

# Saving Lives and Livelihoods

In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation



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## Newsletter

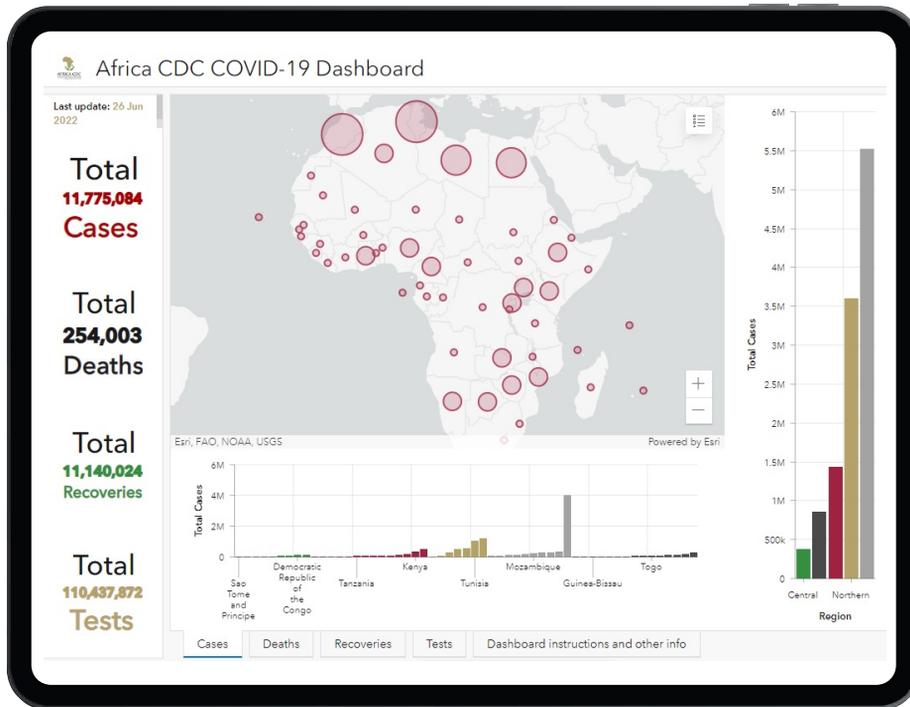
### June 2022

In June 2021, the Mastercard Foundation partnered with the [Africa CDC](#) to launch a \$1.5 billion initiative called [Saving Lives and Livelihoods](#). Together, we are purchasing vaccines for more than 65 million people, deploying vaccines to millions more across the continent, enabling vaccine manufacturing in Africa by developing the workforce, and strengthening the Africa CDC's capacity.

