

#HATEFREE
CAMEROON

2022 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

#DEFYHATENOW

#defyhatenow Cameroon is a community-based initiative with a focus on strengthening communities, providing data-driven solutions to mitigate social media-based hate speech, and mobilizing civic action against all forms of hate speech and online incitement to violence. We do this to work towards building a **#HateFreeCameroon**.

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01

INTRODUCTION



Despite Cameroon's anglophone conflict, the #defyhatenow Cameroon project reached out to communities in 2022 to educate and sensitize them to hate speech online and offline. More than 60% of the 3,500 community peace mobilizers, youth, and students trained directly in 2022 were women. The initiative's online platforms and partners reached over 600,000 people.

The #defyhatenow social media hate speech mitigation Field Guides with associated kits were produced which included 1,235 short guide posters and A2 posters. 600 of them were in Pidgin English. These open educational resources supplemented 251 English and French field guides. The Open Educational Resources directly impacted 500 people and 5,000 online.

Four community-based hubs acting as «Peacebuilder Makerspaces» were created to complement the already active three. These were complemented by 30 early warning, early response-trained monitoring professionals, 50% of whom were women. These experts worked to create and produce nine Early Warning Early Response reports and eight comprehensive Situational Conflict monitoring reports on the conflict. At least 190 Africans Fact-checking Fellows - Cameroon were trained who in turn engaged 17 CSOs to reach 95,000 people via social media on how to mitigate hate speech.

Six community-based co-creation focus groups used ASKotec kits. Community radios in various regions of Cameroon reached approximately 207,000 listeners. 98 religious and community leaders attended an end-of-year Swiss Peace gathering, where they agreed to collaborate to combat violence in their communities and amongst their congregations. Seven Diaspora Dialogue meet-ups with Berlin-based Cameroonian football clubs were convened to highlight the role of the diaspora in the anglophone conflict, the use of football as a uniting factor birthed the idea of a Cameroonian football calendar.

02

COMMUNITY TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

#PenNotGun Campaign

#defyhatenow promoted #PenNotGun online and in classrooms during Cameroon's Youth Day. Students were urged to study and avoid violence, drugs, and crime.



Peacebuilder Maker Spaces Douala

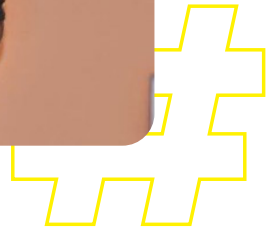
Peace Watch trained youth to combat #HateSpeech using the #defyhatenow Field Guide.



Africa Fact-Checking Fellowship

In the Northern Region, journalists, bloggers, and content creators were trained in fact-checking and countering disinformation online and offline. Garoua's second phase covered how to identify and use online fact-checking tools.





Countering Hate Speech amongst students.



Community partner D2R Transformers trained 48 students in Bamenda on how to mitigate hate speech in their localities.



Workshops organized to improve the capacity of women from different religious and cultural groups on conflict prevention through the mitigation of hate speech and incitement to violence.



Conflict Prevention and Alliance Building with Women, Religious, and Cultural Groups.



03 OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS

- **Field Guide Short Guide Translation to Pidgin.**





#ThinkB4UClick

In Douala, pidgin broadcasters translated #defyhatenow's Field Guide Short Guide to pidgin English to help Cameroonian local communities comprehend and counter hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. The posters were handed over to Mount Cameroon FM.

● **Field Guide Implementation** [July to November]

