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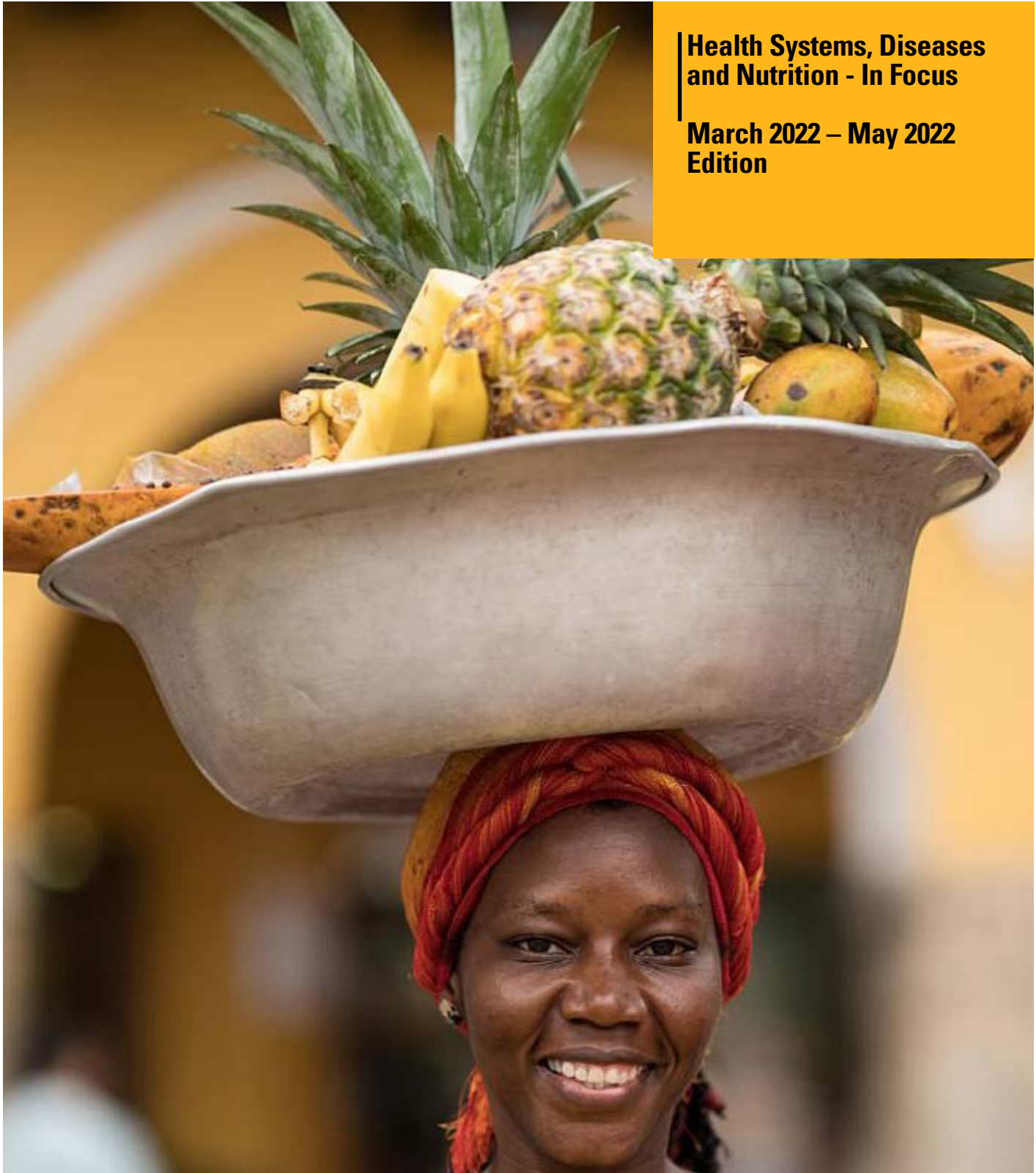
African Union and Nutrition International join efforts to end malnutrition in Africa

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Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS)

# Newsletter



**Health Systems, Diseases and Nutrition - In Focus**

**March 2022 – May 2022 Edition**

## THE AFRICAN UNION HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT ON ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION CHALLENGES IN THE HUMANITARIAN SPACE IN AFRICA



*From Left: H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the African Union Commission and His Majesty King Letsie III of The Kingdom Lesotho and African Union Champion for Nutrition.*

The African Union (AU), His Majesty King Letsie III, Head of State of the Kingdom Lesotho and African Union Nutrition Champion, African Union Development Agency -The New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), and other stakeholders held a high-level side event on the margins of the Extraordinary African Union (AU) Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference that took place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 25 to 28 May 2022.

