

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Annual Progress Report 2019



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THE YEAR IN



Constituted a **new Governing Board** for Africa CDC and elected a **new Board Chair and Vice Chair**.



Significantly increased staffing at the Africa CDC headquarters and the Regional Collaborating Centres (RCCs). Some key positions filled during the year.



Held **the first ever all Africa CDC staff retreat** to discuss priority activities for the year.



Held a retreat chaired by the Commissioner for Social Affairs and attended by relevant African Union departments to evaluate the performance of Africa CDC and **discuss programme and operational improvements**.



Capacitated and strengthened the RCCs so they can support Member States in their regions. **Two RCC hosting agreements signed** during the year.



Supported Member States in responding to the outbreak of six diseases – **Ebola virus disease, Rift Valley fever, cholera, dengue, measles, and chikungunya**.



Supported disease outbreak preparedness activities and training for Member States.



Provided leadership in advancing **One Health and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** control in Africa.

BRIEF

Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohammed (2nd right) addressing participants in the Africa CDC evaluation retreat



Launched the Africa CDC **biosafety and biosecurity initiative** for Africa.



Launched the **HIV Viral Load Movement** for Africa.



Launched the Africa CDC Institute for **Workforce Development**.



Launched the Africa CDC **Pathogen Genomics Intelligence Institute**.



Launched the **mortality surveillance programme** for Africa.



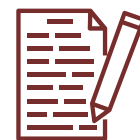
Registered the **Africa Public Health Foundation** to mobilize resources for sustaining public health strengthening in Africa.



Signed agreements and documents for commencement of the construction of Africa CDC headquarters in Addis Ababa by the Government of China.



Implemented the Central Africa Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network (RISLNET) with **remarkable results and outcomes**.



Finalized and launched some **strategic documents and tools** to strengthen public health systems in Africa.

REGIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRES (RCCs)



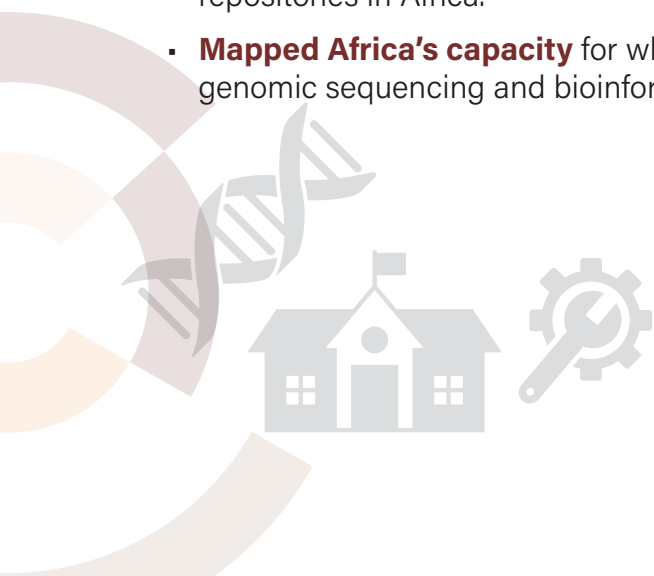
- **Three Africa CDC RCCs** – Eastern Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa – were functional in 2019. Preparations are advanced to launch the Northern Africa and Western Africa RCCs in 2020.
- **Agreements signed** in February by Gabon and Zambia to host the Central and Southern Africa RCCs, respectively.
- **Southern Africa RCC convened and hosted a meeting** of its 10 Member States to discuss and share experience and progress in the establishment and strengthening of NPHIs in the region.
- **Zambia National Public Health Institute hosted a delegation** from the Malawi Ministry of Health on a learning visit for the establishment of their NPHI.
- **The RCCs facilitated ECHO sessions with Member States** to discuss several emerging public health issues in their respective regions.
- **Supported EVD preparedness activities** by South Sudan, Uganda and other Member States, including the review of key performance indicators for Ebola preparedness, development of joint monitoring and evaluation tools, training of PHEOCs staff, rapid response and surveillance teams, conduct of joint simulation exercise, and preparation of contingency plans.
- **Facilitated regional surge capacity building** for the response to cholera outbreaks in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE AND RESEARCH

