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**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES ON THE  
ROADMAP OF THE AU THEME OF THE YEAR FOR 2021 FOR THE  
PERIOD FEBRUARY – JUNE 2022**

**Theme:**

*‘African Union Theme of the year for 2022 on Nutrition “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*

## INTRODUCTION

1. African Union Commission during the 35th African Union Assembly held from 5th to 6th February 2022 endorsed and launched 2022 as the African Union Year of Nutrition 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 (Assembly/AU/Dec. 813(XXXV)). The proposal to include nutrition as the main theme of the African Union Summit in 2022 was submitted by the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency President Quatarra.
2. The theme of the year was officially launched by the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E Dr Monique Nsanzabaganwa. In her statement, the deputy chairperson called on all stakeholders including all Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Civil Society Organizations: the private sectors, the UN, and partners, to use 2022 as a great opportunity to secure greater political commitment and investment in nutrition and to address the ongoing nutrition and food security challenges.
3. Noting all the commitments to food security and nutrition, recognizing that we have only three years left to achieve the Malabo targets (10% and 5% Stunting and underweight), the Cost of Hunger in Africa Study Findings which has been conducted in more than 21 African countries, showing the huge losses in GDP (1.5% – 16.9% ) losses of GDP annually and the negative impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on food security and nutrition, there is a need for increased commitment to accelerated nutrition action to eliminate all forms of malnutrition.
4. The theme of the year on food security and nutrition aims to promote strong political momentum on nutrition across the African continent and at the highest level of decision-making. The activities being implemented provide an opportunity to strengthen continental commitment to end malnutrition in all its.
5. Following the launch, the AU Commission embarked on the implementation of activities and programmes outlined in the comprehensive action plan and roadmap of the year on nutrition and food security. The activities and programmes implemented were aimed at popularizing the theme of the year within the AU Member States, partners, and all stakeholders. By the end of 2022, it is expected that the following outcomes will be achieved among others:
  - i. Creation of a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platform for the coordination of all nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and all the sectors concerned.
  - ii. Strengthened monitoring, evaluation, and accountability framework.
  - iii. Elevated motivation and commitment to act and contribute to ending all forms of malnutrition in Africa, through new pledges to support, resource, and finance action plans dedicated to achieving set targets and results;

- iv. Increased domestication and implementation of all AU and national legislative and financing instruments aimed at addressing food security and nutrition challenges
6. This mid-year report is a summary of the activities undertaken in the period between February and June 2022 in line with the following priorities:
- a) **Strengthening data management and information systems, knowledge generation, and dissemination to inform decision making** - Under this priority the focus is on current knowledge and evidence-based on nutrition security, including food security. This also entails documenting and disseminating good practices, sharing experiences as well as south-south learning. It also covers the aspect of investing in national nutrition monitoring platforms, including data management and information systems to generate and make available evidence for informed decision making.
  - b) **Advocacy for increased commitment and nutrition investment** - The activities within this priority include among others, advocacy targeting parliamentarians and policy makers and high-level discussion panels participated by the African Union Champion for Nutrition, Members of the ALN, and other informed prominent personalities. This also includes involvement with the media and preparing key messages informed by the sub-theme, targeting a specific audience and readers.
  - c) **Partnerships and mutual accountability for nutrition** - Activities involve the interaction of partners and stakeholders to discuss options and agree on practical solutions for the way forward in addressing food and nutrition challenges in Africa.
  - d) **Enhancing institutional capacity and enabling environment for nutrition, for intensified action and delivery of results and impact** - the activities involve interventions for enhancing capacities of institutions and individuals at the regional, national, and local levels to be able to plan and implement planned activities, monitor progress and report on performance and achievements, are critical for the success of any programme.

**PRIORITY 1: Strengthening data management and information systems, knowledge generation, and dissemination to inform decision making**

- i) **African Union Workshop on Food Safety Data, Information, and Knowledge Management System**
7. The African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, convened its first workshop to deliberate on the enhancement of food safety information and knowledge management systems that should facilitate effective data generation, analysis, and knowledge exchange. A key outcome of the meeting includes:

- i. Recommended for the establishment of a continental food safety data and information hub and knowledge management system that facilitates data generation, analysis, and data sharing to improve risk assessments and decision making

**ii) 2022 Africa Day Celebration of Africa's indigenous foods, their diversity, and the nutritional value**

8. African Union Commission Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Department of Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment and Department of Information and Communication on 25 May celebrated Africa's indigenous foods, their diversity, and the nutritional value that comes from them on Africa Day through social media platforms. This was in recognition of the role nutrition security plays in the preservation of nutritious indigenous foods that promote sustainable and healthy food systems. Consumption of staple and indigenous African foods has the potential to contribute to the good health and nutrition of the African population.