"The moment is ours to deliberate and reflect on key actions and strategies in addressing nutrition and food security challenges, especially within the humanitarian space since in recent years, humanitarian crises have resulted in food shortages, and malnutrition," highlighted His Majesty King Letsie III of The Kingdom Lesotho and African Union Champion for Nutrition.

The event was organised by the AUC Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development and was attended by representatives from AU member states, international organizations, and civil society organisations to reflect on the challenges affecting food and nutrition security in the continent and especially the humanitarian crises. The meeting deliberated on key actions and strategies to accelerate the achievements of nutrition and food security targets for the Malabo Declaration, Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025), and Sustainable Development Goals.

In line with the AU theme of the Year 2022 Nutrition, the side-event

was held under the theme Africa's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the backdrop of 4C's: Climate, Conflict, COVID-19, and the cost of food.

In her opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Cessouma Minata Samate, AU Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs remarked that "We must acknowledge that the continent continues to experience the impacts of climate change, conflicts, COVID-19 pandemic all of which have a great impact on food security and nutrition. There is the need to invest more in building resilience, especially in AU member states and communities experiencing recurrent and protracted crises."

The side event underscored the interlinkages between the current food security and nutrition crisis and multiple, compounding, and often interrelated threats. In addition, it accelerated the momentum towards greater investments, improved coordination, joint analysis, and action in addressing nutrition and food security towards the realization of the AU Agenda 2063.

Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer for the Africa Union Development Agency- New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) further noted that "In addition to 4C's Africa needs 5C's for effective implementation of commitments and policies at all level, these are the consolidation of efforts between Africa and the international system; coordination within government structures; connecting the dots to ensure inclusion of all including the youths; collaboration within the implementing agencies and building proactive and honest partnerships with Africa governments; and catalytic approaches."



## THE AFRICAN UNION HOLDS THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE AFRICAN MEDICINES AGENCY (AMA) TREATY



The Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the African Medicines Agency (AMA) Treaty, held their First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 1 to 2 June 2022. The meeting sought to establish the Conference of the States Parties' Rules of Procedure as well as deliberate on the AMA Headquarters Assessment Report and make recommendations on the Agency's host country.

The Conference of the States Parties convened Ministers of Health and or competent Ministers or their duly designated representatives from People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Benin, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Chad, Arab Republic of Egypt, Gabonese Republic, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Mauritius, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Namibia, Republic of Niger, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Saharawi, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Seychelles, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zimbabwe. The Representatives of the African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) participated in the meeting.

H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development representing H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, reaffirmed the Commission's commitment in providing all the necessary support to the States Parties to the AMA Treaty towards the operationalization of the AMA at the earliest. Furthermore, the Commissioner highlighted the importance of the first meeting to the operationalization of the AMA, in order to enhance the capacity of the States Parties and AU recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to regulate medicines, medical products and technology. Thus, enhance their efforts in the fight and elimination of the sale, and consumption of falsified and substandard medicines, medical products and technologies. H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma also reiterated the Commission's continued effort in working with all partners and stakeholders in the interest of human capital development, public health, safety and security.

The Conference of the States Parties adopted its Rules and Procedure and elected its Bureau. Additionally, the Conference of the States Parties endorsed the Assessment report on the hosting of the AMA Headquarters for on-ward submission to the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2022.

The Conference of the States Parties is set to have an Extra-Ordinary Session before end of 2022 on the operationalization of the AMA.

