



OUR FOUNDER CHAMPIONING MEDIA SENSITIZATION ON CIVIC VALUES

PLAN OF XHUMA AFRICA AUDITORIUM AND OFFICES UNDER CONSTRUCTION



NDUKU LOUIS
TEBI

Reimagine CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

OUR FOUNDER AND TEAM LEAD NDUKU LOUIS TEBI DESIGNATED YOUNG GLOBAL CHANGER OF THE YEAR 2024.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – 1 – 2024 – XHUMA AFRICA ASSOCIATION

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OUR PHILOSOPHY

- **Young people are potential peace builders:** We believe that the perception the society has about youths being the problem in conflicts will be reversed. Despite the fact that young people are radicalized and used as combatants, child soldiers and rebels in armed conflicts we are potential peacebuilders.
- **Compassion in action:** We spread love and connect to the environment, nature, animals and humans by giving and not just by always taking from Mother Nature. Nature will only fail mankind if we fail nature; It is our duty to promote environmental preservation and create a sustainable environment.

Peace, harmony and true happiness will return to Bamenda!!!

Bamenda was once a bustling city, known for its markets, rich culture, and vibrant people. However, in recent years, Bamenda has been impacted by violence and unrest, with many businesses closing and residents leaving. While the city has experienced a decline, there is hope for the future, as youth-led organizations are working to rebuild and bring back the city's glory.



The Anglophone crisis, which began in 2016, has had a devastating impact on Bamenda, a city in the Northwest region of Cameroon. The crisis has fractured the social fabric of the city, as neighbors and friends have been divided along ethnic and political lines. Properties have been destroyed, people have been killed, schools deserted and armed groups created. Residents regularly experience gun battles, kidnappings, extra-judicial killings and ghost towns. Despite the challenges, there is hope, as youth-led organizations are working to restore social cohesion and rebuild the city. One such organization is Xhuma Africa, working to create safe spaces for young people to connect and create peace. We have identified a number of key issues that need to be addressed in order to restore social cohesion in Bamenda. One of these is the need for increased opportunities for young people. With high levels of unemployment and a lack of opportunities for education and training, many young people feel frustrated and disenfranchised. Xhuma Africa is working to address this by providing training and mentorship programs, as well as opportunities for youth to engage in civic life. Our objective is to counter youth radicalization and re-radicalization and our strategy is to blend peace education, civic education and environmental education in a high impact way. In addition, we participate in dialogue forums and explore gamification while passing on values and virtues of social cohesion. Another key issue that Xhuma Africa is working to address is the issue of trauma. Armed Violence has left many residents traumatized, with symptoms such as anxiety, depression, and anger. We are providing trauma-informed training and support to help our beneficiaries heal and move forward.

The Construction of Xhuma Africa Auditorium and Office Space



As an organization, we have as main objective to build a peace education academy in Bamenda, Cameroon where young people from across Africa will come together to learn basic non-violent alternatives to problem solving and dispute settlement based on African values, philosophies, culture, methodologies and the realities of our time. The first steps we took involved drafting a six months curriculum for the training of peace weavers while in training as social change makers at the kanthari International Institute for ethical social change makers

located in Kerela, India. Upon return to Cameroon, we legalized Xhuma Africa as an association with the mandate to run our peace education academy. In addition, we started the training of 86 peace weavers with the support of Lush Charity pot, The Pollination Grant and kanthari Foundation Switzerland.



Our goal is to secure authorization from the Ministry of Youth affairs and civic Education in Cameroon to run Xhuma Africa Peace Education Academy by August 2025. In this regard, a minimum requirement to get accredited is to own a permanent habitable office space and learning campus. This will permit us complete our application file and apply for accreditation from the competent authorities. In this regard, we are currently working very hard to complete the construction of Xhuma Africa Auditorium and office space. This project has been funded by kanthari Foundation Switzerland and the construction period is six months running from January 2024 to June 2024. Upon completion, this structure will be made up of; an auditorium, a meeting room, a recording studio, an external toilet, a well and Three offices. In preparations to start this project, Xhuma Africa accepted the donation of a parcel of land measuring 22m by 38m (836m²) donated by Mrs. Nduku Mercy Anne. The land is located along station hill Bamenda. The neighbourhood is relatively safer compared to other neighbourhoods in Bamenda due to regular military patrol to Ustation Bamenda, the administrative head quarter of the North West Region. The land is located by a stream and covers a valley. There is a beautiful view of Bamenda town and it is located within settlement.



At this juncture, a proposed plan for construction was designed by Mr. Ferra Dyllan, a Civil Engineer Technician. Upon approval by Kanthari Foundation board members in January 2024, we have successfully carried out the following;

- We built the architectural plan and applied for building perm from the Bamenda city Council.
- We have paid the development fee to the Quarter council.
- We have fenced the construction site in respect of regulations enforced.
- We have moulded foundation bricks and construction bricks for the entire project.
- We have constructed the foundation completely.
- We have started the digging of the well recording 30% success this far.

Dear supporters, friends and well-wishers of Xhuma Africa, We are currently championing fund raising activities to complete the entire cost for this project and we need your support.



- Your donation of \$ 20 will support us buy 02 bags of cement.
- Your donation of \$ 20 will support us buy 02 sheets of 4meters zinc. Visit <https://www.omprakash.org/global/xhuma-africa/donate> to donate and contribute to peace.