**iii) Launch of the 3rd Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review (BR) Report "Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System"**

9. The 3rd Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review (BR) Report was endorsed by the assembly of African Heads of State and Government during the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government in February 2022. The report launched on 10th March 2022 under the theme "*Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System*" captures Africa's agricultural progress on the implementation of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The report includes data from 51 of the African Union's 55 Member States and captures progress across 49 indicators tracking performance on agricultural transformation. Concerning ending hunger and malnutrition, the report finds the following:

- i. **On the commitment to Ending Hunger by 2025** - Only one (1) Member State, namely Kenya has met the benchmark for this commitment. However, the Member States such as Angola, Ethiopia, Rwanda, The Gambia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe have made noticeable positive progress.
- ii. **On the continental target for bringing down the proportion of the population that is undernourished to 5% or less, by the year 2025** has not yet been fully met. Of the 22 Member States that reported progress on this indicator, only 13 Member States are on-track, these include Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, Tunisia, Zambia, a and Zimbabwe.
- iii. **On the continental target for bringing down the prevalence of stunting to 10% or less**, has not yet been achieved only four (4) the Member States

namely, Djibouti (52%) Seychelles (100%), Tunisia (100%), and Zimbabwe (100%) are on-track.

**iv) 6th High-Level Dialogue: Developing Africa's human, social and economic capital by increasing the resilience of African girls through quality nutrition and education**

10. The African Union International Centre for Girls and Women Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA), Department of Education Science and Technology and the Republic of Sierra Leone hosted the 6th High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality in Education in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 5th of February 2022. The objectives of the meeting were to (i) share Member States' experiences on their School Feeding Programs and their impacts on girls' and women's enrolment, training, and resilience; (ii) present the AU "School Feeding" Program for use as a strategy to retain girls in school with a focus on educational measures that build the nutritional resilience of Africans; and (iii) to share strategies for creating agri-food chains with incentives for girls and young women in educational institutions. The meeting made the following recommendations:

- i. Called on all AU member states, development partners, and non-state actors to invest in human capital through quality nutrition.
- ii. Called for the development and adoption of an AU Gender-responsive School Feeding Strategy to retain girls in school in all AU Member States.
- iii. Called on the Republic of Sierra Leone to champion the African Union Agenda on girls' education with the support of all AU Member States through technical support of the AU/CIEFFA.

**v) Regional Economic Community Consultation on Multisectoral Dialogue on Nutrition and Early Childhood Development**

11. African Union Commission (AUC), Department of Health, Humanitarian and Social Development, 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 from 25 – 26 April 2022 in Johannesburg, South Africa on nutrition and early childhood development. The meeting was attended by delegates with the following representation: Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), African Union Commission; Regional Economic Communities were represented by COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC. Also, in attendance were, the United Nations (UN) Agencies (mainly ECA; FAO; UNICEF, WFP, UN Nutrition, and WHO), and the intergovernmental institutions including the African Development Bank (AfDB), and AUDA-NEPAD.

12. Participants from the RECs and partners shared and exchanged learning in the area of nutrition and early childhood development and put forward the following recommendations:

- i. Appointment of focal points and regional champions for young children (children under five years) at the RECs and Member States level in a holistic manner.
- ii. Evidence generation and knowledge management around Nutrition and Early childhood Development
- iii. Adopting the integration of the Nurturing Care Framework for ECD in support of the implementation of multisectoral policies, strategies, plans, and services provision guidelines of various sectors.

#### **vi) Peace and Security Open Session on Food Security and Conflict in Africa**

13. Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1083rd meeting held on 09 May 2022 on Food Security and Conflict in Africa. The meeting was addressed by among others H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for May 2022; H.E. Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma, AU Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian and Social Development and H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment. The meeting made the following key recommendations:

- i. Requested the AU Commission to undertake a study and propose to Member States recommendation on the strategies to boost food production in Africa and submit to the PSC for consideration.
- ii. Requested the AU Commission to strengthen the linkage between humanitarian assistance, development, and peacebuilding.
- iii. Further urges the Member States to invest in preventative and emergency measures to secure access to safe, continued and sufficient food, including through establishing and operationalizing national and regional food reserves constituted of both earmarked and physical stocks.
- iv. Underscores the need Invest in Early Warning Systems.
- v. Further underscores the need to invest and empowerment of women and youth in food and security.

