

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Cameroon: Measles

Information bulletin n° 2  
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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Cameroon Red Cross Society, with the support of the Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

An outbreak of measles occurred in Northern Cameroon since early 2008, and intensified with the arrival of Chadian refugees in that locality in February 2008. Since then, a total number of 355 cases of measles have been registered in the region, including 64 cases in January 2009. The Northern region of

Cameroon is divided into 15 health zones, 10 of which have each registered at least one case of measles since early 2009. The average age of the people affected is 3.5 years, and 50% of the victims are 3 years old. 75% of the victims are below the age of 5, with the youngest being just 4 months old. The Cameroon Red Cross Society, with the support of the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) in Yaoundé (Cameroon) actively contributed to the success to the anti-measles immunization campaign organized by Cameroon Government from 29 January to 4 February 2009 in the far-North Region of the country.



Cameroon Red Cross volunteers sensitized the populations to the need of getting their children vaccinated

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

## The Situation

An outbreak of measles occurred in Northern Cameroon since early 2008, and intensified with the arrival of Chadian refugees in that locality in February 2008. The health districts that have been affected by the disease so far include Goufey, Kolofata, Koza, Mada, Makary, Maroua urbain, Méri, Mokolo, Mora and Yagoua. The most affected localities are DOUGOÏ, 170 cases (47%), Founangué, 101 cases (28%), Djarengol Kodeck, 32 cases (9%), and Domayo II, 20 cases (6%). Since then, a total number of 355 cases of measles have been registered in the region, including 64 cases in January 2009. The Northern region of Cameroon is divided into 15 health zones, 10 of which have each registered at least one case of measles since early 2009. The average age of the people affected is 3.5 years, and 50% of the victims are 3 years old. 75% of the victims are below the age of 5, with the youngest being just 4 months old. Government organized an immunization campaign in 2008, but several families deliberately refused to get their children vaccinated. 84% of measles cases registered so far are these children who failed to be vaccinated in 2008, the majority of whom are male children. Most of these children are found in the Dougoï health zone where parents are strongly opposed to the idea of immunization. Since 2008, 17 people have died of measles in that locality.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Cameroon Red Cross Society, with the support of the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) in Yaoundé (Cameroon) actively contributed to the success to the anti-measles immunization campaign organized by Cameroon Government from 29 January to 4 February 2009 in the far-North Region of

the country. This campaign targeted children from 6 months to 15 years. The national society mobilized 40 volunteers and deployed them in targeted communities to facilitate the campaign. These volunteers were equipped with educative aids that enabled them to disseminate sensitization messages. The volunteers also assisted in identifying and registering the children targeted by the campaign. This combined effort resulted in 124,787 children being vaccinated, equivalent to 101.52% coverage, to the greatest satisfaction of WHO (World Health Organization) Representative in Cameroon who extended warm congratulations to the Red Cross. The Maroua health district physician-in-chief also expressed satisfaction on the achievements of the Red Cross and appealed on Red Cross volunteers to continue their sensitization work until late February 2009.

