

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** March 18, 2025

**Report Number:** GH2025-0002

## **Report Name:** Ghana - Halal Overview - 2025

**Country:** Ghana

**Post:** Accra

**Report Category:** Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products

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### **Report Highlights:**

Coastal West Africa's Ghana shows signs of possibilities for expanding imports of halal certified food and agricultural products. It evidences promise thanks to the increasing number of halal product consumers in country and in the region. While halal certification is not currently required by the Ghanaian government and its regulatory agencies, Ghanaian Muslim organizations and third-country certifiers are strengthening capabilities and promoting certification. With a sizeable, growing Muslim community already present, there is potential further expansion over time.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this report is derived from multiple governmental and non-governmental sources. The U.S. Embassy – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) Accra, the USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. Neither the Government of Ghana, nor any of those of the states mentioned herein, are officially endorsing this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Ghanaian officials at the time of product entry.

## GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF GHANA’S HALAL MARKET

Under Islamic law, halal (an Arabic word that translates to “permissible” or “lawful” in English) is a term that designates an object the use of which is permitted or an action that is sanctioned. In the Koran, the word halal is contrasted with the word haram (meaning “forbidden” or proscribed by Islamic law). Certain products must be certified by an approved authority to be considered halal, based upon the content and/or process-based requirements.

Ghana’s total population of about 34.5 million, is growing at roughly 2.15 percent per annum (Central Intelligence Agency, 2024 estimate). Approximately 20 percent of the national population, or 6.9 million Ghanaians are Muslims; 71 percent of the population is Christian of various denominations.<sup>1</sup> Ghanaian Muslims are largely Sunni, while smaller groups are Shia, Ahmadiyya, and Sufi (Taymiyyah and Qadiriyya orders).<sup>2</sup> While there is no significant link between ethnicity and region, geography plays a role. Christians reside throughout the country, while Muslims tend to concentrate in the major urban areas of Kumasi, Accra, and Sekondi-Takoradi, as well as in Ghana’s northern regions.<sup>3</sup>

Ghana’s halal marketplace is evolving, driven in part by a sizeable local Muslim community. Another driver is that key food suppliers and vendors in the country are Muslims. On store shelves and in coolers there is a growing presence of halal labeled products. FAS Accra (Post) finds that the Ghanaian market for halal products is small, compared to that of neighboring Côte d’Ivoire’s where Ivorian Muslims are 42.5 percent of the population. It does, nonetheless, show good potential for growth over time as the local population grows and is further augmented by the influx of northern migrants from neighboring Burkina Faso and the Sahel. (See, [GAIN-CÔTE D’IVOIRE | IV2025-0002 | Côte d’Ivoire – Halal Overview -2025](#)).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ghana’s national population is estimated at over 34.5 million, growing at 2.15 percent per annum (Central Intelligence Agency - CIA, 2024 estimate). Religions: Christian 71.3 percent (Pentecostal/Charismatic 31.6 percent, Protestant 17.4 percent, Catholic 10 percent, other 12.3 percent), Muslim 19.9 percent, traditionalist 3.2 percent, other 4.5 percent, none 1.1 percent (CIA, 2021 estimate).

<sup>2</sup> See, U.S. Department of State, “[2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ghana](#),” located at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ghana/>.

<sup>3</sup> Ghana’s major urban areas, by population (all denominations) include: 1) Kumasi (3.8 million); 2) Accra (2.7 million); and 3) Sekondi Takoradi (1.1 million (CIA, 2023 estimate). Zongo settlements, are spread throughout the country, and are populated mainly by migrants from the northern savannah regions and the West African Shale (including the pastoralist Fulani people). The term “Zongo” comes from the Hausa language “zango” meaning “temporary settlement.” In Ghana, Nima (Muslim-dominated) is considered the largest and oldest Zongo communities (dating to 1836) and located in the Greater Accra Region.

<sup>4</sup> See, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), “[GAIN-CÔTE D’IVOIRE | IV 2025-0002 | Côte d’Ivoire – Halal Overview-2025](#),” located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Cote%20d%27Ivoire%20-%20Halal%20Overview%20-%202025\\_Accra\\_Cote%20d%27Ivoire\\_IV2025-](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Cote%20d%27Ivoire%20-%20Halal%20Overview%20-%202025_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2025-)

While the African continent's market for halal food products is large, placed by some estimates at \$150 billion, Ghana's is relatively small. Post conservatively estimates, based on initial assessments in a data poor environment, that the halal import market is about \$70 to \$100 million (i.e., premised on the sourcing origin for packaged food products and select commodities such as beef and poultry).

