

Dida



Dida village is located in Sekyere Central District of the Ashanti Region. We visited it on 16 January 2020. At the time, most of the community were away fighting a big bush fire that threatened their farms. There was no Chief or Elder available, so we talked to community members including Kwame Brufo and Diana Owusu.

We were told that Dida had a population of around 500 people, divided into 60 households. They were farmers, growing beans, cassava and some vegetables. They generally managed to feed themselves and to sell a surplus at Nsuta or Kyebi markets or to market traders at the farm gate.

The village is cultivating a reputation for cassava chips, which are dried in the sun and ground to powder when it can be stored for up to five years or sold when the price is good. It is eaten like porridge or added to a stew or used to make beer.



Cassava chips drying in the sun

Water

Some thirteen years ago, Ashanti Development drilled a borehole at Dida and helped them work out a system of selling the water by the jerrycan and saving the proceeds for repair and maintenance. Recently, Dida had used this money to mechanise the borehole so that it is now electrically operated.

Our experience of working with the village leads us to believe it is a hard-working and well managed community and deserves help.

Sanitation

In 2007, working through a contractor, since at the time we had no staff of our own, Ashanti Development funded and trained the community to make household latrines. Unfortunately, the wood bought by the contractor was unsuitable and some latrines were badly sited and have now collapsed and need replacing.

At the time, the community was also trained in health and hygiene.

Health

Because they have clean water and sanitation and have been trained in health and hygiene, the villagers generally enjoy good health and infant mortality is extremely rare. When they are sick, they go to Nsuta or Kyebi clinic.

Education

There is a junior high school at Dida which serves it and the two neighbouring villages of Akyease and Amangoase. The children walk to Nsuta for senior secondary school.

Institutions

The village is governed by a Committee of Chief and Elders and by a Unit Committee. For political reasons, the last government cut the number of Unit Committees and extended their coverage from one to two or three villages, meaning that no village had enough people on the committee to carry out the work. Dida therefore set up its own Development Committee consisting of the two remaining Unit Committee members plus three others they voted on.

There is also an effective Water and Sanitation Committee which arranged the mechanisation of the borehole.

Miscellaneous

There are two small shops and three tabletop shops in Dida. For transport, including taking people to hospital when necessary, the community use motor bikes, tricycles or bicycles.

Village Wish List

- a. Latrines
- b. Teachers' accommodation. There is no accommodation for teachers at Dida. Most teachers are unwilling to work there because they have to sleep in their own classrooms.