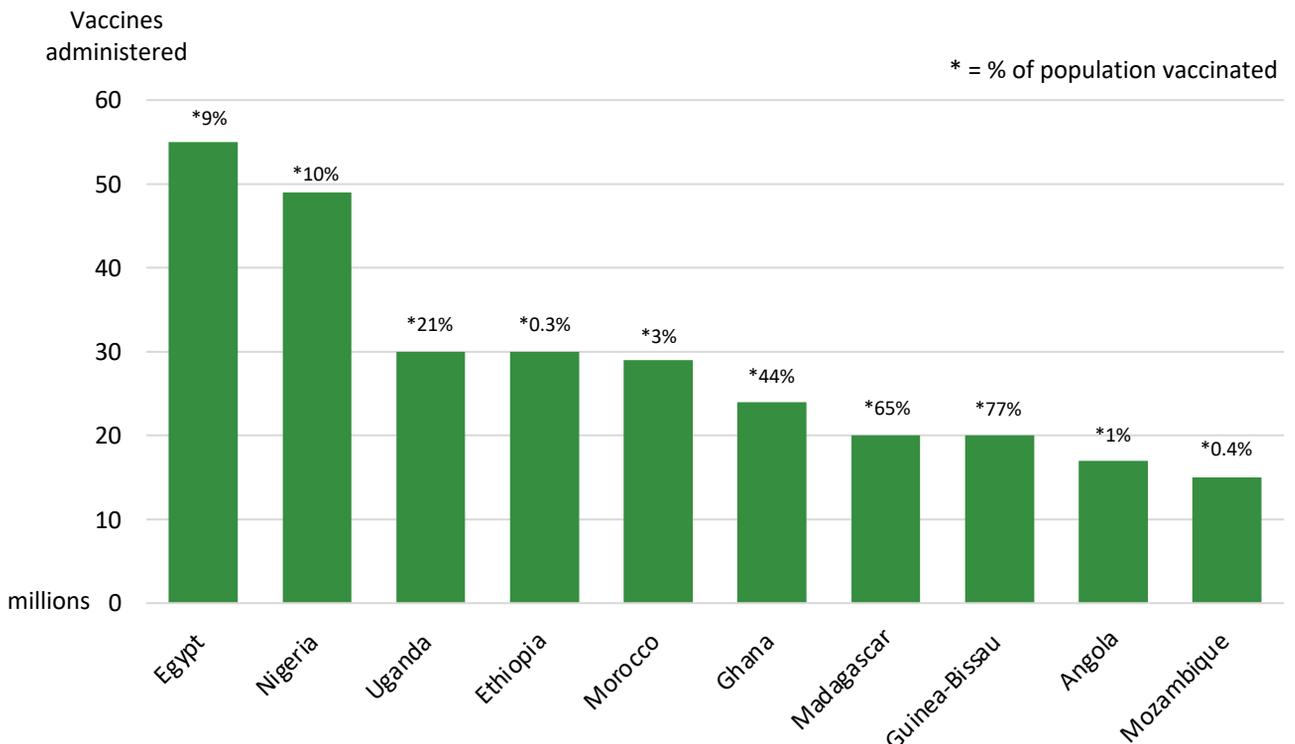


# COVID-19 in Africa: Where we are today

Africa has registered more than 11.7 million COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic. Egypt, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia are among countries with the highest number of cases on the continent. Meanwhile, only about 18% percent of the continent's population is fully vaccinated. [Read more](#)



The latest data from the Africa CDC indicates that the following 10 countries have administered the most vaccines to date:



## Saving Lives and Livelihoods Update: Getting Shots in Arms



**Mapping initiative's next priorities:** The first anniversary of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative was marked by highlighting its key priorities going forward. The President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation, Reeta Roy stated that the next phase would focus on turning vaccine delivery into vaccinations. For his part, the Acting Director of the Africa CDC, Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma emphasized the need to boost investment in the public health workforce, and the next generation of leaders and experts; while expanding local manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics. [Read more.](#)



**Full implementation begins:** The Acting Director at the Africa CDC, Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma has announced the full program implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative. In remarks delivered in Addis Ababa, he challenged implementing partners, who are at the forefront of the largest immunization program in the continent's history, to put their best foot forward. [Listen here](#)



Members of the Africa CDC, Mastercard Foundation and Implementing Partners at the Saving Lives and Livelihoods RCCE onboarding session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 21-22, 2022.

**Community engagement:** In Burkina Faso, volunteers for the Africa CDC conducted awareness-raising activities at community and health centres. These activities are carried out to strengthen the fight against COVID-19 at the community level. [Read more](#)



## Other important developments



**According to the WHO Africa, COVID-19 deaths in the region are expected to decline by almost 94% in 2022** compared with 2021, which was the pandemic's most lethal year. This comes as cases are projected to drop by a little over a quarter this year but more remains to be done to deal with the pandemic. [Read more](#)



**AU member states and health emergency partners have called for comprehensive reforms of the WHO global health emergencies program to address gaps** such as the need for a dedicated global emergency health workforce, equitable access to vaccines, medical oxygen and other essential drugs, in addition to increased investment in health-related infrastructure. This call was made during the 75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in May. [Read more](#)

**Africa is intensifying COVID-19 vaccination for high-risk population groups with some promising signs.** Nearly 50% of health workers and people over the age of 60 are fully vaccinated against the virus in countries reporting, according to data from the WHO. [Read more](#)





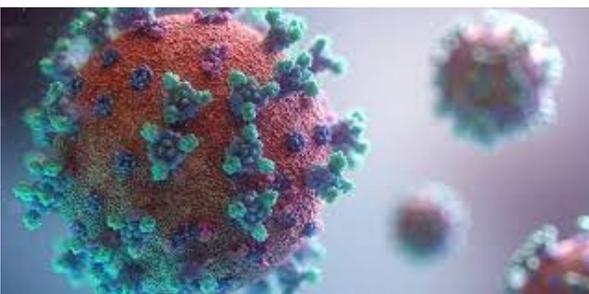
**The Rwanda Development Board and BioNTech broke ground for the construction of a new mRNA facility in Rwanda during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in June 2022. President Paul Kagame presided over the ground-breaking event. [Read more](#)**

**South Africa has launched the Global Vax campaign in partnership with the US government to accelerate COVID-19 vaccinations and contribute to the goal of vaccinating 70% of the global population against COVID-19 in 2022. [Read more](#)**



**Capacity for vaccine manufacturing needs to be built ahead of time to allow for a rapid scale-up of production. To do this, low-income and middle-income countries need equipment and “knowhow” to manufacture vaccines. [Read more](#)**

**The dangers of disinformation for public health and the pandemic response in Angola led the WHO and the Ministry of Health to create the COVID-19 Alliance Project, an initiative to counter falsehoods with facts. [Read more](#)**



**The Africa Infomedic Response Alliance (AIRA), which brings together the Africa CDC, the WHO, UNICEF and others have partnered to track and respond to health misinformation about COVID-19 under the Viral Facts Africa initiative. [Read more](#)**