

PRESS RELEASE

“IT’S THE GESTURE THAT COUNTS”: Roger Milla calls for international solidarity for Africa’s children

A campaign to fight noma, improve access to clean water and advance the Roger Milla Centre of Excellence hospital project in Cameroon

Paris, 11 October 2026 — The **Roger Milla Program**, initiated by world football legend Roger Milla, presents the international campaign **“IT’S THE GESTURE THAT COUNTS.”** This movement invites individuals, associations, sports clubs, businesses and institutions to contribute to the health, dignity and future of vulnerable children in Africa.

Its message is simple: **everyone can take action, according to their means.** Making a donation, signing the petition against noma, sharing the campaign or contributing expertise are all ways to participate.

Three priorities to turn solidarity into action

Fight noma

The campaign aims to raise awareness, support prevention and early detection, improve access to care and provide support for affected children and survivors.

It promotes the global petition **“Save Children from Noma — Together, Let’s Sign the Global Petition,”** which has the ambition of gathering **one billion signatures.** This mobilisation calls on governments, health institutions and international partners to make concrete commitments to prevention, free access to care and the protection of affected children’s rights.

Improve access to clean water

The Roger Milla Program seeks to mobilise resources and partners to develop access to clean water in schools and communities that lack it.

The approach combines the installation of water facilities with planning for their maintenance and management, aiming to provide sustainable solutions suited to local needs.

Advance the hospital project

The campaign also supports the development of the **Roger Milla Centre of Excellence hospital project**, with a proposed location in the Yaoundé-Nsimalen area of Cameroon.

The project aims to strengthen access to specialist healthcare, particularly maxillofacial and reconstructive surgery. One of its ambitions is to provide **free care for children from across Africa affected by the consequences of noma and facial or congenital conditions**.

The next steps involve feasibility studies, the development of the clinical programme and cooperation with the relevant authorities and partners. The location, approvals, timetable and financing remain to be confirmed.

A call to individuals, the sporting community and partners

The campaign aims to draw on the power of sport and community networks to broaden participation.

The Roger Milla Program invites:

- **the general public** to donate, sign and share;
- **clubs, athletes and their supporters** to promote the campaign;
- **businesses and foundations** to support the projects or contribute expertise;
- **healthcare professionals and institutions** to help prepare medical initiatives;
- **the media** to raise awareness of the causes and opportunities to participate.

How to take part

DONATE — SIGN THE PETITION — SHARE — BECOME A PARTNER

Information and access to campaign actions:

www.rogermilla-program.org

About the Roger Milla Program

Initiated by Roger Milla, the Roger Milla Program mobilises solidarity to improve the health, dignity and living conditions of vulnerable children in Africa. Its priorities are fighting noma, improving access to clean water and developing the Roger Milla Centre of Excellence hospital project in Cameroon.

Media and partnership enquiries

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#ItsTheGestureThatCounts · #SaveChildrenFromNoma · #EndNomaNow