### **About the African Medicines Agency (AMA)**

The AMA Treaty was adopted by Heads of States and Government during their 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly on 11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Medicines Agency aspires to enhance capacity of State Parties and AU recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to regulate medical products in order to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products on the continent. AMA shall build on the efforts of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) initiative (2009), which is led by the Africa Union Development Agency - the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD). The AMRH initiative provides guidance to AU recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Health Organizations (RHOs), to facilitate harmonization of regulatory requirements and practice among the national medicines authorities (NMRA) of the AU Member States. AMA will be the second specialized health agency of the African Union after the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

# THE FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, POPULATION AND DRUG CONTROL (STC-HPDC-4)



The Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC-4). The Ordinary session was held under the theme “Advancing health security and the socio-economic well-being of Africa’s population: Value of nutrition as an intervention”, in line, with the AU theme for the AU 2022 theme of the year “Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development”.

The Experts session held virtually from May 30-1 June 2022 included Experts from the Ministries of Health, Nutrition, Population, and Drug Control in the AU Member State partners, and AU Organs, including the Pan African Parliament, the Regional Economic Communities and International Organizations working in the areas of concern.

The Ministerial session held on 14 and 21 June 2022 included Ministers from the Ministries of Health, Nutrition, Population, and Drug Control in the AU Member States.

The ordinary session was spearheaded by the African Union Commission’s Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development . The overall objective of the STC-HPDC-4 was to engage in-depth discussions around priority areas in health, nutrition, population, drug control, and crime prevention to improve the health security and socio-economic well-being of Africa’s population. Broad areas of discussion included - but not limited to - progress on the implementation of continental policies, strategies, programmes and decisions in health, nutrition, population, drug control and crime prevention; areas of cooperation and establish mechanisms for regional, continental and global cooperation; Common African Positions in health, nutrition, population, drug control and crime prevention; and relevant AU policy organs on priority programmes and their impact on improving lives .

Speaking at the Opening ceremony of the high-level meeting, Dr. Mohamed Hassany of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Representative of the Outgoing Chairperson of the Third Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control congratulated the collaborative effort of AU Member States to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure equitable, quality access to vaccines. In his conclusion, he reiterated the importance of joint support for complete recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Looking forward to exchanging notes on how to continue securing healthy and prosperous life for the next generation,” he concluded.

Dr. Margaret Agama-Anyetei, the outgoing Ag. Director of the Directorate of Health and Humanitarian Affairs of the African Union Commission welcomed the Experts to the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control and reiterated the alignment of the STC’s theme with the 2022 AU Theme of Year on Nutrition. She also presented key achievements in health, nutrition population, and drug control programmatic work at the AU Commission level.

“The Commission continues to rely on the guidance of AU Member States on the matters presented in this STC. We have less than ten years to fully implement the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030). There is a need to accelerate efforts towards strengthening health systems performance, increasing investments in health, improving equity and addressing social determinants of health, including nutrition, to reduce priority disease burdens by 2030”, she emphasised.

Over three days, senior officials from the AU Member States hold three parallel sectorial sessions with presentations and discussions on Health, Nutrition, Population, and Drug Control. The meeting also prepared a draft agenda and decisions for the consideration of the Ministries of Health, Nutrition Population, and Drug Control in the Ministerial Meeting. The Ministers reviewed the report of the Experts and adopted the policies. The report will be presented to the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council to be held from 14-15 July 2022.

**“THERE IS A NEED TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS TOWARDS STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE, INCREASING INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH, IMPROVING EQUITY AND ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, INCLUDING NUTRITION, TO REDUCE PRIORITY DISEASE BURDENS BY 2030”**



# AFRICAN UNION AND NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL JOIN EFFORTS TO END MALNUTRITION IN AFRICA



From Left: Mr. Joel C. Spicer the Nutrition International's President and CEO, H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the African Union Commission

The African Union (AU) and Nutrition International have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), toward a shared vision to end hunger, poverty and malnutrition in Africa.

The MoU was signed at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the African Union Commission and Mr. Joel C. Spicer the Nutrition International's President and CEO.

Through the MoU, the AU and Nutrition International have agreed to work together in several areas, including nutrition advocacy and in tracking the progress made by member states in the implementation of the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Nutrition security to achieve inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. Other areas include; technical assistance to enhance the capacity of member states in domestic resource mobilization, data collection and analysis in Africa – as well as matters on adolescent nutrition, anaemia and integration of social safety net programs.

