

**Baseline Report  
on Bresua Village in Mampong Municipal  
District of Ashanti Region**



**August 2014**



## Introduction

This brief survey of Bresua Village was made when weather permitted during the summer months of 2014. Its purpose is to:

- guide the design and implementation of the supply of clean water , sanitation, hygiene improvement and other social intervention programmes in the community;
- provide a record of the condition of the village before Ashanti Development started working with it, so that progress can eventually be measured against it;
- provide Ashanti Development with more information about life in the villages, and thus enable it to tailor its work more accurately to the communities and their needs;
- begin to build trust and confidence between Ashanti Development and the villagers.

## Demography

There are 304 people, divided into 31 households, living in Bresua village, Most are Akans, though there are also four families of seasonal workers who have travelled from northern Ghana or Burkina Faso to help with the harvest. All speak Twi.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Above 18 years</i>	75	75	220
<i>Below 18 years</i>	89	65	154
<i>Total</i>	164	140	304

Most of the Bresua community are farmers, and their principal crops are cassava, plantain, corn, yam, groundnuts and vegetables such as carrots and cabbage. They usually manage to grow only enough vegetables for themselves, but when an occasional surplus is produced they sell it at Mampong Market or the farm gate. They take some of their crops to Mampong for processing, for example they sometimes take cassava to be processed into gari, which is a longlife form of cassava.

The farm land is owned by the various families living at Bresua; each family member is entitled to a part of it to farm. This results in a very small area of land per head. Coupled with climate change – cocoa can no longer be grown as a commercial crop – this means that crop diversification into fast growing crops is urgently needed.

### **Water, Sanitation, Refuse**

Drinking water is sold at 10p per four gallons from the two standpipes in the village. This is too expensive for people to use for all their needs, so for washing, cooking and bathing they use water from the Bresua spring.

There are no household latrines in the village, but there is one six-seater KVIP.<sup>1</sup> It is poorly kept and smells bad, and so is used by only a few people. Most people prefer to defecate in the bush. In time, this is will serve to pollute the spring if it has not already done so.

The community has little or no idea of hygiene. They do not dispose of refuse properly - many people simply dump their rubbish behind their houses. This acts as a breeding ground for mosquitos and attracts snakes.

### **Infrastructure**

Bresua has been connected to the national grid since 2011, though electricity is too expensive for the large majority to be connected.

There is one Junior High School with three classrooms.

### **Education**

Primary school children go to school in the neighbouring village of Brofoyedru. Bresua has one Junior High School with three classrooms and one KVIP latrine.

We estimate that some 15 per cent of the population are slightly literate, though more of them can count.

### **Finance**

A few villagers said they had bank accounts in the rural and community banks. They also borrow from microfinance institutions. The institution visits the village on a daily or weekly basis to collect the money in the form of susu.

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<sup>1</sup> Kumasi Ventilated and Improved Pit latrine. This is a concrete building, with four or six seats for males backing onto the same number for females. It was probably built by the local authority some years ago.

## Health

The most common diseases suffered by the villagers are diarrhoea, dysentery, stomach ache (probably these are mostly water or hygiene related), malaria and waist pains (probably from carrying heavy loads on their heads).

## Institutions

The Unit Committee<sup>2</sup> covers Bresua, Dadease and Krobo villages. It has five members, only one of whom represents Bresua. There is also a Committee of Chief and Elders (although many of the elders have left the village), a School Management Committee and a Parent-Teacher Association.

These committees are not working particularly well, either independently or together. In the past they managed to mobilise the community to erect electricity poles (see photo below) in preparation for the extension of electricity to Bresua, and to dig trenches for water pipes, but it is doubtful they could repeat this sort of exercise. They have also recently created a central refuse dumping site for the community, even though the villagers are yet to use it properly – probably through lack of knowledge and understanding hygiene rules.

The assemblyman (local authority councillor) often visits the village to discuss their problems, and the relationship with the District is therefore good.



<sup>2</sup> Until the present government came to power, each village had an elected village council, known as a Unit Committee, of about ten members. However the present government legislated to extend the jurisdiction of each of these committees over several villages, and for the members to be appointed from among its own supporters. This has caused chaos. Hard working members, who have served their communities for years but do not support the government, have been thrown off their Unit Committee and unsurprisingly refuse to cooperate with their successors, who are in any case too few in number to cover all the work required.

## Religion

There are three main religious groups: Christians, Muslims and traditionalist, the last of which boast of three witch doctors.

The Pentecostal and Methodist churches are brick built.

## Miscellaneous

There are six bicycles in the village, but no cars, and there is one small shop. Taken together, we consider these as indications that the village is very poor.

There is one football team – the Bresua Young Stars.

When the village was asked what its wish list would be, they replied that above all else they would like to have:

- a. Latrines
- b. A Food processing centre
- c. Microcredit for the women
- d. Farm support for the men
- e. Construction of a kindergarten or nursery block.

