

BEKWAI MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY

MUNICIPAL PROFILE

1.0 Introduction

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly is among the 30 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in the Ashanti Region. The Municipal Assembly is the highest political and administrative body of the Municipality and exercises deliberative, legislative and executive functions. The Municipality was established under Legislative Instrument (L.I. 1906, 2007).

Politically and administratively, the municipality covered the entire Bekwai constituency. Some of the major settlements are Bekwai, Kokofu, Essumeja, Anwiankwanta, Dominase, Poano, Ofoase-Kokoben, Bogyawe, Senfi, Huntado, Abodom, Amoaful, Dadease, Kensere, Akyeremade, Dotom, Koniyaw and Kokotro.

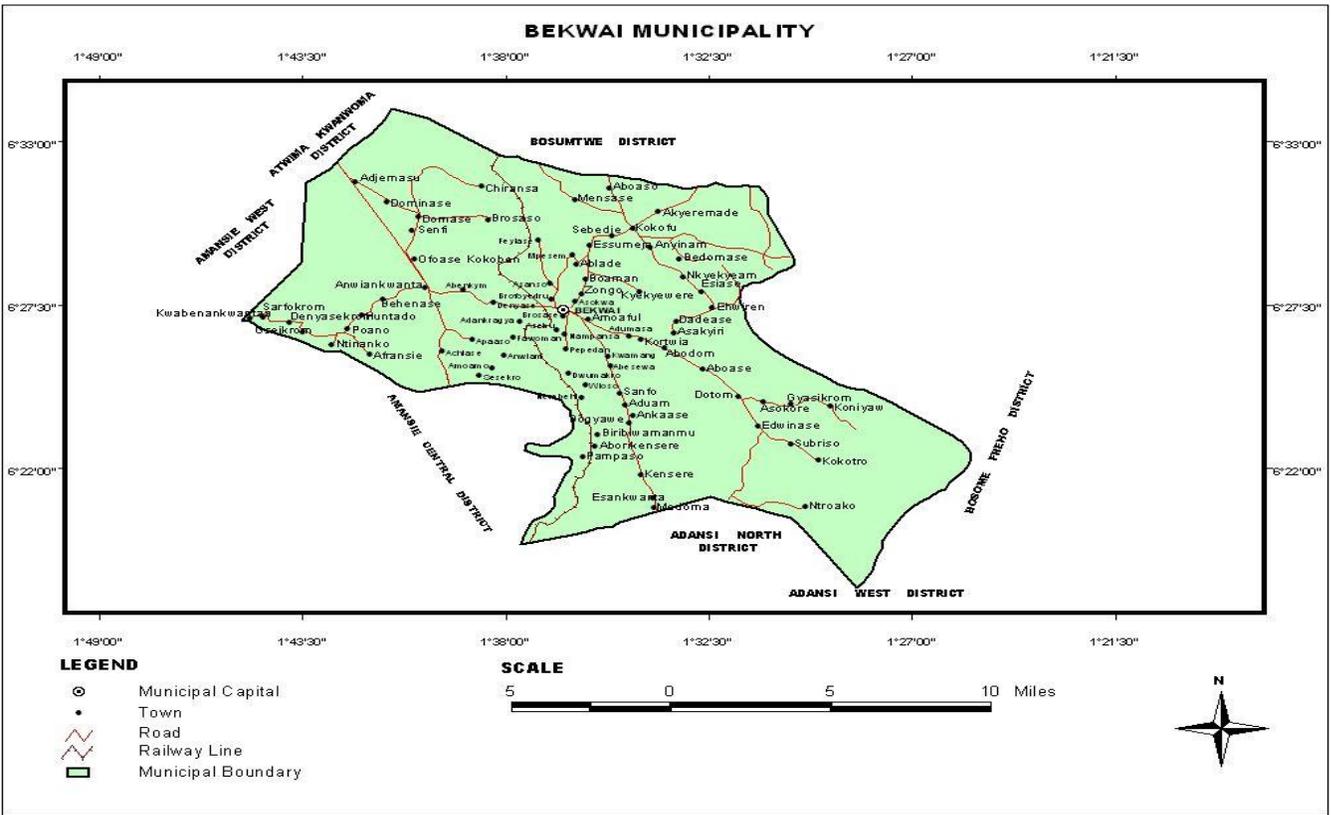
1.1 Municipal Governance

The Bekwai Municipality has 34 electoral areas. The electoral areas include the following Adankraja, Amoaful, Adjemasu, Anwiankwanta, Essumeja, Dominase, Bogyawe, Sanfo –Aduam, Ankaase, Poano, Ntinanko, Huntado, Ofoase-Kokoben, Senfi, , Kokofu, Akyeremade, Kensere, Pampaso, Dwumakro, Asanso/Feyiase, Amoaful, New/Zongo, Asokwa/Tunsum, Brofoyeduo, Nampansa, Abodom, Dadease, Dotom, Kokotro, Asamang, Asanso-Feyiase, Asokore, Dwoamin, Kwamang, Huntado, Pepedan/Akwabeteso, PramasoNyameduase .

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly has Eight (8) Zonal councils as indicated in table 1.1

Table 1: Zonal Councils and their Capitals

NO.	Zonal COUNCIL	CAPITAL
1	Bekwai Zonal Council	Bekwai
2	Essumeja Zonal council	Essumeja
3	Dadease Zonal Council	Dadease
4	Asuo-Dankran Zonal Council	Bogyawe
5	Adagya Zonal Council	Huntado
6	Adumasa Zonal Council	Ofoase – Kokoben
7	Kokofu Zonal Council	Kokofu
8	Adudwan Zonal Council	Kensere



1.2 Vision Statement

Bekwai Municipal Assembly’s Vision is to ensure effective promotion of decentralization through the delivery of quality service that addresses the needs of clients and offers sustainable services to the populace in the Municipality.

1.3 Mission Statement

Bekwai Municipal Assembly exists to ensure the improvement of the quality of life of its people through the formulation and implementation of policies on a sustainable manner to step-up human development, reduce poverty and provide good governance by a well-motivated and highly skilled labour. To achieve this mission, the Assembly has set itself certain objectives:

1.4 Objectives of the Municipality

To fulfill its mission, the Municipal Assembly has set itself the following objectives:

1. To facilitate the effective functioning of local government administration in the Municipality

2. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources of the Assembly and Decentralized Department in the Municipality.
3. To monitor, co-ordinate and harmonize the implementation of development Plans and activities in the Municipality
4. To facilitate the provision of basic social and economic infrastructure and services in the Municipality.
5. To facilitate community based and Private Sector Development in the Municipality.

1.5 Functions

The functions of the Municipal Assembly, like all other Assemblies are basically derived from statute, as mandated by Local Government Act, 1993 Act 462. These functions which are broadly aimed at attaining its objectives and fulfilling its mission of improving the quality of life of its people are to:

- Be responsible for the overall development of the Municipal and ensures the preparation and submission of development plans and budget to the relevant central government Agency/Ministry through the Regional Co-ordinating Council (RCC).
- Formulate and execute plans, programmes and strategies for the effective mobilization of the resources necessary for the overall development of the Municipality.
- Promote and support productive activity and social development in the Municipal and remove any obstacles to initiative and development.
- Initiate programmes for the development of basic infrastructure and provide Municipal works and services in the Municipality.
- Be responsible for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in the Municipality.
- Co-operate with the appropriate national and local security agencies and be responsible for the maintenance of security and public safety in the Municipality.
- Ensure ready access to courts and public tribunals in the Municipality, for the promotion of justice.

- Initiate, sponsor or carry out such studies as may be necessary for the discharge of any of the functions conferred by Act 462 or any other enactment.
- Perform such other functions as may be provided under any other enactment.
- Effectively and efficiently perform these functions, the Assembly requires variety of skills and professional to man its various post created to operate its organization structure.

2.0 Physical and Natural Environment

2.1 Introduction

Bekwai Municipal is located in the southern part of Ashanti Region. It shares boundaries with Bosomtwe District in the north, Adansi –North in the south, Bosome-Freho District to the East and Amansie-Central and Amansie-West to the west. The Municipal Assembly lies within latitude 6° 00’N 6°30 ’N and Longitudes 1°00 W and 1° 35W. It covers a total land area of about 624sqkm representing 2.64 percent of the total land area of the region (Ashanti).

2.2 Topography and Drainage

The Municipality lies within the forest dissected plateau physiographic region with an average height registering between 150 metres and 300 metres above sea level. The topography is relatively flat with occasional undulating uplands, which rise around 240 metres to 300 metres.

The area is drained by the Oda River and its tributaries including Dankran and which portrays a dendritic pattern. The construction of small irrigations dam on the Oda Rivers offers great potentials for Agricultural Development all year round.

2.3 Climate

The climate of the district is the semi-equatorial type. It is characterized by double maxima rainfall. The first major rainfall season starts from March and ends in July. The second rainfall starts from September and ends in November. The mean annual rainfall is between 1600m – 1800mm. It has a fairly high and uniform temperature ranging between 32°C in March and 20° C in August. Relative humidity is fairly moderate but high during the rainy season. It ranges between 70 and 80 percent in

the dry season. The temperature regime and rainfall pattern enhance the cultivation of many food crops throughout the District.

