

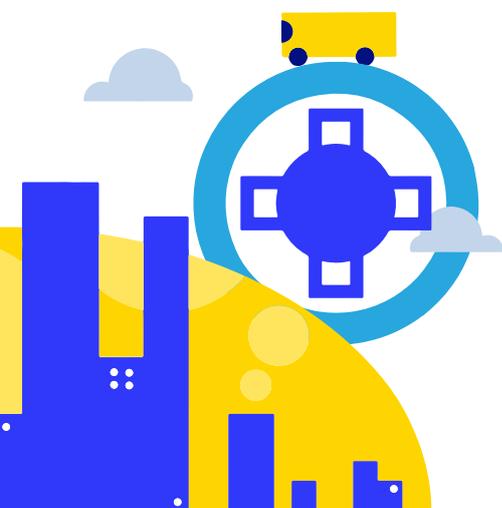
# Opportunities to Advance Clean Air and Climate Action in Lagos

## Summary for Decisionmakers

The Cityzens for Clean Air initiative seeks to amplify youth voices to advance evidence-informed action on clean air and healthy public space across the African continent, including Lagos

Using an open call for applications, young people aged 18-35 years applied to be citizen scientists and "Run Leaders". In Lagos, eleven young people were selected and trained. On 17 September 2022, the Run Leaders, joined by over 150 runners whom they recruited, took to the streets of Lagos to run ten different 5-15km routes. The routes were designed to capture the diverse socio-economic spectrum across the city. 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) data about how the built environment influences health and perceived sources of polluted or clean air encountered during the run.

This briefing offers a summary of key results and makes recommendations for how the City of Lagos can become a leading player in air quality, youth engagement, and climate action.



## Key Findings

### There are large inequities in clean air across different areas of the city.

For example, areas like Ikeja, Ogba, Shomolu, Ketu and Aguda had predominantly good air quality. This was in sharp contrast to Egbeda which bordered on mostly unhealthy air quality with some instances of hazardous air quality. Areas in Surulere (located on the mainland), and Idumota- Ikoyi, which is located on Lagos Island, had mostly moderate air quality, with some instances of unhealthy for sensitive groups and unhealthy air quality. Ikorodu, along the Lagos Lagoon had zero instances of good air quality measured.

The air quality measured ranged from moderate to unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy, very unhealthy and a few instances of hazardous air quality.

### Improving data access increases public engagement.

Access to air quality data, complemented by multimedia health and climate risk data, increases citizens' awareness, enfranchises the public, and motivates public support for clean air and climate policy agendas in Lagos.

### Young people are motivated and eager to support clean air action in their neighbourhoods, but do not have clear, accessible opportunities to do so.

Over 150 people participated in the #CityzensforCleanAir running events organised by youth leaders between July and October, and hundreds more are expected to join future runs. The energy unleashed by the Cityzens initiative shows the untapped energy of young people to help improve their city and neighbourhood.



To live, we need to breathe. To live long, we need good air quality. To save our future, we need to steward the earth.

Tobbie, youth citizen scientist, 25 years, Lagos

## How Lagos Decisionmakers Can Take Action

1

Lagos citizens have real-time access to data about the air we breathe.

*Recommendations:*

- Create a network of low-cost, community-based air quality sensors distributed across city neighbourhoods, with open-source, real-time data access for the public.
- Make current air quality data open to the public and easily accessible, so residents check real-time data about the air they breathe at any time.

2

Young people have a say in the decisions that affect our air and future.

*Recommendations:*

- Establish a participatory decision making mechanism that includes young people from diverse areas of Lagos on where air quality sensors go, what interventions happen as a result of the data, and how the results are shared with the public in a timely manner.

3

Lagos is a climate resilient city that helps – not harms – our health.

*Recommendations:*

- Measure the health impact of urban infrastructure and public space development projects, and make those data easily and freely available to the public.



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Learn more and access the full findings for Lagos:

