

XHUMAAFRICA, END OF YEAR REPORT-2023

Overview

1. Objective

2. Activities

In line with our five years strategic plan of actions, we have as objectives to counter radicalization and violent extremism by engaging youths 15 – 35 to participate in peace processes in their communities and to take climate actions planting over 25000 trees.

3. Areas of Intervention

Our Areas of Intervention include the following:

- 1. Peace-building
- **2. Environmental Preservation**
- **3. Civic Education**
- **4. Income Generating Activities**

In the year 2023, we hosted various capacity building workshops, and community engagement activities including the Training of Peace Weavers, the Peace Weavers Brainstorm, Life skills Income Generating activities and tree planting events to protect the Mankon sacred forest and the Nkwen Water catchment Area.

4. Impact

While implementing our peace-education efforts with the use of our curriculum for the training of peace weavers, we built resilience in the minds of 86 youths against radical calls and planted over 1000 trees in 2023 in Cameroon.

OUR VISION

We envision a connected African Society where young people are inspired to cooperate and take action in creating peace promoting environmental conservation

OUR MISSION

We train youths to promote peace, volunteerism, environmental conservation and civic engagement in an atmosphere of tolerance, shared values and mutual understanding

OUR IDEOLOGY

If young people are given the opportunity, capacity, tools and platform to work towards conflict transformation and peacebuilding, this will promote sustainable peace in communities

OUR PHILOSOPHY

<u>Youths are potential peace builders</u>: We belief that the perception the society has about youths being the problem in conflicts can be reversed. Despite the fact that youths are radicalized and used as combatants, child soldiers and rebels in armed conflicts youths are also potential peace builders.

<u>Compassion in action</u>: We spread love and connect to the environment, nature, animals and humans by giving and not just by always taking from Mother Nature.

<u>Nature will only fail mankind if we fail nature</u>: It is our duty to promote environmental conservation and produce a sustainable environment.

OUR VALUES

<u>Compassion</u>: Concern for the sufferings or misfortunes our beneficiaries are facing due to structural violence or civil war.

<u>Empathy</u>: As survivors of war we seek to understand the feelings of our beneficiaries and make them see the positive outcomes of their resilience after surviving armed or physical violence.

<u>Critical thinking</u>: We accompany learners to question, analyze, interpret, and evaluate conflicts from different perspectives, positions and points of need before seeking a way forward.

REPORT ON OUR ACTIVITIES IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION



Family Picture of Peace Weavers, First Edition 2023



Family Picture of Participants at the Peace Weavers Brainstorm



Peace Education in GBHS Down Town Bamenda



Training Session on Countering hate Speech facilitated by fellows of AFF



Ahead of commemorative activities marking the National Youth day 2023 in Cameroon celebrated annually on the 11th of February, Xhuma Africa started the training of 36 young people in peace-building and environmental Preservation. Inspired by the fact that Xhuma Africa was founded by young people who have experienced first-hand the damaging consequences of violence on their social well-being; the training seeks to empower beneficiaries with skills in managing inter-personal and intra-personal conflicts in a transformative way.

In preparation to host the training of peace weavers, Xhuma Africa executive team members designed a training curriculum

and built it around four animals known in the African context. During the training journey, participants start with the symbol of a rabbit during which they heal the wounds of their heart and calm down their temperament. Gradually, they move over to the elephant stage. The elephant does not forget easily and just like the elephant, social media does not forget. At this stage of the training, participants acquire basic skills in combating hate speech online and offline while learning to promote digital safety. The third stage of the training has the dolphin as a symbol. Here, participants learn how to rescue the society and the environment affected by violence and climate change. The training rounds up with the guinea pig symbolizing new beginning, growth, prosperity and fast reproduction. The first training of peace weavers in 2023 started in January and rounded up in the month of June 2023 with the award of certificates to our project beneficiaries.

Our training and community engagement activities take place on Saturdays and Sundays. This is in consideration of the fact that some of our beneficiaries are attending regular school from Tuesday to Friday weekly. Through 10 days of capacity building workshops, our beneficiaries went through trauma healing sessions and acquired skills in conflict analysis, conflict management, conflict prevention, conflict transformation, community mediation, digital safety, Income generating activities and emotional intelligence. Our sessions were interactive, participant centered, experimental and spiced up with breakout sessions, ice breakers, games, drama, stage performance, storytelling, assignments and team work. The First edition of the training of peace weavers was funded by lush Charity Pot and the Pollination grant in January 2023.