## How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

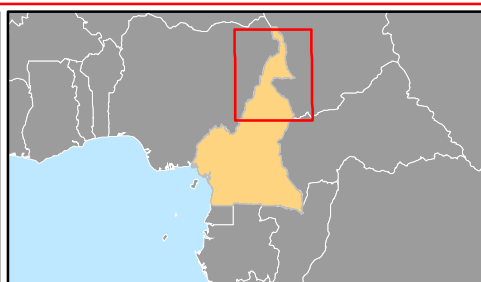
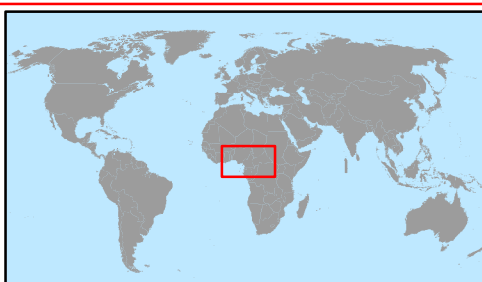
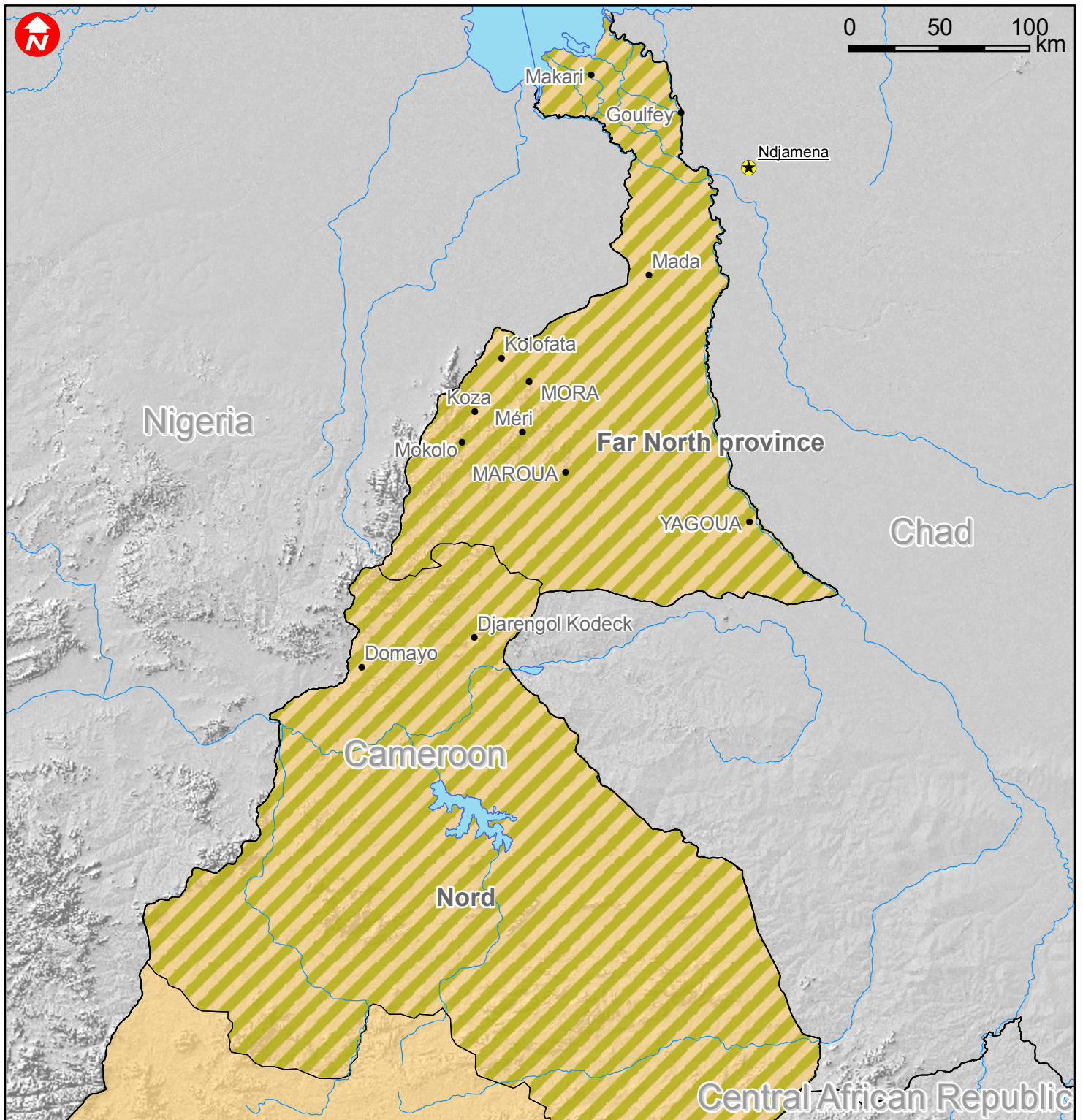
**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In **Cameroon**: Javier Medrano, Federation Regional Representative for Central Africa, Yaoundé, email: [javier.medrano@ifrc.org](mailto:javier.medrano@ifrc.org), Phone: +237.22.21.74.37 or +237.77.09.87.89, Julbert Tonye, Secretary General, Cameroon Red Cross Society, email : [tonjul2002@yahoo.fr](mailto:tonjul2002@yahoo.fr) , Phone: +237.99.91.82.98, Fax: +237.22.21.74.39
- In **Senegal** : Alasan Senghore, Head of Zone, West and Central Africa Zone, phone:+221.33.869.36 40, Fax:+221.33.820.25.34, email: [alasan.senghore@ifrc.org](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org) ; Hans Ebbing, Health and Care Coordinator, phone: +221.33.869.39.15; email: [hans.ebbing@ifrc.org](mailto:hans.ebbing@ifrc.org)
- In **Geneva**: David Lynch, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41.227.30.46.75. email: [david.lynch@ifrc.org](mailto:david.lynch@ifrc.org)

[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



# Cameroon: Measles



- ★ Capitals
- River
- Affected area
- Lake
- Provinces