



OPERATION: KUMBO-NKUFF, CAMEROON, AFRICA

A Case For Support

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS—USA
Student Development Office, Hope College,
141 E. 12th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423
Telephone: 616-395-7143
or e-mail: ewb@hope.edu



AFRICA

...known for its breathtakingly beautiful jungles and rain forests, exotic wild animals, and people timeless with century-old tradition.

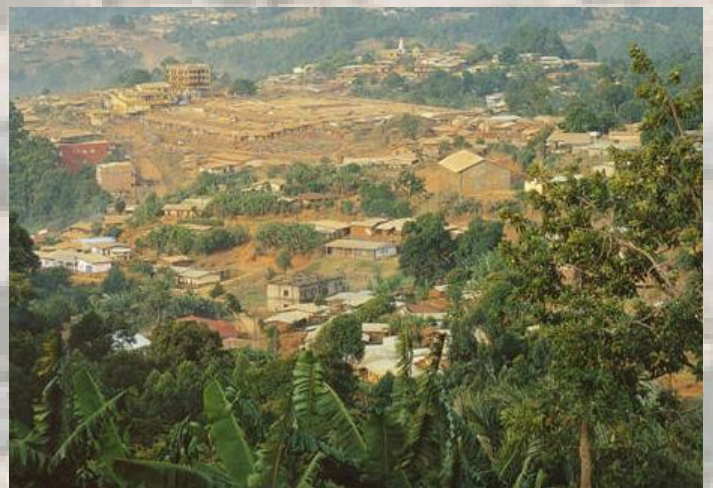
Life in most areas in Africa, however, is more difficult and challenging than what many of us can imagine. Short life expectancy rates, raging disease and lack of comforts such as electricity and running water are just a few examples.

INTRODUCING NKUFF, CAMEROON, AFRICA

Nkuff is a small community in Cameroon, Africa, located about two hours south of Kumbo, the closest city. Nkuff is nestled in the northwest area of Cameroon, between mountains, valleys and jungle areas.

There is no electricity currently available to this community. The people of Nkuff cook and heat all their water over open fires.

They are a very caring people; adults and children alike work together to produce crops to sell in the city of Kumbo (shown on the right). Farming is their main source of revenue.



The people in Nkuff speak their tribal language, Lamnso, as well as English. Children who are able to travel go to the city of Kumbo for school on Mondays and return home to their families on Fridays. There is no structured educational system in Nkuff. There are no fresh water systems either.

Some demographics of the area include:

- Located between three tributary rivers that cross through the region
- Life expectancy is less than 51 years
- 48% of the population lives below poverty level
- 80% of patients at their small health clinic suffer from sickness caused by the drinking water. Some of these include typhoid fever, cholera and malaria, and other water-borne diseases
- Seriously ill people have to travel two hours to the nearest hospital in Kumbo
- Children are more frequently ill than adults
- Nearly 42% of Nkuff's population are children between the ages of 0-14

The photo on the right shows the villagers retrieving their water from the muddy tributary rivers. These are the same rivers where their animals are taken to drink, clothes are washed, and drinking water is drawn.

These rivers, although vital to the existence of the people of Nkuff, are prime breeding ground for large mosquito populations, leaving the villagers even more vulnerable to wide-spread disease.



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS, HOPE COLLEGE, HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

The newly-chartered student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) at Hope College, Holland, Michigan is reaching around the world for its first service project.

Engineers Without Borders is a national non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. The partnership involves implementing environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineering professionals.

EWB currently has 75 active development projects in 30 different countries. Projects range from wastewater project design, to grain grinding, to building bridges, to school dormitory construction, to sewage and erosion control for trailer lots.

THE CHALLENGE: A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM

Beginning in January 2006, the Hope College EWB Chapter will be designing and implementing a sustainable water system for the village of Nkuff, a 300-member community. Engineers will also teach the residents how to maintain the water system once in place. Variables of systems that are currently being recommended are wells with hand pumps (as shown) or multiple water filtration systems that can be more broadly installed.



A small group of students and a chapter advisor will travel to Nkuff during their 2006 spring break to perform a site assessment, with a larger group going back in late May to implement the system. The project is expected to take six months to a year to complete.

A VILLAGER RESPONDS

One villager from Nkuff, Peter, has been in regular communication with the EWB representatives at Hope College. He shares that the community is very eager and enthused about this project. They are willing to help and offer their manual skills, but cannot give financial support.

Peter shares: *"The people of Kumbo and Nkuff are so welcoming and loving. They like to share ideas and to discuss everything together to bring solutions to their problems. This is because the government have less interest in us because our province is the opposition to the government. With African politics...so many things in our province have been abandoned."*

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Both corporate sponsorships and individual contributions are currently being pursued to make this project a reality. This is a huge undertaking and the students at Hope College are committed to improving the quality of life for the people in Nkuff. They're committed to seeing the ravages of poor drinking water diminished and Nkuff becoming a more healthy community.

Engineers Without Borders is a recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Student representatives are available to speak to your business or organization to further discuss this very important initiative. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. For more information, or to send a contribution, contact:



Engineers Without Borders-USA
Student Development Office, Hope College
141 E. 12th Street, Holland, MI 48423
Telephone: 616-395-7143
or e-mail: ewb@hope.edu

BERI WO FEYI

"Thank you very much" in the Lamnso tribal language.