TRAINING OF 50 YOUTHS AS PEACE WEAVERS IN BAMENDA CAMEROON



The purpose of the Training of Peace Weavers is to empower young people in Cameroon with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to become peace advocates and agents of positive change in their communities. The training aims to foster a culture of peace by promoting conflict resolution, environmental conservation, and sustainable development. The training also seeks to build the resilience of young people, enabling them to face the challenges of the 21st century. In this process, our trainees will become leaders in their communities, promoting the values of peace, respect, and coexistence. The second edition of the training started in November 2023 with the funding of Kanthari Foundation Switzerland.

The first topic covered on the 3rd of December 2023 was **conflict analysis.** The training provided an overview of the different types of conflict, the causes and effects of conflict, and the stages of conflict escalation. The trainees learned how to recognize the signs of conflict, and how to identify the different parties involved. They also learned how to analyze the underlying causes of conflict, and how to use this information to design appropriate responses.

The next topic covered in the training was conflict resolution, with a focus on negotiation and mediation. The trainees learned about the different approaches to conflict resolution, including win-win, losewin, and compromise. They also learned about the key elements of effective negotiation, such as active listening, emotional intelligence, and empathy. In addition, they learned about the role of mediation in conflict resolution, and the skills required being an effective mediator. *Report by Lawong Kendra*





The third topic covered in the training was environmental conservation, with a focus on sustainable development. The trainees learned about the environmental challenges facing Cameroon, such as deforestation and water pollution. They also learned about the importance of protecting the environment for future generations, and how to make sustainable choices in their daily lives. The training also included a practical component, where the trainees sorted and recycled waste, and took part in an eco-walk to clean up the streets of Bamenda. This activity helped them to understand the importance of

proper waste management, and its impact on the environment.

The fourth topic covered in the training was conflict transformation, which focused on resolving the root causes of conflict and building sustainable peace. The trainees learned about the concept of "positive peace", which goes beyond the absence of violence to include the presence of social justice, equality, and harmony. They also learned about the role of reconciliation and forgiveness in conflict transformation, and how to build trust and

understanding between different groups.

The fifth and final topic covered in the training was emotional intelligence, which focused on understanding and managing emotions in order to make better decisions and build positive relationships. The trainees learned about the different components of emotional intelligence, such as self-awareness, empathy, and self-regulation. They also learned about the impact of emotions on decision-making, and how to use emotions in a constructive way.





Later our participants also learned about best practices in mitigating hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. They learned about the Africa Fact Checking Fellowship of Defyhatenow, which provides resources and support for combating false information online and offline. This is an important topic, since misinformation and disinformation has significant impact on our society affected by armed violence.

The Peace Weavers in Training, a program funded by Kanthari Foundation Switzerland, is designed to empower young people in Cameroon to become agents of change and to promote peace and sustainability. The program is currently being delivered to a group of 50 young people in Bamenda, and has already seen some impressive results. Our participants have been learning about conflict analysis, nonviolent communication, and environmental conservation, and have created some truly inspiring quotes and advocacy messages. Here are a few highlights from the program so far:



"A people free of choice will always choose peace" (Nduku Victor)

"Every drop of water saved today is a gift of life for tomorrow's thirsty world" Nfor Priso

"Just because you don't see things moving, doesn't mean they are stagnant." Kenzo Valentine

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." Berinyuy Liza

"Fighting for what is right is fighting for a better future." Faith

"Peace is always beautiful" Remihance Burinyuy...... See more wise sayings in the flyer below;





World Peace Day 2023, what stakes for Cameroon?



The United Nations General Assembly declared the 21st of September as a day devoted to strengthen the ideals of peace. On this day, Xhuma Africa gathered to join the world to celebrate this most precious need – peace. This year's theme was "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals." Within this context our Team Lead participated in a strategic Peace Dialogue for sustainable

peace \oplus in Cameroon aimed at strengthening synergy of actions between state and non-state actors at the Ministry of External Relations in Yaoundé. This is within the second phase of the project "Youth Initiative for Inclusive Dialogue" implemented by LifeAID.

