

2023 CAMEROON

04th UN International
Day of Clean Air for
Blue Skies 07th
September Report.



Changing the Lives of Youths through Sustainable Actions



**Association for the Promotion
of Youth Leadership, Advocacy
and Volunteerism Cameroon**

This page is intentionally free



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Introduction

Air pollution is responsible for more than 7 million premature deaths each year, of whom 600,000 are children [according to the World Health Organization](#). Following the international community's increasing interest in clean air, and emphasizing the need to make further efforts to improve air quality to protect human health, the United Nations General Assembly has [designated](#) 7 September as the [International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#). In 2020, the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for blue skies with the rights-based theme of "Clean Air for All" was launched. In 2021, the second [International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#) had as theme "Healthy Air, Healthy Planet". Last year, the third International Day of Clean Air for blue skies had as theme "The Air We Share". The theme for this year's annual International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, "Together for Clean Air," highlights the urgent need for stronger partnerships, increased investment, and shared responsibility to protect our atmosphere and ensure healthy air for everyone.

Background

Every day, around 93% of the world's children under the age of 15 (more than 1.8 billion children) are breathing air so polluted that it poses serious risks to their health and development. Nine out of 10 children around the world breathe air that exceeds pollution levels deemed safe by the World Health Organisation. Children's developing lungs makes them especially vulnerable to dirty air. According to [WHO, almost everyone \(99% of the global population\)](#) breathes polluted air. The transboundary nature of air pollution calls for local, national, regional, and global partnerships to tackle the problem. This year's theme highlights that it is time to invest, work together, and contribute to clean air. Collaboration with UN member states, development organizations, international and regional organizations, the private sector, and society is crucial to reducing pollution and improving air quality. Air pollution knows no national borders and is all pervasive. Moreover, it is strongly correlated to other global crisis such as climate change, biodiversity loss, other forms of pollution, social and gender parity as well as economic development. The need to raise awareness about the problem, impact and solutions for air pollution; collection and sharing of data, research and best practices as well as strengthening international and regional cooperation for efficient implementation has never been greater.

Cameroon has experienced significant increase in ambient and indoor fine particle exposure over the past decades from waste burning, second-hand vehicles, firewood burning and more. This is contributing to respiratory and cardiovascular disease morbidity and mortality such as asthma. According to the 2020 State of the Global Air Report, Cameroon is ranked 8th among the top 10 countries with the highest population weighted annual average PM_{2.5} with reported concentrations of 64, 55µg/m³. Yet little is done to protect children, youths and the public from polluted air. The 04th International Day of Clean Air for blue skies in Cameroon had its second event with stakeholders on 7th September 2023 thanks to activities coordinated by the Association for the Promotion of Youth Leadership, Advocacy and Volunteerism Cameroon (APYLAV) in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health with support from the European Lung Foundation's Healthy Lungs for Life Grant. Conducting a train, the trainer in two secondary schools for adolescents between 10-17 years (200 trained) on the dangers of air pollution exacerbated by climate change on lung and cardiovascular health and actions to protect their health. 20 outstanding students were awarded Healthy Lungs for Life Ambassador Certificates, gifts including, clean energy, waste cans and T-shirts. This event was recognized by the WHO Air Quality and Health Unit and more.

Who we are and where we operate

The Association for the Promotion of Youth Leadership, Advocacy and Volunteerism was established in July 2014 as a Cameroon charitable organization. In the run up to this, initiator Elvis Ndikum had experienced in project work how much can be achieved on the ground in Cameroon with only a few resources if you get engaged and deliver with passion. Together, we are passionate about the rural and urban Cameroonian populations in order to improve their living conditions for the long term. Since 2014, we have been implementing projects in the East and Centre Regions, Cameroon. In addition to this clear geographical focus, we limit our activities to four core areas where we can have the most impact: Air pollution, climate change and environmental determinants, Youth tobacco control, youth sexual reproductive health rights, and agriculture. APYLAV is living the notion of "help for self-help" - our projects empower the population to themselves improve their living conditions in the medium to long term.

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Activities


Given that we have trained over 1500 students in three schools since 2020 after training from the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) in 2019 and a Freedom to Breathe Campaign with Global Action Plan, UK on the United Nations recognition of clean air as a right for children within the UN General Comment N°26. The following activities were implemented from 01st to 07th September 2023.


