



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Cameroon for a World BEYOND War



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WORD FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

ROMEO TEKOU DJOU SONKENG
YAOUNDÉ, JANUARY 25, 2025

The year 2024 marked a crucial milestone in the growth and consolidation of the Cameroon Chapter of World BEYOND War (CWBW). With renewed commitment, the chapter expanded its influence, consolidated its strategic alliances, and strengthened its capacity to mobilize youth and communities for peacebuilding and conflict prevention. This report highlights the results achieved and lessons learned during the year.

At the beginning of the year, an internal restructuring brought new life to the organization, with the election of new Chapter Co-coordinators, following the selection of the Chapter's former Coordinator as WBW's Africa Organizer. This dynamic has helped to multiply local initiatives and strengthen Cameroon's participation in continental and global initiatives.

One of the highlights of this year was our active participation in the World BEYOND War Annual Regional Peace Conference "Imagine Africa Beyond War" held virtually from November 15-16, 2024. This global gathering opened discussions on wars and war-related factors that prevent the African continent from envisioning sustainable peace and explored the possibilities of imagining what Africa actually is beyond war, by presenting the perspectives of activists from the continent who challenge the structural causes of wars.



For our Chapter, the Conference was an opportunity to share our experiences, learn from other Chapters, and build critical connections for our future activism. The "Stop Killer Robots" campaign occupied a prominent place in our calendar of activities. Through awareness-raising, webinars, and public speaking engagements, we mobilized youth and community leaders in Cameroon and across Africa to strengthen advocacy for a ban on lethal autonomous weapons. We continued our efforts to promote social cohesion among youth and prevent hate speech and political violence in Cameroon. More than 500 youth benefited from training and actively participated in awareness-raising campaigns across the country, with significant results in terms of the participation of young people and political actors in the practice of living together and in building a culture of peace.

This report is the result of a collaborative effort, intended as a tool to chart the path toward a better Cameroon. We express our gratitude to our members and supporters, our partners, and World BEYOND War global, for their continued support in our efforts to work toward a just and war-free Cameroon and Africa.



ABOUT WORLD BEYOND WAR

World BEYOND War (WBW) is a nonprofit organization with chapters worldwide that uses education, advocacy, and media work to advance the cause of ending all wars and establishing peace. WBW was founded on January 1, 2014, when co-founders David Hartsough and David Swanson, along with a group of like-minded peace advocates, set out to create a global movement to abolish the institution of war itself, not just the “war of the day.” If war is to be abolished, they decided, then it must be removed from the table as a viable option. Just as there is no such thing as a “good” or “necessary” slavery, there is no such thing as a “good” or necessary war. Both institutions are abhorrent and are never acceptable, no matter the circumstances.

So, if we can't use war to resolve international conflicts, what can we do? Finding a way to move to a global security system underpinned by international law, diplomacy, collaboration, and human rights—and defending this through nonviolent action rather than the threat of violence—is at the heart of WBW. Our work includes education and media production that dispels myths, such as “War is natural” or “We’ve always had war,” and shows people not only that war should be abolished, but that it actually can be. We engage in all kinds of nonviolent actions and campaigns that move the world toward ending all wars.

The Cameroon Chapter of WBW was created in November 2020 by Guy Feugap. Members include former and current members of other organizations, as well as young people who are getting involved for the first time in this work, which contributes to building a more peaceful Cameroon. WBW Cameroon is a group of Cameroonians working together on alternatives to force as a means of conflict resolution, in order to find new solutions to the long-standing problems Cameroonians have been facing for several decades and which have led the country into conflict. In Cameroon, through campaigns, training, and advocacy, WBW strives to consolidate the actions of volunteers who adhere to the vision of rebuilding peace through methods that are not only nonviolent, but also educate for sustainable peace.



**FOR A CAMEROON
BEYOND WAR**

New leadership at the head of the Chapter

In February 2024, an Extraordinary General Assembly was held in Yaoundé, with the aim of restructuring the coordination of the National Chapter, following the selection of the former Coordinator to a regional role, that of Africa Organizer. New Co-coordinators were elected to preside over the destiny of the National Chapter, and thus steer projects and boost community engagement. The Coordinator is Roméo Tekoudjou Sonkeng, assisted by Judithe Lyhuitekong.

