the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa.



## Demographic scenario

Chart 16: Demographic dividend in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043  
Ratio of working-age population to dependants



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects

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This section presents the impact of a demographic scenario that aims to hasten and increase the demographic dividend where relevant through reasonable but ambitious reductions in the communicable-disease burden for children under five, the maternal mortality ratio and increased access to modern contraception.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

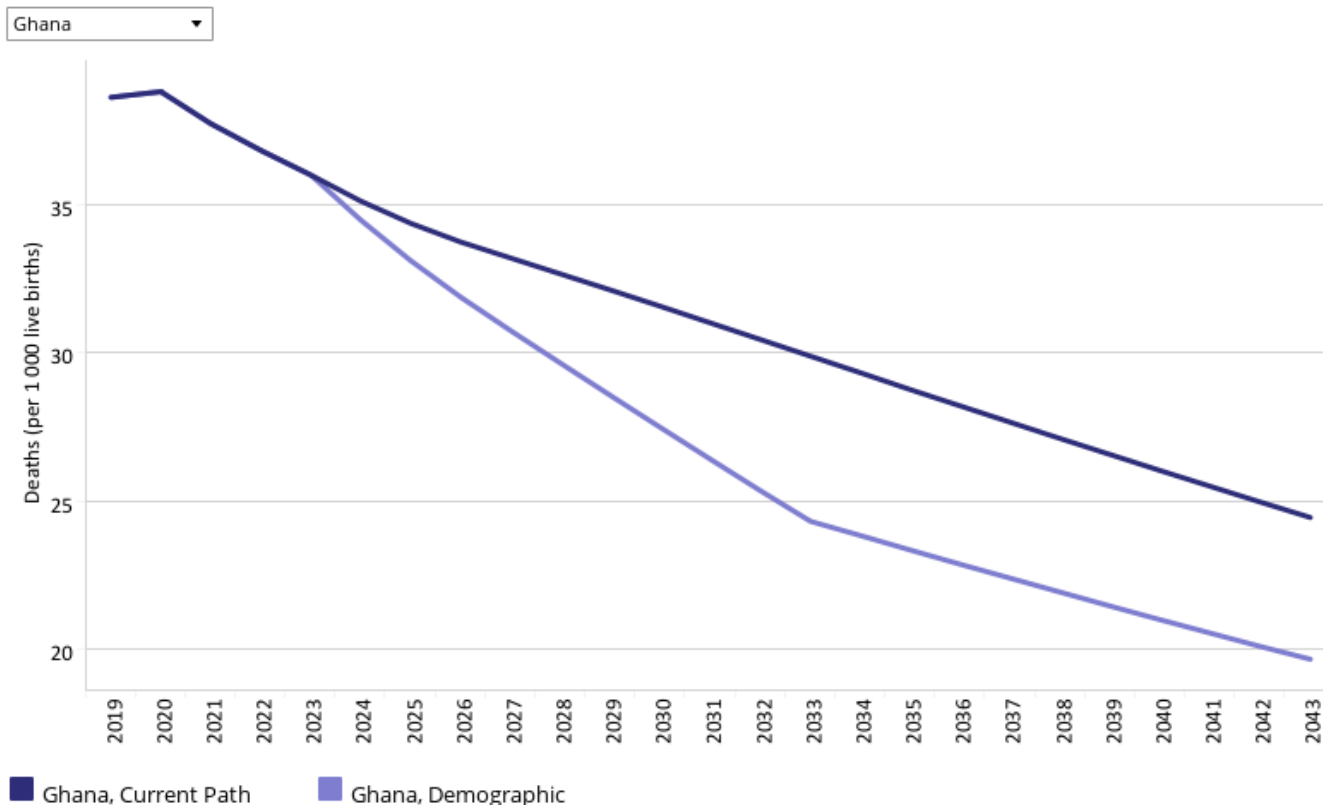
Demographers typically differentiate between a first, second and even a third demographic dividend. We focus here on the first dividend, namely the contribution of the size and quality of the labour force to incomes. It refers to a window of opportunity that opens when the ratio of the working-age population (between 15 and 64 years of age) to dependants (children and the elderly) reaches 1.7.

Chart 16 displays the demographic dividend based on the Current Path forecast and the Demographic scenario. The number of the working-age persons relative to the number of elderly people and children in 2019 is 1.47 greater than the average of 1.32 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. This means that, on average, there are about 1.5 people in the working-age group for each dependant in the country. Generally, the demographic dividend materialises when the country reaches a minimum of 1.7 working-age persons for each dependant. In the Demographic scenario, Ghana is expected to

reach this minimum ratio by 2033; this is five years earlier than in the Current Path forecast. By 2043, Ghana's demographic dividend score is projected to be 2.01 which is higher than the Current Path forecast of 1.77 and the average of 1.59 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

**Chart 17: Infant mortality in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043**

Deaths per 1 000 live births



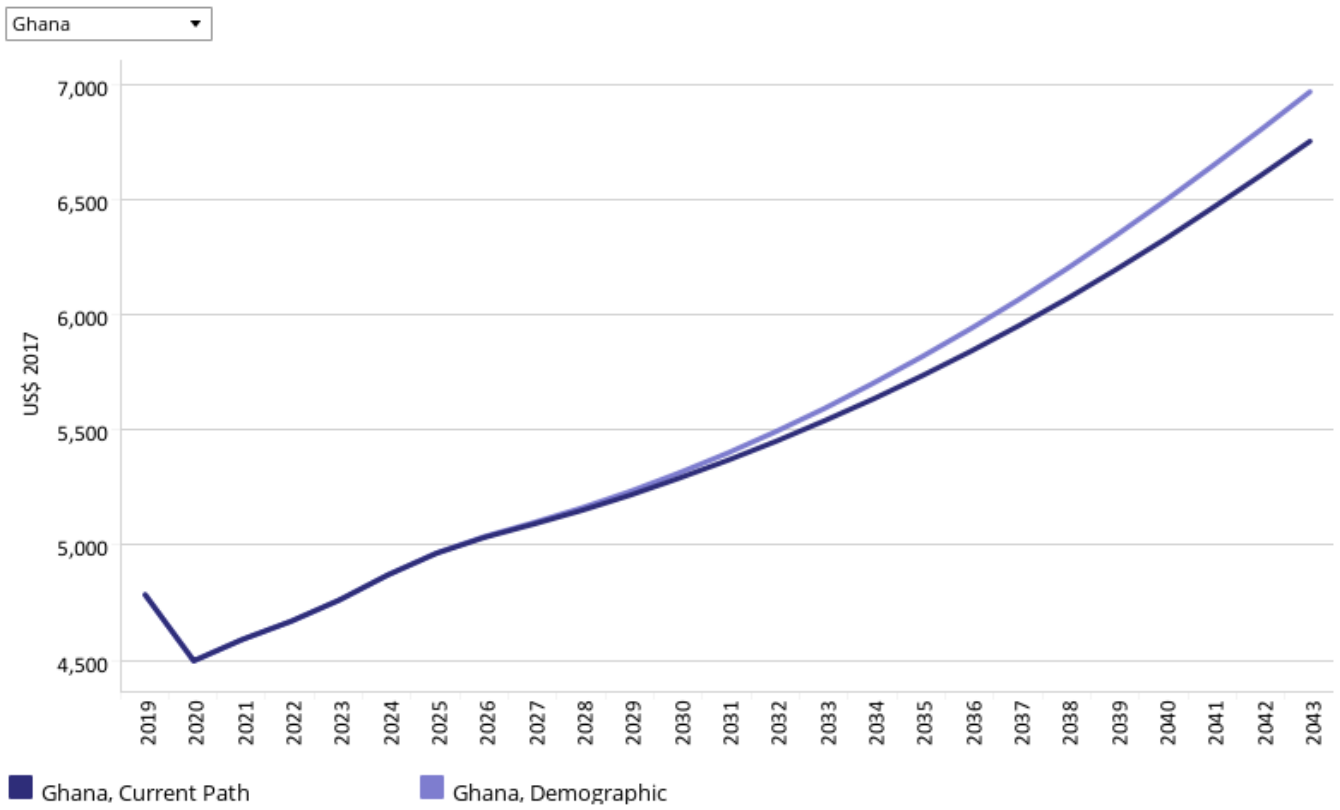
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

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The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births and is an important marker of the overall quality of the health system in a country.

Chart 17 depicts infant mortality both in the Current Path forecast and in the Demographic scenario. The infant mortality rate in Ghana in 2019 was 38.6, meaning that for every 1 000 infants that were born, about 39 died. By 2043, the Demographic scenario will lead to a decline in infant mortality to 19.7 compared to 24.4 in the Current Path forecast.

**Chart 18: GDP per capita in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043**  
Purchasing power parity



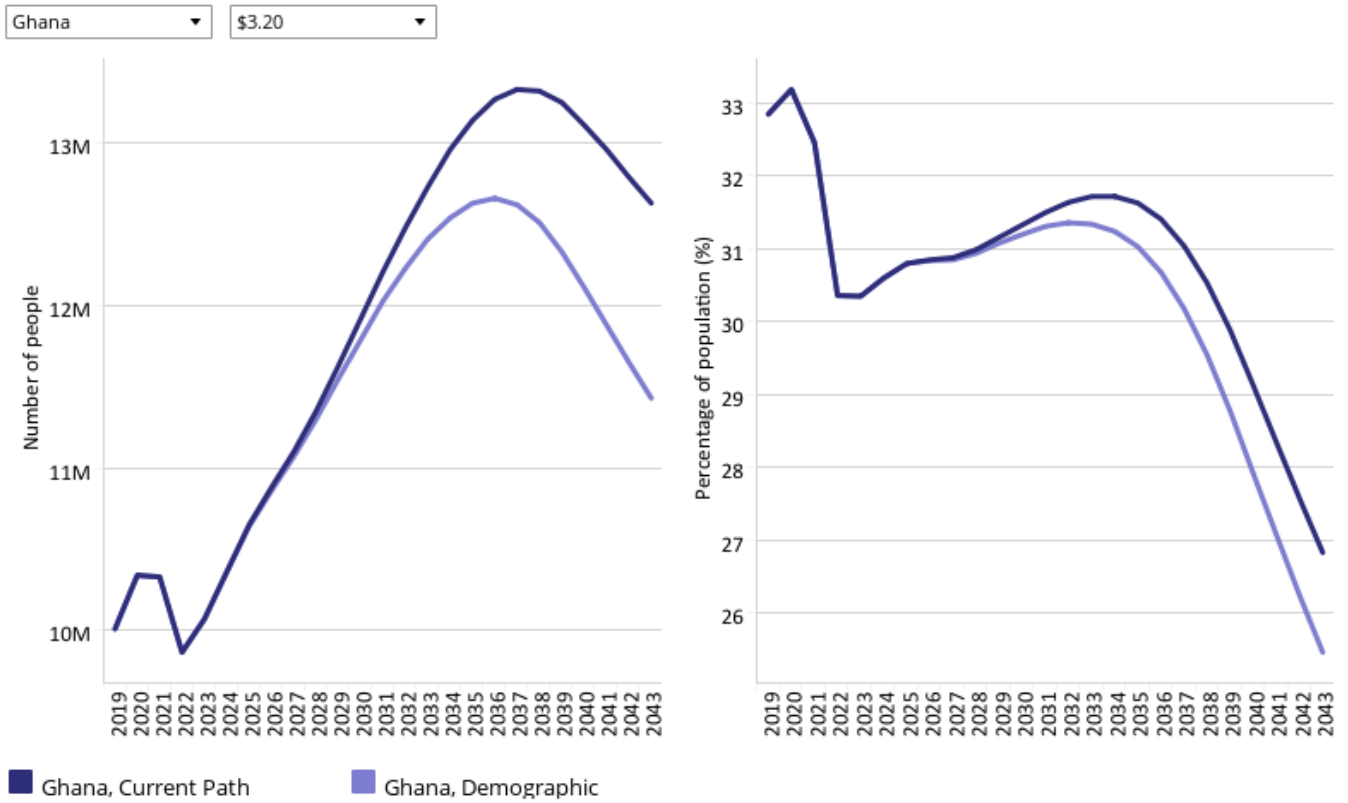
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Chart 18 shows GDP per capita (PPP) both in the Current Path forecast and in the Demographic scenario. In 2019, GDP per capita for Ghana was US\$4 784, which is US\$2 205 less than the average of US\$6 989 for lower middle-income African countries. By 2043, it is estimated that, based on the Demographic scenario, GDP per capita will increase to US\$7 021, which is US\$270 more than the projected US\$6 751 in the Current Path forecast in the same year. However, this will still be significantly below the US\$9 142 average for lower middle-income countries in Africa.



**Chart 19: Poverty in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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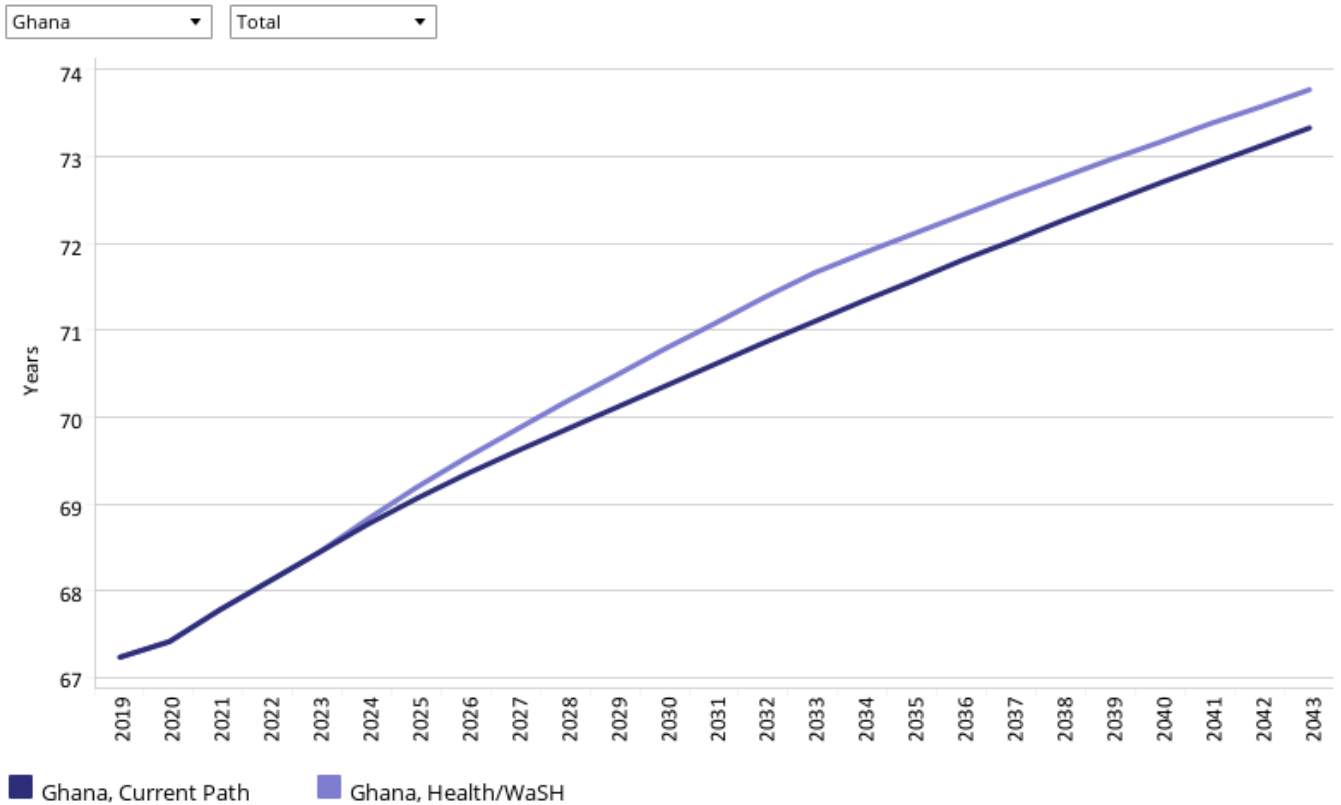
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Chart 19 presents the number and portion of people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 both in the Current Path forecast and in the Demographic scenario. As noted earlier, the number of people in Ghana living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 in 2019 was 10 million. Based on the Demographic scenario, this number will steadily rise to 12.7 million in 2036 after which it will begin to decline to 11.4 million by 2043. This will be 1.2 million fewer people than in the Current Path forecast, suggesting that if the country implements policies underpinning the Demographic scenario, such as reductions in mortality rates and the communicable-disease burden, it can lift 1.2 million more people above the poverty line. Similarly, the proportion of the poor population can be reduced by about 1.4 percentage points from the 26.8% in the Current Path to the 25.5% in the Demographic scenario by 2043. The proportion of poor people in Ghana by 2043 will be 12.9 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa.



## Health/WaSH scenario

### Chart 20: Life expectancy in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation GBD Foresight Tool data

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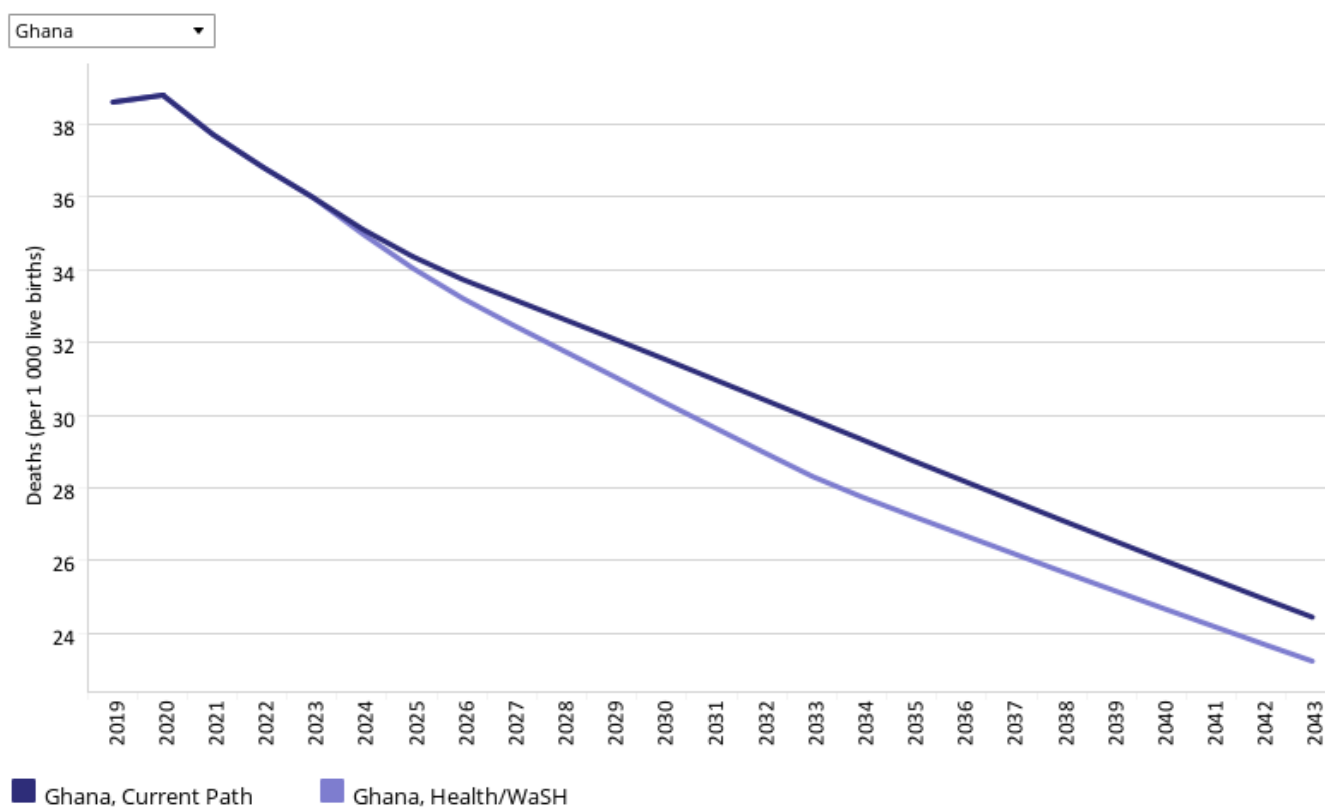
This section presents reasonable but ambitious improvements in the Health/WaSH scenario, which include reductions in the mortality rate associated with both communicable diseases (e.g. AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (e.g. diabetes), as well as improvements in access to safe water and better sanitation. The acronym WaSH stands for water, sanitation and hygiene.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 20 displays the trends in life expectancy by 2043 based on the Current Path forecast and in the Health/WaSH scenario. Increase in life expectancy can be sourced from a reduction in mortality that is caused by communicable and non-communicable diseases. It can also be achieved through improved sanitation and access to safe water. The life expectancy at birth for the average Ghanaian was 67.2 years in 2019, which is slightly below the average of 67.5 of lower middle-income countries in Africa. This relatively higher life expectancy in the country can be attributed to the greatly improved access to safe water (for over 90% of population) and the reduction in mortality from communicable diseases. However, poor sanitation and non-communicable diseases continue to be a problem. On average, females have a slightly higher life expectancy at birth at 68.8 years than males at 65.7. Based on the Health/WaSH scenario, life expectancy is estimated to increase to about 73.8 years by 2043, which is an increase of 6 months above the Current Path forecast of 73.3. However, Ghana will still be below the average of 73.3 for a lower middle-income country on the continent.

