



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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Foreword

The year 2021 has continued to see the African continent working collectively and collaboratively in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The Africa Union, through Africa CDC, ensured support to the Member States was maintained with various initiatives supporting testing, treatment of hospitalised cases and dis/mis-information about the pandemic put in place throughout the continent. By the end of the year more than 40,000 public health cadres had been trained on Infection Prevention Control, case management, antigen testing and other health system strengthening trainings. While over 20,000 community health workers had been deployed to Member States.

By the end of 2020 the world saw a renewed hope as approved vaccines became available to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Africa CDC committed itself into exploring every available option to make sure that Africa is not left behind in accessing this life saving treatment. The African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) was therefore established in November 2020, working with partners, to secure enough vaccines to vaccinate at least 60% of the African population were available. Since then, more than 783 million vaccines have been supplied, with approximately 540 million vaccines administered to the population.

These efforts have come with many challenges in 2021, as the richer countries took most of the global supply to safeguard their own populations, and leaving the low middle income countries at the back of the line and slowing equitable access to vaccines. By the middle of 2021, over 2.3 billion vaccines had been administered globally with only 1.5% of those administered on the continent. The injustice continued as richer countries imposed travel bans and restrictions based on select vaccines authorised by their regulatory agencies as the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic had detrimental effects in Africa. This battle continued till towards the end of the third quarter of 2021. By September 2021, 5.7 billion vaccines had been administered globally, with only 2% administered in Africa. This led to an urgent call by the AVATT principals, along with the World Health Organization to accelerate vaccination in Africa and reiterating the target of 70% of the global population needing to be vaccinated by mid-2022.

In order to mitigate these current and future challenges, the continent has continued in the same spirit as in 2020, working collectively and collaboratively and led by the AU Heads of States and Government. A number of strategic initiatives have been endorsed by the African leaders to strengthen Africa's preparedness and response to the current pandemic as well as future ones. The Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) is one such initiatives, with the aim of developing, producing and ensuring over 60% of the vaccine supply are manufactured on the continent by 2040. Institutionalisation of regional initiatives such as the African Vaccines Trust (AVAT) and the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP) would help the continent to be better prepared to support its needs.

This report highlights the collective efforts by the continent to combat the pandemic while also fighting other public health challenges faced by the continent. We also express our continued appreciation and gratitude to all the partners who have continued to contribute materials, technical and financial support to respond to the pandemic and other response efforts.

As we look ahead to 2022, Africa CDC will continue its efforts to ensure that 70% of the African population is vaccinated by engaging and targeting its younger population. We look forward to the support of local efforts such as local manufacturing, supporting the public health institutions and strengthening the health workforce on the continent. This is a time the world must rebuild its economy and plan better for the next pandemics.

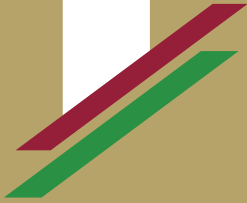
By the end of 2020 the world saw a renewed hope as approved vaccines became available to combat the COVID-19 pandemic

Africa CDC will continue its efforts to ensure that 70% of the African population is vaccinated by engaging and targeting its younger population



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**COVID-19
RESPONSE
ACTIVITIES**





1 COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

1. Epidemiologic update, Africa, 31 December 2021

Since the detection of COVID-19 on the African continent in February 2020 till 31 December 2021, more than 9.7 million COVID-19 cases were reported and of these cases, 91% recovered. Across the continent, more than 228 thousand people died from COVID-19. The cumulative case fatality rate (CFR) in Africa was 2.4%, which was higher than the global rate of 2%. The CFR was highest in the following three countries: Sudan (7.2%), Somalia (5.7%) and Egypt (5.7%). Over 95.5 million tests were conducted across the continent. For EPI week 52, over 1.5 million new tests were conducted in Member States, which was an 8% increase in the number of new tests conducted compared to the previous week. For the same week, the number of tests conducted per case detected was 5.2, which was below the WHO recommended testing range. As of 31 December 2021, 51 African Union (AU) Member States (MS) had reported the presence of either the Alpha previously B.1.1.7 (45 MS), Beta previously B.1.351 (41), Delta previously B.1.617.2 (43), Gamma previously GR/501Y.V3/P.1+P.1.1+P.1.2 (2) and/or Omicron (23) Variants of Concern (VOC). As of 27 December 2021, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS had started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 297.9 million doses were administered, and of the doses administered, 175.4 million had received the first dose and 118.9 million received the second dose. Overall, 9% of the continental population had been fully vaccinated.

