

DADIASE AND MPENYA COMMUNITIES



Baseline Report

Water and Sanitation Situation Dadiase and Mpenya in Mampong municipality of Ashanti Region

*Prepared for Paul Bloch and Dawn Williamson
and Claire and Richard Coleman
sponsors of Dadiase and Mpenya*

INTRODUCTION

Ashanti Development is a volunteers' charity ¹ set up at the request of Ghanaians living in London who asked their friends and neighbours for help to improve the terrible lives of the people they left behind in their home villages.

We aim to provide remote villages in the Ashanti Region with water and sanitation, healthcare, education and income generating activities.

In 2012, we began a project called *Develop A Village*, which aims to help individual Ashanti villages build up long-term relationships direct with donors. Dadiase and Mpenya villages have been sponsored by Paul Bloch and Dawn Williamson, and by Claire and Richard Coleman, for whom this report has been prepared.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the report are to obtain essential background information on the two villages, leading to a better understanding of their circumstances on the part of the communities themselves, of their sponsors and of Ashanti Development.

In the short-term this information will be used in the design and implementation of systems of water supply, sanitation and hygiene improvement. In the longer-term it will inform all parties of the communities' other outstanding needs and opportunities for improving their quality of life.

The report will also set indicators against which progress and the impact of various future interventions can be measured.

METHODOLOGY

Various techniques were used to ensure that community members participated effectively in the survey, including:

- Focus Group Discussions
This is a form of qualitative research in which a group of people are asked about their perceptions, opinions beliefs and attitudes towards a product, service or concept. The group are asked to respond to questions, but are left free to consult each other at all times.
- Community Mapping
This is the visual representation of data by geography or location. It is particularly useful, for example, in determining how many houses there are in any village, and

¹ We pay no wages or salaries (and very few expenses) for work carried out outside Ghana.

from that deriving information the size of the population.

- Transect Walk
Collecting information through observations made when walking through the village.
- One-to-one interviews

BRIEF HISTORY OF DADIESE AND MPENYA

According to oral history, the people of Dadiase community originated from Banko near Kumasi in Ashanti Region of Ghana. Whilst there, they supported the king of Ashanti in his wars of conquerors. They were captured during one of the wars by the people of Denkyira. However, they managed to escape from their captives and ran away to the present location. They were led by a hunter called Kwaku Kumaah. When they got to their present location, they decided to settle under Dadie tree which later became the name of the village. Dadiase means a village under a dadie tree.

On the other hand, the people of Mpenya originated from Denkyira in the central region of Ghana. According to their oral tradition, the people migrated to the present location due to persistent wars in the Denkyira area at that time. They were led during their journey by Msunsumisah Kwaku Osei. They first settled at Old Mpenya but due to serious soil erosion they decided to move again and finally settled in the present location.

DEMOGRAPHY

By means including community mapping and house-to-house head-counting, it was determined that there are **33** houses/households in the communities and the population is **258**. This is made up of 196 people in Dadiase and 62 in Mpenya, in a ratio of 50:50 for men and women. These figures exclude citizens or natives who live outside the two communities.

The table below shows the population breakdown.

Age	Male	Female	Total
Above 18 years	59	68	127
Below 18 years	70	61	131
Total	129	129	258

This data can also be used to ascertain:

1. the number of villagers who qualify to pay community levies to finance, for example, water pump maintenance or similar communal benefits.
2. the number of community members who are supposed to participate in communal labour
3. approximate estimates of future requirements, based on the breakdown of various age groups.

4. whether or not community facilities are sufficient, and the likely cost of expanding them.

Language

The two communities consist predominantly of Akans and speak Twi. There are representatives from a couple of other tribes, settler farmers from other parts of Ghana, but they too speak Twi.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

According to the community members, 99.9 % of the working population are subsistence farmers growing plantain, cassava, corn, yam, cocoyam, vegetable and groundnut. They sell any surplus in the nearby market in Mampong and use the money for paying their children's school fees, community levies and for health and other family needs.

Some of the challenges they face as far as farming is concerned include the following:

- Lack of funds to support large scale farming. This is unfortunate, since several individuals and families own large amounts of land.
- Problems marketing their farm produce, especially during the harvest season.
- The land tenure system ², which provides that farmers who rent land must pay the equivalent of one-third of their proceeds to the land owner. This amount is considered too high by many prospective renters.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Roads**

The villages are about 2km from the district capital Mampong and are located on the main road between Mampong and Kofiase.

- **Schools**

The children attend school either in Mampong or Brofoyedru.

- **Water Supply**

The streams of Tatafro and Bresua serve as the main sources of drinking water. We were told that the Ghana Water Company used to supply water but this was disconnected over 25 years ago. At time of this report, government contractors were busy constructing pipelines through the two villages for water from Mampong water treatment works, but it was not yet clear whether they would be included among the beneficiaries.

2 Known as the Abusa System



Village water sources

- ***Quality and seasonality of stream water***

The streams are polluted because of human activities such as people and animals walking in them, people washing themselves and doing their household wash, and dead leaves and rotting vegetation. They are also polluted with fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and insecticides which are washed into the streams from nearby farms. Again, some farmers wash their machines and chemical containers in the streams.

