

OFFINSO DISTRICT PROFILE

LOCATION OF THE DISTRICT

With New-Offinso as its capital town, the district lies between longitude 1°65W and 1°45E and latitude 6.45N and 7.25S. It is located in the extreme North-Western part of Ashanti Region. About half of its boundary is bordered by the Brong Ahafo Region in the North and West. It is bordered on the East by Ejura-Sekyeredumasi District, on the south by Kwabre, Afigya Sekyere, Ahafo Ano South and Atwima Districts. The district covers a land area of 1255km².

CLIMATE

The District experiences semi-equatorial conventional climate. Two rainfall seasons are experienced in the district. The major rains start from April to July and the minor from September Mid-November. Annual rainfall ranges from 1500mm in the north to 1700mm in the south. Relative humidity is high during the major rainy season, reaching its peak of 90% between May and June. A maximum temperature of 30°C is experienced between March and April, near monthly temperature is about 27°C.

VEGETATION

The vegetation of the District is mainly moist semi-deciduous forest, which is interspersed with thick vegetative cover. Tree species found in the forest are Wawa, mahogany, Odum amongst others.

SOIL CHARACTERISTICS AND CROP SUITABILITY

The soils in the districts are developed from different parent materials. The Kumasi-Offin, Adjuemso series are developed from granite and are deep, well-drained and permeable. They are suitable for the cultivation of crops such as yam, cassava, maize, tobacco, legumes, food crops and vegetables. The Bekwai-Abumadan-Oda compound association are developed from Birimian rock. They are well-drained and support the cultivation of food crops and

trees. Dedesi-Sutawa, Ampimso Association are developed from Voltaian sandstone and are red, well-drained and suitable for the cultivation of crops such as yam, maize and tomatoes.

GEOLOGY AND MINERAL AVAILABILITY

The land area in the district is underlain by three rock formations. These are the Voltain, the Brimian and the granite rock formations.

The Voltain formation covers about 30% of the total land area and is rich in sandstone, mudstones and limestone, it stretches from Northwest to Northeast of the district. The Brimian rock type are mainly schist and gneiss and are found in the south western part of the District. They are found in Bonsua, Kensere, Gambia and Wawase, areas.

Granite formation is found in the southern and south-eastern portions of the district. The granite deposits are a potential for the development of quarrying in the district. Gold is the only mineral found in small quantities in the district. There is, however, no mining activity in the district.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The population of the district is 138,190 comprising 68,712 males and 69,477 females. The population density of the area is 63.5 persons/km². There are about 126 settlements in the District. Out of these settlements, five (5) could be described as urban. These are New Offinso (36,190), Akomadan (14,018), Abofour (11,177), Nkenkaasu (10,014) and Afrancho (7,727). The average household size is 5.5. Children under 15 years account for about 46.6%. The economical active population (15-64 years) accounts for 49% and the elderly (65 years and above) account for 1.5% of the total population. There are three main religious groups in the district. These are Christians (75.6%), Islam (15.9%) and Traditional Religion (8.5%).

CURRENT ECONOMY OF THE DISTRICT

Agriculture

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the district. Over 70% of the active population in the district are farmers. 35% of this number constitute the youth. Fishing is done on a minor scale while animal production is basically on poultry and sheep.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing is practised on a small scale in the District, 5% of the population are engaged in industry. The manufacturing includes two medium scale industries which are engaged in wood processing. These are SKOD Timbers operating in Nkenkaasu and Dupaul Wood Treatment at Offinso. There are other small scale sawmills operating in the district.

Tourism

Tourism is not well-developed in the district. However, there are some tourist sites which need to be developed. These are Abofour Virgin Forest, Tutuampa Shrine and the umbrella stone at Kentaa.

Services/Commerce

Various commodities ranging from agricultural to industrial goods are traded in the district. The major market centres in the district are located at Akomadan, Nkenkaasu, Anyinasuso, Abofour, Offinso-Kokote and New Offinso. About 20% of the population are engaged in commerce. There are quite a number of services existing in the district are post offices, banking, hairdressing, tailoring and auto fitting. 11% of the labour force are in the service sector.

INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILABILITY

Roads

The district is served by the main Kumasi-Techiman truck road and a network of feeder roads. The Kumasi-Techiman road is the only tarred road in the district. Most of the feeder roads are hardly motorable during the rainy seasons when they develop gullies and become muddy. The southern portion of the district is better connected by feeder roads than the northern section.

Health Facilities

There are 13 health care facilities in the district. They comprise government and mission hospital health centres and rural clinics. Nkenkaasu and St. Patrick's Hospital are the two hospitals in the district. Doctor-patient ratio is 1:47090 while nurse-patients ratio is 1:1635. Other health care centres are Akomadan Health Centre, Abofour Health Centre, AME Zion Health Care, Dorcas Memorial Clinic, Quality Care Clinic, Offinso District Assembly Maternity Centre, Anyinasuso SDA Clinic, Bonsua MCH/FP Centre, Nyamebekyere Clinic and Kyebi Clinic.

Electricity

About 38 communities in the district have been connected to the National Grid, besides this number of communities about 12 others have benefited from the Rural Electrification Project.

Water Supply

Potable water supply in the district is inadequate. The main sources of water supply are pipe-borne, boreholes, hand-dug wells, rivers and streams. It is estimated that 42 percent of the population depends on untreated, unprotected and unsafe water sources. New Offinso, Nkenkaasu, Akomadan and Afrancho have pipe-borne water systems. The IGIP (German NGO) has sunk 64 boreholes district wide, the EU has provided 10 hand-dug wells fitted with pumps and the Catholic Arch-Diocese of Kumasi has sunk 40 boreholes.

Telecommunication/Post Office

There are five telecommunication centres at Offinso, two Post Offices at Offinso and Akomadan and three postal agencies are at Abofour, Nkenkaasu and Afrancho. There are also a few private communication centres at Offinso, Abofour, Nkenkaasu, Akomadan and Afrancho.

Banking Services

There are two branches of the Ghana Commercial Bank in Offinso and Akomadan and two Rural Banks operating in the district. Otuasekan Rural Bank is operating in Abofour and Nkenkaasu and Nwabiagya Rural Bank is operating in Offinso.

Schools

There are forty-four (44) kindergarten with 2,779 pupils, ninety five (95) primary schools with 8,185 pupils, forty-eight (48) Junior Secondary Schools with 5,967 pupils, four (4) Senior Secondary Schools with 1,930 students and one training college with 726 students. The total pupil ratio for KG, Primary Schools and Junior Secondary Schools are 1:19, 1:28 and 1:16 respectively.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS IN THE DISTRICT

Among the major attractions in the district are:

The existence of four major foodstuff markets located at Kokote, Abofour, Anyinasuso and Nkenkaasu.

The presence of tourist sites (Tutuampa Shrine, Abofour Virgin Forest and the Umbrella stone at Kentaa).

The combine result of the favourable rainfall and temperature condition and fertile soils in the district, which is potential for high projection of food and cash crops.

The Mmoaninko festival of the Chiefs and people of the Offinso Traditional Area.