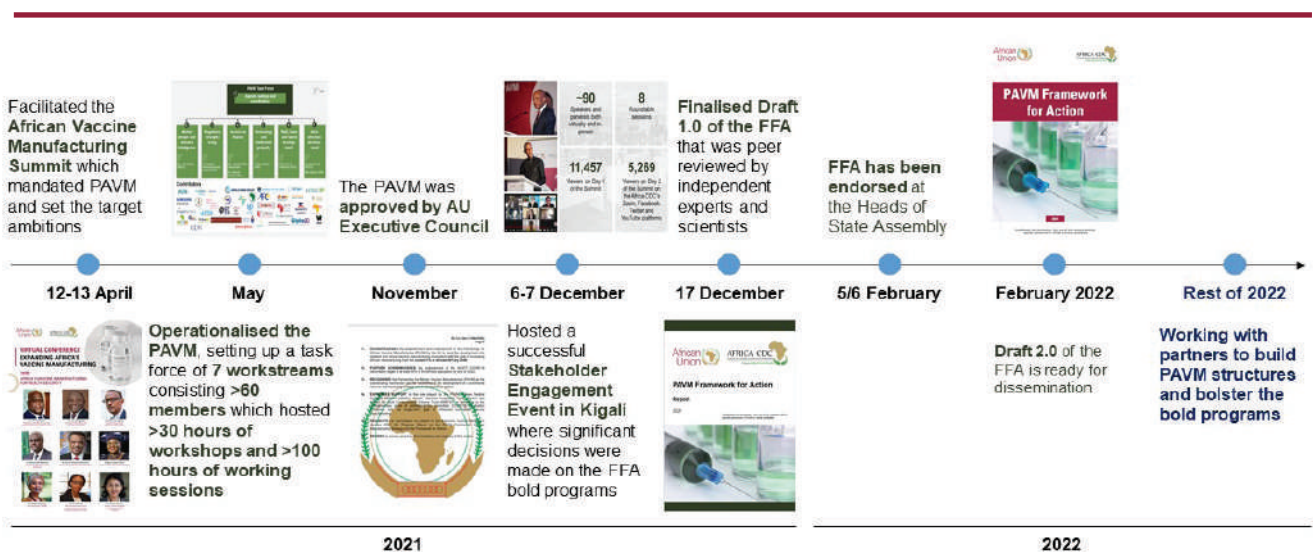
KEY DATES AND FIGURES:

14 Feb. 2020-Dec. 2021

Cases reported: **>9.7m**
 Recovered: **91%**
 Deaths: **>228**
 Cumulative case fatality: **2.4%**

27 December 2021

Vaccination campaigns: **54** out of 55 Member States
 Cumulative doses administered: **297.9m**
 1st doses administered: **175.5m**
 2nd doses administered: **118.9m**
 Population vaccinated: **9%**



AVAT

Nov. 2020
AVAT established
vaccination

Target: **70%**

April 2022
45,578,900 of 46,310,900
doses have been shipped
to 35 AU MS directly by
AVAT (remaining doses to
Caribbean countries).

762m doses procured,
510 million administered,
67% consumed.

PAVM

Target: **>60%** vaccine
manufactured by 2040
Distributed: **40m** non-
COVID-19 vaccine items

SLL

Target: Purchase of **65m**
COVID-19 vaccine doses.
Groundwork for vaccine
manufacturing in Africa.

Country support plans: **35**
Member States

Vaccination microplan: **15**
Member States

2. Strategic Coordination

The African Vaccine Acquisition Trust

The African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) is a special purpose vehicle, incorporated in Mauritius. AVAT acts as a centralised purchasing agent on behalf of the African Union (AU) Member States, to secure the necessary vaccines and blended financing resources for achieving Africa's COVID-19 vaccination strategy which targets vaccinating a minimum of 70% of Africa's population based on a whole-of-Africa approach. AVAT was established by the COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team, which was set up in November 2020 by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union (AU), as a support component to the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy that was endorsed by the AU Bureau of Heads of State and Government in August 2020. AVAT's main partner institutions are the African Union's Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