#### **PRIORITY 2: Advocacy for increased commitment and investment in nutrition**

##### **i) Endorsement of the AU Nutrition Champion Mandate and Development of Workplan for 2022 for continued advocacy for nutrition and food security**

14. In February 2022, the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union Assembly extended for another term (2022-2024) his role as AU Nutrition Champion (Assembly/AU/Dec. 819(XXXV)). The extension calls for the AU Nutrition Champion to continue to rally member states toward the implementation of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025) and the commitment of the Malabo Declaration on

Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa to ending child hunger and bringing down stunting to 10% and underweight to 5% by 2025.

15. Following the extension of the mandate, the commission is working closely with key stakeholders and has developed the AU Nutrition Champion Workplan (2022-2023) which is currently being implemented.

**ii) Government of Ethiopia's Commitment to implement the African Union Theme of the Year for 2022**

16. On February 6, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia released a joint press to demonstrate the government of Ethiopia's commitment to the African Union Year of Nutrition and Food Security. In the statement signed by Excellency Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health, and Excellency Ato Oumer Hussein, Minister of Agriculture Ethiopia noted the AU theme of the year for 2022 will facilitate speed up the current policy and programs the government aimed at ending all forms of malnutrition.
17. The Government of Ethiopia is in the process of organizing the official launch of the theme of the year the event to share the government of Ethiopia's commitment to food and nutrition strategy and related experiences; to Showcase the Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase Learning and to catalyze the implementation of the Expansion Phase among government sectors.

**iii) 7th Africa Day for School Feeding calls on the AU member states to continue increasing domestic financing for school feeding programmes**

18. On the 1st of March 2022, the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), together with partners, the including World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized the Africa Day for School Feeding under the theme "Nutrition and human capital development in Africa through increased investment in home-grown school feeding". The following recommendations were developed and endorsed during the meeting:
  - i. A call to the AU member states to continue increasing domestic financing for school feeding programmes
  - ii. A call to development partners to provide the financial and technical support required to augment country efforts to support the continental restoration and future scale-up of school feeding programmes;
  - iii. Endorsement of the AUDA-NEPAD Home-Grown School Feeding Implementation Guideline and the UNESCO IICBA Teachers' Guide on School Feeding,

- iv. A call to members stated to move toward developing national plans and roadmaps towards establishing sustainable and self-reliant programs.

**iv) High-Level Event Hosted by AU Nutrition Champion on Addressing food security and nutrition challenges in the Humanitarian Space in Africa**

19. The high-level event was hosted by His Majesty King Letsie III, Head of State of the Kingdom Lesotho, and African Union Nutrition Champion in close collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, the African Union Development Agency - The New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), Africa Development Bank, Africa Leaders for Nutrition (ALN-AfDB) and other stakeholders. The event was held on 26th May 2022 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.
20. 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* and recommended the following:
- i. Member states to prioritize increased domestic financial investment in food and nutrition security while promoting investments in multi-sectoral programming in the humanitarian context.
  - ii. Prioritize investments in data and early warning systems to promote accountability and preparedness in responding to emergencies.
  - iii. Member states to increase the level of funding allocated to nutrition to safeguard previous efforts to address malnutrition and ensure there are no gaps within their multi-year nutrition programmes in immediate, medium-term, and post-pandemic recovery and response plans
  - iv. Member states to continue prioritizing nutrition through the implementation of the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025)
  - v) High-level event on Investing in the prevention of all forms of malnutrition in humanitarian contexts.

**vi) High- Level event on Investing in the prevention of all forms of malnutrition in humanitarian contexts.**

21. The high-level meeting was hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in collaboration with the AUC Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development and UNICEF on 25th May 2022 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 event was held under the theme *“Investing in the prevention of all forms of malnutrition in*



*humanitarian contexts: Providing an opportunity for all African children to grow to their full potential”.*

22. The participants recognized the magnitude of the malnutrition situation on the continent and its impact on the survival of millions of children, and the economic development of the continent and formulated the following recommendations:

- i. Commitment to addressing nutrition challenges during humanitarian crises and concretize this commitment by increasing the portion of the domestic budget invested in nutrition in general and humanitarian nutrition response in particular.
- ii. Establish coordination mechanisms that support a paradigm shift in the humanitarian nutrition responses toward the implementation at the scale of multisectoral actions in nutrition.
- iii. Take deliberate steps toward the transformation of the food systems, to ensure it produces safe, nutritious, and affordable diets for children, women, and adolescents
- iv. Establish, and support country-led mechanisms that allow making quality nutrition data available regularly to support advocacy, planning, monitoring, and evaluation of nutrition programs.