Roméo Sonkeng is a Cameroonian based in Yaoundé, Co-coordinator of the WBW Chapter and logistics manager at WILPF Cameroon. His activism spans the fields of environmental law and protection, environmental economics, gender equality, and disaster management. He is passionate about travel and music, which enriches his professional life, discovers new cultures, and draws inspiration from various forms of artistic expression.



Judithe Lyhuitekong has been working as a teacher since 2008. While working in a conflict zone, she has witnessed the recklessness and horror of war, of which she is also a multi-victim. As a member of Cameroon for a World BEYOND War, she had the opportunity in 2022 to participate in sharing experiences with other peacebuilders from different countries, as part of Fields of Peace's "Ignite Circle" pilot project.



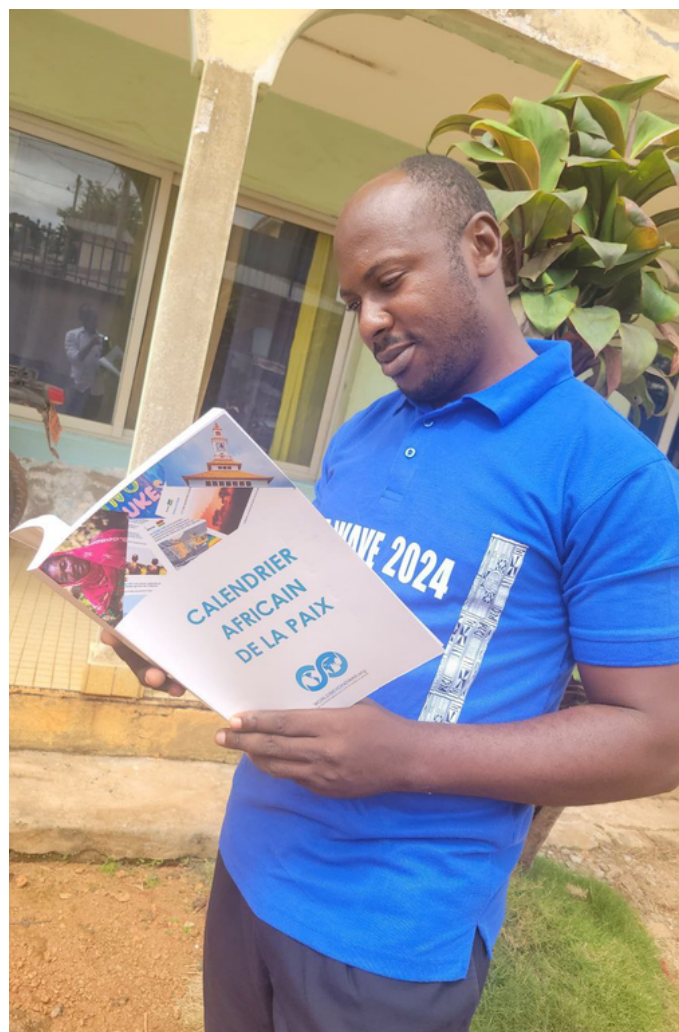
For information, on January 1, 2024, the Chapter initiator was promoted to the position of Africa Organizer of WBW, a recognition that reflects the growing impact of Cameroon within the global network, as Guy Feugap facilitated good coordination with other African chapters and helped to strengthen the visibility of Cameroon and Africa at international events. His selection to this newly created position within WBW, conditioned his resignation as Cameroon Chapter Coordinator.

Results of the Chapter's activities

Strengthened social cohesion among young people

As part of the project "Fostering Social Cohesion Among Youth to Prevent Hate Speech and Political Violence in Cameroon," led by the Cameroonian branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF Cameroon) and funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), our Chapter was involved as an implementing partner in the Center Region. Our role in this project reflected our desire to strengthen harmony between different community groups and engage youth in positive actions promoting peace.

