



**DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2025
PLANNING AND BUDGETING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: PROGRESS SINCE 2010**

OUTCOME STATEMENT

We the children of Africa are pleased to share our views on this year's theme of the Day of the African Child. On the 14th and 15th of June, at Lilongwe in Malawi, children from Malawi, Egypt, and Nigeria came together to engage in discussions on this important theme.

We believe that planning and budgeting for children is very important because it helps to fulfil our rights such as access to education, health care, nutrition, and protection. When governments and leaders plan and allocate enough resources for children, it builds a brighter future for us and for the entire continent.

PROGRESS MADE SINCE 2010

We recognize and appreciate the progress made in the past 15 years. Some of the positive changes we note are:

- Increased child participation, especially through child parliaments and school clubs that allow us to share our views and be involved in issues that affect us.
- Recognition of the importance of budgeting for children, which helps in promoting our rights.
- Some countries are trying to make education free and compulsory, although this still needs to be fully implemented.

CHALLENGES WE STILL FACE

Despite the progress, we continue to face many challenges:

- Climate change continues to affect children's lives, disrupting access to basic services and increasing displacement, abuse, and neglect.
- Inadequate child protection and security services leave children vulnerable to various forms of abuse.
- Poverty and lack of adequate social protection force many children into child labor and prevent them from enjoying their rights.

WE, THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA, HAVE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE THAT PLANNING AND BUDGETING FOR CHILDREN IMPROVES ACROSS THE CONTINENT:

WE CALL UPON GOVERNMENTS TO:

- Allocate more resources to address children's needs by identifying the most critical priorities and the most vulnerable groups of children.
- Invest in infrastructure for education, health, clean water, nutrition, food security, and sanitation.
- Provide bursaries through social welfare systems to support all children in need, so they can stay in school.
- Allocate resources to ensure all children have access to technologies for learning, participation and access to information.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in how budgets for children are planned, allocated, and used and act against anyone who misuses these funds.
- Support and expand school feeding programs, particularly in rural areas, to reduce hunger and keep children in school.
- Increase investment in social protection to address poverty and reduce child labor.
- Create and strengthen existing child participation platforms.
- Ensure children participate in planning and budgeting processes in a child friendly manner at all levels, ensure their views are respected and acted upon, and provide feedback to them.
- Allocate resources for emergency preparedness and climate change response that specifically consider the needs and safety of children.
- Increase funding for child protection services and provide support for children living on the streets, children with disabilities, and those affected by conflict or climate change.
- Ensure national budgets and plans align with the AU Theme of the Year 2025 by prioritizing support for children's education, health, protection access to justice, and overall wellbeing.
- Work together with other stakeholders to mobilize more resources for children's needs.

WE CALL UPON THE AFRICAN UNION/ THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE TO:

- Encourage governments to report on planning and budgeting for children when submitting their reports.
- Continue following up how governments prioritize children's rights in planning and budgeting.
- Ensure that children affected by historical injustices are taken into consideration in resource mobilization as part of activities under the AU Theme of the Year 2025.

WE CALL UPON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO:

- Advocate for increased investment in children's rights by engaging with governments.
- Advocate for inclusive children's involvement in every stage of the planning and budgeting processes from community to national level.
- Work closely with governments to support budgeting for children's needs.
- Help track how budgets are spent and ensure that they are used for the intended purposes.
- Creates structures for children to participate meaningfully in planning and budgeting.
- Raise awareness among governments and communities about why planning and budgeting for children is important.

In all these efforts, stakeholders must respect the principles of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development, and child participation.

We thank the government of Malawi for hosting this year's Day of the African Child and for giving us a space to speak and share ideas. We hope that our views will be taken seriously and that leaders will act now.

We, the children of Africa, say with one voice: Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights
-The Time for Action is Now!

Adopted on 16 June 2025, Lilongwe, Malawi