**vii) Development of Communication and advocacy plan for the AU Theme of the Year**

23. The African Union Commission Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Department of Information and Communication has developed a communication and advocacy plan for the AU Theme of the Year for 2022 to provide accurate, timely, authoritative, and transparent information to all the main stakeholders of the African Union, Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and the public at large to support the nutrition and food security interventions in Africa. The communication and advocacy will be implemented throughout 2022 to provide messages for publicity to guide Member States on securing greater political commitment and investments in nutrition and to address the ongoing nutrition and food security challenges; to communicate the objectivity of keeping nutrition and food security high and to enhance the African Union as the authority dedicated to preventing morbidity and mortality and minimize the social and economic harm associated with malnutrition. The following activities on communication have been completed:

- i. Design the Theme of the year 2022 logo in all the 6 AU working languages
- ii. Dedicated AU theme of the year landing page on the AU webpage <https://au.int/en/theme/2022/year-nutrition>
- iii. Regular documentation and publication of the theme of the year's activities and policy provisions
- iv. Design and production of both digital and print branded items for the theme of the year and key activities
- v. Social media digital activation e.g. Africa Day

**PRIORITY 3: Partnerships and mutual accountability platforms for coherent and harmonized action and transparency**

**i. Meeting with UN Partners on the African Union Theme of the Year for Nutrition**

24. Led by the Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, a virtual meeting of partners in nutrition and food security was held on 17 February 2022. The meeting popularized the AU theme of the year for 2022 reflecting on synergies and collaboration for the implementation of its roadmap. The Department further presented the draft work plan with key activities to be implemented at the continental, regional and national levels and requested partners' support in implementing the comprehensive work plan.
25. Partners reiterated their commitment to work in collaboration with the AUC in the implementation of the comprehensive roadmap but called for a concrete call for action and actionable recommendations. This was a follow-up meeting, following the meeting, which was organized by Cote d'Ivoire in September 2021, where partners outline key activities and commitments for support during the implementation of the theme of the year.

**ii. Meeting with Regional Economic Communities on the Theme of the Year for 2022**

26. African Union Commission Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development and AUDA-NEPAD organized a virtual meeting on the Theme of the Year 2022 on 22 February 2022. The meeting aimed to popularize the AU theme of the year for 2022 and its action plans reflecting on synergies and collaboration for the implementation of its roadmap. The Regional Economic Communities representatives presented regional strategies and activities on food security and nutrition and more specifically the activities to be implemented in 2022 in line with the AU theme of the year.

**iii. Press Conference held in Cote d'Ivoire to promote awareness of and engagement with the African Union's Year of Nutrition**

27. A press conference was held on 24 March 2022 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to promote awareness of and engagement with the African Union's Year of Nutrition. The event was co-organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the United Nations in Cote d'Ivoire, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire, and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. The event included the participation of key national and international media based in Abidjan as well as some media connecting virtually. The event was an opportunity to popularize the theme of year priorities and objectives through the media.

**iv. MoU signed between African Union Commission (AUC) and Nutrition International (NI) to advance nutrition advocacy on the continent**

28. The MoU was signed at AU Headquarters by H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development, and Mr. Joel C. Spicer, President and CEO of Nutrition International on April 2022. The two organizations agreed to work on nutrition advocacy and tracking the progress made by member states in the implementation of the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Nutrition security and Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy 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, anemia, and integration of social safety net programs.

