

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2026: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR EVERY CHILD IN AFRICA

OUTCOME STATEMENT

16 JUNE 2026

GUIDED by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and its basic principles;

BEING AWARE that water is one of the most important things for a healthy and decent life and that no child can survive without water;

RECOGNISING that access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is not a privilege but a fundamental right of every child;

ALSO RECOGNISING that children's rights are interconnected and that when children do not have access to clean water, many other rights are affected, including the rights to health, education, dignity, participation and development;

NOTING that many children in Africa still have to travel long distances to get water, that some schools do not have enough water and sanitation facilities, and that many communities continue to face water scarcity and lack of infrastructure;

CONCERNED ABOUT water pollution and contamination, lack of sanitation facilities, lack of awareness, lack of funding for WASH projects, conflict, and poor infrastructure;

ALSO CONCERNED that many children continue to suffer from diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, dehydration, malnutrition and other illnesses because they do not have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene;

We, the children, participants of the training and commemoration of the Day of the African Child from 14 to 16 June 2026:

1. Call on Member States of the African Union to:
 - i. Guarantee that every child in Africa, including children with disabilities and children who still have to travel long distances to access water obtains water services, sanitation and personal hygiene
 - ii. Build and maintain water and sanitation infrastructure in schools, health centres and communities, including water networks, sanitation networks, toilets that are good for children, wells, and dams,
 - iii. Protect water sources and the environment by treating wastewater, fixing leaking pipes, protecting groundwater and seawater

- iv. Ensure industries and individuals that pollute water are held accountable.
- v. Increase awareness among children on the importance of not wasting water, protecting water from pollution, and use schools, communities and media to help children learn about WASH and their rights.
- vi. Adopt sustainable and climate-resilient solutions to water scarcity, including harvesting and storing rainwater during times of drought, planting trees, discussing desertification and reusing and treating water for agriculture,
- vii. Involve children and youth in developing solutions and environmental initiatives, learn from successful African experiences such as large-scale water projects that have improved access to water and benefit from Africa's natural resources
- viii. Create a child led WASH score card and take it to schools so that children can support implementation of WASH

2. Call on Civil Society Organizations to:

- i. Collect data on children who benefit from WASH, keep track of the progress, and support all the children who are left out
- ii. Have awareness campaigns about preserving safe WASH
- iii. Create safe environment through protecting their rights and providing safe spaces
- iv. Listen to children's opinions and interventions

3. Call on the community including parents and guardians to:

- i. Preserve water resources and avoid contaminating rivers, lakes, seas and other water sources.
- ii. Use water responsibly and promote water-saving practices such as drip irrigation.
- iii. Raise awareness about the importance of water conservation and protecting the environment.
- iv. Support the building of wells and the protection of local water resources.
- v. Educate children on the importance of a clean environment and access to safe and clean water.
- vi. Work together as communities to promote environmental hygiene, cleanliness and community-based projects that improve access to WASH

4. Call on fellow children to:

- i. Work with all the African children to address WASH issues
- ii. Preserve water and avoid wasting water

Adopted on 16 June 2026, in Tripoli, Libya