Participants register for ICREID 2019

- **Launched the Africa CDC Institute for Workforce Development**, which offered four courses in 2019 to public health professionals from across Africa: Transforming Public Health Surveillance, Introduction to Antimicrobial Resistance, Proposal Writing, and Leadership and Management.
- **Launched the Pathogen Genomics Intelligence Institute** to strengthen the development and implementation of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) and New Genome Sequencing (NGS) linked to genomic database and sample repositories in Africa.
- **Mapped Africa's capacity** for whole genomic sequencing and bioinformatics.
- **Provided technical support** to Kenya, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda for the establishment of their NPHIs:
 - Uganda received presidential approval for the establishment of its NPHI
 - Somalia received approval for its NPHI legal framework
 - South Sudan finalized its legal framework and submitted it for approval
 - Kenya and Madagascar are developing their legal frameworks
- **Hosted the annual meeting** of Africa NPHIs and the International Conference on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (ICRED), where over 300 experts discussed the importance of combating antimicrobial resistance, innovations in diagnostics, and One Health approach to public health emergencies.



- **Commenced and organized two editions** of the Africa CDC Public Health Grand Rounds to facilitate discussions about health security in Africa to support accelerated implementation of the International Health Regulations and the public health component of the African Union integration agenda.
- **Facilitated a learning visit** by the National Institute of Health Somalia and South Sudan National Public Health Institute to the Ethiopian Public Health Institute to share experience about the mandate, functions, structure, legal framework, and capabilities of NPHIs.
- **Hosted the 2019 annual meeting** of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) attended by public health leaders and experts from 59 countries.
- **Africa CDC and IANPHI signed a letter** of intent for partnership in supporting establishment and strengthening of NPHIs in Africa during the IANPHI meeting.
- **Commenced a partnership agreement** for the publishing of the *Journal of Public Health in Africa* as the official journal of Africa CDC. Constituted the editorial board for the journal and held the first board meeting where an editor-in-chief was elected.
- **Signed a letter of intent with the National School of Public Health, Rabat, Morocco**, for partnership on public health workforce development in Africa.
- **Signed a letter of intent** with the Pasteur Institute, Casablanca, Morocco, for partnership on antimicrobial resistance control.
- **Commenced discussions with the Morocco public health authorities** on a partnership agreement to strengthen health security at international airports and seaports in Africa.
- **Convened a workshop in partnership with the European and Developing Clinical Trial Partnership** to discuss the enhancement of networking between public health scientists in Europe and African.



Participants in the first editorial board meeting of the *Journal of Public Health in Africa*

REGIONAL INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY NETWORK (RISLNET)

8 frameworks and guidelines

on different areas of laboratory services developed for Member States in Central Africa.

5 member bureau

established to lead RISLNET Central Africa activities.

7 laboratories in 7 Member States

in Central Africa enrolled for ISO 15189 and WHO accreditation.

Trained

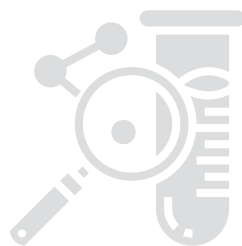
247 laboratory experts

in laboratory quality management systems, basic laboratory information systems, equipment maintenance and calibration, strengthening laboratory management towards accreditation, laboratory quality assurance and external quality assessment, point of care testing, and development of national laboratory strategic plans.

Installed basic laboratory information systems in

4 laboratories in 4 Member States

to reduce sample turnaround time and better support clinical decision-making.



Participants in a RISLNET training activity



Prof. Abderrahmane Maaroufi, Director, Institut Pasteur du Maroc (2nd left), with Africa CDC representatives during their visit to Morocco

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- **Partnered with the East African Community (EAC), German Technical Cooperation and the World Health Organization** to support Kenya and Tanzania in conducting a joint cross-border field simulation exercise in Namaga District. The exercise helped in assessing readiness for emergency response at the border crossing points, revising contingency plans for Kenya, Tanzania and the EAC, and documenting experience and lessons for sharing to Member States in the region.
- **Supported Cameroon in organizing a Public Health Emergency Management Week.** Activities helped create awareness on public health emergency management among health care workers. A table-top public health emergency preparedness and response simulation exercise involving 65 experts was conducted during the week, and 35 people received basic training in incident management and the management of PHEOCs.
- **Partnered with the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO), WHO and US CDC** to hold a training of trainers for 25 experts from 19 Member States on the operations of the PHEOC and incident management system. Some of these experts facilitated PHEOC training Uganda in 2019 and will support training for other Member States in 2020.



