

PEPEASI



We visited Pepiase in December 2018 and then again in January 2020. On the first occasion, we spoke to community member Ben Adomako, who was deputising for the Saviour Church leader (see below). On the second, we spoke to Abraham Kwanung, Kwadwo Forjour and Naomi Birago (see photo above).

We were told that there were three distinct districts to Pepeasi village:

- Pepeasi Proper is the original settlement of around thirty households.
- Pepeasi Saviour is a religious community which broke away about 45 years ago. It has a population of 400 and around 35 households.
- Pepeasi Zongo is a newer settlement of around two hundred migrants, living in thirty households who came south from Burkino Faso when climate change made life in their home villages too difficult. They include members of the Mosi, Dagati, Dagomba, Grusi, Fra-Fra and Kusase tribes, but most speak Twi, the Ghanaian majority language, as well as their own tribal languages. Initially they came to Pepeasi as seasonal workers, leaving for the north after the harvest, but more recently some have become permanent residents.

It would be hard to find a sponsor to cover the whole of this village, so we are looking for sponsors for each of the separate districts.

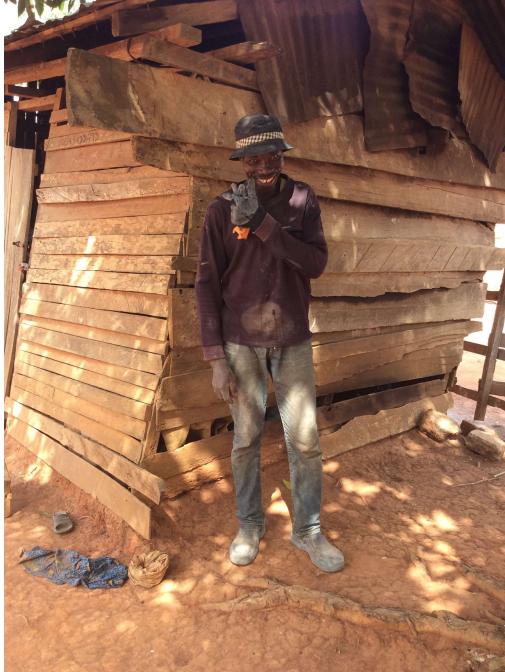
The people are farmers and grow cocoa, plantain, tomato, vegetables, corn, yams, cassava. They are famous for their tomatoes. Recently maize and vegetable harvests have been poor because of invasions of army worm. They take any surplus to market at Kwamang, Nsuta or Kumawu.

Water

They have a privately-owned borehole which doesn't produce enough water for the whole community. They need two more boreholes. In the meantime, four out of five of the population buy bottled water rather than drinking the highly-polluted stream water which is otherwise available.

Sanitation

The village has a traditional pit latrine and there is also a communal latrine which covers the whole of Pepeasi. Other than that, there are three privately-owned household latrines. Few people have any idea of hygiene.



There is one dirty, badly-kept refuse dump.

Health

We were told that one in five children dies of water-related disease before age two. The government has failed to replace mosquito nets for years, and the most prevalent diseases are malaria and diarrhoea. When they are badly sick – maybe about five times a year - the villagers visit Kwamang clinic. Few people have health insurance.

Education

There is a primary school of twelve classrooms and a junior high school of six classrooms in Pepeasi. This last accommodates two hundred children.

Institutions

Pepeasi Proper has a committee of chief and elders, an elected unit committee and a health committee. Pepeasi Zongo has only a committee of chief and elders. Pepeasi

Saviour is governed by the leaders of the Saviour church.

These committees work well together and occasionally the whole village meets together to talk about common problems.

Miscellaneous

The population includes Christians (mainly Methodists), Seven Day Adventists, Presbyterians and representatives of the Pentecostal church.

There is one shop and one tabletop shop, one taxi, four bicycles and a Saviour Football Team.

The Village Wish List

Latrines, farm support and microcredit.



The two ladies in the photo were absolutely insistent we take their photograph. They were delighted at the result.