

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



September 2023

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) recently 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?

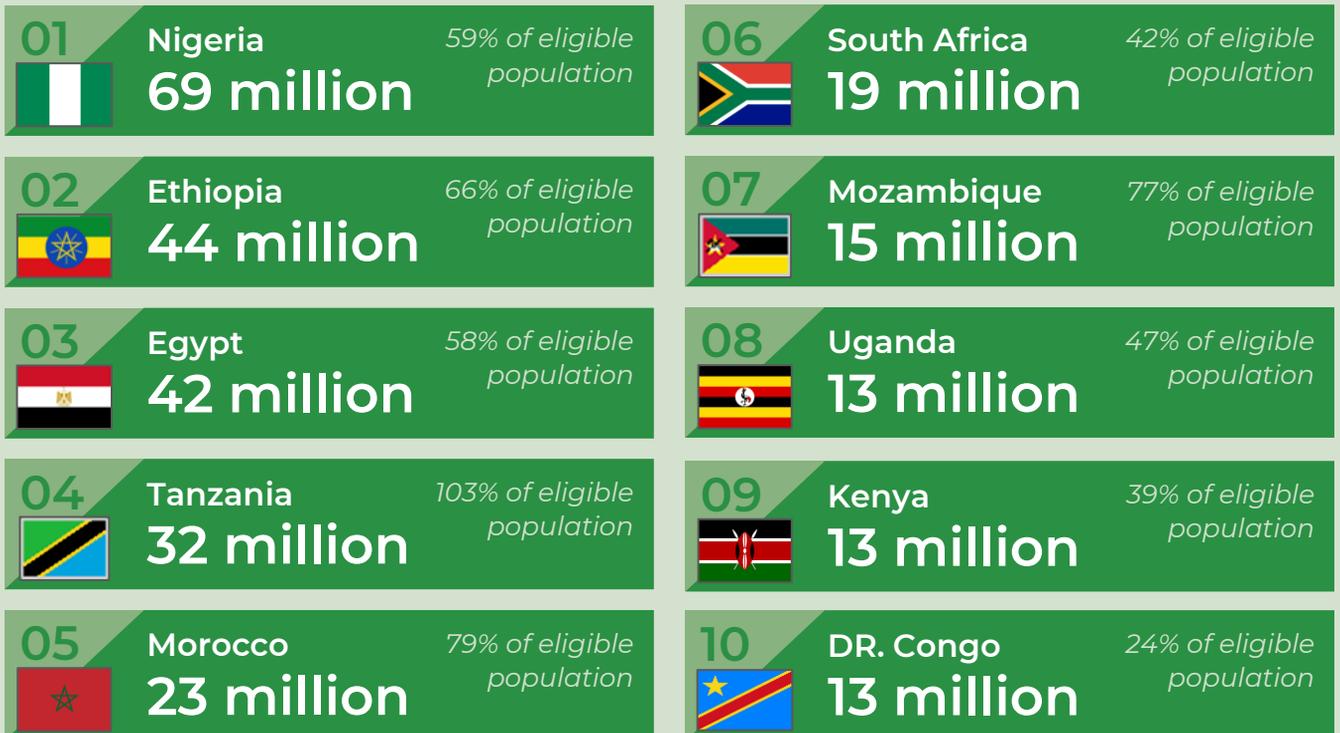
Currently, 14 African Union member states have vaccinated at least 70 percent of their eligible populations with the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the WHO. Tanzania and São Tomé and Príncipe have fully vaccinated their populations, while Botswana has immunized 94 percent of theirs. Mauritius, Seychelles, 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)

Community Health Promoter Engages Community on COVID-19 Vaccines.

In Kajiado County, Kenya, Sammy Ntooki is defying all odds in his campaign to create awareness in his community about COVID-19 and other health related matters, including. The community health promoter who is physically challenged is leading by example. He is conducting outreach and mobilization activities that are enabling him to serve his community and be remembered for his selfless work.

Watch his [video](#)



Samel Ntooki (middle) with fellow community health promoters



Peter Mwenza, a county enforcement officer, taking the lead in sensitizing his community on COVID-19

Brush With Death Inspires Enforcement Officer to Promote Good Health Practices

It took his own battle with COVID-19 and the tragic loss of four of his close friends, for Peter Mwenza Chome from Kilifi County in Kenya to step up and lead the fight against COVID-19 by educating his community on good health practices. Peter, a county enforcement officer, has become a health champion and advocate, and is using his experience to share COVID-19 messages and encourage people to get vaccinated.

