

# DREF CHOLERA-MONKEYPOX : COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## REPORT

CAMEROUN -10 APRIL 2023



The community feedbacks analysed in this report were collected by Cameroon Red Cross volunteers during the DREF Cholera and Monkeypox Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities. These are the departments of Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga in the Far North, Fako in the South West and Wouri in the Littoral.

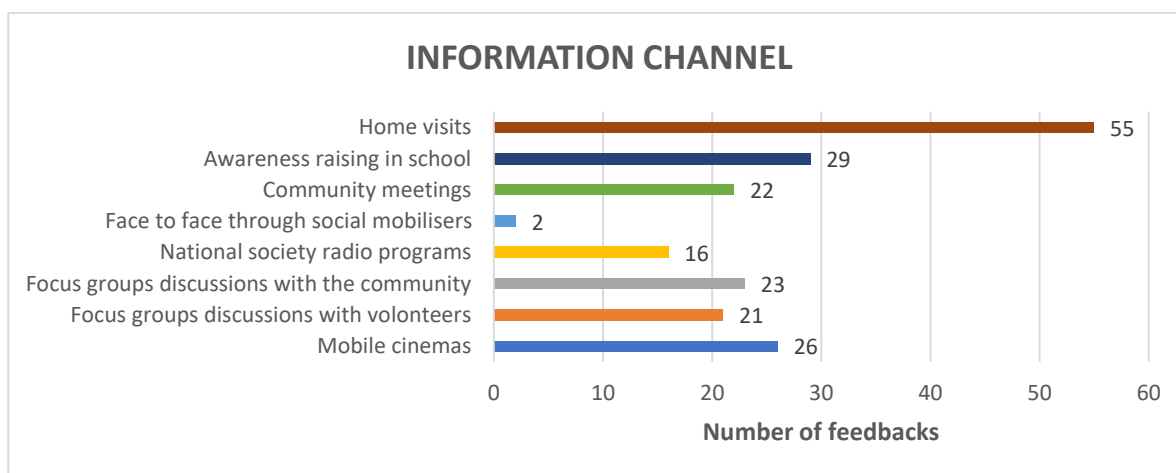
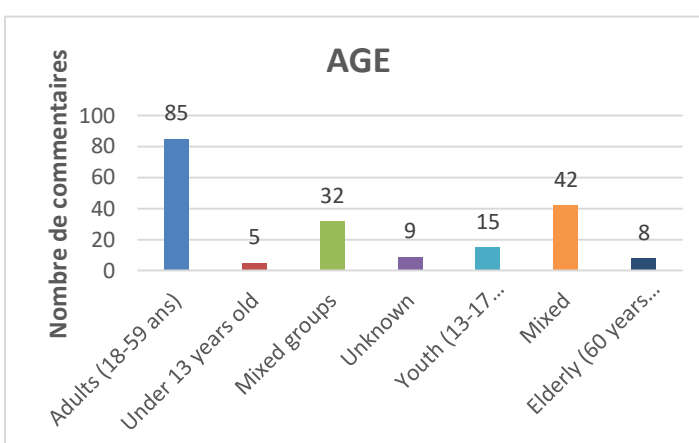
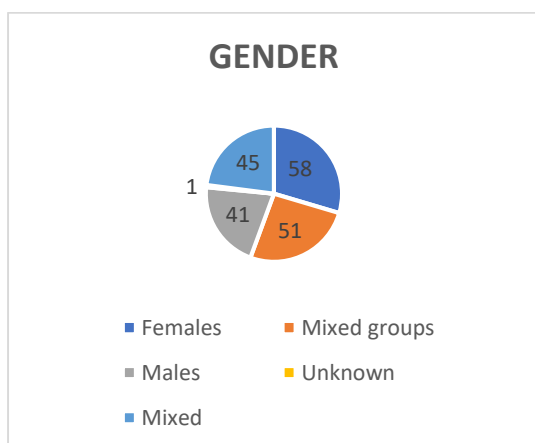
Information was not collected through structured surveys, but volunteers documented comments about the findings that they heard during their interactions with community members. These comments were recorded on paper forms and then consolidated on an Excel sheet.

Feedback was recorded during focus group discussions, face-to-face with social mobilizers, mobile cinemas, school sensitizations, radio broadcasts and home visits.

The activities in which community feedback was recorded were conducted between 20 March and 1 April 2023.

The results are not representative of the whole country, but indicate broad trends in community perceptions across these 4 departments.