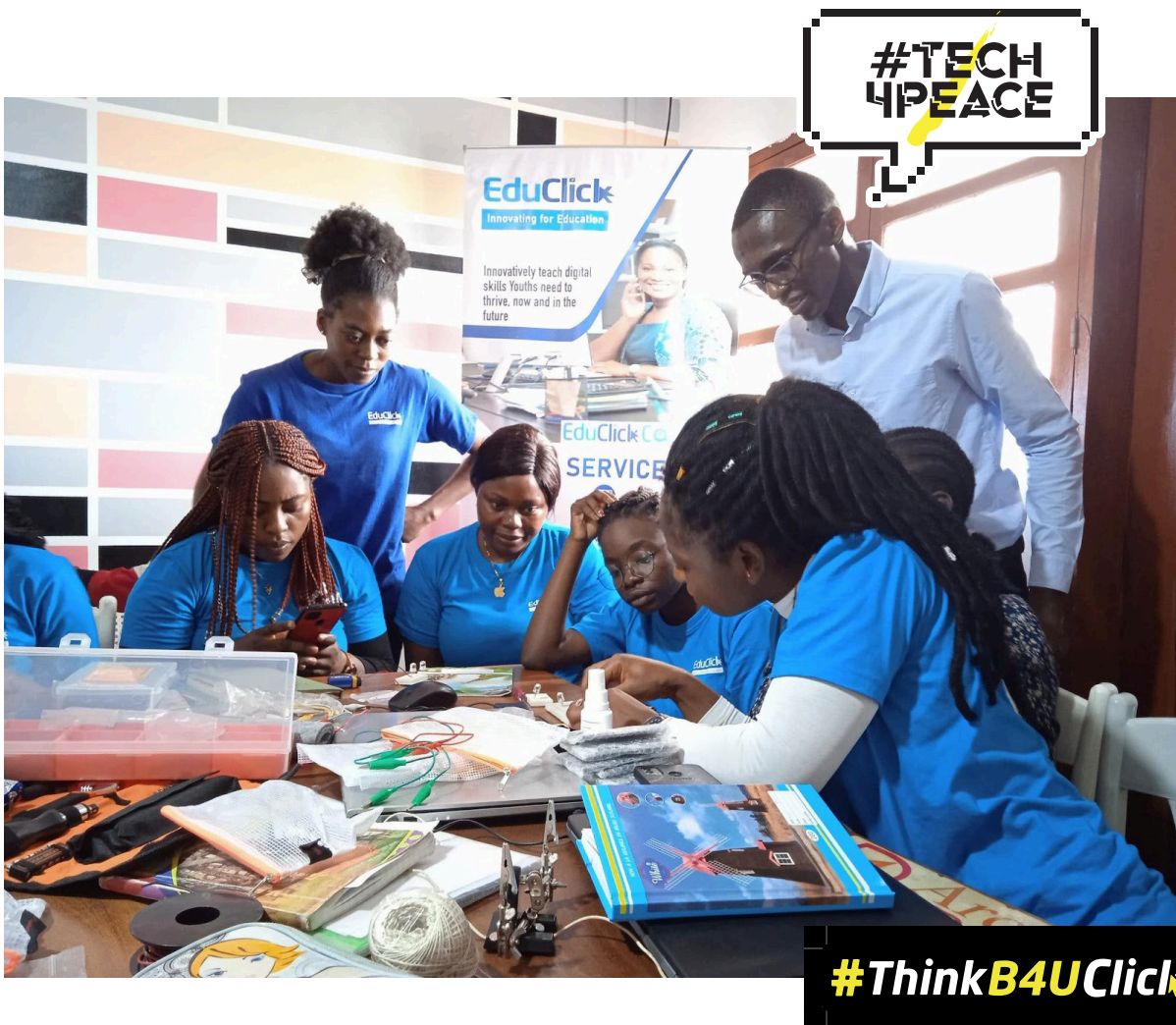


The Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide is a tool used by community leaders, youths, cultural activities, and influencers in Cameroon to educate and mitigate online and offline hate speech and induced conflict both within and outside of affected areas. Youth, community leaders, grassroots organisations and civil society stakeholders were trained to use the guide within the information literacy framework. Each attendee received a copy of the toolkit to supplement their work.



● ASKotec Kit Case Implementation

ASKotec – Access to Skills and Knowledge: an open tech emergency kit that contains over 50 tools, elements, and material sets, offering Cameroonians the possibility to learn about electronics, mechanics, robotics, software and hardware development. In addition to the initiative #defyhatenow, the kit promotes the teaching of technical skills to local trainers who share the knowledge in their communities, benefiting a wide range of young men, women, and displaced persons living within and outside crisis zones.



#TECH4PEACE



There were 10 activities held in 2022 that focused on school-going children and less privileged youth with an emphasis on girls. The participants learned how to integrate technology to solve the challenges in their environments and communities more effectively, efficiently, and innovatively.

4 NETWORKING + SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

● Peacebuilder Makerspace Strawacademy Buea :

A makerspace is a collaborative work space for making, learning, exploring, and sharing ideas that uses tech or non tech tools. These spaces are open to everyone and have a variety of maker equipment including art supplies and material that can be used to create. #defyhatenow peacebuilder makerspaces inspired this in empowering young people and the community with income generating skills that would in turn reduce the chances of poverty-inspired hate and violent extremism.



The Early Warning Early Response Summit Yaounde

The two-day workshop enabled Cameroonian civil society organizations, alternative media agencies, government institutions, and foreign missions to discuss successful technology solutions and harmonization on handling big data for privacy and protection.

It also mapped existing early warning and response systems implementation and identified gaps, lessons learned, good practices, and resource mobilization opportunities. Civil society organizations were engaged on the impact of responses to conflicts and calamities to inform decision-making and spur effective intervention strategies.



