



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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*Cover Photo: Opening Session of the
CPHIA 2022, Kigali, Rwanda*

Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Annual Report for 2022. As we reflect on the year gone by, I am pleased by the quality and reach of our work at Africa CDC, and encouraged by the progress that Africa is making in safeguarding its health.

In 2022, we continued to strive for excellence in our efforts to achieve our goals and objectives in delivering exceptional returns for the African Union (AU) Member States. The Africa CDC staff and partners have worked tirelessly to ensure we remain focused on delivering outstanding results in a challenging and changing environment.

Our commitment to continued improvement and innovation is reflected in our successes, from introducing new programs, expanding our partnerships, and strengthening our Regional Coordinating Centres (RCCs). We are proud to have been consistent in growth while maintaining the highest standards of quality and professionalism.

This annual report presents key highlights of our results and are a testament to our staff's hard work and dedication to safeguarding Africa's health. We are indebted to the continued support of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Africa CDC Governing Board, and the Technical and Advisory Council of Africa CDC.

Overall, it has been another successful year for the Africa CDC, for Africa and health security in general. I am grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work with you in the years ahead.

Thank you.

January 2023.



Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma
Acting Director
Africa CDC





About Africa CDC

Africa CDC is an autonomous health institution of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

Vision

A safer, healthier, coordinated, and prosperous Africa, in which Member States can efficiently prevent diseases and promote health, implement surveillance and detection, and be prepared to respond effectively to health threats.

Mission

Strengthen Africa's public health institutions' capacities, capabilities, and partnerships to prevent, detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats based on science, evidence-based policy, and data-driven interventions and programs.

Africa CDC's Objectives

- Establish early warning and response surveillance platforms to address all health threats and health emergencies and natural disasters in a timely and effective manner.
- Assist Member States to address gaps in capabilities required for compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).
- Support and/or conduct regional- and country-level hazard mapping and risk assessments for Member States.
- Support Member States in health emergency responses, particularly those which have been declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).
- Support health promotion and disease prevention through health systems strengthening, by addressing infectious and non-communicable diseases, environmental health and NTDs.
- Promote partnership and collaboration among Member States to address emerging and endemic diseases and public health emergencies.
- Harmonize disease control and prevention policies and the surveillance systems in Member States.
- Support Member States in public health capacity-building through medium- and long-term field epidemiological and laboratory training programmes.

Our work

Africa CDC works in the following **strategic areas**:

- Disease Control and Prevention
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Laboratory Systems and Networks
- National Public Health Institutes and Research
- Public Health Information Systems
- Surveillance and Disease Intelligence

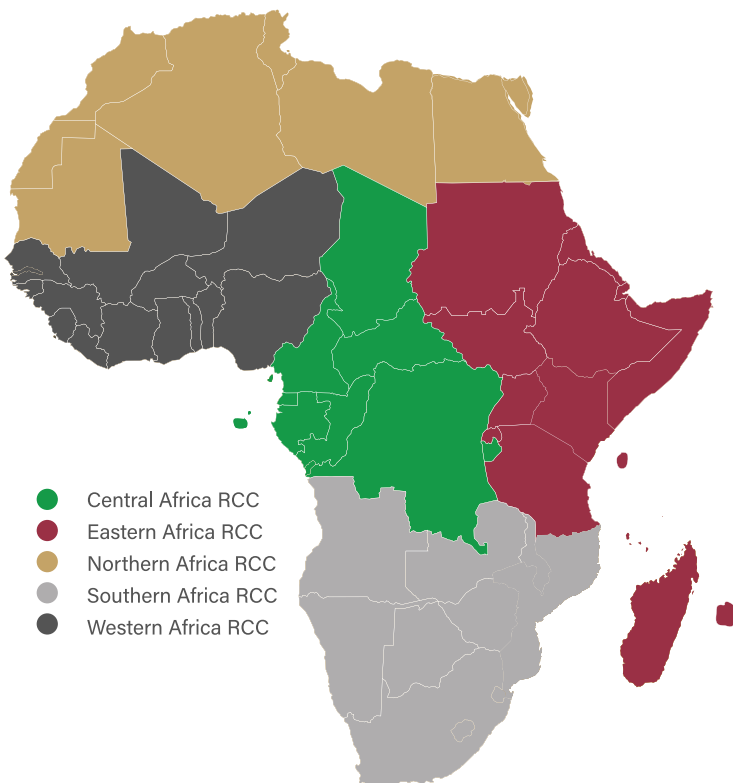
Africa CDC Institutes

- Institute of Pathogen Genomics (IPG)
- Africa CDC Institute for Workforce Development