## GHANA'S MARKET DYNAMICS AND SCOPE OF THE HALAL TRADE

Ghana's food retail sector includes modern supermarkets, hypermarkets, mini marts, as well as the significant presence of informal retail channels such as corner shops.<sup>5</sup> Small local grocers, however, dominate 83 percent of the market. The country's food retail industry includes a significant number of diaspora Lebanese and other foreign nationals, many of whom are Muslim. Retailers, often sourcing from the Middle East, Europe, and South Africa routinely stock halal certified food products. Although most non-Muslim Ghanaian consumers may not necessarily seek out halal-certified products, they do come across these indirectly through retail food purchases.

## HALAL OR PERMISSIBLE FOODS FOR MUSLIMS

Ghana is constitutionally a secular state; it has no standardized regulation for halal certification. Halal practices, however, are present in Ghana. Halal certification today is in the development and growth stages. It is a voluntary practice, not mandated by current Ghanaian laws and or regulations.

The Ghana Food and Drug Authority (FDA) only provides [guidelines on codes of practices for regulated facilities](#),<sup>6</sup> slaughterhouse/slabs, transportation of meat, meat markets or shops, meat processing and cold storage facilities and not necessarily on the animal being halal. Consequentially, halal certification is driven mainly by local religious authorities, private certification bodies, or by retailers seeking to meet the preferences of Muslim consumers.

While there is no Ghanaian state regulated halal registration and certification requirement; similarly, there is no internationally harmonized standard for halal foods. The *Codex Alimentarius* (Codex), however, does provide [Guidelines for Labeling \(CAC/GL 24-1997\[27\]\)](#) that includes a general overview of what can be considered as halal.<sup>7</sup> For example:

- Not consist of, or contain, any ingredients which are considered unlawful according to Islamic law (e.g., porcine-derived products or alcohol).
- If halal and non-halal goods are prepared, processed, or store using the same facilities and equipment, it is necessary to follow the proper cleaning procedures to prevent comingling.

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<sup>5</sup> See, USDA/FAS, "GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0011 | Retail Foods Annual – 2024," located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods%20Annual\\_Accra\\_GH2024-0011](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods%20Annual_Accra_GH2024-0011).

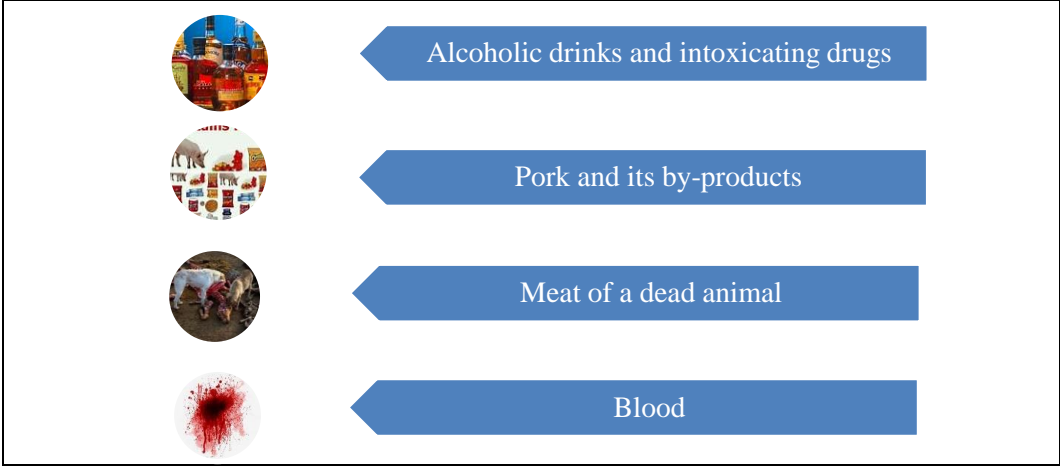
<sup>6</sup> See, Ghana FDA, "Guidelines/Codes of Practices for Slaughter Houses/Slabs, Transportation of Meat, Meat Markets or Shops, Meat Processing and Cold Storage Facilities," located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/guidelines-codes-of-practices-for-regulated-facilities/>.

<sup>7</sup> See, Codex Alimentarius (Codex) Guidelines for Labeling (CAC/GL 24-1997[27]) located at: <https://www.fao.org/4/y2770e/y2770e08.htm#fn27>.

**Halal Animal Slaughter:** Islamic law has a prescribed method for animal slaughter to be considered as halal slaughter. The method for the lawful slaughter of halal animals entails specific requirements.<sup>8</sup> The *zabiha* prescribes a set of rules to ensure the health and wellbeing of the animal being slaughtered. It is in conformance with Islamic (religious) law, which is derived from the Quran and the hadiths.

