

Inclusion • Protection • Dignity

SKIN CANCER & CLIMATE CHANGE

When a Changing Climate Creates a Greater Protection Challenge for People with Albinism



AWA skin cancer awareness training with people with albinism

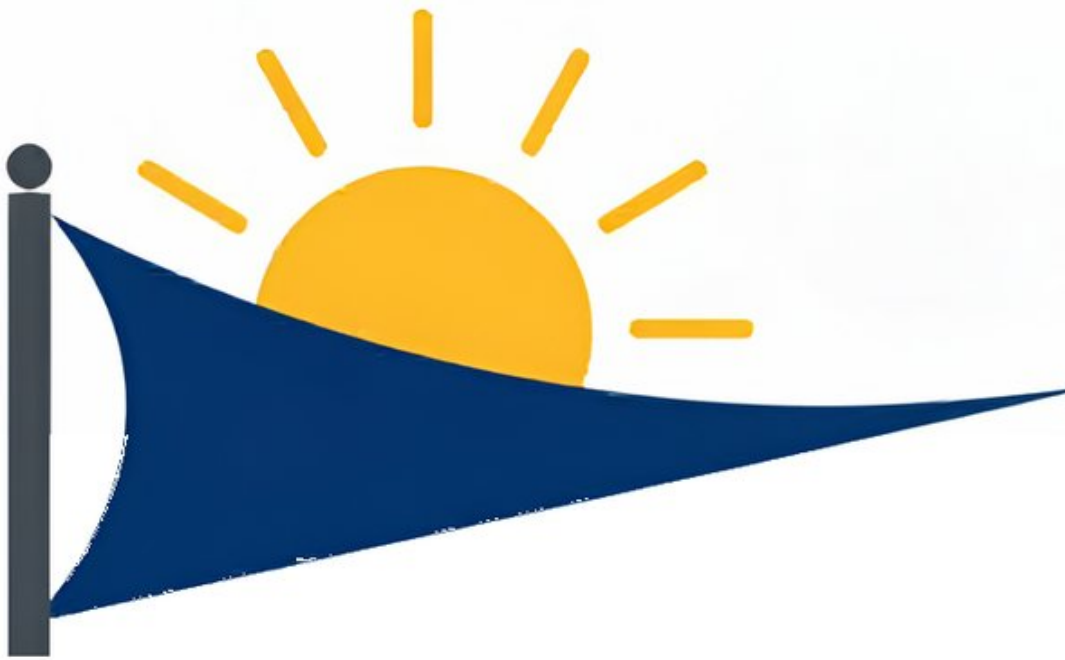
A changing climate. An enduring vulnerability.

Climate change is often discussed through rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, food insecurity and environmental disasters. But there is another dimension that deserves greater attention: what a hotter, more unpredictable climate means for people whose health is already affected by prolonged exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

For people with albinism, this is not an abstract environmental concern. Melanin provides natural protection against UV radiation. People with albinism have significantly reduced or absent melanin, making protection from prolonged sun exposure particularly important.

In contexts where access to sunscreen, protective clothing, shade, regular skin screening and specialist healthcare is limited, preventable exposure can become a serious health threat.

As temperatures rise and communities experience changing environmental conditions, the conversation must move beyond climate awareness. We need climate action that protects people.



