

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



July 2023

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC partnered to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and hasten the economic recovery of the African continent.

Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is a \$1.5 billion USD initiative that addressed the urgency to purchase COVID-19 vaccines, supporting the delivery of vaccinations to millions more, as well as, in the longer-term, ensure Africa's health security and response to future pandemics.

WHO recently declared the end of COVID-19 as a public health emergency.

Africa CDC is leading the charge to integrate COVID-19 vaccinations into routine immunization programs. We will prioritize specific groups – health care workers, the elderly, and those who have underlying illnesses – to ensure they are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?

Currently, 14 African nations have vaccinated at least 70 percent of their eligible populations with the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the World Health Organization. Tanzania and São Tomé and Príncipe have fully vaccinated their populations; while Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Somalia have vaccinated over 90 percent of their eligible population. More than 80 percent of the eligible population in Comoros, Liberia, Rwanda, and Zambia, have been vaccinated.

Meanwhile, approximately 51.8 percent of the continent's eligible population is fully vaccinated.

More than 1.084 billion vaccine doses have been administered in the continent so far.



Top 10 countries in Africa where vaccines have been administered

01 Nigeria
 **69 million** *59% of eligible population*

02 Ethiopia
 **45 million** *66% of eligible population*

03 Egypt
 **42 million** *57% of eligible population*

04 Tanzania
 **31 million** *103% of eligible population*

05 Morocco
 **23 million** *79% of eligible population*

06 South Africa
 **21 million** *41% of eligible population*

07 Mozambique
 **21 million** *77% of eligible population*

08 Uganda
 **13 million** *47% of eligible population*

09 Kenya
 **13 million** *39% of eligible population*

10 DR. Congo
 **13 million** *23% of eligible population*

Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

Implementing Partners Plan Long Term Control of COVID-19

As part of the next phase of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, partners convened in Addis Ababa on July 5 for a consultative meeting on the initiative's acceleration strategy. This follows the latest declaration by the World Health Organization that COVID-19 no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.

This transition towards long term control aims to protect priority groups, integrate COVID-19 vaccination into routine primary healthcare systems, prepare the continent for the next pandemic and strengthen the Africa CDC workforce. The strategic shift aligns with broader continental policy discussions and reflects a proactive approach towards enhancing the region's pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms. The overall goal is a safer continent and a stronger African health system.

Africa CDC and Partners attended a consultative meeting on an acceleration strategy for COVID-19 vaccination



Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



RCCE experts participated in a technical review and planning workshop

African Experts Map a Strategy for Stronger, Better Coordination

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) experts drawn from the 54 member states of the African Union met in Kampala to discuss ways to strengthen and enhance coordination in public health risk communication and community engagement on the continent.

The three-day technical review and planning workshop was also attended by representatives of the World Health Organization African Region (WHO AFRO), the RCCE Collective Services technical working group and other key stakeholders. The workshop presented an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences, while evaluating the impact and strategies for improved and comprehensive approach.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Teams from Africa CDC, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, and colleagues from the Ministry of Health and Child Care at the Vaccination Centre in Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe



Media Support for Vaccination Mobilization Campaigns in Zimbabwe Lauded

Enhanced media coverage of ongoing mobilization campaigns for COVID-19 vaccination in Zimbabwe has been hailed for contributing to the success.

Several publications and radio stations have been profiling vaccination drives and interviewing health officials, and community and religious leaders. According to Anna Chigodo, a health worker at Mufure Clinic, the continued social mobilization is bearing fruit through enhanced turnout by the communities.

The Africa CDC's National Coordinator, Dr Charles Emejuru applauded the media for raising awareness and supporting the campaign by getting the message out to communities far and wide. Dr Emejuru said: "We want to thank our partners - the media. They have always been strong supporters helping us to move the message to the communities, reaching places where we cannot reach."

