

Saving Lives and Livelihoods

In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation



Newsletter

April 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.

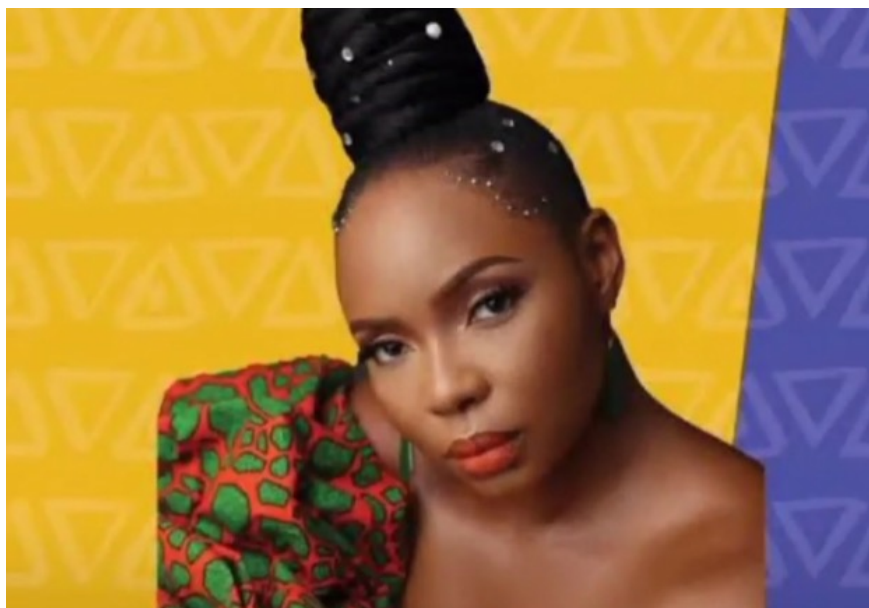
Launch of AU COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative



Africa CDC and AU launch COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative The African Union has launched *Bingwa*, a public-private-youth initiative that seeks to establish a network of COVID-19 vaccination youth champions across the continent to accelerate the uptake of Coronavirus vaccination in Africa. It is co-led by the Africa CDC and AU's Women, Gender and Youth Directorate through the Youth Division. The initiative will be results-focused, and thus contribute to the speed and at-scale delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations in AU member states.

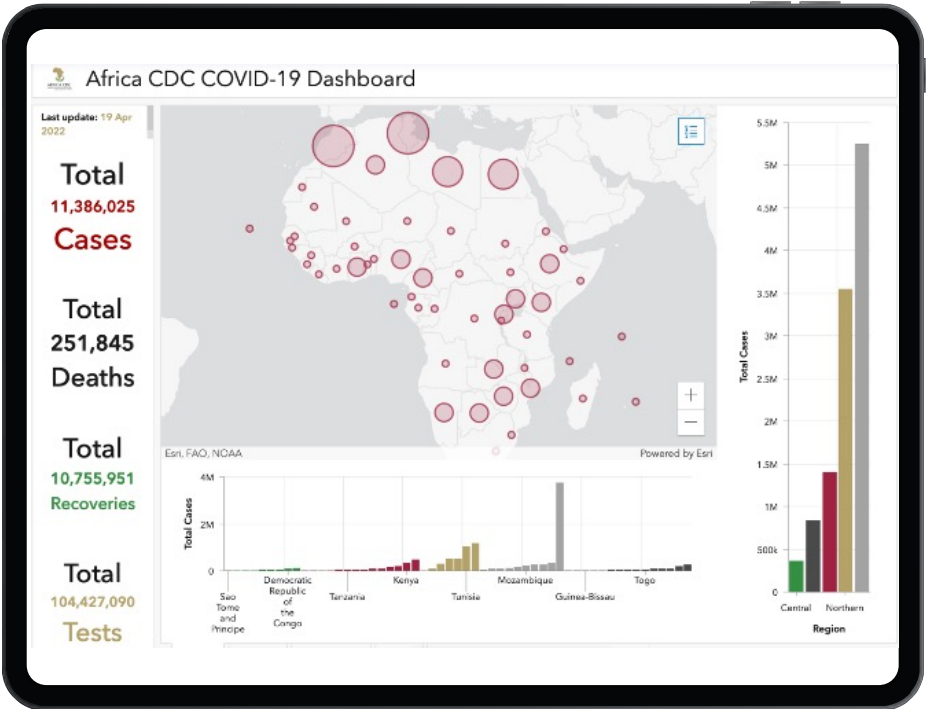
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Female Afropop artist Yemi Alade joins the charge against COVID-19: Global Afropop star Yemi Alade was appointed Global Ambassador for *It's Up to Us*— a pan-African campaign driven by the Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation. The campaign encourages Africans to unite and get vaccinated against COVID-19. The announcement was marked by [Yemi's release of an anthem](#) and a [unity dance challenge](#).



