

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



October 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?

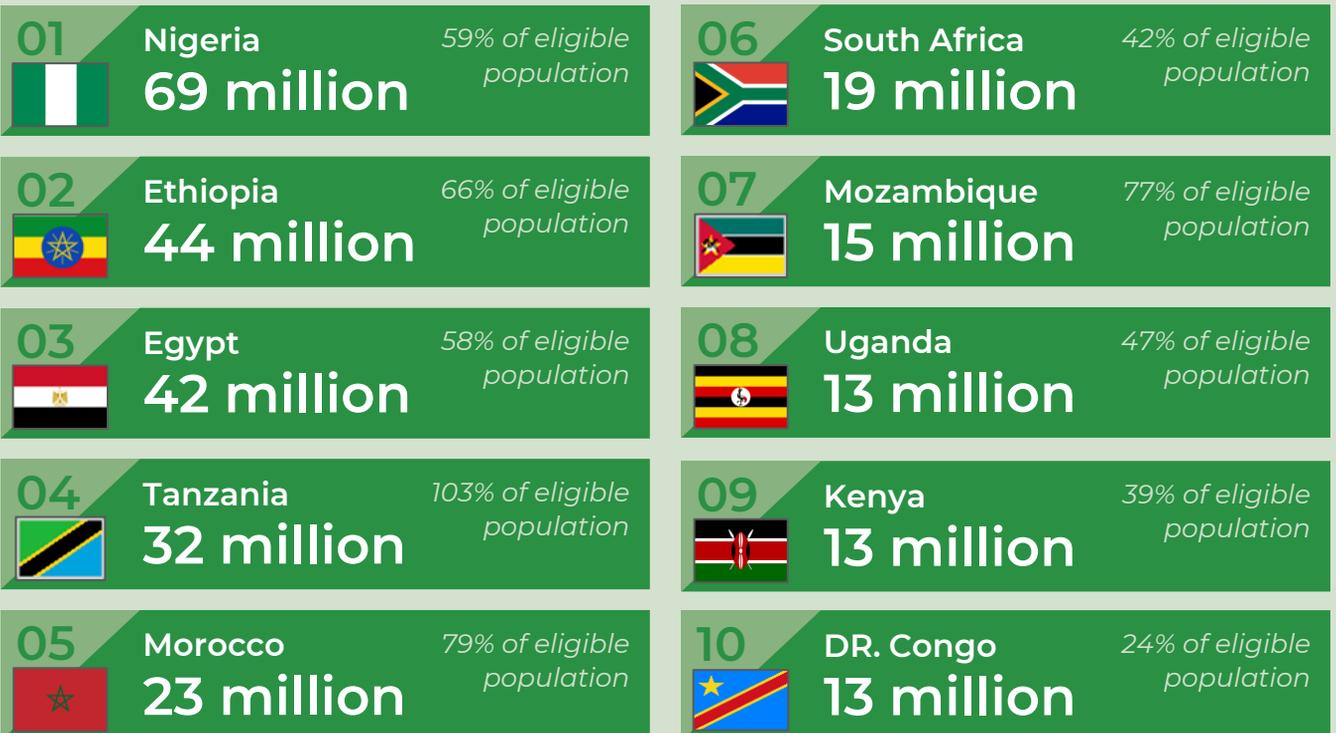
Currently, 14 African Union Member States have vaccinated at least 70 percent of their eligible populations with the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the WHO. Tanzania and São Tomé and Príncipe have fully vaccinated their populations, while Botswana has immunized 94 percent of theirs. Mauritius, Seychelles,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



Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

Shaping the future of vaccine research and development

The presence of the Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation at the World Vaccine Congress Europe, which took place from October 16 – 19, marked a significant step in highlighting the progress made towards building a resilient health system and assuring the long-term health security of Africa.

This active involvement placed our visionary goal, which we are actively pursuing with the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative and Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), as a central theme of the congress conversations: driving advancements in the vaccine manufacturing and R&D sectors in Africa. In this setting, Africa CDC and PAVM established themselves as thought leaders and mobilizers in global discussions concerning vaccine R&D.