Regional Coordinating Centres

The RCCs serve as hubs for Africa CDC surveillance, preparedness and emergency response activities and coordinate regional public health initiatives by Member States in consultation with Africa CDC headquarters.

Administratively, Africa CDC is designed to operate a decentralized model that allows it to work with National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) of Member State through five Regional Collaborating Centres located in *, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia, * for the Northern Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Western Africa, and Southern Africa regions, respectively.







COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES



1. Epidemiologic Update for Africa as of 31 December 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout the year 2022, and by December, almost 12.5 million cases had been reported from African Union (AU) Member States. About 256,541 deaths had been reported in the same period, representing a cumulative case-fatality ratio of 2.1%. On a positive note, more than 11.5 million cases had recovered, a 95% recovery rate.

2. Strategic Initiatives

Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) Initiative

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) initiative is a partnership between the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Mastercard Foundation and is designed to rapidly scale up COVID-19 vaccination on the continent with a target of achieving 70% coverage. The multi-year Initiative is deploying \$1.5 billion for targeted intervention in critical areas to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Africa and hasten the continent's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The partnership builds on the tremendous and ongoing efforts of the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT), and other initiatives globally to make COVID-19 vaccines available to AU Member States.

The SLL Initiative aims to;

1. purchase COVID-19 vaccines for at least 65 million people.
2. enable the delivery and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
3. facilitate vaccines manufacturing in Africa by focusing on human capital development.
4. strengthen the capacity of the Africa CDC.

In 2022, the SLL initiative started active implementation in 19 AU Member States. These include Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Other countries are at advanced planning stages.



Update as of 31st December 2022

12,216,480 *Number of cases reported in the continent*

11,516,604 *Recovered cases*

256,541 *Number of deaths*

2.1% *Cumulative CFR*

Vaccination

1,075,905,365 *Cumulative doses administered*

871,534,001 *Total population vaccinated*

>70% *Vaccinated*
Rwanda (74), Seychelles (77), Liberia (80), Mauritius (88)

Least (%) *Vaccinated*
Burundi (0.2), Sahrawi Republic (0.1), DRC (7), Madagascar (7), Senegal (8)

COVID-19 SLL vaccination exercise



H.E Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and Guest of Honour, during the SLL Southern Africa Region Implementation Launch in Zambia

Through the urgent support phase of the SLL programme, **2,573,762 doses of COVID-19** were administered across Africa, thereby averting vaccine expiration. Cumulatively, including large-scale vaccination drives, the total number of vaccines administered on the continent through this support as of 31st December 2022 was **18,758,030**. The Initiative through various implementing partners extended support to AU Member States in targeted Risk Communication and Community Engagement to generate demand among the populace and reducing vaccine hesitancy. During the same reporting period, over 106 staff members were hired by the initiative to implement activities in various work streams of the Africa CDC.

The SLL initiative aims to expand its impact by accelerating and integrating COVID-19 vaccination with other public health priority areas like routine immunization and Primary Healthcare.

The AU COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative

The initiative was launched by H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission on 7th April 2022 with the aim to establish a network of COVID-19 vaccination youth champions across the continent to accelerate the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination in Africa. The word “Bingwa” means “Champion” in Kiswahili.



COVID-19 vaccination exercise in Kajiado county, Kenya

The Bingwa initiative is implemented by Africa CDC with support from the AU Commission, and seeks to leverage the comparative advantage of Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) initiative.

The initiative seeks to establish a network of COVID-19 vaccination youth champions across the continent **to advocate for COVID-19 Vaccination uptake and mobilize their friends, families and communities to vaccinate against COVID-19** in Africa. This initiative is further motivated by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa's call for innovative ways to scale up vaccinations across the continent and seeks to leverage the comparative advantage of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) Programme.