1. Conducted a train the trainer from 1st to 06th September

We conducted a follow-up awareness raising train the trainer for 200 adolescents aged 10-17 years from 1 school on the impact of air pollution and climate change on lung health with focus on asthma care. These trainings happened from 1st to 6th September. The students trained on their turn were given assignments to volunteer and train 10 of their peers in school, family members and neighbours on air pollution sources and actions to take to protect their lungs from air pollution and climate change. The 200 trained students on their turn trained over 1500 of their school mates and family members. 20 outstanding students were invited to the International Day of Clean Air for Blue skies.



2. Sample train the trainer list from 1-6th September 2023





HEALTHY LUNGS FOR LIFE

ERS ELF

PRESENCE LIST

Air Health Train the Trainer 4th International Day for Clean Air 2023

Theme: 'Together for Clean Air'

DATES: 01/09/2023

SCHOOL: Franky Comprehensive High School

SUPERVISOR: Ngono Endeke Arshly

N°	NAMES	TELEPHONE	COMMENT	SIGNATURE
1	Pekum Alfred Ahenjon	679680763	Important	
2	Chikawlings Ngany	680608124	Fine	
3	TETE NDONCO KEVINE	672280458	Very educating	
4	Doufack Elbrupille	651321212	helpful	
5	Helga Aleh Ade	651025761	Educative	
6	FOKANA Lucia Erika	657500457	Good	
7	Monting Verolle	657372234	Educative	
8	Aissine Krouther	655885238	Educative	
9	APUAMUN F.J. OCEANNE	6755114250	Educative	
10	Benny - Hinn TM	658618063	Good	
11	ZERO MICHELLE	692823656	Flia	
12	Cheudjo Brandon	676930910	Very Very educating	
13	Sama Valentine	653689398	Interesting	
14	Kueya Nsengou Olanne	699824504	Interesting	
15	Keila-Rohi Boruoi Fagang	622915254	Very Very Educative	
16	Mbelle Touke Keran	695223494	Amazing	
17	Mbugameunou	696839565	Very educating	
18	Nantac Patsa Ines C.	671052210	Educative	
19	Limen JAYDON	6	Very educating	
20	Tekom Victory	677364951	instresting	
21	Monthe Nkassouhenzo Jaym	675775763	very educative	
22	Noubissie Merveille Divine	694790033	Educative	
23	Kouahou Disseck	672570337	Educative	
24	NKUITCHOU Kiamlandy	697904034	Educative	
25	Souto Zognou Josias	6778016115	Educative	

3. Advocacy activities from August to September 2023

Letters of invitation and awareness raising for collaboration were deposited to diverse stakeholders including government structures such as the Prime Minister Head of government, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of the Environment and Nature Protection, Ministry of Communications; Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Water Resources and Energy, Ministry of Secondary Education, the Centre Regional Delegation of Public Health, CRTV, as well as Embassy's and development partners such as the British High Commission, U.S Embassy, GIZ, UN office Cameroon, WHO, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHRC, African Development Bank, The African Union, and the World Bank Group . The Centre Regional Delegation of Public Health responded positively to our invitation with an authorization letter to host the event in their conference room as well as 10 staff participating. The Minister of Public Health responded positively by designating a representative who gave an opening an key note speech during the event. The Minister of Communication responded positively by designating representative that attended the event and gave a keynote speech, also the Centre Regional Delegate for Communication and Cameroon Tribune was represented during the event.



4. Sample advocacy success letter from the Minister of Public Health

<p>REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN Paix – Travail – Patrie</p> <p>MINISTRE DE LA SANTE PUBLIQUE</p> <p>SECRETARIAT GENERAL</p> <p>DIRECTION DE LA PROMOTION DE LA SANTE</p> <p>SOUS-DIRECTION DE L'HYGIENE ET DE L'ASSAINISSEMENT</p> <p>N° 32-184 N°-----/NA/MINSANTE/SG/DPS/SDHA/SHM/NTL Vos Réf : G7958-A/07/08/2023</p>	<p>REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON Peace – Work – Fatherland</p> <p>MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>SECRETARIAT GENERAL</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROMOTION</p> <p>SUB-DEPARTMENT OF HYGIENE AND SANITATION</p> <p>Yaoundé, le 04 SEPT 2023</p>
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LE MINISTRE
A/TO
MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT EXECUTIF DE
L'ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP,
ADVOCACY AND VOLUNTEERISM CAMEROON (APLYAV)
Téléphone : 675956499

Objet: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT AND ACTION
ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH

Monsieur le Président Exécutif,

Par correspondance dont l'objet et les références sont repris en marge, vous avez saisi mon Département ministériel.