2.4 Vegetation

The Bekwai-Municipal Assembly lies within the moist – semi- deciduous forest zone. Some of the tree species are Odum, Wawa, Edinam and Mahogany. Parts of the forest have been reserved. The ecological unfriendly farming practices and human activities, particularly farming and timber extraction have reduced the primary forests to secondary forests. Chronolaena Ordorata, popularly called Acheampong shrub seems to be the predominant vegetative cover in many parts of the District.

2.5 Geology and Minerals

The Municipal is underlain by three geological formations. These are the Birimian, Tarkwain and granitic rocks, which are rich in mineral deposits. The Birimian and the granitic rocks have been identified to have great potentials since they contain such minerals as gold.

The minerals found in the Municipal include:

- Gold at Kokotro, Koniyaw and Boni.
- Clay deposits at Boagyaa-Besease.
- Sand and Gravel deposits at Patasi, Sanfo-Aduam, Dominase and Esiase.

The untapped mineral deposit at Kokotro, Koniyaw and Boni need to be harnessed so as to create jobs and open up these areas for development. The Clay and sand deposits at Boagyaa – Besease, Patasi, Sanfo-Aduam, Dominase and Esiase have shown a great resource potential for the housing, brick and tile factory, pottery and other clay related activities. The multiplier effect in terms of increased employment, revenue mobilization in the Municipal cannot be over-emphasized.

2.6 Soils and Agricultural Land Use

The soils in the Municipal offer ideal condition for the production of oil-palm, tubers, cereals and other food and cash crops. With the President’s Special Initiatives on ‘Planting for food and jobs’, the district has the soil potential to meet part of the nation’s demand for Oil Palm and Cassava production. The District has seven (7) soil types, these are:

- *The Bekwai –Oda Compound Association:*

These soils are developed over lower Birimian rocks, which are moderately drained and are good for the cultivation of both tree crops such as Cocoa, Coffee, Oil Palm and Pear as well as food crops such as Maize, Cassava, Cocoyam, Plantain and Banana. The soils are found around Patasi, Anwiankwanta, Bekwai, Asokore, Koniyaw.

- ***Asikuma-Atewu-Ansum/ Oda compound Association:***

These soils are developed over upper Birrimian rocks. They are well drained and suited for tree crops such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, pear and forestry. These are found around Ntinanko, Dominase and Poano

- ***Mim – Oda Compound Association***

These soils are developed over lower Birrimian rocks, which are well drained and are suitable for tree crops such as coffee, oil palm and pear. The valley bottom soils are also suitable for vegetables and sugar cane cultivation. They are found in the southern part of the District around Besease and Poano.

- ***Kobeda –Amuni - Bekwai Simple Association***

These soils are developed over upper Birrimian rocks, which are moderately deep and well drained. They are suitable for forest reservation and rock quarrying and small farming in pockets of the deeper soils. They are found around Boagyaa and Esiase,

- ***Kumasi – Asuansi / Nta Offin Compound Association***

These soils are developed over Cape Coast Granite rocks, which are well drained. They are suitable for the cultivation of tree crops such as cocoa, coffee, citrus, oil palm and pear as well as food crops such as maize, cassava, plantain and cocoyam. The lowland valley bottom soils are suitable for rice, sugar cane and vegetables. They are found around Kokofu, Essumeja, Edubrim, Abodom, Bogyawe and Gyasikrom.

- ***Juaso – Manso /Asuboa Pomasua Compound Association***

These soils are developed over Tarkwaian rocks, which are moderately drained and are good for the cultivation of tree crops such as coffee, cocoa, citrus, oil palm as well as food crops such as Maize, Plantain, Cocoyam, Banana and Pineapples. The lowland and valley bottom soils are suitable for Rice Sugar Cane and Vegetables. They are found around Anwiankwanta, Kensere and Awiam

2.7 Biodiversity, Climate Change, Green Economy and Environment

Biodiversity forms the foundation of the vast array of eco-system services that critically contribute to human well-being. Plants, Animals, aquatic species, flora and fauna are protected from human activities that endanger living organisms within our Municipality. The Assembly incorporates Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) in its MTDP that guide project and programme implementation. This helps subject project and programmes to careful environmental tools such as Internal Consistency matrix and sustainability matrix that limit negative impacts that such projects may have on biodiversity and environment in general. Site Sensitivity Assessment is conducted and screening reports submitted to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for permits before projects and programmes are implemented. The site sensitivity assessment takes into consideration physical, biological and cultural resources that could be endangered as a result of project and programme implementation. In order to protect biodiversity and the environment, the Assembly has two (2) Officers in charge of Environmental Safeguards. The responsibility of these Officers is to take all Assembly projects through site sensitivity assessment and submit screening reports to EPA and MLGRD in order to limit proposed negative impacts a particular project or programme might have on the biological species and the environment.

Climate change is now a major hindrance to successful agricultural development and it adversely affects agricultural activity since farming in the Municipality is rain-dependent. Rain fall pattern is changing, the sun heat and intensity is increasing due to the negative effect of human activities on the climate. These negative effects are the indiscriminate felling of trees and other forms of pollution, which have seriously affected the rainfall pattern. The Department of Agriculture has been recording low food production, low nutrition and can result to high level of food insecurity. There is the need to protect the remaining trees and also embark on tree planting exercise within the plan period as well as educating farmers on the dangers of farming along river banks and improper use of chemicals.

2.8 Green Economy

Green Economy aims at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities for sustainable development without degrading the environment. The Municipality does not face environmental risks of emissions and waste from industries that threaten living organisms as the Municipality does not have industries that emits hazardous waste onto the environment. The few industries whose pre-occupation is oil palm and palm kernel extraction generate waste that are recycled and re-used for soap making. To promote green economy, it is mandatory for factories to undergo Environmental Impact Assessment and permit granted by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before their establishment in the Municipality.

2.9 Water Security

The ability to access sufficient quantities of clean water to maintain adequate standards of food, goods production and sustainable health care is in line with the Assembly's quest for access to safe drinking water for its citizens. There are three (3) Water Boards that manage such systems namely Bekwai, Kokofu and Abodom Water Boards. These small town water systems serve about 50% of the population in the Municipality and the rest have access to mechanized boreholes, boreholes fitted with pump as well as hand dug well fitted with pump. Bekwai Water Board is managed by a private entity called Vicco Ventures under the supervision of the Bekwai Water Board whilst Kokofu and Abodom water systems are managed by the Water Boards themselves. Currently, about 85% of the population has access to potable drinking water such as pipe borne water from small town water system, mechanized boreholes and hand dug well fitted with pump. Additionally, all the hospitals, health centers and CHPS have a mechanized borehole to support the services provided by the various Water Boards. In 2016, the Assembly constructed 5no. Boreholes in communities such as Amanhyia, Affulkrom, Osei Nkwanta, Koniyaw Saviour, Adjamesu and a mechanized borehole at Kokofu

Government Hospital to stop the acute water shortage menace. Currently, all new schools constructed have toilet facilities and mechanized borehole with overhead tank as part of the project designs. However, the menace of illegal mining if not completely eradicated will have negative impact on water security due to the pollution of waterbodies by illegal miners.

2.10 Natural and Man-made Disasters

Natural disasters such as excessive flooding are not a feature in the Municipality due to the nature of the land and vegetation. The nature of the land is undulating with few flat (plateau) lands. The vegetation is a semi-deciduous forest with shrubs, woods and herbaceous forest with tall trees such as wawa, odum, and sapele, mahogany that serve as wind breaks preventing natural disasters.

However, few areas along River Oda and Asuo-Dankran at Anwiankwanta and Kensere respectively get flooded during heavy rains but its magnitude is low. Such areas are suitable for rice cultivation and aqua-culture. A private investor is engaged in fish farming along the banks of River Oda at Anwiankwanta. However, the Natural Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) in collaboration with the Municipal Assembly is always on stand-by to assist affected victims and schools by supplying relief items such as roofing sheets, mattresses, mats, etc.

The Municipal Fire Division also educates traders and people on market safety and how to prevent fire outbreak. The Municipal Agriculture Directorate and NADMO also educate farmers on the need not to farm along river banks to prevent rivers from drying up. They also clamp down on activities of illegal miners which affect waterbodies. The Assembly continues to support Forestry Division to clamp down on illegal chain Saw Operators whose activities affect the environment.

2.11 Natural Resource Utilization

The Municipality is endowed with vast natural resources which when utilized will increase wealth and well-being of people. The resources include minerals, agriculture and water. The mineral resource includes gold deposits at Kokotro, Koniyaw, Subriso and Dotom.

The mineral resource is under-utilized as only few people are engaged in artisanal mining. If Mining Company could invest with a modern method of mining using technological and technical advancement that does not degrade the environment, then, the people could benefit on a large scale from the resource.

The Municipality has vast land for agriculture which employs majority of the people. Agriculture still is done on subsistence level with simple farm tools such as hoes and cutlass by these people. If Agriculture could be seen as a business and mechanized agriculture techniques employed, then, the agriculture resources could fully be utilized.