To accelerate the implementation of the Bingwa initiative across the Continent, the African Union through Africa CDC in partnership with partners (Mastercard Foundation, GIZ, Packard Foundation), recruited and trained Bingwas (Youth vaccination champions). In November 2022, Tanzania hosted the Eastern Africa Region training of 100 Bingwas from the fourteen (14) AU Member States.

The AU Bingwa initiative in partnership with GIZ and Trace TV conducted several activations (community engagement) in Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia (reached out over 25,000 young people including over 1,100 vaccinations on site) to engage and educate African youth about the COVID-19 vaccine, counter misinformation, and stimulate massive demand for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The AU Bingwa Initiative also successfully organized the Africa CDC inaugural Youth Pre-Conference on the margins of the second Africa CDC International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA2022) on 10-11 December 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda under the Theme 'Meaningful youth engagement for advancing sustainable health security in Africa.' As a direct outcome of this successful conference and as part of implementing the recommendations, the Africa CDC Acting Director General announced the appointment of the inaugural Youth Advisory Team for Health (YAT4H), effective 1 February 2023.

Advisory Bodies

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa CDC established advisory bodies to support strategy and implementation of the various continental initiatives. As the acute phase of the pandemic passes, Africa CDC thanked the experts who supported the process under various bodies including the Africa CDC Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials (CONCVACT), and the Africa Vaccines Delivery Alliance (AVDA).



Bingwa Initiative campaigns targeting youth participation in COVID-19 vaccination

3. Strengthening Personnel Training and Deployment in the Continent

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed serious gaps that exist in the public health sector in the continent. AU Member States called on Africa CDC to support in re-building and strengthening their primary healthcare workforce. High-level technical support and training was provided to a total of **119 participants** from **53** Member States on temperature sensitive logistics in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP).

To support the expansion of COVID-19 testing including implementation of Antigen-based Rapid Diagnostic Tests (Ag-RDTs) for community surveillance, Africa CDC facilitated training of **816 experts** on Ag-RDT for COVID-19 ensuring over **21 million samples** from 30 Member States were tested. The National Capacity for External Quality Assessment for COVID-19 Ag-RDT was also strengthened in the continent, with a total of 105 assessors trained; of these, 76 have been certified in 8 Member States.

Training for laboratory personnel on the laboratory quality management system (LQMS) in one health concept was conducted across the continent with a total of 69 experts trained in LQMS using the newly developed curriculum by Africa CDC.

Africa CDC provided infection, prevention and control trainings for healthcare workers and port health officers in 17 countries.

4. Deployment of Test Kits and Medical Supplies to Support the COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 diagnostics and vaccines have been key to Africa's response to the pandemic. In 2022, Africa CDC distributed over 17 million Ag-RDT test kits and almost a **100 million doses** of COVID-19 vaccines to 27 AU Member States through the **Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP)** and **Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT)**, helping ensure more equitable access to vital diagnostic tools and vaccines.

Various medical supplies worth over **450 million dollars**, including Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) materials, testing kits and hospital care items were distributed to **53 Member States**. Africa CDC also procured cold chain equipment which included; Ultra Low Temperature Freezers, Lab Refrigerators, Freeze Free Vaccine Carriers and monitoring devices.

A total of **75 Oxygen Concentrators** with accessories were provided to Eswatini, Ethiopia, Somalia, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe. Procurement and distribution of emergency public health disease priority kits worth over USD 2.3 million was also done across the continent.

Apart from purchase of COVID-19 test kits, AU Member States also received guidelines on COVID-19 testing strategy, interim guidance on COVID-19 rapid antigen self-testing, and COVID-19 Test to Treat guidelines. Twenty-seven (27) AU Member States received support for COVID-19 sequencing to analyze over 115,968 genomes.

*Africa CDC Ag Director
Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma,
receiving COVID-19
supplies*



5. Financing the Response

Since its establishment in April 2020, the AU COVID-19 Response Fund has received pledges and contributions from Member states, private sector organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and foundations. It has so far collected \$38,339,292 million USD. The AU COVID-19 Response Fund will however now transition to be the Africa Epidemics Fund (AfEF) following the decision of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of February 2022.