The project's main objective was to prevent political violence and hate speech by promoting social cohesion among young people. This was achieved through awareness-raising, training, and community mobilization activities. In our target region, we created spaces for dialogue and collaboration to develop a culture of peace and tolerance. Our involvement focused on several initiatives.



Media Awareness and Engagement

We organized consultation workshops to gather and integrate contributions from young people and journalists into the project's output. During the sessions, the themes of tolerance, intercommunity dialogue, and the prevention of hate speech were addressed. They created a framework conducive to discussion and reflection.

A press conference was held in Yaoundé to present the two guides developed for conducting campaigns and training to the media, political parties, government agencies, and partner organizations. These include the political party guide developed by the Center for Study and Training for Development, Democracy, and Peace in Africa (CEFODEP) and the education guide developed by the National Organization for the Promotion of Education and Development (ONAPED). The Executive Secretary of ONAPED detailed the education guide and the methodology used to draft it, while the Deputy Director of CEFODEP presented the political party guide.

In order to strengthen peace and coexistence between the different political parties, and to create conditions for healthy participation in political life, we conducted an awareness campaign among the stakeholders concerned, including through the media. In November, we were in the studios of two FM radio stations in Yaoundé.

The message conveyed was to mobilize all citizens to build a peaceful future and prevent political violence in Cameroon, before, during and after the elections.



Leadership and Community Activism Training



Training workshops were organized to strengthen youth leadership skills, their role as peacemakers and social cohesion, mediation, and peaceful conflict management. The training provided young people with tools for community activism and how to seize opportunities; and increased youth participation in peacekeeping in their communities through platforms created to connect young people, particularly Facebook and WhatsApp.

Community campaigns with political actors

A workshop on the Political Actors Education Guide brought together 30 participants representing political parties, civil society, journalists, and the administration. Participants agreed on the use of this Political Guide to strengthen social cohesion, prevent hate speech in public spaces, and strengthen coexistence, tolerance, and the acceptance of conflicting ideas in the political arena.

Furthermore, we conducted a campaign to popularize the guide, distributing it to more than 300 people in the region.

Peace Education

We facilitated the creation of working groups composed of teachers trained in the use of the Youth Education Guide on Multiculturalism, Social Cohesion, and Peace developed as part of this project. The Guide was developed with technical support from the National Organization for the Promotion of Education and Development (ONAPED). The group is responsible for relaying the project's messages and proposing initiatives aimed at strengthening peace in their educational and school communities.

Educational talks were held in high schools in and around Yaoundé. Discussions with students and their supervisors focused on their adoption of the Guide to Practical Methods for Educating School and Non-School Youth on Peace, Multiculturalism, and Social Cohesion. We were able to assess the Guide's receptiveness and measure its effectiveness and efficiency in training learners in the culture of peace. These activities helped build connections and develop a sense of shared belonging.



Contribution to the creation of a community of web influencers for peace

The preservation of peace has involved an online component, in a context where the emergence of web influencers in social media represents a new social and cultural reality. These influencers are individuals who use digital platforms to share content and influence their followers, who sometimes number in the thousands. They can have a wide reach and reach a large audience thanks to their popularity on social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tik Tok, YouTube, etc. The training sessions provided more than 150 young people with tools to combat hate speech, promote tolerance, respect and diversity, and prevent fake news. The first training workshop of 2024 was held in Yaoundé on February 1. Others followed in the following localities: Douala, on July 27; Buea, on August 9; Bertoua, on August 13; and Mokolo, on August 29. During these training sessions, World BEYOND War facilitated the module on visual communication for peace promotion. Drawing on World BEYOND War's training sessions on graphic design and the principles of visual communication, our Africa Organizer Guy Feugap trained young people on how to use visual communication to enhance the impact of peace education campaigns.

We also organized the webinar "Youth and the Use of Digital Media for Peace" with partners WILPF Cameroon and Women's Peace Initiatives. This one-and-a-half-hour webinar was a space for young people to learn and share lived experiences and commitments to amplify their efforts through their various life projects to build peace while leveraging digital media. We had a panel of young leaders from civil society and academia who discussed approaches and the importance of conflict prevention, as well as the opportunities and challenges for young people in cultivating a culture of peace.