3. Strategic Initiatives

- Established **The Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM)** to oversee the activities that will help develop, produce, and supply over 60% of vaccine manufacturing across African states by 2040
- Launched as an immediate, integrated and practical response to the Covid-19 pandemic by the African Union, the **Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP)** offers to the 55 African Union member states and CARICOM countries a direct access to vetted manufacturers of Covid-19 vaccines, drugs, medical equipment and PPE
 - By connecting medical suppliers with African buyers through digital technologies, AMSP provides all relevant services related to volume aggregation, quota management, payment facilitation as well as logistics & transportation for governments, national health systems, public & private hospitals, NGOs and donor organizations
 - Since its launch, the AMSP has facilitated the distribution of 40 million non COVID-19 vaccine items and continues to support the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust's (AVAT) delivery of up to 220 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to member states
- The **Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL)** Programme is a partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and the Africa CDC that will enable the purchase of 65 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and support the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to millions more across the continent. It will also lay the groundwork for vaccine manufacturing in Africa through a focus on human capital development and strengthen the Africa CDC capacity and capabilities to deliver this laudable programme and other programmes. The programme has supported selected Member States to avert the expiry of COVID-19 vaccines. It is currently supporting vaccine effectiveness survey, risk communication and community engagement, and monitoring

of adverse events following immunization in selected AU Member States. The programme has developed Country Support Plans for **35** Member States and COVID-19 vaccination microplan for **15** Member States.

- The SLL programme will also build pathogen genomics capacity, provide in-country logistics for last mile delivery, technical support, data management, setting up mobile and fixed COVID-19 vaccination centres, and surge capacity.
- The SLL programme successfully supported the just concluded Africa Cup of Nations and the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government Summit.
- It has attracted other major partners and donors to support the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in AU Member States.

4. Personnel Training and Deployment

Africa CDC supported training for different cadres of healthcare workers across Member States through direct in-country face-to-face and online virtual training. The following is a breakdown of individuals trained;

- **24,473** staff trained on infection prevention and control (IPC)
- Over **1,000** clinicians trained on case management
- **14,500** laboratory personnel and health care workers trained on antigen testing from 20 Member States
- **5,317** staff across the continent trained on Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOC)
- Over **9,000** trained on surveillance
- Over **20,674** Community Health Workers for the COVID-19 response deployed in **29** member states

5. Medical and Non-medical Supplies Support to Member States

- Over **34.5** thousand tons of medical support including PPE, IPC, laboratory items, medical equipment, hospital care items and vaccine distributed to all the **55** AU Member States amounting to over **280** million USD
- Distributed **30,564,000** of Jansen Vaccine through AVAT project to 35 AU Member States
- Distributed **801,000** doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine to **11** AU Member States amounting to **4,205, 250** USD
- **1,800** oxygen concentrators, **400** Mechanical ventilators and **110** arterial blood gas analyzers.
- Distributed more than **8** million antigen tests to **55** Member States and facilitated distribution of additional **26 million** antigen tests by partners
- Distributed more than **9** million PCR tests to all Member States

6. Financing the Response

Since its establishment in April 2020, the AU COVID-19 Response Fund has welcomed pledges and contributions from Member states, private sector organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and foundations.

As at 31st December 2021, the financial status of the COVID-19 Response Fund is as follows;

Pledges	Amount
Total Pledged	\$43,705,300
Received	\$37,233,883
Uncollected	\$6,471,417

7. From the Regional Collaborating Centres (RCCs)

Central Africa RCC

- Supported national COVID-19 laboratory technical working groups (TWG) to scale up quality assured molecular testing capacity in **six (6)** Central Africa Member States as part of the Surge COVID-19 testing project under the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) initiative.
- Collaborated with UNAIDS country office in Gabon and the Gabonese Red Cross project to “Support for community actions in the scope of the PACT initiative among vulnerable populations to mitigate the impact of COVID 19 on prevention and care services for HIV and other diseases”.
- Coordinated the regional virtual workshop on the implementation of SARS-CoV-2 epidemiological genomic surveillance organized by Africa CDC in collaboration with John Hopkins University
- Organized two Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) sessions to disseminate findings of the Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) survey to Member States in the Central African region.



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SA-RCC participated in delivery of a consignment of J&J vaccines in Botswana

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The Government of Kenya, Africa CDC, UNICEF, Afreximbank and UN ECA receiving the 1st Doses of J&J Vaccine in JKIA, Nairobi Kenya.