Je vous remercie et félicite de l'intérêt que vous portez à la santé et au bien-être des populations camerounaises en général, à la lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique et l'amélioration de la qualité de l'air en particulier.

Au sujet de votre aimable invitation à la cérémonie de célébration de la Journée internationale de l'air pur pour les ciels bleus, je suis désolée de ne pouvoir m'y rendre.

Toutefois, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que le Directeur de la Promotion de la Santé, est désignée pour représenter mon Département Ministériel lors de la cérémonie de célébration de la 4^{ème} Journée internationale de l'air pur pour des ciels bleus.

Veuillez agréer, **Monsieur le Président Exécutif**, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée. /-

Copie :

- DPS/ YDE
- DRSPC

POUR LE MINISTRE DE LA SANTE PUBLIQUE
ET PAR DELEGATION
LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL

Pr. NJOCK LOUIS RICHARD



5. Event on 7th September with students and stakeholders

The started with the Minister of Health's representative key note speech acknowledged that over 75% of their patients' hospitalizations in recent years are from environmental determinants including air pollution. This was an opportunity to fast track the response on air pollution that will improve not only health of humans but the environment they live. The Minister of Communications representative key note speech was full of energy and passion for the idea of clean air. He was impressed that we thought of involving the Ministry of Communications in our activities.



He also highlighted the importance this event is to the Minister of Communications and hoping actions to reduce air pollution be more frequent and not only during International Clean Air Day. He pledged to involve more national communication channels to amplify our outreach on media including national Television, Radio and web.

The outstanding 20 students awarded with Healthy Lungs for Life Ambassador Certificates during an event



on 7th September. Two outstanding project ideas that protect lung health from indoors and ambient pollution were offered with a clean cooking stove and trash cans for waste management. This was an on invitation only event that had the presence of 50 participants including; university students, community health workers, staff of the Ministry of Health, school authorities, civil society and other key stakeholders on 7th September. During the event following a weeklong training activity were shared on APYLAV's Facebook page with over 10 000 followers. 2 banners and 25 T-Shirts were produced for that day with healthy lungs for life on them.

The activities for the 3rd International Day of Clean in Cameroon were visible through direct and indirect communication and awareness raising strategies. The banner and T-shirt attracted more than 2000 people indirectly to our activities.

All 20 Healthy Lungs for Life Ambassadors received a T-shirt and certificate. The 3 best ambassadors received clean energy and waste cans.

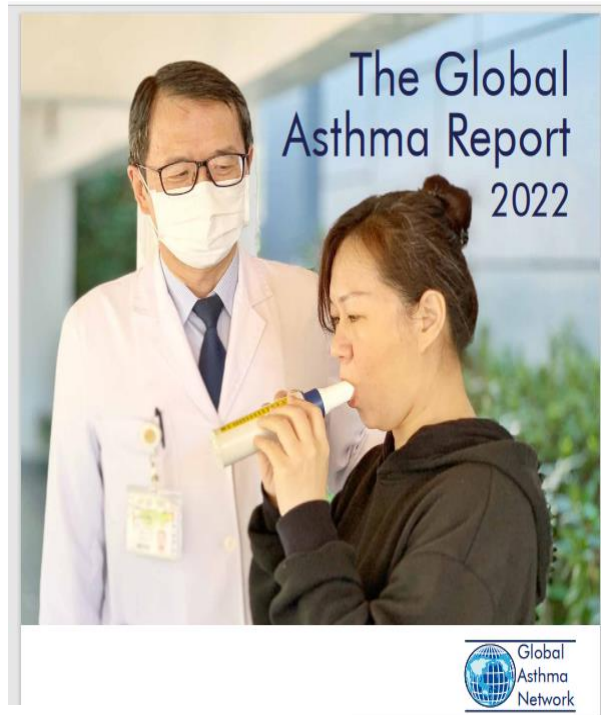


Healthy Lungs for Life Ambassador take picture with awards

6. Presentation of the Global Asthma Report GAR (2022)



Elvis Presenting the Global Asthma Report



This report published in November, 2022 had Cameroon contributing among 3 countries from Africa within the 4th edition of the GAR after completing data collection between 2018 to 2019.

