



FAMILY PICTURE OF PEACE WEAVERS DURING TREE PLANTING



FAMILY PICTURE OF YOUNG GLOBAL CHANGERS WITH GERMAN CHANCELLOR



FAMILY PICTURE OF PEACE WEAVERS DURING GRADUATION CEREMONY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – 2 – 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



EDITORIAL

The African Continent is blessed with abundant natural resources, touristic potentials, vibrant youth population and wild life reserves. However, a cross section of Africans are experiencing armed conflicts, terrorism, civil wars, pandemic outbreaks, mass illegal migration, climate change, bad governance and electoral disputes. This has greatly slowed down developmental efforts and regional integration in line with the aspirations of the founding fathers of the African Continent. According to a report published by the Norwegian refugee council, the 10 most neglected conflicts displacing children and youth in the world are found in Africa. After a close examination of the civil war in Sudan, the armed conflict in DRC Congo or

the armed separatist conflict in the Anglophone Regions of Cameroon, our observation is that one of the root causes of these conflicts is over control of limited resources brought about by climate change. Young people experiencing these conflicts first hand are exposed to traumatic experiences like loss of loved ones, destruction of their property, inhuman imprisonment without fair trial, kidnappings/hostage taking, lack of access to health care, extreme poverty, hunger and limited access to education. As these young stars grow up, they are vulnerable to the radicalization of their minds by parties to these conflicts before recruitment as child soldiers or combatants in the conflict hence doubling the cycle of violence.

To put an end to these conflicts, multiple measures need to be taken to de-radicalize young people of the present and future generations. This includes peace-building processes that support capacity building, frank inclusive dialogue over the root causes of the conflicting issues without preconditions, capacity building of all actors of the conflict on mediation processes and support of practical grassroots peace-building initiatives with a major focus of minority groups and youth/women led initiatives. A wise saying says “war is costly but peace is priceless”. Xhuma Africa is definitely one of the youth led initiatives that need your support. Xhuma Africa is a youth-led, youth centered and youth focused not-for-profit association of young people who have experienced first-hand the damaging consequences of armed violence in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon and decided to take action and contribute to peacebuilding. The primary beneficiaries of our community engagement activities are young people. In this regard, we take advantage of the power of peer influence to inspire young people to create peace through diverse activities they engage into on daily basis. Our activities are guided by the tag line that “We are youthful, let us be peaceful and useful to ourselves and the society”. Our tagline encourages youth to be part of the solution to conflicts than part of the problem. This newsletter presents details of our community engagement activities between the month of April and July 2024 centered on the promotion of peace and environmental conservation efforts. **By Nduku Louis Tebi**

Training and certifying of 50 young people as Peace Weavers



A total of 50 youths selected from 356 applicants from across the North West Region of Cameroon have been trained and a total of 41 participants certified as Peace Weavers. The engaging six months training which was implemented by Xhuma Africa Organization with the support of Kanthari Foundation Switzerland had as objective to engage youths in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and civic communal life as an alternative to violence. According to a Founder of Xhuma Africa Nduku Louis, These Young people have each planted a minimum

of five fruit trees at Xhuma Africa Healing and Therapeutic garden as an environmental climate action and they have learn about basic ways of managing conflicts based on African Values, ideologies, philosophies and methodologies and taking into consideration the realities of our time. They have also joint a network of peace weavers from across the North West Region and effectively participated in mass social media sensitization of their peers on the need to mitigate the spread of hate, promote peaceful coexistences and to see how they can each contribute their quarter to nation building.

The tree planting session was described by the Chief Executive Officer of Green Globe Organization Awat Bertrand Abanyi as an engagement process of young people into the environmental restoration process. Peace Weavers were inspired to engage actively into environmental advocacy. The training which was inclusive in its intake process brought a lot of satisfaction with some beneficiaries already making good use of the skills and knowledge acquired.



Noh Precious Jick is a visually impaired participant who says her participation was an interesting one involving active participation in sessions and field activities. As a way of giving back to her society, she looks forward to hosting advocacy sessions seeking more accessible safe spaces and study content for the blind and disabled in society. Topics covered throughout the training includes the following;

- Conflict in theory and practice
- Do-no-harm principle
- Peace, peacebuilding, and peacemaking
- Trauma Healing



- Combating misinformation and disinformation
- Community mediation and restorative Justice
- Nonviolent Communication/ Nonviolent Actions
- Nonviolent advocacy using creative arts like podcasts, videos and drama
- Mitigating Gender-Based-Violence (GBV)
- Humanitarian response and the International Humanitarian Law
- Theater of the oppressed
- Proper Waste Management
- Ecological Peace / Ecological Justice
- Environmental preservation

Report by Dr. Lawong Kendra Yaah



Family Picture of Peace Weavers during Tree Planting Sessions

Family Picture of Peace Weavers during Tree Planting Sessions



Wise Savings by Peace Weavers

The Construction of Xhuma Africa Auditorium and Office Space



From the insertion phase to the creation and formal legalization of Xhuma Africa as an association in Cameroon, the vision bearer had as long term goal to create a peace education academy where young people from across the African continent will come together and learn basic problem solving methodologies based on African values, philosophies, ideologies, methodologies and taking into consideration realities of our time. To make this vision a reality, some practical modalities and actions were to be taken ranging from legalization of Xhuma Africa to Registration of Xhuma Africa as an

institution of research an higher learning. Since December 2023, our executive team has been committed to the process of designing, construction and equipping of Xhuma Africa office and auditorium. With the support of Kanthari Foundation Switzerland, we have transitioned from the designing phase to construction. Construction activities of this project began in February 2024 at the construction site located along Station Hill Nkwen Bamenda with cleaning of the construction site, setting out of the foundation and molding of foundation bricks. This was accompanied by efforts to seek building permit from the Bamenda City Council.

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 nine months running from January 2024 to Sepember 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 Upstation 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.
- We have constructed the walls
- We have constructed the roof



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.

Report by Adamu Zubaida

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.

Report by Lawong Chelsy