Eastern Africa RCC

- The RCC coordinated and facilitated the Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods Program in the **14** Member States of the Eastern Africa Region to ensure all the countries fully benefit from the program. The RCC also coordinated and supported vaccine deployment from the COVAX and AVAT
- Supported activities of Africa CDC Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in the Eastern Africa region and shared the reports with Africa CDC Emergency Operations Centre to synchronize the support provided to Member States



Group photo of trainers and trainees during the COVID-19 clinical case management training of frontline healthcare workers in Mponela, Malawi

Southern Africa RCC

- Conducted an assessment for IPC measures and staff safety for COVID-19 in the COMESA offices in Lusaka, Zambia.
- Completed the Second Regional Technical Advisory Committee (ReTAC) meeting
- Conducted regional and in country Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops on antigen rapid diagnostic Tests (Ag-RDT) for COVID-19.
- Assisted implementation of the first training on SARS-CoV2 Genome Sequencing and Bioinformatics in Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Supported SADC Secretariat in organizing 2nd Extraordinary meeting to discuss the COVID-19 epidemiological situation in the Region
- Developed cross-border specimen transfer and referral framework for the Southern Africa Region
- Held a Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Public Health Pathogen Genomics in the Southern African
- Supported Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on 17 Auditors from Southern and Eastern African Union Member States for the COVID-19 Testing Laboratories Certification Program (CoLTEP) in Harare, Zimbabwe
- Supported and supervised deployment of **4,850** community health workers in four countries.
- Supported handover of the first consignment of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccine supplied by the African

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The ReTAC meeting was held in Cape town, South Africa, October 2021

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SA-RCC together with the Zambian MoH received a consignment of COVID-19 vaccines delivered through AVAT



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- Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) to the **six** African Union Member States
- Launch of African Volunteer Health Corp (AVoHC) NET in Zambia

8. Sectional Reports

Case Management

The case management team working through the AFTCOR case management technical working group trained clinicians on:

- i. Principles of screening and triaging in healthcare delivery aimed at enabling trainees apply protocols for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 in health facilities and community settings
- ii. Basic emergency care with a focus on management of severe COVID-19 patients
- iii. Home management of mild to moderate cases of COVID-19

Infection Prevention and Control

- Developed and updated **16** guidance documents, a FAQs brochure and two advisories on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).
- Developed the African infection prevention and control quantification training module for AU Member States.
- Established IPC Communities of Practice (COP) to support trainees.

Laboratory Systems and Network

- Supported expansion of COVID-19 testing in all Member States
- Introduced point of care antigen testing for COVID-19 to Member States
- Developed and distributed guidelines on PCR testing for COVID-19, use of rapid antigen test for COVID-19, use of rapid antibody test for COVID-19, external quality assessment, guidance on the establishment of national quality assurance framework, manual on bio-banking and site assessment checklist for rapid antigen testing
- Supported **52** Member States to conduct and upload more than 59,000 SARS-CoV-2 sequences on international portal to monitor variants of concern and interest. This is 118% of the annual target



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Established a new partnership with African Community Media Networks to strengthen their capacities to investigate, fact-check, package and disseminate accurate information on COVID-19 and other public health challenges in local African languages
- Established the Public Health Risk Communication and Community Engagement Community of Practice for Africa (PH-RCCE-CoPA) to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake across the continent and strengthen Member States capacity to institutionalize risk communication and community engagement for COVID-19 pandemic and future public health challenges
- Community Health Workers visited over **2,568,654** households for community engagement activities
- Established and launched Rumour Tracking and Media Monitoring systems to tackle alarming wave of rumours and misinformation about the pandemic
- Coordinated and maintained adequate engagement with the mass media through regular press briefings, press releases and other means to effectively respond to the increasing amount of mis/disinformation circulating about the virus and to share and disseminate accurate and evidence-based information with the public through the media
- Community leaders/influencers campaigns in DRC, Zambia, Uganda, Cameroon
- Vaccine Acceptability Campaign in South Africa, Nigeria (partnership with MC Saatchi/WHO)
- Share The Truth Campaign: Targeting Vaccine misinformation (by Africa CDC)
- IPC Campaign promoting good hand hygiene (Support by Facebook)
- “OneMorePush” Campaign on Masks wearing and public health measures (sponsored by MTN)

Logistics and Supply Chain Management

- Improved coordination with suppliers, member states, partners on various donations and procurement support plans for AU member states
- Developed supply, distribution, allocations and operations plans
- Managed IPC stockpile and inventory at Africa CDC and WFP Humanitarian hub
- Conducts regular country readiness assessment for vaccine delivery for AVAT vaccine delivery mechanism

Science Office

The Science Office has led, co-led, and actively contributed to the implementation of various activities, initiatives, and policy formulations at Africa CDC during the course of 2021 with some of the key contributions highlighted below;

- More than **100** biweekly publications on the COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update
- Held the Africa Vaccine Manufacturing Summit under the theme: Africa's Vaccine Manufacturing for Health Security.