Speaking at the signing occasion,

H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma acknowledged and appreciated the ongoing engagements with Nutrition International. "This MOU further strengthens the AU and Nutrition International collaborative efforts in prioritising and investing in nutrition both at the continental and national levels through a multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach and profoundly during this AU Year on Nutrition and beyond," she said.

"Malnutrition is an urgent problem that is imposing a heavy tax on the hopes and dreams of millions of people in Africa, particularly women, children, and adolescents," said Mr. Spicer. "To face the growing threats of COVID-19, conflict, and climate and to build a strong and resilient future for Africa, nutrition must be prioritized. The key ingredient is leadership – and that is the reason we are excited to formally partner with the AU to advance the nutrition agenda in support of the Year of Nutrition," he noted.

The partnership could not have been timelier as 2022 was endorsed as the year of nutrition dedicated to strengthening the fight against malnutrition in all its forms in Africa under the theme "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent:

Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development". The MOU will be operationalized through a joint action plan including the year of nutrition interventions and commitments.

## About the African Union:

The African Union spearheads Africa's development and integration in close collaboration with African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and African citizens. The AU Vision is to accelerate progress towards an integrated, prosperous and inclusive Africa, at peace with itself, playing a dynamic role in the continental and global arena, effectively driven by an accountable, efficient and responsive Commission.

Learn more: <https://au.int/en>

## About Nutrition International

Nutrition International is a global nutrition organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada. For 30 years, we have focused on delivering low-cost, high-impact, nutrition interventions to people in need. Working alongside governments as an expert ally, we combine deep technical expertise with a flexible approach, increasing impact without increasing complexity or cost. Our Investment Case, the first for a nutrition organization, showcases our low-cost, high-impact approach as well as our health and human capital impacts. Learn more: <https://www.nutritionintl.org/>

## THE AFRICAN UNION PLEDGES TO END NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES BY 2030



From Left: (left) H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, AU Commission and (right) Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Executive Director, Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases

The African Union (AU) and Uniting to Combat NTDs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to end neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) across the AU Member States by 2030. The agreement highlights the African Union's commitment to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders to control and eliminate twenty NTDs, achieving the vision outlined by the "Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want'" framework. This MoU shows bold leadership and the highest level of commitment to NTDs by the African Union, prioritising them in line with other infectious diseases.

NTDs are a group of twenty diseases, including trachoma, intestinal worms, leprosy, and elephantiasis. These diseases are preventable and treatable, yet they still affect 1.7 billion people worldwide, with the African continent accounting for about 40% of the total global burden. Despite the relatively low mortality resulting from NTDs (around 500,000 deaths globally per year), these diseases and conditions are associated with severe complications, including blindness, disfigurement, social stigmatisation, mental health problems, chronic pain, cognitive impairment, and another long-term irreversible damage causing impediments to education, employment, economic growth, and overall development.

AU Member States have been making tremendous progress in the fight against these diseases, showing that NTD goals are achievable. Several member states have achieved ambitious elimination targets, including Ghana, Morocco and The Gambia eliminating blinding trachoma; Egypt, Togo and Malawi eliminating lymphatic filariasis; and Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Uganda eliminating Guinea worm disease.

However, the job is not yet done. More work is needed to sustain these gains and bring more AU Member States across the finish line. Significant challenges remain in the journey to eliminate NTDs, such as poor integration of and coordination between the various programs working within the NTDs arena and insufficient and unstable funding, climate change, conflict, and emerging threats like COVID-19.



### STATEMENTS BY H.E. MINATA SAMATE CESSOUMA, COMMISSIONER, HEALTH, HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON KEY INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DAYS. CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW:

1. African Vaccination Week -2022: Advocating for unvaccinated children, in Africa <http://bit.ly/3vJ4oZ7>  
Recording: <bit.ly/3vfSTcM>
2. H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma Calls for Increased Investment to End TB In Africa <https://bit.ly/3GFDril>
3. H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma Encourages Innovations for Malaria In Africa <https://bit.ly/3NL1U3O>



## CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS) ON THE AFRICAN UNION THEME FOR 2022 ON NUTRITION



The African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency -The New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), the Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN) and other stakeholders working on human capital and Early Childhood Development convened a two-day consultative dialogue for the African Union recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the Year of Nutrition.