Uganda Minister of Health (sitting middle) receives Africa CDC Director in Kampala during a visit to discuss Uganda's preparedness and response to EVD outbreak

DISEASE OUTBREAK RESPONSE SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES



Chairperson of the African Union Commission with representatives of Member States and partners in the Africa Against Ebola Forum

Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak

- **65 experts deployed by Africa CDC** in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to support surveillance, contact tracing, infection prevention and control, laboratory diagnosis, training of local health care workers, community mobilization, and risk communication.
- **Procured and provided laboratory equipment and medical supplies** – six GeneXpert machines with cartridges, personal protective equipment and a mobile laboratory.
- **Deployed staff to support preparedness and response in South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda**, including training of local health care workers, activation of PHEOCs, development of tools and incident action plans, and provision of equipment and supplies.
- **Organized the Africa Against Ebola Forum** where over US\$ 50 million was raised to support the DRC in responding to the EVD outbreak.
- **Partnered with WHO** to convene a meeting of health ministers, IHR focal persons and heads of immigration of the DRC and its nine neighbouring countries where a framework for cross-border collaboration on preparedness and response to EVD and other disease outbreaks was endorsed by the 10 Member States.



Africa CDC experts supply infection prevention and control equipment to health facilities in Ebola affected areas of DRC

- **Trained 40 personnel** of the South Sudan Ministry of Health, Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management and academics in incident management, indicator-based surveillance, event-based surveillance, and operations of the PHEOC.
- **Supported the assessment of laboratories** in South Sudan for EVD outbreak preparedness.
- **Supported pre-installation assessment of GeneXpert machines** and trained 20 laboratory personnel in the use of the GeneXpert machine for EVD diagnosis in South Sudan.
- **Trained 40 senior officials** of the Uganda Ministry of Health in the management of public health emergencies to strengthen the country's incident management system.
- **Conducted pilot training** for 40 private health care workers and 45 village public health care workers in Uganda on event-based surveillance.



Representatives of Member States and partners in the ministerial meeting held in Goma, DRC

Rift Valley Fever Outbreak in Kenya

119 animal cases

21 human cases

11 human deaths.

- **Deployed 17 public health experts** – 4 epidemiologists, 1 laboratory scientist, 1 logistician, 1 communication specialist, 10 local experts.
- **Provided diagnostic supplies.**
- **Trained 123 disease surveillance officers and 52 laboratory experts** in event-based surveillance (EBS) and One Health approach to early detection of diseases.
- **Trained 52 laboratory managers** in the fundamentals of arboviruses and viral haemorrhagic fevers diagnostics.
- **Supported the development of a draft laboratory training curriculum** and provided laboratory reagents and kits, including human anti-RVF virus IgG ELISA quantitative kits, human dengue virus IgM ELISA kits, chikungunya virus IgM human ELISA kits, and zika virus IgM human ELISA kits.
- **Supported the development, production and distribution** of RVF communication and awareness materials.



Training on protective clothing for RVF responders

Cholera, Dengue, Chikungunya, and Rift Valley Fever Outbreaks in Sudan

- **Multiple disease outbreaks** (cholera, chikungunya, Rift Valley fever, Dengue fever) in Sudan following the flooding of Blue Nile River.
- **Deployed two Africa CDC staff** in Sudan to support assessment of capacity gaps and identification of priority interventions.

Measles Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo



A cross-section of participants in the training of trainers on operations of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre

- **Measles outbreak declared** in June 2019 affecting all provinces.
- **More than 200,000 cases** and 4000 deaths as of mid-December
- **Deployed two Africa CDC staff** to support assessment of the status of outbreak in measles-affected health zones in the DRC and identify capacity gaps in the response.
- **Supported the development** of a more elaborate response plan which includes reinforcement of the measles coordination team.



