

CAMEROON: CHOLERA OUTBREAK

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Information Bulletin no. 1

The context

The Cameroonian Ministry of Health reported that since June, the country has been facing an outbreak of cholera. Cases have occurred in northern Cameroon where 1,500 cases have been recorded so far and deaths have been reported. The Ministry of health, on behalf of the Cameroonian Government appealed on Wednesday for international help to combat the epidemic.

Latest events

To date, the cholera epidemic has killed some 150 people in northern Cameroon and thousands have been exposed to the disease. National Representatives of the Ministry of Health have sent some medicine to treat the population. The Federation is intending to conduct an assessment mission this week, together with the CRCS.

Cameroon Red Cross / Federation action

On 21 August 1996 the NS, through its local Red Cross branches in northern Cameroon were working in collaboration with the local health authorities. The following data has been communicated:

- ◆ Far North Cameroon: 715 cases and 71 deaths in the departments of Mayo-Sava, Logone, Chari and Diamaré.
- northern Cameroon: 800 cases and about 80 deaths in Pitoa, Bibémi, Garoua city and the surrounding rural area.

The Cameroon Red Cross volunteers are providing the public with information on prevention and treatment as well as health education and sensitisation.

The NS requires cholera kits and more financial resources to cope with the epidemic.

The Brazzaville Regional Delegation's Health Delegate who is currently in southern Chad will go to Cameroon today to assist the Cameroon Red Cross to assess the situation which will allow us to better appreciate the NS /IFRC action to manage the situation.

Contributions

The Federation is considering an allocation from its DREF funds to quickly start the operation. Cholera kits will be needed and Sister Societies will be requested to support this assistance to the CRCS as soon as the plan of action and the needs have been clearly defined.

Conclusion

The Cameroon Red Cross Society will continue, together with the Brazzaville Regional Delegation and the Africa Department to monitor the situation and we will keep Donors informed of developments.

The previous outbreak of cholera in this country was in 1993 and the Federation, in collaboration with the CRCS reacted quickly to the situation. CRCS got a lot of positive experience from this previous outbreak; the Red Cross volunteers trained for the outbreak are still active in the field of operations and will be involved in this operation.

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