

## Owuobuoho



We visited Owuobuoho in the middle of a rainstorm on 17 July 2015. It is located deep in the bush and is accessed by a very rough track. Its nearest neighbours are at Amoamang or Bimma villages, which are some 6km away. It is in the Mampong Municipal District of Ashanti.

We spoke to the school teachers (pictured right), who were the only people present when we arrived. They told us there are about six hundred people divided into fifty households in the village. It is a community of farmers, and their crops include carrots, corn, millet, yam, beans and ground nuts. They sell any surplus at market. Their diet includes all these crops and also fish, which they buy from Mampong Town. They only eat meat about once a year at Christmas.

### **Water and Sanitation**

The community draws water from the Obuo spring which – being a spring – is relatively clean.



There are no latrines of any sort in the village. The community, including the teachers, practise open defecation.

### **Education and Health**

There is a primary school for the younger children, but older children must walk 45 minutes to the Junior High School at Bimma or Amoamang.

Principal sicknesses include malaria and diarrhoea. The nearest health centre is at Mampong Hospital.

### **Organisation**

The village Chief lives in Bimma, and in his absence is represented by Mr Malem Jibli.

The government recently legislated that elected Unit Committees (village councils) should be spread between several villages, and members should be drawn only from members of the government's political party. This has caused enormous upset in the villages, and rendered many Unit Committees completely ineffectual.

The Unit Committee at Owuobuoho is now shared with Bimma and Amoamang. This means that there is no organisation for basic housekeeping tasks, like keeping the footpaths clean.

### **Religion**

The villagers belong to the Pentecostal or Muslim religion. There is no witchdoctor.

We were told that not far from the village is an historical rock and that many people get lost near it and often die or are eaten by wild animals.

### **Wish List**

The village would like above anything else to have latrines, clean water and a health centre. They would also like teachers' accommodation, since many teachers walk from Bimma to Owuobuoho and back each day. (The headteacher has put a bed in his office, and sleeps there during the week.