These would change the face of agriculture in the Municipality from subsistence farming with simple tools like hoes and cutlass to commercial/ plantation agriculture with combine harvestors, harrows, ridgers and mounds, then, food sufficiency both locally and nationally could be achieved. Forest products such as oil palm and timber can also be found in the Municipality. Trees such as Wawa, Odum, Mahogany and Onyina that can be felled for timber are in abundance in the Municipality.

As a result of non formalization of the timber trade, illegal chain saw operators take advantage to fell trees illegally. If activities of these Chain Saw Operators could be regularized, then, the forested product can be utilized fully to boost the local carpentry and wood carving business.

The water resources in the Municipality are Rivers Oda and Asuo-Dankran at Anwankwanta and Bogyawe-Ankaase respectively. There are other minor rivers and streams also in various areas in the Municipality. These rivers are used for farming purposes which help to increase yield of food crops. An NGO by name Water Health has maximized the use of one of the minor rivers at Dominase by ceating a dam out of it and mechanizing it for Small Town Water System to serve some parts of Dominase populace.

2.12 Implications of the Physical Features for Municipal Development

The physical characteristics of the Municipal such as the location and size, relief, climate, soil, vegetation and water resources offer tremendous potentials for the development of the District. Its positive impact could be summarized as follows;

- Water for irrigation at areas such as Poano, Anwankwanta, Boni-Behenase and Ntinanko where River Oda passes.
- Exploitation of the mineral and clay deposit will generate employment to the Unemployed youth and also improve the Assembly's Revenue Mobilization effort.
- The natural environment such as the Essumeja Forest Reserve and the Mprampram forest reserve provide rich tourist attractions which need to be harnessed to its fullest potential for local economic development.
- In spite of these potentials, the destructive activities by man through illegal felling of trees in the forest, pollution of the rivers through fishing is affecting the ecology.

3.0 Organizational Structure

The Municipality is made up of the Municipal Chief Executive, 50 Assembly members of which 34 were elected by universal adult suffrage and 16 appointed by the President in consultation with chiefs and interest groups in the Municipality. The one Member of Parliament (M.P) in the Municipality is an ex-officio member. The Assembly sitting is chaired by a Presiding Member (PM) elected from among the members of the Assembly.

The Assembly performs its functions through the Executive Committee chaired by the Municipal Chief Executive and a network of sub-committees. The Executive Committee exercises executive and

co-ordinating functions of the Assembly while the six (6) sub-committees collate and deliberate on issues relevant to their functional areas. The sub-committees are:

- Development Planning
- Social Services
- Works
- Finance and Administration
- Justice and Security
- Education

For administrative effectiveness, the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) is supported by a secretariat or Central Administration referred to as the office of the Municipal Assembly, which is headed by a Municipal Co-ordinating Director (MCD) who reports to the Municipal Chief Executive and is in charge of the day to day administration of the Assembly. With the New Local Government Service in place, the staff strength of the Municipality is 419. These figure includes all the integrated staff of the Assembly. The Municipal Co-ordinating Director is also in charge of all Heads of Decentralized Departments of the Assembly.

4.0 Demographic Characteristics

4.1 Population Size and Growth Rates

The 2000 Population and Housing Census Report put the population of the District at 225,309. This was however affected with the split of the District into two and the creation of the Amansie-Central District. The population as at 2006 stood at 150,206 (based on 2000 Population and Housing Census) using the population growth rate of 2.1 %.

A further split of the Amansie-East District into two in 2008 elevated the Bekwai constituency to a Municipal status called Bekwai Municipal Assembly and Bosome Freho constituency into a new District Assembly called Bosome-Freho District Assembly.

The 2010 Population and Housing Census put the population of the Bekwai Municipality at 118, 024 with 55,615 males and 62409 females representing 47.1 percent and 52.9 percent respectively. Table 2 presents the projected population of the Municipality using the 2010 population figure as the base year.

Table 2: Projected Population of the Municipality from 2017-2021

Year	Male	Female	Total Population
2017	64,392	72,322	136,714
2018	65,759	73,856	139,615
2019	67,154	75,424	142,578
2020	68,579	77,025	145,604
2021	70,034	78,660	148,694

Source: Municipal Planning Co-ordinating Unit 2017

5.0 Household Size and Characteristics

The average household size has reduced from 7.1 percent to 6.8 percent showing a moderate improvement in the size even though it is still higher than the national average size of 5.2. The reduction in the household size is partly due to the improved conditions in the urban and semi-urban centers, migration to the urban centers in search of jobs and the change of cultural attitude from family inheritance to nuclear family system where nuclear families have their own buildings and leave the family house.

Despite the improvement in the household size, in some settlements in the remote areas where the poverty pockets is too high, the density continues to be high. Given the low per capita income of about GH¢25.00 most of the people in these areas have poor standard of living in relation to feeding, clothing and housing.

6.0 Ethnicity and Religion

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly continues to show homogenous cultural identity with Asantes dominating (80%). Other tribes in the Municipality are Ewes, Fantis, and Mole Dagbani. The other Akan ethnic groups such as Kwahus, Akims, and Bonos have fair representations. The District therefore has interred tribal identity, but all the groups co-exist in peace and harmony.

Table 3: Ethnic Distribution in the Municipality

No.	Ethnicity	Population	Percentage
1.	Akan	105513	89.4
2.	Ga-Dangme	472	0.4

3.	Ewes	1534	1.3
4.	Guan	236	0.2
5.	Gurma	1180	1.0
6.	Mole Dagbon	6609	5.6
7.	Grusi	944	0.8
8.	Mande	1298	1.1
9	Others	1298	1.1
	Totals	118024	100%

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 PHC

7.0 Religious Composition

On the Religious front, Christianity dominates constituting 83.1% of the population. The Islamic Religion constitutes 6.7%, traditional religion 1.3%, no religion 0.9% and other religions 3.0%. An emerging phenomenon is the proliferation of churches from the orthodox to the charismatic churches. The essence of Christianity and other religion is to transform the lives of the people with their doctrine to reduce the moral decadence that has affected the society of late. Again, despite the proliferation of different and diverse religious groups they coexist in peace and harmony in the Municipality and respect the religious beliefs of other parties.

Table 4: Religious Denomination in the Municipality

No.	Religion	Percentage
1	Christianity	84.7%
2	Muslim	6.3%
3	Traditional Religion	0.5%
	No Religion	7.5%
5	Other Religions	1.0%
	Total	100%

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2010 PHC

8.0 Occupational Distribution

The occupational distribution in the Bekwai Municipal Assembly shows agriculture as the dominant occupation followed by the service sector, commerce and industry. Agriculture still remains the

dominant sector. Table 5 shows the occupational distribution of the Municipality's economic activities.

Table 5: Occupational Distribution

Occupation	Male	Female	Totals	Ranking
Agriculture	29.2	21.0	50.2	1 st
Services	10.3	19.8	30.1	2 nd
Commerce	9.1	13.1	22.2	3 rd
Industry	4.2	3.7	7.9	4 th

Sources: MPCU Sample Survey March 2017

9.0 Culture

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly can boast of occupying a unique position as far as culture is concerned. Unlike some other districts, it has seven (7) Paramount Chiefs and eleven (11) divisional Chiefs called “Abrempon”.

The paramountcies are the following;

1. The Bekwai Traditional Council
2. Kokofu Traditional Council
3. Essumeja Traditional Council
4. Denyase Traditional Council
5. Asamang Traditional Council
6. Amoafu Traditional Council
7. Adankraja Traditional Council

As stated earlier, the Municipal Assembly has varied ethnic groups but the dominant ethnic group is the Asantes, which has about 80% of the population. However, the tribes coexist in peace and harmony with one another.

The “Abrempon” which are divisional chiefs are:

1. Abodom
2. Dadease
3. Asakyiri
4. Sanfo
5. Anwiankwanta
6. Ofoase Kokoben
7. Boagyaa Besease
8. Asanso
9. Ehwiren
10. Akyeremade

11. Adumasa

9.1 Traditional Set Up

Bekwai Municipal is very peculiar in terms of chieftaincy institutions. There are as many as seven Paramountcies and about 11 divisional or sub paramountcies (called Aberemponhene) in the Municipality.

Some of the chieftaincy peculiarities can be seen in the real royal issues among the first four paramount chiefs, namely Kokofu, Bekwai, Essumeja and Denyase. Kokofuhene and Bekwaihene are brothers of the Oyoko Clan. In the same way Essumejahene and Denyashene are also brothers from the Aduana Clan. Furthermore, both Kokofu and Bekwai paramountcies are sons of the Essumeja paramountcy. The Essumejahene gave birth to both Kokofu and Assibey.

10.0 Structure of the Local Economy

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly's local economy is structured into three major categories namely: Primary Production, Manufacturing and Services/Commerce.

10.1 Primary Production (Agriculture)

Bekwai Municipal Assembly is an agriculturally endowed Municipality. The sector has been playing a key role in the socio-economic transformation of the local economy of the Municipality. Development of infrastructure and modernization of agriculture has therefore being the central focus in facilitating agricultural development. The soils are predominantly loamy and can support plantation as well as the cultivation of vegetables, and arable crops. The vegetation is predominantly forest; however, due to continuous farming, through bush clearing on these lands, the forest is currently a secondary one. There is however, few forest reserve scattered around the Municipality. The topography is generally undulating with a few areas having an even expand of lands.