### Chart 21: Infant mortality in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043

Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

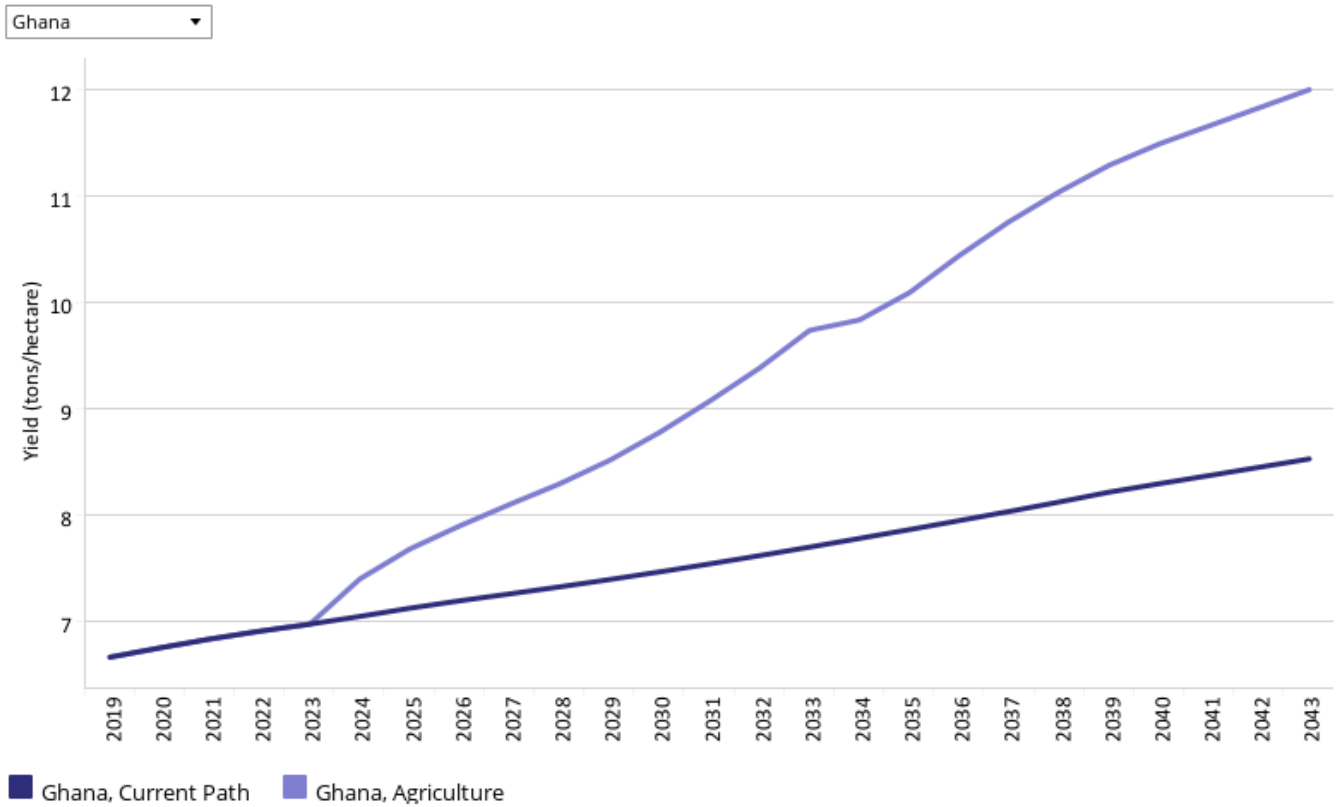
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Chart 21 illustrates the decline in infant mortality according to the Current Path forecast and the Health/WaSH scenario from 2019 to 2043. The infant mortality rate per 1 000 live births in 2019 was 38.6 which is lower than the average of 46.4 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Health/WaSH scenario, infant mortality per 1 000 live births in the country will be 23.2 by 2043, which is 1.2 deaths lower compared to the Current Path forecast in the same year.



## Agriculture scenario

Chart 22: Yield/hectare in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043  
Pre-loss levels



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from FAOSTAT on-line statistical service data

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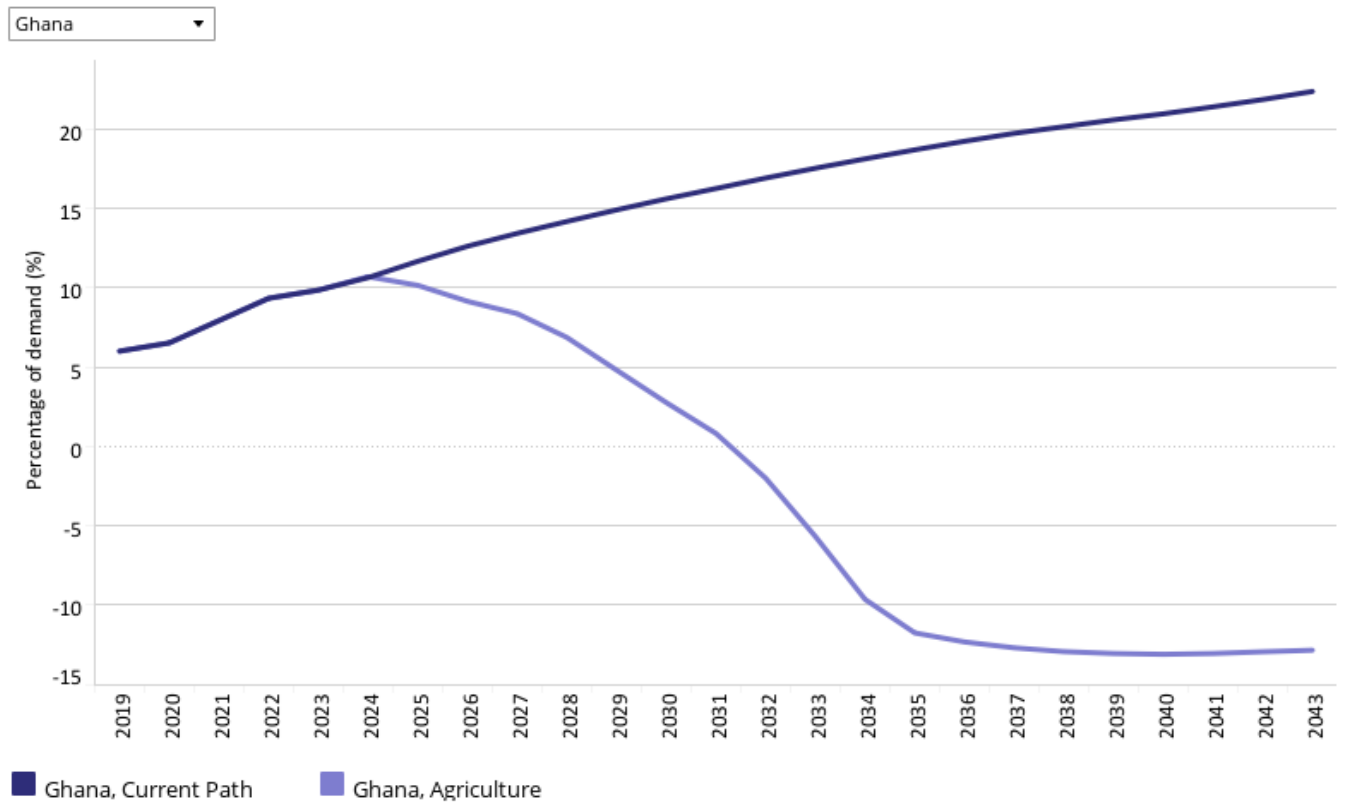
The Agriculture scenario represents reasonable but ambitious increases in yields per hectare (reflecting better management and seed and fertilizer technology), increased land under irrigation and reduced loss and waste. Where appropriate, it includes an increase in calorie consumption, reflecting the prioritisation of food self-sufficiency above food exports as a desirable policy objective.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The data on yields per hectare (in metric tons) is for crops but does not distinguish between different categories of crops.

Chart 22 presents the yield per hectare for crops in the Current Path forecast and Agriculture scenario from 2019 to 2043. In 2019, the yield per hectare for crops was 6.7 metric tons per hectare, which is above the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa. This suggests that Ghana is performing relatively better than the average of its peers on the continent in terms of agricultural yield. Based on the Current Path forecast, this is projected to increase to 8.5 metric tons per hectare by 2043. In the Agriculture scenario, yield per hectare will be 12 metric tons. This means that if the country is able to adopt modern methods of farming, including the application of fertilizer and usage of improved seeds, there will be a resulting increase of an additional 3.5 metric tons per hectare compared to the Current Path forecast by 2043. Also, the projected increase in yield per hectare in the Agriculture scenario will be about 6 metric tons per hectare more than the average for lower-middle income countries in Africa.

**Chart 23: Agriculture imports in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043**  
 Net imports for meat, crops and fish, % of demand



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets data

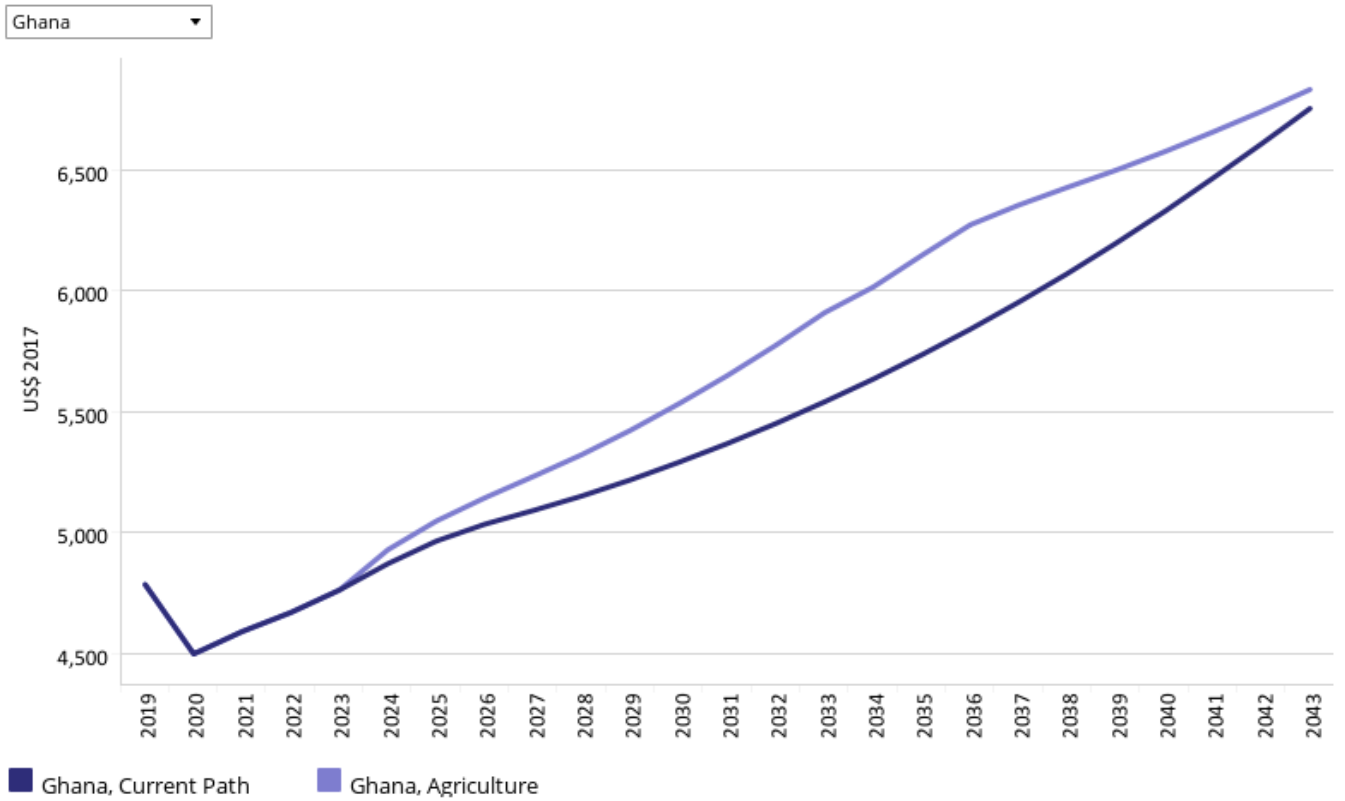
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Chart 23 represents net agriculture imports as a percent of agriculture demand in the Current Path forecast and in the Agriculture scenario. In 2019, the net agricultural import was 6% of agricultural demand in the country, which is lower than the average of 13.3 for lower middle-income African countries. One of the structural problems facing the Ghanaian economy is the country's continued reliance on importation, which is prevalent with agricultural products too. Despite the country's gift of large cultivable agricultural land in addition to a youthful population, Ghana still imports basic food commodities like rice and sugar, among other foods. Some of the challenges that have impeded the growth of the sector include the complex land tenure system and the lack of access to credit, especially to peasant farmers. Irrigation for all-year agriculture and inadequate storage facilities are still challenges faced by most farmers. Consequently, the country has always had a net positive import dependence as a per cent of total demand. The Current Path forecast is that the proportion of import dependence as a fraction of total demand will grow to 22.7%, which will still be lower than the 83.8% average for lower middle-income countries. The situation is reversed in the Agriculture scenario such that by 2043, the country will be a net exporter of agricultural products with a balance of 12.6% of total agricultural demand. Therefore, if prudent agricultural policies that increase yield per hectare and reduce loss and waste are implemented, the country will be able to move from food import-dependent to a net exporter of agricultural products from 2032.



Chart 24: GDP per capita in the CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043  
Purchasing power parity



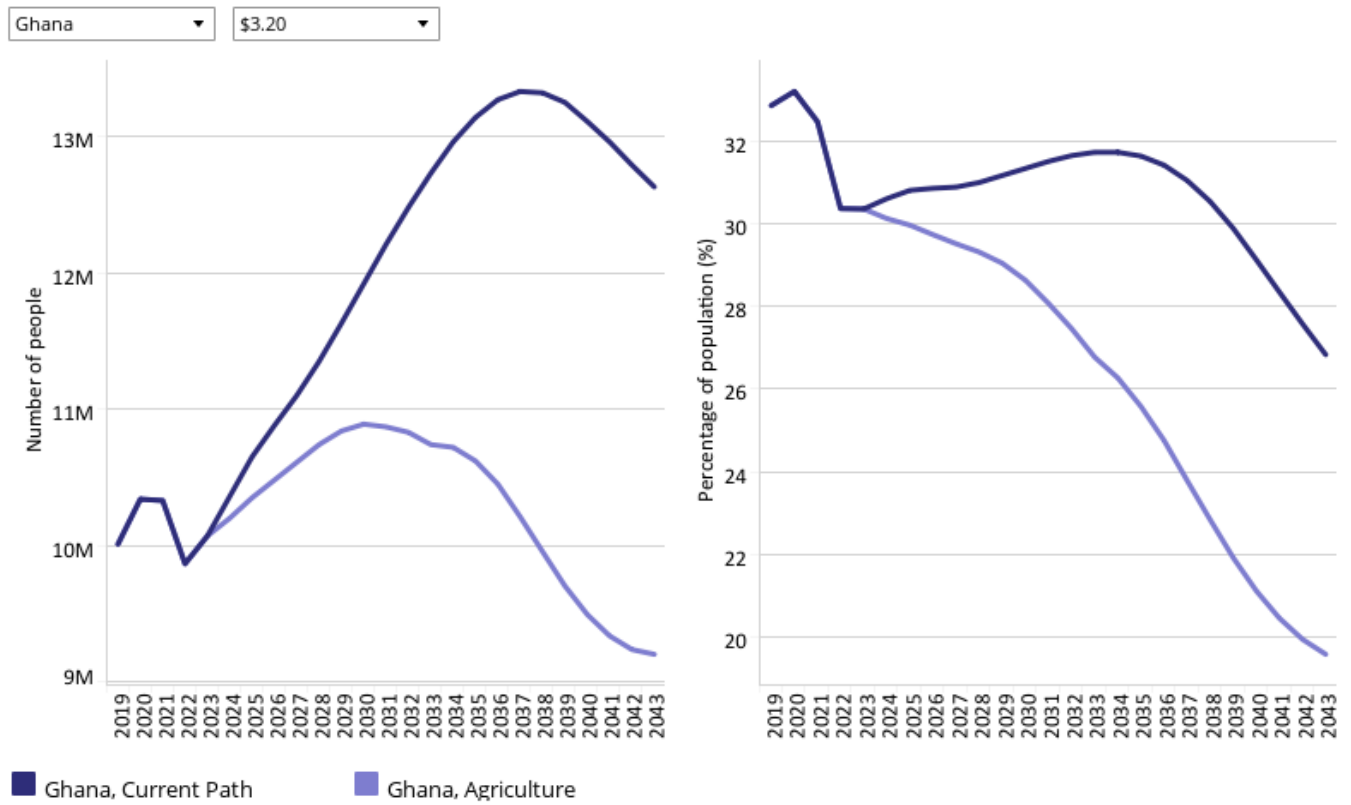
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Chart 24 depicts GDP per capita (PPP) in the Current Path forecast and in the Agriculture scenario. The Agriculture scenario is expected to lead to an increase in GDP per capita over the years. By 2043, the Current Path forecast for GDP per capita will be US\$6 751 while projections in the Agricultural scenario will be US\$6 830. This means that the Agriculture scenario will lead to additional US\$70 in GDP per capita. In the Agriculture scenario, Ghana’s GDP per capita will still remain below the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

