

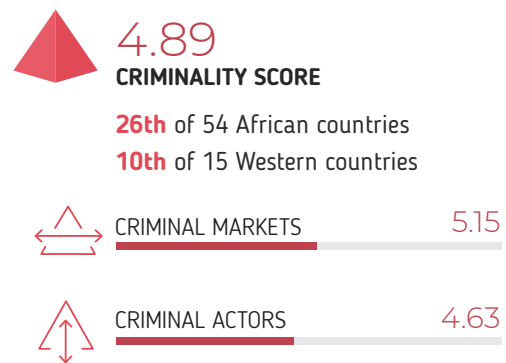
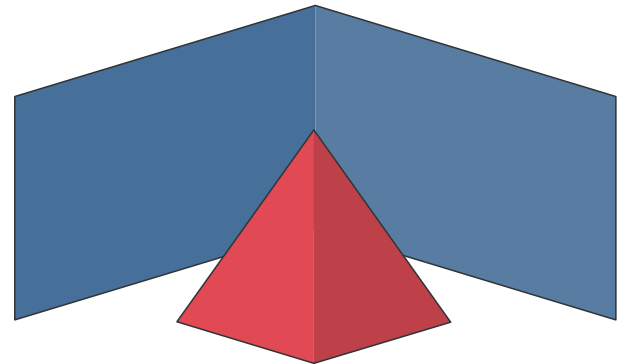
 **GHANA**

While Ghana is ranked 26th in the Index for **criminality**, with a score below the continental average, it ranks 16th for **criminal markets**, indicating several pervasive markets.

Of particular concern are the drugs markets, where the **heroin trade** and – to an even greater degree – the **cannabis trade** are considered to have a significant negative influence on society. The **cocaine trade** and **synthetic drugs trade** are also growing.

However, the highest-scoring criminal market in Ghana is **non-renewable-resource crimes**, with widespread reports of criminally controlled mining operations for gold and other precious metals and stones, which all have a detrimental impact on the environment and wider society. Experts note that **criminal networks** work across these markets but are often embedded within legitimate networks, making it harder to differentiate between the two.

Ghana ranks 10th for overall **resilience**, having sufficiently effective capacity to combat organised crime and for its efforts to maintain **territorial integrity**. However, experts note improvements are needed in organised crime **prevention** measures and to significantly bolster **support for victims and witnesses** of organised crime.



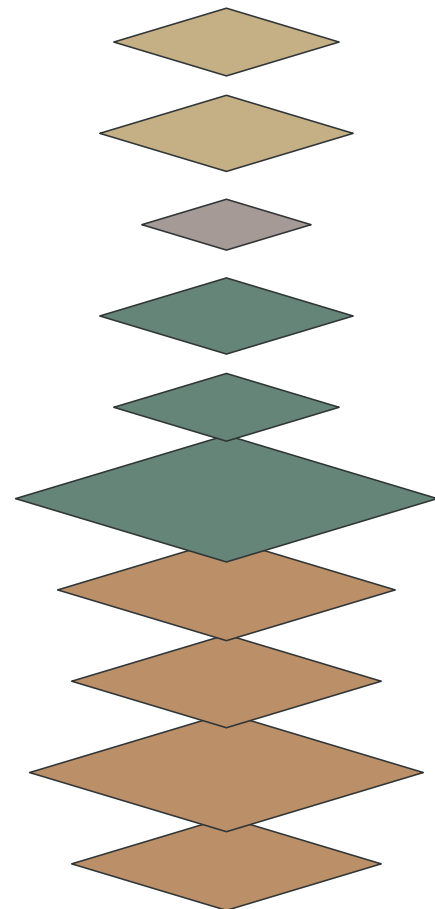
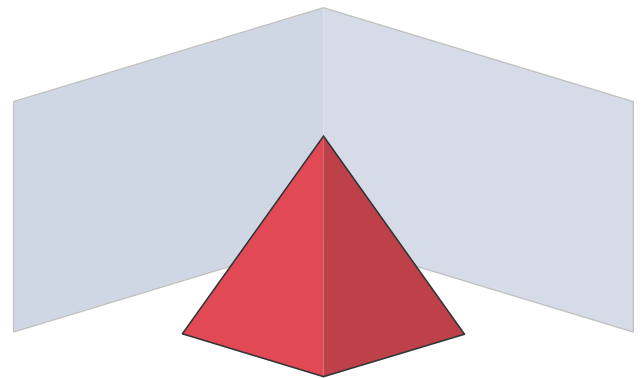
# CRIMINALITY SCORE



<b>CRIMINAL ACTORS</b>	<b>4.63</b>
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	1.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	6.0
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	6.5
FOREIGN ACTORS	5.0



<b>CRIMINAL MARKETS</b>	<b>5.15</b>
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	4.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	4.5
ARMS TRAFFICKING	3.0
FLORA CRIMES	4.5
FAUNA CRIMES	4.0
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	7.5
HEROIN TRADE	6.0
COCAINE TRADE	5.5
CANNABIS TRADE	7.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	5.5



## Criminal Markets

**Non-renewable-resource crimes** are the most pervasive criminal market in Ghana, scoring substantially above the continental average with 7.5. Ghana is one of the biggest sources of illicit gold on the African continent. Exports far exceed local production and the country is known as a magnet for smuggled gold from Mali and Burkina Faso, and a major supplier of gold dore (semi-pure gold) to refineries in India and the UAE. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining activities are banned, but porous borders, lax

implementation of export processes, more preferable tax rates and corruption all facilitate the illicit movement of precious metals and stones. The illegal mining industry has a significant environmental impact, particularly because of mercury contamination of soil and rivers. Fuel/oil smuggling is also believed to be a significant cost to the government in lost revenue and Ghana is alleged to be a transshipment hub for laundering stolen oil.



