

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



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During the global COVID-19 pandemic, 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.

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

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

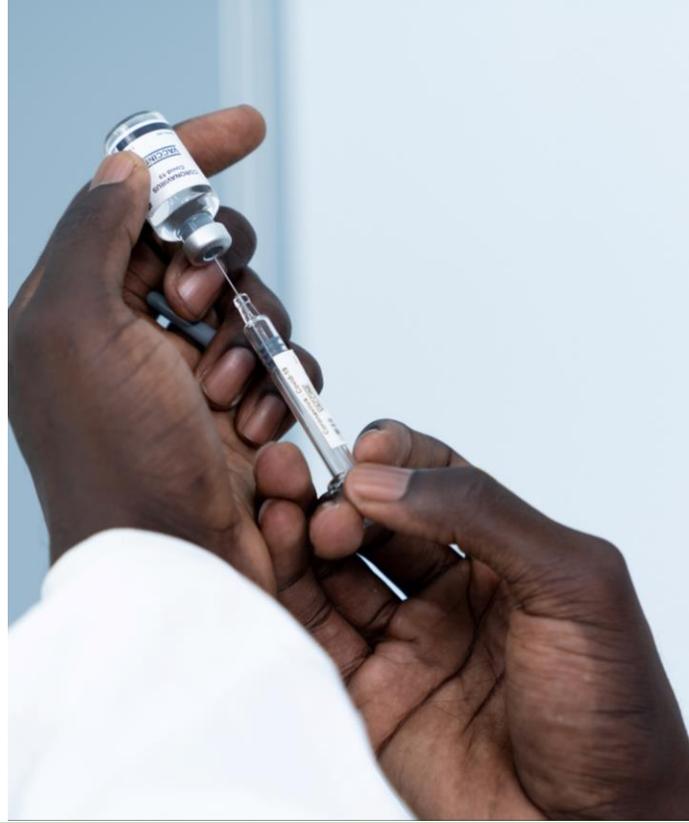


COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?

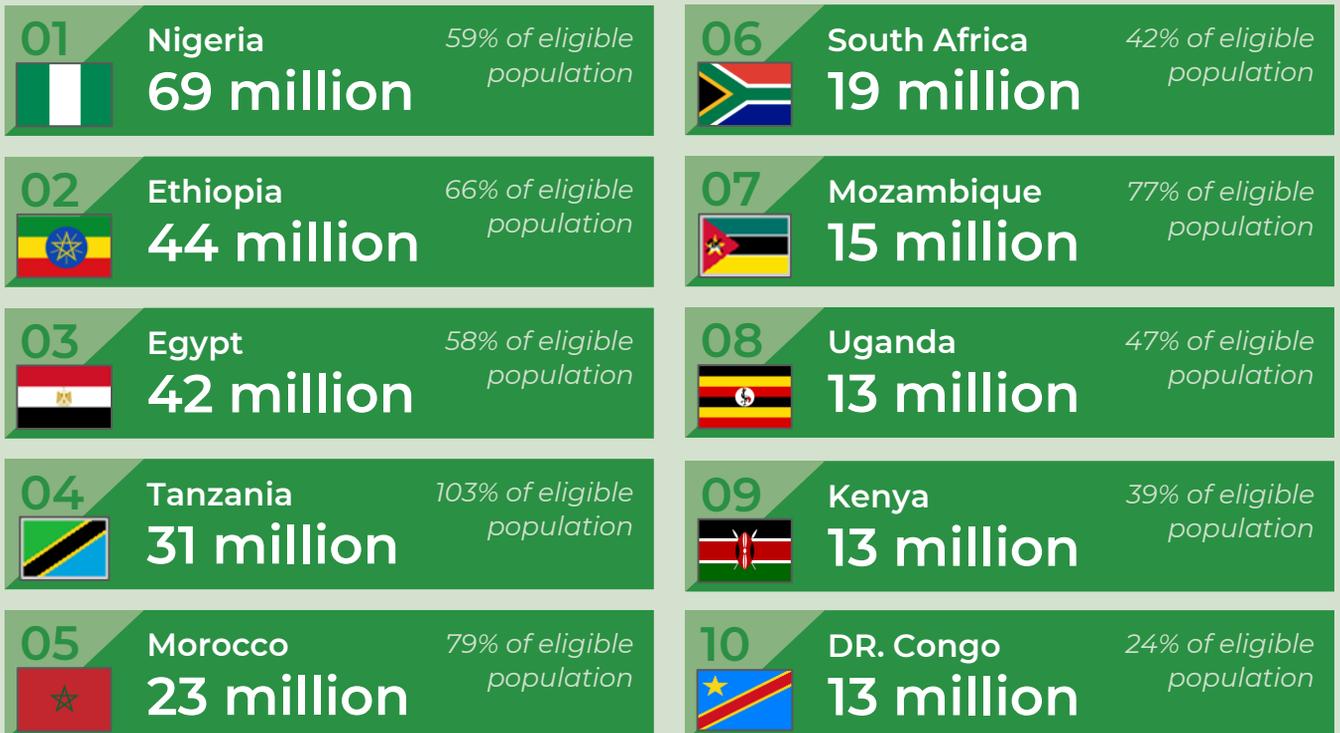
Currently, 14 African Union Member States have vaccinated at least 70 percent of their eligible population with the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the WHO. Tanzania and São Tomé and Príncipe have fully vaccinated their populations, while Botswana has immunized 94 percent of theirs. Mauritius, Seychelles, and Somalia have vaccinated over 90 percent of their eligible population. Comoros, Liberia, Rwanda, and Zambia have vaccinated about 80 percent of their eligible population.

