



CONCEPT NOTE - AFRICA DAY COMMEMORATION – MAY 25TH 2026

1. Background

African Catalyzing Action for Nutrition (AfriCAN) was launched on Africa Day, May 25th, 2022, and has since commemorated the day annually while celebrating its launch through activities aligned with the African Union theme for each respective year.

The African Union theme for 2026 is: **“Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063.”** This theme highlights the critical role of water and sanitation in advancing economic transformation, improving public health, strengthening climate resilience, and achieving sustainable development across Africa. The African Union’s Agenda 2063, particularly Aspiration 1, envisions: *“A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.”*

Access to clean water and safe sanitation is not only a public health necessity but also a developmental and political priority that contributes to:

- Improved nutrition and food security
- Disease prevention and healthier communities
- Environmental sustainability
- Enhanced economic productivity and human development

In commemorating Africa Day 2026, AfriCAN will advocate for and raise awareness on the crucial role of water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition security defined thus: *“Nutrition security exists when all people at all times consume food of sufficient quantity and quality in terms of variety, diversity, nutrient content and safety to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, coupled with a sanitary environment, adequate health, education and care.”*

The African Union Agenda 2063 recognizes that women and young people are central to achieving Africa’s development aspirations. Aspiration 6 envisions: *“An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.”* AfriCAN aligns with Agenda 2063 Aspiration 6 by targeting youth as the foundation for its vision of a healthy and well-nourished Africa through its **“Good Nutrition Starts With Me” Youth Initiative**. AfriCAN also recognizes women as central to sustainable development through improved nutrition, health, and well-being across the lifecycle. Youth participating in the AfriCAN Youth Initiative in **Cameroon, Gambia, and Ghana** have already demonstrated commitment through post-training actions promoting hygienic practices and sanitary environments within households and communities.

2. Campaign Theme: “Our Water, Our Environment, Our Responsibility”

The campaign focuses on advocacy and communication in line with AfriCAN’s approach to: Inform; Educate; Advocate; Inspire action at all levels. AfriCAN calls on the youth to commemorate Africa Day 2026 by promoting:

- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
- Nutrition security
- Environmental cleanliness
- Healthy lifestyles within homes, schools, and communities.

3. Objectives

The campaign aims to:

1. Raise awareness on the link between water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, and health.
2. Promote good hygienic and environmental sanitation practices within households and communities.
3. Encourage youth participation in community-based environmental and nutrition initiatives.
4. Advocate for nutrition security and healthier lifestyles among young people and families.
5. Inspire individual and collective action towards achieving the goals of Agenda 2063.

4. Goal

To mobilize youth to promote clean water, environmental sanitation, and sustainable environmental practices within their communities.

5. Proposed Activities

Participants are encouraged to select activities that align with their goals and community needs.

A. Community Engagement

- Clean immediate surroundings and encourage family members to adopt good hygienic practices.
- Promote the importance of a clean environment in preventing disease and improving nutrition security.
- Conduct awareness discussions on the link between sanitation, health, and nutrition.

B. School Outreach

Identify schools within communities and engage students on:

- Proper hygienic practices
- Environmental cleanliness
- Disease prevention
- Healthy nutrition habits

C. Youth-Led Advocacy

- Organize community clean-up campaigns led by youth groups.
- Share key messages on water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition security through community dialogues and social media platforms.

6. Expected Outcomes

The campaign is expected to result in:

- Increased awareness on nutrition security, hygiene, and environmental sanitation.
- Improved hygienic practices within homes, schools, and communities.
- Increased youth engagement in environmental and nutrition advocacy.
- Cleaner and healthier community environments.
- Stronger understanding of the relationship between sanitation, nutrition, and public health.

7. Partners

National Nutrition Coordinating bodies are the key entry points for AfriCAN into countries, and they play a lead role in the implementation of its initiatives.

Potential partners include:

- Ministries of Health
- Community-based organizations
- Youth networks
- Schools and educational institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Media organizations

9. Implementation Approach

The campaign will use advocacy, community mobilization, education, youth engagement, and digital communication to expand outreach and participation. Social media, community dialogues, school outreach, and volunteer-led clean-up activities will reinforce campaign messages and promote behavior change.

10. Conclusion

The Africa Day 2026 commemoration presents an opportunity to mobilize communities, especially young people, around the critical role of water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition security in sustainable development. Through advocacy, education, and community engagement, AfriCAN aims to inspire both individual and collective responsibility and action toward building healthier, cleaner, and nutrition-secure communities across Africa in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 for a prosperous, healthy, and sustainable Africa.