

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



December 2023

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Mastercard Foundation partnered to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and hasten the economic recovery of the African continent.

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is a \$1.5 billion initiative that is addressing the urgency to purchase COVID-19 vaccines, support the delivery and administering of vaccines to millions more, as well as strengthen Africa's health care system and security, in ensuring that Member States have the capacity to respond to future pandemics.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the end of COVID-19 as a public health emergency. In line with this transition the Africa CDC is leading the charge to integrate COVID-19 vaccinations into routine immunisation programmes. Prioritising specific groups – health care workers, the elderly, and those who have underlying illnesses and ensure they are fully vaccinated.



Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

The Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation launch phase two of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative to strengthen Africa's public health systems

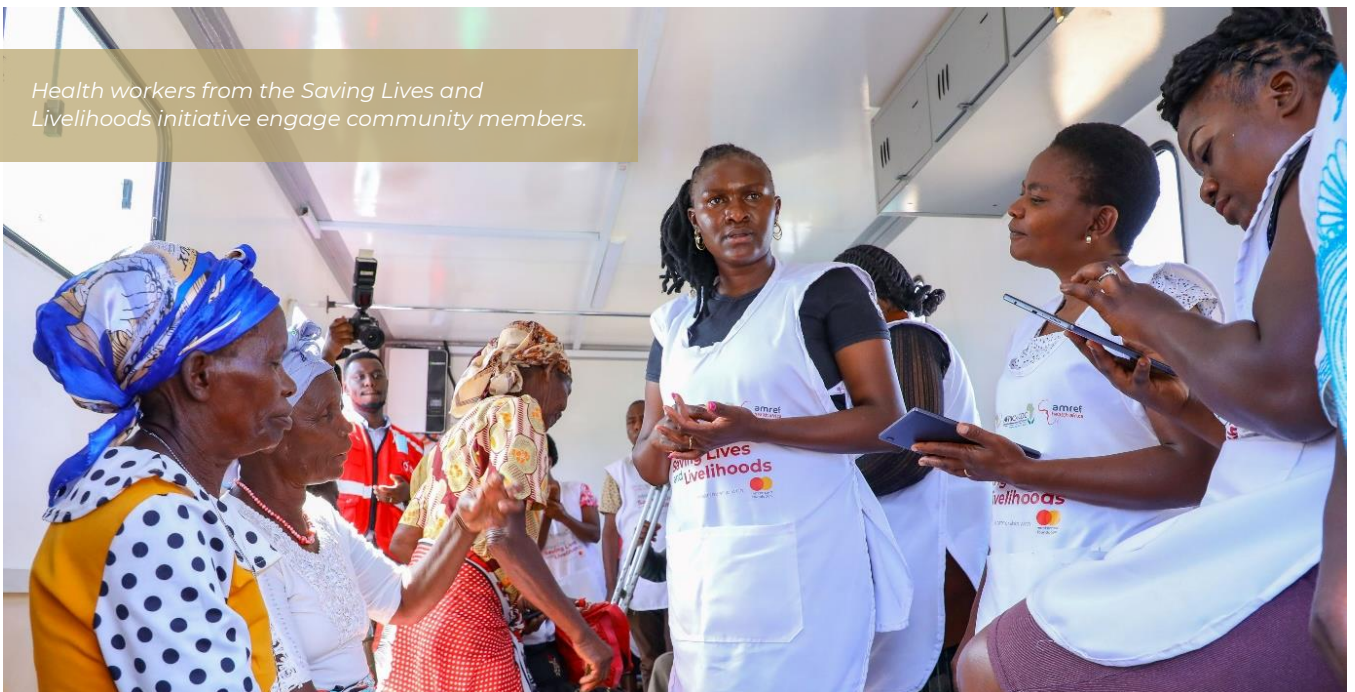
The Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation have entered a new phase of their partnership on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in the aftermath of the WHO's declaration of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic as a public health emergency of international concern. The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, a bold and unprecedented \$1.5 billion partnership with Mastercard Foundation, was launched in June 2021. This innovative and groundbreaking partnership aimed to purchase COVID-19 vaccines, roll out vaccinations, build the vaccine manufacturing workforce for the continent, and strengthen the Africa CDC to ensure long-term health security for Africa.

Unprecedented in scale, speed, and inclusion of African organizations, the partnership has contributed to the continent's current vaccination rate of 53 percent of the target population, up from just three percent at the

start of the initiative. The partnership has also trained, equipped, and deployed 38,000 health workers, creating a robust frontline in safeguarding public health locally. It has provided job opportunities for 23,000 individuals and integrated over 600 COVID-19 vaccination centres into health care systems. Additionally, this initiative led to the expansion of genomic testing capabilities from seven to 40 laboratories across the continent.