The proportion of population engaged in agriculture is estimated between (48%-51%). Farming within the Municipality is facing quite a number of challenges and these have made agriculture as an income earning activity unattractive in the Municipality. These include; low prices for farm produce, post harvest losses, and poor marketing systems. These coupled with other hindering factors have not made agriculture attractive and appealing to the youth, who constitutes the vital labour force (45%) of the population, necessary to propel the growth of agricultural sector.

10.1.1 Crop Farming

The agricultural sector within the Municipality does not only provide traditional food crops but also non-traditional food crops as well. Farmers have learned to diversify their investment from producing only traditional crops to plantation of non-traditional crops which yield higher income than the former. Notable among the non-traditional crops grown in the Municipality include; oil palm, citrus, pineapples, and vegetables which have ready market and whose gestation period is so short.

10.1.2 Poultry and Livestock

Apart from these crops, the Municipality can also boast of poultry and livestock and other ruminant production. Currently, it is estimated that over six thousand birds (6000) could be counted in the Municipality. Other ruminants in the Municipality are sheep, goats, and cattle. The Veterinary Department of MOFA periodically organizes workshops for the farmers in this sub-sector and offers technical advice against any outbreak of diseases.

10.1.3 Aqua-culture

Aqua-culture is a new agricultural activity that has started springing up in the Municipality. In view of the huge investment in this sub-sector, only few people have been able to invest in it. It is an area which when well developed would help improve the nutritional status of people in the Municipality and offset deficiency in meat and fish production which is an important component in the diet of the people. Areas of operation are Ofoase- Kokoben, and Anwiankwanta. Since the agricultural impact on the rural poor is tremendous, any transformation of this sector will have positive multiplier effect on the local economy in terms of employment generation, increase in rural incomes, and revenue generation for the Municipal Assembly.

10.1.4 Forestry

The Municipality has virgin forest at Essumeja which is considered as sacred for Asanteman. Other forests have been depleted into secondary forest as a result of illegal felling of trees for logs. The Assembly has a forestry office which monitors the forest and activities that go on in and around the Municipality. Communities living along the fringes of the forest zone are requesting for the release of

part of the forest lands for agricultural activities as lands for large scale agriculture investment cannot be acquired.

10.1.5 Key Development Problems in the Agricultural Sector

In spite of the contribution of agriculture to the Local Economic Development (LED), it is beset with the following problems:

- ❖ Inadequate land for large scale production
- ❖ Over-dependence on rain-fed agriculture
- ❖ Inadequate extension services
- ❖ Inadequate logistics for Extension Staff at post
- ❖ High illiteracy rate among farmers leading to misuse of Agricultural Chemicals on vegetables which are injurious to human health
- ❖ Inadequate access to micro-credit schemes for farmers
- ❖ Farmer's unwillingness to payback for loans granted them which are to serve as a revolving fund hence depriving others to access such funds

10.2 Manufacturing and Industries

10.2.1 Manufacturing

The Municipal industrial sector is dominated by private individuals who are mostly engaged in industrial establishment in the areas of agro-processing, metal-based, wooden based, textile, garments, leather works and food processing.

The Municipal Assembly has recognized the important role that industries can play in the socio-economic development of the Municipality and therefore partnered with the Rural Enterprise Programme to develop the Denyase Industrial Centre for the fabrication of industrial raw materials. The project was aimed at grouping all the artisans in the Municipality under one roof at the industrial centre so as to facilitate the forward and backward linkages in productive activities. The Rural Technology Transfer (RTF) attached serves as a technology transfer point through which skills training can be offered to the artisans and the youth interested in industrial establishment.

This industrial centre is currently providing job opportunities for about 450 - 500 youth in the Municipality. It is expected that this would help improve the Assembly's revenue internally and serve as Skills and Entrepreneurial Development Centre in the catchment areas.

Apart from this, there are small and medium scale manufacturing industries in the area of agro-processing of oil, gari, and soap. Other industrial activities are in the area of small scale sawmilling. Their contribution in terms of employment and revenue generations cannot be overemphasized. It is estimated that about 25% - 29% of the industrial labour force are in this sub-sector.

10.2.2 Mining and Quarrying

Feasibility studies have shown that there exist gold deposits in communities such as Koniyaw, Kokotro, Yapesa, and Abodom. These economic investment potentials are yet to be exploited. The Newmont Mining Company, a Gold Mining Company has started prospecting in the area. The full operation of the gold mining activities would have much greater impact on development as jobs would be created, revenue would be generated and social responsibility would be undertaken in these areas to complement the effort of the Assembly in the provision of basic social amenities such as schools and water facilities.

10.2.3 Construction

The construction sector in the Municipality is fast expanding in the urban and pre-urban communities such as Bekwai, Kokofu, Essumeja, Ofoase – Kokoben and Anwiankwanta. This could be due to the increase in demand for housing for both domestic and commercial purposes. The high cost of building materials and high labour cost is seriously affecting this sub-sector. Despite this constraint the construction sector is one of the sub-sectors that are more attractive for the youth and the unemployed. Improvement in this sub-sector would improve incomes of the youth and improve the revenue base of the Assembly through property rate payments.

Key Development Issues/Problems in the Industrial Sector

- ❖ Non-exploitation of mineral resources in the Municipality.
- ❖ Problems of the ‘galamsey’ activities: Illegal mining ‘galamsey’ activities are growing in some area within the Municipality where some mineral deposits have been identified. A recent visit to Koniyaw shows that the illegal mining activity is on the increase.
- ❖ Problem of poor coordination in public-private partnerships.

10.3 Service Sector Activities

This sector is gaining much recognition and has become the second largest contributor to the Assembly’s Internally Generated Fund, contributing between 25-35% of GDP. This sector covers a wide range of activities such as wholesaling, retailing, petty trading, watch repairs, radio and

television repairs, hairdressing, vulcanizing and the transportation sector. Other informal services activities are bread baking, kenkey production and food and phone credit vendors among others.

One area of the service sector which is gaining much recognition in terms of job creation and revenue mobilization is the telecommunication sub sector where the sales of telephone credit is being flooded throughout the Municipality. Indeed access to and or flows of information have been improved in the Municipality. This has generally speeded up business transaction.

The hospitality industry and the financial sub-sectors are also important sub-sectors in the service sector which are helping in diversifying the local economy. The establishment of hotels at Bekwai and its environs such as Kokoben, are opening up the Municipality for business and spiritual upliftment. The Kokoben guesthouse serves as a retreat centre where Christians converge to seek for spiritual growth. The Municipal Assembly also has a guesthouse which has been privatized to accrue some income to the Assembly.

10.3.1 Key Development Issues/Problems in the Service Sector

- ❖ Environmental degradation
- ❖ Inability to extend electricity to other communities
- ❖ High cost of liquefied gas
- ❖ Power outages

10.4 The Energy Sector

The Municipal energy sources are analyzed on the basis of electricity, fuel wood, petroleum products such as petrol, diesel oil and liquefied petroleum gas. It is estimated that 90% of the inhabitants now enjoy electricity from the national grid. This was due to the government policy of the Rural Electrification Project known as Self Help Electrification Projects (SHEP). Some areas not on national grid have alternative power which is Solar Energy through an intervention by a private company called Black Star Energy.

Fuel wood and charcoal continue to be a major source of energy supply for cooking in the semi-urban and rural areas such as Dominase, Senfi, Anwiankwanta and Ntinanko.

11.0 Investment Potentials

11.1 Agriculture

The Municipality is endowed with the following agricultural potentials:

- Rich soils and favourable climate conducive for tree crop plantation and food crop production.
- Availability of land for river valley rice production
- Establishment of citrus, Oil palm and cocoa seedling nursery and plantations.

11.2 Tourism Potentials

- Kokofu- Anyinam, the birth place of King Osei Tutu 1
- Kente weaving at Kensere
- Essumeja – Asantemanso, a sacred hole in the forest from which Asantes are traditionally believed to have come from
- The subin shelter belt, Oda River and Prampram forest reserves
- Clay deposits at Boagyaa Besease

11.3 Manufacturing /Industrial

- Processing of Agric Products e.g. Oil palm Products, fruit Juice, cassava Starch, Powder Chips etc.
- Manufacturing of Ceramic Products, Bricks, Roofing Tiles and Pottery Products etc.

11.4 Mining

- Development gold Mine in areas around Koniyaw and Kokotro where feasibility studies have confirmed availability of gold deposit in commercial quantities.

12.0 Social Service

This aspect of the profile presents issues concerning the fundamental development of human beings. It includes Education, Health Care, Water and Sanitation among others.

12.1 Education

The important role that education plays in the socio-economic development of the Municipality in particular and the nation as a whole cannot be over emphasized. Its importance to human resource development and promotion of science and technology for industrial development and other sectors have been largely recognized. This is seen in the Municipal Assembly's budget to this sector which accounts for over 60% of the Development Budget of the Assembly.