- Developed the COVID-19 Vaccine dashboard (<https://africacdc.org/covid-19-vaccination/>) in partnership with Africa CDC partners which aims to provide real time information on vaccine coverage and absorptive capacity
- Hosted the Inaugural International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2021) from **14-16 December 2021**.
- Registered to The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) for Research, Ethics and Compliance Training.

Surveillance

The Surveillance Technical Working group (Surveillance TWG) is part of The Africa Task Force for Coronavirus (AFTCOR) with the objective to provide overall technical and policy oversight forum for all surveillance related strategy, planning and activity implementation for the COVID-19 pandemic. Key among important milestones achieved include;

- Developed guidelines, SOPS & Protocols to improve COVID-19 surveillance among member states
- Reviewed the alert level tool for African Union member states on COVID-19
- Supported the Implementation of Africa CDC Trusted Travel Initiative, through the Multi-sectoral technical task force on trusted travel and safe re-opening of borders
- Conducted a sero survey study to understand the exposure of the population to the SARS-CoV-2 virus across **19** Member States and, to provide country-specific information for guiding decision making.

2 OTHER ACTIVITIES





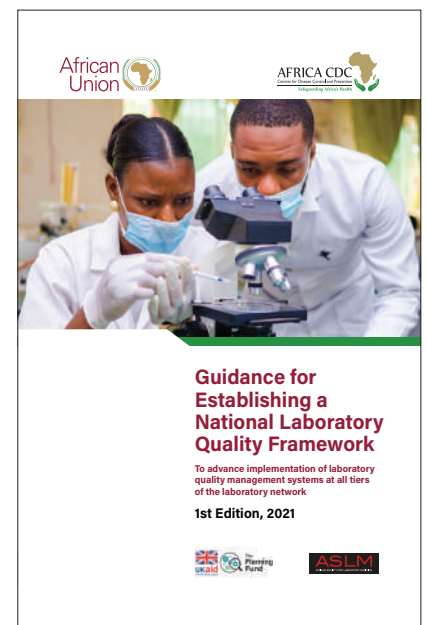
2 OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Supported **four (4)** disease outbreaks including two different Ebola Virus Disease(EVD) outbreaks in DR Congo, Marburg Fever and EVD in Guinea, Meningitis in DR Cong on top of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Deployed **178** Rapid Responders to support the COVID-19 Pandemic and other disease outbreaks to 21 countries
- Supported **three (3)** countries (South-Sudan, Ethiopia and Burundi) in PH Emergency Operation Centres capacity building; and conducted PHEOC baseline assessment.
- Held Training of Trainers on Public Health Emergency Operation Center to **35** experts from multiple countries
- Trained over **150** African Volunteer Health Corps (AVOHC) Members on the use of the AVOHC-net platform for managing the national rapid response teams for health emergencies,
- Stockpiled medical and non-medical countermeasures for **3** priority diseases- COVID-19, VHF, meningitis including infection prevention supplies, medical equipment and diagnostics

2. Laboratory Systems and Networks

- Provided support to advance use of Laboratory diagnostics: Under African Collaborative to Advance Diagnostics (AFCAD), identified and supported seven centers of excellence for evaluation of diagnostics
- Developed and published the Africa CDC biosafety and biosecurity initiative report on priorities for strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in Africa
- Developed and published the Africa CDC **five-year** strategic plan on Biosafety and biosecurity
- Drafted and submitted the Biosafety and biosecurity legal framework to Africa Union STC for Health.
- Developed an advocacy and communication strategy for biosafety and biosecurity legal framework to create awareness and mobilize support for its endorsement
- Established and operationalized **five** regional biosafety and biosecurity technical working groups