Peace Weavers in training begin their pass-it-on activities



On Sunday 24th March 2024, Peace Weavers in training organized a workshop on the theme "Using Storytelling to Present the role of Youths in Peace Building" as part of their pass it on activities. After getting in-depth knowledge of the 5 pillars



of agenda 2250 of the UNSCR on Youth Peace and Security (Y.P.S), the participants were acquainted with the effective storytelling techniques they will use in to tell their own stories and foster change. This event recreated the African traditional way of storytelling, a moment when values were handed down to younger generations. We had the honour to listen to the stories of participants and we concluded that storytelling is therapeutic and it creates safe spaces. Thus, storytelling is a very effective tool in peace building.

The Training of 09 Peace Weavers as Sanitary Officers by eBASE Africa and the North West Regional Assembly

On the 14th of March 2024, 09 peace weavers were selected to represent Xhuma Africa while attending a training session for sanitary officers at the North West Regional Assembly. The project was implemented by Ebase Africa with the funding of the North West Regional Assembly. Beneficiaries nursed ideas on alternative measures in managing the rising problem of waste mismanagement across the City of Bamenda.



Within the presentations, various areas were identified to have the highest waste problem issues such as market places, public junctions and some hospitals. Medical practitioners presented on the health problems caused by poor waste disposal and solutions were being proposed by the plenary. Within these solutions, participants were charged with the task of taking statistics of families which have experienced illnesses due to poor waste disposal and it was concluded that all stakeholders will work together to eradicate the problem of waste mismanagement.

Localization of Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon



Our Team member Chi Margaret Edum represented us at the learning session for young women in peace building organized by LOYOC. She was among the 15 women selected from the Northwest and Southwest to discuss about the the role and challenges of young women in peace building. It highlighted the need for these young women to work in collaboration as they continuously work for peaceful and secure communities.

This was equally an opportunity for young women engaged in peace building to propose solutions which stakeholders can take into consideration in order to better foster the YPS(youth, peace and Security), and the WPS(women, peace, and security) agendas in Cameroon.

From February 22nd-24th 2024, our Team Members Chi Margaret Edum, Wobyeb Graphlain and Fouhnui Jennifer participated in the second semester of the Youths Engagement in Community Peace Building (YECPI) organized by RADA.

This semester's module was on conflict resolution and it acquainted 50 participants with conflict resolution methods. Navigating through the lessons carefully crafted by facilitators experienced in conflict resolution and hate speech mitigation, participants learned that a critical look at conflict reveals that aside being destructive, it can also be constructive thus there is a need to focus on the constructive side of conflict because it gives a deeper understanding of conflict and the best method to resolve it.



More exciting was the mediation simulation in which some participants acted as conflicting powers while others acted as mediators. As a result, participants learned that people's opinions are different from theirs; it doesn't mean those people are wrong. Understanding conflict entails dissecting the root cause and evaluating the ideologies of conflicting powers. Participants were instructed to work on projects in a bid to solve conflicts in the Anglophone crisis. As peacebuilders, they anxiously look forward to the third semester whose focus will be on effective communication.

Effective Collaboration with sister Organizations



Dr. Lawong Kendra Yaah, our administrative assistant represented Xhuma Africa at the deliberations to validate LifeAID's activities for 2024 to 2026. During the presentation of LifeAID's activities, Lawong drawing inspiration from Xhuma Africa's activities, shared with other stakeholders on the need for timely management and response in the implementation while reiterating on the need for proper coordination and execution.

In addition, Dr. Lawong Kendra Yaah represented Xhuma Africa at the Training of Trainers workshop on Amplifying Youth Participation in Dialogue and Peacebuilding Processes in Buea. During her participation, she eloquently outlines certain best practices and shared experiences during group assignments and tasks. In the words of the organizers "Lawong will make a good trainer post the training".

As we participate in commemorative activities marking Women's Day 2024 under the theme "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress", Our Intern Tata Afahnyui Goodness who doubles as a #GLP fellow with Common Action for Gender Development - COMAGEND Cameroon began giving back to her community.



Working with 10 girls selected from across Bamenda in the office of Xhuma Africa, Her Pass It on (PIO) activity gave her the opportunity to share knowledge on Personal Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and personal branding.

With the knowledge gained, her female beneficiaries have pledged to engage in community service and actively contribute their quarter in accomplishing SDG vision 2030.

POEM ABOUT BAMENDA

Bamenda, a city of dreams and visions,
Once, a jewel of Cameroon, its pride and missions.

Its markets bustling, its people vibrant,
Its culture rich, its future brilliant.

Then came the crisis, the darkness set in,
The violence erupted, the city's decline.

But now, a new dawn, a future so clear,
Bamenda, Cameroon, land of hills and streams,
Its beauty captivates, its charm a dream.

The "Switzerland of Africa," this city fair,
Its people warm and welcoming, a joy to share.

The rich traditions, culture so unique,
A pride that shines, a song, a heartbeat's beat.

The lush greenery, the cool mountain air,
A place of peace and beauty, a haven there.

With open arms, this city will embrace,
The markets bustling, filled with sights and sounds,
The smells of spices fill the air around.

The shops are vibrant, filled with every need,
The people barter, a friendly deed.

The streets are winding, cobblestones so worn,
The history written, a story to be sworn.

The ancient temples, a time long past,
Remnants of the past, a memory to last.

In Bamenda's heart, a light shines true,
The people of Bamenda, a pride so bold,
Their strength and courage, a tale to be told.

The dancers swirling, a joyous dance,
The drummers beating, a wild romance.

The singers singing, a passion so pure,
The songs are timeless, a treasure so sure.

The local food, a feast for the soul,
With drums and songs, with food and dance,

Bamenda's spirit, a chance to romance. (BY Nduku Louis Tebi)