6. Sectional Reports

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) are essential components of a broader health emergency preparedness and response action plan. For public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, risk communication includes the range of communication actions required through the preparedness, response and recovery phases, in order to encourage informed decision making, positive behavior change, and the maintenance of trust.

During the year, Africa CDC supported AU Member States to strengthen their capacities and capabilities in RCCE. A total of 53 risk communication personnel were trained across the continent. To equip media personnel with better ways of communicating to the public, two capacity building sessions bringing a total of 30 media personnel were organized to build skills of health reporters from the continent on topics such as infodemic management, science reporting and health communication. Africa CDC also actively participated in the World Press Freedom Day 2022 celebrations to champion and advocate for increased investment in media freedom initiative.



COVID-19 Response Fund Financial Status (as of 31st December 2022)

\$43,755,299 COVID-19
 Response Fund
 pledges.

\$38,339,292 received (\$
 34,397,819 in
 cash and \$
 3,941,473 in
 kind)

Risk Communication and Community Engagement training in Cotonou, Benin





République Démocratique
Ministère de la Santé

Protégeons-nous contre l'ÉBOLA

Quels sont les **SIGNES** de la maladie
Elle se manifeste entre 2 à 21 jours après la contamination

Fièvre



Vomissement



Comment éviter la maladie à virus Ebola



Ne pas toucher ni manipuler sans protection une personne malade ou décédée d'Ebola



Lavez-vous fréquemment les mains à l'eau propre et au savon ou à la cendre



Ne pas toucher sans protection les effets (habits) d'un malade



Le vaccin contre la maladie à virus Ebola

Si vous êtes un personnel de santé ou de l'entourage d'un malade, faites-vous un vaccin préventif qui est efficace et gratuit



OTHER ACTIVITIES



*Ag Director Africa CDC,
Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma
chatting with UNICEF
Eastern and Southern Africa
Regional Director, Mohamed
Fall during the CPHIA 2022,
Kigali, Rwanda*

1. Strengthening Leadership and Building Action-Oriented Partnerships

Africa CDC continued to champion the vision of a New Public Health Order which embodies using Africa's priorities as the basis for preparedness, response and partnerships in the health security and broader public health space. The year 2022 was a landmark year for the Africa CDC as efforts were increased to further support the public health preparedness agenda, using the New Public Health Order as a guiding vision.

Leveraging Partnerships for Public Health Security

Partnerships at both the global, continental and country levels are essential to enhance the reach of Africa CDC programmes, increase their leverage and ensure effective multi-sectoral action. Engagement with governments, development partners and civil society organisations in health and across sectors elevated Africa CDC's strategic role as convener, leader and facilitator, influencing health legislation, emergency response and providing a strong platform to achieve synergies and support progress towards securing Africa's health security. To facilitate a broader base of partners, Africa signed over 25 MoUs during the year with diverse partners from Member States, non-African governments, philanthropies, implementing partners, technical partners and non-state actors.

Autonomy of Africa CDC

The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 35th Ordinary Session in February 2022 granted Africa CDC operational autonomy. In

July 2022, AU Assembly, delegating its authority to the AU Executive Council, adopted the revised statute of the Africa CDC. These decisions mean that Africa CDC is now able to handle all its operations and therefore move faster to support any health emergencies; will handle all its administrative, financial, procurement and human resource needs; has authority to declare a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS); and now has a Committee of Heads of State and Government as the highest decision-making body in its governance. Implementation of all these decisions have already started.

New Public Health Order

Africa CDC's vision of a New Public Health Order (NPHO) for Africa was launched by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat in 2021. It constitutes a paradigm shift in Africa's approach to health security and public health and is expected to be implemented by Africa CDC, the AU organs and institutions, AU Member States and all relevant partners and stakeholders. Its five (5) pillars are (1) Strengthened public health institutions at country and continental levels; (2) Strengthened Public Health Workforce; (3) Expanded local manufacturing for health products; (4) Increased domestic resources including financing; and (5) Action-oriented and respectful partnerships based on Africa's priorities.