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Cameroon

Achiri E Ndikum, Bertrand H Mbatchou Ngahane

Pollution and disease stigma still significant barriers to achieving asthma control



Guidelines but no programme

Asthma is a rampant respiratory disease that needs urgent attention, awareness and advocacy in Cameroon. The prevalence of self-reported asthma is 3.6% (n=2,648) respondents, with 1.8%, 5.3% and 3.0% in children, adolescents and adults, respectively.

There is a serious gap in asthma management with underdiagnoses, treatment and follow-up being inadequate, especially in adolescents. In addition to poor access to affordable, quality-assured, essential asthma medicines largely due

to the cost, lack of access to adequate information that patients need to protect their health, stigma and psychological trauma remain prevalent.

Cameroon has experienced a significant increase in ambient fine particle exposure over the past decades from waste burning and firewood burning, and this could be contributing to increasing asthma mortality and morbidity. According to the 2020 State of the Global Air Report, Cameroon is ranked 8th among the top 10 countries with the highest population weighted annual average PM2.5 concentration of 64.5µg/m3.

Patient testimonial adolescent asthma advocate

"All my life I have suffered from many health diseases and asthma was the most pathetic of all. The little commerce my parents did, and all they had saved, went on my treatment. My doctor helped me a lot, he advised my parents to stop cooking on firewood and charcoal because the smoke was harmful to my health."

First Launch of the Global Asthma Report 2022

7. Updates from the World Health Assembly Geneva, May 2023

Solutions available, but political will is needed



(left to right) Gillian Holmes, Elvis Ndikum Achiri, Nathan Borgford Parnell, and Dr Maria Neira, WHO. Background: a clean air view of Pretoria, South Africa.

Invited as speaker to the WHA side event on 25th May: Breathing Life with Clean Air Action: Civil Society Drives Change hosted by the Geneva Graduate Institute and Co-sponsored by Clean Air Fund, Health Policy Watch and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. Now published on Health Policy Watch News:

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/air-pollution-advocates-say-time-to-act-is-now/>

Presented Updates from the 76th World Health Assembly Geneva, May 2023

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8. Dissemination actions for event



Placing of banner at the Regional Delegation of Health



Award of Certificates by Representative of MINCOM





25 T-shirts for 20 students and clean energy




20 outstanding students receive certificates from UN

9. Participants List for event on 7th September 2023





International Day
of Clean Air
for blue skies



HEALTHY LUNGS FOR LIFE

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PRESENCE LIST


The Fourth UN International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will be held on 7 September 2023

Theme: 'Together for Clean Air'.


EVENT VENUE: CENTRE REGIONAL DELEGATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, YAOUNDE

N°	NAMES	AFFILIATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
01	NGO MALABO MALABO MBALU Emilienne Couiro	BRACOFY CENTRAL Yaounde	671525512	[Signature]
02	NGUELE ANASTASIE FERTILE	AI SEEC YAOUNDE	659488585	[Signature]
03	ENDELE MARCOLIS	MILITAIRE	674067974	[Signature]
04	NAHONI LISA PAULE SAMA	Student	697468950	[Signature]
05	Kugya Nsangu Orlanne Bouna	Student	699824504	[Signature]
06	NKAMNE SANGUE Occanne	Student	690273816	[Signature]
07	TETE N. KEYINE	Student	672280458	[Signature]
08	FOKANA NOUBEM Lucia Erika	Student	657500457	[Signature]
09	ESSIME A. IDICE ANGELA	Student	699566434	[Signature]
10	NSONOU SOREA	Student	691639898	[Signature]
11	TEKEN FAVOR N.	Student	672173697	[Signature]
12	WANDJI JOYCLAIRE	Student	670329249	[Signature]
13	NGUEH FESF ELENORA	Student	682892526	[Signature]
14	PAUDUR Anne Kama Namendo	Student	677633102	[Signature]
15	NKEFI-Atabang Martina B.	Student	677305351	[Signature]
16	Regina Blessing Chisoma	Student	651643011	[Signature]
17	ACHIRI ELVIS NDIKUM	APYLAV	675956499	[Signature]





International Day
of Clean Air
for blue skies



HEALTHY LUNGS FOR LIFE

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PRESENCE LIST

The Fourth UN International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will be held on 7 September 2023