The consultative dialogue provided a platform to exchange and share experiences and good practices for eliminating malnutrition in all its forms. The dialogue aimed to support the efforts of African countries through the investments in early childhood development among the Regional Economic Communities and key partners at regional and national levels.

"Nutrition is key to social, economic and overall development of our continent and thus it is a priority in key policies and strategies at the African Union. AU recognised Regional Economic Communities are encouraged to take advantage of the 2022 AU theme of the year on nutrition and food security to increase accountability amongst members states in the areas of nutrition and food security in order to advance human capital development," said Dr Margaret Agama-Anyetei, Acting Director, Health and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate at the African Union Commission.

Early childhood is a critical stage in human life where investments in a child's health and nutrition play a significant role, particularly in developing the child's brain, forming a solid foundation for future life. The first 1,000 days of life (from conception to the child's second birthday) lay the foundation for optimum health, growth and neurodevelopment. However, in Africa and many other countries globally, poverty, malnutrition, poor health, conflict, drought, and other challenges deprive children of this important human right. This lost potential affects the social economic and human capital development, impacting African communities' health, wealth, and economic prosperity.

To address these challenges, children and their caregivers need a range of inputs and support during this critical stage of development, including good health care and adequate nutrition, a stimulating and safe environment, and emotional support and care. These elements are known as nurturing care and their evidence base informed the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners in the development of the Nurturing Care Framework

for Early Childhood Development, which emphasizes the importance of the first 1,000 days of life as a sensitive period of development, and the central role of parents and caregivers in providing nurturing care.

The African Union and AUDA-NEPAD Cost of Hunger in Africa Study (COHA), underscores the need to increase investment in nutrition because African countries are losing around 1.9 to 16.5 percent of their Gross Domestic Products due to child undernutrition.

"Nutrition is the bedrock of all that we are and aspire to be. We have Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Declaration to guide us. We should, therefore, by 2025, be moving the needle on early childhood nutrition," stated Ms Bibi Giyose, AUDA-NEPAD's Senior Advisor, Food and Nutrition Security.

The African Union endorsed 2022 as the year of nutrition under the theme "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on African Continent: Strengthening Agri-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development".

The AU has taken key steps to improve food security and nutrition and eliminate hunger in Africa by 2025. These policy recommendations are provided in the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS 2016-2025) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and its Malabo Declaration (2014). In addition, these policy actions align with the broader AUDA-NEPAD mandate to coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realization of Agenda 2063 and strengthen the capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies.

Through this consultative dialogue, priority actionable solutions at regional economic community levels to address early childhood development with key focus to combating malnutrition. A joint roadmap for the implementation of achievable actions and activities was developed.

# GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT POLICY DIALOGUE SERIES ON DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AND DIVIDEND(S) – URBANIZATION

Government-Government  
Policy Dialogues

**4D** Dialogues on  
Demographic  
Diversity and  
Dividends

**Urbanization and  
Demographic  
Dividend(s)**

**17 March 2022**

New York 8:00AM - 11:00AM  
Addis Ababa 3:00PM - 6:00PM  
Berlin 1:00PM - 4:00PM

**#The4Dseries**

**Register here:**  
[unf.pa/4durbanization](https://unf.pa/4durbanization)

UNFPA UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE African Union

On 20 March 2022, more than 160 participants, experts, and speakers from 60 countries participated in a virtual discussion for the fifth edition of the Government-Government Policy Dialogue series on Demographic Diversity and Dividend(s). The 4D Series, jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Government of Germany, joined by UN Habitat for this particular session, built on discussions launched in 2019 at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 around policies and practices that countries can apply in development planning.