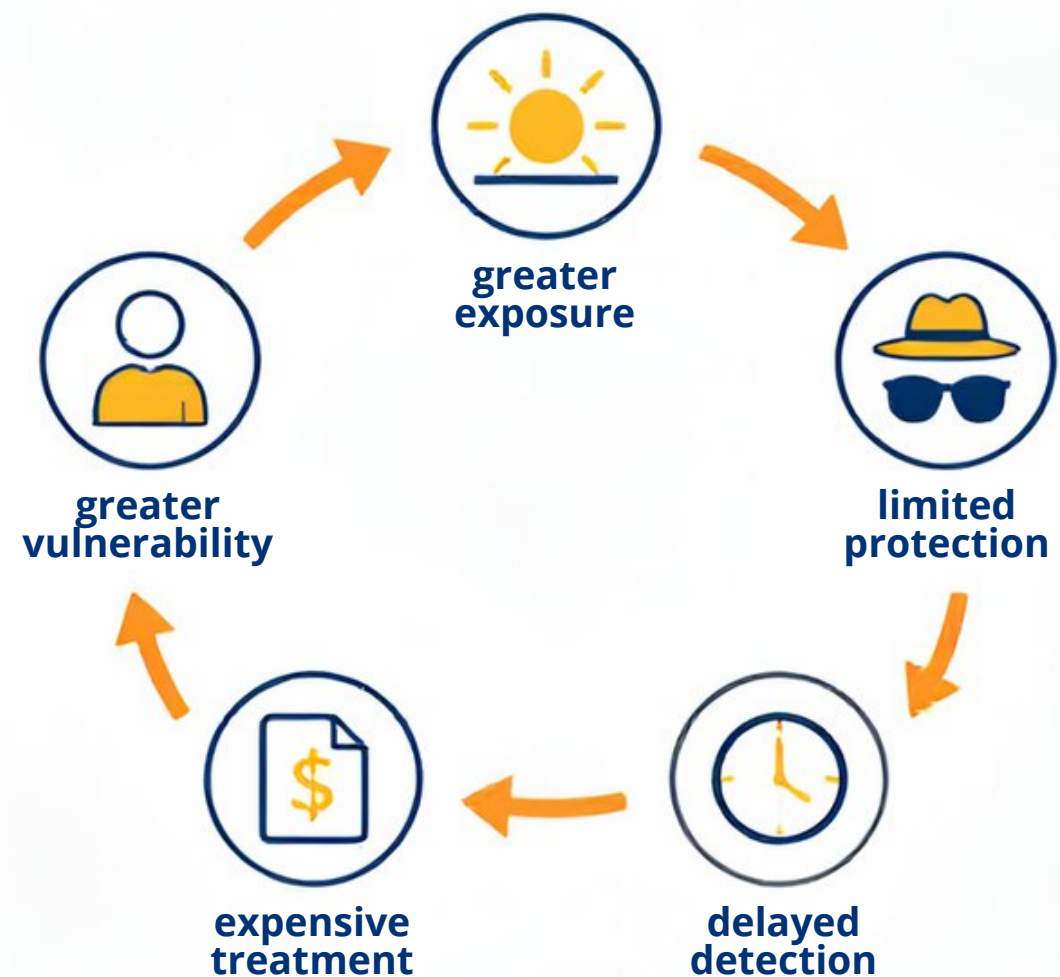
What your gift can do

10,000 FCFA provides one bottle of high-protection (SPF 50+) sunscreen for a child.

25,000 FCFA provides a full sun-protection kit: sunscreen, wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt and lip balm.

Skin cancer is not only a medical issue

For people with albinism, skin cancer can affect far more than physical health. Late diagnosis can mean repeated treatment, surgery, loss of income, transport costs, disruption of family life and, in severe cases, loss of life. For people living in communities affected by poverty, displacement or conflict, reaching appropriate healthcare can be even more difficult.



This cycle is not inevitable. Early prevention, accessible information, affordable protective measures and timely medical care can make a profound difference.



Climate change adds a new layer to an existing challenge

Climate change does not create albinism-related vulnerability, but it can intensify the conditions in which that vulnerability is experienced.

Longer periods of intense heat can make daily life outdoors more difficult. People may spend more time seeking shade or adapting work and school routines.

Outdoor workers, children walking to school, farmers, traders and people displaced by crisis may have limited control over their exposure to the sun.

For someone with albinism, these are not simply questions of comfort. They can become questions of health, livelihood, education and protection.

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This is why climate resilience must include people with albinism and other persons with disabilities; not as an afterthought, but from the beginning.



Walk against skin cancer and social exclusion of persons with albinism

What AWA is already doing

- Reached 200+ people with albinism with sunscreen and protective materials.
- Skin cancer awareness training and health talks on sun protection.
- Advocacy at the Regional Delegation of Public Health, Bamenda (June 2024), calling for sunscreen in public health services.
- Hospital visits and support for patients with albinism.
- School sessions and radio programmes that challenge stigma.

[More at awaforcharity.org](https://awaforcharity.org)

From sunscreen to systems: prevention must go further

Sunscreen is important, but protection cannot depend on sunscreen alone.