In summary

The involvement of the Cameroon chapter of World BEYOND War in this project has laid the foundations for a lasting peace dynamic in the Center region. We have been able to:

- Strengthen the commitment to peace of more than 300 young people;
- Reduce tensions and improve cohabitation between different groups;
- Encourage more active participation of political actors in mediation and conflict prevention initiatives at the local level;
- Impact on more than 600 young people indirectly affected through awareness-raising, positive repercussions on social cohesion and the reduction of tensions.

We will continue these efforts and strengthen the participation of young people in building a peaceful and harmonious future.

Cultivating a culture of peace

24 hours of action for peace #Peacewave2024

In June, World BEYOND War Global mobilized chapters, affiliates, and partners around the world to organize a global peace action, marked by a variety of on-the-ground activities. In Cameroon, we participated in this event with a march during which we raised awareness about the dangers of weapons.



10 years of resilience for peace building in Cameroon by WILPF

In 2024, World BEYOND War celebrated its 10th anniversary of existence and anti-war activism. In Cameroon, this anniversary was marked by joint actions with WILPF Cameroon, which also celebrated 10 years of resilience for peacebuilding. On April 21, a sports walk was organized in Douala, with nearly 200 people raising awareness about the need to strengthen peaceful cohesion among Cameroonians. During the same week, a webinar was organized to share our experiences of 10 years of anti-war activism and peacebuilding.



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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
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Webinar

10 YEARS OF ANTI-WAR ACTIVISM AND PEACEBUILDING

Join us for a panel discussion with



David Swanson
WBW Co-founder
Executive Director



Nathalie Wokam Foko
President of WILPF
Cameroon



Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo
WILPF Cameroon founder
International President



Tove Ivergård
WILPF Sweden
Head of International Cooperation



Guy Feugap
World BEYOND War
Africa Organizer



**Moderator
AMY BANDA**

 **24 April, 2024**

 **03:00 pm - 04:30 pm GMT+1**

Language: ENG, FR

Women's Call for Peace Week



During the week culminating on September 21, 2024 with the celebration of the International Day of Peace, the Cameroon Chapter called for peace through various actions. The commemoration of the International Day of Peace was carried out through a peace march, in the localities of Yaoundé (Centre region) and Ndom, Littoral region, with more than 350 participants mobilized. The march was initiated by WILPF Cameroon and its partner organizations, including our chapter, as part of the series of activities of the Women's Call for Peace Week. In addition to this march, sports activities and training took place in other localities of the country.

Mobilizing Boys for Peace



In 2021, the World BEYOND War Chapter participated in WILPF Cameroon's project to mobilize different categories of men for peacebuilding through alliance building, research, and advocacy. This work contributed to strengthening individual knowledge and skills and shaping the attitudes of civil society actors, traditional leaders, administrative authorities, teachers, media professionals, legal professionals, etc. In 2024, we contributed to the training of journalists, as a means of mobilizing men in the media and training them on masculinities and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. The training workshop organized indirectly aimed to provide the public with appropriate information, and also to promote the design of programs to educate the population in order to prevent militarized masculinities and conflicts.

A youth center opened in Dschang

The city of Dschang, home to the headquarters of Cameroon for a World BEYOND War, hosted an event aimed at promoting peace, social cohesion, and youth engagement. At the initiative of WILPF Cameroon in collaboration with Women Peace Initiatives, the "Youth House" was officially launched. It is a space dedicated to empowering young people through training, cultural and artistic activities, leadership, advocacy, and awareness-raising on peace issues, as well as sustainable development initiatives. The event brought together various stakeholders, including local authorities, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and local communities, to discuss and promote peace in the region. The "Youth House" will serve as a catalyst for youth development and socio-professional integration initiatives.



Disarmament for a culture of non-violent conflict resolution

Action against small arms and light weapons (SALW)

In 2024, the Cameroon Chapter of World Beyond War (WBW) stepped up its efforts to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), a key driver of persistent insecurity and conflict in the region. Recognizing the devastation these weapons wreak on local communities, our chapter is committed to raising awareness, training, and mobilizing youth, community leaders, and local authorities to curb their circulation and use.

"Zero Weapons, More Lives" Campaign

Growing insecurity in Cameroon has led to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, adding to the damaging security situation over the past decade. Secondary schools are experiencing unprecedented acts of violence, marked by the assassination of teachers by students. In 2021 and 2022, Cameroon for a World BEYOND War led a social media campaign to denounce the causes of violence in schools. This work continued in the field in 2024.



On March 7, 2024, the Mbalngong Bilingual High School near Yaoundé hosted a three-hour discussion with students and teachers to mark the 39th International Women's Day. The aim of this discussion was to raise awareness about violence in schools and promote community living and cohesion in the school environment. This meeting involved approximately 200 students and 25 teachers. 100 students, supervised by 10 teachers, split into 10 groups to explore the following questions: What types of violence do you regularly encounter at school? How can you report the violence you witness? The feedback provided a range of violence perpetrated in schools, as well as reporting strategies. The violence is not specific to a specific category of establishments but rather, it presents itself as a fashion effect in the face of which the national community must pool efforts to build lasting peace.

Stop Killer Robots Campaign

The "Stop Killer Robots" campaign was one of the priorities of the Cameroon Chapter of World BEYOND War in 2024. This global initiative aims to raise public awareness and mobilize political decision-makers to take decisions against the development and use of autonomous weapons, commonly known as "killer robots." The campaign aims to obtain an international treaty banning these weapons by mobilizing governments and encouraging parliamentarians and politicians to speak out publicly against their use. To this end, we have increased regional collaboration with other chapters of World BEYOND War.

The campaign activities organized included: two webinars with national and international experts to deepen understanding of the issue and engage a wider audience, and meetings with parliamentarians to invite them to sign the parliamentary pledge against killer robots. Direct meetings with some MPs and senators allowed us to present the campaign and the dangers of killer robots. By raising awareness among parliamentarians and promoting a deeper understanding of the dangers posed by killer robots, we were able to take a crucial step towards banning these autonomous weapons. Our commitment remains strong, and we are confident that through perseverance, education, and mobilization, we will see the emergence of an international treaty banning killer robots, thus ensuring a safer future for all.

Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence

On the occasion of the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, held from June 3 to 9, 2024, the Cameroon Chapter of World BEYOND War joined the Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSAs), in solidarity with the public at large, to hold governments accountable for some of the commitments they have made in the fight against the illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. The theme of this year's week of action was "A World Without Gun Violence: From Words to Action." The phenomenon of arms proliferation poses a threat to world peace. Approximately 1 billion of these weapons are in circulation, and approximately 8 million more are produced each year by thousands of manufacturers around the world. In Central Africa, approximately 10,000 of these weapons are in circulation. In Cameroon, the proliferation of these weapons is on the rise due to armed conflicts in the North and Southwest regions of Cameroon, Boko Haram incursions in the Far North, and the civil war in Central Africa. In 2024, CANSAs decided to mark the commemoration of the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence by organizing a press conference to raise public awareness of the harmful effects of gun violence and the need for the State of Cameroon to place greater emphasis on policy development in this area.

In addition, the Cameroon Chapter of World BEYOND War organized a webinar to raise awareness of the consequences of the illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and to propose deeper reflection. It featured experts working on the issue of weapons, invited to reflect on the best ways to end these weapons, focusing on the overarching question: "Isn't our world better off without small arms and light weapons?"



CAMEROON CHAPTER FOR PEACE IN AFRICA

In 2024, we strengthened our collaboration with other chapters through a series of monthly webinars and joint projects. This initiative aims to promote the exchange of experiences, strengthen chapter capacities, and coordinate regional peace initiatives. These joint efforts help create synergies and amplify the impact of campaigns in different countries.

Monthly meetings

We have participated in six monthly chapter coordinator meetings. These meetings are held online. The sessions are interactive, allowing for discussions on how to manage challenges, questions and answers, and open discussions that enrich our work.

Collaborative campaigns

We were involved in the reflection and drafting of petitions, for example the petition to end military bases in Africa and the petition for Peace in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We played a leading role in the “Get your troops out of Djibouti” campaign initiated by the Senegal Chapter.

