

ASERENKWANTA



This note is based on an interview with the community on 22 January 2016

Aserenkwanta is a village of some 650 people, divided into 60 households. It is situated 22km north of the District Centre at Nsuta in Sekyere Central (local authority) District.

The people of Aserenkwanta are subsistence farmers. Their principal crops are maize, cassava, corn, yam, plantain and groundnuts. Above all they are known for the high quality of their maize, which they sell at Nsuta market.

Water and Sanitation

There is no borehole in the village, and the only source of water is a nearby river.

There are only two latrines in the village as well as a school latrine, and most people defecate in the bush. In time this will serve to pollute the stream water if it hasn't already done so.

Education

Aserenkwanta has a school with primary classes 1, 2 and 3. For classes 4, 5, 6 and Junior High School, they go to Nkudjua, which is six kilometres distant.

Health

The community told us they suffered constant ill health because of water-related disease. One elderly man told us he was ill every day, but seriously ill four times a year. The community uses roots and leaves to make their own traditional medicines.



The nearest clinic is at Nsuta, and women experiencing difficult labour have no option but to be transported there by motorcycle.

Organisation

The village has a unit committee and chief and elders committee.

Miscellaneous

Every household has a mosquito net as a result of a recent government initiative to provide nets universally. The houses are made of wood with thatched roofs and look very different from those of the local Ashantis. On one of the houses, we saw a solar panel. There are two small shops.

Religion

The people are mainly Presbyterian, Catholic or Moslems, or follow a traditional religion.

History

The people of Aserenkwanta are from the Dagomba tribe and Dagbani is their language. They originated in the north of Ghana and came south some thirty years ago. Aserenkwanta means Junction.

