

Information about Ayensuako in Ghana for the members of Hitchin Twinning Association

Ayensuako is a village in central Ghana situated 31 miles from Ghana's capital city, Accra. The rivers Ayensu and Ako run through the village and it is surrounded by dense forest. As with the rest of Ghana, the climate is tropical, and the rainy season runs from April to June due to the African Monsoon.

The village has a population of around 2,300 people who mainly live a subsistence lifestyle through growing cocoa, maize, cassava and oil palm. Public transport from Ayensuako to Accra and the larger towns nearby is slow and expensive so many of the people do not travel far from the community.

The village has a chief called Nai Kofi Antwi Ofinam IV who was elected by the local people. The chief has similar responsibilities to a mayor and politicians will seek his input as he is closer to the people. The chief is the most senior representative of the village and performs functions including dispute settlement, codification of customary law, arrangement of ceremonies and festivals, organisation of communal labour and promotion of socioeconomic development.

The village has a market and shops selling food and provisions as well as a local barbers. The main languages spoken in Ayensuako are English, Awutu, Hausa, Fantse and Ewe and the currency is the Ghanaian Cedi.

The village is home to the Humanitas primary and secondary schools where 280 children are being taught who, because of geography and poverty, would not be in education. The school houses a library and a football pitch and the pupils are taught the Ghanaian national curriculum by qualified teachers. Some of the children living in the local orphanage are also taught at the schools. The schools have a football team, and they compete against other schools in the region.

There is a strong musical and dance influence in the community and the children are encouraged to play musical instruments (particularly drums) at school and at home. The town celebrates an annual festival called Awutu Awubia which takes place in August through to September in the district's capital Breku. During the festival, visitors share food and drinks and play music and dance. The communities put on traditional clothes and there is a reception held for all the village chiefs.