



**COASTAL COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE AND
DIARRHOEA (C2R-CD) PROJECT**

**REPORT ON RECONNAISSANCE TRIP TO
EXPLORE POSSIBLE STUDY SITES
JULY 2020**

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INTRODUCTION

The effects of climate change globally is increasing. Studies have shown the human health would be impacted by global health severely in diverse ways. Common among these increasing of the occurrence of waterborne diseases. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa with coastlines have been marked to have the greatest impact. This is due to their low adaptive capacity. The coastal community resilience to climate and diarrhoea (C2R-CD) project seeks to address the problem of climate change impact along the coastline of Ghana using a multisectoral approach.

Aim of trip

As part of activities to select study areas for the project, the project team embarked on a reconnaissance trip to assess the entire coastal line of Ghana to identify areas which meet the project criteria for study sites. On the 21st of July 2020, a team made up of representatives from all the five work packages paid a visit to selected communities in the West coast to explore the options of choosing them as study sites.

COMMUNITIES VISITED

Community 1: Fonko Beach, Western Region

Demographic characteristic of the community

Fonko community is in the Ahanta West Municipality of the Western region. The community has a population of 6,000-7,000 people. The population increase according to the assembly man was the influx of settlers from Takoradi. The country is made up of mainly Fanti, others include Ahanta, Ewe and Nzema. The community is low lying elevation.

Water Hygiene and Sanitation structures in the community

Community has three public toilets, one currently under litigation, another was built to replace it but has a problem so is not being used. Currently only one 44-seater public toilet is functional. Ten percent or less have toilet facilities in their homes. More than 50% of the men are involved in open defecation.

Waste management is a major problem in the community. Initially, the Assembly dug pits and covered them up when it was full. They realized it wasn't sustainable so they got a bin at one end of the town. Those at the other end feel it is too much of a distance to bring their waste over so dump it at the shore and in nearby bushes. Sanitation is generally poor in the community. No information was given on vectors in the community.

Information on Tidal waves

Tidal Waves are highest around July to September yearly. Occasionally, the community gets flooded as the water comes into the sea. According to the assembly man, the sea is washing settlements away. People have therefore been forced to move from the coastal line.

The community has a problem with seas weeds. A lot of sea weeds are found on the shore making sanitation a problem there.

A sea defense is being built to improve the situation. In places with no defense, the sea keeps claiming their homes. The sea defense project is across all coast communities not only Fonko.

Information on Diarrhoea and health

The community does not have a CHPS compound but is served by Amanful CHPS, a government health facility in the neighbouring community. Diarrhoea episodes, there has been a decrease over the years because two nurses from the CHPS zone they fall under have been carrying out home visits and public health education on prevention of diarrhoea. Therefore cases have decreased massively. To them, diarrhoea occurrence has been dependent on proximity to health center and education given by nurses.

Visit to Amanful CHPS

The CHPS compound has been in existence for more than five years. This compound serves the Fonko community. It is manned by a Physician Assistant (Madam Magdalene Ankomah). According to the nurse in charge, diarrhoea cases has decreased over the years. The number of diarrhoea cases recorded in 2020 are shown in the table below

Table 1: Data on Diarrhoea for January to June 2020

Month	Number of cases
January	30
February	26
March	10
April	26
May	11
June	33
Total (Jan-Jun) = 136.	Mean (SD)=22.7(9.4)

Data on diarrhoea for previous years is only available in DHMIS 2. Hard copies are not available

Community Two: Mamford, Central Region

Demographic characteristic of the community

Mamford is located in the Goa West district of the Central region. It is boarded to the West by Debu, north by Akom, East by Brofoyedu and south by the sea. Mamford has a population of 30,000. The main ethnic group is Fanti. There is a suburb for Ewes called Twioyi. The community is made up of mainly fishermen and fish mongers Most of the people do not own canoes, they rent for fishing.

The topography of the community is generally hilly. A small settlement is however found along the flat coastline at a section of the community.

There is no flooding in the community since the nature of the land is hilly. Tidal waves get very strong and destroy canoes occasionally. A sea defense wall is currently under construction.

Water Hygiene and Sanitation structures and practices in the community

The community has pipe borne water from the Ghana Water company

There is no intense heat in the community

There are no seas weeds

Waste management is a problem in the community. There are only three bins serving the entire community. The New Town suburb has no bin so dumps refuse in the bush. The community had a hill of refuse which the assembly man got Zoom Lion in Cape Coast to level for them. However, the heap has been built again since there is no other way to dispose of refuse.