The Assembly is mandated to ensure that effective education throughout the basic, second cycle and Functional Literacy Education Levels including Non-Formal Education is available to meet the needs of the people.

The Municipality has a total number of Two Hundred Forty-six (246) schools made up of Eighty-Five (85) KGs, Eighty-seven (87) Primary, Sixty-eight (68) Junior High Schools and Six (6) Senior High Schools. The grand total enrollment of pupil/students is 33,552. Out of the total; Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty (16,450) constitute Females and Seventeen Thousand One Hundred and Two (17,102) Males.

There are also quite a number of private Schools whose activities are complementary to that of the government in education delivery. The table below presents the available educational infrastructures in the Municipality.

Table 6: *Public Schools - Teacher Population 2016*

S/N	LEVEL	NO. OF SCHOOLS	TRAINED TEACHER	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	KG	85	231	48	325	373
2.	Primary	87	516	290	291	581
3.	JHS	68	648	488	184	672
4.	SHS	6	313	275	86	361
TOTAL		246	1,708	1,101	886	1,987

Source: Ghana Education Service 2016

Table 7: *Private School - Teacher Population 2016*

S/N	LEVEL	NO. OF SCHOOLS	TRAINED TEACHER	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	KG	19	0	22	17	39
2.	Primary	19	1	94	43	137
3.	JHS	13	2	64	14	78
4.	SHS	2	31	31	3	34
TOTAL		53	34	211	77	228

Source: Ghana Education Service 2016

According to the Municipal Directorate of Education, the Teacher Pupil ratio in the primary School stood at 1:35. With the Junior and Senior High School the figure stood at 1:25 and 1: 35 respectively.

Table 8: Educational Level in the Municipality

Educational Levels	Number
Pre- School	85
Primary	87
Junior High School	68
Senior High School	6
Health Assistant Training School	1
Vocational and Technical	2

Source: Updated Socio-Economic Data

Table 9: Public Schools Enrolment 2013-2017

Type / Level	2013/2014			2014/2015			2015/2016			2016/2017		
	Boys	Girls	Total									
KG	3529	3285	6544	3283	3293	6576	3380	3323	6703	2840	2868	5708
Primary	8902	8345	17247	8933	8375	17308	8681	8248	16929	7805	7356	15161
JHS	3970	3631	7601	4053	3687	7740	3947	3737	7684	3859	3659	7554
SHS	3204	2908	6112	3393	3133	6526	3758	3589	7347	3846	4046	7892
Total	19335	18169	37504	19662	18488	38150	19766	18897	38663	18350	17929	36315

Source: GES, Bekwai, December 2017

A critical issue which needs attention is the drop-out rate of girls as they move up the educational ladder. For instance, between the years 2013/2014, enrolment of boys was recorded 51.5% while 48.5% represent the girl's enrolment. There was an increase in the boy's enrolment than girls between the year 2015/2016 representing 51.1% and 48.9% respectively.

Again, between 2013/2014, the total number of girls and boys enrolment stands at 48.4% and 51.6% respectively within the municipality. Additionally, 2016/2017 academic year has boys' enrolment as 50.5% and girls' 49.2%. The percentages in 2016/2017 academic year has seen a rise in girls' enrolment which must be built upon. Conscious efforts should be made by the Assembly and other stakeholders to enhance female education at higher levels in the Municipality.

Table 10: Public Schools Enrolment 2013-2017

Type / Level	2013/2014			2014/2015			2015/2016			2016/2017		
	Boys	Girls	Total									
KG	3529	3285	6544	3283	3293	6576	3380	3323	6703	2840	2868	5708
Primary	8902	8345	17247	8933	8375	17308	8681	8248	16929	7805	7356	15161
JHS	3970	3631	7601	4053	3687	7740	3947	3737	7684	3859	3659	7554

SHS	3204	2908	6112	3393	3133	6526	3758	3589	7347	3846	4046	7892
Total	19335	18169	37504	19662	18488	38150	19766	18897	38663	18350	17929	36315

Source: GES, Bekwai, December 2017

The trend is different with that of the private schools where girls outnumber boys from KGs, primary schools, JHS and SHS levels. In the 2013/2014 academic year, girls outnumbered boys with 50.4% and 49.4% respectively. Again, in the 2015/2016 academic year, the situation was no different as girls outnumbered boys with 61.2% and 38.8%. Moreover, 2016/2017 academic year was not different. Girls' enrolment superseded that of Boys' with 50.1% and 49.9% respectively.

12.2 Health Care

The Municipal Health Management Team (MHMT) manages the Health Sector activities in the Municipality. The Municipal health system follows a three-tier service delivery system that is from the community (community clinic) through the Sub-municipal and the Municipal level. There are twelve (12) health facilities in the Municipality which consist six (6) hospitals, one (1) health centre, three (3) clinics, one (1) maternity home and one (1) CHPS compound.

Below shows the data of Health facilities in the Municipality:

Table 10: Health Facilities in the Municipality-2017

N/S	NAME OF FACILITY	TYPE OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	LOCATION
1.	Bekwai Hospital	Dist. Hospital	Gov't	Bekwai
2.	Kokofu General Hospital	Hospital	Gov't	Kokofu
3.	Gyasikrom Health Centre	H/Centre	Gov't	Gyasikrom
4.	Kensere CHPS Compound	CHPS Compound	Gov't	Kensere
5.	Dominase SDA Hospital	Hospital	CHAG	Dominase
6.	Akoma SDA Hospital	Hospital	CHAG	Kortwia- Abodom
7.	Ahmadiyya Muslim Hospital	Hospital	CHAG	Kokofu
8.	Abenkyiman Hospital	Hospital	Private	Anwiankwanta
9.	Amansie Clinic	Clinic	Private	Essemeja
10.	Anidaso Clinic	Clinic	Private	Poano
11.	Ahwenie Memorial Clinic	Mat./Home	Private	Bekwai
12.	Savior Community Clinic	Clinic	Private	Subriso

Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2017

Bekwai Municipality has quite an appreciable number of Health personnel. However, most of them are located in the urban communities making it difficult for the rural communities to access quality health care.

Table 11: Staff Strength in the Municipality (2014-2017)

CATEGORY	2014	2015	2016	2017
Director	1	1	1	1
Medical Officers	16	13	12	11
General Nurses	134	142	157	206
Community Health Nurses	58	64	64	68
Health Assistants	107	105	141	163
Midwives	46	50	67	92
Physician Assistants	18	21	17	22
Nurse Anesthetist	6	7	8	11
Support Staff	301	315	342	361
Casuals	75	78	89	73
TOTAL	704	732	834	1008

From Table 11, staff strength increased tremendously in 2017 compared to 2016, 2015 and 2014 with 1008 against 834, 732 and 704 respectively. However, the number of Medical Officers declined from 16 in 2014 to 13 in 2015, 12 in 2016 and 11 in 2017. The number of General Nurses increased in 2017 with 206 compared to 2016, 2015 and 2014. The number of Midwives also continue to increase from 46 in 2014 to 92 in 2017 which is good for safe health care delivery and also reduction in Maternal Mortality rate in the Municipality. The Municipal Health Directorate should therefore put in place measures to address the menace of decline in Medical Officers year-on-year.

The Bekwai hospital which serves as the highest order health service center in the Municipality requires massive upgrading. This could be in the form of providing equipment to meet the increasing and growing demand of health services. Again, a new hospital under construction has come to a halt since 2010 which would give quality health care to the people and therefore, there is the need to for government to solicit for fund to compete the ultra-modern hospital in the Municipality.

TOP TEN OPD CASES 2014-2017

Table 23: *Top Ten (10) OPD Diseases (2014-2017)*

NO.	2014	2015	2016	2017
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	DISEASE	NO.	DISEASE	NO.	DISEASE	NO.	DISEASE	NO.
1	Malaria	23,777	Malaria	28,949	Malaria	28,952	Malaria	21,022
2	Skin Diseases & Ulcers	21,709	Skin Diseases & Ulcers	18,882	URTI	19,509	URTI	18,312
3	URTI	17,921	URTI	18,822	Skin Diseases	17,761	Skin Diseases	15,942
4	Acute Urinary Tract Infection	9,859	Rheumatism & Joint Pain	10,749	Rheumatism & Joint pains	10,296	Rheumatism & Joint pains	11,276
5	Rheumatism & Joint pains	8,966	Acute Urinary Tract Infection	6,962	Acute Urinary Tract Infection	7,663	Acute Urinary Tract Infection	8,566
6	Anaemia	6,781	Diarrhoea Disease	5,635	Diarrhoea Diseases	5,479	Anaemia	6,226
7	Diarrhoea Disease	6,299	Anaemia	4,105	Anaemia	4,128	Pregnancy Related Condition	5,652
8	Intestinal Worms	4,903	Intestinal Worms	3,785	Acute Eye Infection	3,145	Acute Eye Infection	4,615
9	Hypertension	3,618	Hypertension	3,501	Intestinal Worms	3,045	Intestinal Worms	3,422
10	Acute eye Infections	2,225	Pregnancy Related Complications	2,228	Hypertension	2,992	Hypertension	2,506

Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2017

The total number of people tested for HIV as at the end of 2017 were Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-two (4,232). Out of this total, Seventy-one (71) persons had tested positive representing 1.7 percent. Sixty-eight (68) of the patients representing 95.7% tested positive were kept on Anti - Retroviral Drugs (ARVs). Proportion of babies born to HIV mothers being negative after 18mths in 2017 was 100%. This is a remarkable achievement compared to the 2015 and 2016 with 88% and 93% respectively. Table 1.34 shows summary of Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) from 2014-2017.