Animal slaughter in Ghana traditionally includes the draining of blood before the animal is processed. While often commercial butchers and those working in abattoirs might be Muslim, especially in the major urban areas and in local Muslim communities, there is no state regulated requirement that slaughter be carried out in accordance with Islamic halal practices. This lack of regulation often creates doubt for observant consumers as to whether the product might be halal.

**CHART 1: Ghana, Haram or Impermissible**



**Doubtful/Suspect (*Mushbooh*) Ingredients and Products:** For all Muslims, there are certain ingredients that are considered doubtful or suspect. The following fall into this category: 1) animal fat or proteins; 2) antioxidants; 3) dairy products; and 4) emulsifiers, flavorings, gelatin, glycerin, and vitamins.<sup>9</sup> All these items are derived either from animal, plant, microbial or synthetic sources. Should the product be of animal origin, it is necessary to know if the animal is halal (permissible) and, if so, was it slaughtered properly or not. If yes, or if the source is from a plant or a certified microbial, then the product can be consumed as halal. Islamic laws recommend that Muslims stay away from *Mushbooh*, doubtful foods whose sources are unknown.

**HALAL CERTIFIED LABELED PRODUCTS AVAILABILITY IN GHANA**

Halal labeling is present in Ghana. It discretely makes its way onto various products routinely stock in the country’s modern retail store and supermarket shelves. Halal certified product also makes its way to open air markets and to informal retail channels. In the case of halal labeled product, the consumer can

<sup>8</sup> The slaughtering butcher is required to call out the “the name of Allah” or in the name of Allah” (*bismillah*) upon slaughter of each animal individually. The cut must be a swift, deep incision with a very sharp (i.e., non-serrated) knife on the throat, cutting the windpipe, jugular veins, and the carotid arteries on both sides while leaving the spinal cord intact.  
<sup>9</sup> Eggs and dairy products are naturally halal, if these remain uncontaminated by haram, forbidden substances. Milk (from cows, sheep, and goats) products are halal except for cheese made with animal enzyme rennet. The way that the rennet is collected is not halal. Also, milk from pigs or animals that have not been killed according to Islamic procedures is haram.




usually easily locate the halal certification. Where it becomes somewhat more difficult is in verifying the halal certification of products is in Ghanaian E-Commerce. Online platforms may not always provide the best means for properly identifying the product as halal on their sites, even in venues that are known suppliers of halal products.

## HALAL CERTIFICATION IN GHANA

Ghana is a secular state and currently does not count with a state, nor a single centralized or widely accepted and recognized halal certification body. The Ghana Islamic Council, Office of the National Chief Imam (ONCI), however, does provide informal and unofficial guidance based on traditional Islamic practices on halal compliance. There are also some independent local and international halal certification bodies operating in the country:

- National Halal Certification Committee (NHCC) which works in collaboration with the ONCI and the Tijjaniya Muslims Movement of Ghana (TMMG)
- Bureau of Halal Certification Ghana (BHC) which is working with foreign partners such as Kenya Bureau of Halal Certification, Halal Development Corporation and JAKIM to develop some standards along the Malaysian Standard MS 1500:2019 for certification of poultry, meat products, non-meat products and slaughterhouses in Ghana.

**CHART 2 : Ghana, Select Sample, Halal Logos**

Certifier	Logo
<b>The Ghana Islamic Council, Office of the National Chief Imam of Ghana (ONCI)</b>	N/A
<b>Bureau of Halal Certification – Ghana (BHC-GHANA)</b>	
<b>National Halal Certification Committee (NHCC)</b>	
<b>COTECNA Ghana</b>	

Source: FAS Accra office research.

Challenges posed by the lack of standardized certification system can hinder consumer confidence. Consumers may fear cross contamination with non-halal food products in mixed communities and food production coming from shared processing facilities. The absence of mandatory halal regulations, however, does provide producers, importers, and traders flexibility in the marketing of their products.

# HALAL MARKET TRENDS IN GHANA

Ghanaian food often is halal. The country benefits from a rich cultural heritage. Its cuisine is combines unique flavors, spices, and ingredients. There are rich, flavorful stews, as well as crispy and savory snacks. While there are several dishes that are definitively not halal, given ingredient content such as pork or alcohol; many others can be halal if put together with halal sanctioned meats and other food ingredients. For example, halal-friendly local Ghanaian favorites such as Waakye, Jollof rice, and Kenkey can be made with halal permissible rice, beans, cornmeal, vegetables, and specific meats.

CHART 3: Ghana, Local Production and In-House Halal Labeling

Product	Description
	Ghanaian grocery store, halal signage
	Ghanaian grocery store, locally prepared meat and products

Source: FAS Accra office research.