## DEMOGRAPHY



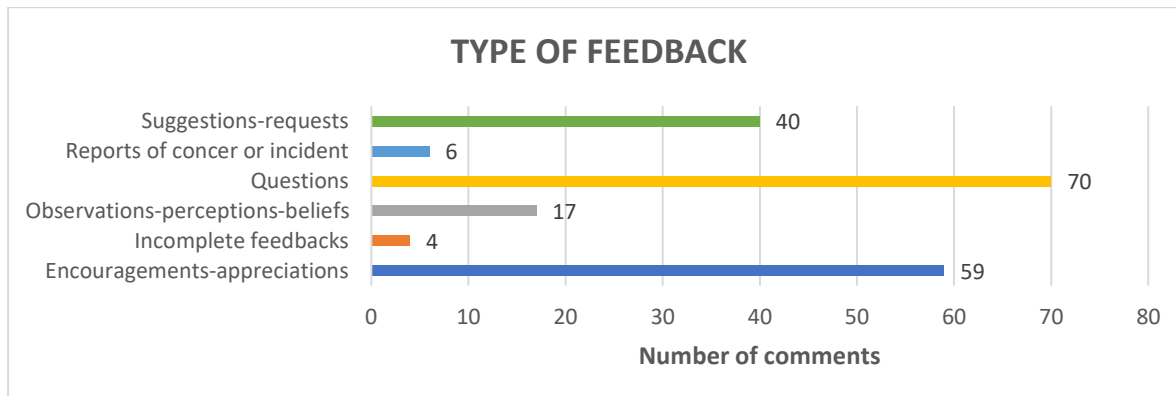
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## OVERVIEW

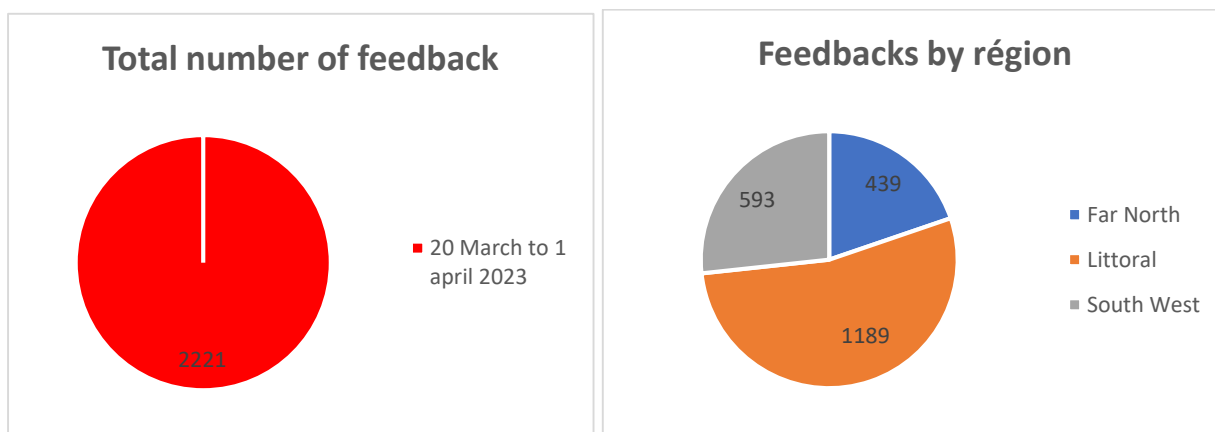


Most of the comments from the community were encouragement and appreciation recognising and encouraging the work of the Red Cross. Other types of comments were rumours, beliefs and observations, suggestions or requests and questions always related to this theme.

General topics :

- Questions about symptoms, animal vectors and treatment of smallpox
- Need for drinking water supply points
- Question about the existence of a vaccine against cholera and monkeypox, as well as the costs of treating these diseases
- Lack of awareness of monkeypox in the media and presentation of cases of the disease
- Requests for assistance in treating wells to make water safe to drink
- Needs for hygiene materials, namely soap in schools
- Questions about cholera and smallpox vaccine

We collected, stored and analysed **2221** Community Feedbacks during this period, many of which had a high occurrence, although they were collected at different times, places and through different information channels. This resulted in **439** for the Far North, **593** for the South West and **1189** for the Littoral.



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## General trends in epidemic/pandemic preparedness and response

### Suggestion and request on preparedness activities and response

*"We have no water in our community", -Home visit, Bokwango, 27 March 2023*

*"Distribute pamphlets on which you clearly explain how to administer a sweet and salty solution", -Society National radio program, Douala, 18 March 2023,*

*"We also want the vaccine against cholera", -Mobile cinema, Bonamoussadi, 20 March 2023*

### Questions on protective behaviour against the disease

*"Are the hunters in the villages who send us meat in town aware of monkeypox?" --Directed group discussion with volunteers, Bonabéri, 20 March 2023*

*"Is the vaccine 100% protective against cholera?" - Mobile cinema, Ndogpassi, 20 March 2023*

*"When will vaccination against monkeypox be available?" - Focus group discussion with volunteers, Bonabéri, 20 March 2023*

### Observations and beliefs indicating distrust of the response

*"It is the end of the world that is near with the appearance of these new diseases without treatment." - Focus group discussion with the community, New-Bell, 21 March 2023*

