

Meet the Open Air Foundation

According to the WHO, air pollution is the second leading cause of death in non-communicable diseases, amounting to 7 million deaths annually. It is a global mortality crisis – one that falls disproportionately on low-income countries. Yet only 0.3% of the world’s air quality monitors are stationed in these same countries.

Closing this data gap is crucial to saving lives. Air quality data often makes the invisible visible, allowing policymakers to assess pollutant hotspots, start public health campaigns, or prepare for respiratory disease surges. And examples in China and the USA show that when data is made public, it also catalyses action. Citizens demand accountability, policymakers react, and pollutant levels fall.

The **Open Air Foundation** will provide reliable, accessible air quality data to the communities that need it most. In collaboration with local partners, we will deploy low-cost air quality monitors. AirGradient, the initiator behind the Open Air Foundation, has helped communities fight for cleaner air since 2019 and now gives these non-profit activities a proper home.



How We Will Drive Change

We will not just provide hardware, we will build capacity. Our approach combines affordable, open-source technology with community training to turn data into action. As the Open Air Foundation, we will offer our support across several dimensions:



Deployment of
monitors



Technical
support



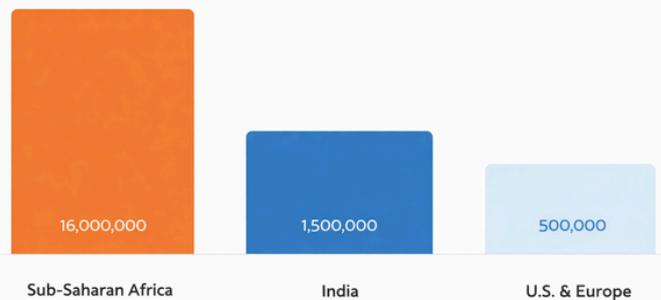
Capacity Training &
Workshops



Data Matters, and so does Equality

The global distribution of air quality monitoring infrastructure reveals stark inequalities. Africa hosts **half the world’s most polluted countries**, yet it is the continent with the least amount of air quality monitoring.

THE GLOBAL MONITORING DIVIDE: POPULATION PER MONITOR



Without data, governments cannot implement evidence-based policies, communities cannot protect themselves during high pollution episodes, and health systems cannot prepare for respiratory disease surges.

1 USD INVESTMENT

30 USD SAVED IN HEALTHCARE COSTS



Our Pathways of Impact

Together with our local partners, our projects visualise air pollution, supporting sustainable and long-lasting initiatives within local governance, climate mitigation, and the public health sector. We believe that impact is only possible through communication, shared responsibility, and prioritising communities' agency.

Expanding Data Coverage

We can increase access to air quality data by deploying monitor networks across data-poor regions, allowing millions of people to know what type of air they are breathing for the first time.

Evidence-Based Public Policy

Together with local partners, we can deploy high-resolution sensors at pollution hotspots to identify specific pollution patterns, enabling data-driven environmental policies.

Public Health Initiatives

By deploying sensors in public spaces, public health servants can protect vulnerable populations in places of living, learning, and healing.

Our History as AirGradient

The Open Air Foundation is a culmination of AirGradient's years of experience with communities across the globe. Since 2019, AirGradient has successfully implemented 26+ projects with grassroots organisations, schools, and international partners, such as UNICEF and Greenpeace. This work reached over 17+ countries, with a focus on Asia, Africa, and South America. Over 400+ AirGradient monitors have been deployed and maintained.



Let's Work Together to Scale Our Impact

We have spent years working alongside communities to change that, building a global network that turns air quality data into real, lasting impact. We know what works. Now we want to bring it to more people.

We are looking for passionate partners who share our belief that everyone deserves to breathe clean air — and who want to help us reach the communities that need it most.

If you are interested, please reach out to us in person or via email.



Over the course of the next months, we are excited to share more of our progress as we grow the Open Air Foundation.