

Aframso 1



This note is based on an interview with the community in February 2023.

Aframso 1 is a village of some three hundred people, divided into fifty households. It is situated on the main north-south road, some 30 kms north of Gyetiase, in Sekyere Central District.

The villagers are subsistence farmers. Their principal crops are groundnuts, cashew nuts, rice, yam, cassava and vegetables but they also carry out seasonal work on a nearby two hundred acre farm. They are included in Ashanti Development's farm support scheme and so are aware of its work, though they haven't yet received water, household latrines and hygiene training.

The village was founded about fifty years ago when the king granted land to an Ashanti chief, who relocated from the village of Beposo with his family because the land was good for farming.



Nowadays, most Ashantis have moved back to Beposo and given their land for hire or share cropping to the migrants, some of whom came years ago as seasonal workers and stayed on. Today the village consists of members of the Dagomba, Fra-Fra, Mamprusi, Dagati, Mosi, Kusasi, Fulani and other tribes. They keep contact with their home villages by phone and visit for festivals, but say that only the old people are left.

There is no electricity in the village, but we saw several small solar lighting units being recharged (see left).

Water and Sanitation

The village has a borehole but it doesn't produce enough water for their needs, so the community draws water from the Kyerenfa stream. They say they have been drinking this water for years, and it doesn't harm them, but they also told us that diarrhoea was their second most prevalent sickness.

There are no latrines in the village, and little or no knowledge of health or hygiene.

Education

Aframso has one primary school, built in 2020, with six classrooms and over one hundred children. There are another three classrooms, built in 2011, but they are currently used for teachers' accommodation.

Health

We were told that the most common sickness the community suffers from was malaria, followed by diarrhoea. Recently a new sickness has arrived which made their legs swell. We suggested they report it to the health authorities. The nearest clinic is at Nkujua.

Organisation

The Chief and Elders Committee includes leaders from each of the larger tribes. They are nominated by their tribesmen and as long as no-one disagrees with a nomination they are automatically accepted. There are no women on this committee, although the women of the village are required to do the cleaning.

Aframso 1 has a Development Committee to look after its interests within the broader framework of the Unit Committee, which covers several villages and is based elsewhere. There is also a School Management Committee and a Parent-Teacher Association. There is no Women's Committee, but the women organise themselves.

Religions: Islam, Christianity and traditional. Most of the community are Moslems.

Wish List

Above all, the village wishes for teachers' accommodation. This is because, while it doesn't understand the value of sanitation, it knows that if there were a proper building for teachers to live in they would get a better quality of teachers and their children's education would benefit.

Secondly, the village would like to have latrines. Thirdly, it wishes it had another borehole.

