



**Without  
sunscreen,  
we are not safe.**

# Impact Report

**Petition to Protect  
People with Albinism  
from Skin Cancer**



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are proud to share this Impact Report of the petition campaign that we launched during IAAD 2024. Thousands of you worldwide joined our mission to make sunscreen accessible for everyone with albinism, particularly across Africa, by advocating for its inclusion on the WHO's Essential Medicines List and the WHO heard you.

## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

From June 11, 2024, to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day 2024, we launched a year-long petition in four languages (English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili) calling on the World Health Organization (WHO) to re-add sunscreen to the Essential Medicines List.

The petition was promoted on social media by renowned human rights defenders with albinism such as [Diandra Forrest](#) and [Xueli Abbing](#). In October 2024, we partnered with CBM Global to launch the petition worldwide.

The petition complemented the [application](#) by the UN Independent Expert on Albinism to the WHO to add SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen to the WHO Model Essential Medicines List (EML) and Model List of Essential Medicines for children For Persons with Albinism. To read the supporting letters, click [here](#)

By including sunscreen (meaning sunblockers that meet a particularly technical criterion for sun protection) on the WHO's list of Essential Medicines, we can ensure that it becomes more widely available and/or affordable.

**The campaign was supported by:**



## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

4282

The petition letter was signed by 4282 people in 99 countries across 6 WHO regions.

75

Albinism organizations worldwide signed the petition.

25

Impactful posts were created in 4 languages and cross-posted for AAN's Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube Platforms targeting digital audiences to sign the petition.

10,282

We developed campaign resources to support the petition. They were viewed 10,282 times. Check out a few below!

95,279

Our campaign message reached 95,279 people across our Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube channels.





## NOTABLE SIGNATORIES



The UN Independent  
Expert on Albinism



CBM Global Disability  
Inclusion



Xueli Abbing - UNESCO  
Goodwill Ambassador



Diandra Forrest -  
Model and Activist



Human Rights Watch



Peter Fremlin - Disability  
Debrief

## MEDIA MENTIONS

- The Nation Media Kenya
- National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH) E-News
- People Digital Daily

**KEY EVENTS** The petition was shared in person at the following international events:

- NOAH Con 2024
- Africa Climate and Health Week 2024
- COP29 Baku
- Global Disability Summit 2025



**POST-  
PETITION  
OUTCOMES**

**May 2025** - The UNIE's application was reviewed by the 25th WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines from 5–9 May 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

**September 2025** - The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved broad-spectrum sunscreen to be added to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

## RESOURCES

You can now access, download, and share all the campaign resources below:

### Read three stories of resilience in the face of climate change



Nnene's Story

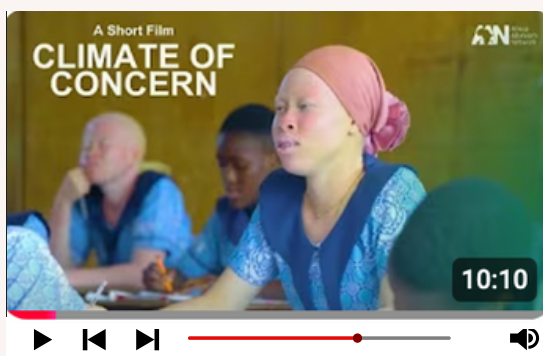


Joselito's Story



Simon's Story

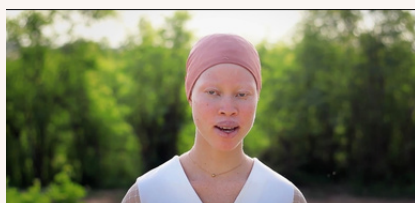
### Watch: Short film titled "Climate of Concern"



Watch with:

- French subtitles
- Portuguese subtitles

### Meet Layla : A Call to Action



Watch in English with:

- English subtitles
- French subtitles
- Portuguese subtitles

### Radio Program with the West Africa Democracy Radio on Climate Change and Albinism



- Listen to Part 1 in English and French
- Listen to Part 2 in English and French

## RESOURCES

You can now access, download, and share all the campaign resources below:

**Webinar: For advocates on Climate Justice for Persons with disabilities: A case study of Persons with Albinism**



**Watch: Our Journey at COP29 Baku**



## Petition Letter

**To: Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO)**  
**From: Signatories**

We, persons with albinism who are a constituent of persons with disabilities and our allies;

Urge you to re-add sunblockers (or sunscreen) to the official WHO's Essential Medicines List and contribute to long-lasting change for the Albinism community worldwide.

Why? Because skin cancer is the number one killer of people with albinism in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa.

According to one estimate, close to 90 percent of people with albinism contract or die from skin cancer by their 40th birthday.

The situation is more dire with climate change. Rising ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun is increasing the rates of skin cancer globally, and people with albinism are especially vulnerable. People with albinism in many parts of Africa do not have adequate access to sunscreen because sunscreens are unavailable and/or unaffordable. For people with albinism, sunscreen is not a cosmetic but an essential, life-saving drug.

Sincerely,

**4282 people who signed online in 99 countries across all 6 WHO regions**





# Thank you for your support.

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 [africaalbinismnetwork.org](http://africaalbinismnetwork.org)



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