



UrbanBetter #Cityzens4CleanAir

The [Cityzens for Clean Air campaign](#), a part of the [UrbanBetter Cityzens initiative](#), aims to amplify youth voices with advocacy on air pollution, climate and health using citizen scientist data generated by young people. The campaign aims to highlight

- the existing inadequacies in the measurement of air quality within rapidly urbanising African cities and the importance of access to healthy public spaces conducive to physical activity,
- the crucial role that young people can and should play in developing interventions that shape the urban health environment for health and climate resilience.

Key outputs of the campaign exhibited at COP27 are as follows:

1. [Cityzens4CleanAir COP27 Landing page](#) showing:
 - a. Summary of the project
 - b. Data visualisation PDF booklets of the data from the runs in [Lagos](#), [Cape Town](#) and [Accra](#)
 - c. Policy prescriptions: calls to action developed by the youth citizen scientists for decision makers [overall](#) and in [Cape Town](#), [Accra](#) and [Lagos](#)
2. [Interactive Exhibit interface](#) including:
 - a. [Cityzens4CleanAir video](#)
 - b. [Meet the Run Leaders video](#)
 - c. [Interactive data visualisation platform](#) showing data from sensors and the citizen science app

More details of the Campaign

Using an open call for applications, young people aged 18-35 years in Cape Town, Accra and Lagos were invited to apply to be citizen scientists.

Successful applicants attended a 2-day workshop (Cape Town: 20-21 July 2022; Accra: 03rd- 04th August 2022; Lagos: 07th-08th September 2022) to co-design and implement a campaign on clean air, physical activity and healthy public space. The citizen scientists, also known as Run Leaders each designed a running route and recruited members of the public to join them on their run. The routes were designed to capture diverse socio-economic levels across the city. They were also trained on how to use the wearable air sensor and a bespoke app developed for capturing geotagged media files.

On the designated day (30th July in Cape Town, 13th August in Accra and 17th September in Lagos), youth citizen scientist runners ran their chosen 5-15 km routes. During the runs, they collected data on air quality using wearable sensors. Using a bespoke mobile application, citizen scientists also captured multimedia (photo, audio, video, text) geocoded data on aspects of the built environment that influence health and perceived sources of polluted or clean air encountered during the run. Each runner ran with a group of people who they recruited via social media and other channels.

A second one-day workshop was held in each of the cities (02nd October in Cape Town, 05th October in Accra and 07th October in Lagos). At these workshops, the run leaders reviewed the results from the data they generated during their runs and used this information to design advocacy campaigns implemented in October and November in the run up to the COP27 meeting in Egypt.

Get in touch:

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