Read more [here](#)



Building a resilient health system for Africa

How to build a resilient health system for Africa was the message delivered by the Africa CDC's Director General, H.E Dr Jean Kaseya at the Unstoppable Africa event convened by the Global Africa Business Initiative. Dr Kaseya expressed Africa CDC's vision for all Africans to be protected through community,

connectivity, availability of financial resources and commodities.

The Unstoppable Africa event connected global business leaders, governments, investors and philanthropists to discuss ways of catalyzing solutions to create policy and financial and opportunities for business.

Watch the full video [here](#)

Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

A new deal for African health security

The Africa CDC is leading the continent in addressing health security challenges. It aims to improve and become more effective, efficient, and reliable in supporting Member States of the African Union (AU).

The Africa CDC will integrate the five key actions of the New Public Health Order into the New Deal as part of its mandate.

Read more [here](#)

 01 Enhance the capability to combat infectious diseases by strengthening preparedness and response capacities, risk assessment, and disease prevention	 02 Accelerate the digitalization of biomonitors, telemedicine, and real-time health data management to advance health systems	 03 Enhance collaboration with public-private partners and African communities across all levels of intervention	 04 Raise awareness among different audiences, including the private sector, governments, and community organizations.	 05 Expand the industrialization of health products and technology innovation and manufacturing.
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Tanzania surpasses COVID-19 vaccination target by 144 percent

Since 2022, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in Tanzania has made remarkable progress, surpassing its vaccination target by 144 percent, with over five million COVID-19 doses administered. Additionally, more than 104 percent of the target population aged 18 and above have been vaccinated, with the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative contributing 15 percent to this achievement.

With the target surpassed, the government, through the Ministry of Health, is working to integrate all COVID-19 programs into routine immunization and primary health care services.

Watch a documentary on this achievement for the [full story](#).



Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in Tanzania

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Snapshot of key successes

Strengthening vaccination outreach in Malawi reach percent vaccination target

Through the saving lives and livelihood, Malawi Red Cross Society, the Mastercard's increasing demand for COVID-19 vaccination in three cities: Blantyre, Lilongwe, and Mzuzu. This is geared towards Malawi's target to vaccinate 13 million people (equivalent to 70 % of Malawi's population) by December 2023.

On 7th July 2023, the Malawi Red Cross Society and its implementing partner, Amref, conducted vaccination mobilization and outreach in Mpemba, Blantyre District, successfully mobilizing 379 people.

The initiative's success was not merely in the numbers but in its impact on the local community. The efforts sparked a ripple effect, fostering a sense of awareness, understanding, and a collective eagerness to participate in the vaccination drive.

Through a multifaceted approach, the campaign went beyond merely providing vaccinations. It delved into educational sessions, addressing vaccine hesitancy, dispelling myths, and promoting the importance of vaccination in protecting individuals and communities from the virus.



A COVID-19 champion mobilizes her community during a vaccination outreach event in Mpemba, Malawi

This initiative was a testament to the power of community mobilization. Moreover, the initiative's impact transcended the immediate vaccination drive. It contributed to the cultivation of a broader culture of health awareness and proactive community engagement. The collaboration between the implementing partners and community members paved the way for sustained partnerships, instilling a sense of responsibility and collective action.

As the initiative continues its course, it stands as a model for community-centric healthcare outreach.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



Cameroonian volunteer takes the lead in COVID-19 sensitization.

Mbouwe Dongmo Rawlings, a volunteer at the Fako Branch of the Cameroon Red Cross, is leading the way in sensitizing his community about COVID-19 vaccination. As part of the inaugural team of volunteers that was trained and deployed to the Buea community for sensitization, Rawlings supported and demystified the misconceptions about vaccines spread through social media.

Rawlings addresses concerns and provides accurate information about the vaccine's safety and efficacy and the importance of collective immunization in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was a reassuring presence, offering clarity and guidance to those who were hesitant or uncertain about getting vaccinated countering the widespread misinformation.

His community began to embrace the significance of vaccination, witnessing an increased turnout at vaccination centers and a gradual shift in attitudes toward the vaccine. Rawlings stands as a volunteer and a catalyst for positive change, demonstrating how grassroots efforts can impact a community's health and well-being.