**Chart 25: Poverty in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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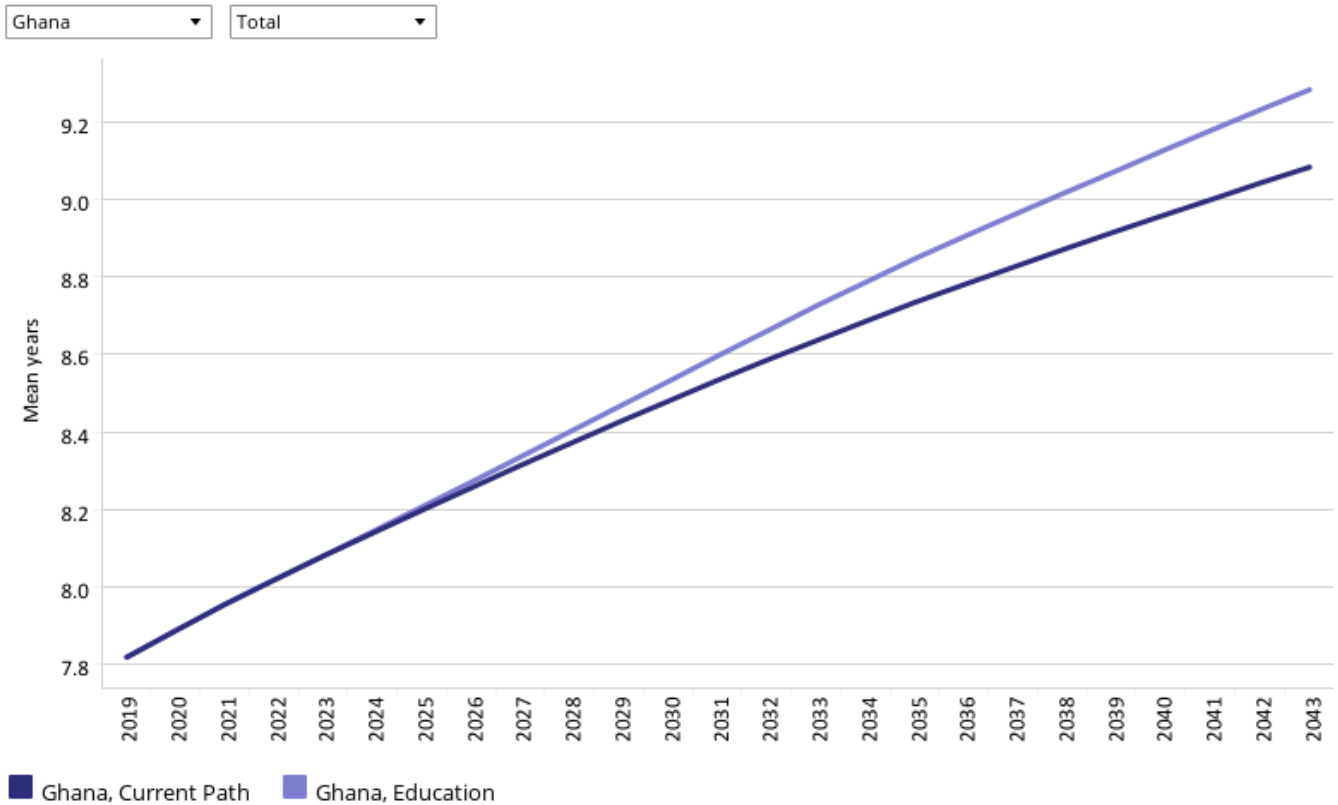
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Chart 25 illustrates the number and portion of people below the poverty line of US\$3.20 per person per day in the Current Path forecast and in the Agriculture scenario. Implementing good agricultural policies that will result in increased yield per hectare and reduction in waste appear to have a significant impact on poverty reduction in the country. Based on the Current Path forecast, 12.6 million people (representing 26.8% of the population) are projected to be extremely poor by 2043. However, if the country implements policies reflecting the Agriculture scenario, the number of people below the poverty line of US\$3.20 per day will be reduced to 9.2 million, constituting 19.6% of the population. This means that 3.4 million additional Ghanaians can be lifted out of extreme poverty by primarily focusing on agricultural growth—this is not surprising since agriculture is the backbone of the Ghanaian economy and many livelihoods depend on this sector. This figure is also far lower than the average of 33.5% for lower middle-income African countries.



## Education scenario

Chart 26: Mean years of education in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043  
Mean years of adult (+15) education



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Barro-Lee data

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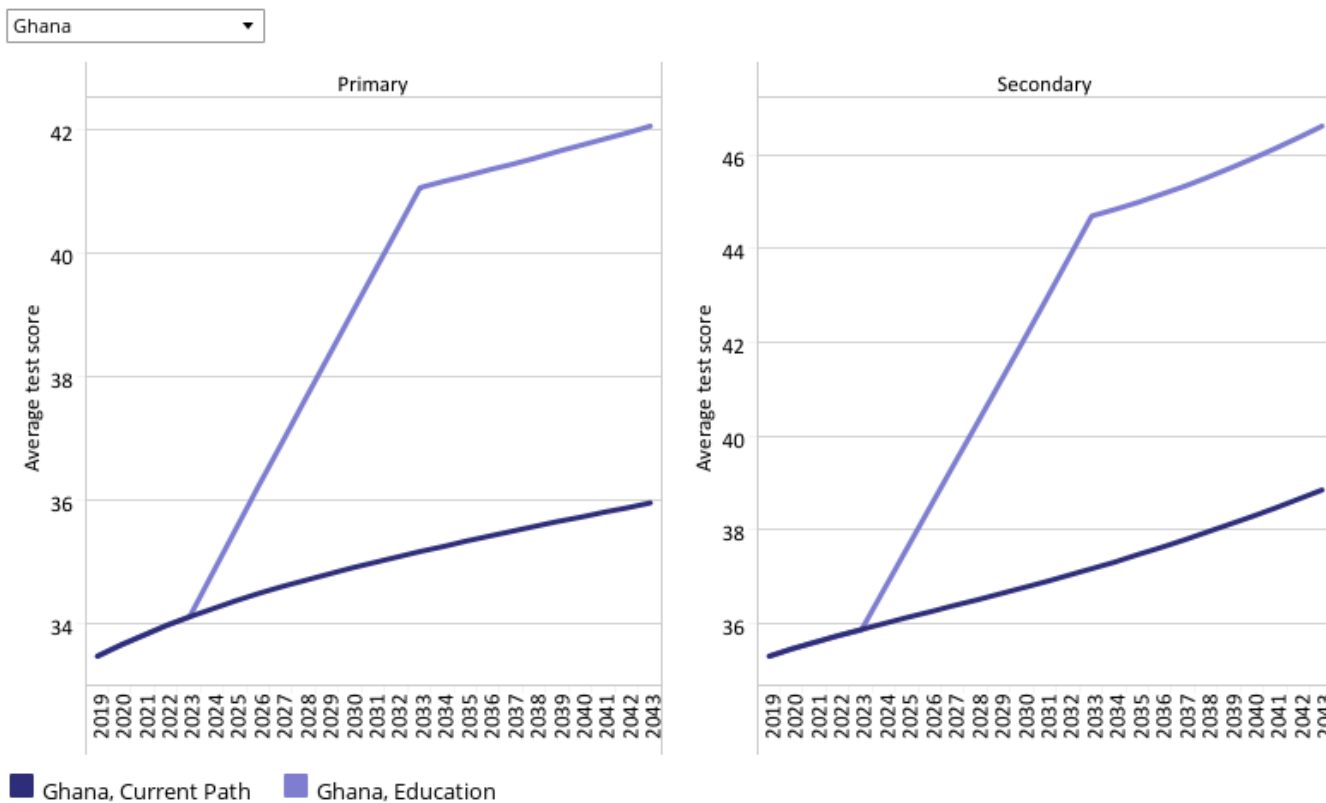
The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 26 shows the mean years of education in the Current Path forecast and in the Education scenario. Over the years, Ghana's education system has been characterised by low funding reflected in inadequate educational infrastructure and learning materials especially at the basic level where the public schools constitute the majority. There are still communities with no access to modern educational facilities such as school buildings, classroom desks and chairs. In 2019, Ghana's mean years of education was 7.8, which is above the average of 7.2 for lower middle-income countries on the continent. This may be partly due to the implementation of the free senior high school programme in 2017 by the incumbent government that led to a significant increase in secondary school enrolment. In terms of gender, the mean years of education for males is 8.5, which is 1.3 years more than females average of 7.2. This means that on average, men are more likely to attain higher education than women by 1.3 extra years. By 2043, in the Education scenario, it is expected that

the mean years of education will rise to 9.3 years, which will be 0.2 more than in the Current Path estimates and 0.8 more than the average among lower middle-income countries in Africa. Also, based on the Education scenario, the gender gap regarding mean years of education will close by 0.5 years by 2043.

**Chart 27: Education quality in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043**  
Average test scores for primary and secondary learners



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank EDSTATS

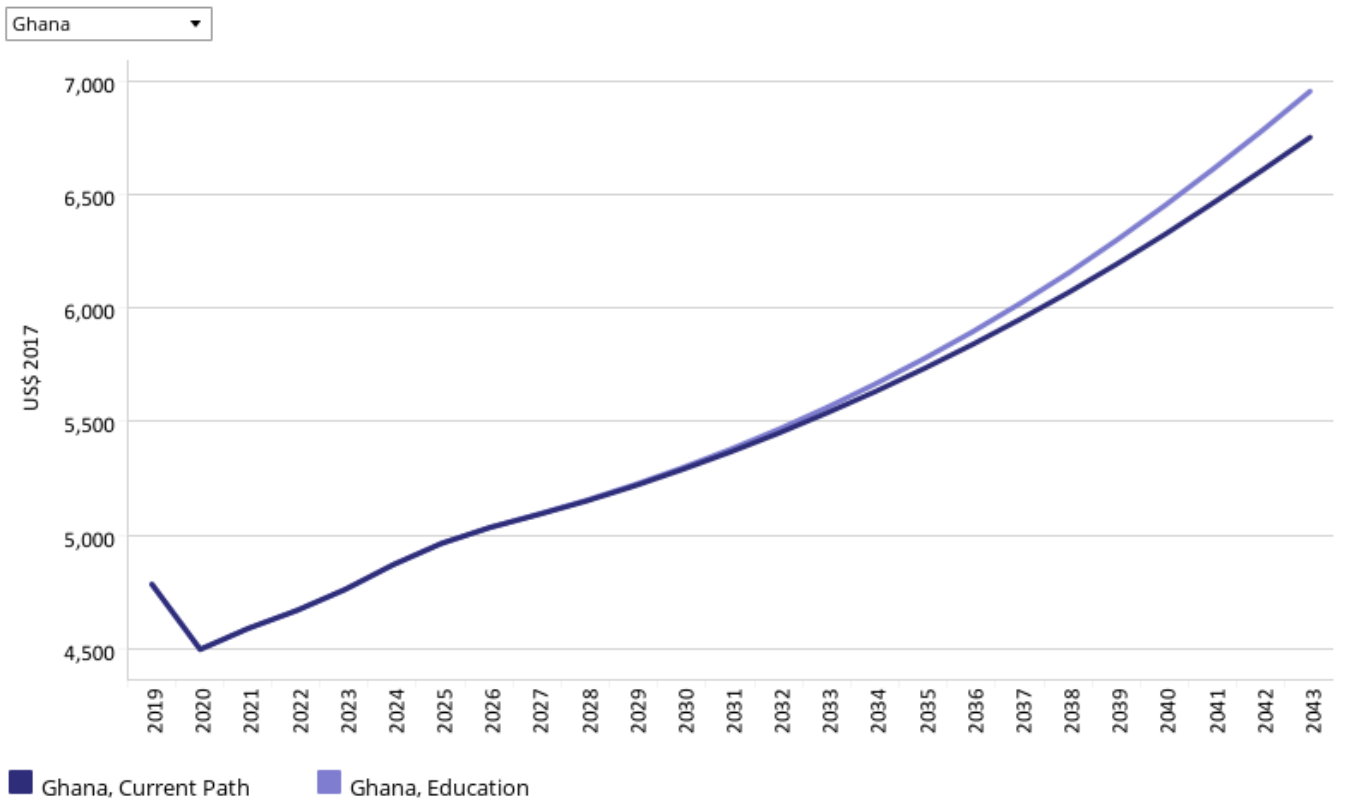
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Chart 27 displays the average test scores for primary and secondary learners in the Current Path forecast and in the Education scenario. The average test score for primary learners in Ghana for 2019 was 33.5%, which is marginally lower than the 33.6% for the average lower middle-income country in Africa. The Education scenario will increase the average test scores for primary learners to 42.1%, compared to the Current Path forecast estimates of 36%. Also, the Education scenario for 2043 will result in 6.8 percentage points more than the continental average for lower middle-income countries.

In 2019, the average secondary learner test score for Ghana was 35.3% which was below the average for lower middle-income African countries. By 2043, the average test scores for secondary learners are projected to rise to 46.6%, which are above the Current Path estimates of 38.9% but below the continental average of 41.8% for lower middle-income countries.

**Chart 28: GDP per capita in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043**  
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Chart 28 shows GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and Education scenario from 2019 to 2043. By 2043, the increment in GDP per capita as a result of the Education scenario is estimated to be US\$203 more than the projected US\$6 751 in the Current Path forecast. This will also be US\$2 188 less than the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa suggesting that the contribution of education to GDP per capita in the long-run may be higher for an average lower middle-income country in Africa than Ghana. Given that Ghana has a relatively higher mean years of education compared to the average lower middle-income African country, it is possible that the relatively lower returns on education may be as a result of diminishing returns. In this case, as more and more of the population is educated, the per unit increase in GDP per capita as a result of education eventually declines.



**Chart 29: Poverty in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Ghana \$3.20



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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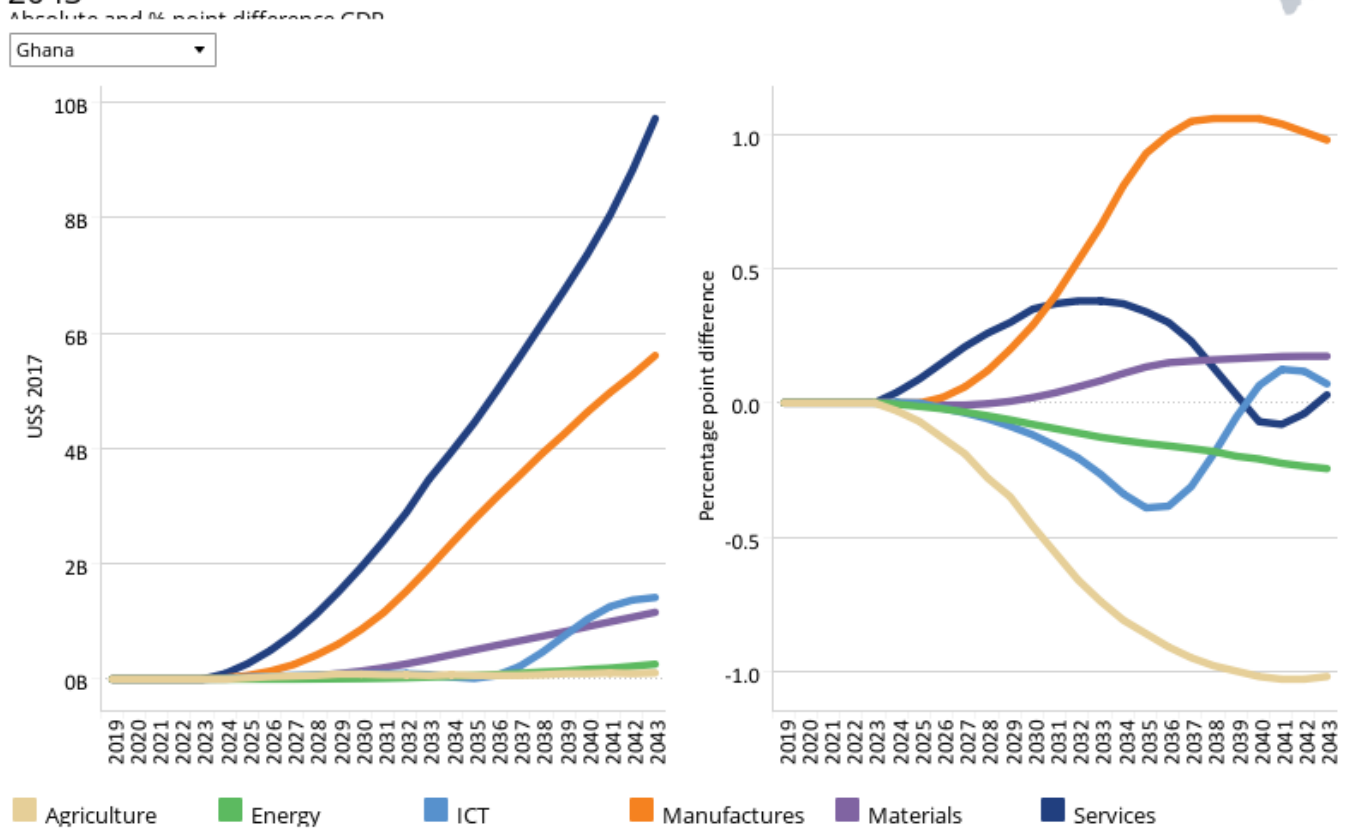
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Chart 29 represents the number and per cent of poor people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 a day. By 2043, in the Education scenario, it is projected that the number of poor people will be 12.04 million, representing 25.6% of the population. This means that the Education scenario will contribute to reducing the number of poor people by 590 000 by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. Although education is a powerful tool to reduce poverty, it takes time, often decades, to produce the expected results. The proportion of poor people projected in the Education scenario will be 12.7 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income African countries.



## Manufacturing scenario

### Chart 30: Value added by sector in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019-2043



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario represents reasonable but ambitious manufacturing growth through greater investment in the economy, investments in research and development, and promotion of the export of manufactured goods. It is accompanied by an increase in welfare transfers (social grants) to moderate the initial increases in inequality that are typically associated with a manufacturing transition. To this end, the scenario improves tax administration and increases government revenues.

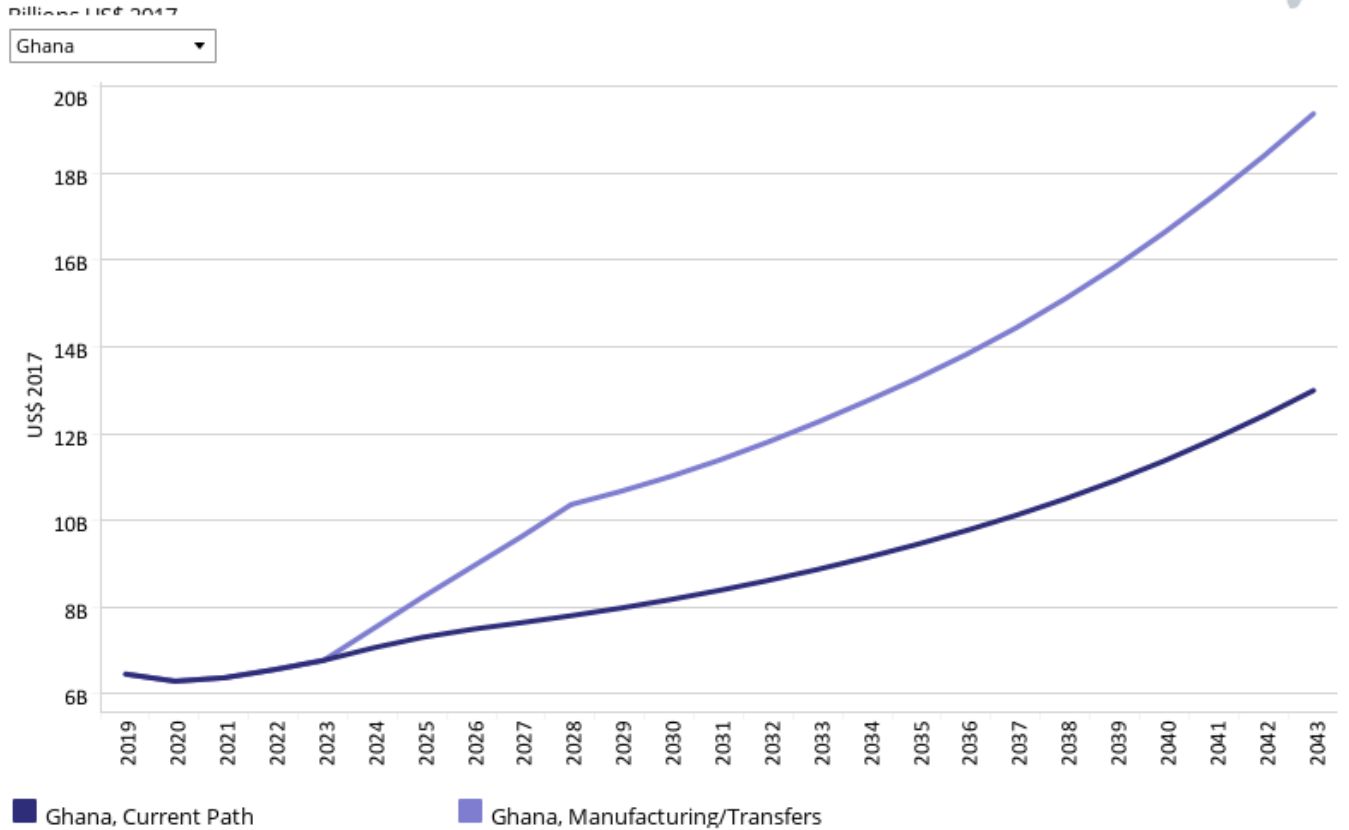
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 30 should be read with Chart 8 that presents a stacked area graph on the contribution to GDP and size, in billion US\$, of the Current Path economy for each of the sectors.