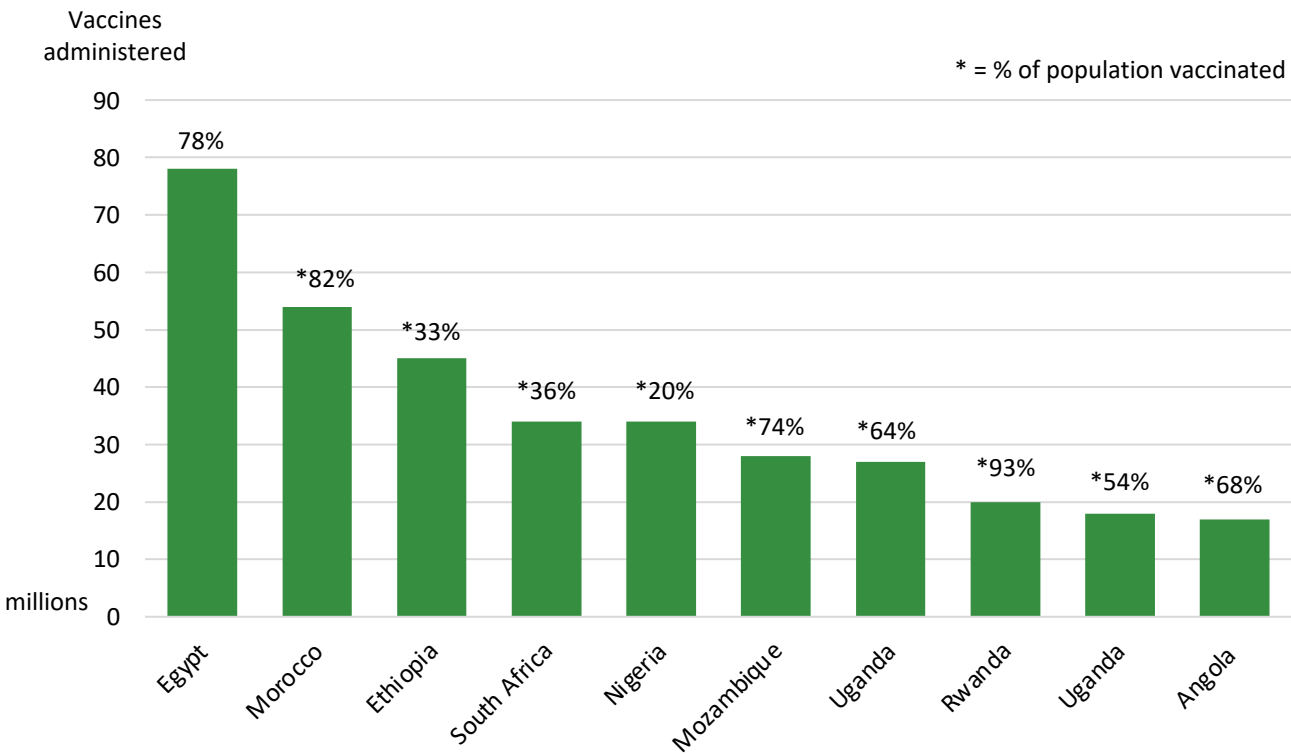
COVID-19 in Africa: Where we are today

Africa has registered more than 11 million COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia are among the countries with the highest number of cases on the continent. Meanwhile, only about 16% percent of the continent's population is fully vaccinated. [Read more](#)



Vaccines administered

Latest data from the Africa CDC indicates that the following 10 countries have administered the most vaccines:



Source: [Africa CDC](#) (2022)

According to the WHO Africa, up to 65% of people in Africa may have been infected with the Coronavirus. The number of actual cases is estimated to be nearly 100 times more than those reported. In a new analysis released in April, the agency reviewed 151 studies of the virus in Africa, based on blood samples taken on the continent between January 2020 and December 2021. The WHO said that by September 2021, about 65% of people tested had had some exposure, translating into about 800 million infections. In contrast, only about 8 million cases were officially reported to the WHO during that period. [Read more](#)

