

Cameroon Cholera Epidemic Continues to Grow

A cholera epidemic is currently hitting the Mogode, Kousseri, Makary and Mada health districts of Far North Region of Cameroon. This is happening barely a few months after the last cholera epidemic occurred (October 2009), still in Far North Region of Cameroon, though not in the same health districts in Makary and Mada. So far, 2199 cases of cholera and 163 deaths have already been registered. Life and Water Development Group Cameroon through your support and our volunteers from LWDG-Cameroon with the local NGO partners are planning to take preventive measures, with special focus on sensitization, treatment of water wells, the ban on the selling of food of suspicious quality, and the treatment of all the people who have been in contact with a cholera-affected person with Doxycycline.

Taking into consideration the rapid spread of the epidemics, the high lethality rate and the high population density per km² in the affected localities, Life and Water Development Group Cameroon and some local NGOs have seen the need to start immediate response. Our volunteers will be carrying out sensitization activities in the field to help stop the spread of the epidemics by conducting social mobilization, including sensitization of populations, individual and collective hygiene promotion, and water disinfection as a contribution to the eradication of the epidemics. This operation is therefore requested to support the LWDGC in carrying out all these activities that will benefit an estimated 3,230,700 inhabitants of the Far North region of Cameroon exposed to the disease.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by October, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by January, 2011)

As of Wednesday, August 11, the toll of the epidemic of cholera which raged for about two months in the region has already been 163 deaths on the 2199 reported patients. More than three million people that make up the region of the Far North, less than 30% have access to drinking water. Many people in sourcing water point's fortune with the animals, which explains the recurrence of the epidemic.

After several years of LWDG-Cameroon's experience of waterborne diseases and water project implementations, hygiene and sanitation education and water handling education has been the first and best method in every community that our projects are being implemented. This is done before any project is implemented in each village, and it helps the local population to understand the need of hygiene and sanitation around their drinking water. This is going to and is gradually helping the people of the Far North Cameroon. On the following link: <http://www.vimeo.com/13865717> you will see one of our successful project implementation out of many where we finished in July 2010 with 18 stand taps in the community of Nkuv, Cameroon. This has been funded by one of our partners, Thirst Relief International and we look forward to receiving your supports that will help us save millions of lives in the Far North Cameroon.

Peter Njodzeka
Life and Water Development Group – Cameroon
www.lwdgc-africa.org
info@lwdgc-africa.org