In 2022, Africa CDC leadership engaged with AU policy organs to explain the vision and expectations of AU Member States. Key partners and platforms were also engaged including at the AU Assembly of Heads of States and Government, the Executive Council, the relevant Specialized Technical Ministerial Committees (STCs) of the AU, and the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC). Other platforms included the World Health Assembly, the Regional Committee of the WHO African and Eastern Mediterranean Regions, the World Health Summit, the UN General Assembly, and the Global Health Security Agenda meeting. Africa CDC and the AU also convened a Special Side Event in the side-lines of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022, where AU Heads of State and Government issued a **Call To Action: Africa's New Public Health Order**, which called for full implementation of the NPHO.

Partnership for Africa Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM)

The PAVM was launched in April 2021 and during the year the Continental Framework for Action (FFA), with its 8 bold programmes, was endorsed by the AU policy organs in February 2022. Africa CDC defined its 22 priority diseases that will benefit from local vaccines manufacturing. Africa CDC's focus of work in this area is human capital development and has supported the training of 54 experts from 13 AU Member States on vaccinology in partnership with the International Vaccines Institute (IVI). All five (5) AU Member States who

Partnership side event at the CPHIA 2022, Kigali, Rwanda



are at an advanced stage of developing manufacturing capacity (front-runner countries) have had their National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) be part of a continental network whose capacities and capabilities are now being built and improved. Engagement with existing manufacturers on the continent also continues to ensure the best preparations and understanding of Africa CDC's support to the ambition of Africa to manufacture 60% of its own human vaccines by 2040. Africa CDC also established a research and development centre for vaccines manufacturing at the Institute Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal.

The Africa CDC Ministerial Executive Leadership Programme

The Africa CDC Ministerial Executive Leadership Programme (MELP) was launched in 2022. It's a tailored programme that aims to achieve a political strategy for transformative leadership through the New Public Health Order. It is open to all health ministers from the 55 AU Member States and the first forum is planned in the side-lines of the 36th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2023.

Strengthening Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOCs)

In July 2022 in the side-lines of the 41st Session of the Executive Council of the AU, and the 4th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting (MYCM) of the AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Lusaka, Zambia, the Africa CDC and AU convened a meeting of Heads of State and Government hosted by H.E. Hakainde Hichilema President of the Republic of Zambia. **The Lusaka Call To Action: Strengthening Public Health Emergency Operations Centres in Africa** was launched. The Call seeks to accelerate establishment and/or strengthening of PHEOCs in all AU Member States by 2026.

Delegates hold the Lusaka Call-to-Action document to strengthen Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOC) in Africa



World Bank - Africa CDC Support Program to Combat Current and Future Public Health Threats Project

The Africa CDC renewed the existing partnership with the World Bank through a new investment of \$100 million that was signed on 12 September 2022. The objective of the multi-year investment is to enhance the capacity of Africa CDC to further support AU Member States in preventing, detecting and responding to current and future public health threats.

The Rockefeller Foundation

The Africa CDC and the Rockefeller Foundation signed a new agreement worth \$4.3 million to address two key areas over a period of 2 years across the continent, specifically; 1) strengthening Africa CDC's Regional Coordinating Centers, with a focus on knowledge management and learning, and 2) advancing Africa CDC's New Public Health Order with a focus on National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) and Continental Centres of Excellence.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

To support COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, Africa CDC and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation agreed on a second phase grant of \$2 million on November 15, 2022. The grant will focus on five key areas of support, including: (1) training personnel within the vaccine delivery system, (2) procurement and distribution of ancillary commodities for vaccination, (3) supporting AU Member States with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for vaccination, (4) technical assistance to AU Member States through short term experts, and (5) strengthening Africa CDC through technical oversight to effectively deliver on this grant.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) - Emergency Preparedness & Health Economics Programme (HEP)

In October 20, 2022, Africa CDC and the BMGF signed an agreement of \$1.4 million to enable and strengthen evidence synthesis and policy translation capabilities within the Health Economics Programme of the Africa CDC. The investment will be leveraged to enhance relevant health economics expertise within Africa CDC and support to AU Member States to generate local evidence and disseminate policy recommendations to inform priority-setting and investments within the health sector.

