

Saving Lives and Livelihoods

In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation



Newsletter

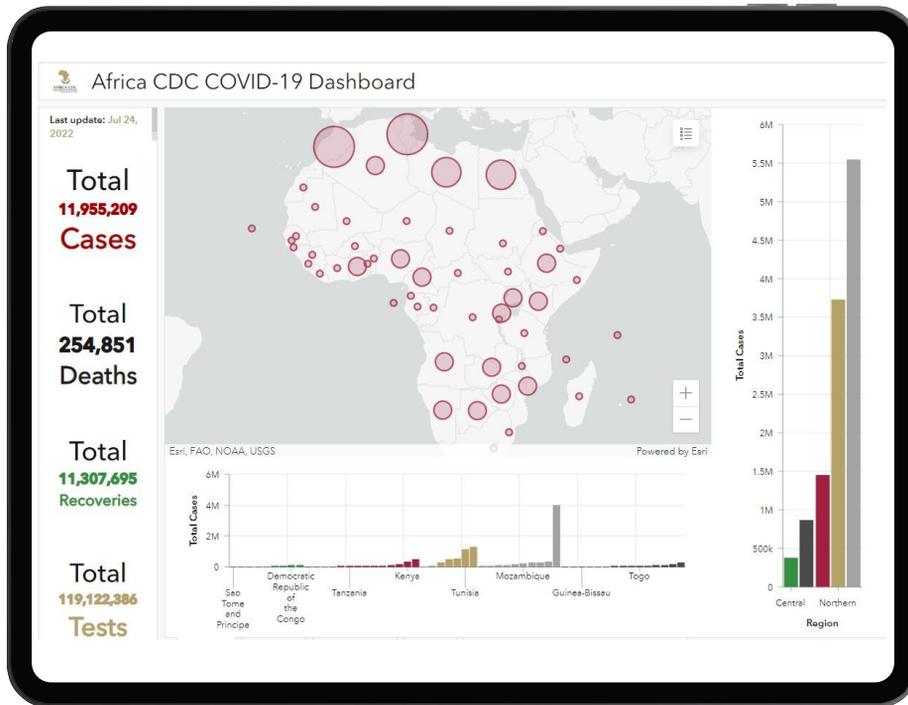
July 2022

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.

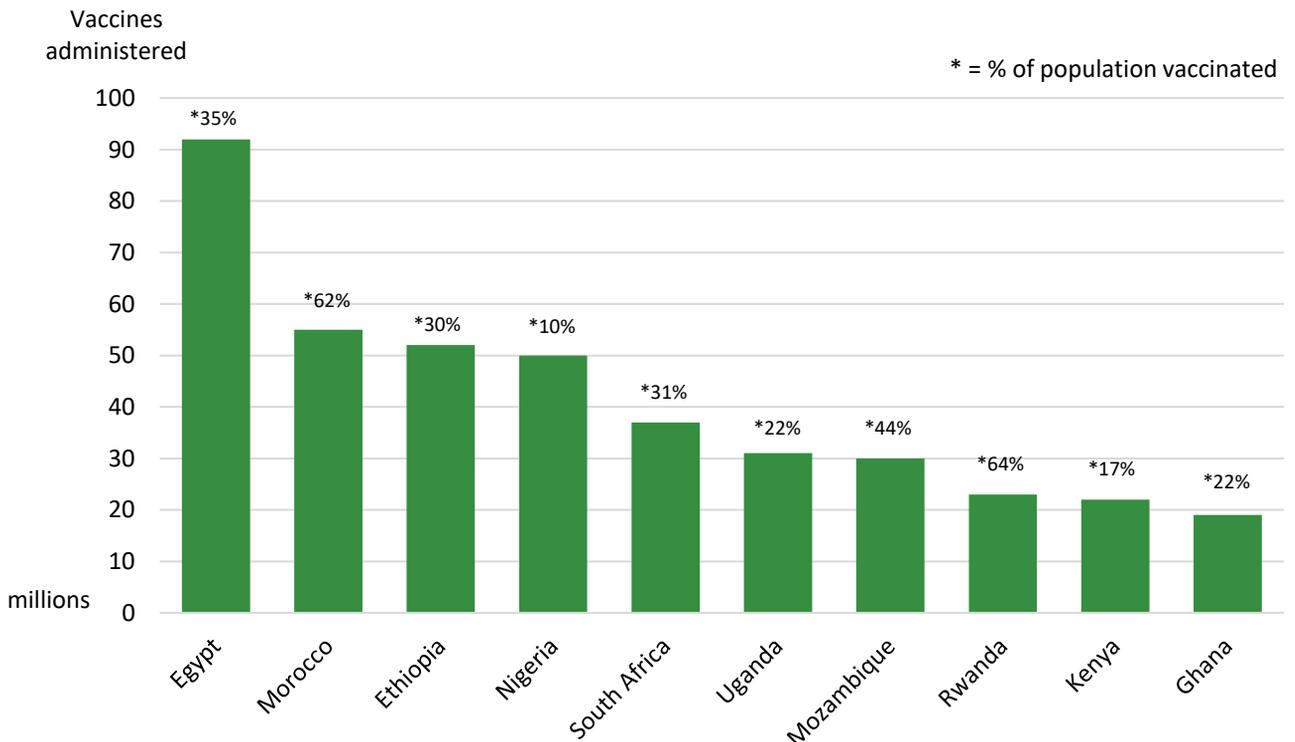


COVID-19 in Africa: Where we are today

Africa has registered about 12 million COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia are among countries with the highest number of cases on the continent. Meanwhile, only about 19.5% 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 so far:



Shots in arms: Updates on Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative

Country implementation launch for Kenya. The launch of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative implementation in Kenya took place on July 22nd, 2022. This would synergize the efforts of the Government, Africa CDC, and other partners in increasing COVID-19 vaccine uptake. The implementation campaign will focus on Risk Communication and Community Engagement, vaccine capacity, logistics, and vaccine surveillance to enable the attainment of COVID-19 vaccination target. The Saving lives and Livelihoods initiative and the Ministry of Health have planned a target of more than 8,000 outreaches while strengthening 672 COVID-19 vaccination centres and vaccinating more than 1 million within 12 months in selected counties. [Read more](#)



From left: Jackline Kiarie - Amref Health Africa, Wariko Waita - Head of Program Communications at the Mastercard Foundation, Dr. Mosoka Fallah - Technical Assistant Team, Saving Lives and Livelihoods, Africa CDC, Dr. Achamelesh Kifle, Eastern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre, Coordinator, Africa CDC, Kelvin Ngereso, Red Cross Kenya during the launch of mass nationwide COVID-19 vaccination and Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative Implementation in Murang'a county supported by the Africa CDC in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.



Launch of the Africa Union's vaccine passport, trusted health system and e-health backbone. The vaccine e-passport, launched on July 7th during the commemoration of this year's Africa Integration Day, is intended to enable easier travel within and outside Africa. It has a QR code that will be scanned at ports of entry to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and possession of a valid certificate. The launch highlights the Africa CDC's commitment to work with partners to unlock the potential of technology in enabling a New Public Health Order for Africa, which is a key priority in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period. [Watch the launch](#)

Africa CDC signs MoU with Pfizer for COVID-19 pill.

The Acting Director of the Africa CDC, Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, noted that the MoU will allow African countries to access the Paxlovid pill for treating COVID-19. Data from a mid-to-late-stage study conducted last November showed that the antiviral medication was nearly 90% effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths, compared with a placebo in adults at high risk of severe illness. [Read more](#)





Strengthening the Africa CDC. The Africa CDC digital transformation strategy stakeholders' workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5-6 July 2022. The workshop brought together the Africa CDC's development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector to discuss strategies and opportunities and to align with the work of the *Saving Lives and Livelihoods* initiative. The strategy seeks to take advantage of Africa's young population while bridging gaps in infrastructure, workforce, and health care spending in a smart way. [Read more](#)

Towards a New Public Health Order. As part of the celebrations to mark this year's Africa Integration Day on July 7th, the Mastercard Foundation's President and CEO, Reeta Roy, moderated a session on *Transcending Pandemics: A conversation on building a New Public Health Order for Africa*. Reeta hosted Ambassador John Nkengasong, Global Coordinator at PEPFAR and Dr. Sihaka Tsemo, Director of the UNAIDS Liaison Office to the African Union. The session was part of the Boma of Africa Festival 2022 organized by Afro Champions on behalf of the African Union to drive the African integration agenda through strategic high-level engagement. [Watch the session](#)



Other important developments



UNAIDS and the Africa CDC, with support from the German Ministry of Health, are organizing a series of training sessions to strengthen capacities of African Ministries of Health and National Public Health Institutes. The sessions cover key areas of risk communication and community engagement on COVID-19 and HIV, such as strategic communication planning, media engagement, familiarisation with continental and regional guidelines, social media, and rumour management. [Read more](#)



The Democratic Republic of Congo has started applying the genomic sequencing capacities developed in the fight against COVID-19 to other pathogens, including those responsible for malaria, tuberculosis, or diarrhoeal diseases in young children. The country now produces its own genomic sequences of the virus that causes COVID-19, circumventing the long, expensive process of sending the samples abroad. [Read more](#)



A new study by Makerere University in Uganda has disclosed that healthcare workers are the most trusted source of information on the COVID-19 vaccine. The study also disclosed that most of the people surveyed felt that the vaccines work, are safer to be used, and are of benefit to them. [Read more](#)

AstraZeneca is launching COVID-19 vaccination mobile clinics in Kenya to improve uptake of the vaccine in the country, where only 34% of the population has been fully vaccinated. AstraZeneca is working in partnership with Amref Health Africa and the Ministry of Health in Kenya. [Read more](#)



Zambia says it plans to start procuring Paxlovid, Pfizer's antiviral therapy for treating COVID-19. This is the first African state to make such an announcement after the Africa CDC signed a memorandum of understanding with Pfizer for countries on the continent to receive Paxlovid supplies. [Read more](#)



The South African government has warned its citizens against complacency, stressing that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. In a statement issued in early July, the Cabinet encouraged all the unvaccinated people to vaccinate themselves without delay and vaccinated people to get their booster shots at their nearest vaccination sites free of charge. [Read more](#)

