

## Besease



We visited Besease on 20 July 2015 and talked to Assemblyman Maxwell Adubufour and some of the community. We were told that Besease has a population of 600 adults and over 300 children under the age of 18 years. They used to live far away, but when the road was constructed they decided to move close to it, and over time their numbers grew.

The community are farmers and grow yam, cocoyam, plantain, ground nuts and vegetables, as well as pineapple as a commercial crop. People come from as far away as Kumasi to buy the pineapple.

### *Water, Sanitation and Electricity*

The village draws water from several sources. There is piped water from Mampong and there are two privately-owned mechanised boreholes, whose water is sold by their owners. Finally, they use stream water from the Kyeremfa Stream and the Asua-abena and Bresua springs.

They have enough water, but do not understand that they should save the piped and borehole water for drinking and use surface water for washing.

Some years ago, the District built a ten-seater communal latrine to serve 1,600 adults and 800 children in this and neighbouring Kyeremfaso village (see picture). This was nowhere near adequate for the size of the population, so the community practise open defecation.

There are two refuse dumps, which are not well managed.

The government is gradually extending electricity down all major roads in Ghana, and Besease has been attached to the mains for many years



### *Education and Health*

Besease shares a combined kindergarten and primary school with neighbouring Kyeremfaso village. It has a total of six hundred children. There is also a Junior High School with two hundred children.

We were told the most common sicknesses were malaria, diarrhoea (which was a way of life) and river blindness.<sup>1</sup> For this last, the District supplies them with tablets to put into the water before drinking it.

### *Organisation*

Besease has its own Committee of Chief and Elders but shares most of its other committees with the neighbouring village of Kyeremfaso. These include the School Management Committee and the Parent-Teacher Association.

There is no Water and Sanitation Committee. One Assemblyman, the equivalent of a UK local authority councillor, covers the two villages. We were told the committees were all efficient and worked well together.



### *Religions*

Villagers belong to the following religions: Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecostal, Anglican, Islam, Seventh Day Adventists. There are also three witchdoctors.

### *Wish List*

The villagers would like latrines above anything. They would also like a latrine for the school.

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<sup>1</sup> Onchocerciasis