

Air pollution contributes to an 7 million deaths worldwide every , according to the World Health Organization.

Now scientists in -Saharan Africa - where many of those happen - have developed a low-cost pollution sensor that allows to monitor the air quality in their . With new funding, the manufacturer to install over 3,000 of them the continent.

Solomon Serwanja reports from Nairobi.

Tina and her one-year-old daughter Clarissa next to a steel in Mukuru, a pollution hot spot on the of Nairobi. The white powdery ash from the mill has to be washed every day.

The particles and some other smoke that normally comes out, that is the thing.

When you breathe those particles, it's so .

At this local clinic, the number of of pneumonia, asthma and infections has doubled in the last 12 months.

The World Health Organization recognises air pollution as of the causes.

Cecilia can breathe...

And...

This woman's capacity is not what it should be.

There are three quarters of a million people living in this community and many of are struggling to breathe because of the air quality.

There is a [redacted] of African scientists who have come [redacted] with ways of measuring the air quality here, and they [redacted] that it is a [redacted] forward in finding a solution to this problem.

These low-cost air pollution sensors are [redacted] to install.

They detect and record the amount of dangerous [redacted] particles in the air.

That data is then transmitted to a website [redacted] it can be accessed by anyone for [redacted].

Our data is accurate, which means anyone in any [redacted] across any African country will be [redacted] to use it, deploy it, and get real-time local [redacted] for their neighbourhoods, that they can use to petition governments to [redacted] problems that they face around air pollution.

That is what the community living [redacted] to this asphalt factory did after they started having breathing problems.

They installed sensors in their [redacted].

Our campaign got the attention of the [redacted] and the government agencies that were ignoring us [redacted].

The director of the Environment Agency came [redacted] and instructed the factory to shutdown and only [redacted] after they had complied with their [redacted]

The hope is that this technology will empower communities [redacted]

Tina and Clarissa's to fight for their right to [redacted] air.

CLARISSA COUGHS.

Solomon Serwanja, BBC News, Nairobi.