Similarly, the Senegal, Gambia, Togo, and Nigeria chapters joined and supported our campaign against killer robots. The Mali and Burundi chapters were unable to participate due to their own contexts. The Mali chapter declined the invitation to participate due to the country's situation. The ruling military is currently using this technology in northern Mali to fight terrorist groups, making any awareness campaign on this topic difficult. The unstable political situation in Burundi was cited as a major obstacle to campaign activities.

World BEYOND War Africa Annual Conference

The annual conference, held online this year, provided a platform for activists, researchers, and peace advocates from around the world to share their ideas, strategies, and experiences. The Cameroon chapter of World BEYOND War actively participated in this event, contributing to the global discussion on promoting peace, preventing conflict, and combating war violence. The chapter also contributed financially, covering language interpretation costs. The participation of the Cameroon chapter allowed it to strengthen its visibility and local activities, share the challenges and successes of the chapter in promoting peace and social cohesion, particularly through projects to raise awareness of the dangers of war and violence; and establish partnerships with other chapters and organizations to strengthen peace actions in the country and the region. The Cameroon chapter was represented by its coordinator and several active members who took part in the discussions and interventions.



Trainings

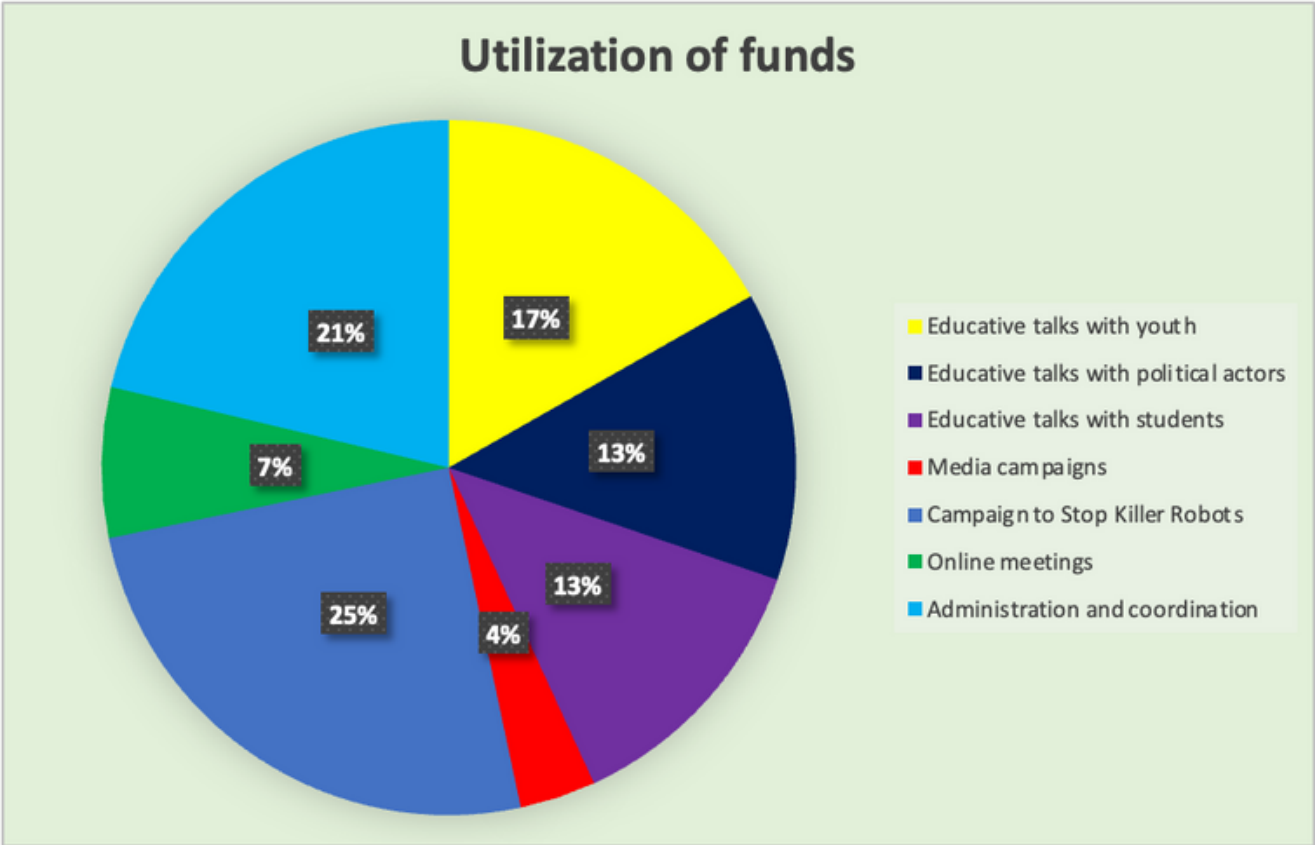
The Chapter Co-Coordiators attended an online training organized by Social Movement Technologies (SMT). The training was part of a capacity-building initiative for leaders. This training aimed to equip participants with the skills needed to structure, organize, and energize effective and impactful social movements. Working alongside members of other chapters, the training equipped participants with advanced strategies for building and developing social movements. The goal was to gain a thorough understanding of the fundamental principles of collective organizing and citizen mobilization. We also became familiar with technological and digital tools to maximize the visibility and impact of our campaigns. This included the use of social media, online petition platforms, and mass communication tools.

