Cameroon HSS transcript 3- minute video

Title: Strengthening Cameroon’s Health Systems to Prepare for COVID-19 Response (3- minute video)

CDC logo

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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**Dr. Emily Kainne Dokubo/ CDC Cameroon Country Director:** When the COVID pandemic started in Cameroon, CDC established a COVID-19 response team, pulling together our subject matter experts, epidemiologists, and public health specialists, establishing an incident management system.

Through the Public Health Emergency Operations Center, that had been constructed with support from CDC, and the Department of Defense DTRA (Defense Threat Reduction Agency) CDC response team and staff were embedded in the (Cameroon) Ministry of Health's incident management system, providing support across all technical pillars including epidemiology, surveillance, case finding, rapid response, laboratory, communication, infection prevention and control.

**Dr. Judith Shang/Care and Treatment Branch Chief**: As we got in, we moved the country from zero quality assurance programs to now an established national proficiency testing program. We have five ISO 15189 internationally accredited labs.

Even in terms of surveillance, we were one of the first to really go out to do antibody surveillance in country. We've also been able to leverage on our previous support from our PEPFAR (U.S. President¹s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) program particularly for the lab, and to provide support during COVID.

**Gordon Okpu/Global Health Security Agenda Coordinator:** Cameroon and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strengthened public health capacity, saving lives by partnering since 1998, and working together during the COVID-19 response.

Some of the successes include creating the Public Health Emergency Operations Center.

We¹ve had hundreds of epidemiologists receiving training through the Cameroon Field Epidemiology Training Program. Standardized COVID-19 testing and case management, strengthening disease surveillance and response systems, working with media outlets on critical messaging, and creating call centers where people can ask questions about COVID-19.

This coordination will better prepare Cameroon for future public health emergencies and response.

Text on slate: To learn more about CDC’s global health work visit [www.cdc.gov/globalheatlh](http://www.cdc.gov/globalheatlh).

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