**v. AU -US Virtual event: Africa's Policy Priorities for Food Security and Nutrition**

29. In partnership with the African Union Commission Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Department of Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment and the U.S. Department of State organized an event with the AU theme of the year under the theme "*Africa's Policy Priorities for Food Security and Nutrition*" on 11 May 2022. The event engaged policymakers and experts from Africa and the United States on Africa's progress, challenges, and policy priorities on food security and nutrition, and further enhanced U.S.- AU cooperation on these issues. H.E. Cessouma Minata Samaté, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development, African Union Commission, offered keynote remarks on the state of nutrition across the continent and the AU's high-level focus on improving nutrition levels. H.E. Ambassador Josefa Sacko, delivering her statement commended the partnership, especially nutrition, agri-business development, post-harvest management, and food fortification. The meeting recommended the following:

- i. Called for continued collaboration between the United States and the AU to in advancing food security and nutrition on the continent.
- ii. The need for data and evidence for policy and decision-making
- iii. Highlighted the supportive roles that universities, NGOs, government, communities (youth and women), and the private sector can play to strengthen the agriculture sector and improve nutrition.
- iv. The role of trade and fostering open borders in a market-oriented, rules-based system were noted as part of the solution.

**vi. US Government issued a call for Funding in line with the AU theme of the Year Priorities**

30. The US Government has issued a call for funding in line with the AU theme of the year. The funding of \$120,000 is aimed to address economic vulnerability or

weaknesses in food systems in communities across Africa in line with The African Union's priorities areas for "The Year of Nutrition". <https://www.usau.usmission.gov/notice-of-funding-opportunity-the-year-of-nutrition-and-food-security/>

**vii. Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) meeting on Nutrition, Malnutrition Management, and Early Childhood Development in ECCAS countries**

31. The ECCAS secretariat organized a virtual meeting focusing on Nutrition, Malnutrition Management, and Early Childhood Development in ECCAS countries in May 2022. The overall objective of the meeting was to popularize the theme of the year in ECCAS countries, and to further discuss strategies to fight against malnutrition, improve food and nutritional security, and contribute to the development of early childhood, and human capital in the Member States of ECCAS. The meeting was attended by ECCAS member states (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo) and other stakeholders. The meeting made the following recommendations:

- i. Call to address nutrition from the perspective of the systemic approach including health, agricultural, education, social protection, water/hygiene and sanitation, and food security: review policy documents, strategies, and programs to make them more systemic and multisectoral.
- ii. Identify innovative approaches for resource mobilization and ensure that the various commitments of our countries and objectives are achieved (for example, the experience of Cameroon of mobilizing resources through resource mobilization round table).
- iii. Find ways and means for effective ownership of civil society organizations and communities for sustainability and efficiency of interventions (mapping sub-regional initiatives in the context of ownership and scaling them up).
- iv. Organize periodic meetings between ECCAS countries to facilitate the sharing of innovative experiences.

**viii. Multisectoral/Multistakeholder Dialogue Event by the Government of Cote d' Ivoire, AUC, SUN Movement AU Theme of the Year for 2022**

32. A virtual stakeholder event was hosted by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, African Union Commission Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement on 9 May to drive multisectoral and multistakeholder engagement with the African Union's Year of Nutrition. The event included presentations African Union Commission, on the vision and goals of the year, and what the AUC hopes to achieve; AUDA-NEPAD, on the work plan in support of the AU Year of Nutrition for Africa; African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) on what is the ALN is working to support AU Year of Nutrition for Africa; Cote d'Ivoire on how Cote d'Ivoire is leveraging AU Year of Nutrition to

advance its national nutrition goals; A video recording of the event is available at <https://youtu.be/rcCYAyTPDb0>

**ix. Civil Society Organization (CSO) Consultations on the AU Theme of the Year 2022**

33. ECOSOC organized virtual series of society consultations on the AU Theme of the Year 2022 on 17th, 24th, and 31st May 2022. The African Union Commission Department of Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, made a presentation on the African Union's priorities on food security, especially in line with the theme of the year. The consultations were organized along with three technical areas 1) Promoting the Trade of Agricultural Products within the Member States, especially within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); 2) Building/Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security in the COVID-19 Era and, 3) Strengthening Health and Social Protection Systems for Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development.
34. The exercise mostly led by civil society actors is working on several policy documents in line with the above thematic areas to be submitted to the policy organs of the African Union. More than 300 civil societies registered and participated in these consultations. This includes the use development, launch, and dissemination of a policy booklet/Advisory Opinion on the theme of the year.