*"If veterinarians did their job properly we wouldn't have these diseases today, namely monkey pox and Ebola". - Focus group discussion with community, Douala 2, 21 March 2023*

*"Cholera is a disease of the rich because we poor people are used to dirt." - Awareness raising in schools, Douala 3, 26 March 2023*

## MAIN TOPICS

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### • IN THE FAR NORTH

Two departments were selected to collect feedback: Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga

#### ➤ IN MAYO SAVA

The most common topics with illustrative comments are presented below

*"How is monkeypox transmitted from animals to humans?", -Home visit, Meme, 25 March 2023*

*"Awareness raising with the mobile cinema is very important, we see the images", -Awareness raising in schools, Mora, 24 March 2023*

*"Why are we only talking about monkeys, rats, mice; don't other animals give you monkeypox?", -Home visit, Mora, 30 March 2023*

*"Is monkeypox fatal?", - School outreach, Mora, 23 March 2023*

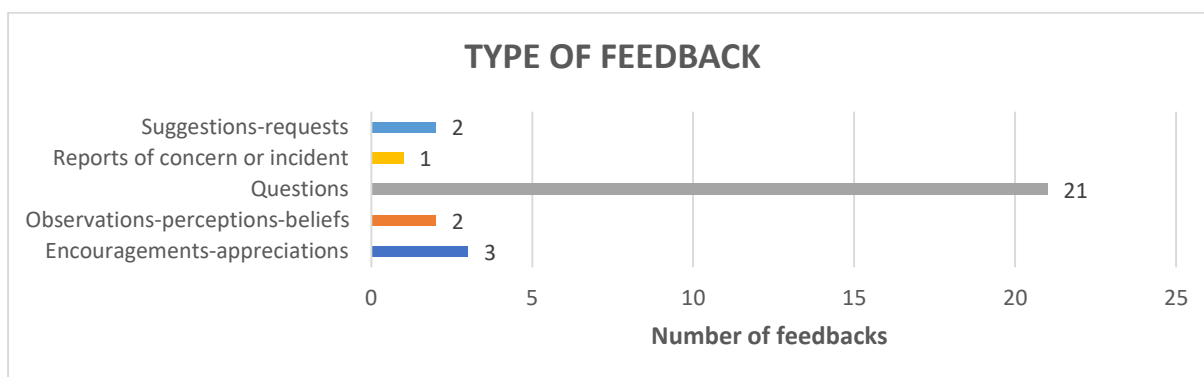
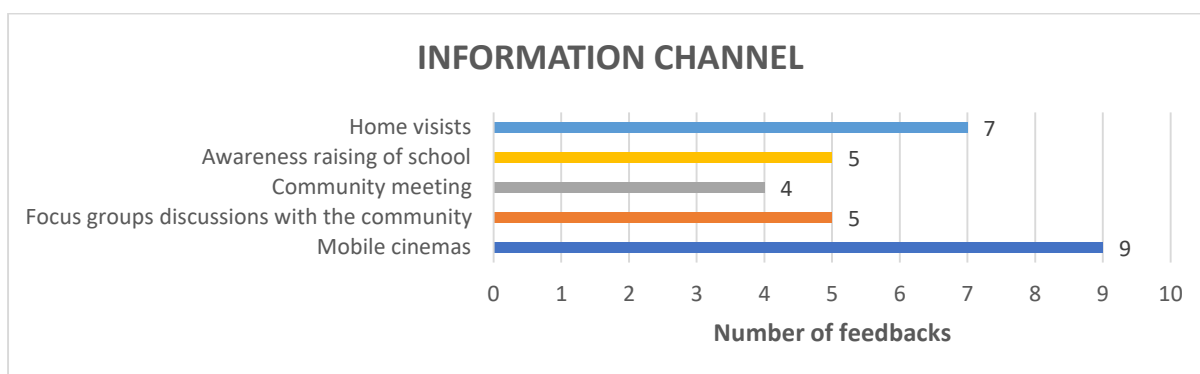
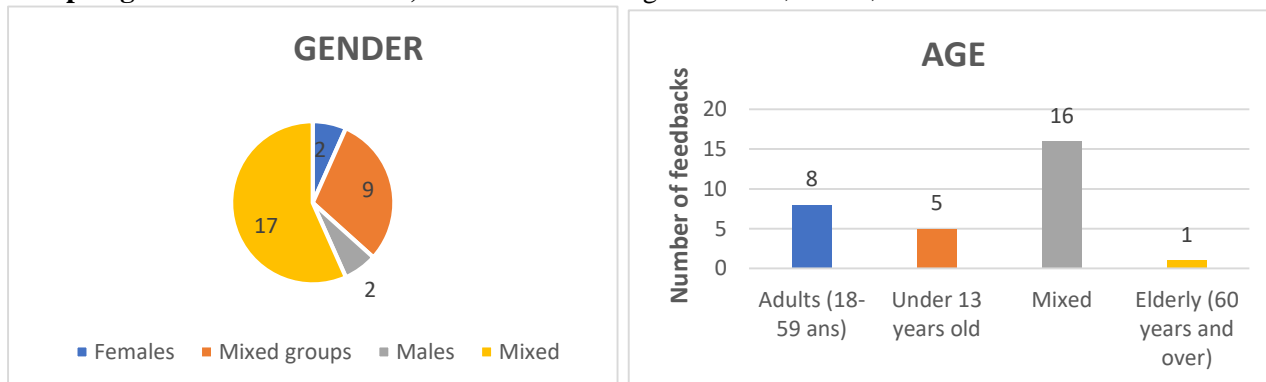
*"Only God can help us against this disease", - Mobile cinema, Godigong, 25 March 2023*