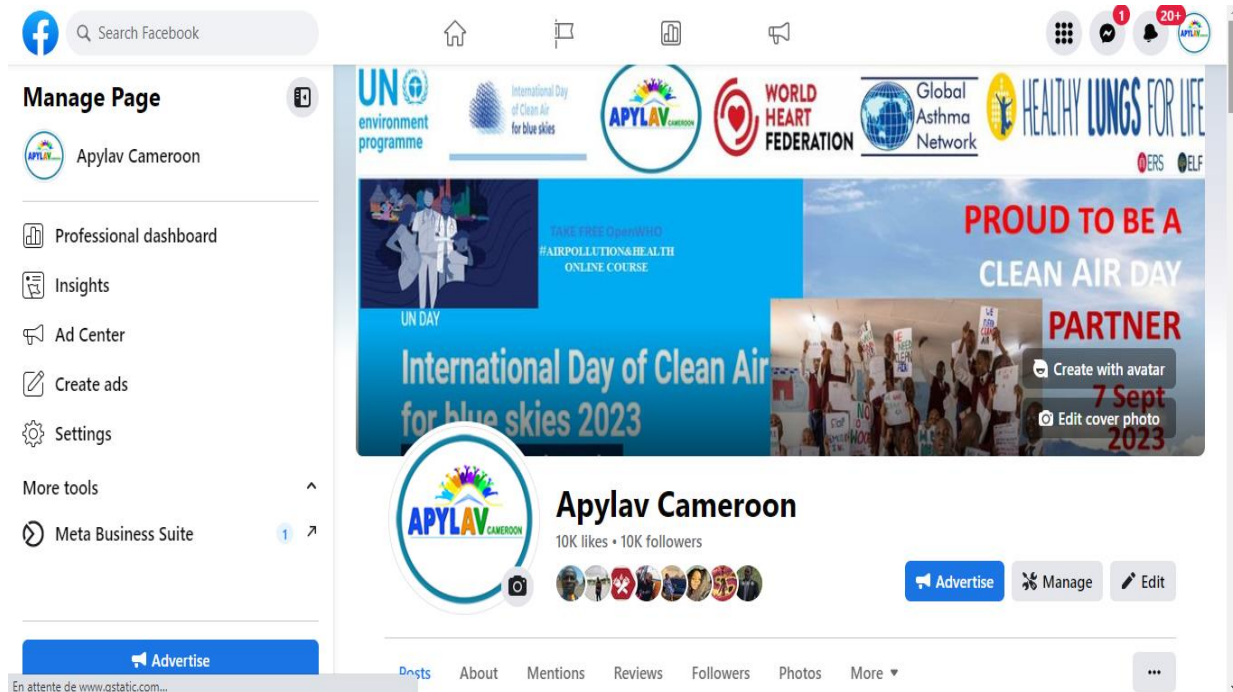
Theme: 'Together for Clean Air'.