Chart 30 illustrates the percentage points and absolute value of difference in contribution to GDP between the Current Path forecast and the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. Based on the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, the service sector will be the largest contributor to GDP with an absolute contribution of US\$9.72 billion more by 2043, as compared to the Current Path forecast. However, the rate of contribution to GDP by the service sector will decline over time from 0.38 in 2033 to zero by 2043. The manufacturing sector, which is the second largest contributor, is also projected to contribute an additional US\$5.61 billion to GDP, representing a 0.98 percentage-point difference to GDP based on the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. The third contributor to GDP by 2043 will be the ICT sector with a projected value of

US\$1.42 billion emanating from the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. Whereas the service sector becoming the leading contributor to GDP in the long-run is expected under an economic cycle, it is significant to Ghana's industrial sector contribution to GDP and has been low over the years thereby denying the country the needed industrialisation and its associated jobs. Despite the industrial sector overtaking the agricultural sector in 2012 as the second largest contributor to GDP, the underperformance of the manufacturing sector reveals that growth in the industrial sector emanates from other sources, such as construction.

**Chart 31: Gov welfare transfers in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019-2043**

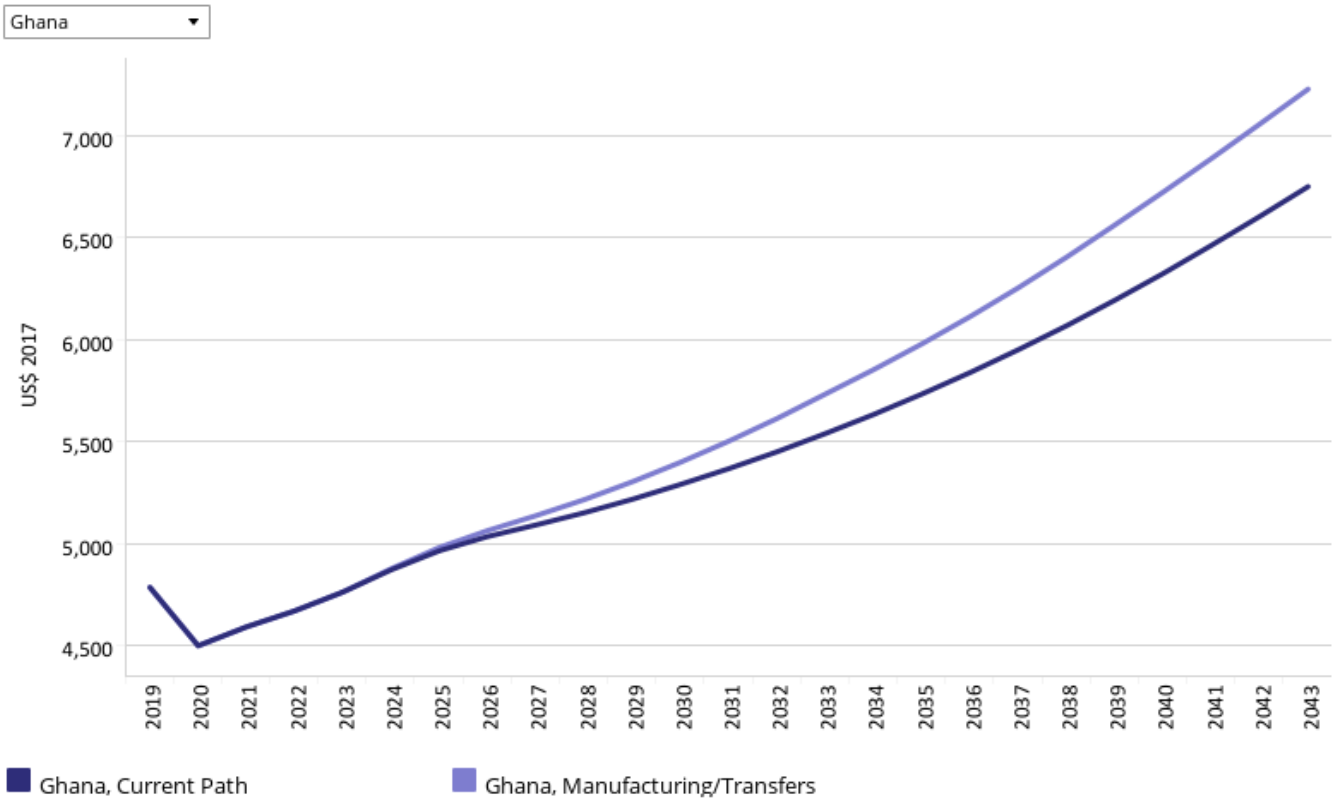


Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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Chart 31 presents the absolute value of government welfare transfers to unskilled workers under both the Current Path forecast and the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. Government welfare transfers to unskilled workers in 2019 were US\$6.5 billion. This is projected to increase to US\$19.4 billion by 2043, which is far more than the US\$13 billion estimated for 2043 based on the Current Path forecast. This suggests that the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario can lead to an improvement in government welfare transfers by US\$7.4 billion. A possible explanation for this finding may be that a boom in the manufacturing sector accompanied by the needed jobs and exports can significantly increase government revenue which will enable the government to also increase its welfare transfers to unskilled transfers.

Chart 32: GDP per capita in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043  
Purchasing power parity



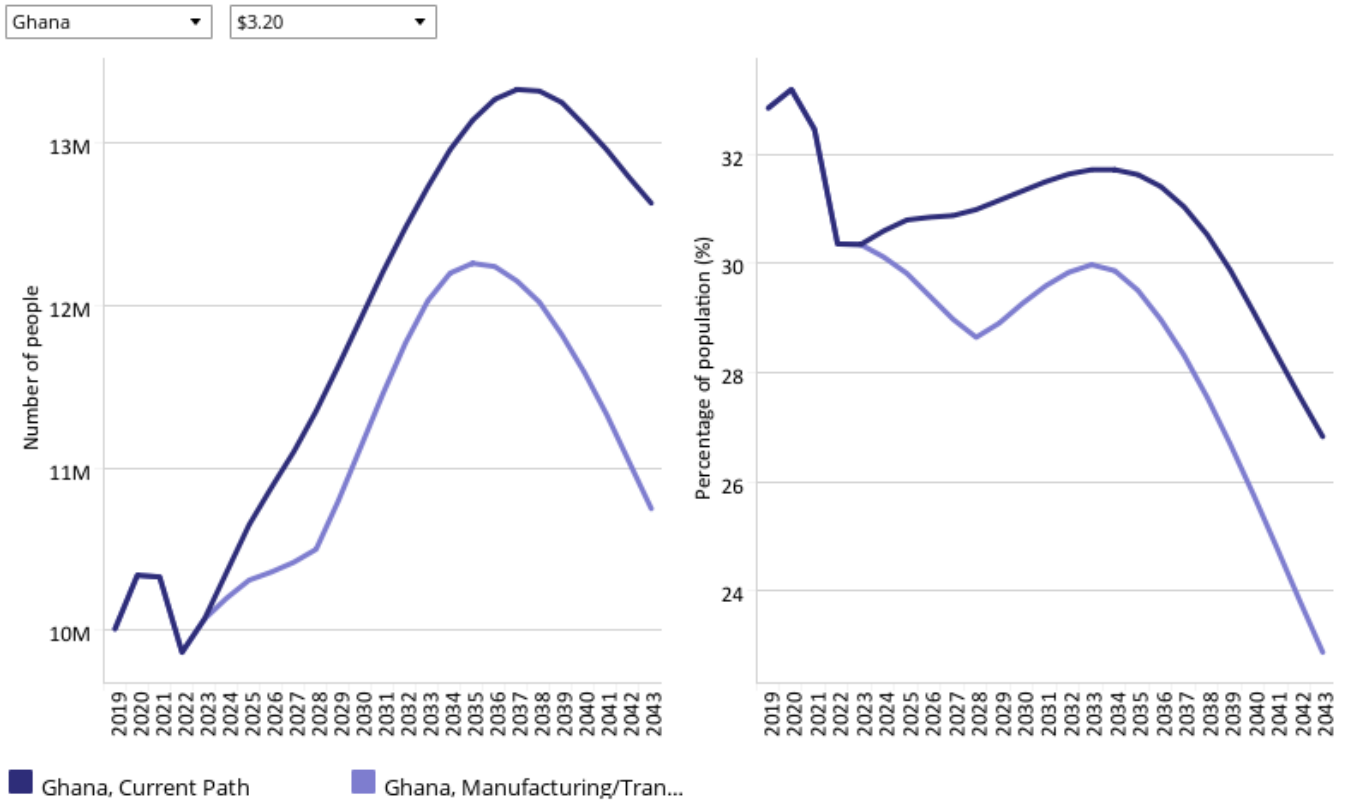
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Chart 32 displays GDP per capita (PPP) both in the Current Path forecast and in the Manufacturing/ Transfers scenario. By 2043, it is estimated that GDP per capita will rise to US\$7 230, which is US\$480 more than the projection based on the Current Path forecast. Ghana’s GDP per capita by 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will however still be below the continental average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries.

**Chart 33: Poverty in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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Chart 33 displays the number and portion of people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 per day both in the Current Path forecast and in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. By 2043, the estimated number of people who can be moved above the poverty line of US\$3.20 as a result of the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario is 1.88 million, constituting about 4% of the population. This means that if the country embarks on policies such as investment in the economy, research and development as well as export promotion, the absolute number of poor people will likely be 1.88 million fewer than in the Current Path forecast by 2043. Furthermore, the proportion of poor people projected in the Manufacturing/Transfer scenario will be 15.4 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income African countries.

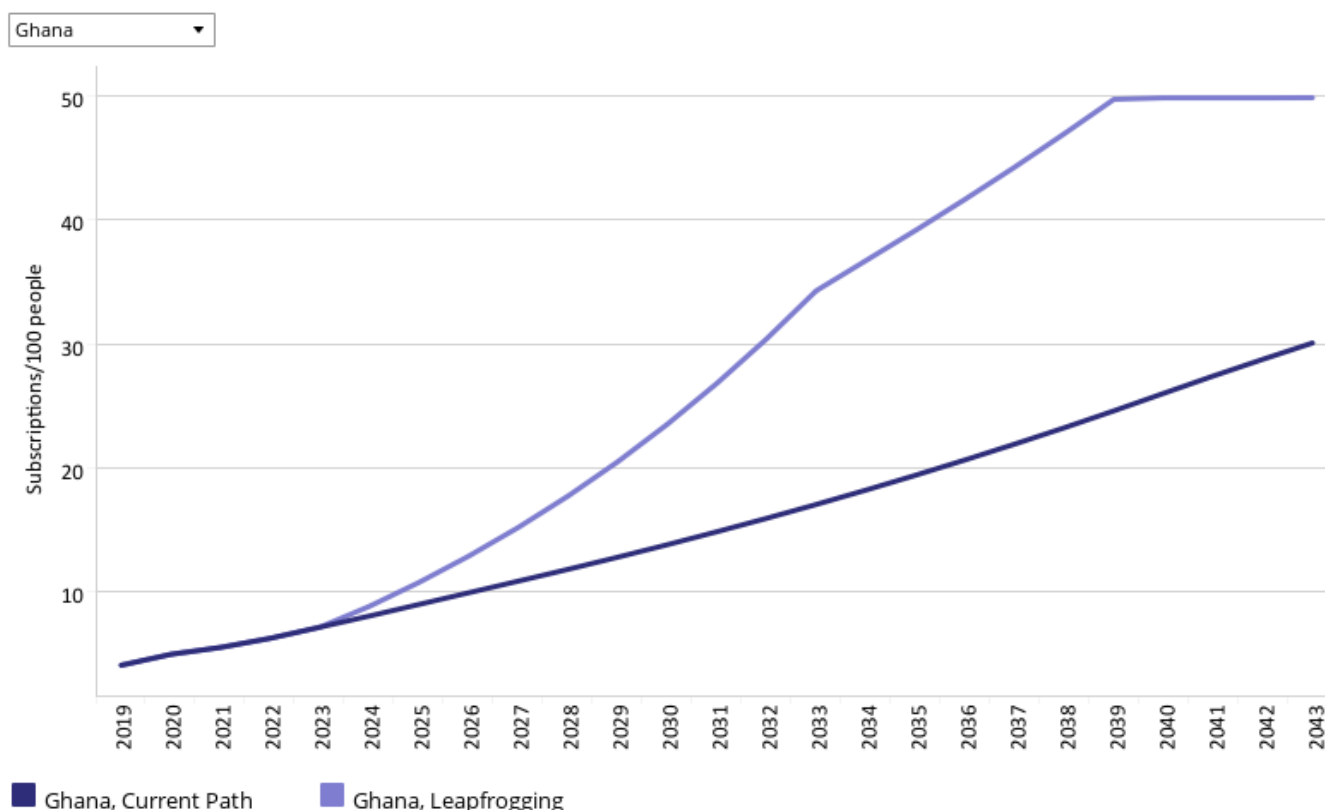




## Leapfrogging scenario

### Chart 34: Fixed broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043

Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFS 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

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The Leapfrogging scenario represents reasonable but ambitious adoption of and investment in renewable energy technologies, resulting in better access to electricity in urban and rural areas. The scenario includes accelerated access to mobile and fixed broadband and the adoption of modern technology that improves government efficiency and allows for the more rapid formalisation of the informal sector.

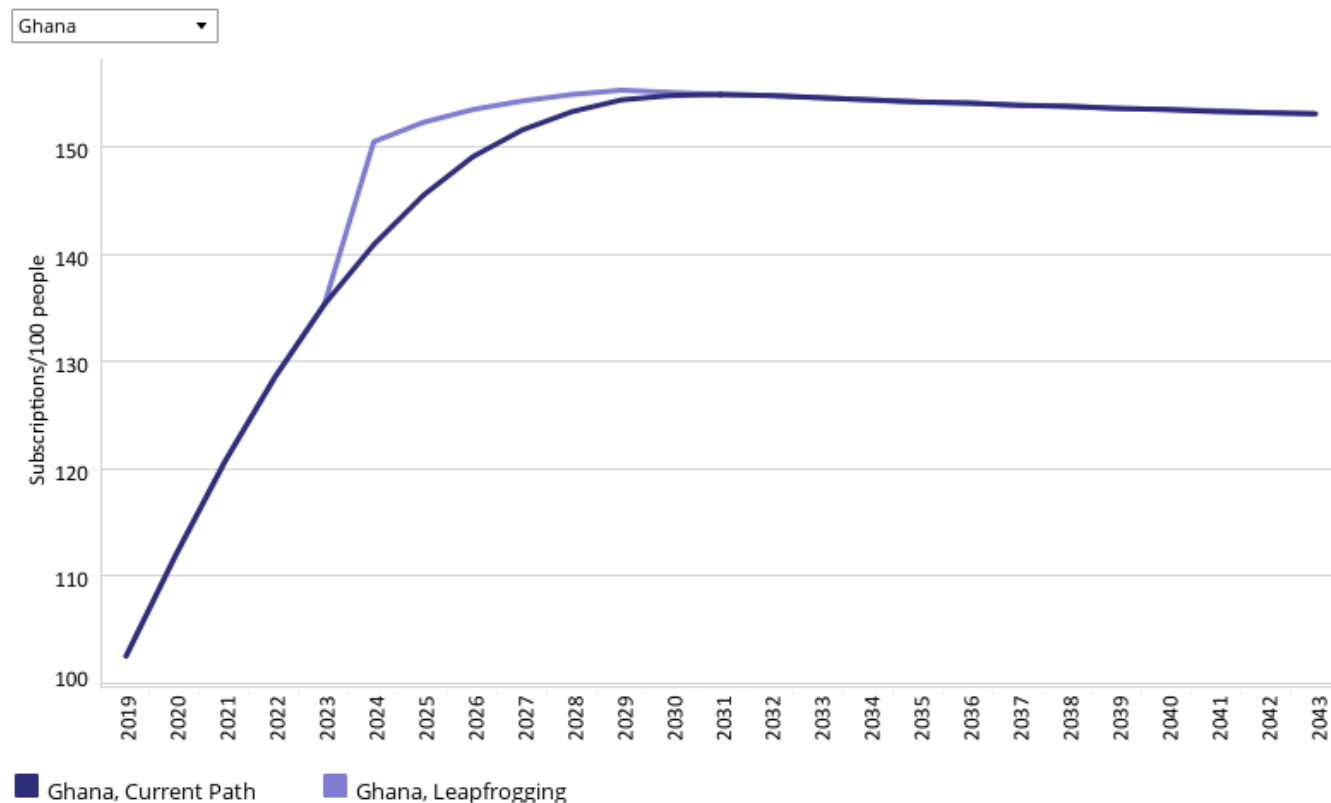
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Fixed broadband includes cable modem Internet connections, DSL Internet connections of at least 256 KB/s, fibre and other fixed broadband technology connections (such as satellite broadband Internet, ethernet local area networks, fixed-wireless access, wireless local area networks, WiMAX, etc.).

Chart 34 displays fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 people in the Current Path forecast and in the Leapfrogging scenario. In 2019, the total number of fixed broadband subscriptions was 4 per 100 people, which was slightly above the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Current Path forecast, fixed broadband subscriptions are expected to rise to 30.1 per 100 people. The Leapfrogging scenario will lead to a greater increase in fixed broadband subscriptions compared to the Current Path forecast, with a difference of almost 20 subscriptions per 100 people by 2043.

This means that the additional fixed broadband subscriptions as a result of the Leapfrogging scenario are 20 subscriptions per 100 people by 2043. The projected subscriptions in the Leapfrogging scenario will lead to additional 23.4 subscriptions per 100 people compared to the average of 26.5 for lower middle-income African countries.