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"Is spring water safe to drink?", - Awareness raising in schools, Kossa, 28 March 2023



Home visits, school sensitisations, community meetings, mobile cinemas and focus group discussions are the communication channels here for a total of 166 feedbacks.

➤ **IN MAYO TSANAGA**

The most common topics with illustrative comments are presented below

**"Is the cholera vaccine there, protecting us from cholera, if so after how long?"**, -Home visit, Minawaou, 29 March 2023

**"Is there a charge for cholera treatment?"**, -Community meeting, Mokolo, 29 March 2023

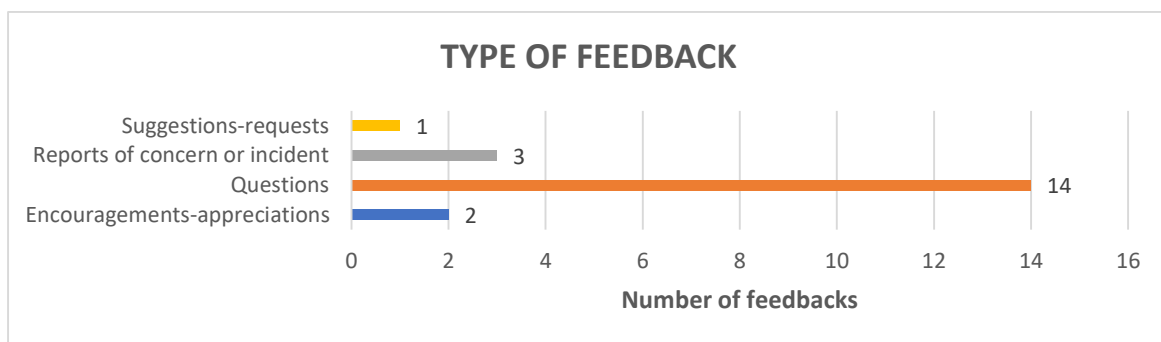
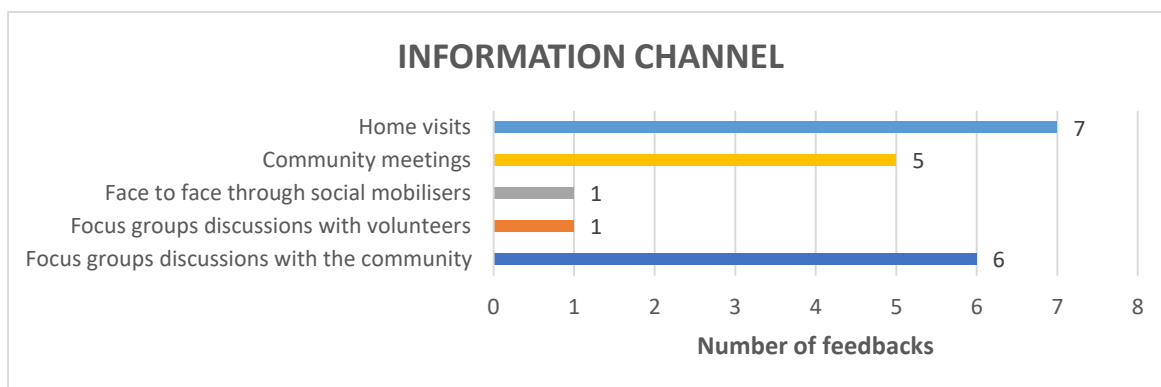
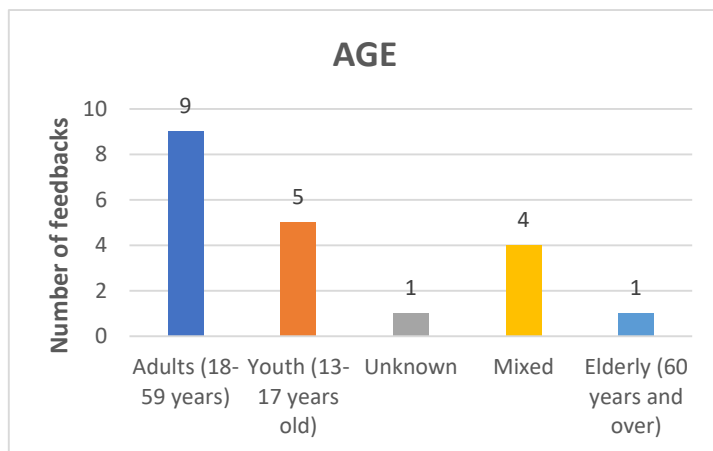
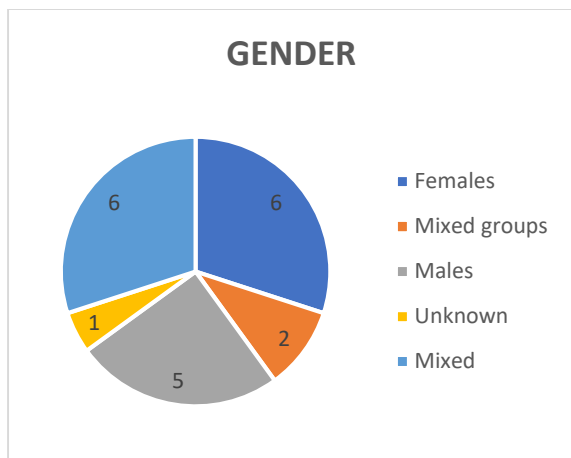
**"We want to know how to treat our water to avoid cholera"**, -Face to face with social mobilisers, Mokolo 1, 29 March 2023