However, in Africa the aspiration to achieve sustainable peace, prosperity and economic growth is often threatened by different factors such as governance deficiencies, inequality, poverty, unemployment, insecurity and climate driven disasters in spite of the

abundance of enormous natural resources to create wealth and employment opportunities for citizens. This year's commemoration of the International Peace Day took place against a backdrop of insecurities and conflicts in Africa and around the boarders of Cameroon, and internal crises that are challenging Cameroon's longstanding reputation as a haven of peace in sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the world. The collateral effects of instability and insecurity in neighboring countries affect the vulnerability rate of Cameroon to insecurity. The increasing influx and camping of refugees from these countries and the trans-border actions of rebel





groups continue to threaten peace by disrupting the social fabric. The human, economic and social tolls of these conflicts are quite telling and the circulation of Small arms and light weapons is becoming a real challenge to deal with. The prevalence of inter-community conflicts exacerbated by the scarcity of resources due to the consequences of climate change, show just how much ecological issues can be a source of conflict that undermines peace. Meanwhile, the specter of intercommunity conflagration is now being fuelled by the resurgence of

hate speech, the expression of identity-based withdrawal in the form of tribalism and the proliferation of fake news.

The radicalization, involvement of youths in various hostilities and the consequences of various conflicts and crises on women and youths as major victims can no longer be underestimated. These groups of citizens are also victimized by the negative aspects of civilizations, poverty, unemployment and underemployment which in part have contributed to declining moral and civic values as well as drive their recruitment into hostilities. This necessitates concrete and adapting strategies to move from the classic narrative consideration of youth as perpetrators of violence and treat to peace and security to the new narrative adopted by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250(2015), 2419(2018), 2535(2020) and the African Union adopted Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security in Africa, that considers youths as influential actors and important partners for effective and sustainable peace and security.



The Republic of Cameroon is experiencing cycles of violence in ethnic, inter-communal and national conflicts. The Farmer grassier conflict in Wum, Menchum Division of the North West Region and the Anglophone crisis, an armed separatist conflict where combatants are advocating to create a breakout state from Cameroon are examples of conflicts making life difficult for Cameroonians. In addition, Bokoharam insurgency in Northern Cameroon is causing loss of human life, destruction of property and the displacement

of people. Faced by these challenges, young people are both perpetrators and victims.

Some actors in the peace process who used to perceive young people as part of the problem are gradually experiencing a mind-shift. This is following series of youth centered initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable peace in Cameroon. The "peace weaver's brainstorm" is a monthly critical thinking session for peace-builders in Bamenda, Cameroon to participate in panel discussions, debates, plenary sessions, poetry slam, talent exhibition and skills exhibition. It is a project activity of Xhuma Africa aimed at accompanying peaceweavers in their quest to build sustainable peace. (editorial by Nduku Louis Tebi).





As we commemorate world peace day, Chi Margaret Endum

wrote this poem titled "Peace Is Possible"

"We struggled and hustled for better yet so many years after we still lay on the same spot, like we never left. A thousand steps away yet our reflections still linger in the footprints of yesterday's pain and shame, like we never left. A generation with fine smiles yet broken inside, no, this shouldn't define us. A people who found comfort in their pain and nurtured it until it became their doom, no, we are worth more than this.

We are strong, we are hopeful, we see light in every darkness so peace, we shall attain. I yearn for those days when we could stroll down the streets without any fear of stray bullet, I yearn for those days when gleeful faces and not idle corpses filled the streets, I yearn for those days when the love for humanity and not vanity was our priority.

What happened to us? We dreamt of a better tomorrow yet yesterday has birthed so many tomorrows but we still lay on the same spot hoping and dreaming, merely existing forgetting to live. Aren't we worth more than this? I heard someone talk of big brother Bamenda; our lives have been reduced to an entertainment show at the mercy of they who hold the remote. Again i ask, aren't we worth more than this? Of course we are worth more than the pain and agony. It's not too late to turn back to those days when we smiled because we wanted to and not merely because we had to. It has to be a collective fight where we say "us" and not "me". When i fall you pick me up and when you fall i hold your hand and we keep moving away from this spot where parents constantly burry their children as if it were a weekly njangi, Away from this point where we know not the difference between ghost town and country Sunday or the over repetition of the latter. I see a bright light ahead, Look and see the colourful rainbow that awaits us after this storm so let's keep working for peace.

Peace is possible, attainable, achievable...yes peace"

BY Chi Margaret Endum



Xhuma Africa Executive members participate in the University Lecture on peace in Africa

The founder of Xhuma Africa, Nduku Louis Tebi, The Treasurer Lawong Kendrah, The program's coordinator Diyen Veronica and the project Coordinator Adamu Bahiru participated in the University Lecture of Peace Program organized by We Build in partnership with Reach Out and the Canadian Embassy in Cameroon From 23rd to the 24th of February 2023.

