



ROGER MILLA PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE

SAVE CHILDREN FROM NOMA

Together, Let's Sign the Global Petition

Paris - September 28, 2026

ONE BILLION SIGNATURES

www.rogermilla-program.org



The Roger Milla Program Launches a Global Petition to Save Children from Noma

“Save Children from Noma - Together, Let’s Sign the Global Petition”

Paris, September 28, 2026 - The Roger Milla Program announces the launch of an international petition aimed at mobilizing citizens, governments, international organizations, healthcare institutions, businesses and development partners in the global fight against noma.

The goal of this campaign is to collect one billion signatures and call for urgent action on prevention, early detection, access to healthcare and comprehensive support for affected children.

A Devastating Disease Affecting the Most Vulnerable Children

Noma is a severe gangrenous disease that begins in the mouth and can rapidly destroy the tissues and bones of the face. It primarily affects young children living in conditions of extreme poverty, malnutrition and limited access to healthcare.

Without treatment, the disease can be fatal. Children who survive may suffer from severe facial disfigurement, difficulties eating, speaking or breathing, as well as stigmatization and social exclusion.

In December 2023, the World Health Organization officially added noma to its list of neglected tropical diseases. When detected early, its progression can be stopped through essential measures such as proper hygiene, antibiotics and improved nutrition.

Medical source: World Health Organization - www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noma

Turning International Recognition into Concrete Action

- Integrate noma prevention and screening into national health policies;
- Train healthcare professionals and community health workers to recognize the disease’s early symptoms;
- Strengthen programmes addressing malnutrition and improving oral hygiene;
- Guarantee affected children free access to medication, hospital care, reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation;
- Establish and support specialized treatment centres in the most affected countries;
- Fund research, reliable data collection and public awareness campaigns;
- Protect the rights, dignity and social inclusion of survivors.

An Appeal Led by Roger Milla

“No child should lose their face or their life to a disease that we can prevent and treat. We must break the silence surrounding noma and mobilize the entire world. Every signature is a voice for a child, a family and a future. Together, we can act.”

Roger Milla, world football legend and founder of the Roger Milla Program

The campaign will draw on Roger Milla’s international profile and the unifying power of sport to bring the cause of affected children to the attention of the public and decision-makers.



One Billion Signatures to Call on Global Leaders

The signatures collected will support an international advocacy campaign targeting governments, the World Health Organization, African and European institutions, United Nations agencies, sports federations, foundations and private-sector partners.

“This petition must become the voice of the children whom the world neither sees nor hears. We want to turn outrage into commitment, and commitment into concrete programmes for prevention, treatment and reconstruction.”

Jean-Baptiste D. Tany, Director General of the Roger Milla Program

How to Participate

The Roger Milla Program invites every citizen to take three simple actions:

SIGN • SHARE • MOBILIZE

The petition is available online at: www.rogermilla-program.org

Every signature matters. Every share can inform a family. Every act of mobilization can help save a child.

About the Roger Milla Program

The Roger Milla Program is an international solidarity initiative dedicated to protecting the health, dignity and well-being of vulnerable children, particularly those affected or threatened by noma.

Its work focuses on awareness, prevention, healthcare-worker training, access to treatment, maxillofacial surgery, support for survivors and the mobilization of institutional, sporting, medical and economic partners.

Press Contact

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#SaveChildrenFromNoma #EndNomaNow #ItsTheGestureThatCounts