**x. Africa Dialogue Series 2022: High-Level Political Dialogue organized by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) on the AU Theme of the Year for 2022**

35. Africa Dialogue Series for 2022 was organized under the theme "*Build resilience in nutrition: Accelerate Africa's human capital and socio-economic development*". The dialogues series was a one-month commemoration under various thematic topics: 1) Building Resilient Socio-Agricultural Food Systems, 2) Strengthening the Resilience of Farming Systems: Land, Digital transformation and Access to Finance – making smallholder farmers the backbones 3) Social Protection's Role in Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition for Greater Resilience in Africa 4) Human Capital Development, Climate, Energy and Food Systems
36. Speaking during the high-level political dialogue held on 26th May 2022, H.E. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa the Deputy Chairperson (DCP) for the African Union Commission, noted that African Union had made great in addressing food security and nutrition challenges, but a lot needed to be done quoting the findings of Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study and the impact of COVID -19 on nutrition. She further called on investment in sustainable nutrition outcomes built on a resilient food system that takes into consideration social-economic, environmental, and biodiversity aspects. Key recommendations coming out include:

- i. Incorporate food security and nutrition objectives into social protection strategies, policies, and programs –to meet people’s needs and promote their well-being, now and in the future.
- ii. Adopt resilient and shock-responsive approaches that better help people in managing risks during sudden emergencies or seasonal stressors, while promoting coordination among actors on the ground, across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- iii. Strengthen the governance of social protection systems through institutional leadership, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination, social dialogue as well as innovative solutions like digital technologies.
- iv. Prioritize long-term, reliable, and equitable forms of financing, focusing on increased allocations of domestic resources, complemented by international cooperation.

**PRIORITY 4: Institutional capacity enhancement and enabling environment for intensified action and delivery of results and impact**

**i. Launch of Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes in Africa**

37. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, (former Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD CEO) launched the AUDA-NEPAD Home Grown School Feeding Guidelines during the 7th Africa Day for School Feeding continental commemoration convened on the 1st March 2022. The HGSF guidelines are meant to provide general direction or guidance to African Union Member States who wish to establish HGSF programmes or review existing school feeding programmes to link them more directly with smallholder farmers and other role players in the school food value chain while addressing the nutrition component more adequately. The guidelines cover the following:

- i. Policy and legal framework - School Feed programmes should be enshrined in national policies and plans
- ii. Financial capacity and stable funding - National School Feed programmes should ideally be funded from national core resources
- iii. Institutional capacity for implementation and coordination- A School Feeding or HGSF Programmes is better executed and more effective where a strong institution is mandated and accountable for implementing and monitoring such a programme
- iv. Design and implementation of school feeding programmes and community participation.

**I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE 2ND HALF OF THE YEAR JUNE – DECEMBER 2022**

- i. **Development of framework on Private Sector engagement for nutrition investment, 22 - 23 June 2022, Johannesburg, South Africa** - AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with FAO is currently developing the framework/guidelines on

strengthening private sector engagement and nutrition coordination in Sub-Saharan Africa, for Better Nutrition. The anticipated framework/ guideline is intended to reinforce nutrition private sector engagement in promoting better nutrition in the continents, sharing best practices, and creating better synergies and engagements of stakeholders.

- ii. **Africa Year of Nutrition and Food Security Launching Event in Ethiopia - Joint event of the Government of Ethiopia and Africa Union Commission, July 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** – the event aims to share the government of Ethiopia’s commitment to food and nutrition strategy and related experiences; Showcase of the Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase Learning and to catalyze the implementation of the Expansion Phase among government sectors and development partners and mobilize the donors and nutrition and food security communities to call for translating the Nutrition for Growth Commitment in support the national food and nutrition strategy and the Seqota Declaration and other member states nutrition strategies and policies.
- iii. **High-level Ministerial meeting on Nutrition and food security, July 2022, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire** - The event will be organized by the Government of Cote d’Ivoire in collaboration with the African Union Commission and Africa Development Bank - Africa Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative in July 2022. The Ministerial Dialogue is meant to provide an opportunity to examine implementation experiences of AU year of Nutrition, share lessons learned, and examine the strategic options for strengthening country involvement and commitment to the implementation with a focus on integrating emerging opportunities at the national level
- iv. **High–Level Nutrition Event organized by the African Union Nutrition Champion – 2 -3, August 2022-** This will take place during the 1st week of August in Maseru, Lesotho. The high-level event hosted by His Majesty King Letsie III, Head of State and Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the AU Nutrition Champion with the participation of the African Leaders for Nutrition Champions will constitute a “call for action” for increased domestic resource mobilization for Nutrition.
- v. **Nigeria National Data Nutrition Conference and Launch of AU Year of Nutrition at the national level** - The event will be an opportunity to launch the 2022 AU Year of Nutrition in Nigeria and project Nigeria’s efforts in strengthening resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African continent and prioritizing data management and information systems, knowledge generation and dissemination, to inform decision making.
- vi. **Development of a financing target for Nutrition** - A funding target for nutrition is expected to strengthen the country’s efforts to allocate adequate resources to addressing malnutrition and support the advocacy efforts for increased nutrition financing. To support the advocacy efforts aimed at increasing investment in nutrition, it is important to establish a funding target that acts as a proxy to judge