12.3 Water and Sanitation

The availability of water and sanitation facilities, contributes greatly to the health and well-being of the people. MWST field survey and needs assessments from the communities' show that effective water supply in the Bekwai Municipal Assembly is about 72% whilst sanitary facilities are about 45% coverage.

12.3.1 Water Facilities

The Community Water and Sanitation Agency, World Bank, KfW, Municipal Assembly and the communities have been working towards improving the water and sanitation facilities in the Municipality. Most of these agencies act as Development Partners and Facilitators to enable communities to acquire their own water and sanitary facilities. .

Despite these laudable achievements in the water sector and its effects on health, water continues to be a major problem as the backlog of coverage in the Municipality is high. Over 45% prioritized needs assessment from the communities indicate that the problem of safe water is of much concern and the people want to see an end to the problem.

Table 12: Number of Water Facilities (2002-2017)

Year	No. of communities	No. of boreholes	Funding agency
2002	30	95	World Bank (CBRDP) Municipal Assembly
2003-2004	33	88	KfW, IMA
2004-2005	30	44	IDA/World Bank/Municipal Assembly
2006	6	8	World Bank (CBRDP)
2007-2008	55	88	Kfw/Municipal Assembly
2012	4	5	DDF
2013	15	15	UDG
2014	22	22	UDG
2016	6	6	UDG
2017	1	4	UDG

Source: MPCU Construct 2017

The 2010 PHC revealed that 44.3% of the urban population have access to pipe borne water whiles in the rural communities 54.5% of the population relied on boreholes for water supply. Though there is improvement in water coverage in the Municipality, the situation on the ground leaves much to be desired especially in the rural communities. These people are therefore left with no other choice than to rely on surface waters which are polluted by human activities like illegal mining.

The Bekwai Municipal Assembly has established a Municipal Water and Sanitation Team (MWST) which is responsible for water supply and sanitation delivery to communities. The Assembly through the MWST and in collaboration with the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWST) have established WATSAN and WSDB's which are responsible for the preparation and execution of plans for the provision of water supply and sanitation facilities, setting of tariffs, mobilization of funds, building of requisite human resource capacity for operation and maintenance and preparation of report to the communities.

As at the end of 2017, potable water supply has increased from 70% in 2014 to 80% in 2017.

12.3.2 Sanitation Facilities

The 2010 PHC revealed that 55.2% of the population use public toilet and other place of convenience; 22.4% relied on pit latrines, 8.9% on water closet (WC) toilet and 5.5% relied on open defecation.

Management of liquid waste is therefore becoming a problem in the Municipality. Liquid waste is disposed of in gutters and bushes in communities. This means that disposal of liquid waste is poor and inadequate and likely to create health hazards especially diarrhea and dysentery from the open pit latrines.

In its efforts to ensure effective waste management in the Municipality, the Bekwai Municipal Assembly ceded part of its waste management functions in the Municipality to Messrs Zoomlion Ghana LTD.

The Assembly has initiated discussions with Zoomlion Ghana LTD to commence House-House (door-door) refuse collection on pilot basis at Bekwai and would be extended to Ofoase Kokoben, Dominase, Anwiankwanta, Kokofu and Esumeja. The Assembly has taken delivery of 200 litre bins and charged the Environmental Health Department to commence public education at Bekwai.

With respect to the provision of toilet facilities, the Assembly with support of CWSA provided a number of communities and institutions with facilities. Table 1.39 depicts the type and the number of facilities provided.

Table 13: Sanitary Facilities

Type of Toilet	Number of Activities
Mozambique	152
Reticular	267
KVIP	25 (new construction)
KVIP	46 (rehabilitation of old toilets)
W/C (Pour flush)	4(new construction-DDF)
Total	494

Source: MPCU Construct 2017

Management of liquid waste is therefore becoming a problem in the Municipality. Liquid waste is disposed off in gutters and bushes in communities. This means that disposal of liquid waste is poor and inadequate and likely to create health hazards especially diarrhea and dysentery from the open pit latrines.

Field survey by the Environmental Health Department revealed that due to interventions by the Assembly with the support of the Central Government and the World Bank in the provision of public place of convenience, at the end of 2017, 65% of the population use public toilets, 10% relied on pit latrines, 20% on water closets and finally, 5% relied on open defecation.

In its efforts to ensure effective waste management in the Municipality, the Bekwai Municipal Assembly ceded part of its waste management functions in the Municipality to Messrs Zoomlion Ghana LTD.

The Assembly has initiated discussions with Zoomlion Ghana LTD to commence House-House (door-door) refuse collection on pilot basis at Bekwai and would be extended to Ofoase Kokoben, Dominase, Anwiankwanta, Kokofu and Esumeja. The Assembly has taken delivery of 200 litre bins and charged the Environmental Health Department to commence public education at Bekwai.

13.0 Vulnerability Analysis

Vulnerability is defined as the probability of livelihood stress occurring in four main components. These are risk, exposure, response and outcome. Risk is the probability of an event happening. Exposure includes the value of assets at risk and what will be lost if an uncertain event occurs. Response is normally the function of decisions taken by households, institutions and civil society. Outcome is the result of the impact of the shock, which is usually the result of the interplay of risk, exposure and response.

A significant proportion of the people in the Municipality including women, unemployed youth, people with disabilities and the aged are not able to tap their full potentials due to vulnerability and exclusion. Although there are some form of child abuse, child labour and child poverty in some parts of the Municipality especially the capital, it is quite insignificant. The cases of child labour have been observed in the areas where parents engage the service of their children to sell “iced water” on the street either after school or during holidays. Intensive child labour where children are engaged all day to undertake economic activities is less experienced in the Municipality.

Vulnerability issues in the Municipality include poor parenting issues of disability, and non-participation of women in local governance. In view of the importance attached to these social issues, the Municipality has an institution that trains the physically-challenged and have an institute for destitute in society. The physically-challenged are offered employable skills so that they could be integrated into the society by being self-employed.

On the issue of the destitute, agriculture projects are being implemented to assist them to improve their lots. The Youth in Employment Programme component in agriculture would consider at making the destitute take up farming as a vocation.

13.1 Registered Persons with Disabilities (PWDS)

A total of One Hundred and Ninety-Two (192) PWDs were registered. Out of this total, Eighty-Five (85) are males and One Hundred and Seven (107) are females. The details are presented in the table 14:

Table 14: Types of Disability and their Sex Disaggregation - 2017

TYPE OF DISABILITIES	AGE	MALE (SEX)	FEMALE (SEX)	TOTAL
Difficulty moving	0 - 65+	52	58	110
Difficulty seeing	0 - 65+	14	19	33
Difficulty hearing and speaking	0 -65+	10	19	29
Learning Disability	0-65+	9	11	20
TOTAL		85	107	192

Source: Dept. Social Welfare & Community Development 2017

Table 15: Sex Aggregate of Disabled Persons

TYPE OF DISABILITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PHYSICAL	32	22	54
BLIND	30	27	57
DEAF & DUMB	20	32	52
OTHERS	22	15	37
TOTAL	104	96	200

Source: Gender Desk Office, Bekwai 2016

The total number of disabilities were Two Hundred (200) which comprises of Physical, blind, deaf and dumb and others. Out of this total, One Hundred and Four (104) were males and Ninety-Six were females (96). It could also be observed that the number of persons with blind disabilities recorded the highest.

LEAP PROGRAMME.

Bekwai Municipality is among the sixty-thousand households that have been added to the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty Programme. It is a social protection programme meant to give a short-term plan for reducing poverty and encourage long-term human capital development. The trial phase started in March 2008 and has gradually expanded since then. In a whole, twelve (12) communities such as Aniantentem, Atuogyabae, Wawase, Amanhyiah, Dinkyiniso, Nkyekyem, Dwumakro, Marfokrom, Affulkrom, Bodoma, Nerebehi and Brosanko have been selected to benefit from the Leap programme within the municipality. At the end of December 2017, a total amount of GHC112,576 has been paid to Two Hundred and nineteen (219) Beneficiaries in Fifteen (15) Communities.