The program took place under the theme "I am an engineer for peace, I am a peace builder". This program brought together youth leaders, lawyers, teachers, counselors, designers, University students as well as a college of clergy and singers from across the national territory For a period of 2 Days, participants acquire skills and knowledge in conflict resolution and management, peace building, conflict analysis, debating and public speaking. Through models facilitated by Mr. Norman Taku. At the end, participants were tasked to run past it on activities in their various communities. In this regard, our Past It on activity has been scheduled for Saturday 29th April 2023 in the campus of the University of Bamenda under the team "The role of youths in building sustainable peace". It will be addressing the problem of violent extremism in our community. We envisaged bringing together 250 youth leaders, parliamentarians, Cameroon national council leaders, regional delegates as well as debaters for a one day intensive workshop on the role of youths in building sustainable peace In Cameroon.

Promoting Moral Rearmament and civic values among youth leaders in Cameroon



On the invitation of the Cameroon National Youth Council North West Region, Our Founder Nduku Louis Tebi facilitated a Moral rearmament session at the North West Regional Assembly during the budgeting session of the Cameroon National Youth Council.

His presentation encouraged youth leaders from across the North West Region to promote respect for National Emblems while advocating for basic ethical and Civic values.

He reminded youth leaders to avoid indecency,

violence corruption and cyber criminality.

YOUTH LEADERS AND INDECENCY:

One of the main points made by Mr. Tebi was the need for youth leaders to avoid indecency. He explained that this includes avoiding inappropriate language, dressing, and behavior. He also emphasized the importance of promoting self-respect and respect for others, regardless of gender, race, religion, or political affiliation. He explained that these values are essential for youth leaders to be effective and to have a positive impact on their communities.



YOUTH LEADERS AND VIOLENCE:

Another key point made by the facilitator was the need for youth leaders to avoid violence. He explained that violence is never the answer, and that it only leads to more problems. He emphasized the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully and working together to find solutions. He also explained that violence can have long-term consequences, both for individuals and for communities.

YOUTH LEADERS AND CORRUPTION:

He also addressed the issue of corruption among youth leaders. He explained that corruption is a serious problem that undermines trust and faith in the system. He emphasized the need for youth leaders to be honest and transparent, and to work towards a system that is fair and



just for all. He also stressed the importance of holding leaders accountable, and of creating a culture of integrity and transparency.

CONCLUSION:

The work of Xhuma Africa and the Cameroon National Youth Council are essential for creating a brighter future for the people of Cameroon. The message of moral rearmament and civic values is one that resonates with young people, and it has the potential to create lasting change. With the right tools and support, youth leaders can play a vital role in creating a better world for everyone.

The prevalence of inter-community conflicts exacerbated by the scarcity of resources due to the consequences of climate change, show just how much ecological issues can be a source of conflict that undermines peace. Meanwhile, the specter of intercommunity conflagration is now being fuelled by the resurgence of hate speech, the expression of identity-based withdrawal in the form of tribalism and the proliferation of fake news.



Conscript Training 2023 hosted by the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development

The Founder and Team Lead of Xhuma Africa was trained as a Conscript by the National Civic Service in Cameroon in the year 2016. The Conscript training is a one month civic education and moral rearmament training with Para-military aspects. He has served the training in various capacities as Pedagogic Animator, Support staff, Trainer, Facilitator and in 2023, he was nominated as Pedagogic Coordinator of the Training in the North West Region. Following the training, he wrote on his Facebook account and I quote "It has been a beautiful experience facilitating the training of 150 Conscripts from the seven Divisions of the North West Region for a period of 30 days. Through the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development, these participants receive holistic moral and civic education".

Five Peace Weavers trained by Xhuma Africa were amongst 150 youths who left the comfort of their homes to undergo intensive training on moral rearmament, civic

responsibility, leadership, entrepreneurship, environmental conservation, first aid and most importantly, peace building and conflict resolution. At the end of the training, participants were given certificates signed by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education in Cameroon. **Report by Lawong Chelsy Kanyuy**

Report on Activities for World Clean-up Day 2023.