5 CIVIC AND CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY



World Press Freedom Day with Women

“Journalism under siege” was the 2022 theme. This day, #defyhatenow discussed “After Work” with women. They touched on topics such as press freedom’s fundamental principles, evaluating press freedom around the world, defending the media’s independence, especially in conflict zones, and memorializing journalists who were killed in the line of duty.



● Press breakfast with journalists in Yaounde

The breakfast meeting focused on reporting on conflict situations and fragile contexts and how to sensitise media professionals about their influence in shaping dialogue in the country.



● Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech



Bahiru Adamu, an Africa fact-checking alumni and community activist, convened a gathering of the Muslim community in Old Town Bamenda. They had community dialogues on living in harmony and learned about different forms of hate speech and its dangers in society.

● International Day for Countering Hate Speech

To mark the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech, on 18 June 2022, #defyhatenow convened an online event dubbed #NoToHateDay to converse on the dangers of “the exponential spread and proliferation of hate speech” around the world. This year’s topic was “promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech.”

"PROMOTING INTER-RELIGIOUS, INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND TOLERANCE IN COUNTERING HATE SPEECH"



18TH JUNE 2022

Countering Hate Speech through inter-ethnic and inter-faith trust building in Buea.



Leaders from various tribes and religious denominations were equipped with skills to mitigate hate speech and promote social cohesion in their communities and amongst their congregants .

● #PeaceJam2022 offline



Various community groups of youths from different locations in Cameroon marked #PeaceJam 2022 by sensitising their communities on the dangers of hate speech and how structural racism has affected response to conflicts and how they can promote peace in their communities.

These are youths from Ngaoundere, Dschang, MINJEC West, Buea, Nkongsamba and the North West.

● #PeaceJam Online Celebration

In 2022 the initiative joined the United Nations in standing up against acts of hate online and offline, supporting the global calls for peace, and jamming with people from all over to look at new ways to end violent conflict.

The discussion was centred around. How the world responds to conflicts in different locations based on skin colour, looking at experiences in Cameroon, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan etc.

#PEACEJAM2022

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

21ST SEPTEMBER

HOW DOES RACISM AFFECT THE RESPONSE TO CONFLICT AND PEACE BUILDING?

Countering Hate Speech and Misinformation in Menchum

A workshop bringing together religious and cultural groups in Menchum to train them on mitigating hate speech and misinformation in their communities.



#ThinkB4UClick

All #AFF Cameroon Conference

#defyhatenow and her local and international partners organized the first-ever fact-checking conference bringing together over 130 #AFFCameroon fellows, a pool of policymakers, government officials, private sector actors, security sector actors and academia.

The goal of the conference was to create and strengthen the synergy of actions to reduce the negative effects of mis/disinformation on lasting peace and social cohesion in the 10 regions of Cameroonians.



#AFFCameroon
Africa Fact-checking Fellowship

#DEFYHATENOW TEAM

● Berlin



Stephen Kovats

Co-initiator of #defyhatenow and Project Lead



Susanne Bellinghausen

Co-initiator of #defyhatenow and Global International Community Advisor

● Cameroon



Ngala Desmond

Country Project Manager



Laure Nganlay

Communication Manager



Kinang Derick Fai

Conflict Research and Administration Coordinator



Njodzeka Theresia Suimola

Finance Coordinator



Tchengang Tchiengue Loris Donald

Digital Project Coordinator



Kanda Honourine

Community Coordinator



Mbong Vera

Social Media Coordinator



Stephane Dipanda

Graphic Designer



Essoung N'noko Ruth Raïssa

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

● Kenya



Kendi Gikunda

Education Resources & KPI Management Lead



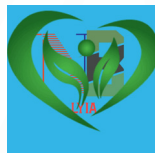
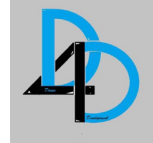
Dan King'ori

Tech Lead

7 PARTNERS, COLLABORATORS + COMMUNITY



#AFFCameroon





#DEFYHATENOW

#defyhatenow_Cameroon is a program of the r0g_agency for open culture & critical transformation funded through a grant by the German Federal Foreign Office, and implemented by the Association Civic Watch, a Cameroonian non-profit youth-led organization.

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 defyhatenow_wca

 @DefyhatenowWCA

Contact Us



Yaounde 6, Rue 7.488 Rond-Point Express

Yaounde, Cameroon

Phone : +237 222 31 67 55

+237 683 27 77 76

Email: cameroon@defyhatenow.org

Web : <https://defyhatenow/cameroon>



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