

# Seedlings for Cameroon



## Change begins with Knowledge

*The word “broadcast” means “to scatter seeds.” With these programs, you can plant seedlings throughout your daily broadcast to become a Green Station. Seedlings are short pieces about climate change that can include facts, simple solutions, nature poems, songs, and listener ideas.*

### 1. This is Seedlings.

Here is a poem by Imtiaz Dharker, titled “X”.

Hand shaking on the stop-cock, she looks  
at the X, the warning cross,

the water-tap unlocked, its padlock cracked.  
Breath hacks in the throat, Check your back.

Turn it on and an anxious mutter swells  
to thunder in the plastic bucket. *Don't spill it.*

*Fill it to the top.* Lift to the hip, stop,  
balance the weight for the dangerous walk

home. *Home.*  
*Don't lose a drop.*

From the police chowki across the track  
a whistle, a shout. *Run. Don't stop. Don't slip.*

A drag at the hip. *Hot, hot* underfoot. Water slops  
up and out in every direction, over the lip,

over her legs, a shock of cool, a spark of light.  
With her stolen piece of sky, she has taken flight.

Behind her, the shouters give up. She puts down  
the bucket. The water stills.

She looks into it, looks up to where the blue  
is scarred with aimless tracks.

Jet-trails cross each other off  
before they die out, a careless X.



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## 2. This is Seedlings.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission, or LCBC, is beginning a new project to help communities adapt to climate change, protect themselves from terrorism, and increase food security in the Lake Chad region. The plan is part of an Africa-wide climate initiative by the World Bank and was approved by the international community at the December COP21 conference in Paris. As the lake shrinks from a combination of climate change-related drought and irrigation projects diverting water, many people who used to support their families by fishing have been forced to turn to farming instead. The LCBC aims to help lake communities in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria by investing in transport and trade, managing conflicts and water resources, improving living conditions, and starting an education campaign about ways to adapt to climate change. The Commission will be working with local governments to achieve its goals.

## 3. This is Seedlings.

Each hotel in Douala throws out about 30 liters of used cooking oil every week, and for people being trained by the community development organization GIC Bellomar, all that oil means free raw materials to start their own business. By recycling oil from hotels in the city, GIC Bellomar is teaching people how to make their own soap. After the students filter the oil to remove any impurities, all they need to add is clay and cocoa butter, meaning they don't need to invest much money into their materials. This allows the recycled soap to undercut the retail price of soap made in a factory, making it more attractive to customers. Reusing cooking oil is not just good for business, it's good for the environment. When oil combines with other waste in drains, landfills, or on the street, it creates a toxic substance that can leach into the drinking water and cause diseases. GIC Bellomar hopes that their training program will inspire people to go into business for themselves, create jobs for others in the community, all the while recycling a waste product and saving the earth.



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# Seedlings ....from Developing Radio Partners

## 4. This is Seedlings.

In the North West Region, where flowing rivers have dried up and people are travelling farther than ever to carry water for their families, farmers are feeling the effects of climate change. The normal rainfall pattern has been disrupted by a combination of increasing temperatures and a weather event called El Nino. El Nino is a weather pattern that happens irregularly every few years, and is made more extreme by climate change. Ocean water off the coast of South America gets warmer, leading to unpredictable changes in rain and temperature as far away as Africa. The effects of El Nino are expected to subside in May, but climate change is an enduring problem. Farmers around the North West Region are finding ways to adapt, however, like in Santa and Ndop where people have dug reservoirs so that they can grow crops even in the dry season. Many farmers start the growing season by planting in swamps and along river banks, and wait to plant in drier areas until they feel confident that there will be enough rain. Technology is also working hard to catch up to climate change. Scientists at the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development are adapting bean and maize seeds to withstand drought conditions, which will hopefully be available in the country soon.



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