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

More than 12 million COVID-19 cases have been reported in Africa since the outbreak began. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia have reported the greatest number of cases.



Top 10 countries in Africa vaccines administered



Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

COVID-19 Vaccines Administered to Inmates in Malawi Prisons

The Malawi Red Cross Society and Amref's Lilongwe team are implementing the Saving Lives and Livelihoods vaccination campaign in Malawi's biggest prison, Maula Prison. The vaccination campaign is designed to extend reach into neglected zones, leaving no one behind in the fight against COVID-19.

Through a collaborative effort the campaign resulted in the successful vaccination of 1,078 inmates, made possible through the dedication of peer educators and volunteers who effectively shared COVID-19 information and messages among their fellow prisoners. Their dedication played a pivotal role in ensuring that every individual, within the prison community, had access to vital vaccination resources.



The campaign led by the Malawi Red Cross Society and Amref.

Faith Group Boosts Vaccination Acceptance in Zimbabwe

Martha Mupasiri, a dedicated member of an Apostolic sect in Zimbabwe is enhancing community involvement by incorporating her religious group into the vaccination drive. Working with Zimbabwe Red Cross Society volunteers, she is breaking down barriers and fostering a better vaccine acceptance among communities that have traditionally been hesitant towards health initiatives. Her efforts have led to an increased rise in COVID-19 vaccinations rates among fellow sect members.



Martha Mupasiri (standing) engaging with members of the Apostolic sect during a COVID-19 vaccination drive.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Vaccination Drive Reaches Elderly in Lesotho's Berea and Thaba-Tseka Amid Harsh Winter

A targeted 10-day COVID-19 mobilization campaign by the Saving Lives and Livelihoods team reached 88 elderly residents in Lesotho's Berea and Thaba-Tseka districts. By providing vaccinations in easily accessible locations, the initiative removed travel barriers, a critical factor given challenging winter conditions in the region.

A health worker administering a COVID-19 vaccination in Lesotho



A health representative engaging with a community member during a mobilization exercise

Increase in COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Among Men in Lesotho

A concerted effort by village health workers and community leaders in Lesotho led to 751 people receiving COVID-19 vaccines at local health centres. Particularly noteworthy is the shift in demographics with 50.3 percent of those vaccinated being male, reversing a trend of vaccine hesitancy among men.

This increase in vaccination acceptance among men marks a significant stride in the collective battle against COVID-19, encouraging a healthier future for these individuals and their communities. Through the dedication of village health workers and community leaders, this endeavour demonstrates the power of community engagement in overcoming barriers to public health interventions.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Zimbabwe's Gweru District Expands Vaccination Drive to Reach Mobile Workers, for Herd Immunity

Social mobilizers in Gweru District Zimbabwe are spearheading a vaccination campaign designed to bridge the gap among hard-to-reach individuals to move towards herd immunity. This targeted approach focuses on groups, including people working at flea markets, saloons, and roadsides, individuals who often miss traditional vaccination methods due to the mobile nature of their work.

This proactive effort enhances inclusivity, ensuring that no segment of the population is left behind in the battle against COVID-19. By extending vaccination services to these mobile workers, Gweru District is making progress in creating a safer and more resilient community.



A door-to-door COVID-19 vaccination campaign to reach mobile workers

News & Media

Fourteen reports highlight the urgent need to combat antimicrobial resistance in Africa

The Africa CDC and the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, with support from the UK Aid Fleming Fund, have released 14 reports on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in AU Member States. These reports are part of the Mapping AMR and antimicrobial use (AMU) Partnership (MAAP) consortium's efforts. The first phase of MAAP included 14 Member States: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Dr. Yewande Alimi, Africa CDC AMR Program Coordinator, stressed that this collaboration marks AMR's first significant mapping in Africa, a vital move in confronting the antimicrobial threat. [Read more.](#)



The Africa CDC and partners attending a capacity training workshop on bacterial genomic surveillance in Ghana.

Exploiting genomics surveillance to tackle anti-microbial resistance

The Africa CDC, through the Africa Pathogen Genomics Institute and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) have highlighted some of the opportunities to learn more about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) informed by genomic surveillance.

The two-week training opportunity, dubbed "Bacterial Genomic Surveillance with a Focus on AMR," aims to enhance the capacity of researchers and public health experts to tackle AMR, which is one of the greatest current threats to international public health.

[Read more.](#)



Did You Know?

Africa has the highest global mortality rate from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) infections, with 27.3 deaths per 100,000 people directly attributed to AMR.

Strengthening vaccine manufacturing in Africa

The Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), launched by the African Union (AU) under the Africa CDC in 2021, has set an ambitious target: to empower the African vaccine manufacturing industry to develop, produce, and supply over 60 percent of the continent's vaccine doses by 2040.

To address immediate vaccine manufacturing talent needs and realize short-term goals, the Africa CDC is partnering with the Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturing Network (DCVMN) to conduct brief training in vaccine technology transfer at Hilleman Laboratories in Singapore.

[Read more.](#)



Vaccine Technology Transfer

Short-Course Training Programme

Submit your application at:
shorturl.at/bwFIP

 Hilleman Laboratories, Singapore



Apply by
20 August 2023

Online training
13-15 November 2023

On-site hands-on Training
20-24 November 2023

THE PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFRICAN VACCINE MANUFACTURING (PAVM)



Scientists urge AU to prioritize mRNA vaccine technology transfer

Leading scientists are calling upon AU leaders to prioritize mRNA vaccine technology transfer projects that focus on equity, public purpose, and the open sharing of knowledge and technology rather than supporting big pharma-backed projects.

According to Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at Columbia University (Mailman School of Public Health), the AU needs to prioritize initiatives that will transfer knowledge to establish African pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity.

[Read more.](#)

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