The Table shows 2015-2017 LEAP beneficiaries

Table 16: Beneficiaries of the Leap Programme- 2015-2017

COMMUNITIES	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES				TOTAL AMOUNT DISBURSED			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nerebehi	-	39	39	39	-	4,274	16,920	20,304
Nkyekyam	-	23	23	23	-	3,458	9,580	11,496
Affulkrom	-	10	10	10	-	1,164	4,722	5,820
Marfokrom	-	18	18	18	-	3,032	8,650	11,004
Bodoma	-	2	2	2	-	212	1,060	1,272
Atuogyabie	-	14	14	13	-	1,696	6,126	7,260
Brosankro	-	5	5	5	-	708	1,930	2,316
Aniantentem	-	33	33	33	-	5,022	15,108	19,020
Dwumakro	-	17	17	17	-	1,994	6,748	8,442
Wawase	-	25	25	23	-	2,624	8,352	10,734
Amanhyia	-	8	8	8	-	1,148	3,726	4,662
Dunkyiriso	-	14	14	12	-	1,549	5,056	6,090
Sesekro	-	3	3	3	-	234	1,106	1,404
Central Destitute of Infirmity	-	-	4	4	-	-	896	512
Bekwai	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	2,240
Total		211	215	219	-	27,114	89,980	112,576

Source: Dept. Social Welfare & Community Development 2017

13.2 Gender Issues

In the traditional family set up, men are the family heads. Inheritance is maternal among the dominant Asante population in the municipal area. This is regardless of the fact that more than 40.2% of household Heads are women according to the 2000 Census. This is due to the fact that most of the males have migrated to the urban areas to seek greener pastures. Women and the girl child are responsible for housekeeping and management. Most women and adolescent females are engaged in commerce (petty trading and hawking). Men on the other hand control economic resources in the family as they tend to inherit family properties (land and buildings) and thereby control productive and economic resources of the extended family. The typical extended family will in most cases pawn

the family jewel to support the male to better his lot (especially finance his education or travel abroad to seek greener pastures).

While there is no gender biases in granting access to available basic public services and institutions, credit and information, the traditional set up has put females at the disadvantaged. An example is in the case of rural water management where there has in the last decade been a deliberate national policy to encourage women to play key roles in the management of rural water facilities yet men still dominate the management bodies in all communities in the municipal area.

Men and women work on the farms side by side but they perform different agriculture tasks. Women are mostly concerned with the exploitation of the environment linked to household chores and farming on new farms for food crop production. Their complaints concerned principally the scarcity of firewood; the retreat or the drying up of water sources in the dry season; the decreases in availability of medicinal plants and non-timber forest products more generally; the decreased yield of food crops, the short fallow periods; the increase yield of food crops; the short fallow periods; the increasing presence of weeds. Men take care of the clearing and burning of the farm before planting and focus principally on cash crops. They were therefore more concern with decreased yield of cash crops, scarcity of game and fishes as the upkeep of cocoa farms and the provision of protein-rich food is considered their responsibility. Some activities such as the planting of cocoa and food crops on new farms and the cocoa harvest are performed by both sexes.

Even though farms are worked by all members of the household, these normally belong to the household head, normally the man. Women therefore often perform agricultural labour on their husbands' farms while the latter manage the land and the revenues. When working on their husbands' farms women may advice the man but the ultimate decision on farm management (choice of land on which to establish the new farm, choice of crops, selection of trees to fell, clearing method, spacing of cash crops rest on him.

Women therefore have some room to maneuver on their husband's land but the man is seen as the farm manager and the one who should make decisions and maintain ties with the project. Some men had established farms together with their wives and had given part of the plants to the women. This is a common procedure with cocoa farms and was replicated with timber species. After years of

marriage and of work on the man's plot, the husband establishes a farm with the wife and cedes the ownership to her.

13.3 HIV/AIDS Status in the Municipality

The target for HIV/AIDS under the sixth millennium development goals is to have halved it by 2015 and begun to reverse its spread. Within the plan period (2014-2017) programmes to be embarked upon are:

- a) Publicity campaign on HIV/AIDS and TB throughout the Municipality
- b) Support for people with HIV/AIDS and TB throughout the Municipality

The HIV/AIDS Testing and Counseling Unit of the Municipal Health Directorate in collaboration with the Municipal Focal Office and the Various Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working in the Municipality are still assiduously in their collective efforts at helping to combat the spread of HIV and AIDs and also provided appropriate treating and support to PLWHA.

14.1 School Feeding Programme

The Bekwai Municipality is one of the beneficiaries of the Ghana School Feeding Programme since its inception in 2006. The Ghana School Feeding programme is an initiative of the comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme which seeks to enhance food security and reduce hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

The basic concept of the programme is to provide children in public primary schools and kindergartens with one hot adequately nutritious meal, prepared from locally grown foodstuffs on every school going day.

The decentralized nature of the programme requires the involvement of local actors in the implementation. The mainline actors are the Ministry in charge, the Ghana School Feeding Programme National Secretariat, District Assemblies, District Implementation Committees (DICs), School Implementation Committees (SICs), Schools and Caterers/matrons.

Each of these actors has roles to play to make the programme a success.

The number of beneficiary schools in the Bekwai Municipality is Twenty –four (24) and they are;

1. Subriso Saviour Primary
2. Amoamo R/C Primary
3. Adjamesu AME Zion 'A'
4. Adjamesu AME Zion 'B'
5. Donimase M/A Primary
6. Donimase Methodist Primary

7. Boagyaa Besease Anglican
8. Etwereso M/A Primary
9. Poana Meth. Primary
10. Poano R/C Primary 'A'
11. Bronsankro M/A Primary
12. Anwiankwanta SDA Primary
13. Abodom Meth. Primary
14. Abodom M/A. Primary
15. Senfi Meth. Primary
16. Ahwiaa M/A Primary
17. Bekwai Islamic Primary
18. Dwoamin R/C Primary
19. Bogyawe Meth. Primary
20. Pampaso Anglican Primary
21. Kensere Meth. Primary
22. Ankase M/A Primary
23. Dotom M/A Primary
24. Poano R/C Primary 'B'

15.1 Postal Facilities

The Municipality has two major post offices at Bekwai and Kokofu, which offer normal Postal Services as well as Couriers services. Apart from these, there are Postal Agencies at Poano and Dominase that complement the effort of these Post Offices. The level of patronage of postal services has dwindled with the introduction of hi-tech telecommunication systems. It has rendered the posting of letters not appealing due to the telephone, internet systems and mobile phones.

Nonetheless, the postal service cannot be completely worn-out since the telecommunication services cannot conveniently serve as a substitute, especially in the delivery of goods or documents to customers.

With the installation of the main exchange telephone facilities by Vodafone at Bekwai, the main exchange facilities have been extended to communities at Denyase, Anwiankwanta, Essumeja, Kokofu and Amoafu.

15.2 Telecommunication

In view of the positive role that Telecommunication Services offer to the economic development of the local economy, in the area of information dissemination, trade and Commerce, private sector participation in telecommunication delivery have improved tremendously. Over 10,000 people are using private cell phones with services from MTN, Tigo, Airtel and Vodafone. All the telecommunication service providers have constructed reception towers at Bekwai and its environs which serve a wider area extending from Bekwai to other areas.

The major telecommunication facility which is lacking in the Municipality is an efficient internet facility. The Municipality has one Fm. Station thus Dess FM which is located at Bekwai.

15.3 Transportation Network

Road transportation has been the dominant means of transportation in the Municipality. It plays an important role by facilitating the movement of goods and services to and fro the Municipality. Some of the roads are not motorable throughout the year especially during the rainy season. Over 15% of the road network in the Municipality is difficult to access. This has really affected agricultural productivity in the Municipality as high post harvest losses are mostly recorded due to the poor road network.

The Municipality benefited from the Cocoa Road Project phase 1 and 2 which has given a face lift to most of the roads through gravelling and sealing. However, there is still a back log of road network to be improved. The road network problem has resulted in high transport fares for goods and passengers. However, there have been tremendous improvements in the status of some roads such as the Kumasi - Cape Coast road which is now tarred passing through the Municipality.

The present road condition mix is 45 % good, 35 % fair and 20 % bad. There is therefore the urgent need to improve the road network in the Municipality to open up the inaccessible areas. Again the district stands to increase its earning from tourism if adequate attention is paid to the road network to link the tourism sites.

With regard to the rail system, the western railway line passes through the District but it is not in operation. The rail way system is not operating and this hinders the carting of goods.

15.4 Banking Services

Banking and non banking financial services are available in the Municipality. Major Banks in the Municipality are Ghana Commercial Bank, Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) and Rural Banks such as Amansie West, Odotobri Rural Bank and Bosomtwe Rural Bank at Kokofu. These banks offer financial assistance to farmers, workers and businessmen in the Municipality. Additionally, Opportunity International, Multi credit and other savings and loans firms are operating in the Municipality given respite to traders and workers who need loan or wants to save earnings on daily basis. Their activities are however concentrated at Bekwai and its environs with few agencies. These banks contribute a great deal in saving mobilization and granting of loans.

There are non-banking services which cover associations such as ‘Susu’ collectors. Their activities are mostly in the market places, self employed and the informal sector. Resource mobilization could be enhanced, if these agencies are regularized and streamlined by the non-banking institutions of the Bank of Ghana. Other non-banking financial institutions in the Municipality include Social Security and National Insurance Trust, State Insurance Companies and Internal Revenue Service. These services help to promote trade and commerce. Another service that also impacts positively on the district economy is the Audit Service.