LABORATORY SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS

Training for laboratory experts

- **Trained 29 laboratory personnel** from nine Member States in Central Africa Region in laboratory mapping and laboratory data analysis, and the use of laboratory mapping data to improve services. Participants used the knowledge acquired from the training to map laboratories in their countries.
- **A specimen transportation manual developed** for Member States in Central Africa.
- **Trained 32 laboratory personnel** in Cameroon in laboratory mapping and data collection and provided 18 of them with tablets for data collection.
- **Trained 19 laboratory personnel** in Burkina Faso in laboratory mapping and data collection. The trainees mapped laboratories in the country and selected two of them as reference laboratories.
- **Developed a laboratory strategic planning assessment tool**, which is now available in the four African Union languages.
- **Assessed implementation status of laboratory strategic planning** in 31 Member States: 21 of the Member States had a laboratory strategic plan and five did not have.
- **Assisted Member States in Central and Western Africa** to develop or revise their national laboratory strategic plans.
- **Trained 21 trainers from human and animal health laboratories** in the 10 Member States in Southern Africa in laboratory quality management using the One Health approach. The trainees are now cascading laboratory quality management systems training using the One Health approach in their respective countries.



Cross-section of participants in the AFCAD meeting

- **Hosted the 2nd Global Biosecurity Dialogue** where the Africa CDC biosafety and biosecurity initiative was launched.
- **Convened two technical meetings on biosafety and biosecurity** where participants identified key challenges to the implementation of biosafety and biosecurity standards, developed action plans for measurable improvements in joint external evaluation findings, developed legislative framework on biosafety and biosecurity, and a list of high consequence pathogens and toxins for the continent.
- **Convened the first meeting of the Africa Collaborative Initiative to Advance Diagnostics (AFCAD)**, where participants developed the terms of reference for Africa CDC Diagnostics Advisory Committee, the criteria and engagement process for designation of centres of excellence for evaluation and registration of in-vitro diagnostics, and launched the Africa Viral Load Movement to promote availability and accessibility of diagnostics and facilitate achievement of the fast-track targets for HIV epidemic control by 2030.



SURVEILLANCE AND DISEASE INTELLIGENCE



Africa CDC Director, Dr John Nkengasong, signs the grants with SACIDS and HISP-SA

- **Convened a meeting of Member States and partners** to advocate for the implementation of the Africa CDC Health Situation Room and Health Information System, where participants reviewed results of the mapping of Member States' health information systems and capacity and identified entry points for the operation of the platform.
- **Trained 000 representatives** of Kenya and Zambia in event-based surveillance.
- **Partnered with WHO and the Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN)** to convene two meetings of Member States where an African Union legal framework for infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities was drafted and reviewed.
- **Partnered with the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics, and Policy (CDDEP)** to convene a meeting where 15 subject matter experts began drafting the first clinical guidelines for the treatment of common infections in Africa.
- **Partnered with other African Union entities** to finalize the African Union Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control, which was endorsed by the Specialized Technical Committees for Health, Population and Drug Control and for Environment and Agriculture along with the African Common Position on AMR.
- **Commenced the development of a training curriculum** on event-based surveillance and commenced training of trainers at the regional level.
- **Signed a grant award with the Southern African Centre** for Infectious Disease Surveillance Foundation for One Health (SACIDS) and Health Information Systems Programme-South Africa (HISP-SA) for the establishment of a public health electronic platform to strengthen surveillance, disease intelligence, and health information exchange in Africa.



Participants in the mortality surveillance workshop held in Accra, Ghana

MORTALITY SURVEILLANCE

- **Launched the mortality surveillance programme** during a meeting where 33 Member States reviewed and revised the goals and objectives of the programme.
- **Held two regional meetings**, for Southern and Western Africa, where 12 Member States defined the criteria for providing support for implementing mortality surveillance, finalized country assessment tools, and discussed resource mobilization and sustainability.
- **Drafted a framework on mortality surveillance** for Africa, which will be finalized and launched in 2020.

EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTCOME (ECHO)

- **Equipped the Central Africa RCC office** in Gabon with basic equipment to facilitate ECHO implementation.
- **Trained ECHO coordinators** at the RCCs in the use of iECHO tool for monitoring participation in ECHO sessions.
- **Trained 25 representatives** of nine Member States from West Africa in the use of the ECHO platform and obtained an office space at the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) office in Abuja, Nigeria, for ECHO in the Region.
- **Developed region-specific curriculum** for topics to be discussed during ECHO sessions and identified suitable subject matter experts to facilitate the sessions.
- **Held a workshop involving 17 Member States** where the 25 participants reviewed progress and drafted the 2020 implementation and monitoring and evaluation plan.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS AND TOOLS FINALIZED IN 2019



- **Framework** for Public Health Workforce Development, 2020–2025
- **Framework** for Development of NPHIs in Africa
- **Legal Framework** for the Establishment of NPHIs in Africa
- **African Union Framework** for the Control of Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa

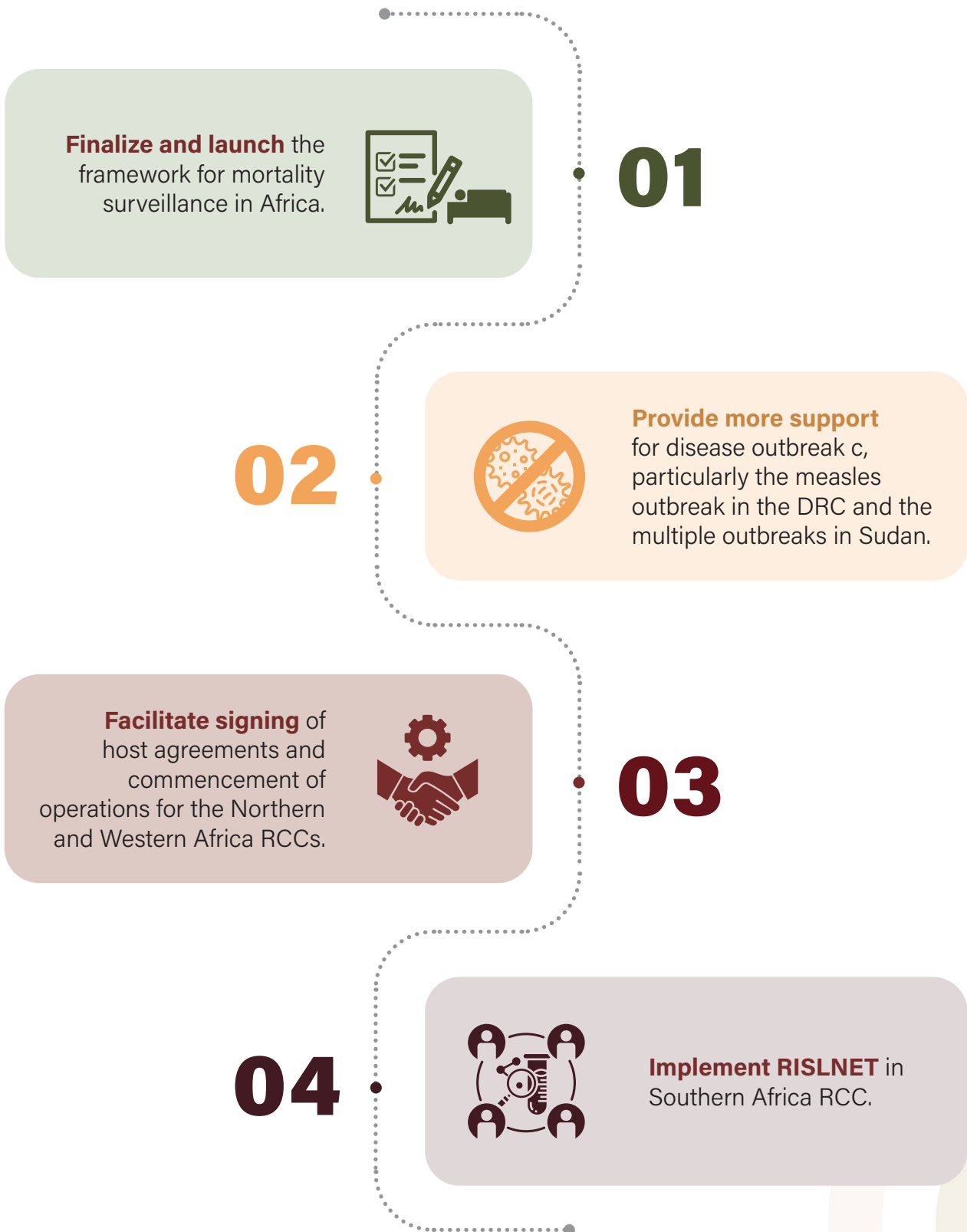


GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

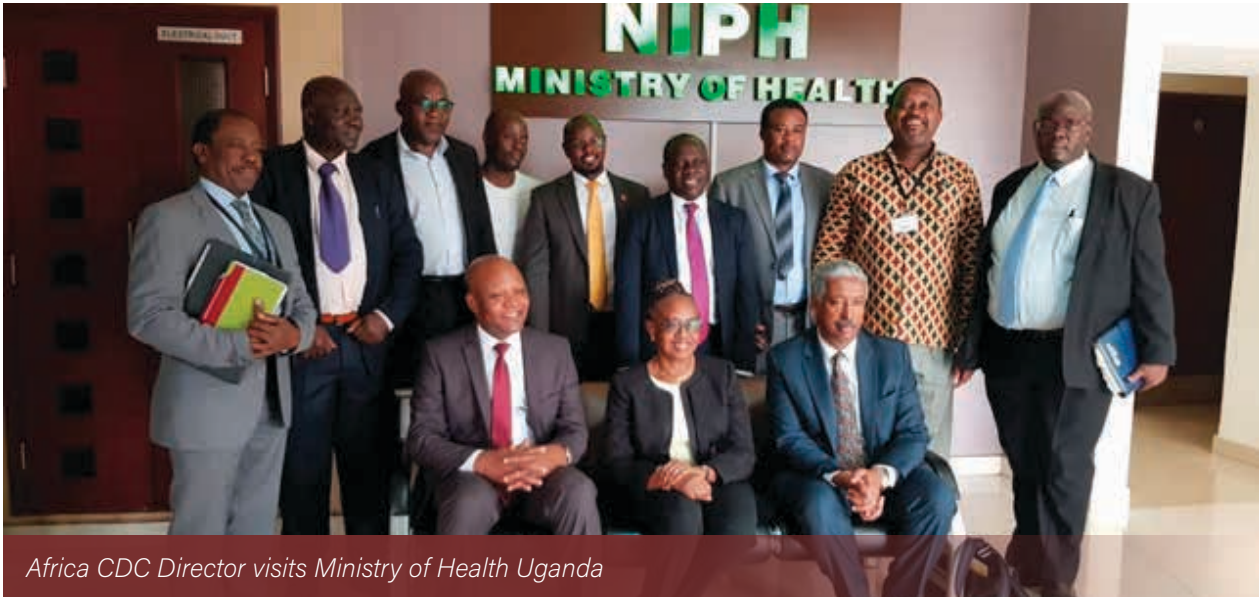
AU Commissioner for Social Affairs (middle) with the Governing Board members and some Africa CDC staff during the board meeting