In the same context, at the initiative of the Senegal Chapter, we benefited from training on online security. This initiative is part of a context where data protection and awareness of digital threats have become major issues for activists and organizations involved in social movements. The training took place online and combined theoretical and practical sessions.



FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2024, Cameroon for a World BEYOND War received financial support from two partners, the Global Campaign to Stop Killer Robots and WILPF Cameroon, of 2,428,054 (Two million four hundred and twenty-eight thousand and fifty-four) and 2,648,052 (Two million six hundred and forty-eight thousand and fifty-two) FCFA respectively. These funds were used to achieve the organization's objectives, as follows:



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CHALLENGES, LEARNING AND PERSPECTIVES

Challenges

During 2024, our work was marked by significant challenges that influenced the implementation of our activities. Among them, time zone differences sometimes complicated our participation in exchanges, while limited access to electricity and internet in our country restricted our participation, the broadcasting of our webinars, and online training. Lack of financial resources has hampered the expansion of our impact, particularly in terms of simultaneous translations and the organization of large-scale activities. Community engagement has remained difficult to stimulate, particularly among youth and local leaders, in an often tense sociopolitical context marked by limited infrastructure and cultural and linguistic barriers. Cameroon has French and English as official languages, but not all Cameroonians are bilingual.

Lessons learned

In the face of these challenges, we have learned lessons that will guide our future actions. Partnering with local associations and community leaders strengthens the reach of our activities. The participatory approach, involving young people in the design and implementation of projects, is effective in fostering their ownership and commitment. Cultural adaptation, through the translation of messages into local languages and the use of community media, has helped raise awareness among the population. Finally, training young people in leadership, as well as our ability to demonstrate flexibility and resilience, have been crucial to the continuity and sustainability of our initiatives.

Perspectives

For 2025, we plan to strengthen our strategies and broaden our scope of action. In particular, we plan to expand our activities to other regions of Cameroon, particularly rural and border areas, and to develop educational programs to raise awareness about peace in schools and vocational training centers. Fundraising will remain a priority to ensure sufficient resources to carry out large-scale projects.

The increased use of digital platforms and social media will allow us to reach a wider audience and engage more young people. We will continue and intensify our advocacy efforts with policymakers and institutions to promote peaceful solutions to conflicts, as well as collaborate more closely with other World BEYOND War chapters and affiliates in Africa and beyond.

CAMEROON FOR A



WORLD BEYOND WAR.org

a global movement to end all wars



OUR PROGRAMS

PEACE EDUCATION

DISARMAMENT

ENVIRONMENT

OUR STRATEGIES

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

TRAININGS

AWARENESS RAISING

**Build through non-violent methods to educate for sustainable peace,
until peace language becomes the only one we know.**

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