Organized in five (5) breakout groups participants reflected on key questions linking urbanization and demographic dividends, on successful examples of fostering sustainable urban development, and on how to apply sound practices to cities around the world:

1. Delivering universal access to health and family planning in cities
2. Climate change and urban resilience
3. Urban planning
4. Cities and sustainable economic development
5. Connecting urban and rural development

Demographic trends contribute to sustainable development given that social and economic development relies on cities, particularly in rapidly urbanizing countries. It is a fundamental objective of the governments to focus on sustainable urbanization, as only then will urban dwellers, and especially urban youth, be able to reach their full potential.

Sustainable urban development touches upon all areas of daily life and requires policymakers to consider various thematic areas from health services and economic development to climate change and cities' organic connections with their rural surroundings. It is until governments succeed in combining these elements into urban policies, planning and governance structures that they can benefit from demographic change and harness demographic dividends that ensure the wellbeing of all residents.

## Recommendations from the dialogue series:

1. Provide urban health service providers with the necessary training and resources to deliver services, counselling and access to information without bias and discrimination, including for young people, women, migrants, refugees and other vulnerable groups.
2. Avoid replicating innovative projects on small scale but aim to integrate them into ongoing programmes instead and consider public-private partnerships as a funding means to take projects to scale.
3. Create youth-friendly spaces which offer comprehensive counselling and information, address misconceptions and disinformation on health-related topics.
4. Foster regionally integrated and interconnected urban development to harness the potential of secondary cities and rural areas for social and economic development.
5. Promote green economies in cities to increase climate resilience and create sustainable employment opportunities at the same time.
6. Ensure that business environments and policy regulations promote formal employment opportunities and capacity building for urban youth.
7. Realize meaningful and active participation of urban communities – especially indigenous and informal ones – to ensure their knowledge and experiences inform the development of climate resilience strategies.
8. Employ cities' large percentage of young people in the advancement of green technologies, provide them with spaces to develop and incubate solutions, and support them in taking successful ideas and pilots to scale.
9. Collect reliable data on urban populations in order to design inclusive urban policies.
10. Make the potential of slum-free cities the reference point of urban planning, acknowledging the importance of adequate living conditions for economic development.

The next dialogue series will focus on climate change





The African continent experiences a myriad of health challenges from infectious diseases to non-communicable diseases exacerbated by both social, economic and environmental challenges. The burden of diseases continues to increase particularly due to the unprecedented losses that have been brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic undermining the progress made in the past years.

World health day 2022 was marked on April 7 under the theme “ Our planet, our health” premised on the need to take urgent actions in building better societies focused on the well-being of the people. World health day presented a timely opportunity to remind the continent of the need to protect the planet as a priority. Over the years, it has become evident that a multi-disciplinary approach is important in safeguarding the health of the African population as well as in averting the potential impact of climate change. Environmental factors like clean air, nutritious foods and better sanitation play a significant role in promoting sustainable and healthy societies.

The ravaging effects of climate change have proved to have a great impact on the social and environmental determinants of health becoming a major global health threat. The rapidly changing temperatures and weather patterns pose a major risk to human health. Africa has experienced increased drought, hotter temperatures, and floods that have compounded the health effects leading to an increase in respiratory diseases, water-borne illnesses, infectious diseases as well as injuries and fatalities due to extreme weather events. Climate change affects food security due to the impacts it has in some components of the food system, particularly food production. The pandemic has provided an opportunity to re-examine the continent’s socio-economic and environmental priorities, such as nutrition which are paramount in contributing to health outcomes.

The African Union has invested in several policy commitments and instruments that seek to decrease the disease burden and foster better health outcomes aligned to environmental factors. The Africa Health Strategy (AHS) 2016-2030 advocates for and promotes member state action to prioritize and invest in specific social determinants of health. The socio-economic and environmental determinants of health are

critical in reducing the priority disease burden by 2030.

The Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA) provides a continental policy framework for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and recognizes the importance of creating an enabling environment for community and women’s empowerment and the role of men in access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights services. Social determinants have the potential to affect efforts for improving particularly the health of women, children and adolescents.

Accordingly, Member States are encouraged to embrace a multi-sectoral approach (education, water and sanitation, environment, labour and employment etc.) capitalizing on the potential of biotechnology, including vaccines, to enable research and development of new life-saving therapies and preventions.

