

## Gone to Ghana: A Dream Pursued

Written by Cordie Aziz  
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Dreams— we all have them, and every now and then a few of us decide to take a chance and follow those dreams, regardless of how crazy they may be. My dream was to move to Africa. So when I packed up my bag last year, like many people with big dreams, I never looked back. I thought I would be alone in my quest to conquer Ghana, however, I soon realized that there were many people who had the same idea.

We hail mainly from the United States and the United Kingdom, we are under the age of 35 and most importantly we all have our own dream of creating the next best service or product of Ghana.

As you may imagine, this crowd is an interesting mix of personalities and experiences. Although, most are in it for the long haul, every now and then someone will disappear; deciding that the hardships of Ghana are just too much. Others decide to abandon their dreams for more practical wealth and land a job with decent benefits— after all how long can you live off of your savings? A few simply lose confidence in their dream.

As an entrepreneur in Ghana, I will agree that life is tough. Between the constant rotation of the business cycle and the energy it takes to track down your money, running a business in Ghana will teach you that every dream has a price.

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Having an idea is free, anyone can think of something new. However, to turn that dream into reality will undoubtedly cost you something— be it time, food or sleep. Most people are unprepared for the sacrifice it takes to succeed.

Instead of sticking with their dream through thick and thin, the first time they see that the dream may not be exactly what they envisioned, they run. The moment the business doesn't start making money or loses money, they want to pack their things and go back to a safe reality. However, what good is a dream only half-pursued?

Living in Ghana has truly taught me the cost of dreams. However, the most important thing is that I am living my dream. Regardless of how bad the day goes, once the hot sun hits my face and the cool Atlantic breeze rustles the coconut trees, a smile crosses my face and my heart fills with joy at the very thought that I live in Africa. These moments not only provide me an untouchable peace, but they also allow me to believe that I am living my dream wholeheartedly— can you say the same?

Cordie Aziz is a former congressional staffer who relocated to Ghana in 2011 after losing her job. She is passionate about encouraging young entrepreneurs to do business in Africa and helping people actualize their dreams. Find her on twitter @GoneiiGhana.