## TRADE




**Exports/Imports:** The Ghanaian government neither mandates halal certification, nor does it provide a regulatory law; making halal a religious attestation. There is no requirement to obtain halal certification, in the form of an internationally recognized certificate, or obtain trade permission for exports or imports. There are no specific labeling requirements for halal food products imports. Certification is voluntary, not mandatory for shipping U.S.-origin meat and non-meat-based food products. The Ghana Food and Drugs Authority provides [general labeling requirement](#) guidelines for the labeling of pre-packaged foods. Local manufactures are not required to label halal products or register for halal certification.<sup>10</sup> Modern retailers, often sourcing from the Middle East, Europe, Brazil, and South Africa routinely stock halal certified food products.

**Import Procedures:** For more information, see [GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0010 | Ghana, Exporter Guide Annual - 2024](#); [GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0007 | Ghana, FAIRS Country Report Annual -2024](#); and [GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0008 | Ghana, FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual - 2024](#).<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> See, Ghana FDA, “General Labeling Requirements Guidelines for Pre-packaged Food,” located at: <https://fdaghana.gov.gh/general-labeling-requirements/>.  
<sup>11</sup> See, USDA/FAS Accra, “GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0010 | Ghana, Exporter Guide Annual – 2024,” located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Ghana\\_GH2024-0010](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide%20Annual_Accra_Ghana_GH2024-0010), USDA/FAS Accra, “GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0007 | Ghana, FAIRS Country Report Annual - 2024,” located at:



**CHART 4: Ghana, Select Sample, Imported Product with Foreign or International Halal Labeling**

Product	Description
	<p>Ghanian grocery store, meat cuts, with halal certifications from Spain</p>
	<p>Ghanian grocery store, smoked turkey breast slices, with halal certifications from the United Arab Emirates</p>
	<p>Ghanian grocery store, halal chicken and beef flanks, with halal certification from the United Arab Emirates</p>

Source: FAS Accra office research.

[https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Ghana\\_GH2024-0007](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Accra_Ghana_GH2024-0007), and USDA/FAS Accra, “GAIN-GHANA | GH2024-0008 | Ghana, FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual – 2024,” located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Ghana\\_GH2024-0008](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Accra_Ghana_GH2024-0008).

## Key Contacts and Further Information

USDA/FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA)	Websites
<p>U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Accra No. 24 Fourth Circular Road Cantonments Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 30 274-1590 Email: <a href="mailto:AgAccra@usda.gov">AgAccra@usda.gov</a></p> <p>U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Abidjan Abidjan, Cocody Riviera Golf 01 B.P. 1712 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire Tel: +225 2722 494 000 Email: <a href="mailto:AgAbidjan@usda.gov">AgAbidjan@usda.gov</a></p>	<p>USDA/FAS located at: <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov">http://www.fas.usda.gov</a></p> <p>USDA/FAS Regions/Ghana located at: <a href="https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana">https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana</a></p> <p>USDA/FAS Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) located at: <a href="https://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS">https://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS</a></p> <p>USDA/FAS Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) located at: <a href="https://gain.fas.usda.gov/">https://gain.fas.usda.gov/</a></p>

## Ghana, Government Regulatory Agencies

Ghanaian Ministries and Authorities	Role
<p><b>Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)</b> Box M37 Ministry Accra Tel: +233 (0) 30 394-2271 +233 (0) 30 394-2319 Website: <a href="https://www.mofa.gov.gh">https://www.mofa.gov.gh</a></p>	Develop and execute policies and strategies for the agriculture sector.
<p><b>Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (FDA)</b> P. O. Box CT 2783, Cantonments – Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 30 223-3200/ 223-5100 Email: <a href="mailto:fda@fdaghana.gov.gh">fda@fdaghana.gov.gh</a> Website: <a href="http://fdaghana.gov.gh/">http://fdaghana.gov.gh/</a></p>	Registration of food and beverage products.
<p><b>Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)</b> P.O. Box MB245, Accra – Ghana Tel : +233 (0) 302 506 991-5 Email: <a href="mailto:gsanep@gsa.gov.gh">gsanep@gsa.gov.gh</a>/<a href="mailto:gsadir@gsa.gov.gh">gsadir@gsa.gov.gh</a> Website: <a href="https://www.gsa.gov.gh/">https://www.gsa.gov.gh/</a></p>	Standards and norms development.
<p><b>Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA)</b> Off Starlets' 91 Road, near Accra Sports Stadium P. O. Box 2202, Accra-Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 303 941 108 Email: <a href="mailto:info@gra.gov.gh">info@gra.gov.gh</a> Website: <a href="https://gra.gov.gh/">https://gra.gov.gh/</a></p>	Ghana's Customs Authority.

## Attachments:

No Attachments.