Shots in arms: Update on Saving Lives and Livelihoods

The following are key highlights of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative over the last couple of months:



Supporting the delivery of vaccines to millions more across the continent: In the last few months, more than 12 million COVID-19 vaccines have been officially delivered to 20 countries, including Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, [Cameroon](#), [Congo Brazzaville](#), DRC, Egypt, [Ghana](#), [Ivory Coast](#), [Kenya](#), [Lesotho](#), Madagascar, [Mauritius](#), Mozambique, [Nigeria](#), [Rwanda](#), [Togo](#), [Tunisia](#), [Uganda](#), and [Zambia](#).

Strengthening the Africa CDC: The Africa CDC launched a massive recruitment effort to fill 106 positions as it expands its capacity to oversee continental COVID-19 vaccination efforts. As of March 2022, all positions have been filled.

Other important developments

Rwanda is one of the few African countries that has vaccinated over 60 % of its population against COVID-19. As at the end of 2021, Rwanda had already administered vaccine doses to more than 40% of its 12 million citizens, which meets the WHO's target for the country in this period. [Read more](#)



Botswana is investigating a new coronavirus mutation detected in four people in the country. The Health Ministry says the four cases are currently being monitored to gather more information about the spread and severity of the variant. [Read more](#)

South African health expert, Precious Matsoso has been appointed Co-chair of the globally important **Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)** that has been tasked by the World Health Assembly (WHA) to draft the **Pandemic Preparedness Treaty**. The WHA is the annual meeting of members of the WHO that sets its priorities and debates on key policy areas. [Read more](#)



Masks, gloves, personal protective equipment and vaccines have become ubiquitous during the COVID-19 pandemic. The WHO is supporting African countries to develop targeted and tailored waste management protocols that promote safer methods of disposal that are feasible, economical, and sustainable. Before the onset of the pandemic, Africa produced an estimated 282,000 tonnes of medical waste each year, according to a 2021 report on waste management published by the Sage journal. Now, many countries are reporting up to five-fold increases in medical waste. [Read more](#)

News and media



South Africa has lifted most restrictions that were introduced to control the spread of COVID-19 due to declining cases. However, the wearing of masks is still required in indoor public spaces while international travellers must provide proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test done within 72 hours of travelling. [Read more](#)

At the same time, the South African government is targeting undocumented, vulnerable individuals and those living in remote areas in its COVID-19 vaccination drive. Authorities intend to vaccinate people attending sporting, cultural, and religious events. [Read more](#)



Nigeria has eased most of the remaining COVID-19 rules, which included a nighttime curfew and limitations on gatherings, which were imposed at the onset of the pandemic. According to authorities, this takes into account the decreasing number of cases and reduction in "the risk of new variants arriving on the territory, as well as the availability of vaccines." [Read more](#)



The European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) is supporting the WHO to boost COVID-19 vaccination campaigns and increase coverage in 15 African countries. With a total of €16 million from ECHO, the WHO is supporting operational and technical aspects of the vaccine rollout over 18 months in the following countries: Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Guinea; Liberia; Madagascar; Mali; Mozambique; Niger; Nigeria; Somalia; South Sudan Republic, and Sudan. The grant is also helping to reinforce the capacity of health workers to plan, coordinate and deploy vaccines, monitor and document results of the rollout, and adequately investigate and report any adverse events following immunization. [Read more](#)





To mark this year's World Health Day on 7 April, the Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, launched a bold initiative to promote peace and health in order to protect the planet and its people. The initiative dubbed 'Peace for Health and Health for Peace' recognizes the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and it is working with countries to track the virus and ensure that all opportunities to boost populations' immunity are taken. The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti urged African governments and civil society organizations to continue working together to reinforce health systems' resilience noting that "COVID-19, along with spiraling obesity, diabetes and hypertension rates have compounded the challenge, highlighting the urgency of a multisectoral approach." [Read more](#)

African countries have been urged to adopt the One Health Framework, a collaborative public health approach, amid concerns about pandemic outbreaks and the emergence and re-emergence of highly infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and Ebola that adversely affect human health. The call was made by a group of academics and public health experts during a discussion on 30 March 2022 titled 'One Health and Public Health in Africa,' which formed part of the Public Dialogue Series. The One Health event was hosted by the [Alliance for African Partnership](#) and the University of Pretoria, South Africa. [Read more](#)