September 16th 2023 was commemorated was World Cleanup day under the theme "Let's Do it World". It is considered a day of action to clean the environment and keep our surroundings cleans. It is also a day to fight against the Global Waste Crisis. In line with the theme of World Environment 2023 which focused on "Solutions to plastic pollution", Xhuma Africa collaborated with a consortium of civil society organizations to pick out plastic bottles

from the bridge around Mulang, Bamenda Cameroon for recycling. This is a reminder that people's actions on plastic pollution matters. Our appreciations to the Global Visionary Network, Global Action for Community Development and Hands Together with the Physically Impaired contributed that contributed towards the success of our activities of the day. Our environment matter!!!

Following our activities on World Clean-up day, Lawong Kendra Yaah, Treasurer of Xhuma Africa and Founder of "Hands Together with the Physically Impaired Organization" said and I quote "Peace also means access to a clean, enabling environment that promotes good health and wellbeing for all including animals, birds and living organisms. Peace also means access to equal opportunities for all". Another important activity we can consider in protecting the environment is tree planting.

Report by Lawong Kendra Yaah



Commemorative activities of the water day 2023 under the theme "Accelerating change to solve water sanitation crisis"



One of the commitments of Xhuma Africa is to champion environmental preservation and conservation activities. In this regard, we partnered with the environmental club of Government Technical High School Bamenda to commemorate the water day 2023. Our activities centered on the topic of the day "Accelerating change, to solve the water and sanitation crisis".

In some communities around Cameroon, water sanitation is a serious issue. Limited access to portable water and standing water has contributed to the proliferation of water borne diseases ranging from cholera, typhoid, and other deadly diseases like Malaria. These diseases condition families affected to use their sources of income for medical treatment or in some cases dead celebrations. Overall, these diseases reduce the active participation of citizens in nation building, leading to

poverty and hence loss of life. From another perspective, water crisis is related to some natural disasters in Cameroon. It is an immediate cause for floods, landslides, and inaccessibility of enclave areas due to bad roads. Of recent, heavy running water in Buea, regional capital of the South West Region led to the dead of two children, distraction of over 42 houses and general obstruction of economic activities in the town. Considering the fact that these issues outlined above are related to water Crisis and sanitation, Xhuma Africa and the environmental club of GTHS Bamenda decided to take part in the following as part of commemorative activities for world water day:

- 1) Sensitization of the student community on hand washing using running water.
- 2) Drinking of portable water reducing waste of water, a very important resource.
- 3) Cleaning of standing water in the community which is a source of multiplication of mosquitoes, leading to malaria in Cameroon.



Xhuma Africa champion's the training of 20 peace weavers in Bamenda, Cameroon.

Ahead of commemorative activities marking the Desertification day 2023, Peace Weavers of Xhuma Africa Association took active part in the planting of trees. Under the distinguished patronage of His Royal Highest **Fon Fru Asah Angwafo IV** of **Mankon, Xhuma Africa** joined forces with the Ministry of Environment, protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and other stakeholders to celebrate World Desertification Day 2023.

This year's theme was "Her Land, Her Rights" and we are happy to say that we made a huge impact! We planted 800 indigenous trees and

conducted a sensitization campaign aimed at protecting and conserving the Mankon Sacred Forest, which has been devastated by bushfires. Let's continue to work together to preserve our environment for future generations! **#WorldDesertificationDay** #HerLandHerRights

In addition, another important day we commemorated was the world Environment Day. This year's theme of the World Environment Day was on "**Solutions to Plastic Pollution**" under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, encouraging worldwide activism.

Also, the theme for **world Earth day 2023** was "**Invest in our planet**". At XHUMA AFRICA, we align with the philosophy that "Nature will never fail mankind if we do not fail nature". It is high time we take practical steps in **protecting planet Earth**.



Tree Planting



Conflicts around the world are mostly having control over limited resources as a root cause. Access to portable water is an issue in some parts of Bamenda which could lead to conflicts in the future.

In an effort to improve access to water for future generations, Volunteers with Xhuma Africa collaborated with Conscripts of the National Civic service Agency for Participation in Development to plant 400 environmental Friendly trees at the Njimafor water Catchment area in Nkwen Bamenda. Our efforts are inspired by the saying that "If man does not fail nature, nature will not fail man".

Conclusion

In summary, Xhuma Africa has made significant progress in advancing its mission of promoting peace, environmental sustainability, and civic engagement in 2023. We have educated hundreds of young people on these topics, and have seen tangible results in terms of increased awareness, dialogue, and cooperation. Looking to the future, we are committed to expanding our reach and impact, and to continuing to work with communities to create a better world for all. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with you in 2024.