News & Media

Participants attending a session on zoonotic disease re-prioritization



Strengthening the zoonotic disease program

The Africa CDC, in collaboration with the US CDC and GIZ, supported Sierra Leone in a three-day One Health on Zoonotic Disease Re-prioritization Workshop from October 4 to 6, 2023.

The workshop, which drew participants from the human, animal, and environmental health sectors, will increase multi-sectoral engagement in zoonotic disease surveillance and outbreak response activities.

[Read more.](#)



Ongoing MoU discussions on sustainable vaccine manufacturing in Africa



Strategizing for sustainable vaccine manufacturing in Africa

The Africa CDC Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing Secretariat held a meeting with the International Vaccine Institute team to deliberate on the most effective way to initiate the agreement between the two organizations to

establish a long-lasting vaccine manufacturing capability in Africa. The discussions focused on enhancing skills and institutional capacity to achieve the goal of having 60 percent of vaccines manufactured in Africa by African producers.

One Health approach to overcome public health challenges in Africa

The Africa CDC is adopting a comprehensive, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach toward addressing public health challenges, necessitated by the escalating threats related to climate change. In a commentary, the Africa CDC indicated that the One Health approach, which emphasizes collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health, provides a holistic framework to tackle this intricate web of challenges.

Find out more about it [here](#).



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“We have to bring the voice of Africa and to advocate for sufficient support to the African plan in line with the New Public Health Order.”

H. E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa CDC

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

The Africa CDC and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco, opened the First Manufacturers Marketplace for Vaccine Manufacturing African Union Member States.

The meeting was attended by health ministers or their representatives, leaders of National Regulatory Authorities from the 13 African Union (AU) Member States who had signed the Communiqué during the Video-Teleconference Meeting of the Bureau of the AU Heads of State and Government in May 2022, delegates from Regional Economic Communities, and stakeholders including UNICEF, the AfCFTA Secretariat, and African vaccine producers.

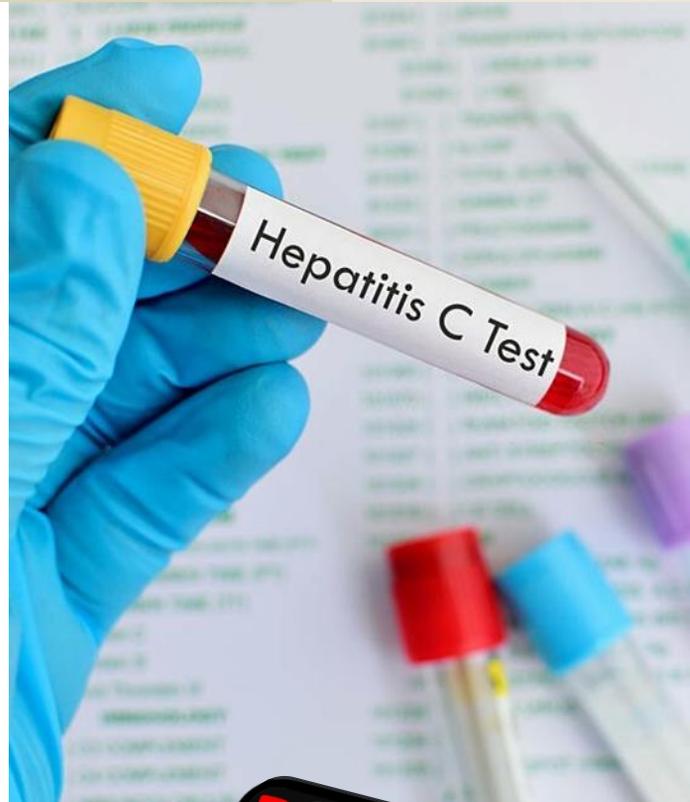
Read more [here](#).



First Manufacturers Marketplace for Vaccine Manufacturing African Union Member States

Egypt achieves historic Gold-tier certification in hepatitis C elimination

Egypt has achieved a historic milestone, becoming the first country worldwide to attain Gold-tier certification on the path to eliminating hepatitis C. This remarkable accomplishment is attributed to the immense effort, dedication, and commitment demonstrated at all levels, from the highest leadership of the presidency to members of the community, all working collaboratively to eliminate this disease as a public health threat.



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