- Provided laboratory quality management system in one health concept for 94 laboratory experts from 26 countries.
- Trained and built capacity for geospatial mapping of laboratory functions and cumulatively 2245 laboratories from 15 Member States have been mapped and data availed for MOHs

3. Disease Control and Prevention

- Drafted the Community Health Worker advocacy, financing and sustainability strategies.
- Published an Op-ed on Devex: How health workers are leading Africa's COVID-19 response.
- Drafted the strategic framework for the establishment of the RISLNET for Western Africa.
- Finalized the Africa CDC Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Control Programme for supporting Member states in the prevention and control of viral hepatitis.
- Worked collaboratively with partners (Gavi, WHO, NMCP) on advocacy and programming the continental roll-out of the RTS,S malaria vaccine.
- Finalized development of Africa CDC strategic priorities in non-communicable diseases, injuries and mental health.
- Conducted a continent-wide study (**28** Member states participated) in collaboration with partners (WHO, WAHO, UKRST, ECSA) designed to better understand gaps and challenges faced by national mental health leads in responding to the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) aspects of COVID-19 response to drive implementation of evidence-based response in the context of an epidemic emergency, and for longer- term health system strengthening.
- In collaboration with partners, developed theory of change towards supporting Member states in the integration of MPHSS in emergency preparedness and response plans.

4. Policy, Health Diplomacy and Communication

- Developed a concept for collaboration framework to create coherence between the work of AfCFTA Secretariat and Africa CDC on reopening of land borders
- Provided policy guidance to the Member States on the future of pandemic preparedness and response in Africa
- Successfully organized the 5th Meeting of the Advisory and Technical Committee of Africa CDC
- Developed an engagement framework with the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat and arranged a discussion between the Director of Africa CDC and Secretary-General of AfCFTA secretariat
- Provided policy and technical guidance to diplomat negotiators on the content and negotiation strategy of the new Pandemic Treaty.



Training Africa CDC in-country IPC Training

5. Surveillance and Disease Intelligence

- Developed and validated health information exchange policy and standards by **33** member states
- Provided technical and financial support for data integration across different health pillars and administrative levels in Lesotho
- Trained 20 Africa CDC staff on the DHIS-2 and Africa CDC Event Management System
- Developed and validated four types of event-based surveillance (EBS) training modules to help countries operationalize EBS at different levels of the health systems
- Conducted situation analysis of event-based surveillance in **14** member states in the Central and Eastern Regions of Africa CDC
- Trained **439** multi-sectoral surveillance and public health officers from eight MS in the Eastern, Central and Southern regions on Event Based Surveillance
- Celebrated World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2021
- Validated the Continental Framework for Mortality surveillance in five Africa CDC regions.



Africa CDC training surveillance officers in Cameroon on Event Based Surveillance

6. Public Health Institutes, Research and Workforce Development

1. Provide Technical Support for the Establishment and Strengthening of National Public Health Institutes in AU Member States

- Conducted the Annual Conference of African National Public Health Institute
- Provided technical support for the establishment of Egypt CDC, Sudan PHI and Kenya PHI.
- Supported the development of legal framework and strategic plan for South Sudan Public Health Institute (SSPHI).
- Organized a high-level advocacy workshop to ministers, undersecretaries and directors of MoH and other relevant line ministries of South Sudan, to create awareness about SSPHI and



Africa CDC in collaboration with ECSA establishing Event Based Surveillance in Lesotho

fast track the establishment.

- Trained **21** public health experts from Somalia National Institute of Health and Djibouti PHI on surveillance and data management.

2. Africa CDC Institute for Workforce Development

- Trained **20** fellows from **14** countries in public health leadership, as part of the Kofi Annan Global health leadership program in partnership with the Kofi Annan Foundation and Susan Thompson foundation.
- The first eight EDCTP – Africa CDC supported Epidemiologists (Fellows) have commenced their masters training at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).
- Supported the advanced FETP training of **63** Epidemiologists from both Central and Southern African regions through Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation’s Africa CDC capacity building grant.
- On boarded the inaugural cohort (**30** Fellows) of the Global Nursing Leadership Program, In partnership with Harvard T.H Chan School of public health.
- Held the first consultative workshop on health workforce development in Africa
- Held the first experience sharing meeting on health workforce development as part of the European Union for health security in Africa.

