

# Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



## Newsletter - October 2022

In June 2021, the Mastercard Foundation partnered with the [Africa CDC](#) to launch the \$1.5 billion [Saving Lives and Livelihoods \(SLL\)](#) initiative. Together, we are purchasing COVID-19 vaccines for more than 65 million people, deploying vaccines to millions across the continent, enabling vaccine manufacturing in Africa by developing the workforce, and strengthening the Africa CDC's capacity.

This November 1 marked Africa Youth Day, which is set aside by the African Union (AU) every year to promote the increased recognition of youth as key agents for social change, economic growth, and sustainable development in all areas of African society.

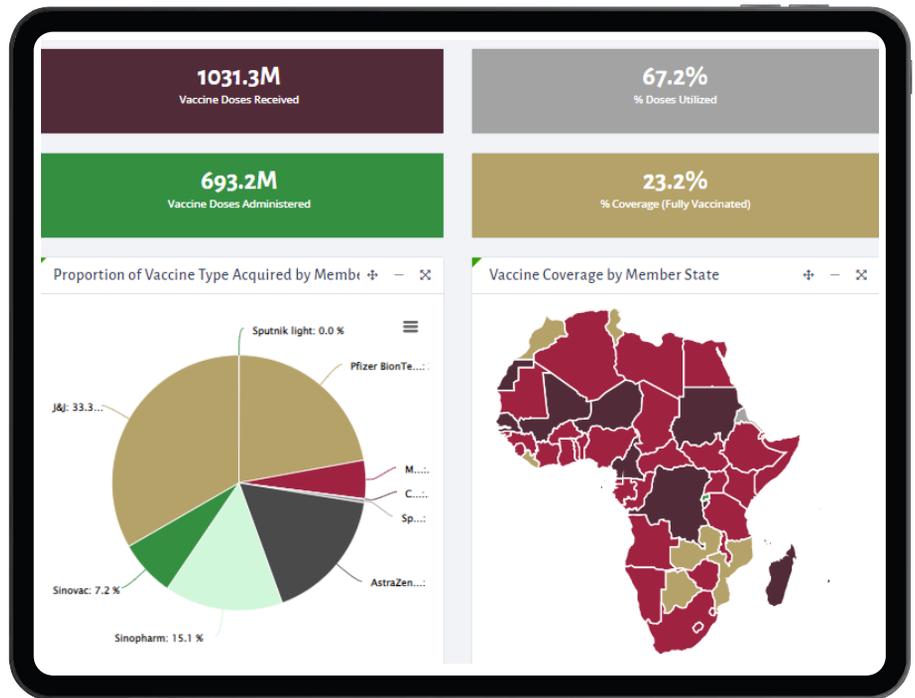
The Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation salute the work of many young people from around the continent at the forefront of strengthening public health. We celebrate their contributions in this edition.



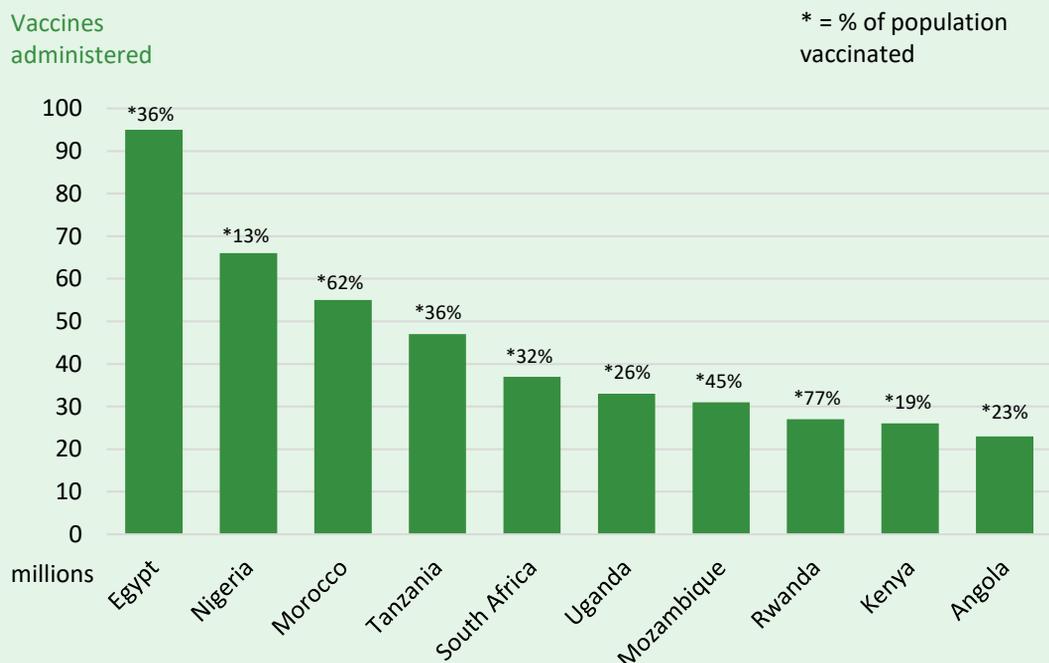
# COVID-19 in Africa: Where we are today