**Chart 35: Mobile broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043**  
Subscriptions per 100 people



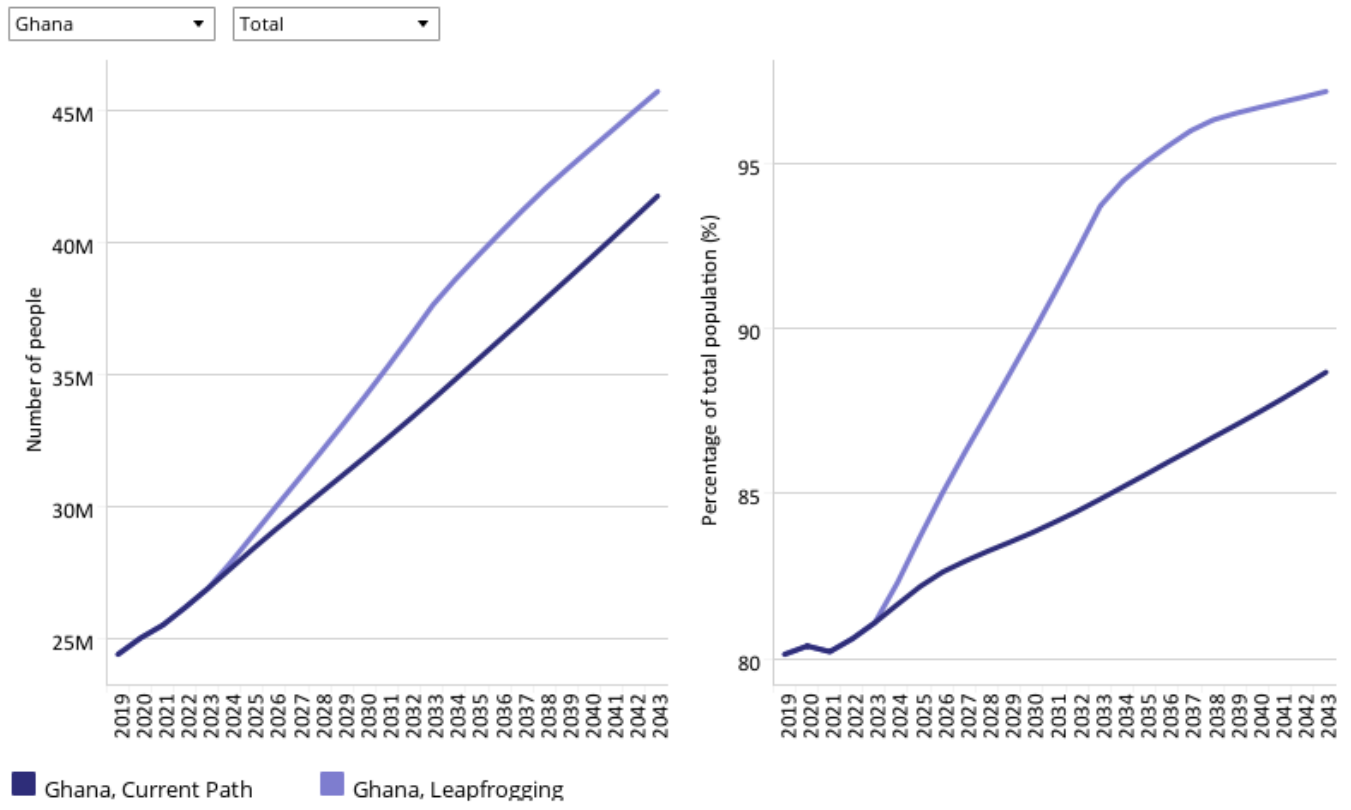
Source: IFS 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

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Mobile broadband refers to wireless Internet access delivered through cellular towers to computers and other digital devices.

Chart 35 illustrates mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people based on the Current Path forecast and the Leapfrogging scenario. Ghana had a mobile broadband subscription of 102.5 per 100 people in 2019, which was more than twice the average for lower middle-income countries on the continent. Although the Leapfrogging scenario initially rises to 150.5 subscriptions per 100 people above the Current Path forecast of 140.9 subscription in 2024, in the long-run, the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast converge. By 2043, both the Current Path forecast and the Leapfrogging scenario estimates will increase mobile subscriptions to 153.1 per 100 people, which is above the continental average of 147.6 for lower middle-income countries.

**Chart 36: Electricity access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of population

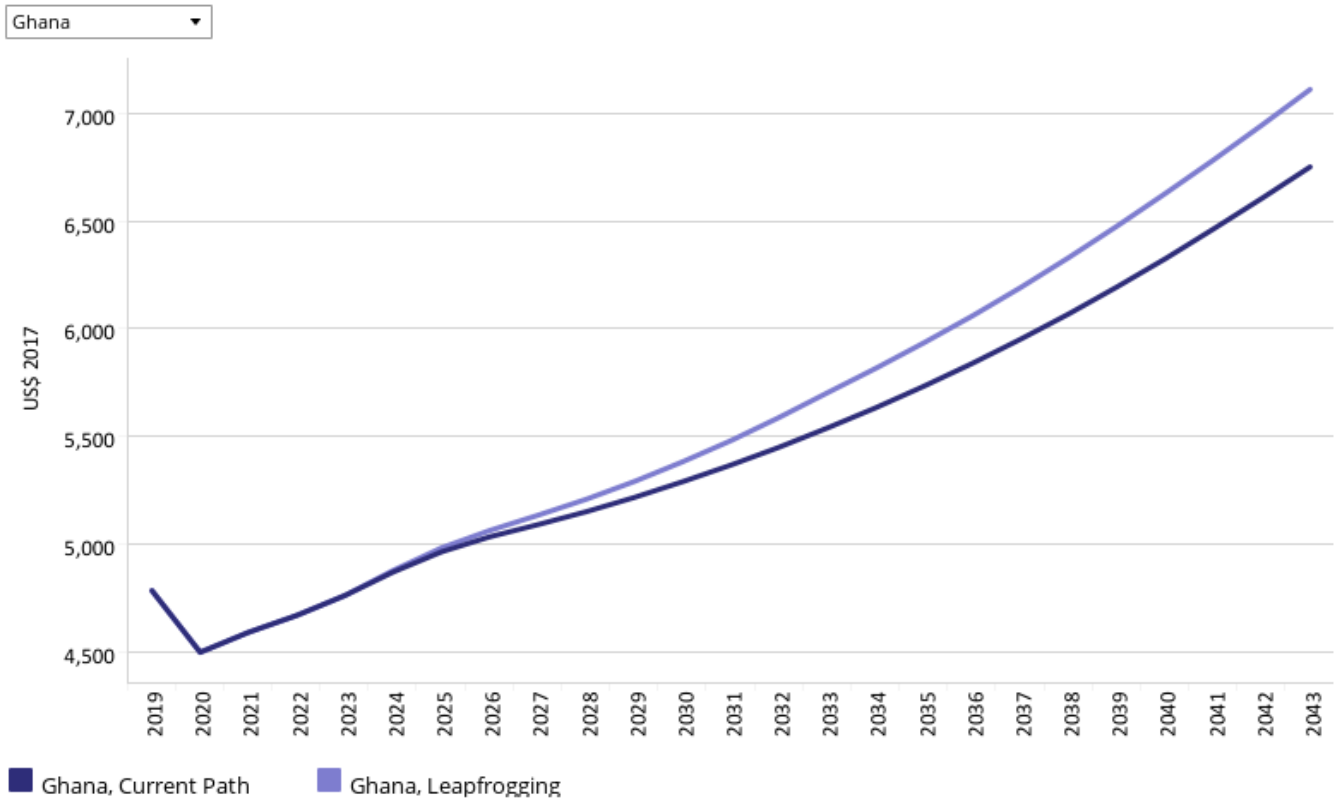


Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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Chart 36 shows the number and proportion of people with access to electricity. The number of Ghanaians who had access to electricity in 2019 was 24.4 million people, representing 80.1% of the total population. In terms of urban-rural distribution, about 90% of people in urban centres had access to electricity, compared to 67.8% of those in the rural areas. Based on the Leapfrogging scenario, it is projected that by 2043, 97.2% of Ghanaians (constituting 45.7 million people) will have access to electricity. This is higher than the 88.7% of people, reflecting 41.7 million, projected in the Current Path forecast, signifying that the Leapfrogging scenario can increase access to electricity to an additional 4 million Ghanaians. Also, Ghana’s 97.2% access to electricity will be higher than the average for lower middle-income countries on the continent, which is estimated to be 90.2%. Interestingly, by 2043, 98.5% of rural dwellers will have access to electricity as compared to 96.6% of urban dwellers.

Chart 37: GDP per capita in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043  
Purchasing power parity



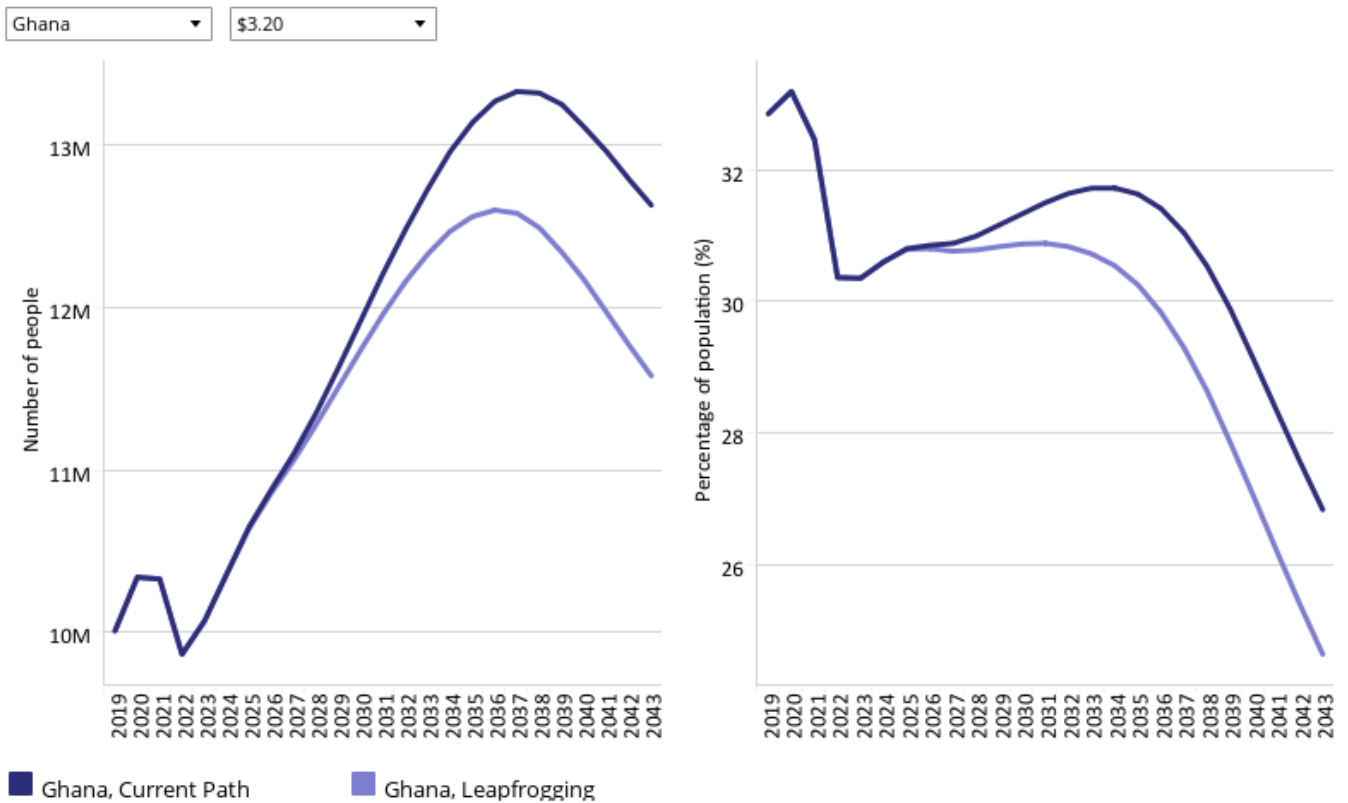
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Chart 37 illustrates GDP per capita (PPP) in the Current Path forecast and in the Leapfrogging scenario. Ghana’s GDP per capita is projected to increase from US\$4 784 in 2019 to US\$7 111 by 2043, based on the Leapfrogging scenario. This represents an increase of US\$360 as compared to the Current Path forecast. However, it falls below the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

**Chart 38: Poverty in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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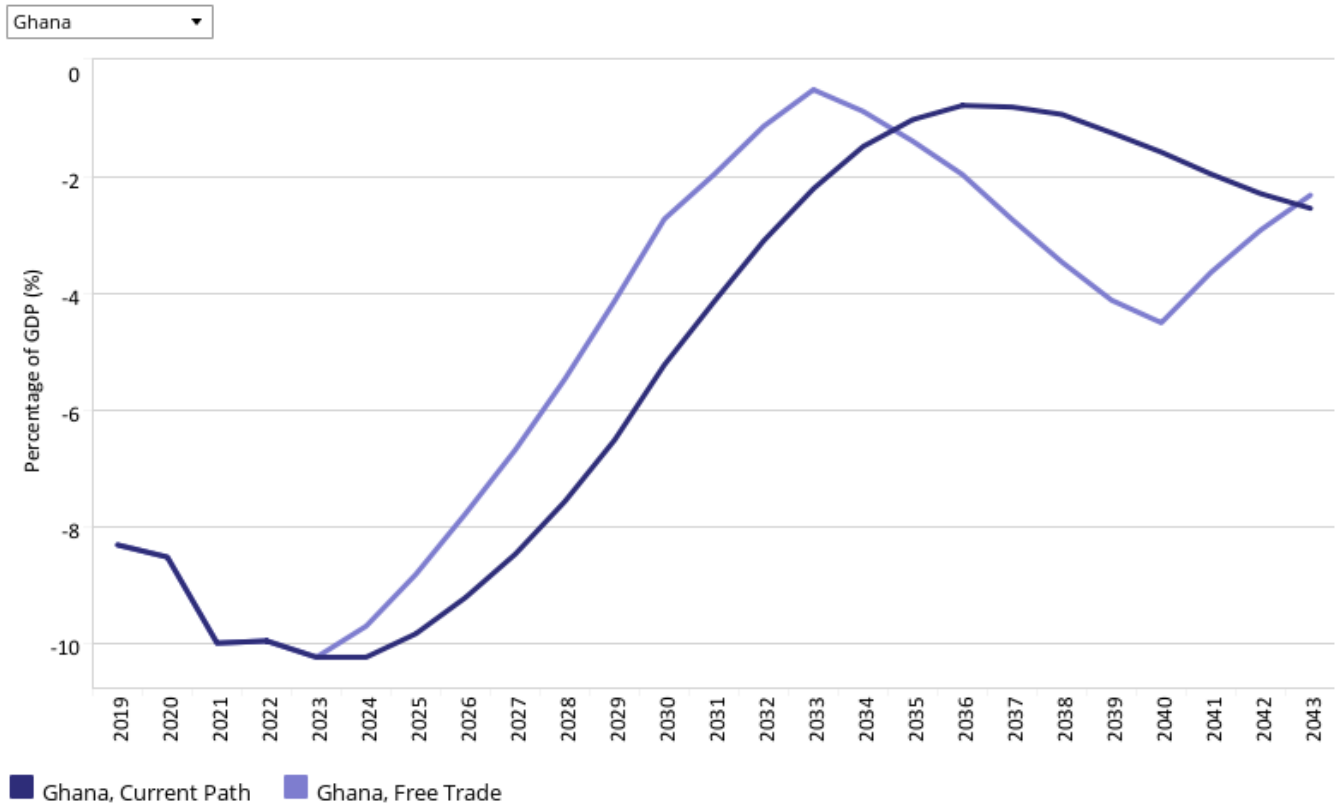
Chart 38 depicts the number and proportion of people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 per day in the Current Path forecast and in the Leapfrogging scenario. Based on the Leapfrogging scenario, the number of poor people by 2043 is projected to be 11.58 million, representing 24.6% of the population. This projection is lower than the 12.63 million estimated in the Current Path forecast in the same year, which suggests that the number of poor people in the Leapfrogging scenario is 1.05 million fewer than in the Current Path forecast by 2043. The proportion of poor people projected in the Leapfrogging scenario will be 13.7 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income African countries.





## Free Trade scenario

Chart 39: Trade balance in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043  
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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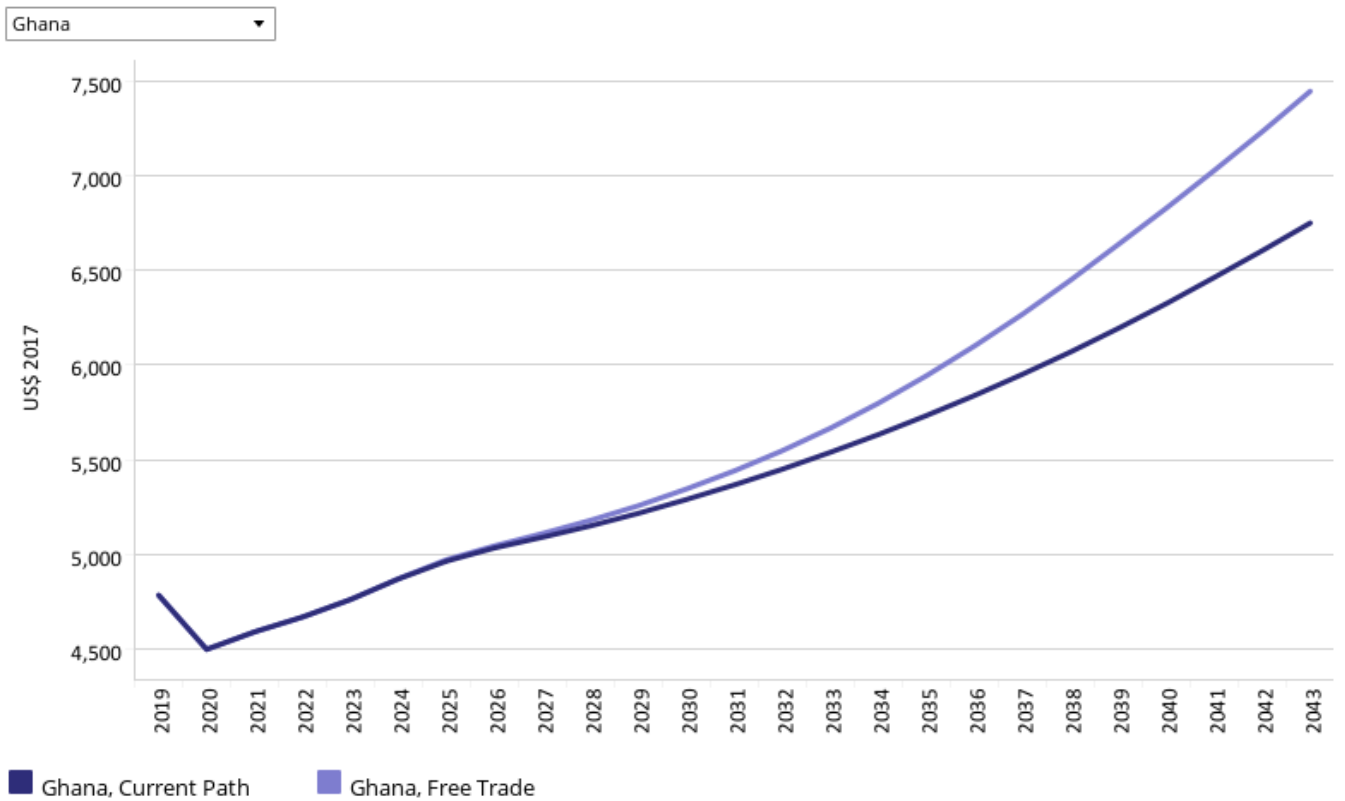
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The Free Trade scenario represents the impact of the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 2034 through increases in exports, improved productivity and increased trade and economic freedom.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 39 shows the trade balance as a per cent of GDP both in the Current Path forecast and in the Free Trade scenario. In 2019, Ghana's trade balance as a per cent of GDP was a deficit of 8.3%, which was higher than the average of 6.6% for lower middle-income African countries. This deficit can be explained by the country's inability to add value to its main exports such as cocoa, gold, timber and oil and the over-reliance on imported finished products for domestic consumption. From 2023, Ghana will begin to see an improvement in its trade balance both in the Current Path forecast and in the Free Trade scenario, although the improvement is much quicker in the latter. This upward trend will continue until it reaches a peak of a deficit of 0.52% of GDP in 2033 in the Free Trade scenario, suggesting that if the country takes full advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it can significantly improve its trade balance. However, these gains will begin to decline, so that by 2043, the projected trade deficit will be 2.32% in the Free Trade scenario and 2.6% in the Current Path forecast. The full implementation of the AfCFTA can also cause Ghana's exports to decline in the long-run due to increased competition from neighbouring countries, particularly since most African countries produce similar commodities. This will be below the average for lower middle-income African countries.

