



REPORT ON

THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD CANCER DAY

2026

United
Unique *By*



2nd - 5th February 2026



www.recdev.org



Mankon, North-West Region,
Cameroon



1. Introduction



Cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. According to the Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN), an estimated 19.96 million new cancer cases and nearly 10 million deaths occurred globally in 2022 (International Agency for Research on Cancer [IARC], 2024). The global burden of cancer continues to rise due to population growth, aging, and increasing exposure to risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, infections, and environmental pollutants.

Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing a rapidly growing cancer burden. In 2022, the region recorded over 1.1 million new cancer cases and approximately 711,000 deaths, with projections indicating a significant increase by 2040 if prevention and control measures are not strengthened (IARC, 2024). Limited access to screening, delayed diagnosis, and inadequate treatment infrastructure contribute to high mortality rates across the region.

In Cameroon, cancer is a major public health concern. GLOBOCAN 2022 estimates indicate approximately 20,745 new cancer cases and over 13,000 cancer-related deaths annually. The most common cancers include breast cancer, cervical cancer, prostate cancer, and liver cancer (IARC, 2024). Many cases are diagnosed at advanced stages due to low screening coverage and limited awareness.

In the North-West Region of Cameroon, hospital-based studies indicate that cervical and breast cancers are among the most frequently diagnosed malignancies, with late presentation being common (Engbang et al., 2019). These trends highlight the urgent need for community-based awareness, early detection initiatives, and strengthened health education.

An essential component of effective cancer response is patient-centered care. Patient-centered care emphasizes respect for patients' values, preferences, and individual needs, ensuring that care decisions are guided by informed consent, dignity, and cultural sensitivity (World Health Organization [WHO], 2018). This approach improves treatment adherence, enhances quality of life, and promotes equitable access to services. The 2026 World Cancer Day theme, “**United by Unique,**” aligns with this principle by recognizing that each individual's cancer journey is different and requires compassionate, inclusive, and tailored care.

2. Objective of The Outreach

The World Cancer Day 2026 activities aimed to:

- Increase awareness about cancer and its impact on individuals and communities.
- Educate students and staff on early signs and symptoms of various cancers.
- Explain risk factors and evidence-based prevention strategies.
- Demonstrate practical methods for breast and testicular self-examination.
- Highlight the importance of early detection and timely screening.
- Encourage young people to become advocates for cancer awareness and prevention

3. School Outreach Activities

a. On the 2nd of February 2026, RADA launched its World Cancer Day engagement at Step by Step High School Mankon, Bamenda, where students and staff were educated on the early signs and symptoms of various cancer types, major risk factors, and preventive strategies. The session included practical demonstrations on how to carry out breast and testicular self-examinations, emphasizing the importance of early detection in saving lives. The outreach was interactive, allowing students to ask questions and clarify misconceptions, while encouraging young people to take an active role in cancer awareness and prevention within their communities.



b. On the 4th of February 2026, RADA joined the global community in commemorating World Cancer Day at Longla Comprehensive College Mankon under the theme “United by Unique.” During the session, the team educated students and staff on what cancer is all about, its risk factors, and prevention strategies. Practical demonstrations of breast and testicular self-examinations were conducted, and strong emphasis was placed on the life-saving value of early detection and timely screening. The discussion also reinforced the importance of compassion, inclusion, and supporting individuals affected by cancer.



c. On the 5th of February 2026, RADA continued its cancer sensitization campaign at City College of Commerce Mankon (CCC), engaging students in practical conversations around cancer prevention and early detection. The session focused on understanding cancer risk factors, adopting healthy lifestyle practices, and learning simple but life-saving techniques such as breast and testicular self-examinations. Emphasis was placed on seeking medical attention without fear or delay, addressing myths and stigma associated with cancer, and encouraging proactive health choices among young people.



4. Key Outcomes

- ❖ Increased awareness and understanding of cancer among students and staff.
- ❖ Enhanced knowledge of early signs and symptoms of common cancers.
- ❖ Improved understanding of cancer risk factors and prevention strategies.
- ❖ Practical skills gained in conducting self-breast and testicular examinations.
- ❖ Increased motivation among students to serve as peer educators and advocates for cancer prevention.

5. Impact and Significance

The outreach activities demonstrated the importance of school-based health education in promoting early prevention and detection practices. By targeting young people, RADA contributed to:

- Building a generation that is informed and health-conscious.
- Reducing stigma associated with cancer.
- Encouraging early health-seeking behavior.
- Strengthening community-level advocacy and awareness.
- The theme “United by Unique” was reflected in the inclusive and participatory nature of the sessions, reinforcing the message that although cancer experiences differ, collective awareness and action can save lives.

6. CONCLUSION

Through these outreach activities, RADA strengthened health literacy within school communities and empowered students with knowledge and practical skills to promote cancer prevention and early detection. Guided by the theme “United by Unique,” the organization reaffirmed its commitment to grassroots advocacy, inclusive health education, and equitable access to life-saving information. By investing in young people, RADA continues to nurture a generation that is informed, proactive, and united in the fight against cancer.

7. Appendix

