

Dagomba



We visited Dagomba on 13 January 2020 and interviewed community members including the Chief, Nana Inusah Amankwah.

We were told that some 450 people live in the village, which is divided into forty-five households. The population consists mainly of people from the Dagoma tribe, who came here about thirty years ago from northern Ghana to look for good farmland and to avoid climate change. Nana Amankwah told us "When I was young the rainfall (in Dagomba) was good, but now it is not."

Their main language is Dagbani, but four in five also speak Twi, the majority Ghanaian language. Most of the community are Christian or Moslem.

Dagomba is slowly growing in size, with about ten people joining the village every year. Their families sometimes visit them from the north, and everyone goes home at least once a year. The community are farmers and grow cowpeas, cassava, millet and rice. The harvest is good and they sell any surplus at Ejura Market. There is no hunger in the village.



Water, Sanitation and Power

Dagomba has two working boreholes, but unfortunately they are not drilled deep enough to reach water during the dry season, when they dry out.

The village has no latrines. Everyone practises open defecation. They also dump rubbish indiscriminately and have no communal dumping site. Knowledge of hygiene is non-existent.

There is no electricity in this area, but we saw that some of the homes have solar panels on their roofs. Some people can apparently watch television.



Health

Principal sicknesses are malaria and diarrhoea. We were told that everyone becomes ill with a water-related disease about ten times a year. The children have all been vaccinated. When they get sick, people go to Asubuasu Clinic and the community nurse visits each month.

Education

There is a school with eight classrooms in Dagomba, but two of these are used for teachers' accommodation.

Institutions

The community is governed by a Committee of Chief and Elders and an elected Development Committee with seven members.

Wish List

The village wish list is for a mechanised borehole and 'a communal latrine.' Ashanti Development only funds household latrines, but the community has never seen such a thing and communal latrines are therefore the height of their expectations.

