

Ndop, North West Cameroon --- March 2011 visit--- Report

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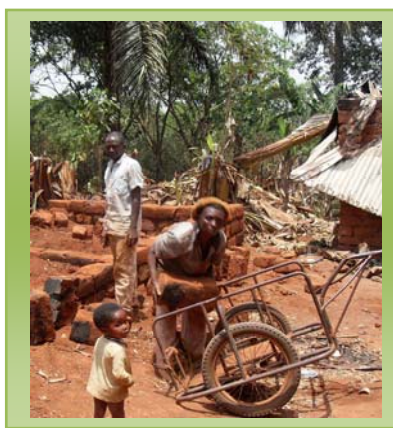
Date : The team arrived in Yaounde on Sat. March 5th. --- Departed Yaounde on Monday March 28th.

Agenda : Construct Two hand dug Wells, Oversee / support the Bamunka Bio Sand Filter Training course. Repair Three old Wells (Not ours)—discuss/ test various Community Development Projects with some Pastors and Literacy teachers. Begin Well / Pump maintenance training. Follow up meetings with Development Unions in as many villages as possible. Prepare for next visit.

This visit was greatly impacted by events that unfolded in the village of Bambalang. On the day of our arrival in Cameroon the village of Bambalang was attacked by a neighbouring village resulting in six people from Bambalang being killed and possibly more than three hundred homes being destroyed.



A home destroyed in Bambalang



Starting to rebuild



Thank you for the support

It is estimated that at one point as many as three thousand people had to be evacuated. Thankfully the trouble was subdued by the army after a few days and some people began to return to their compound.

Having been asked by the chairman of the Bambalang emergency Relief committee for support, our team was delighted to be able to offer assistance. The team was able to arrange for a Well constructor to begin work on three New Hand Dug Wells immediately and repair three Wells that were broken during the attack.

This involvement with the community of Bambalang was in addition to the schedule of work we had planned for the visit. Needless to say our planned program had to be altered resulting in delays. We were not able to have all this work fully completed before we left The Ndop Plain. It will be completed over the next two weeks.

Now back in Ireland I am in regular phone contact with the Well constructors and also with our contacts in the various communities. We will post update information on www.waterforcameroon.com

Hand Dug Wells --- Type A

Well constructor Tanto Martin is the contractor making this Type A Well in the village of Bamassing. Martin has worked with us over the past eighteen months to construct one of these type A Wells in each of the ten villages.

As sometimes happens with Well digging, unexpected issues arise, or issues arise that you hope will not arise. For example, with this Well, the workers managed to dig to about 10 meters and hit water, all was looking good. Then as they dug deeper into the water (we require all Wells to go 5m into the Water) they hit a massive rock. All efforts to resolve the problem failed. There was nothing for it but to move to a new site. After about 8m they hit water and again the same problem, they hit a rock. On to the third site, and so far all is looking good. The life of a Well constructor is demanding, and can be very frustrating at times.



Hand Dug Well at Bamassing



Starting again at Bamassing

Well digging is hard work. This team of 10 men work hard to complete the job.

Hitting a huge rock at 10 metres and having to begin all over again can be very discouraging.

But not to these men, they immediately start all over again. They will succeed.

It has been our intention for some time to have some Type B Wells constructed on a trial basis. We had arranged to work with two new contractors on these Type B Wells during this visit. The problem in the village of Bambalan gave us an opportunity to work with one of these new contractors on this Type B Well. We agreed a price with him for three (3) New Hand Dug Wells to be constructed at sites chosen by the Relief committee. These are currently still under construction (April 5th .) Updates will be on www.waterforcameroon.com as soon as possible.

These Wells are a rope and Bucket type. They are considerably cheaper to construct, but do have some disadvantages. The cost is about \$800—(eight hundred dollars) each, when we construct three at a time in the same village. The overall construction is solid and very good. It will be possible for the community to have a Pump fitted at a later stage as they are able to raise the money to do it.

This type B Well should serve the community effectively far into the future. Pictures and details will be posted at a later date when available.

The other contractor is also making a similar Well at a school in Bamunka. This Primary school is currently using a Bio Sand Filter to provide drinking water to all its 390 students. The teachers in this school are taking a big interest in the Filter. Our hope is that parents will be encouraged to buy Filters for their own homes as they come to understand the Principals of the Filter.

The Bio sand Filter has tremendous benefits to communities, especially in areas where there is only bad sources of water.

- Wells constructed (currently under construction) on this visit **Five (5) New Wells**, Three Wells in Bambalang, One in Bamassing and one in school in bamunka. The Type A Well under construction at Bamassing was fully funded by WA – USA (Operation Clean Water) without that funding that Well would not have been constructed. Their support is much appreciated.
- Wells Repaired (currently under repair) on this visit **Six. (6) Repaired Wells**..... Four in Bambalang, Two in Mesow (Bamunka)
- **Twenty (20) Bio sand Filters** are under construction by the Bamunka Bio Sand Filter business for individual families in Bambalang. These Filters will be distributed by the Bambalang church to those most in need of them. Magdalene and James from Bamunka will install the Filters and train the families on the correct use of the Filters. We are hoping that the use of these Filters in Bambalang will kick start an interest in Bio Sand Filter construction in that village.



James, Magdalene, Emilie and Jerry discussing BSF issues. E. Sandmartin from CAWST is a huge help to us.

Magdalene checking a Filter in a School in the Quarter of Nbukong, Bamunka.



Unsafe water goes into the Filter and Safe water comes out.



This child takes water from the Bio Sand Filter that is in her school. Filters are currently operational in eight schools in Bamunka.

The teachers and parents are very supportive of having the Filters. Our hope is that they will be interested enough to buy a Filter for use in their own home.

Bio sand Filters are on sale in Bamunka for 15,000cfa. (\$30-)

This price does not include transport to the home.

We are encouraged by the good reports coming from people who are using the Filters in their homes.

At the end of April there will be more than sixty (60) Filters in use.

As a team we are very happy to partake in the work on the Ndop Plain as support to the Cluster team there.

Water For Cameroon



The Vision :

That the communities we work with have access to safe water and improved health.

Together we can do it