Besides, the campaign on accelerated reduction of maternal mortality in Africa (CARMMA), underscores that members states will benefit from collaborating with multiple stakeholders such as involving religious and traditional institutions to participate in national programs and tackle the social determinants of health impacting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights outcomes.

As a continent, we need to take bold steps in protecting the planet we live in by recognizing the complexities of the ecosystems on which life is anchored. Recognizing the potential health impacts of climate variability cannot be over-emphasized. Aspiration one (1) of Agenda 2063 envisions a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development with goal three (3) highlighting the importance of healthy and well-nourished citizens and goal seven (7) on environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies and communities. Linkages in the two (2) goals if well implemented will lead Africa into the desired results of the achieving agenda 2063.

# AFRICA DAY IN LINE WITH THE AU THEME FOR 2022



Africa Day is observed annually on May 25 to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which was created on 25 May 1963. It is the precursor of the African Union (AU). In commemorating Africa Day 2022, the African Union Commission celebrated Africa's indigenous foods, their diversity and the nutritional value that comes from them.

This year, the African Union Commission Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development and Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) and Information and Communication Directorate organized a digital activation to provide; information on the diverse indigenous foods and how their consumption can contribute to adequate nutrition for optimum health in Africa.

The activation aimed to promote African identity through staple and indigenous foods and their nutritional value as prepared by communities. It also showcased the significance and connectivity of food and agriculture throughout different communities and cultures on the continent.

In addition, the digital activation fostered linkages and action in support of both the food systems through the culinary arts, education on food and nutrition.

On the right is a sneak peek of the digital posters that were shared with an image of a popular indigenous food from all the 55 member states under the hashtag #YearOfNutrition. *(First and last country in alphabetical order)*

African Union  
@AfricanUnion

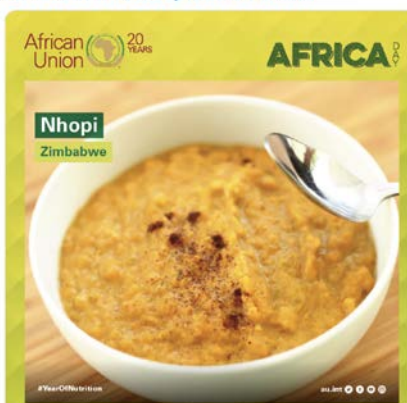
Dolma is a traditional [#Algerian](#) cuisine. its vegetables stuffed with minced meat, cooked in a white sauce flavoured with cinnamon. Popularly eaten during Ramadan Share with us your favourite [#Algeria](#) dish [#AfricaDay](#) [#YearOfNutrition](#)



au.int  
Celebrating Africa's indigenous foods

African Union  
@AfricanUnion

Nhopi is a delicious Zimbabwean porridge like dish made mainly with pumpkin, butter squash, mealie meal, and peanut butter. Its perfect for breakfast, lunch or brunch. Share with us your favourite dish from [#Zimbabwe](#) [#AfricaDay](#) [#YearOfNutrition](#)



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Celebrating Africa's indigenous foods



**THE YEAR OF NUTRITION**  
**Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition & Food Security on the African continent:**  
Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health & Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social & Economic Capital Development



The Treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) was adopted in February 2019, by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Assembly of Head of State and Government. The Assembly further called on its Member States to sign and ratify the Treaty in order for the Treaty to enter into force as soon as possible (Assembly/AU/Dec.735 (XXXII)).