**"We have been eating bushmeat for many years now and why suddenly a new disease?"**, -Home visit, Mokolo, 29 March 2023

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Home visits, community meetings, facilitated group discussions with volunteers, with the community and face-to-face through social mobilisers are the communication channels here for a total of 273 feedbacks.

## ● IN THE SOUTH WEST

We collected feedback in the Fako department, specifically in two towns

### ➤ IN BUEA

The most common topics with illustrative comments are presented below

*"We need water in our community", -Home visit, Muea, 27 March 2023*

*"We don't need awareness, we need action", -Home visit, Buea, 27 March 2023*

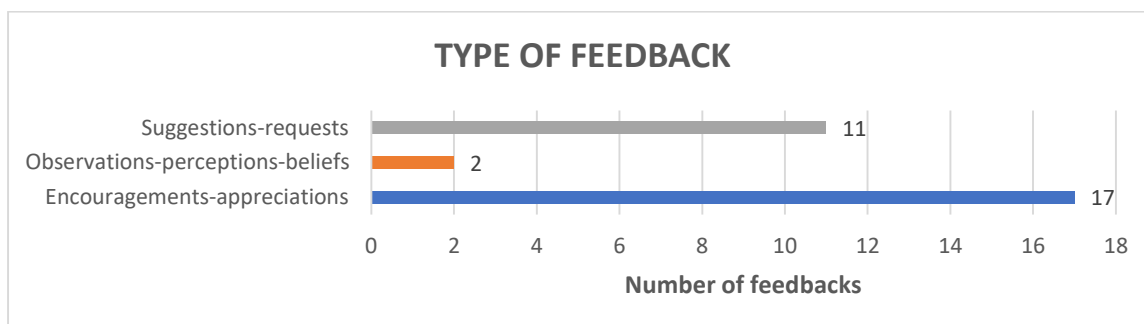
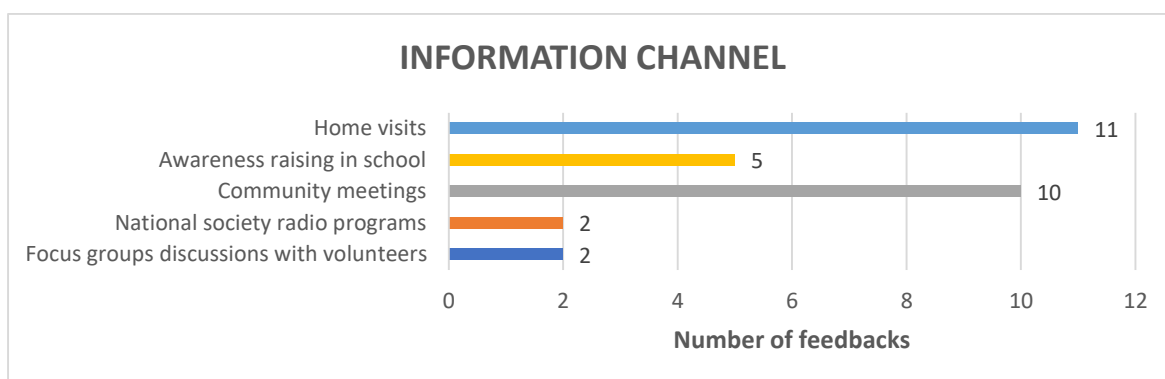
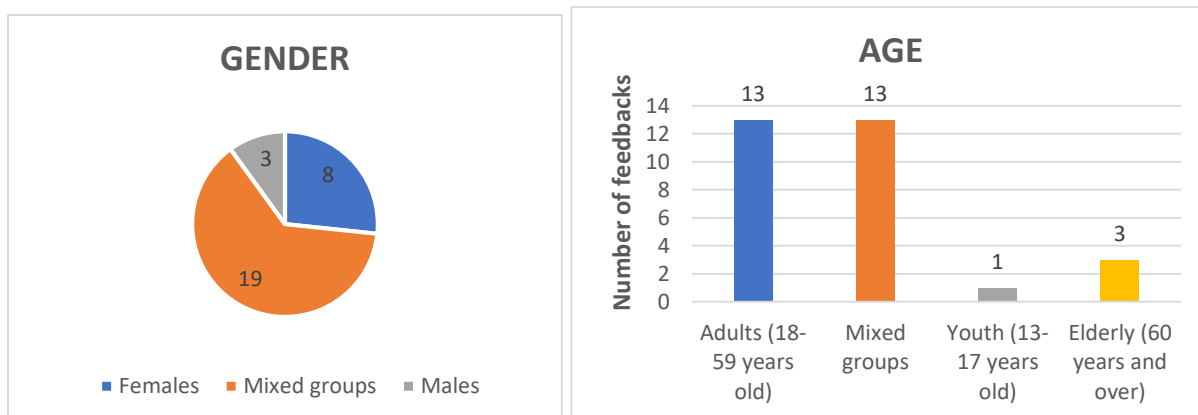
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*"The Red Cross does not keep its promises", -Directed group discussion with volunteers, Muea, 1 April 2023*



