

# Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



January 2023

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.

To date, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative has enabled over 12 million people in Africa to access COVID-19 vaccines, while helping to accelerate vaccine uptake in African Union Member States facing the risk of mass vaccine expiration.

# COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?



So far, seven African countries have already surpassed the target of vaccinating at least 70% of the population eligible for Covid-19 Vaccination according to the WHO. Liberia and Rwanda have fully vaccinated their eligible populations, while Mauritius and Botswana have vaccinated 94 percent. Over 90% of the eligible population have also been vaccinated in Mozambique (92%), and in Seychelles (93%). Zambia has vaccinated 80% of the population eligible for the vaccine.

Comoros at 69 percent, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe at 67 percent each, Cote d'Ivoire at 65 percent and Central African Republic at 64 percent, Sierra Leone and Somali at 62 percent and 61 percent, Lesotho at 59 percent, Ethiopia at 56 percent, and Eswatini at 50 percent, Uganda at 49 percent, Nigeria at 45 percent, and Zimbabwe at 44 percent are among the countries that have vaccinated between 50% and 70%. Meanwhile, approximately 44% of the continent's eligible population are fully vaccinated. Over 12 million COVID-19 cases have been reported on the African continent since the outbreak began. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia have the highest number of reported cases.

## Top 10 countries in Africa (no. of fully vaccinated population)

01  Nigeria 45% of eligible population  
**64 million**

02  Egypt 49% of eligible population  
**40 million**

03  Ethiopia 56% of eligible population  
**37 million**

04  Tanzania 69% of eligible population  
**29 million**

05  Morocco 80% of eligible population  
**24 million**

06  South Africa 44% of eligible population  
**21 million**

07  Mozambique 92% of eligible population  
**18 million**

08  Uganda 46% of eligible population  
**13 million**

09  Cote d'Ivoire 64% of eligible population  
**12 million**

10  Kenya 33% of eligible population  
**11 million**

# COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?



## The Africa CDC turns six: Prioritizing public health institutions and partnerships

The Africa CDC marked its sixth anniversary in January 2023. It is the culmination of a journey enriched by meaningful partnerships and accomplishments.

Over the six years, significant progress has been registered in safeguarding Africa's public health, safety and security. The milestones are attributed to the commitment and support of the member states, development partners, as well as the dedication of the Africa CDC staff.

In achieving its vision, the Africa CDC has established the New Public Health Order roadmap which will shape future priorities with prospects of greater achievements coming true; building the capacity of African public health institutions to coordinate

policies and programs, drive disease surveillance, and harmonize public health responses to improve the health and livelihoods of people and communities in Africa.

[Watch the commemoration .](#)

**“If we can strengthen public health institutions to be better prepared to respond to disease outbreaks, more lives could be saved.”**

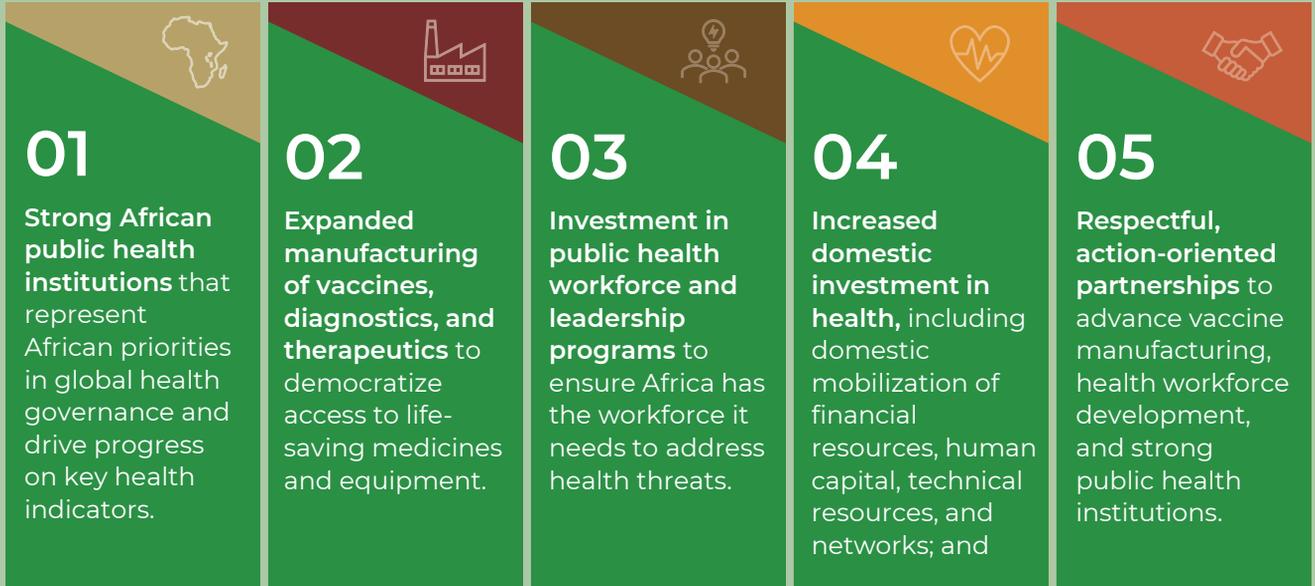
Dr. Ahmed Ogwell  
Acting Director  
Africa CDC



# COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?

The work at the agency is guided by the New Public Health Order, a roadmap geared toward sustainable health outcomes and ensuring health security.

It is defined by five pillars:



## Shots in Arms: Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

### AU COVID-19 vaccination Bingwa initiative: Accelerating the uptake of COVID-19 Vaccination in Africa

The Tanzania team held a progress meeting to take stock of the COVID-19 situation and explored ways of increasing vaccine uptake among the youth in 2023.



Photo credit: Africa CDC

# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

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

## Supporting mobile vaccination efforts in Ethiopia

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative supported mobile COVID-19 vaccination services in Ethiopia's Oromia and Amhara regions of Ethiopia. Mobile vaccination is essential for boosting vaccination uptake by delivering services closer to people living in hard-to-reach areas.



*Residents queue at a COVID-19 mobile centre in Ethiopia.*

## Sensitizing students in Nigeria on the importance of vaccination

Representatives from the Nigeria Red Cross Society and local healthcare authorities visited the Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu State College of Education (Technical) in Enugu, and Kogi State Polytechnic for a vaccination drive. The exercise sought to speak to students about the benefits of vaccination, and to encourage them to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their communities from COVID-19.



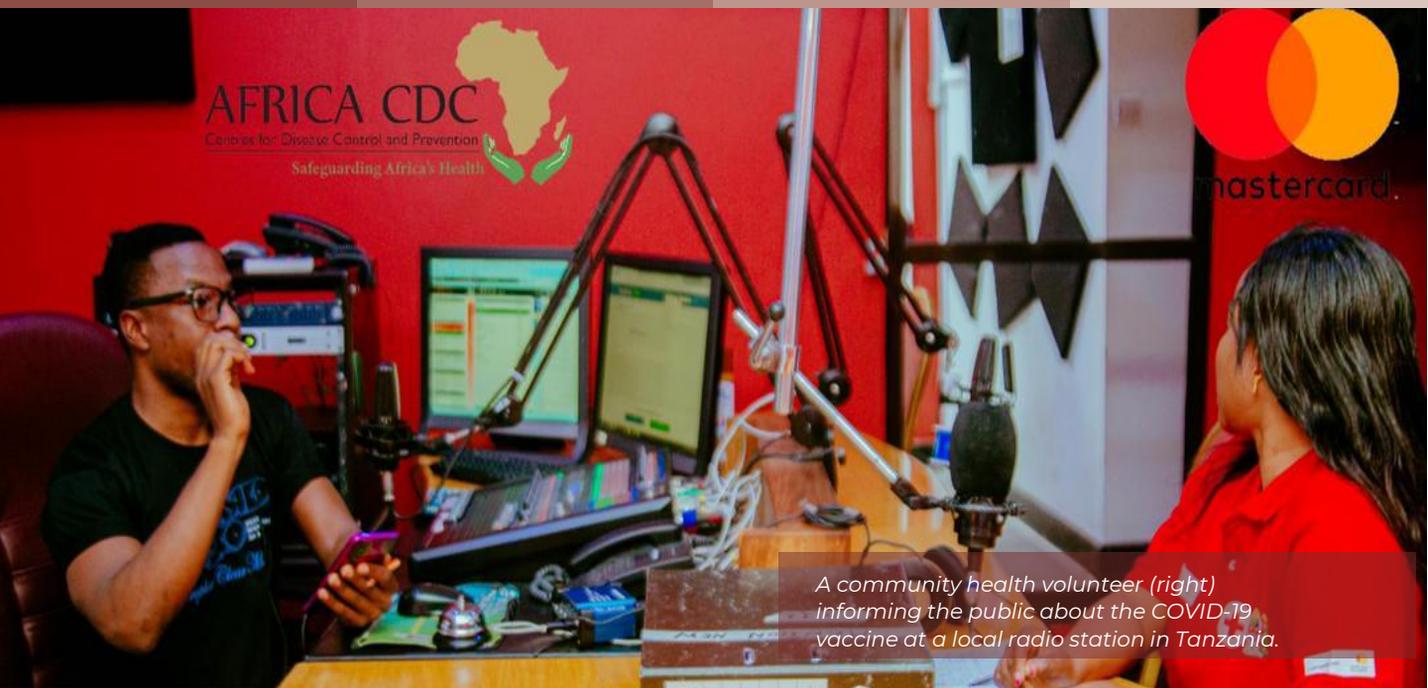
*A student receives COVID-19 vaccine in Enugu, Nigeria.*