the progress made in resource mobilization about nutrition financing. In the absence of financing targets, assessing progress made towards reaching the various nutrition targets is difficult. The analysis to support the development of the target is ongoing and it is being led by the AUC and ALN-AfDB in support of key stakeholders and partners (FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, AUDA-NEPAD, IFAD, World Bank, Un Nutrition, SUN Movement).

**vii. Celebration World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August) -** Advocacy for increased commitment and investment toward exclusive breastfeeding. The celebration will be led by WHO jointly with AUC and partners.

### 38. Other activities

- i. **Publication of cartography on Africa Indigenous and Staples food for each Regional Economic Community**
- ii. **Design development process for a regional strategy for anemia reduction**
- iii. **Commemorate the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security Celebrations (ADFNS)**
- iv. **Development of a regional mapping of national and regional biofortification policies/ strategies**

## II. MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS, CHALLENGES, AND THE WAY FORWARD

39. One of the key challenges has been limited financial and human resources in implementing the roadmap and action plan. AU Commission has worked closely with partners and key stakeholders in the implementation of key activities in line with the comprehensive action plan developed at the beginning of the year.

40. The approved theme of the year for 2022 has been key in bringing together key stakeholders working in key sectors namely – Agriculture, Health, Social Protection, and education, noting the multisectoral approach needed in addressing nutrition and food security challenges.

41. Recommendations is to continue engaging with partners and stakeholder to support the activities planned for the second half of the year and engage with member states to popularize the theme of the year at the national level for greater impact beyond 2022.



**DRAFT DECISION**  
**ON THE MID-TERM ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE THEME OF THE YEAR 2022**

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 (Assembly/AU/Dec. 813(XXXV))

**The Executive Council,**

**TAKES NOTE** of the Mid-Year Report on the Implementation of the Roadmap of the African Union Theme of the Year for 2022 titled: 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;

**ACKNOWLEDGES** the role played by the African Union Nutrition Champion His Majesty King Letsie III, Head of State of the Kingdom of Lesotho for engaging Heads of State and Government and other policy and decision-makers to elevate nutrition on continental and domestic agendas and strengthen the political will to address the complex root causes of malnutrition.

**TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in the implementation theme of the year action plan recommendations arising from key actions and stakeholder engagements, most of which call for Member states to prioritize increased domestic financial investment in food and nutrition security while promoting investments in multi-sectoral programming; and **CALLS** on African Union Commission and key stakeholders to adopt and develop a multisectoral policy framework and a nutrition investment target that will guarantee domestic resource allocation for nutrition programming.

**FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the planned activities inscribed in the roadmap on the theme of the year to be implemented in the second semester of 2022 and beyond and **CALLS UPON** African Union Commission to work closely with all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Union Development Agency (AUDA – NEPAD) Africa Development Bank (Africa Leaders for Nutrition Initiative), UN Agencies and partners in food and nutrition security to continue supporting the implementation of activities and programs in line with the AU theme of the year for 2022;

**NOTING** the unprecedented needs due to the intersection of conflict, climate change, the coronavirus pandemic, and rising costs restricting access to food for millions of people and **RECOGNIZING** that there are only three years left to achieve the Malabo targets (10% and 5% Stunting and underweight), the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025) **DECIDES** that activities on the roadmap for the AU theme of the year for 2022 should continue until 2023;

**REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the Republic of Coted' Ivoire and key stakeholders, to present a comprehensive report to the 36th AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to be held in February 2023 on the impact of the AU theme of the year for 2022 highlighting key achievements, challenges, and strategy for implementing the key recommendations arising from the AU theme of the year on Nutrition beyond 2022.

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# Report on the Implementation of Activities on the Roadmap of the AU Theme of the year for 2021 for the Period February – June 2022

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