Home visits, school outreach, community meetings, National Society radio programs and focus group discussions with volunteers were the communication channels for a total of 256 feedbacks.

### ➤ IN LIMBE

The most common topics with illustrative comments are presented below

*"We have never heard of monkeypox before", -Community meeting, Moliwe, 1 April 2023*

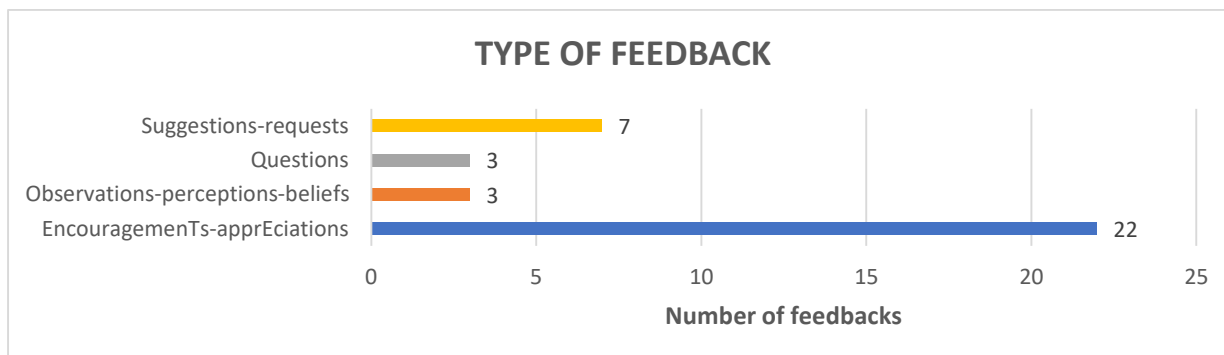
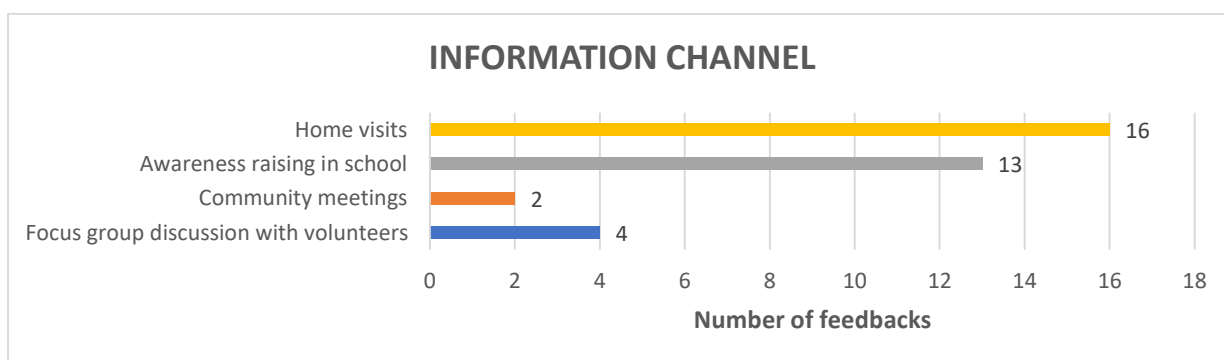
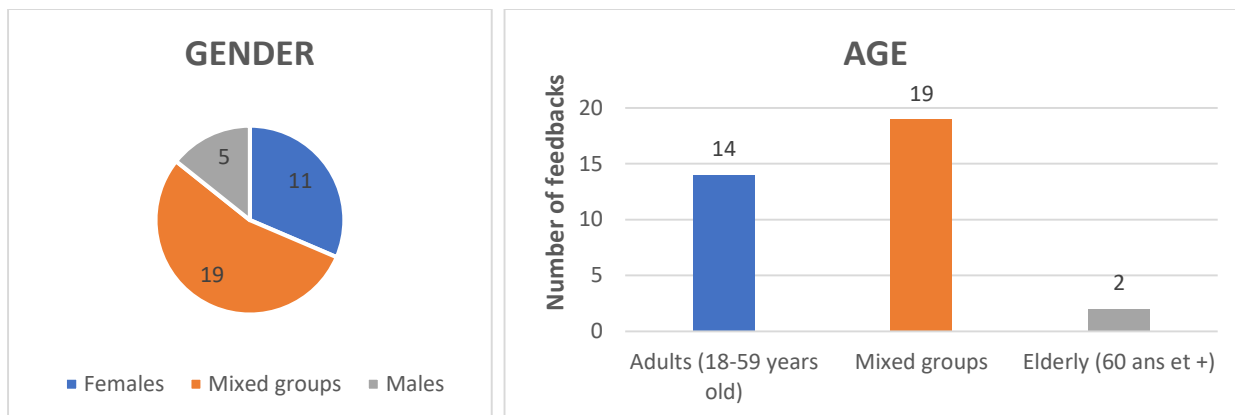
*"Can monkeypox be treated?", -School outreach, Bota, 1 April 2023*

