



Wells & Wellness Tour **Cameroon, AFRICA**

Water Wells and Health Clinics in Refugee Villages



ORGANIZATION

World Transformational Ministries (WTM)

CONTACT

Chad D. Northington

Founder

P.O. Box 9691

Tampa, Florida 33674

e-mail : info@transformationalministries.com

telephone: 813-990-0981

PERFORMANCE PERIOD

12-18 Months

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST

\$129,669

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The primary goal of the *Wells & Wellness Tour* is to reach the Unreached through clean water and health care. People groups such as the Fulbe, also known as the Fulani, of Cameroon lack access to the most basic of needs and are desperate for resources to overcome a daily struggle simply to survive in many remote villages. Many of these villages are comprised of refugee populations from neighboring countries. It is WTM's mission to provide for the needs of those who need it most through sustainable, transformational development.



TEST DRILLING AT A PROPOSED HAND DUG WELL LOCATION TO DETERMINE DEPTH TO WATER

BACKGROUND

WTM has prior experience in this region of the world where three hand dug wells were previously installed while conducting “bush clinics” in 2008. The *Wells & Wellness Tour* would be a continuation of this effort and a geographical expansion of those who benefit from the Tour.

Civil unrest in many of the countries surrounding Cameroon has produced a significant population of displaced persons along the borders of the country. This exodus of Fulbe nomads from adjacent countries like the Central African Republic has resulted in a merging of existing Fulbe villages with a constant flow of refugees from across the border. The nomadic tendencies of the Fulbe have made them easy targets for bandits and rebels in unstable regions where they are often attacked. In many cases, their cattle are stolen and children are sometimes even taken hostage as demands are made for ransoms.

These activities have gone relatively unnoticed by the international community for several reasons. Although this has been taking place for many years, the groups of Fulbe refugees entering Cameroon have been small enough not to land on the radar of larger relief organizations. Secondly, the Fulbe follow a strict code of conduct known as *Pulaaku* that prohibits them from expressing need or emotion in public. Consequently, it is difficult to ascertain the real needs of this people group without spending time amongst them. WTM has overcome this challenge by sending Fulbe “scouts” into these areas to first access the villages demonstrating the greatest need. These villages represent the places that have metaphorically fallen through the cracks. The mobility of WTM's team of Americans and

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Cameroonian nationals has made this organization ideally equipped to address such need.

Installation and Project Timing

The goal of the project is to identify, assess and install a hand dug or drilled well in remote Fulbe villages every three to six weeks. Health clinics will be conducted simultaneously with the well installation at that location.

Project timing is influenced by numerous factors that are unique to working in this region of the world. The presence of a rainy and dry season cycle has a significant impact on hand dug well installation. Fluctuations in the water table requires that hand dug wells are installed during the dry season to ensure the lowest water level is observed and the well will not go dry when the need for water is most critical. Additionally, the challenges of obtaining and transporting the necessary well materials, equipment and laborers on roads that are not maintained and dangerous during the rainy season can impact the progress of the project. The types and severity of illnesses are also influenced by this dry and wet cycle.

It is estimated that approximately one-third of the wells installed will need to be drilled as the WTM Team travels north towards more arid regions where the water table is deeper. Drilled well installation is more complex and requires more materials than hand dug well installations. A determination as to which method is more appropriate will be based on test drilling at each location.

In order to accomplish the objective of producing a deep drilled well, a robust mobile drill rig with the required drilling bits is necessary. WTM has researched suitable drilling rigs that are mobile

yet capable of reaching these depths under such conditions and found the Deeprock Hydra-Drill Model HD77 would meet the specifications for program. Information regarding this equipment can be found at:

<http://www.deeprock.com/HD/frmHD77.aspx>

“Bush clinics” are conducted at each village by a registered nurse and Cameroonian translator with a medical background. Medical kits are pre-assembled to address the most common ailments encountered in this environment, including malaria, amoeba, dysentery, worms, malnutrition, typhoid, cholera and diarrhea-related illnesses. Besides just treating disease, an effort is made to educate the community and teach preventative care, hygiene and other public health topics. It is not uncommon, for example, for community members to be unaware of the link between disease and dirty water or mosquitoes and malaria. A little education can go a long way towards improving the long-term health in these villages.

Measurement of Project Progress

The *Wells & Wellness Tour* consists of both short- and long-term objectives. Clean water and health care is only the first step towards creating a better world. Without proper education, ownership of the project, and community participation, measures such as these will not have a lasting, transforming effect. Ultimately, WTM desires to see entire communities transformed through life-giving water and health care accompanied by the hope that is born when community members take control of their own destiny. This does not come from temporary aid or relief or a constant influx of foreign resources; it is the result of empowerment of people through

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hope, the nurturing of relationships through love and the introduction of sustainable, transformational development.

WTM strives to accomplish this on a number of levels. It is vitally important both to the success and longevity of the project to create community involvement from the very beginning. In every community, members are able to participate in the project by providing labor and local materials. For example, sand for concrete blocks can be gathered and carried from local rivers. Likewise, water must be carried long distances to mix cement. A water committee comprised of local leaders is formed prior to installation of the well to receive input, discuss use of the well and promote a sense of ownership. One or two technicians are chosen from the community that the committee believes possess the necessary skills to perform basic maintenance of the well and pump. The importance of clean water for maintaining good health is also taught to the community in addition to ways to prevent contamination of the well.

Progress of each project will be monitored by several other parameters. One milestone will be production of enough water by the well to provide a minimum of 20 liters of water per person per day during the latter part of the dry season. This will be measured after the well has been properly developed and conditioned. Short-term and long-term improvements in the overall health of the community will also be monitored. This may require additional follow-up and visits to each village. Continued operation and maintenance of the well by the community will demonstrate ownership of the project and greater potential for longevity of the well and life.



HAND DUG WELL INSTALLATION IN REMOTE FULBE REFUGEE VILLAGE

Long-Term Partnering Opportunities

WTM is committed to taking clean water and health care to the world's remote regions and unreached people groups. Access to rather than the availability of clean water and health care services has proven to be one of the great challenges in bringing these essential needs to the billions of people around the globe who are fighting for their very lives daily. The *Wells & Wellness Tour* does not need to end in Cameroon. Why should it not spread across West Africa? All of Africa? All the world? What is stopping us from growing a team of tour members who target specific regions of the world and carry on the vision of reaching the Unreached? WTM offers you our passion, skills and desire. We only ask that you offer your resources to make this vision a reality.