**Chart 40: GDP per capita in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043**  
Purchasing power parity



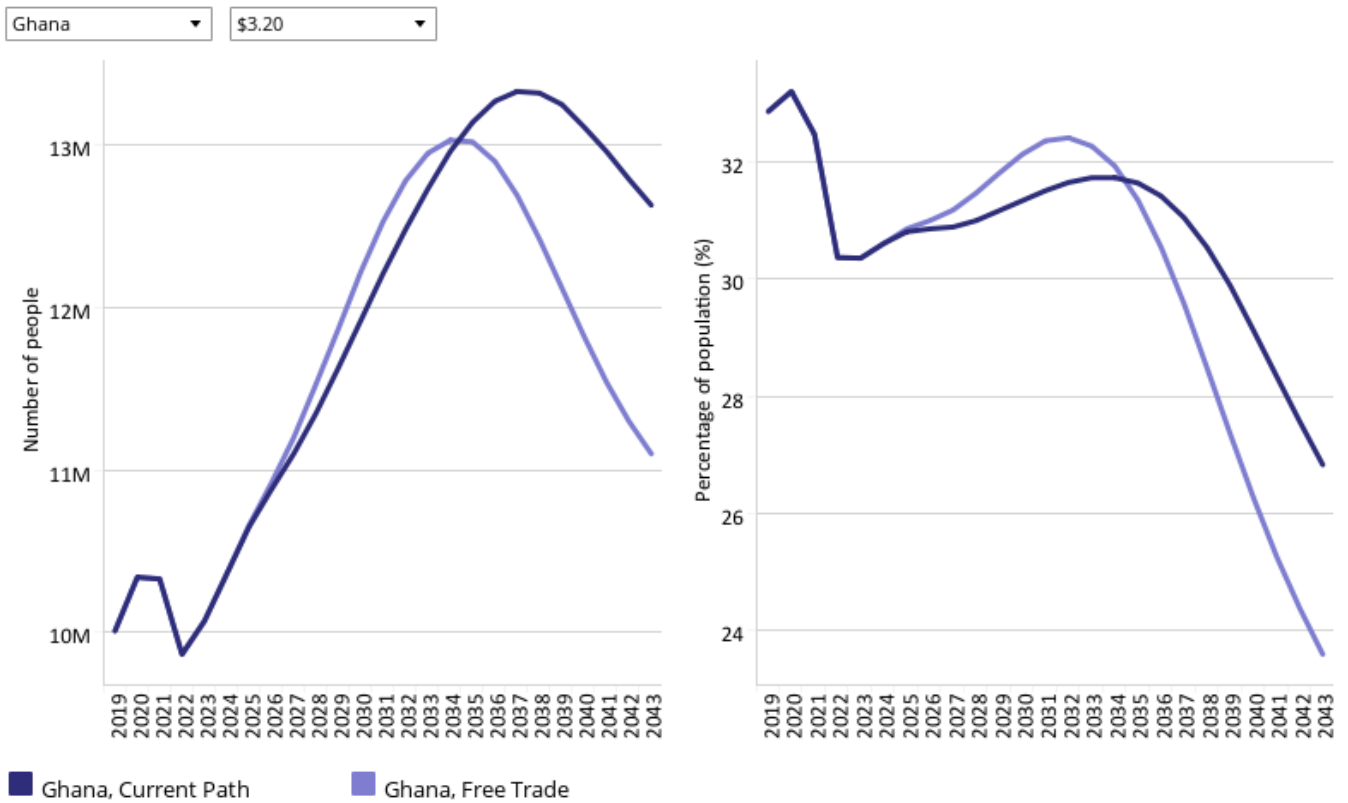
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Chart 40 presents GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and in the Free Trade scenario from 2019 to 2043. GDP per capita for Ghana is estimated to increase to US\$7 448 by 2043 in the Free Trade scenario, which is US\$697 more than the projections in the Current Path forecast by 2043. This means that if Ghana takes advantage of the AfCTA to increase trade and productivity, it can achieve an extra US\$697 increment in GDP per capita by 2043. Nonetheless, the average GDP per capita of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income African countries is US\$1 694 higher than the projected value for Ghana in the Free Trade scenario.

**Chart 41: Poverty in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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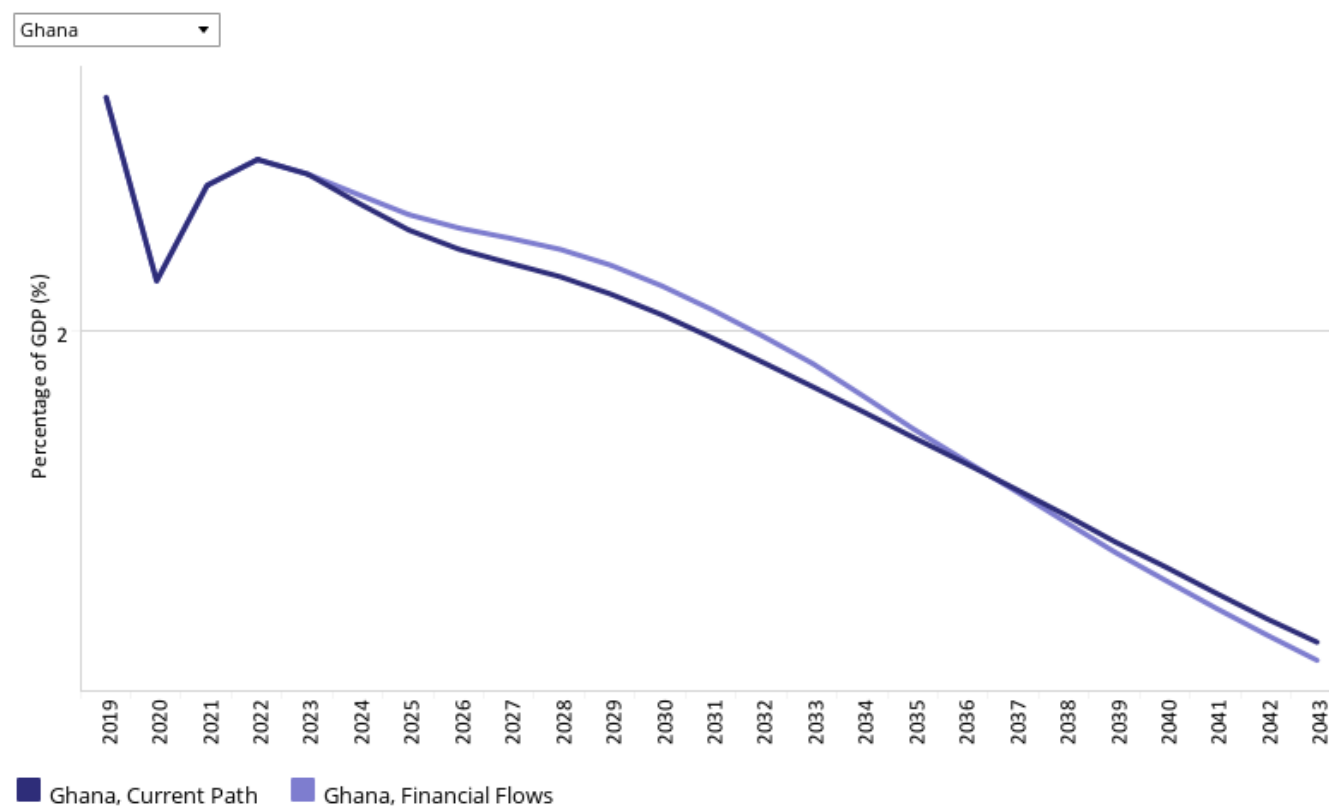
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Chart 41 illustrates the number and per cent of poor people in the Current Path forecast and in the Free Trade scenario. In the long run, the Free Trade scenario will lead to a greater reduction in the number of poor people as compared to the Current Path forecast. By 2043, the number of people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 per day will be 11.1 million people, representing 23.6% of the population. This is 3.2 percentage points less than the Current Path forecast, meaning that the Free Trade scenario has 1.53 million fewer poor people than in the Current Path forecast by 2043. The proportion of poor people projected in the Free Trade scenario will be 14.7 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income African countries.



## Financial Flows scenario

### Chart 42: Foreign aid in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043 % of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Development Assistance Committee of the OECD data, and World Bank and OECD GNI estimates.

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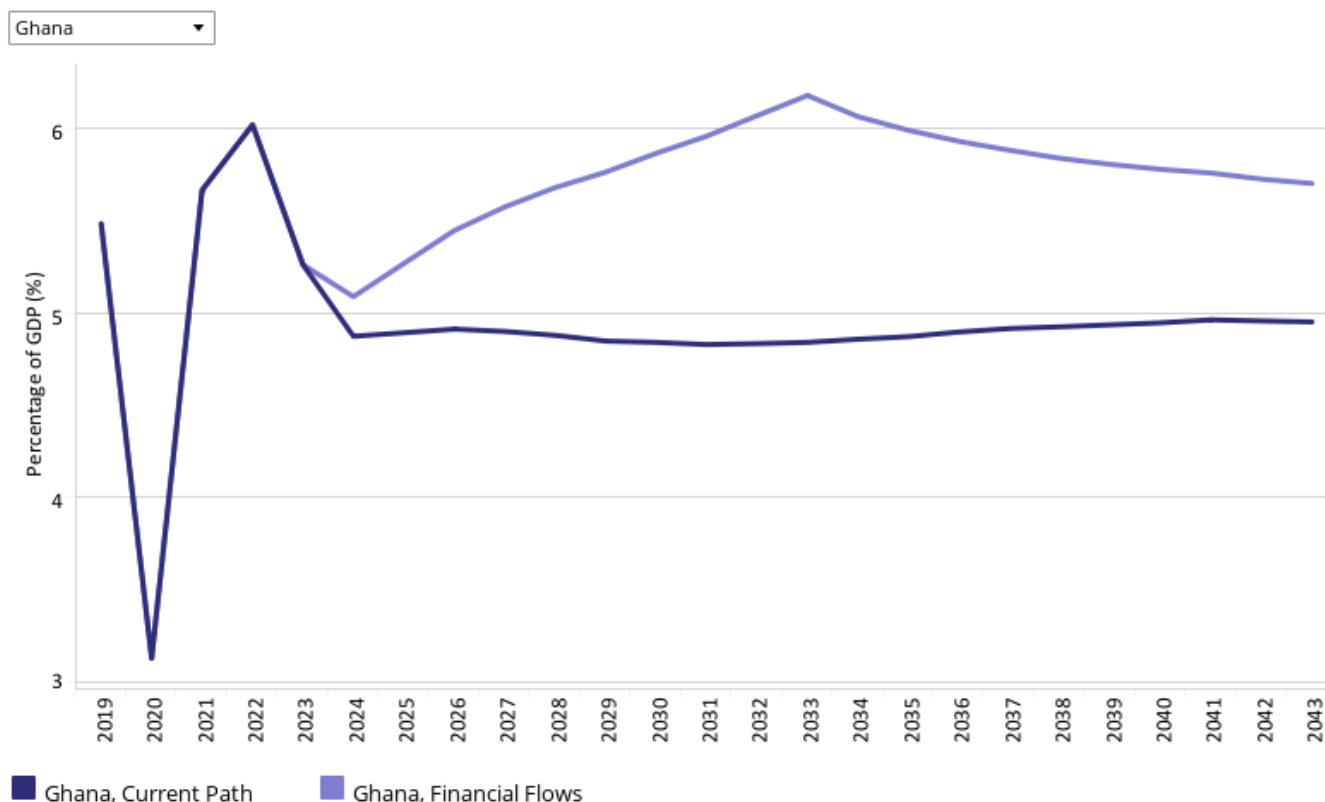
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The Financial Flows scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in worker remittances and aid flows to poor countries, and an increase in the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) and additional portfolio investment inflows to middle-income countries. We also reduced outward financial flows to emulate a reduction in illicit financial outflows.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 42 depicts the trends in foreign aid as a percentage of GDP in the Current Path forecast and in the Financial Flows scenario. Generally, the total foreign aid received by Ghana has been quite low since the country attained a lower middle-income status. Subsequently, the main sources of external financing have been through either bilateral and multilateral loans, debt financing and FDI. The total foreign aid received by Ghana in 2019 was 2.6% of GDP, which was above the average of 1.67% for lower middle-income countries on the continent. Foreign aid to Ghana is expected to decline further such that by 2043 the total foreign aid received by the country is projected to be 1.15% in the Financial Flows scenario and 1.19% of GDP in the Current Path forecast. This suggests that in the Financial Flow scenario, foreign aid as a percentage of GDP is lower than in the Current Path forecast but higher than the average of 0.54 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. The decline in foreign aid is expected given the implementation of the Ghana Beyond Aid agenda by the incumbent government.

Chart 43: Inflow of FDI in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043  
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

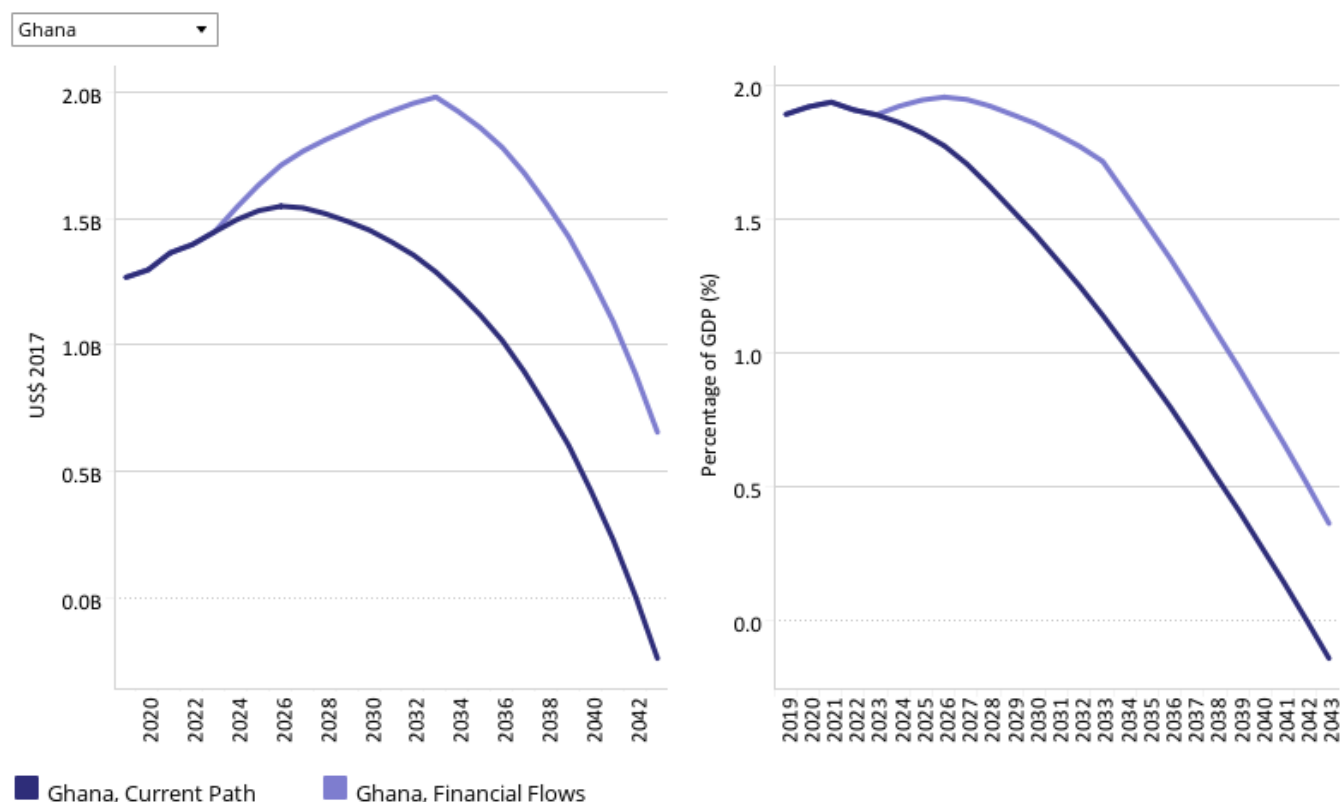
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Chart 43 shows FDI as a percentage of GDP in the Current Path forecast and in the Financial Flows scenario. Ghana’s total FDI in 2019 amounted to 5.5% of GDP, which is significantly higher than the average of 2.6% for lower middle-income African countries. Political stability and a peaceful environment under the Fourth Republic make it an attractive destination for long-term foreign investment; therefore, it is not surprising that Ghana attracts more FDI than its peers on the continent. The leading recipients of FDI projects in Ghana are the manufacturing, service and mining sectors. By 2043, it is projected that the total FDI to the country will be about 5% of GDP in the Current Path forecast. The Financial Flows scenario will lead to a higher increase in FDI, projected to be around 5.7% of GDP, which is also above the average of 4.0 for lower middle-income countries on the continent.

