

### Communities dredge river and prevent flooding in Cameroon



Photo: GEADIRR

The Lower Motowoh community faces damaging seasonal flooding. Houses are inundated every rainy season, livelihoods are destroyed and roads are damaged, causing high levels of road accidents. The *Frontline* surveys found that the flooding is caused in part by the rivers being blocked by rubbish. This means that when rains fall, the water levels rise quickly. The surveys also highlighted another issue: that

the community's frequent request for support from the local government was not heeded due to a lack of decentralised resources allocated for DRR work.

The NGO leading the *Frontline* process in Cameroon, Geotechnology, Environmental Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction (GEADIRR), led a series of meetings with community members and local government to reflect on the findings from the surveys. They decided that a concrete step to reduce the impact of heavy rains would be to dredge the river of the mud and rubbish. By coming together and discussing a joint solution, the representatives from the community, the local CSOs and the local government all recognised that they had a role to play in the solution and that together they could all contribute something towards this activity. A digger was hired to open up the Njengele river waterway, clearing the course for faster water flow. As a result, in 2016, the community did not suffer floods during the last rainy season.



Photo: GEADIRR