

CONCEPT NOTE COMMEMORATION OF THE AFRICAN CHILD DAY, JUNE 16, ATD FOURTH WORLD, TANZANIA.

Theme: “Ensuring universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene for every child in Africa.”

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The African Child Day has been commemorated since 1993 after the African Union Declaration to honor the contribution of the children who participated in the demonstrations in Soweto, South Africa, in 1976. The purpose of the demonstrations was to create awareness in society about the importance of quality education for children and the right to be taught in their local language. Every year on June 16, nations, different societies, and various international communities, together with different stakeholders, come together to discuss the opportunities and challenges faced by children all over Africa. Therefore, to this date, these commemorations will have been celebrated for three decades since the African Union declaration and five decades since the Soweto demonstrations to demand their rights.

The commemorations of the African Child on June 16 have become important in the continuation of the struggling efforts for equality and rights for all African children. ATD Tanzania has been coordinating these commemorations in collaboration with different stakeholders, for example, governmental officials from various levels, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders from human rights and social development institutions, as well as families living in extreme poverty together with children experiencing poverty in difficult and dangerous situations in our communities. The ATD Fourth World Tanzania’s perception in these celebrations is to give priority to children living in extreme poverty and, therefore, to provide them with an opportunity to be heard by different stakeholders to find solutions to the challenges they face in their daily lives. Additionally, this day has become a strong mark in building a community that recognizes the dignity of every child and safeguards the rights of all children in building an equal society which forges for development without leaving no one behind.

1.2 THE ESSENCE OF THE COMMEMORATIONS

This year’s commemoration theme appropriates the actual life facing most of the children living in extreme poverty. In comparison with the reality and challenges they face in their respective areas, these children miss their basic rights, creating a need for everyone to purposely protect these rights for all children. This year’s theme mentions the availability of water for all. This is an important issue for children and their families, as it helps them avoid diseases and protects their environment. Children living in extreme poverty, for instance, those in rural areas, have been facing difficulties in accessing clean and safe water for their daily use, which negatively impacts their health, leading to epidemic diseases such as typhoid fever. Therefore, the availability of clean water is a basic right for all children, which will help maintain dignity and health and safety for everyone.

Environmental challenges affect children living in poverty, whereby, due to their inferior family income, they are obliged to live informally or in congested habitations with poor environments

that endanger the children's health, resulting in early deaths. Clean environments around children give them physical and mental serenity. This also helps the children feel free and integrate with their surroundings, thus providing them with space to learn about different issues around them and improving their curiosity and learning capacity.

Children's cleanliness, comparable to the reality of challenges they face, is shrouded by all children, especially those coming from extremely poor families, because of the unavailability of basic social services, including clean water, nutrition, and health services. The high costs of accessing these services are a hindrance to ensuring the availability of these services for all children. The community, in general, is obliged to prioritize children in the provision of social services and recognize their rights by providing them with efficient care. Similarly, society is not obliged to point out or discriminate against children facing cleanliness challenges or those who cannot access essential social services, as this can cause a child to live in fear or lead to psychological effects.

1.3 THE ACTIVITIES DURING COMMEMORATION DAY

Regarding activities during this year's commemoration, ATD Tanzania has resolved to execute different activities to deliver the theme for the commemoration and to request the cooperation of the audience in this celebration. The priority of the commemoration and the involvement in all the activities will be the children themselves, but we also expect the cooperation of the parents from the different areas where ATD is working with families living in extreme poverty (Boko, Tandale, and Tegeta). Additionally, the presence of stakeholders from different non-governmental organizations, government officials from various levels, and stakeholders involved in children's development and their rights in our relevant societies is essential.

Activities that will be executed during the celebrations this year:

- Discussion among the children themselves, as well as discussions among parents, also involving the audience.
- Drawing presentations by children.
- An essay prepared by children from Tandale, Tegeta, and Boko.
- Poems recited by the children themselves to the audience.
- Discussions about health, including invited guests.
- Poems prepared by children and recited by the children themselves in front of the audience.
- Dialogue on issues concerning environmental cleanliness and violence against children.
- Music entertainment from children.
- **Feedback about the implementation of recommendations voiced during June 16, 2025, commemoration by June 16 follow up committee secretary.**