*Community health volunteers sensitize students at Kogi State Polytechnic on COVID-19 vaccination.*

The Red Cross Society representatives also shared information on the various vaccination options available and addressed concerns that students had about the vaccination process.

# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



*A community health volunteer (right) informing the public about the COVID-19 vaccine at a local radio station in Tanzania.*



*A file picture of a member of the public signing up for a COVID-19 vaccine.*

## Empowering journalists to support Malawi's vaccination efforts

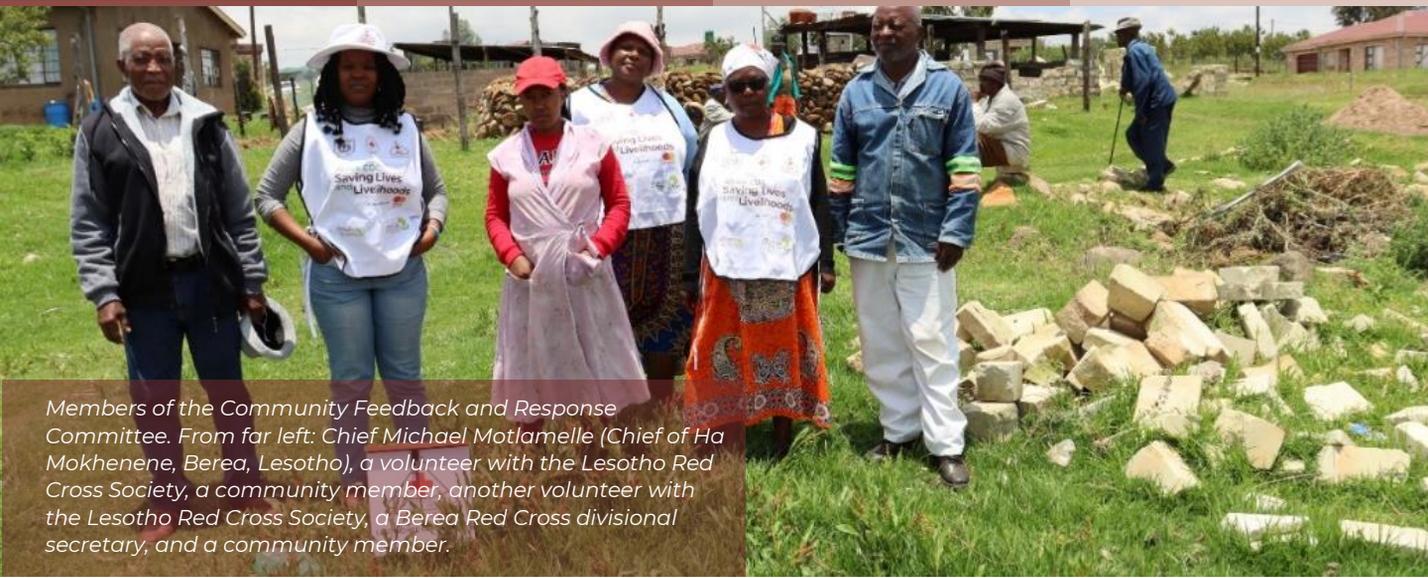
The Malawi Red Cross Society recently trained 52 journalists from national and community media houses in the country's three cities to equip them with knowledge and skills on COVID-19 vaccination. The aim of the training was to help support the government's efforts to vaccinate 70 percent of the population by ensuring that the journalists are better equipped to report on COVID-19 and to promote vaccination.

## RCCE providing crucial support to Tanzania's COVID-19 vaccination drive

The Tanzania Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the Africa CDC, Amref Health Africa, and the World Food Programme, is implementing a one-year project to encourage 3.5 million people to vaccinate against COVID-19 in 14 regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar Island.