Open defecation is very common. This is because they have only a 12-seater public toilet serving the community. No information was provided on vectors in the community.

Information on Diarrhoea and health

The community has a health center, one CHPS compound in the market and a newly built CHPS yet to be commissioned. People also visit the Apam hospital which is a few communities away from Mamford. There was no information on diarrhoea incidence since we were not able to meet the in charge of the health center. However, last year, there was an outbreak of diarrhoea in the AKyenfo suburb of Manful. The outbreak led to education of community members on diarrhoea.

OTHER PLACES VISITED

New Takoradi Health Center

The team was not able to visit Akubrom and Poasi due to time constraints. However, we visited the health center that caters for both communities.

The health center is manned by a medical doctor. It serves a number of communities including Poasi and Akubrom. Most common disease reported are chest issues and malaria.

With respect to diarrhoea, about 40 cases are reported in a month. Adults normally report with gastroenteritis. The cases increase during the raining season.

The health center however has a challenge, the attendance to the facility has declined due to shortages some time ago. They had to refer cases when they did not have the needed logistics to handle the issue. The community members therefore prefer to visit other neighbouring facilities rather than the health center.

CONCLUSION

The visit to the west coast was successfully completed on the 21 of July, information obtained was documented and shared for further action to be taken after visits had been made to the East coast of the country.

Appendix

COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE AND DIARRHOEA (C2R-CD) PROJECT

Table 2: SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS FROM RECONNAISSANCE TRIP 21 JULY 2020

1	Fishing communities below	Fonko	Manford
2	Different ethnic groups.	Mainly Fanti, others include Ahanta, Ewe, Nzema	Majority are Fanti, there is an Ewe community called Twioyi
3	The level of flooding in the area, causes of flooding, the topography of the elevation and how the area is liable to flooding. of the area; in terms	community generally on flat land, some houses are close to the shore,	community on a hill,
4	Incidence of flooding in the area.	floods occur each year	no floods
5	The wave dynamics and how they contribute to the incidence of flooding	widal waves high during July and August	none mentioned
6	Tidal regime; whether the area is experiencing a storm surge and how they result in flooding.	Sea defense currently being constructed	Sea defense currently being constructed
7	Population density; municipal services, environmental sanitation, natural environment	6,000-7,000; sea weeds a big problem there. Community has one function 44 seater toilet, one waste bin at one end of the community	30,000; Only a 12 seater public toilet available for entire community; one waste bin at one end of the community
8	Behavioral criteria; hygiene and sanitation.	Poor sanitation and waste management, open defecation is very common especially among males, poor waste management, waste dumped in bushes and at the shore	Poor sanitation and waste management. Waste disposed at the shore; open defecation is

9	Vector situation; Presence of flies in the communities, exploring potentially new vectors	No information provided	no information
10	Presence of health facility in the community.	Health facility in the next community (Amanful)	One health Center, one CHPS compound. Use the Apam Hospital too
11	Communities that have experienced climate change variability like drought, decline in rainfall pattern and heat.	no heat waves	none mentioned
12	Communities that are diarrhoea endemic; which communities experience diarrhoea in the last five years and what point it happened.	diarrhoea episodes on the decrease due to nurses assigned to do home visits and education	didn't get any information on that

The team was not able to visit Akubrom and Poasi due to time constraints. However, we visited the health center that caters for both communities. Most diarrhoea have stopped coming. Report about 30 each month. They rather go to other neighbouring facilities.

Table 3: CONTACTS FROM COMMUNITIES VISITED

No.	Name	Community	Position	Number
1	Joseph Jeremy Baidoo	Fonko	Unit committee chairman	0247039268/ 0209995879
2	Robert ANkra	Fonko	Chief Fisherman	054683124
3	Andrews Instiful	Fonko	Assembly Man	024930815
4	Diana Efiba Cudjoe	Amanful (Fonko)	Nurse-in-charge	0244537742
5		Amanful (Fonko)	Deputy Nurse-in-charge	0276160756
6	Magdalene Ankomah	Amanful (Fonko)	Physician Assistant	055343808
7	Peter Nkansah	Mamford	Assembly man	0244723094
8	Auntie Lizzy	Mamford	Midwife	0246194996