3. Initiatives for Member States

- African Epidemic Service (AES), an elite workforce hosted and directed by the African Union, was established as part of Africa CDC’s capacity building initiative to strengthen core public competencies in Member States.
- Launched the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Leadership Training Programme (PHEPR-LTP)-a leadership programme aimed at nurturing a unique type of leadership in safely managing the progressively increasing public health emergencies in Africa through collaborative approach.

4. Strengthen the research Capacity in Africa

- A concept note to develop a continental research agenda has been developed, preparations for the workshop is ongoing.
- Organized a two-day online training workshop on research ethics during epidemics.
- COVID-19 vaccine perception have been conducted in **15** Member States
- Established Vaccine Confidence working group aims at doing periodic vaccine acceptance surveys.

7. Regional Collaborating Centres (RCCs)

Eastern Africa RCC

The Eastern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre (Eastern Africa RCC) was officially launched on 1st October 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya. The event was organized by Africa CDC in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Kenya. It was attended by high-level delegates including Ministers of Health in the region. The Eastern Africa RCC has been working to strengthen its capacity to fully support the Member States.

- The Eastern Africa Regional Technical Advisory Committee (ReTAC) inaugural meeting was conducted in Kigali, Rwanda from **9th to 10th December 2021**.
- The regional ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) meetings were held bimonthly to share public health information and best practices among the Member States in the region.
- Engaged with the RECs and civic societies to enhance regional networking and collaboration

Southern Africa RCC

- The SA-RCC was officially launched by Her Excellency, Mrs. Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Former Vice President of the Republic of Zambia on the **31st March 2021**, making this the first Africa CDC RCC to be officially launched.
- Held the inaugural Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (RMSC) meeting of Ministers of Health of the Southern African Region
- Held the second Regional Technical Advisory Committee (ReTAC) meeting in South Africa

Central Africa RCC

- Supported the organization of regional workshops and trainings in Central Africa including:
 - Africa Union Health information Exchange Policy and Standards for Health Information Systems validation workshop
 - AvoHC training

Southern RCC: Regional Ministers of Health pose for a photo during the Regional Ministerial Steering Committee meeting

Africa CDC: Eastern Africa CDC Official launch ceremony, 01 October 2021 Nairobi



- Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG meeting for Central and Western countries
- Coordinated country engagement virtual meetings for the “Saving lives and livelihoods (SLL)” project in Central Africa
- Supported the training of trainers of community health workers in the sub-region in risk communication and community engagement



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1-3 Eastern Africa RCC Official launch ceremony, 01 October 2021 Nairobi

4 The Kofi Annan fellowship training program, Nairobi, Kenya

5 Southern RCC: Launch of the Centre on 3rd March 2021

8. Scientific Publications in 2021

Africa CDC continues to be a leader in evidence generation both at the continent and global levels. Through the science office, below peer-reviewed papers were published in different journals for 2021.

1. Alam U, Nabyonga-Orem J, Mohammed A, Malac DR, Nkengasong JN, Moeti MR. Redesigning health systems for global health security. *Lancet Glob Health*. 2021 Apr;9(4):e393-e394. doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30545-3. Epub 2021 Feb 10. PMID: 33581050.
2. Inzaule SC, Tessema SK, Kebede Y, Ogwel Ouma AE, Nkengasong JN. Genomic-informed pathogen surveillance in Africa: opportunities and challenges. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2021 Sep;21(9):e281-e289. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(20)30939-7. Epub 2021 Feb 12. PMID: 33587898; PMCID: PMC7906676.
3. Nkengasong JN. COVID-19: unprecedented but expected. *Nat Med*. 2021 Mar;27(3):364. doi: 10.1038/s41591-021-01269-x. PMID: 33723449.
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9. Priorities for 2022

The Africa Union, through the Africa CDC, launched an ambitious strategy – the Africa's New Public Health Order, which calls for continental collaboration to bolster African manufacturing capacity for vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics; strengthen public health institutions; expand the public health workforce; establish respectful, action-oriented partnerships; and engage with the private sector. The key priorities for 2022 to support this strategy are:

1. Strengthen health-related surveillance systems for improved public health decision making and action.	2. Develop and strengthen information systems that inform and support public health needs and actions in Africa.	3. Strengthen Africa's clinical and public health laboratory systems and networks.
4. Ensure effective public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities	5. Strengthen public health institutions and improve evidence-based decision making and practice	6. Strengthen Member States' health systems to prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases to achieve positive health outcomes

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