### Chart 44: Remittances in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043

Billions US\$ 2017 and % of GDP



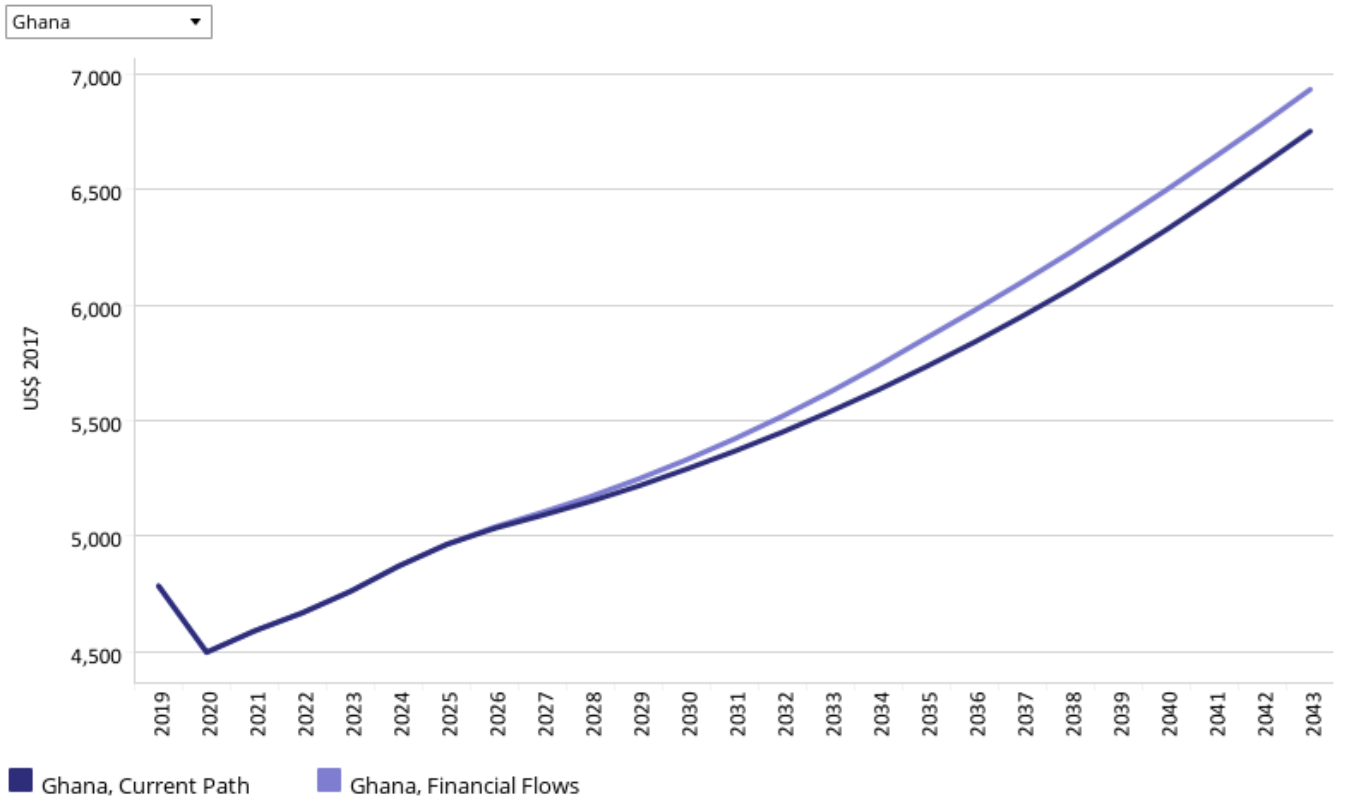
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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Chart 44 represents the absolute value of remittances and remittances as a proportion of GDP both in the Current Path forecast and in the Financial Flows scenario. In 2019, the total value of remittances that Ghana received amounted to US\$1.27 billion, which constituted about 1.9% of GDP. This is below the average of 2.6% of GDP for lower middle-income African countries. In the short-term, in the Financial Flows scenario, remittances will begin to rise until they reach a peak in 2033 of US\$1.98 billion, reflecting 1.72% of GDP. However, it assumes a downward trend afterwards, such that by 2043 the total value of remittances will be US\$0.66 billion, constituting 0.37% of GDP. Remittances will decline quicker in the Current Path forecast so that by 2043 the total value of remittances in the country will be about US\$0.24 billion, representing 0.14% of GDP, which is still below the forecast average of 2.03 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

**Chart 45: GDP per capita in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043**  
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

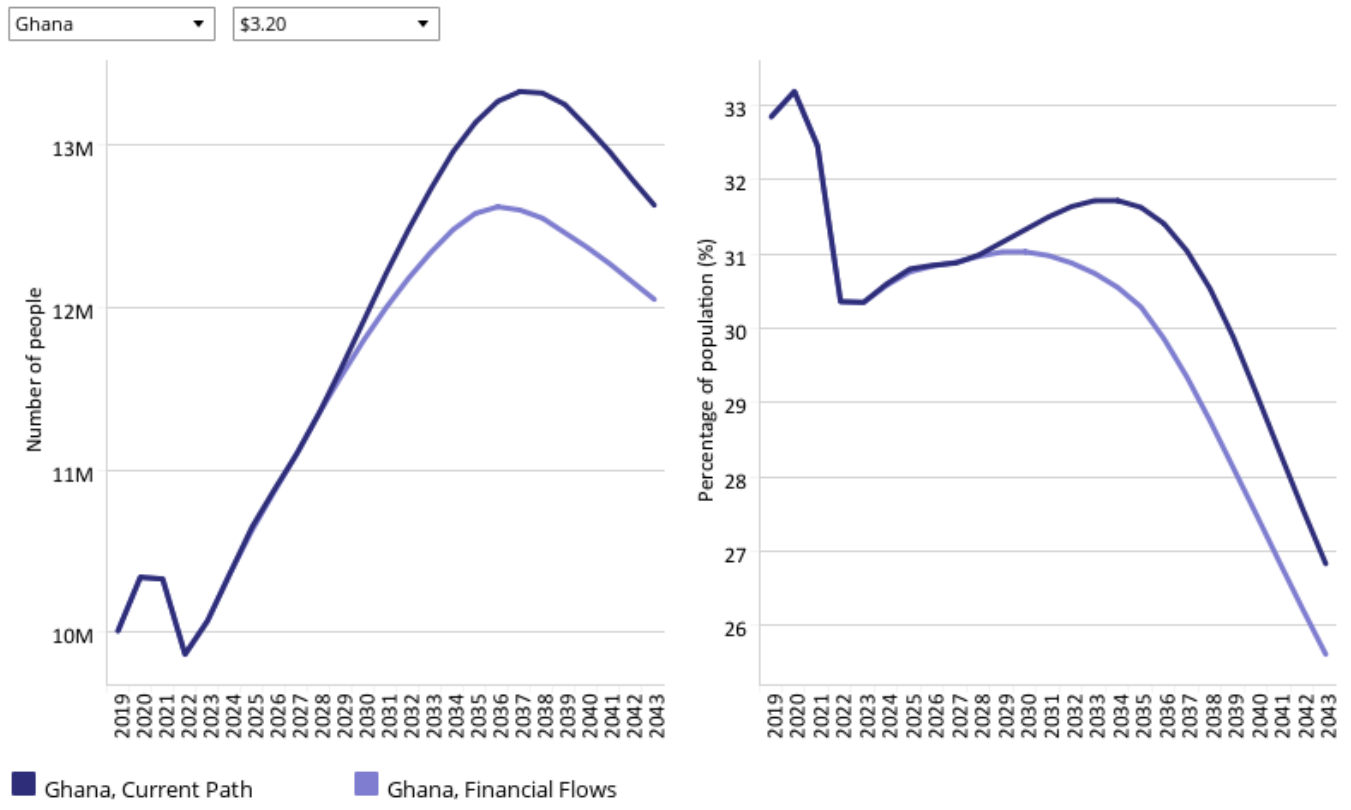
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Chart 45 illustrates GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and in the Financial Flows scenario. Ghana’s GDP per capita is estimated to increase to US\$6 932 by 2043 in the Financial Flows scenario. This represents an increase of US\$181 compared to the Current Path projection in the same year. The US\$6 932 estimate is also far below the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa, which is projected to be US\$9 142 in the Financial Flows scenario.



**Chart 46: Poverty in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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Chart 46 depicts the number and per cent of poor people respectively who are living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 per day in the Current Path forecast and in the Financial Flows scenario. Based on the Financial Flows scenario, the total number of people projected to live below the poverty line of US\$3.20 will decline to 12.05 million by 2043, representing 25.6% of the total population— lower than the average of 38.3% for lower middle-income African countries. This estimate constitutes a reduction of 0.58 million people compared to the Current Path forecast in the same year.



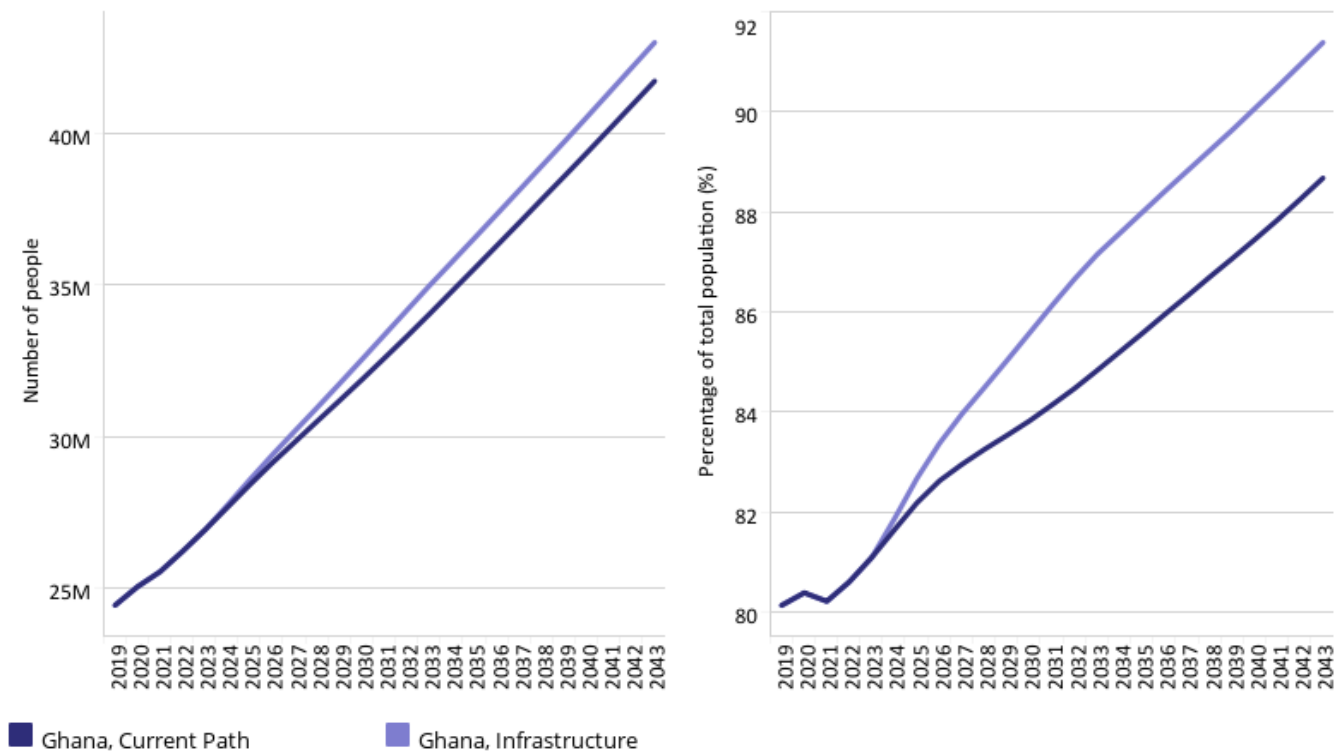
## Infrastructure scenario

### Chart 47: Electricity access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of population



Ghana Total



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The Infrastructure scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in infrastructure spending across Africa, focusing on basic infrastructure (roads, water, sanitation, electricity access and ICT) in low-income countries and increasing emphasis on advanced infrastructure (such as ports, airports, railway and electricity generation) in higher-income countries.

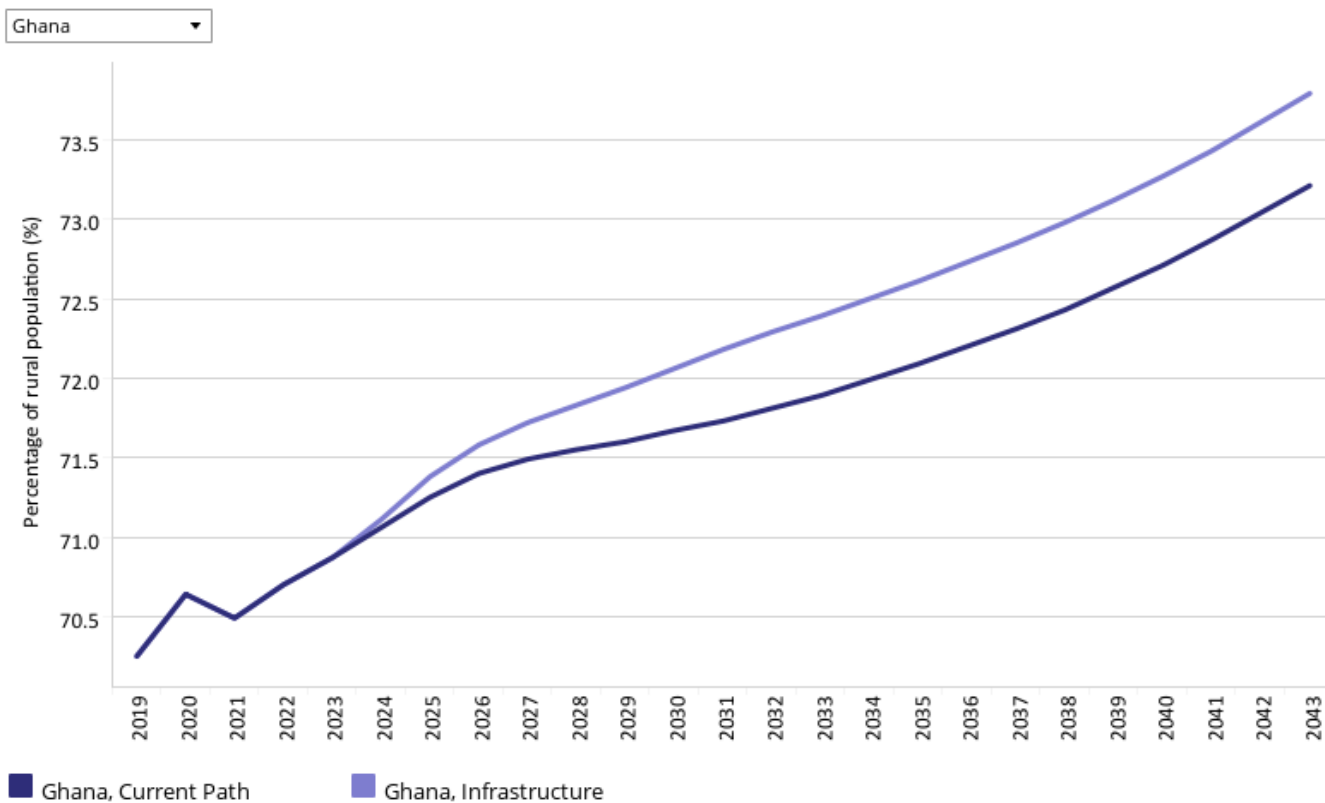
Note that health and sanitation infrastructure is included as part of the Health/WaSH scenario and that ICT infrastructure and more rapid uptake of renewables are part of the Leapfrogging scenario. The interventions there push directly on outcomes, whereas those modelled in this scenario increase infrastructure spending, indirectly boosting other forms of infrastructure, including that supporting health, sanitation and ICT.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 47 shows the number and proportion of people with access to electricity in the Current Path forecast and in the Infrastructure scenario. The total number of people with access to electricity in Ghana is 24.42 million, representing 80.1% of the population. This is expected to increase to 43.02 million (constituting 91% of the population) by 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This increment exceeds the projected value of 41.74 million reflecting 88.7% of the population in the Current Path forecast. In terms of rural-urban dichotomy, the total number of people in urban centres who are estimated to have access to electricity by 2043 will be 30.12 million, which constitutes an overwhelming 94.9% of the urban

population. However, only 84.2% of rural dwellers will have access to electricity by 2043, indicating a disparity in access to electricity between urban and rural dwellers in the Infrastructure scenario.

**Chart 48: Rural road access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043**  
 % of rural population within 2 km of an all-weather road



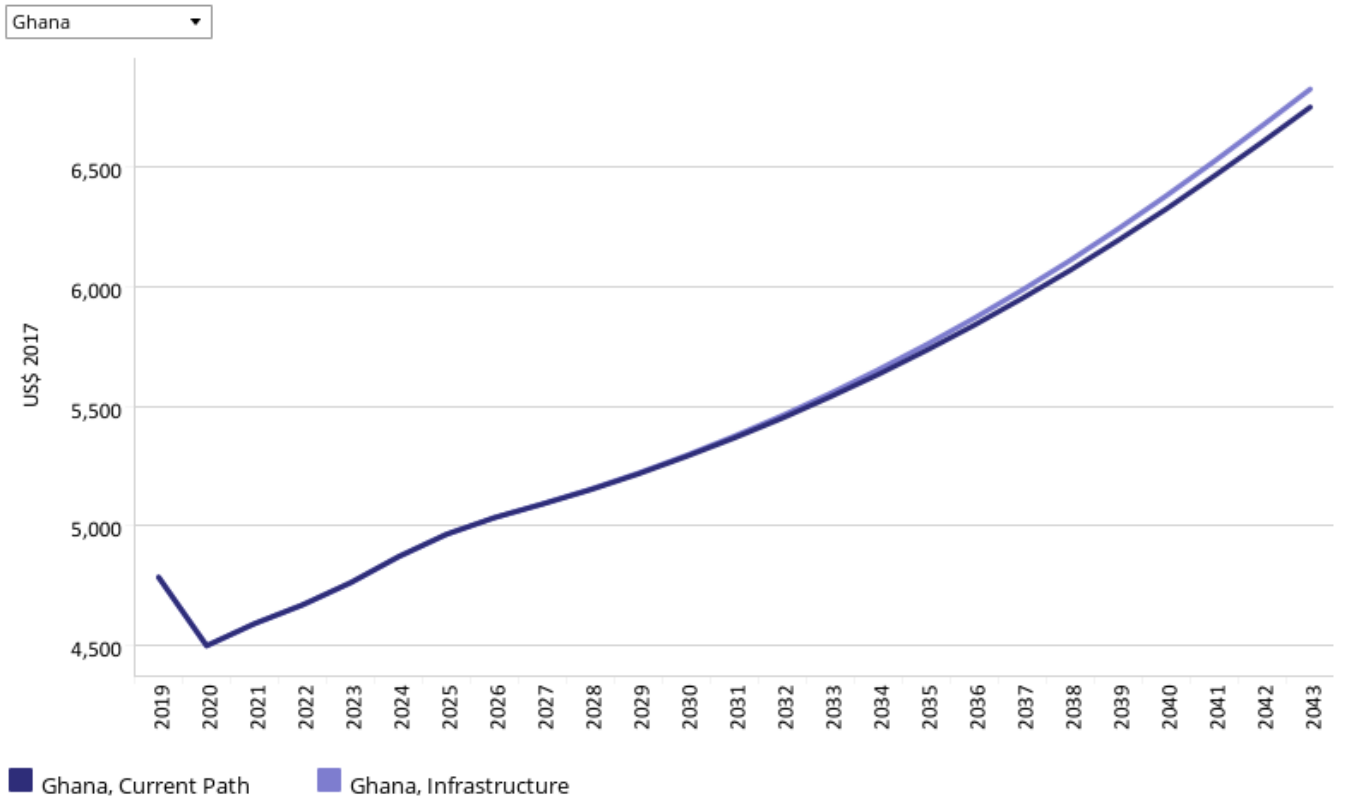
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank Rural Access Index data

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Indicator 9.1.1. in the Sustainable Development Goals refers to the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road and is captured in the Rural Access Index.

Chart 48 represents the percent of rural population within 2 km of all-weather roads in the Current Path forecast and in the Infrastructure scenario. Accessibility to rural areas is important in spurring the socio-economic development of a country and improving the living standards of rural dwellers. It enables rural dwellers to enjoy amenities from nearby urban areas while allowing urban centres to benefit more easily from the agricultural products supplied by rural areas. In 2019, 70% of all rural dwellers resided within 2 km from all-weather roads; this was higher than the average of 61.4% for lower middle-income countries in Africa. In the Infrastructure scenario, this is expected to rise to 73.8% by 2043, which will be higher than the 73.2% projected in the Current Path forecast and the continental average for lower middle-income countries of 67.8%.