The review of Phase I of this initiative, among fifteen implementing partners across 29 countries, conducted by Deloitte, indicates that most funds disbursed were used effectively and as intended. Likewise, ongoing monitoring by KPMG has confirmed that partners showed strength in programmatic results and improved the institutional capacity for greater sustainability and institutional resilience.

Health workers from the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative engage community members.



Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

“Our Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative with the Mastercard Foundation has shown the power of respectful and action-oriented partnerships rooted in collaboration, coordination, and systems strengthening. The experience and learnings from Phase I will enable us to move with greater speed and scale to deliver with accelerated impact to our member states,” said Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of the Africa CDC.

In its second phase, the partnership will expand its scope and scale, focusing on completing the vaccination of health care workers and vulnerable groups, building a robust workforce of community health workers, ensuring pandemic preparedness by bolstering national public health institutions, laboratory capacities, data access and quality, local manufacturing of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, and continuing strengthening of the Africa CDC.

“While the global pandemic may be declared over, the need to continue investing in our health systems, build our workforce and prepare for future pandemics remains urgent. This partnership will ensure that we have strong health institutions and systems. We aim to enable thousands of young people to build their careers in healthcare and contribute to improving lives in Africa,” said Reeta Roy, President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation.

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative stands out as a testament to the power of African-led health solutions. As it progresses to its next phase, partnerships will continue to play a crucial role in shaping a New Public Health Order for Africa. The Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation remain committed to improving the health and well-being of all Africans.

Saving Lives and Livelihoods features on CNBC Africa

On the sidelines of the CPHIA 2023, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative came into focus in a series of interviews with various voices on CNBC Africa.

Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer at Mastercard Foundation, Julie Gichuru, traced the initiative’s genesis, the partnership with the Africa CDC, and lessons learned. She noted how the world is becoming far more complex, in realisation of the need for different stakeholders at the table, all pulling together to make a difference. Watch the full interview [here](#).

Director-General of the Africa CDC, Dr Jean Kaseya, reflected on lessons from responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said: “At Africa CDC, we learnt from COVID-19 that we need a

New Public Health Order, which is a game-changer, blueprint, and new vision for Africa on supporting our member states to be better prepared and respond to outbreaks”. Watch the full interview [here](#).

Dr. Merawi Aragaw Tegegne, Acting Head of the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Africa CDC discussed the investment being made by the Africa CDC in priority pathogens to shape the continent’s public health future.

Dr. Mosoka Fallah, Program Manager for the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative, outlined the framework and infrastructure that has been laid to enhance pandemic preparedness and response for the future. Watch the full interviews [here](#).

Updates on the Saving Lives and



THE IMPACT - TWO YEARS ON

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



Contributed to the full vaccination of
53% of the target population in Africa

Over **35 million doses** of vaccines administered.



Created access to **23,000 jobs** in 25 member States (25% are young people and 55% are women)



Trained and deployed **38,000 health workers**



Program implementation in

25
member states

Established **data sharing agreements with**

15

Member States and developed DHIS2 cloud data system.

Strengthened Africa CDC's capacity, including

106

new in-country staff.

Through the urgent support model,

2,573,762

doses were safely administered.

Procured and deployed **44,000** cold chain equipment in

32

member states



Significant investments, moving from **2 to 32 laboratories on the continent for genomic sequencing** of SARS-COV-2 and other pathogens.



*As at August 2023

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Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

Highlights from CPHIA 2023

African heads of state, ministers of health, policymakers, researchers, and scientists were among 5,100 delegates from 90 countries who convened in Lusaka, Zambia, for the third annual International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2023). The conference, organised by the Africa CDC was held from 27th to 30th November 2023. under the theme, 'Breaking Barriers: Repositioning Africa in the Global Health Architecture'.

Hosted by the government of the Republic of Zambia, CPHIA provided an opportunity to share scientific findings, collaborate on research and implementation, and chart a secure future for the continent. Discussions centred on Africa's health challenges, with calls to embrace the future of health through

collaboration, innovation, and renewed commitment to health equity.

In his opening keynote address, the President of Zambia, H.E Hakainde Hichilema, called on African countries to collaborate toward building resilient health systems to battle the burden of disease in the continent.

Contributions of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative to the continent's health security were celebrated. This includes creating a robust frontline in safeguarding public health by training, equipping, and deploying health workers; and expanding genomic testing capabilities across the continent.



