



CROWN AGENTS

ACCELERATING SELF-SUFFICIENCY & PROSPERITY

FREEING UP DOMESTIC RESOURCES TO DELIVER THE SDGs IN GHANA





Working in partnership with Ghana
Government's Ministry of Finance for over

10 years



Since the beginning of the programme
we have identified total savings of over

\$1.3 billion

on contracts worth \$5.6billion



CROWN AGENTS IN GHANA

Crown Agents has been working with partners in Ghana since independence in 1957, supporting many aspects of the country's development agenda. We pride ourselves on delivering the greatest value for money possible, utilising our strong network of local consultants and expertise to deliver effective government systems strengthening initiatives in a number of sectors. For example, over the last 8 years we worked with both the British and Ghanaian governments and partners on the ground as part of the Complementary Basic Education programme, where we've helped to get 250,000 out-of-school children from disadvantaged communities back into education.

Ghana has recently been upgraded by the World Bank to middle-income country status, and has one of Africa's fastest growing economies, making major progress in the attainment and consolidation of growth, with significant advancement made in poverty reduction. With the country scaling up services to meet the basic needs of the Ghanaian people, managing scarce resources for maximum impact is essential. We have been working in partnership with Ghana Government's Ministry of Finance for over 10 years to evaluate large public infrastructure projects in the country and provide an independent assessment of their value for money (VFM) – before precious public resources are committed. By digging into the details of these projects, we have helped to free up vital funds for improving public services, creating jobs and building essential infrastructure to enhance Ghanaians' quality of life for years to come.



OUR VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITING (VFM)

Crown Agents' VFM auditing provides an independent, third party assessment of contract documentation between the government and its suppliers, ahead of sole-sourced projects being finalised. This verifies whether what's being proposed will meet the government's requirements and do so in a way that ensures value for money to the Ghanaian taxpayer. Recently, the VFM programme has expanded to include mid-contract audits, designed to evaluate how well projects are realising their potential value for money. These audits provide the government with the tools to correct potential problems occurring throughout the contract and ensure it remains on track.

Our reputation for integrity and public procurement excellence provides decision makers in Ghana's government ministries with reassurance that our assessment will be thorough, honest and based on the highest standards of professionalism. Crown Agents maintains a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of fraud, bribery and corruption wherever we operate. Our global ethical and compliance system (GEACS) supports this approach and ensures that we mitigate risk and corruption.

From 2018 to 2021, we have completed post-audit VFM assignments for hospital and services' contracts that included:

- Recommending sound commercial terms to balance risks and rewards between contracting parties
- Calculating the completed works, and confirming outstanding contract prices
- Strengthening technical requirements to effect value for money
- Assessing contract claims to support the employer's contract administration decision





OUR APPROACH



Ensuring value for Ghana's Ministry of Finance:

In order to help Ghana attain the best value outcomes in high value contracts, Crown Agents performs a VFM assessment that includes advice and guidance, monitoring and audit, assessments of specific contracts and capacity building to government departments and agencies.



Monitoring and audit:

We set up systems to monitor and audit specific contracts and general procurement. This has enabled the development of value-for-money criteria and a set of indicators which are incorporated into the Government of Ghana's guidelines for future contracts and procurement. Working with the government, we are then able to disseminate lessons learned from the contract assessments via workshops and ongoing guidance, to build local capacity and produce sustainable results.



Technical reform:

Crown Agents has provided technical assistance to the government and established a Procurement Policy Oversight Group responsible for overseeing the implementation of reforms to improve performance of the public procurement system.



Training government staff to safeguard sustainable savings:

We have put in place guidelines and basic training, raising awareness of issues relevant to facilitating the adoption of value for money principles and practices across government procurement in Ghana. This has helped to further embed good procurement practices and to ensure effective and fair public financial resource utilisation, becoming a vital tool in the government's fight against corruption.



RESULTS

Between 2019 and 2022, Crown Agents' auditing service reviewed **\$1.3 billion** worth of public contracts to build hospitals, colleges and houses. As part of our services, across these projects, we have supported the Government of Ghana to negotiate **\$107 million in savings**.

SAVINGS (MILLION)



\$78.5m
Hospital upgrade and construction project



\$5m
Government housing project



\$1.3m
Grid extension project



\$7.6m
Other infrastructure



\$14.5m
Educational facilities upgrade

From our recent involvement in the Ghana Complementary Basic Education programme, we know what these savings can buy and the impact they can have – for example, **\$20m** can provide quality education for more than **125,000 out-of-school children** in northern Ghana for a year.



GHANA BEYOND AID

Since President Nana Akufo-Addo's 'Ghana beyond aid' announcement in 2017, the government has focussed on improving education and tackling corruption as key to making progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reducing its dependency on foreign aid.

The initial work that Crown Agents undertook on VFM audits in Ghana was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as part of a wider UK Aid investment in strengthening public financial management in the country. When DFID's original funding came to an end, Ghana's Ministry of Finance saw the added value of the service we were providing and has committed to funding our work ever since. It's an excellent example of how the government is putting 'Ghana Beyond Aid' into practice, and Crown Agents are proud to be supporting their longer-term development goals into the future.



GET IN TOUCH

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