The project continues to gain traction by targeting different regions with tailored strategies such as working with community health volunteers as well as conducting household visits, public announcements, community meetings, social media, newspaper articles, hotlines, and radio broadcasts to raise awareness of COVID-19 vaccination. [Read more.](#)

# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



Members of the Community Feedback and Response Committee. From far left: Chief Michael Motlamelle (Chief of Ha Mokhenene, Berea, Lesotho), a volunteer with the Lesotho Red Cross Society, a community member, another volunteer with the Lesotho Red Cross Society, a Berea Red Cross divisional secretary, and a community member.

## Berea community in Lesotho embraces vaccination to combat COVID-19

On 22 December, 2022, Berea community members and the Lekokoaneng local chief held a gathering to share feedback on their experiences on COVID-19 vaccination.

Reasons for vaccine hesitancy particularly the spread of rumours and myths in the community were identified and addressed.

Suggestions were offered to make vaccination more accessible, including the placement of suggestion boxes at public gatherings and the use of mobile sites in remote areas.

## The Red Cross and Amref forge a successful partnership to improve vaccine access in Zambia

The Zambia Red Cross Society and Amref Health Africa have formed a successful partnership in Luapula Province to ensure people access and embrace COVID-19 vaccines. The two teams work together on community-led initiatives such as door-to-door visits, and harmonizing their strategies to create a unified approach.



A Zambia Red Cross staff (in blue jacket) with Amref staff members at Mansa District Health Office in Luapula Province in Zambia.

## Other Important Developments



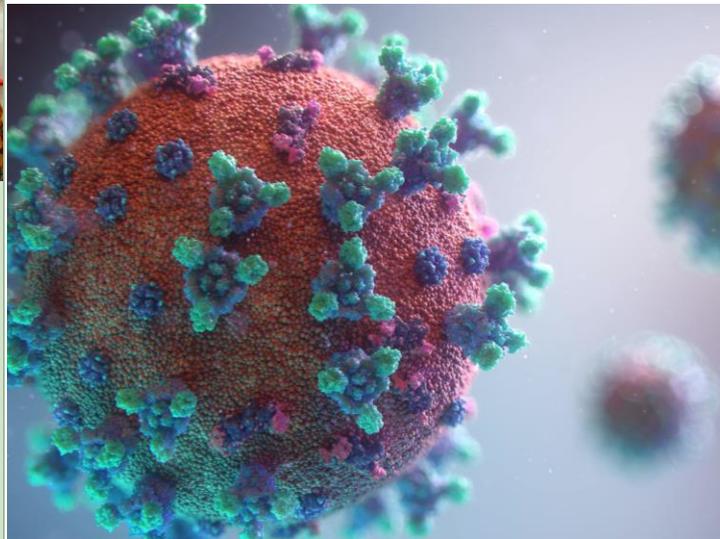
### Inauguration of the newly built headquarters of the Africa CDC

The Africa CDC headquarters was officially opened on 11 January, 2023 by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat and the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Qin Gang at the African Village in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Speaking at the launch, the African Union Commission Chairperson stressed the importance of African countries achieving self-sufficiency in their public health systems and rectifying existing global imbalances by providing a strong platform for African voices to be heard. In his remarks, the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed that China would continue to prioritize solidarity and collaboration with Africa.

The Africa CDC building project is supported by the Chinese government following commitments made at the 2018 Beijing Summit and the 7th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China - Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), also held in Beijing. [Read more.](#)

### Collaborative efforts in expanding global pathogen surveillance efforts



As part of activities during the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2023 in Davos, the Global Health and Security Lead at WEF, Lora du Moulin; the Hoffmann Fellow for Precision Medicine and Emerging Biotechnologies at WEF, Kevin Doxzen; and the Africa CDC's Acting Director, Dr. Ahmed Ogwell jointly published an article advocating for collaboration among regional health initiatives to establish a global pathogen surveillance network to prevent future pandemics. [Read more.](#)

WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM

## South Africa on high alert as new COVID-19 variant detected in 28 countries

South Africa has registered a new COVID-19 variant, the XBB.1.5. Following this development, the country's Department of Health renewed appeals for people to vaccinate, get booster shots, and public health social measures. According to the WHO, symptoms of this sub-variant are similar to previous Omicron strains, where most people experience flu-like symptoms.

The XBB.1.5 is currently the dominant strain in the US and has been detected in at least 28 other countries. [Read more.](#)

## Evaluating the state of COVID-19 vaccination across Nigeria

According to records from the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), more than 12 million people are partially vaccinated in Nigeria meaning they have only had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. NPHCDA further noted that the vaccination gap among states has narrowed, with some states having vaccinated 100 percent of their targeted population against COVID-19. [Read more.](#)



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