The BMGF further agreed to a \$1.3 million investment under the Gates Philanthropy Partners (GPP) Catalysing the Joint Emergency Action Plan for Africa on November 28, 2022. The grant focuses on building and strengthening the partnership between Africa CDC and the 2 WHO Regional Offices of AFRO and EMRO, in preparing, detecting, and responding to health emergencies across Africa.

Conference on Public Health in Africa

Africa CDC hosted the second Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA2022) on 13-15 December 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. This was the first in-person edition under the theme *Preparedness for Future Pandemics and Post-Pandemic Recovery: Africa at a Crossroad*. It was a unique platform for leaders, researchers, policymakers, youth, and other stakeholders from Africa and beyond to share scientific findings and public health perspectives including creating new collaborations for innovations across the continent. Over 2,500 attended in-person

with 165 speakers, 50 oral abstracts, 175 posters and over 50 official side events to showcase public health efforts on the continent. Ministers of Health from Africa and high-level speakers elevated African leadership in two special sessions. The next conference, CPHIA2023, will be held in Lusaka, Zambia in November 2023.

Africa CDC - DRASA Continental Award for Emergency Health Workers

The Africa CDC - DRASA Continental Award for Emergency Health Workers was officially launched at CPHIA2022 in Kigali, Rwanda in December 2022. The award aims to recognise outstanding frontline emergency health workers in Africa, while highlighting and remembering the heroic efforts of Dr Ameyo Stella Adadevoh (DRASA) in curbing a possible outbreak of Ebola in Africa's most populous country and city. The award is open to all frontline health workers and the winner will be announced in the sidelines of CPHIA annually. The first award went to Dr Stella posthumously.

2. Emergency Preparedness and Response

Strengthening Public Health Emergency Operations Centres

Recognizing the critical role of public health emergency operations centres (PHEOCs) in responding to emergencies, Africa CDC assessed and supported six (6) national PHEOCs in Burundi, Malawi, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe to establish and/or strengthen PHEOCs. The support includes ICT equipment, information systems infrastructure development and technical training to operationalize PHEOCs. Africa CDC also set up a backup PHEOCs in the three Regional Coordination Centres.

Distribution of emergency response supplies



Strengthening Public Health Emergency preparedness and readiness

To strengthen the capacity of Member States to evaluate their capabilities and capacities to effectively detect and respond to public health emergencies, Africa CDC gave training to 35 experts from 24 countries in public health simulation exercises, and 24 experts to conduct Intra-Action and After-Action Reviews; moreover, for East and Central African regions were held in Ethiopia from in November 2022.

Supporting Disease Outbreaks Response to Member States

The Africa CDC supported Member States in their effort to respond to different public health emergencies during the year 2022 including:

- monitored and supported through RCC for 22 disease outbreaks and 1 public health event across the 55 Member States.
- supported response to 9 diseases outbreaks and 1 public health event (storm Ana) across 12 Member States with deployment of staff and assets.
- Deployed 23 rapid responders through the African Health Volunteers Corps (AVoHC) mechanism to support Ebola response efforts in the DRC and Uganda; this is on top of the pandemic response support deployments.
- Developed guiding documents and materials for EVD and Polio to support outbreaks response in the region.

African Volunteers Health Corps (AVoHC)

AVoHC provides a mechanism for the rapid deployment of experts from AU Member States. Strategic documents to make AVoHC more efficient were developed and are currently in use including AVoHC strategic plan and framework.

Jointly with WHO, joint scoping missions to explain the AVoHC and the WHO initiative on Strengthening and Utilizing Response Groups for Emergencies (SURGE) initiatives were conducted in Nigeria and Ethiopia. The AVoHC-Net platform, a web-based system for administration and management of emergency rapid response team of experts was also rolled out in Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

A high level delegation from the Ministry of Health of South Africa H.E. Dr Joseph Mathume Phaahla and the U.S Ambassador to South Africa, officially open Africa's first Regional Centre of Excellence for Biosafety and Biosecurity - 08 Dec 2022.