- **Held the 5th and 6th meetings of the Africa CDC Governing Board in 2019.** The Minister of Health and Public Hygiene, Togo, Prof. Moustafa Mijiyawa, was elected Chair of the Board during the 6th meeting and the Gabon Minister of Health, Dr Max Limoukou, was elected Vice Chair.
- **Held the 3rd meeting of the Africa CDC Advisory and Technical Council** where Members recommended a mid-term review of the implementation of the five-year strategic plan of Africa CDC and a review of the statute and governance documents.

OUR PLANS FOR 2020



VISITS AND ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



Africa CDC Director visits Ministry of Health Uganda



Commissioner for Social Affairs visits the DRC, meets with Prof. Muyembe-Tamfum to discuss African Union support for EVD response in the DRC



Africa CDC staff during the ethics training



Participants in the Second Global Biosecurity Dialogue hosted by Africa CDC



Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, and the Ambassador and Head of Mission of China to the African Union, H.E. Mr Yuxi Liu, sign MOU for the construction of Africa CDC headquarters in Addis Ababa



Australia Embassy Representatives in Ethiopia, Madeline Summers and Samuel Tenna (left) visit Africa CDC Director



Africa CDC Director Dr John Nkengasong visits the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of UNECA, Dr Vera Songwe



Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, and the Ambassador and Head of Mission of China to the African Union, H.E. Mr Yuxi Liu, visit the Africa CDC headquarters site for briefing



Commissioner for Social Affairs receives the Minister of Health of Germany, Jens Spahn