Today, Rwanda has a 77 percent vaccination rate, surpassing the 70 percent target set by the WHO in 2021. Countries that have attained vaccination between 50 percent and 70 percent include Morocco at 61.9 percent, and Tunisia at 52.8 percent. Meanwhile, about 22.7 percent of the continent's population is fully vaccinated.

Africa has registered over 12 million COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia are among the countries that have recorded the highest number of cases. [Read more.](#)



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



Source: [Africa CDC](#) (2022) | As of 28/10/2022

Africa Youth Month 2022: Breaking the barriers to meaningful youth participation and inclusion in advocacy.

# With over **75%** of Africa's **1.2 billion** inhabitants under the age of **35**, and **453 million Africans aged 15- 35**

it goes without saying that the development outcomes of Africa's young people have a significant and lasting effect on the continent's trajectory.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which spread globally, challenged the efficacy with which Africa's youth engages with the world and the opportunities compromising their lives, livelihoods and lifestyles. To respond to this the AUC Chairperson launched the AU COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative, the aim of which is to create a network of youth health champions who will drive up the vaccinations for COVID-19 to 70% by December 2023.

[Read more](#)



## Shots in arms: Updates on Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative

The following are key highlights of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative:

**Call for application for the African Union/Africa CDC's COVID-19 vaccination Bingwa initiative.** The Africa CDC is calling all motivated youth from Eastern Africa who are willing to contribute to the acceleration of COVID-19 vaccination in their countries to apply to the African Union COVID-19 vaccination Bingwa initiative.

The selected Bingwas (champions) will be asked to implement various advocacy duties for a period of up to 12 months.



Applicants must be citizens or residents of the following AU Member States: Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

To learn more and apply, please click [here](#).

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*I'm happy that Bingwa is doing this sensitization. It is less expensive to get the vaccine, which is free, than to seek treatment for COVID-19. As global restrictions loosen, we see a greater need for innovation to keep COVID-19 vaccinations on the agenda.*

**Chike** – Nigerian musician and Bingwa Champion.

## Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

### Snapshot of key successes for COVID-19 vaccination acceleration

**In-country launch in Kenya.** Currently in its 10<sup>th</sup> week, the program has supported 2,542 outreaches in vulnerable and underserved communities across the selected counties, vaccinating a total of **552,927 people**. The vaccination coverage has also improved across SLL counties since implementation.

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**Enhanced data management:** The program procured 375 brand new Android devices, which have been donated to the Ministry of Health (MoH) to support data entry and reporting from the COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs) across the selected eight counties. The presentation event at Kisii county was graced by the County Governor, and well represented by the County Health Minister and the National Data Officer.

**Improved IPC and health workers' welfare:** Through the program, a total of 66,000 face masks and 280,000 latex gloves were procured and donated to MoH to encourage and promote optimal adherence to COVID-19 protocols and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) by health workers at the COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs) as they conduct their daily routine activities.



*Mobile CVC teams conducting outreaches in underserved and hard-to-reach areas and providing SLL support.*

**Strengthened vaccine logistics chain:** With support from the program, MoH has sustained a seamlessly and stable flow of COVID-19 vaccines and ancillaries from National to Regional Cold Stores across the country. They are ensuring that cases of vaccine stockout at the counties and sub-counties are reduced to the bare minimum.

## Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

**Improved human capacity building and job creation:** The program has also supported MoH in recruiting personnel to support data entry at the Kenya Pharmacovigilance and Poisons Board while conducting a series of training and mentorship sessions to build the capacity of health workers to improve their job performance at the CVCs.



*Mobilization and vaccination ongoing in Marsabit County with SLL CVCs.*

**Enhanced pharmacovigilance and causality assessment tracking:** The program has produced and distributed a total of 5,000 Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) data collection tools to strengthen the MoH Pharmacovigilance network's timely reporting, response, and management of AEFI cases across the country.



*Distribution of AEFI forms and PPEs to EPI Logistician at Homabay county.*

## Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

**Improved demand creation and community engagement:** The program has engaged, trained, and deployed a total of 1,200 community health volunteers to support MoH's efforts in conducting RCCE activities ranging from community mobilization, door-to-door mobilization, motorized campaigns, targeted sensitization, engagement of community governance structures, defaulter tracking, etc. within the communities, which has resulted in an uptake of COVID-19 vaccines.



*Targeted community vaccine mobilization of people living with disabilities, women, and youth groups by SLL CHVs.*

**Improved action-oriented partnerships:** The program has created a viable platform to promote resourceful collaborations and partnerships amongst stakeholders within Kenya's immunization and health services space by leading data-driven engagements.

[Learn more here.](#)

### COVID-19 vaccination acceleration in

**Botswana:** This initiative aims to identify and follow up on those who have missed their subsequent doses, as well as identify gaps in communication to improve community engagement.

Moreover, the house-to-house approach in Botswana is creating an opportunity to address other possible emerging issues arising from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and particularly those related to Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) vaccines for children under the age of five.

More than 60 percent of Botswana Red Cross Society's volunteers are youth.. The more young people are involved in social mobilization activities the more likely their peers will get vaccinated.



*Volunteers engaging with Veronica Charles, a bar owner in Mathethe village. As an influential business owner, she is critical in disseminating COVID-19 information to customers. She is pictured holding her COVID-19 vaccination card as motivation for her clientele.*

## Other important developments



*Africa CDC Acting Director Dr. Ahmed Ogwell (second left) emphasized the need for a New Public Health Order in Africa as part of safeguarding global health security.*

**New initiatives unveiled to support locally led research and development (R&D) for global health and gender.** The Grand Challenges Annual Meeting brought together funding and research partners with the aim of solving key global health and development problems on October 25th in Brussels, Belgium. Speaking at the forum, Africa CDC Acting Director Dr. Ahmed Ogwell echoed the need to implement the New Public Health Order in Africa as part of ensuring global health security. This year's meeting focused on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the need for high-impact R&D platforms, partnerships, and policies that effectively bridge the gap between innovation and equitable access. [Read more.](#)

**Africa CDC recognized for its efforts towards securing Africa's health.** The award by security think tank Tana Forum confirms that health security contributes to peace and prosperity. . [Read more.](#)



**Canada and African Union Commission conclude first high-level dialogue.** The forum which was attended by AU Chairperson Moussa Faki and Africa CDC Acting Director Ahmed Ogwell, among other officials, identified opportunities for increased collaboration on various issues including health. The Canadian government also announced over \$168 million in project funding support towards COVID-19 vaccine delivery amongst other interventions. [Read more.](#)



## Other important developments

### Cameroon to start fifth phase of COVID-19 vaccination.

According to the country's Minister of Public Health Manaouda Malachie, the campaign will run from November 18 to 27 and will target those aged 18 and above, vaccinated people eligible for the booster dose, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. [Read more.](#)



According to the WHO Africa, modest progress has been made in vaccinating high-risk population groups in Africa, particularly the elderly. However, mass vaccination campaigns have been instrumental in boosting COVID-19 vaccine coverage, contributing to 85 percent of total doses administered in the African region. [Read more.](#)

Scientists hope that “needle-free” vaccines will make vaccination more accessible in countries with fragile health systems because they are easier to administer. About a dozen nasal vaccines are already being tested globally, according to the WHO. [Read more.](#)



Africa CDC Founding Director garners 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health. Africa CDC congratulates its Founding Director Dr. John Nkengasong for being awarded the 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health. Dr. Nkengasong is the inaugural laureate of the prize and has been honoured for his outstanding and significant lifetime contributions towards strengthening global health. [Read more.](#)