*"How do you know if an animal has monkeypox?", -Awareness raising in schools, Seaport, 1 April 2023*

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Home visits, school outreach, community meetings, and focus group discussions with volunteers are the communication channels here for a total of **337** feedbacks.

- IN THE WOURI**

The most common topics with illustrative comments are presented below

**"How to recognise the symptoms of cholera"**, - National Society radio program, Deido, 18 March 2023

**"Is there a vaccine for monkeypox?"**, - Focus group discussion with the community, New-Bell, 21 March 2023

**"Can cholera be cured?"**, - Mobile cinema, Ndogpassi, 21 March 2023

**"Is it only the monkey that causes this disease?"**, -Focus group discussion with the community, New-Bell, 21 March 2023

**"Is the cholera vaccine expensive?"**, -National society radio program, Douala, 26 March 2023

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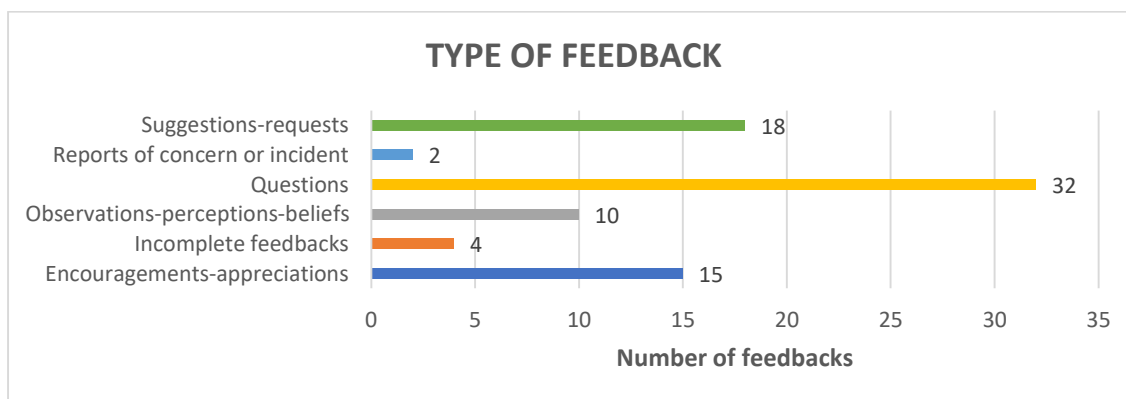
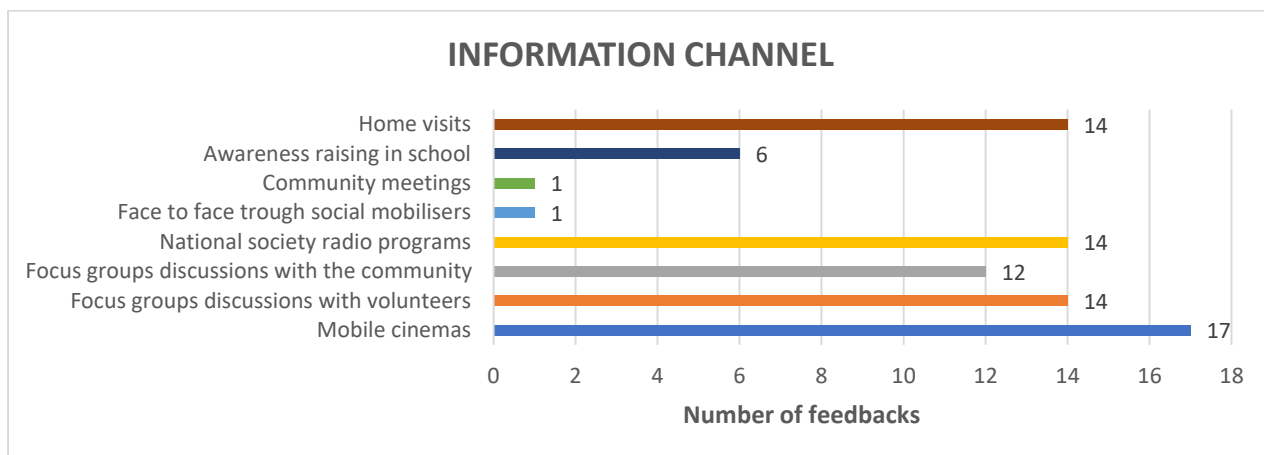
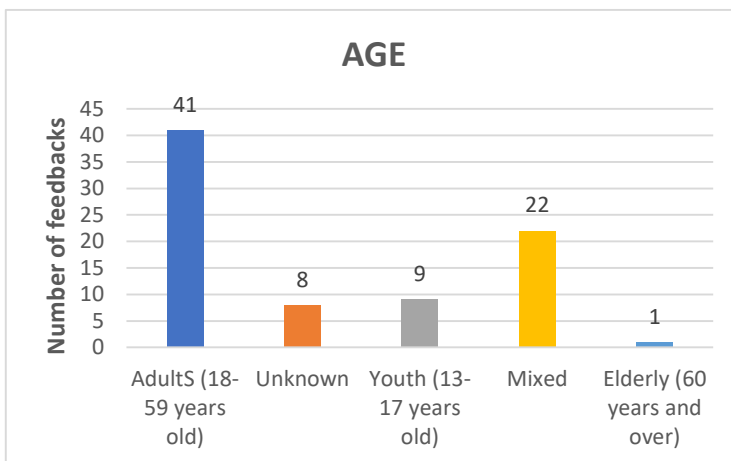
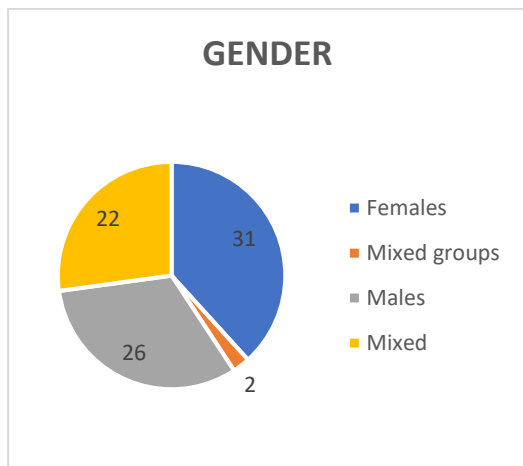
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*"Mosquitoes can give cholera", -Mobile cinema, Ndogpassi, 21 March 2023*

*"If we cook meat at a high temperature, won't the monkey pox microbe die?", -Directed group discussion with volunteers, Bonabéri, 21 March 2023*

*"Should we automatically vaccinate against cholera every 6 months?", -Société nationale radio program, Douala, 26 March 2023*



**Awareness raising in schools, community meetings, National Society radio programs, focus group discussions with the community, with volunteers and face to face with social mobilisers are the communication channels here for a total of 1189 feedbacks.**



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## RECOMMANDATIONS

- Popularise information on monkeypox carrier animals, modes of transmission and symptoms
- Increase awareness and prevention campaigns on cholera and monkeypox, emphasising the need to adopt appropriate measures
- Intensify awareness on how to make water safe to drink and increase the number of drinking water supply points
- Popularize information on cholera and monkeypox (distribution of explanatory leaflets in schools and focus group discussions)
- Produce and broadcast health authority TV awareness messages
- Address the various rumours and beliefs about monkeypox
- Inform the population about cholera treatment sites



1 Radio Programme



2 Focus Group Discussion



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CRC RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RELATION TO THE CHOLERA-MONKEY POX DREF CAMEROUN, PLEASE CONTACT EWANE FABRICE A. AT [fabrice.ewane@croixrouge.cm](mailto:fabrice.ewane@croixrouge.cm)