Chart 49: GDP per capita in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043  
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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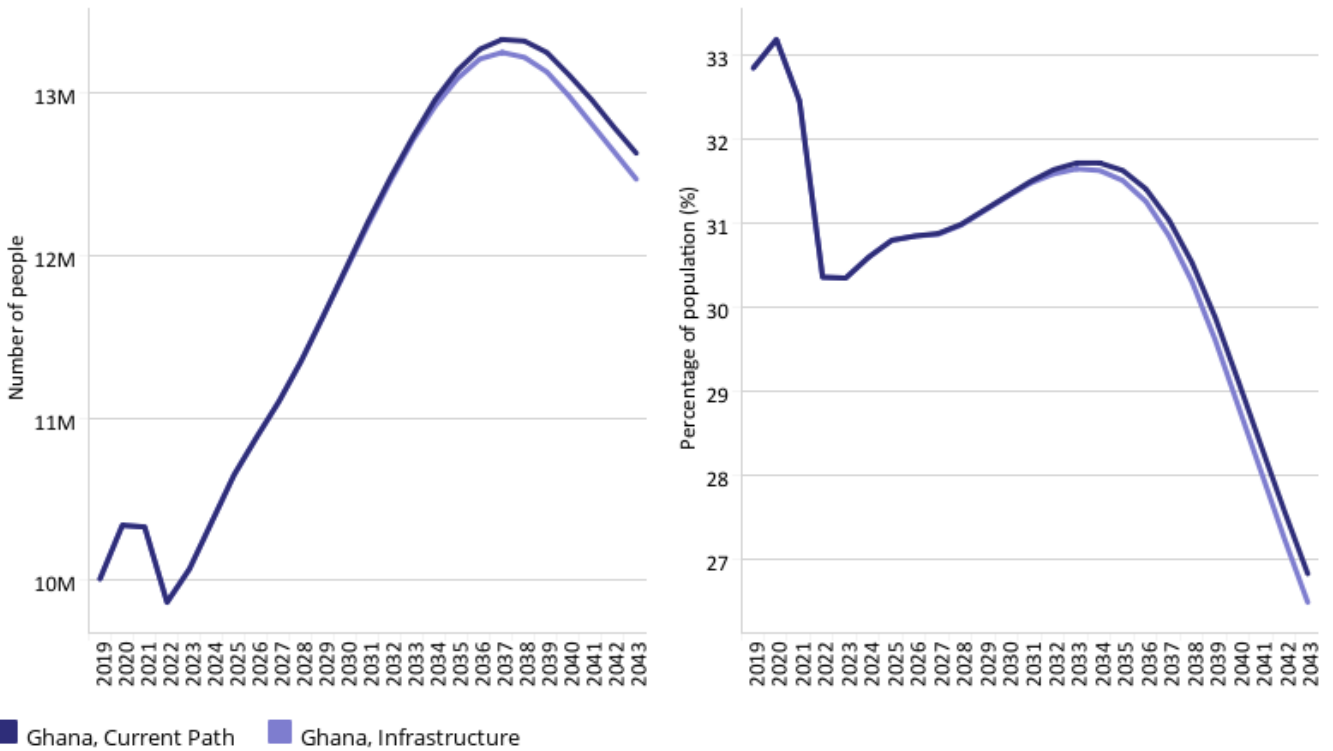
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Chart 49 illustrates GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and in the Infrastructure scenario. Ghana’s GDP per capita is estimated to rise to US\$6 827 by 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This is US\$76 more than the estimated US\$6 751 in the Current Path forecast in the same year but below the average of US\$9 142 for lower middle-income countries in Africa.

**Chart 50: Poverty in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Ghana \$3.20



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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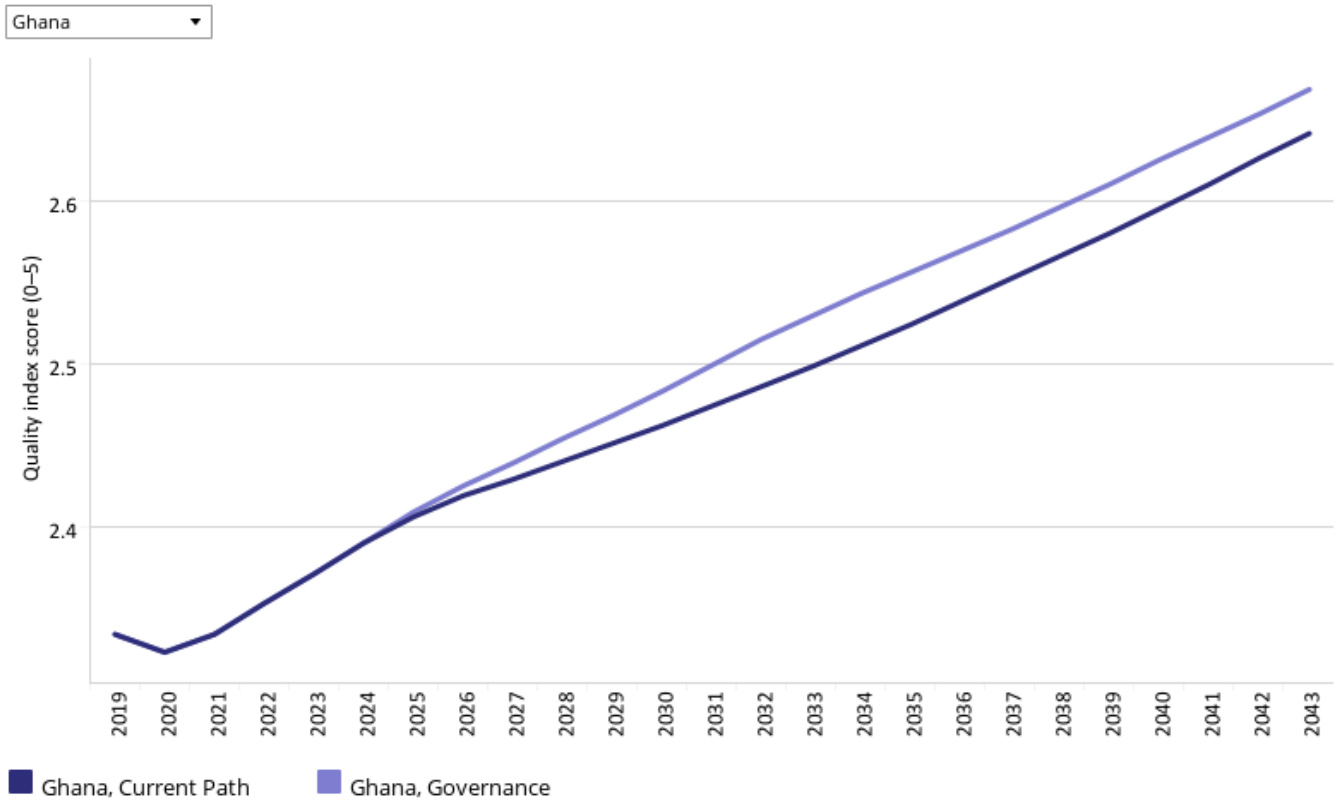
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Chart 50 shows the number and per cent of poor people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 per day in the Current Path forecast and in the Infrastructure scenario. By 2043, the proportion of the poor population is expected to decline from 32.9% in 2019 to 26.5% by 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This corresponds to 12.47 million poor people by 2043 who will live below the poverty line. Comparing this with the projections in the Current Path forecast suggests that there will be 0.16 million fewer poor people than in the Current Path forecast in the same year and 11.8 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income African countries.



## Governance scenario

Chart 51: Gov effectiveness in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043  
World Bank quality index score for government effectiveness



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2010) data

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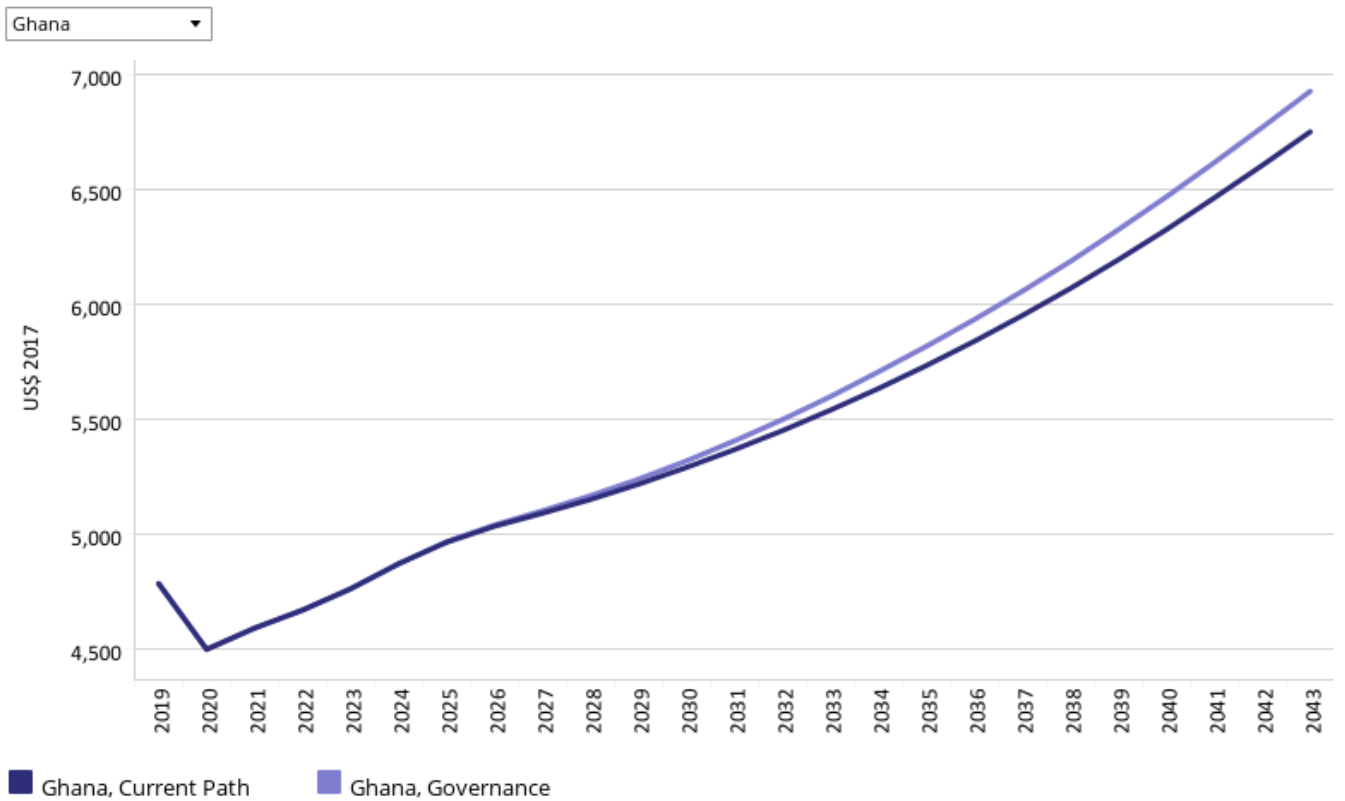
The Governance scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious improvement in accountability and reduces corruption, and hence improves the quality of service delivery by government.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

As defined by the World Bank, government effectiveness ‘captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government’s commitment to such policies’.

Chart 51 depicts the World Bank government effectiveness quality score in the Current Path forecast and in the Governance scenario. In 2019, Ghana’s score for government effectiveness was 2.33, which was above the average of 1.89 for lower middle-income countries in Africa. Despite the peace and stability that Ghana has enjoyed under the Fourth Republic, the quality of governance in the country has not been the best. The civil and public services are still under executive control with frequent political interference. Public service delivery is poor and public sector corruption remains high. In both the Current Path forecast and the Governance scenario, government effectiveness is estimated to increase over the period so that by 2043, the latter is 0.03 higher than the former. The projected score for Ghana will be 0.35 more compared to the average of lower middle-income countries in Africa. This suggests that notwithstanding the shortcomings, Ghana is relatively better in terms of governance on the continent and ranked as the fifth best democracy in Africa.

**Chart 52: GDP per capita in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043**  
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

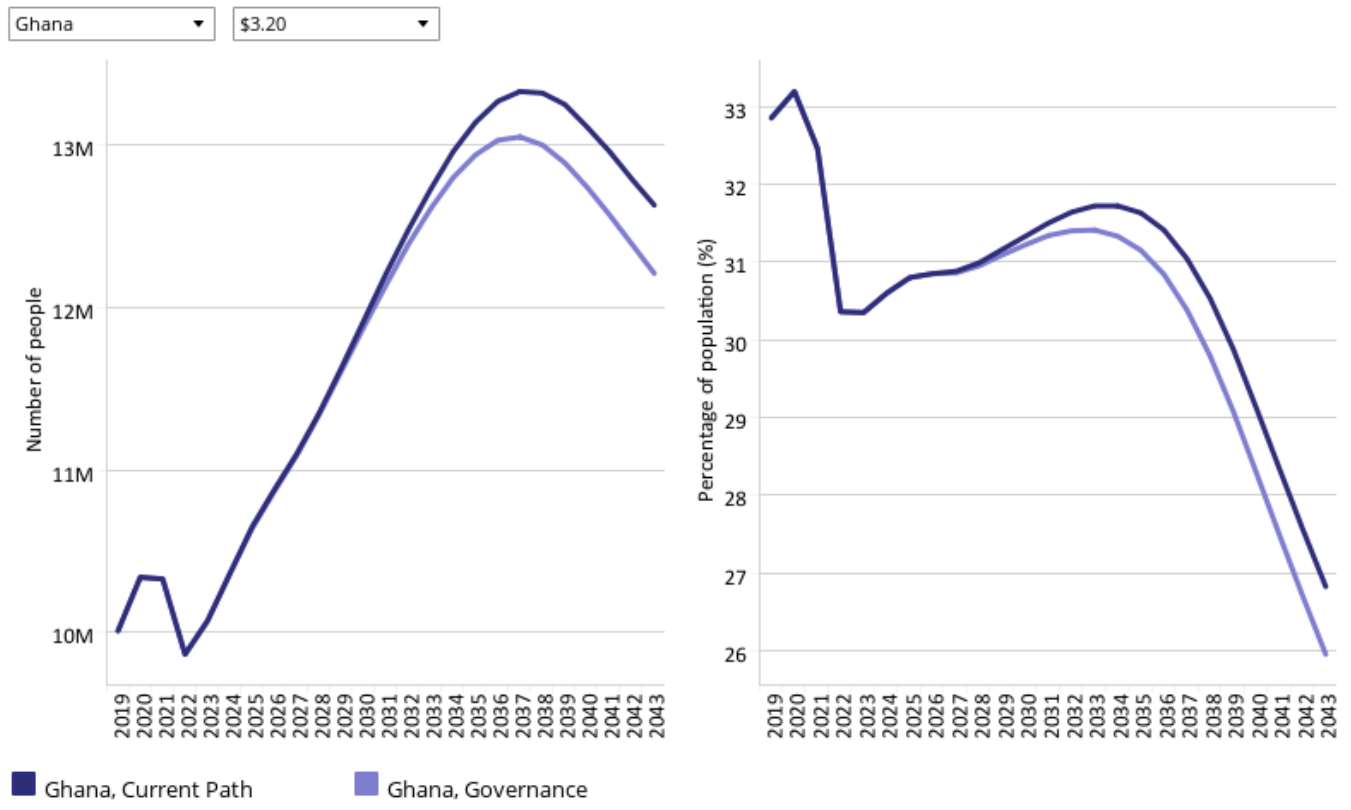
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Chart 52 displays GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and in the Governance scenario. Ghana’s GDP per capita is projected to increase to US\$6 928 by 2043 which is US\$177 more than the estimates in the Current Path forecast but lower than the average of US\$6 928 for lower middle-income countries on the continent in the same year. This suggests that good governance in the form of reducing corruption, improvement in the quality of service delivery and accountability can lead to an additional US\$180 in GDP per capita compared to the Current Path forecast by 2043.



**Chart 53: Poverty in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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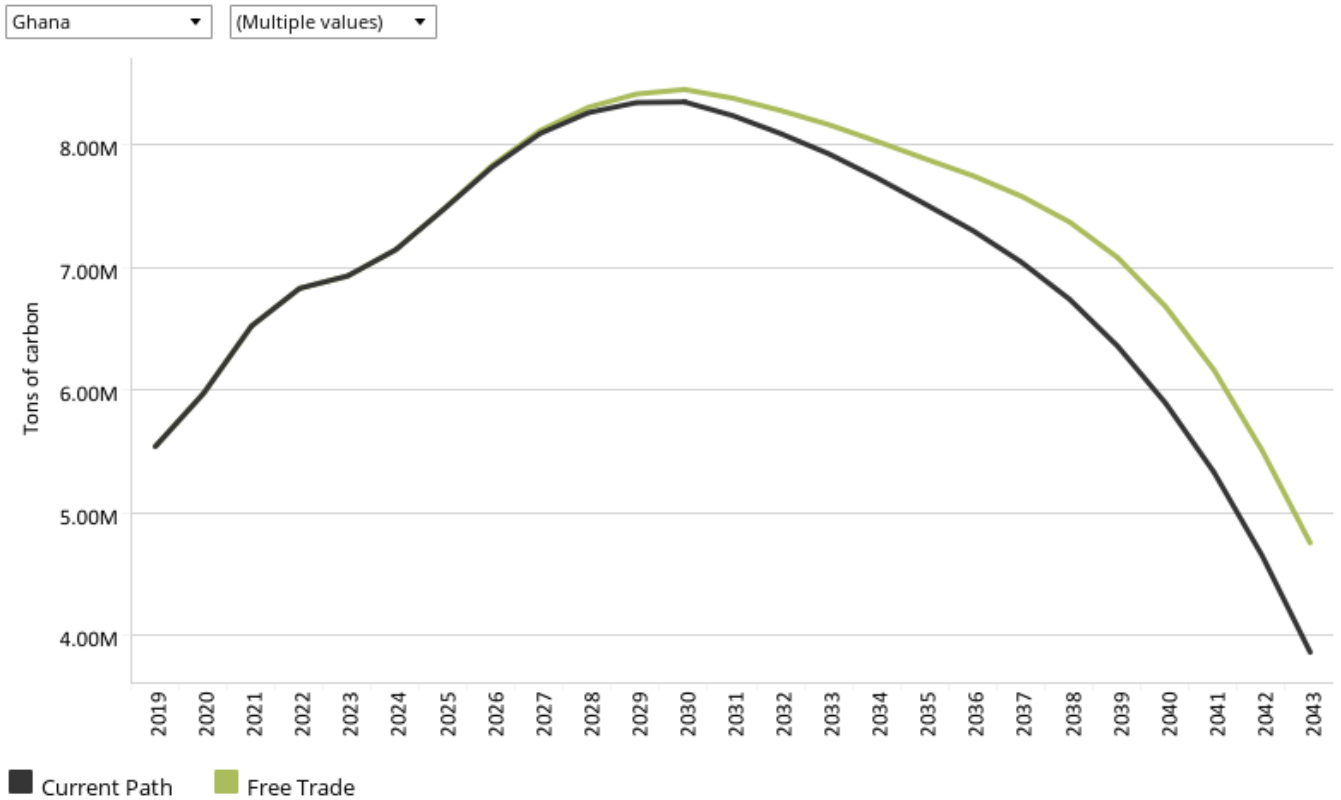
Chart 53 illustrates the number and per cent of poor people in the Current Path forecast and in the Governance scenario. The per cent of people living below the poverty line of US\$3.20 is expected to decline to 26.0% by 2043 in the Governance scenario, which corresponds to 12.21 million people lower than the 12.63 million projected in the Current Path forecast. This means that the Governance scenario has 0.42 million fewer poor people than in the Current Path forecast by 2043, and the proportion of poor people projected in the Governance scenario will be 12.4 percentage points lower than the average for lower middle-income African countries.



## Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions

### Chart 54: Carbon emissions in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043

Million tons of carbon (note, not CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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This section presents projections for carbon emissions in the Current Path for [Ghana] and the 11 scenarios. Note that IFs uses carbon equivalents rather than CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents.

Chart 54 shows the estimated tons of carbon emission for Ghana in the various scenarios. Ghana’s carbon emissions are projected to decline in all the scenarios although carbon emissions increase in the short-term. The intervention with the greatest reduction on carbon emissions is the Agriculture scenario, which will lead to a decline in Ghana’s carbon emissions by 2.55 million tons of carbon by 2043. This is followed by the Leapfrogging and Demographic scenarios with projected declines in carbon emissions of 2.51 million tons and 1.97 million tons of carbon respectively by 2043. Free Trade and the Manufacturing/Transfer scenarios are the interventions that will lead to the greatest increases in carbon emissions above the Current Path forecast, with projected increases of 0.89 million and 0.5 million tons of carbons respectively by 2043.

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## About the authors

Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. He has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

## About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa's future depends on today's choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.