15.5 Municipal Police Service

The security in the Municipality is of prime importance as the peaceful atmosphere created promotes congenial atmosphere for people to go about their duties without any threat and fear. There are currently eight Police Stations in the Municipality located at Bekwai, Essumeja, Kokofu, Abodom, Anwiankwanta and Senfi. Also, there are two (3) police posts or tent cities at Dominase, Bogyawe-Ankaase and Poano-Manso Nkwanta roads to combat crime on the entry and exit points within the Municipality.

In view of the upgrading of the Assembly to a Municipal status, the Police administration has raised the status of the Police activities to a Divisional Headquarters. To make it more operational, the Assembly has provided an office and residential accommodation to the Divisional Commander

15.6 Fire Service Station

A fire service station is available at Bekwai. The Municipal can also boast of a number of Community based Fire Volunteer Groups.

15.7 The Judiciary and Alternative Conflict Resolution Agencies

All the seven (7) paramountcies have traditional courts for arbitration of family, land and chieftaincy disputes. The Municipal Magistrate court and Circuit Court are to settle all disputes including civil cases. The MUSEC is also in place to ensure peace in the Municipality.

16.0 UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES

PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS PROGRAMME (PFJ)

It was launched on Wednesday, 19th April 2017 at Goaso in Brong-Ahafo Region. The programme seeks to increase the production of maize by 30%, rice by 49%, soyabean by 25% and sorghum by 28% from current production levels nation-wide. It also seeks to encourage the youth to desist from migrating to urban centers in search of non-existent jobs.

At Bekwai Municipal Assembly the total area of land cultivated for maize is 182.6 hectares with an estimated average yield of 1.18 hectares which is expected to produce 215,468 metric tons of maize. The area cropped for rice is 12.4 with an average yield of 2.57 and an estimated production level of 31,868 metric tons. Tomatoes and pepper has total cropped area of 12 and 8 hectares with an average yield of 5.2 and 2.19 and an estimated production of 62.4 and 17.52 hectares respectively.

Table 17: *Performance for Planting for Food and Jobs - 2017*

Crops	Area cropped (Ha)	Average yield (MT/Ha)	Estimated Production (MT)
Maize	182.6	1.18	215,468
Rice (Paddy)	12.4	2.57	31,868
Tomatoes	12	5.2	62.4
Pepper	8	2.19	17.52

Source: DADU 2017

Agro Input Distribution under PFJ

Table 18: Fertilizer distribution

<i>Type of fertilizer</i>	Quantity		No of beneficiaries		
	Received	Distributed	Total	Male	Female
<i>NPK</i>	1200	1077	290	262	28
<i>Sulphate of Ammonia</i>	800	552.5	290	262	28

Source: DADU 2017

The Department of agriculture received 1200 bags of NPK and 800 bags of Sulphate of Ammonia respectively. Out of these totals, 1077 bags of NPK and 552.5 bags of Sulphate of Ammonia were distributed to farmers. Two hundred and ninety (290) farmers benefited from the fertilizer distribution with two hundred and sixty two (262) males and twenty eight (28) females.

Seed Distribution

Table 19: Seed Distribution under Planting for Food and Jobs

<i>Type of seed</i>	Quantity		No of beneficiaries					
	Received	Distributed	Total	Male	Female	Youth	Aged	PLWDs
<i>Maize</i>	4140kg	4108.5kg	236	210	26	120	116	-
<i>Rice</i>	1200kg	564kg	18	18	-	4	14	-
<i>Tomatoes</i>	30 Sachets	30 Sachets	24	22	2	14	10	-
<i>Pepper</i>	20 Sachets	20 Sachets	11	11	-	4	7	-
<i>Onion</i>	80 Sachets	8 Sachets	1	1	-	-	1	-

Source: DADU 2017

The department of Agriculture received 4140kg bag of maize, 1200kg bag of rice, 30 sachets of tomatoes, 20 sachets of pepper and 80 sachets of onion. Out of these totals, 4108kg of maize, 564 kg of rice, 30 sachets of tomatoes, 20 sachets of pepper and 8 sachets of onion were distributed to farmers.

Table 20: Cost of Inputs, Amount recovered and outstanding balance

MMDA	Type of Input	Total Cost (GH¢)	Amount Recovered	Balance (GH¢)
BEKWAI MUNICIPAL	Maize	83,264.5	44,042.00	39,222.50
	Rice	7,040.00	4,730.00	2,310.00
	Tomato	5,669.00	3,123.00	2,546.00
	Pepper	3,680.00	1,840.00	1,840.00
	Onion	564.00	282.00	282.00

		100,217.5	54,017.00	46,200.50
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Source: DADU 2017

FREE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMME

In the Bekwai Municipality, the government's Free SHS Programme has led to a tremendous increase in school Enrolment compared to 2016/2017 academic year. From 775 extra students gained admission as a results of the implementation of free SHS policy representing 27.3% increment in school enrolment. Comparatively, more girl students gained admission to SHS from the total number of 1,371 in 2016 without free SHS to 1,847 in 2017 with the implementation of free SHS representing 34.7 percent while males increased enrolment from 1463 in 2016 to 1762 in 2017 representing 20.4 percent increase in admission.

Table 21: *Free SHS Impact on School Enrolment in Bekwai.*

Name of School	Year 2016 (SHS 1 Without Free)			Year 2017 (SHS 1 With Free SHS)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Denyaseman	90	91	181	158	197	355
Oppong Memorial	147	131	278	438	470	908
Ofoase Kokoben	68	40	108	185	249	434
Wesley High	308	387	695	280	344	624
SDA SHS	643	628	1271	476	428	960
ST. JOSEPH	207	94	301	225	159	384
Total	1,463	1,371	2,834	1,762	1,847	3,609

Source: BMA Petroleum Revenue Information System (PRIS) Survey on Free SHS, October 2017

Notwithstanding these positive impacts, there are challenges which needs to be addressed.

1. Inadequate classroom blocks
2. Inadequate teachers' bungalow for effective supervision as majority of teachers live in towns
3. Lack of sanitary facilities in the schools
4. The existing dining halls cannot contain the growing student population as at now as they go in batches during dining
5. Furniture is also inadequate
6. Inadequate dormitories as several classrooms, ICT rooms and stores have been converted to dormitories.

ONE-DISTRICT-ONE-FACTORY (1DIF) PROGRAMME

The One-District-One-Factory is a policy of government that seeks to address the problem of unemployment across the country, which will equip and empower communities to utilize their local resources in manufacturing products that are in high demand both locally and internationally.

In the Bekwai municipality, four proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry and to Secretariat of One-District-One-Factory. Two (2) of the proposals are in poultry raising, the others are in oil palm processing and fish farming. Out of the four (4) proposals submitted, Three (3) have been granted approval in the area of poultry raising and meat processing.

Table 22: Update of the One- District -One- Factory programme - 2017

No.	Name of Promoters	Area of Interest	Current Status	Outstanding Issues
1	ADINKRA FRONTIERS	Poultry raising and meat processing at Sanfo Aduam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and financial proposals submitted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry • Application approved and GHC21,054,348.00 to be 	Yet to submit Environmental Impact Assessment report to the Assembly
2.	KASKAZINI LTD	Oil Palm Processing at Bogyawe Ankaase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and Financial Proposals submitted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry • Environmental Impact Assessment report submitted to MOTI and Bekwai Municipal Assembly. • Application approved and GH¢5,250,000.00 to be disbursed to the company. 	Environmental Protection Agency certification not obtained.
3.	Valley Side Company	Fish Farm at Kokotro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and financial proposals submitted to MOTI • EIA report submitted to Bekwai 	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certification yet to be obtained
4.	Bridport Ashanti Co. Ltd	Poultry Raising at Adjamesu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and financial proposals submitted to MOTI and BMA • Application approved and GH¢4,500,002.00 to be disbursed to the Company. 	Yet to submit Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to MOTI and BMA

17.0 Development Indicators of the Municipality

In measuring the progress of development in the Municipality, certain indicators must be observed. Positive changes in these indicators over a time period after the implementation of development interventions will mean that the Assembly is making progress towards improving the lives of the people.

On the other hand, a negative downturn of these indicators will also be a call for caution and a challenge for much more interventions to be put in place. The development indicators compiled for the Municipality are cross-cutting, from demographic to social and economic issues. Table below highlights the Municipal development indicators.

Table 23: Development Indicators of the Municipality

Development Indicator	Bekwai Municipal
Population	134,354
Population Density	152/sq km
Dependency Ratio	1:1.2
Under 5 Mortality/1000 live births	2/1000
Percentage population beyond 10km off hospital	18%
Percentage population beyond 10km off clinic	11%
Average Household Size	5.2
Gross Primary School Enrollment Ratio	63.00.%
Percentage of Trained Teachers	57%
Pupil – Teacher Ratio	25:1
Percentage of Population Beyond 5km of Primary School	3.6%
Percentage of Population Beyond 5km of JHS	7.8%
Percentage of Population Beyond 5km of SHS	38%
Population with access to Portable Water	72%
Population with access to Sanitation Facilities	45%
Population with access to Electricity	90%
Population with access to ICT	16%

Percentage of population in Agriculture	50.2%
Percentage of population in Services	30.1%
Percentage of population in Industry	12.0%
Percentage of population in Commerce	7.7%

Source: MPCU Compilation; December, 2017