EVENT VENUE: CENTRE REGIONAL DELEGATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, YAOUNDE

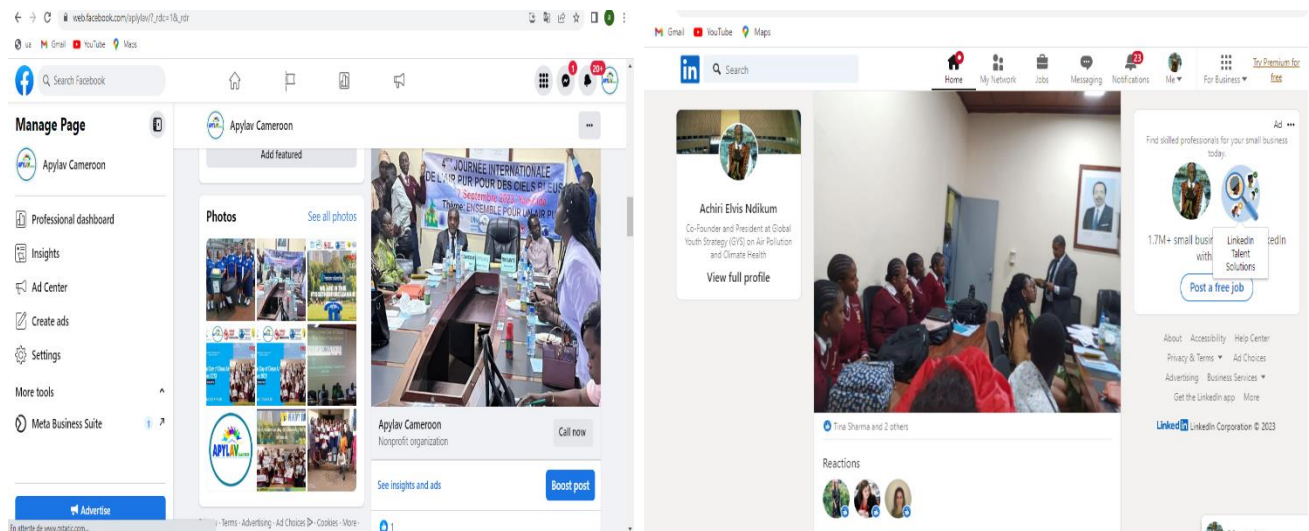
N°	NAMES	AFFILIATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
01	Djurdje Tchamachou Kelly B.	Student	678439981	[Signature]
02	Amo Perpetua Jemima Wifack	Student	682892526	[Signature]
03	Arrey Miriam Anyi L.	Student	697370998	[Signature]
04	Chris Enow Tabe	Student (H.C.H.S)	651643011	[Signature]
05	Blessing mangai	Student (H.C.H.S)	679268678	[Signature]
06	Marceline Anetie Ange	Student (H.C.H.S)	671151086	[Signature]
07	Ober Joseph Ober	Student (H.C.H.S)	627302058	[Signature]
08	KUEMAISA TALACEO HYACINTHE	Student	670621549	[Signature]
09	KIDILKANG CHANTAL	DRSP	633370822	[Signature]
10	MINDSAENSULO HUGUETTE	DRSP	67697758	[Signature]
11	Ngu Pascal N.	Participant	679885015	[Signature]
12	BALMATINA Berlioz Hector	DRSP	675940398	[Signature]
13	NZIE NIGARIB Samuel	DRSP	678123304	[Signature]
14	OVAMBE BENGA MOSES	DRSP	690747962	[Signature]
15	NKOU N Thomas Lewis	MINSANTE / DRSP	652444138	[Signature]
16	AWONO EMMANUEL	MINOM / DRSP	679767702	[Signature]
17	BAZOUNBOU MSFANT. Theres	DRSP-CC	677562325	[Signature]

10. Social media promotion/ Facebook

Engagements on Facebook, LinkedIn with focus on raising awareness about the 07th of September 2023 marking the 4th UN International Day of Clean Air for blue Skies. This was also sent to networks by email such as; World Health Organization, The World Heart Federation, Global Asthma Network, Global Action Plan UK, and more. Now on APYLAV Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/apylav>



Sample social media campaign shared to 10 000+ followers



Sample social media campaign posts

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Peace Maintenance

Cameroon Plays Frontline Role

■ A recent decision by the Head of State to create an international institute for training defence forces in Peacekeeping underlines the country's determination to actively contribute in solving the many conflicts and terrorism cases across the world. CT in a special report looks at the efforts made by Cameroon under the cover of the African Union and the United Nations. pp.6-7

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Cameroon
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Lutte contre la pollution de l'air

Des jeunes sensibilisés sur les dangers



Tous appelés à jouer leur participation pour lutter contre la pollution de l'air

■ Ils étaient nombreux à être édifiés jeudi dernier à Yaoundé à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de l'air pur commémorée chaque 7 septembre.

« Agissons ensemble pour un air pur ». C'est le thème général choisi cette année par les Nations unies pour commémorer la quatrième édition de la journée internationale de l'air pur pour des ciels bleus, le 7 septembre dernier. La délégation régionale de la Santé publique pour le Centre a, à cet effet, abrité une campagne de sensibilisation. C'était en présence des représentants des ministères de la Communication et de la Santé publique. Des élèves issus des lycées et collèges de la ville de Yaoundé ont été invités à suivre les cours dispensés par Elvis Ndikum Achiri, président de l'Association pour la promotion du leadership, du plaidoyer et du volontariat des jeunes du Cameroun (Apylav). Ils ont été édifiés sur les effets de l'air pollué sur la santé humaine, avec comme conséquences les maladies respiratoires et les cancers.

Selon Elvis Ndikum Achiri, le Cameroun a connu

une augmentation significative de l'exposition aux particules fines ambiantes au cours des dernières décennies. Ceci provient de la combustion des déchets, des véhicules d'occasion et de la carbonisation du bois pour cuisson. Pour lui, la situation empire et devrait contribuer à l'augmentation de la prévalence et de la gravité des maladies respiratoires, y compris la mortalité et la morbidité liées à l'asthme. S'appuyant sur les données de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, Elvis Ndikum affirme que le Cameroun est classé à la huitième place des 10 pays les plus exposés.