The President of Zambia H.E Hakainde Hichilema: "Public health requires us to work in unison. The thing about health is that there is no territorial ground. You can't say 'this is my area and will do it my own way'".



Director General of the Africa CDC, Dr Jean Kaseya: "Our Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative with the Mastercard Foundation has shown the power of respectful and action-oriented partnerships rooted in collaboration, coordination, and systems strengthening".



World Health Organization Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus with Wellcome's incoming CEO, Dr. John-Arne Røttingen, and Mastercard Foundation Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer, Julie Gichuru.



Mastercard Foundation Senior Director of Corporate Communications, Wariko Waita, joins other panelists in a discussion on 'Developing RCCE Workforce for Efficient Pandemic Preparedness and Response'.



Mastercard Foundation Senior Executive Resident, Dr Solomon Zewdu, discusses the success of Africa's response during the pandemic at the Saving Lives and Livelihoods side-event on 'Delivering Africa's New Public Health Order'.



Acting Deputy Director General of the Africa CDC, Dr Ahmed Ogwel, speaks during the CPHIA 2023.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Snapshot of key successes for COVID-19 vaccination acceleration in Africa.

Obinagu ward leader turns social gatherings into vaccination hubs

In the distant village of Obinagu, nestled in Ugwogo Nike, Enugu State, lies a community eight hours away from Nigeria's capital, Abuja. The locals here faced a significant challenge of misinformation and scepticism surrounding the COVID-19 vaccination, leading to fear and doubt.

Enter Amuche Eze, the dedicated Ward Focal Person of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Project in Obinagu, Recognises the immense potential to address these misconceptions. Amuche and her team seized the opportunity to turn social events like weddings, funerals, and community festivals into unique vaccination hubs. This ingenious approach has proved to be a real game-changer.

Through their tireless efforts and community-centred approach, the ward's vaccination targets were met and exceeded. All eleven settlements within Obinagu were covered, resulting in over 4,500 individuals receiving the vaccine. This remarkable achievement emphasises the significance of tailoring vaccination campaigns to suit specific dynamics of each community.

As Amuche and her team reflect upon their achievements, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative continues to build on the success of this innovative model. Aligned to the initiative's key result areas, efforts persist in countering misinformation and fostering widespread vaccine acceptance.



Part of the cold chain was delivered to Cameroon's Ministry of Health under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative.

Delivery of cold chain equipment boosts Cameroon's capacity to manage vaccines

The Ministry of Health Cameroon has received cold chain equipment worth \$644,749 as part of the efforts to strengthen the country's health infrastructure and improve its ability manage vaccines and essential medical supplies effectively. The equipment was received from the Africa CDC in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, and it included the following: 300 temperature regulators, 86 refrigerated boxes, 172 vaccine carriers, and 159 solar refrigerators. Cold chain equipment is vital in preserving vaccines and other temperature-sensitive medical supplies.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Health worker reflects on struggle and triumph at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Having been at the centre of COVID-19 response operations, Gebremariam Estifanos, a health worker in Ethiopia, looks back at how health workers bravely moved door to door and worked at health facilities, shouldering the risks involved.

"We made sure to check if children were vaccinated and provided vaccines when needed. We also monitored the overall health status of the community, paying special attention to those with poor living conditions or non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. Based on our assessments, we provided counselling, health education on hygiene and sanitation, and other services, including palliative care, HIV, and tuberculosis care," explains Gebremariam, who also serves as the Urban Health Extension Program and Primary Health Care Coordinator in Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-City.

The success achieved in Nifas Silk Lafto and other sub-cities was made possible by connecting family health teams with district

health offices, health posts, and health extension workers. Additionally, the training of 68 volunteers allowed for expanded services, including raising awareness in the community and motivating people to get vaccinated. These volunteers tirelessly visited households, reaching over 82,000 households and more than 221,000 individuals.

"Numerous health services were offered to the community, and we compiled valuable data on community health. This data guided us in providing different services tailored to the community's specific needs," Estifanos explains.

These integrated activities were carried out through public campaigns and outreaches. For instance, when vaccinating children, parents were also offered COVID-19 vaccinations. Additionally, a dedicated team focused on social mobilisation, while another team provided counselling services. Together, they effectively reached numerous communities and families, disseminating life-saving information and delivering crucial health services.

Despite these accomplishments, the journey was not without challenges. "Many individuals hesitated to visit health facilities for fear of the disease. They would only seek help when their condition became severe," Estifanos adds.

Overall, the dedication and perseverance of Gebremariam Estifanos and other health workers in Ethiopia played a crucial role in providing essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their tireless efforts helped safeguard the community by ensuring access to vital vaccinations, healthcare services, and valuable health education.