

Wonoo Village



We visited Wonoo on 16 December 2016 and talked to community members including Elder Owusu-Sekyere Seth and Stephen Agyei Kusi (pictured below right). They told us that the population of the whole village was 800, divided into about 70 households. They said it consisted of three distinct areas: the Zongo area (settlers from several tribes from the north); the Komkomba area (from the Komkomba tribe); and Wonoo Proper, consisting of the majority Ashanti tribe.

It would be hard to find a sponsor to cover the whole of this village, so we are seeking sponsors for each of the three areas.

Wonoo Proper consists of Ashanti farmers, growing yam, cassava, corn, bananas, plantain, cocoyam, mango, cocoa and vegetables such as carrots and garden eggs (aubergine). The land is very fertile so there is little hunger, and occasional surpluses are sold at Kunasu or Bodomasi markets.

*Wonoo Zongo*¹ For many years, the Ashanti farmers employed seasonal workers, who come from Northern Ghana or Burkino Faso to help at harvest time. In this case, the Zongos include representatives from the tribes of the Dagumbas, Fra-Fra, Dagatis, Fulanji and Gunja, as well as the Mossi tribe from Burkino Faso. There are approximately 270 Zongos in Woono, divided into 25 households.



¹ Zongo settlements are areas in West African towns populated mostly by settlers from Northern Sahel areas especially from Northern Nigeria. *Zongo* means foreign.

Recently, because of climate change, it has become very difficult for the seasonal workers to make a living from farming in their homelands, so many have come south and settled round the outskirts of the main village.

Wonoo Komkombas are again settlers from Northern Ghana or Burkino Faso, but in this case they all come from the Komkonba tribe. There are approximately 270 Komkombas in Wonoo, divided into 25 households.

Water

The three Wonoo villages share six boreholes. One is broken, but they don't bother to mend it because they have plenty of water, and they often sell it on to other, drier villages. The Krowan, Abutia and Asofua Streams are also nearby.



One of Wonoo's Witch Doctors

Sanitation

The whole village shares one 16-seater communal latrine, with six cubicles for men and six for women. It is full and smells terrible and the community is currently building a new one. In the meantime, most people practise open defecation, which by now has probably polluted the streams.

Education

Wonoo has a primary school with six classrooms; a Junior High School with three; and a single-roomed nursery. There are enough classrooms for the current population.

Health

The nearest clinics are at Kunawu and Efiduase. We were told that the main sicknesses are malaria, waist pains (from carrying heavy loads on the head), hernia and diarrhoea.

Institutions

The Committee of Chief and Elders and the elected Unit Committee cover whole village. The Unit Committee also extends to small groups of houses located in the bush. There is also a non-functioning Water and Sanitation Committee and

a School Management Committee. The assemblyman (local authority councillor equivalent) lives at Kunawu.

All these groups work well together and the village appears to be well managed. They even have a teak plantation, which can be harvested when times are hard.

Electricity

Electricity is available because the village is on a main road, and most houses are connected to the grid.

Religion

Wonoo includes Muslims, Christians, and traditional religions. Papa Yaw, pictured right, belongs to the Pentecostal Church.

History

Wonoo's Ashanti community came from Akwamu in the Eastern Region to escape the Ashanti Wars. They first settled in Kumasu, then moved to Old Wonoo and then on to Wonoo in 1957.

Wish List

The villagers told us that above all else they wish they had household latrines and a small clinic.



Papa Yaw belongs to the Pentecostal Church