Bingwas Champion COVID-19 Vaccination in their Communities

Across the continent, Bingwa youth champions are mobilizing their communities for full vaccination against COVID-19. From football pitches and markets to community centres and school visiting days, the champions have been stressing the importance of vaccines, tackling myths and encouraging people to get vaccinated. The network of Bingwas is spread across the continent and aims to make a directly attributable contribution to vaccinating at least 100 million Africans including 30 million youth, and an indirect contribution towards bridging the 727 million vaccination gap in Africa by increasing demand for the COVID-19 vaccine. [Read more](#)



Bingwa youth champions engage communities about COVID-19 vaccination

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



Images from the campaign led by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society

Bolstering Integration of COVID-19 Vaccination into Ethiopia's Health System

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) is supporting the integration of the COVID-19 vaccine into the country's routine health system. With technical support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), a campaign was conducted involving advocacy and consultative workshops for health professionals, religious institutions and associations of youth, women, and people living with disabilities, among other interest groups.

In addition, 840 volunteers were deployed to undertake door-to-door visits and community engagement activities, as 10 vehicles mounted with public address systems mobilized the community. A digital platform, Katikati, was used to collect community feedback, provide real-time support to volunteers, and inform campaign activities.

The volunteers leveraged the credibility that ERCS enjoys, to rally the community for vaccination. Tailored messages to tackle misinformation were shared on the platform and through community influencers, town criers and other channels. During the campaign, 632,044 people were vaccinated against COVID-19, while 63,737 girls were vaccinated against HPV (human papillomavirus) infection. Three hundred and forty children who had missed their routine immunization were also vaccinated and 178,191 children were screened for malnutrition.



Africa CDC's new advisory and technical council

Africa CDC's New Advisory and Technical Council

Africa CDC has unveiled a revamped advisory and technical council to enhance disease prevention and control by providing technical and consultative support on matters such as emerging diseases, surveillance, resource mobilization, science, research, and strategy. This marks a shift towards stronger leadership and ownership by member states and their heads of state and governments. The new council strengthens Africa CDC's leadership and governance structure as part of broader efforts to reinforce continental mechanisms through strategic institution-building. The restructured council comprises 20 diverse members, including representatives from member states, national public health institutes, the Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network (RISLNET), African health networks, WHO, and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). [Read more](#)

African Youth Invited to Apply for pre-CPHIA Event



The Africa CDC has invited young people between the ages of 18 and 35 to participate in the second edition of its Youth Pre-Conference (YPC 2023). The event will be held on November 25–26 in Lusaka, Zambia, ahead of the third CPHIA (CPHIA 2023). The theme is “Youth Leadership for a Safer and Healthier Africa’. It aims to continue and intensify the conversation on youth engagement at Africa CDC and to provide a platform for the exchange of innovative solutions to institutionalize youth leadership in public health on the African continent.

[Read more](#)

Sustainable Investment in African Vaccine Manufacturing

The Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) was the focus of a global event jointly convened by Africa CDC, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative. The meeting was attended by representatives of the private sector, financial institutions and development partners discussed the progress of PAVM, facilitated business to business linkages and identified solutions to enhance investment sustainability.

[Read more.](#)

Leadership Training Held in Zimbabwe to Deliver Better Health Outcomes

A Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative leadership training was recently held in the provinces of Midlands and Mashonaland West in Zimbabwe. The training, an interprofessional education programme, was aimed at improving health outcomes in the country by enhancing collaboration between healthcare providers in order to attain the target of vaccinating 70% of the population. The training targeted teams from the national, provincial and district levels of the health system. Participants were drawn from the Ministry of Health, the Zimbabwe Association of Church Related Hospitals and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society supported by the Africa CDC in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.

The training aimed to foster collaboration among teams that are executing the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative to achieve the 70 percent COVID-19 vaccination herd immunity rate in Zimbabwe. Integrating COVID-19 vaccination into routine immunization and primary health care was identified as a strategy to improve COVID-19 vaccination coverage.



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