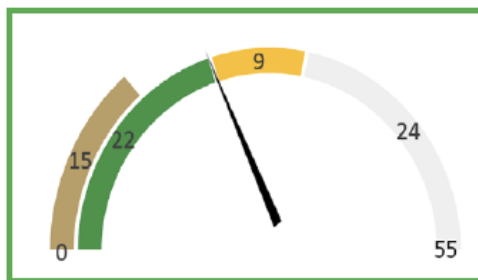
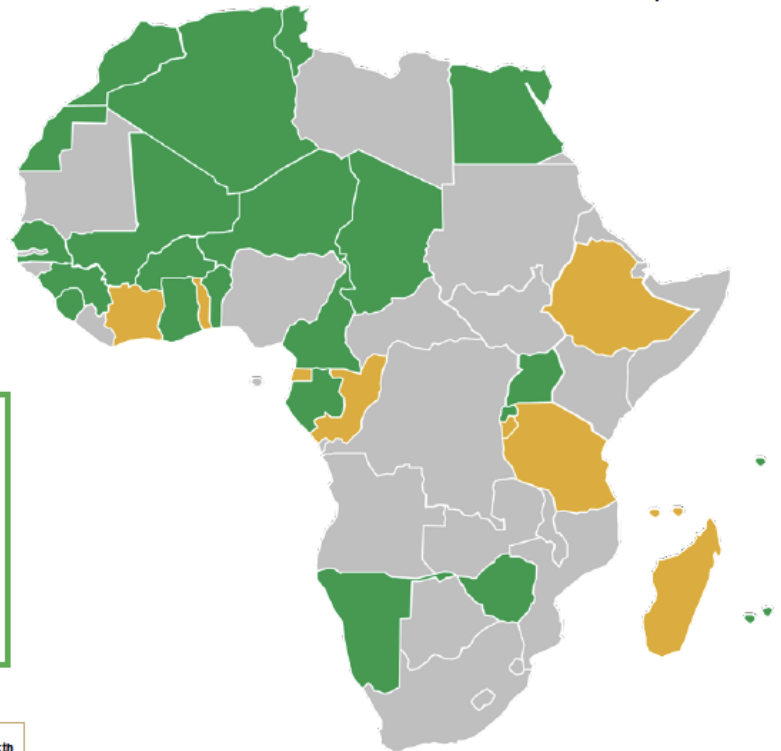
AMA will be the second continental health agency after the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention ([Africa CDC](#)), that will enhance the capacity of States Parties and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to regulate medical products in order to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products on the continent. AMA will also promote the adoption and harmonization of medical products regulatory policies and standards, as well as provide scientific guidelines and coordinate existing regulatory harmonization efforts in the African Union recognized RECs and Regional Health Organizations (RHOs).

As of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**22** Number of Member States that have ratified the Treaty and deposited the instrument at the Commission

**29** Number of Member States that have signed the AMA Treaty

**24** Member States that have neither signed nor ratified



The AMA Treaty entered into force on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 upon the deposit of the 15<sup>th</sup> instrument of ratification at the African Union Commission

**Member States that have only signed the AMA Treaty**

1. Burundi
2. Comoros
3. Cote d'Ivoire
4. Ethiopia
5. Republic of Congo
6. Equatorial Guinea
7. Madagascar
8. Tanzania
9. Togo

**Member States that have signed, ratified and deposited the instrument of ratification at the Commission**

1. Algeria
2. Benin
3. Burkina Faso\*
4. Cameroon
5. Chad
6. Egypt
7. Gabon
8. Ghana
9. Guinea
10. Mali

11. Mauritius
12. Morocco
13. Namibia\*
14. Niger
15. Rwanda
16. Saharawi
17. Senegal
18. Seychelles
19. Sierra Leone
20. Tunisia
21. Uganda
22. Zimbabwe

*\*Ratification without signing*

**For further enquiries, please contact:**

- Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission
- Mme. Cisse Mariama Mohamed | The Director, Directorate of Social Development | Ag. Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate | Tel: +251913027536 | Email: [cissem@africa-union.org](mailto:cissem@africa-union.org)

**For media enquiries, please contact:**




- Ms. Dorothy Njagi | Strategic Communication Expert, Directorate of Health and Humanitarian Affairs, African Union Commission | Tel: +251940559950 | E-mail: [njagid@africa-union.org](mailto:njagid@africa-union.org)





DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, HUMANITARIAN  
AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT (HHS)



African Union Headquarters  
P.O. Box 3243, Roosevelt Street W21K19,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: +251 (0) 11 551 77 00  
Fax: +251 (0) 11 551 78 44  
[www.au.int](http://www.au.int)   

CONTACTS:

**Mme. Cisse Mariama Mohamed**  
The Director, Directorate of Social Development  
Ag. Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate  
[cissem@africa-union.org](mailto:cissem@africa-union.org)  
**Ms. Dorothy Njagi**,  
[Njagid@africa-union.org](mailto:Njagid@africa-union.org)