Regular skin screening and early detection



Affordable and consistent access to sunscreen



Protective clothing, hats and sunglasses



Access to shade in schools, workplaces and public spaces



Health education for individuals, families and communities



Training for frontline health workers



Referral pathways for suspected skin cancers



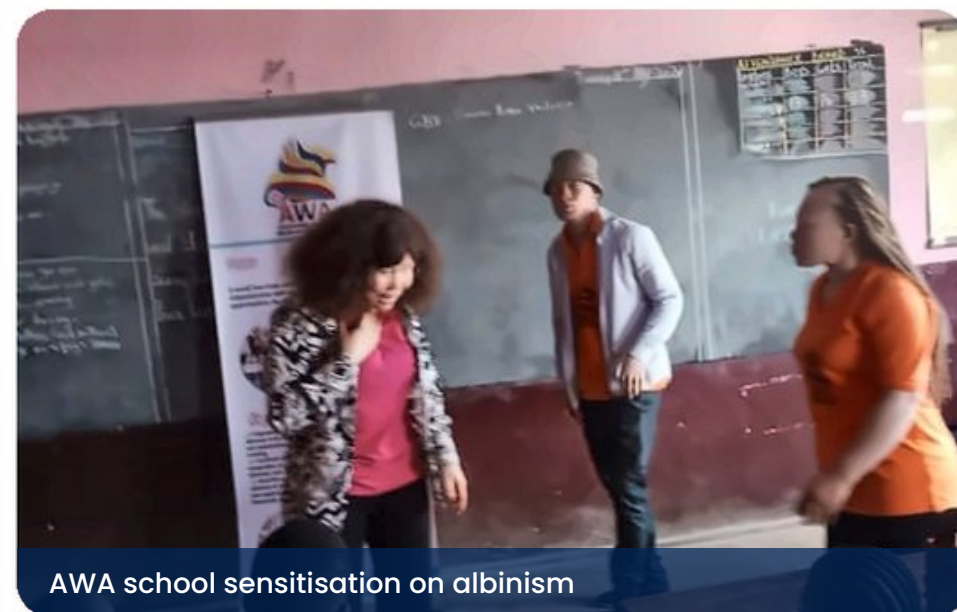
Inclusive climate and humanitarian preparedness



Reliable data on people with albinism and their protection needs



AWA health talk on sun protection



AWA school sensitisation on albinism



These interventions may appear simple. But for a person living in a low-resource or crisis-affected setting, they can be life-changing.

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AWA's call: Make climate resilience inclusive

At the Association for the Welfare of Albinos (AWA), we believe that climate resilience must be measured not only by how communities withstand environmental change, but also by whose health and dignity are protected in the process.

People with albinism should be visible in climate-health planning, disability-inclusive programming, humanitarian preparedness and community health interventions.

A climate response that overlooks people with albinism risks leaving some of the most vulnerable people further behind. Inclusion is therefore not simply a principle. It is a form of protection.



AWA advocacy visit, Regional Delegation of Public Health, Bamenda, 12 June 2024



An opportunity for partnership

AWA is committed to strengthening awareness, prevention, protection and access to support for people with albinism in Cameroon, particularly in communities where health and protection challenges intersect with poverty, displacement and crisis.

We invite health institutions, climate and environmental organisations, disability organisations, humanitarian actors, researchers, foundations, corporate partners and individual donors to join us in developing practical solutions.



Sun-protection materials



Skin screening and early detection initiatives



Referral and healthcare support



Community and school-based education



Health-worker capacity building



Disability-inclusive climate-health programming



**Together, we can build a future
where climate resilience protects
every life and every dignity.**

Your partnership can help save
lives and strengthen communities.



Partner with AWA today.

Together, we protect.
Together, we empower.
Together, we change lives.

A message to our partners and donors

Every sunscreen distributed, every person reached with prevention information, every suspicious lesion identified early, and every health worker equipped with the right knowledge represents more than an intervention. It represents time gained. Dignity protected. A life potentially saved.

We believe the future of climate action must be one in which no person's health becomes invisible because their vulnerability is poorly understood.

Together, we can move from awareness to prevention, from prevention to protection, and from protection to dignity.



Support inclusive health and protection

Your partnership can help AWA bring practical, life-saving protection closer to people with albinism who need it most.

Give online: awaforcharity.org/donate-now


**DONATE
TODAY**

Make protection
possible.



Association for the Welfare of Albinos (AWA), Cameroon
Inclusion • Protection • Dignity



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AWA Editorial Note

This newsletter is intended to contribute to public awareness and advocacy. It does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Anyone concerned about a changing skin lesion or possible skin cancer should seek assessment from a qualified health professional.