Watch the [video](#)

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Chief's Clarion Call Increases Vaccination Uptake

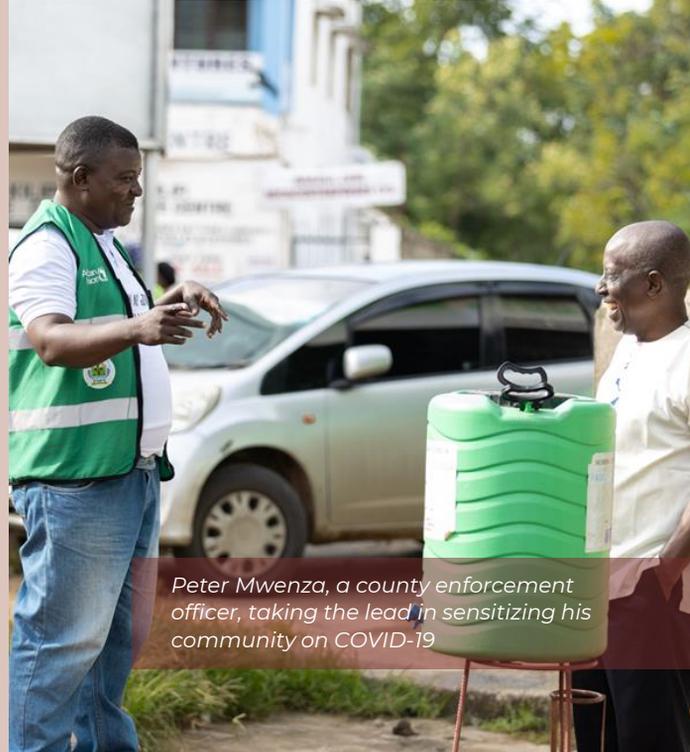
James Kobaai's position as a chief and respected community influencer has been instrumental in drumming up public adherence to the COVID-19 guidelines.

Although Chief Kobaai has encountered obstacles in his efforts, such as vaccine hesitancy and a history of community disregard for social distancing measures he remains resolute in his commitment. He intends to continue collaborating with the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative to ensure that every eligible member of his community receives the COVID-19 vaccine

[Watch for more](#)



Chief James Kobaai



Peter Mwenza, a county enforcement officer, taking the lead in sensitizing his community on COVID-19

Youth Advocates for Health in Kilifi County

Asili Randani, a dedicated youth advocate, peace builder and a member of the Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance (KYMA), is playing a key role in the fight against COVID-19 in Kilifi County, Kenya by sensitizing the youth. Through collaborative efforts with community health workers, Asili is bridging the gap and making vaccines more accessible to young people. Beyond vaccination efforts, he is also involving the youth in discussions on a range of health-related subjects, such as substance abuse, promoting safe sexual practices, and encouraging family planning.

News & Media

Africa CDC's Governing Body Lauds Leadership for Notable Achievements

The Governing Board Members of Africa CDC have commended H.E Dr. Jean Kaseya, the Director-General of Africa CDC and its leadership for the unwavering support and response to various health crises in the region.

Enumerating the key success points, the Governing Board also spotlighted the strategic reorientation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, which is focussed on the vaccination of high-risk populations and proactive preparation for future pandemics. [Read more](#)



Mental health leaders and managers of Emergency Operations Centers attending a session on mental health and psychosocial support.

Improving Epidemiological Surveillance of MPox in Congo

The Africa CDC recently organized a capacity-building workshop in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo to enhance skills of animal health personnel in monitoring MPox. The training of 22 participants from the regions of Equateur, Tshopo, Kwango, Boende, Goma, Lubumbashi, and Kinshasa aimed to bolster the ongoing MPox surveillance initiatives. They received instruction on epidemiological surveillance of MPox and laboratory diagnostic methods.

Africa CDC Leading Efforts to Empower Mental Health Leaders in Western and Central Africa

The Africa CDC has embarked on a significant initiative to empower mental health leaders and managers of emergency operations centers in 18 member states in Western and Central Africa. It aims to assist these individuals in crafting a theory of change, which will serve as a guiding framework for strategically incorporating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into their respective national emergency preparedness and response strategies.

To enhance community resilience in the region, the Africa CDC has also facilitated the sharing of insights from experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies. This includes establishment of regional networks and utilization of the MHPSS minimum service package to design and execute initiatives in participating countries.



Mental health leaders and managers of Emergency Operations Centers attending a session on mental health and psychosocial support

First Bioinformatics Workshop held at Africa CDC's State-of-The-Art Laboratory and Training Centre

The Africa CDC hosted its inaugural workshop on bioinformatics at its state-of-the-art laboratory and training facility in Addis Ababa, to provide intensive bioinformatics training on how to manage, process and analyse pathogen genomic data. According to Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, the Acting Deputy Director General at the Africa CDC, the laboratory and training centre will build a resilient African public health workforce and ecosystem through capacity enhancement and knowledge exchange. [Read more](#)



First Bioinformatics training workshop in Addis Ababa

Call for Applications for African Epidemic Service – Epidemiology Track Fellowship Programme.

The Africa CDC, in collaboration with the African Union, has launched the Epidemiology Track Fellowship. This program aims to strengthen field epidemiology training programs across Africa. This two-year training initiative, focused on competency, is designed to improve the quality of training, and increase the number of highly skilled epidemiologists. It also aims to address the continent's health security gap by working towards having one trained epidemiologist for every 200,000 people. [Read more](#)





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2023 World Vaccine Congress in Europe

Leaders and experts from Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation will attend the World Vaccine Conference in Barcelona. The event taking place from October 16th to 19th will feature discussions about strategic partnerships within the global vaccine industry, vaccine safety as well as ways of managing emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Find out more [here](#)

Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC Remain Committed to Saving Lives and Livelihoods

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative is rooted in shared goals of strengthening public health institutions and improving public health and health security on the African continent. The Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC remain committed to these goals and to the partnership. Find out more [here](#)

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