Les Camerounais, le gouvernement, les organisations internationales et celles de la société civile ont tous été appelés à s'impliquer « en vue de protéger l'environnement, dont l'air qu'on respire. » On doit prendre la pollution de l'air comme un problème de développement », a insisté le président d'Apylav. La rencontre a permis de donner la priorité au besoin d'un air sain pour tous, tout en gardant des discussions suffisamment larges pour englober d'autres questions critiques telles que le changement climatique, la santé humaine et planétaire ainsi que les objectifs du développement durable.

R.A.

Sample media publication on most popular national newspaper Cameroon tribune

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[Lungs for Life » Hold your own Healthy Lungs for Life activities » Healthy Lungs for Life Event reports » Clean air advocates engage Cameroonian politicians for action to improve health](#)



**Clean air advocates
engage
Cameroonian
politicians for
action to improve
health**

Sample social media publication on European Lung Foundation website

A range of public events have taken place promoting clean air in Cameroon, thanks to a grant from the Healthy Lungs for Life campaign.

Over 200 school students have been taught about the importance of clean air and how to advocate for change over the last month.

20 pupils from two secondary schools then took part in an event with representatives for the Minister of Public Health as well as the Minister of Communication in Cameroon. After this event, a special Clean Air Day was authorized to be held at the Ministry of Public Health. Both ministries were impressed with the student advocates and made commitments to support future action.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also invited the event organizers to speak during the launch of OpenWHO online course on Air Pollution and Health for health workers at the start of September. The course is available for free: <https://openwho.org/courses/air-pollution-health-workers>

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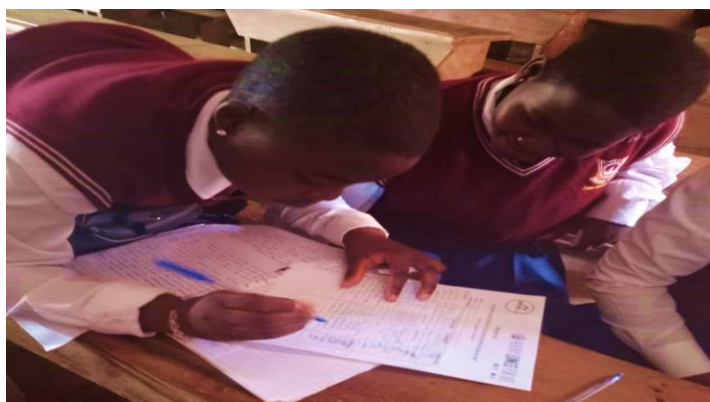


11. Impact in numbers

Direct audience reached by type of activity	Approximate number of people reached.
Lecture/talk	200+
Event participants	50
Advocacy visits	20
Parents engagement	20
Total Direct Reach	290

Indirect Audience Reached by Type of Activity	Approximate number of people reached.
Social media promotion/ Facebook	10 000+
People trained by trainees	1000+
Media and Banner outreach	2000+
T-shirts outreach	500+
Total Indirect Reach	13,500+

12. More Impact on images



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Follow-up at Hadassah College with students using waste can won from competition

Conclusion

The 4th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies event in Yaounde was the second official event to mark the recently created UN International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. The Association for the Promotion of Youth Leadership, Advocacy and Volunteerism Cameroon (APYLAV) in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health successfully implemented a weeklong of activities thanks to support from the European Lung Foundation's Healthy Lungs for Life grant. These activities that had rounded up with an event at the Ministry of Public Health hosted by the Centre Regional Delegation of Public Health directly impacted over 290 people and over 13500+ indirectly. Different advocacy and dissemination activities got acknowledgement World Health Organization Air Quality and Health Unit, World Heart Federation, Global Asthma Network among others at on the national and global level. This year's Clean Air Day event had the presence of the representative of the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Communications. The Minister of Public Health's representative gave the closing remarks by pledging to continue supporting our clean air actions within their respective ministries and beyond. We look forward to organizing this event and activities every year engaging students, youths, parents and stakeholders to mark this very important international awareness raising day for clean air.

Thank you for reading!!!!

Feel free to contact us for any questions or support at;

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Tel: (+237) 675 956 499

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