Ghana is one of the largest cultivators in West Africa of **cannabis**, which is one of the most – if not the most – widely consumed drugs in the country. Cannabis is perceived as an ‘indigenous’ drug and therefore seen in communities as less harmful. The most at-risk populations are between 15 and 35 years old, particularly students. Ghana is currently considering a new law to decriminalise drug possession and use, which has further spurred the growth and use of cannabis.

Ghana is a major transshipment point for **heroin** and **cocaine**. Heroin is mostly transhipped through Ghana, from Afghanistan to Europe and Asia, but domestic consumption of the drug is growing. Similarly, Ghanaian organised criminal groups have been central in the globalisation of the illicit cocaine trade. Their global networking has allowed Ghana to become a central trafficking hub, linking global markets for illicit drugs. Ghanaian networks are linked to major continental drug trafficking nodes and facilitate the overland, air and sea transport of large volumes of heroin from east to west.

Use of **synthetic drugs**, such as tramadol and fentanyl, is growing rapidly in Ghana. Tramadol is largely imported from India and has become a subject of interest since 2016. Its use is linked to increased levels of everyday violence, including armed robbery and youth vandalism, and car accidents. Fentanyl is making a gradual entry into Ghana, with concerns about its usage and effect. Methamphetamine ('meth') is known to transit from Nigeria, and meth labs are believed to operate in Ghana, though none have been found yet. Precursor chemicals are also thought to transit through the country.

## Criminal Actors

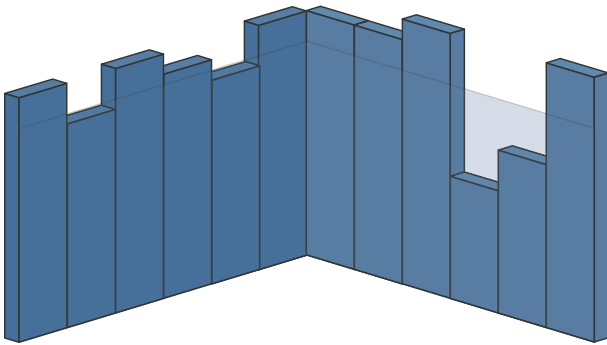
**State-embedded actors**, with a score of 6.5, are the most influential actors in the country. Many politicians are believed to profit from the drugs trade and a property boom is widely recognised to be funded by drug money among the elite. The infiltration of drug money into the ruling New Patriotic Party is extremely likely and has been alleged by domestic senior police officers, those working in national crime agencies and of international NGOs in the region. This is believed to affect the legislative process in certain areas; for example, with regards to illicit financial flows.

The influence of **criminal networks** on society is also significant, operating across drug and human smuggling markets. Criminal networks link sea borders in the south, with airports and the northern land borders, sometimes using internal waterways to Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Several informal networks operate at national level, bound by ethnic, religious, family and other ties; and drugs kingpins are known to influence the outcome of democratic elections. Given the levels of penetration by these groups into official and recognised groups, it is sometimes difficult to separate them. The mixing of criminal with legitimate networks is a common occurrence. Levels of violence, however, appear to be low in general.

**Foreign actors** operate primarily in the drugs and non-renewables markets. Asian criminal actors in Ghana are known to have heavily infiltrated galamsey (illicit gold mining) operations and have substantial economic power over the market. Neighbouring West African organised crime groups are known to operate in drug markets, particularly in the south – largely in the capital Accra – and are known to import and/or produce meth in Ghana. South American cartels are known to be involved in shipping cocaine to Ghana, but do not operate within the country, notwithstanding their strong links to domestic networks.



# RESILIENCE SCORE



<b>POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>PREVENTION</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>NON-STATE ACTORS</b>	<b>6.5</b>

Ghana has a relatively high score for **resilience** in comparison with other African states, ranking 10th overall. Most of its **resilience** scores are between 5 and 6.5, except for **support for victims and witnesses** of organised crime and **prevention**, which score 3.0 and 4.0, respectively. Ghana has been relatively vocal on the need to tackle organised crime. However, there is very little political appetite to actively deal with high levels of criminality in Ghana. Levels of interest in dealing with the challenges posed by the mixing of drug and criminal money with legitimate funds are low.

Ghana has a strong anti-corruption legal framework, enhanced by the entry into force, in 2016, of the Public Financial Management Act, which contains strict requirements for public procurement. However, significant challenges in enforcement remain. Similarly, a number of anti-corruption bodies have been set up, but concerns over their independence and resourcing arguably call into question their efficacy.

Ghana's **victim and witness support** capacity is limited. The country's Witness Protection Bill passed in May 2018, but contains no clear mechanism for financing the programme. Support for victims of trafficking is very limited. The government must do more to support victims of human trafficking to exit modern slavery, but it has been noted that the situation is improving. Support for drug users is similarly scarce, with only four state-funded treatment facilities. Other support comes from private rehabilitation institutions.

Regarding **prevention**, Ghana is working with international organisations to set up bodies and systems to combat organised crime. The country also has a number of **national policies** to address specific organised crime types; for example, human trafficking. Nevertheless, the implementation of preventive policies and plans is patchy. A number of new government agencies are not fully operational due to under-resourcing. Resources allocated to organised crime prevention activities are extremely limited and Ghana relies heavily on external aid.