Although the streams do not dry up completely at any time, during the dry season their flow is drastically reduced and pollution levels consequently rise.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Current Situation

It was gathered during discussions and the transect walk that the communities share the following sanitation facilities:

- Two traditional pit latrines (men and women)
- Two private pit latrine
- Three refuse dumping sites

Traditional pit latrines

The pit latrines were constructed by the community members but are poorly maintained and one is almost full. According to the community members, the children in the communities are responsible for cleaning the latrines but have not done so in recent months. This has led to the common practice of open defecation in Dadiase and Mpenya communities.



Traditional male and female pit latrines

Household Latrine facilities

There are also two privately-owned pit latrines in the community. These were constructed through the initiative of their owners and are used by their household members and visitors.

Refuse Dump Site

There are three communal refuse dumping sites in Dadiase and none in Mpenya where by contrast each household dumps its refuse at the back of its house or beside the footpath leading to their farms.



Refuse dumping sites at Dadiase

Sanitation and Hygiene Practices

The following risky hygiene practices identified:

- Poor refuse management
- Open defecation
- Weedy environment
- hand-washing without soap
- bath houses without soak-aways

Poor Management of Refuse dump site

Community members at Mpenya dump their refuse at the back of their houses and such mini dump sites are poorly maintained. In Dadiase there are three communal dumping

sites, also poorly managed.

Open defecation

Open defecation is a common practice in both villages. We were told this was because of the poor nature of the communal latrines and the dense vegetation around them, which created a habitat for snakes.

Weedy Environment

Parts of the village, particularly building plots for intended new buildings, are covered in weeds, and serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes and snakes. The weeds also trap rubbish such as paper and plastic.

Hand washing without soap

Through discussion and observation, it became evident that people usually don't use soap when they wash their hands except after eating ³. Awareness of the need and effects of washing hands with soap is quite high in these communities but in most instances, the people do not follow their knowledge through.

Bath houses without soak – away

Many of the bath houses⁴ do not have proper soak-away. This means that a pool of water forms behind them and serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

HEALTH ISSUES

Community members said that malaria, other fevers and diarrhoea were their most widespread diseases in the villages, and attributed this to risky hygiene practices. They said that when they fall ill, they visit Krobo clinic or Mampong hospital, which are about 1-2km respectively from Dadiase and Mpenya.

COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

Dadiase and Mpenya's community institutions include the traditional Chief and Elders and a Unit Committee (a democratically-elected committee similar to the UK Parish Council) but there is no Water and Sanitation Committee committee⁵.

Institutional Working Relationships

There is a working relationship between the Committee of Chief and Elders and the Unit Committee, but it is weak and nor do these institutions interact well with other stakeholders. For example, the Unit Committee only occasionally goes to the Assembly ⁶ to present requests for support. This is partly because the Assembly member for the area (equivalent to a UK local authority councillor) lives and works in Mampong and does not regularly visit the villages to discuss development programmes with them.

³ Food is eaten with hands since no-one has any cutlery.

⁴ Bath houses are stand alone structures, usually made of wooden stakes covered with mud or cloth, or corrugated iron. Inside will be a large bucket of stream water for washing, and a small cup or gourd to scoop it up.

⁵ Whose responsibilities include ensuring that water sources /pumps/communal latrines are well maintained, the village is kept clean and tidy and funds necessary for these purposes are levied.

⁶ The District Assembly is loosely modelled on the UK local authority system and is roughly equivalent to a Council. However there are important differences.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (NEEDS)

The communities made the following list of their needs, which are set out in order of priority.

- Construction of household latrines
- Good drinking water
- Financial support for their farms and microcredit ⁷
- A kindergarten

AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL RESOURCES

Community members said that natural resources available to them included water, clay and wood. Human resources available included skilled labour such as masons, carpenters and weavers.

As for financial resources, the community had adopted various fund-raising strategies in the past, of which the most successful is the community levy. This is normally implemented at the start of any developmental project.

CHALLENGES

- The high ratio of children to adults in the villages may mean there are fewer adults available for communal work for the next few years.
- In a few years, new schools buildings will be needed.
- The communities' leaders are largely unable to enforce the sanitation bye-laws. Unless this is corrected, it will pose a serious challenge to the implementation of the water and sanitation programmes

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made.

- A Water and Sanitation Committee should be established, and trained to work closely with existing community institutions.
- The communities should be supported in constructing 33 household latrines.
- Hygiene education should be integral part of water and sanitation projects and other community programmes.
- Farm support programmes and microcredit should be made available to the villages
- Ashanti Development should include the Dadiese and Mpenya healthworker in its system of healthcare monitoring and training.
- With the help of Dadiese and Mpenya healthworkers, Ashanti Development should seek to increase the use of birthcontrol among the communities.

⁷ Small loans and business training for women to set up trading enterprises.

- If no other resources are available, the possibility of treating and filtering stream water to improve the quality of drinking water and therefore public health should be investigated.

CONCLUSION

The current sanitation situation in DM is extremely bad, and the communities urgently need to put in place appropriate strategies to improve the situation. They will be unable to take such huge steps without external assistance and it is therefore hoped that their sponsors will consider and implement as many as possible of the recommendations made in this survey.