3. Laboratory Systems and Networks

Africa CDC coordinates laboratory system strengthening efforts in Africa for effective and efficient diseases surveillance and outbreak response. The focus is on providing support to geospatial mapping of laboratory functions, implementation of comprehensive laboratory strategic plans and quality management systems, accreditation of national reference laboratories in AU Member States, building capacities and systems for pathogen genomics surveillance, access to quality laboratory diagnostics, cross border specimen transportation and laboratory biosafety and biosecurity.





Regional Trainings on Quality Management System using a one health approach

Biosafety and Biosecurity

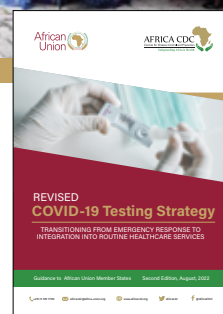
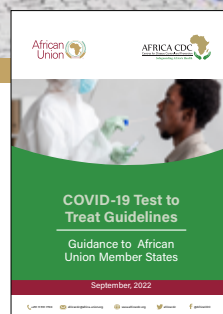
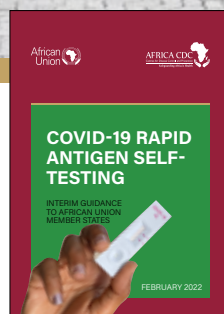
The Biosafety and Biosecurity (BSBS) program goal is to strengthen the BSBS systems of AU Member States to comply with international regulations including the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 and the Global Health Security (GHS) and the Action Package Prevent -3.

A Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework for the Africa Region was developed and adopted by the 41st Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council. Five Regional and Continental BSBS Technical Working Groups were established and operationalized to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the legal framework.

Regional Training and Certification Program for BSBS Experts was developed and officially launched in April 2022. Regional Centre of Excellence for Southern Africa, and Examination and Certification Committee established. The program trained 35 candidates in Level 1 Training and Certification in 2022 alone.



Participants at the consultative workshop on COVID-19 testing strategy and test to treat guidelines held in Accra, Ghana





Africa PGI annual symposium hosted by the Africa CDC in November 2022

Africa CDC also officially launched a Regional and Certification Framework for Institutions Handling High Risk Pathogens in August 2022.

Laboratory Quality Management System

Forty-three (43) AU Member States were supported in capacity building to strengthen quality Management system to improve surveillance for prevention, control and response to epidemics.

A continental training curriculum for Quality Management System using the one health framework was developed through a consultative approach. The framework will be launched in 2023.

Sixty-nine (69) laboratory personnel from 43 AU Member States were also trained on improving laboratory quality systems in Africa.

Access to Diagnostics

Still in 2022, Africa CDC supported AU Member States to strengthen and expand diagnostic capacity and capability. These include:

- Expansion of COVID-19 testing including implementation of antigen-based RDTs for community surveillance;
- Strengthening AU Member States' Capacity for External Quality Assessment for SARS-CoV-2 antigen-based RDTs in Africa;
- Distribution of laboratory reagents and supplies;
- Development of various guidance documents for AU Member States in collaboration with partners;
- Expansion of COVID-19 testing including implementation of antigen-based RDTs for community surveillance;

816

Trained laboratory personnel on Ag- RDT for SARS- oV-2 testing

105

External Quality assessors trained and 76 (72%) assessors were certified

49

Laboratory managers and directors participated and trained on Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP)

13,710

SARS- oV-2 spe imens were referred

15

Sequencing equipment were distributed in 2 22

116,000

Reagents for SARS- oV-2 sequen ing were distributed in 2 22

86,000

SARS- oV-2 Genomes sequen ed and shared by Member States in 2 22

213

personnel trained on sample management and referral; mole ular testing; genomi epidemiology and data analyti s, and bioinformati s analysis

- Development of the Interim guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing;
- Updating the COVID-19 testing strategy;
- Producing the COVID-19 Test to Treat guidelines; and
- Conducting capacity building in laboratory leadership and management in Africa.

Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative (Africa PGI)

Over 100 disease outbreaks are detected annually across Africa. Genomic sequencing technology can provide the scientific evidence needed for health systems to better prevent, identify and track these outbreaks. This will help public health experts to stay ahead of novel pathogens and re-emerging diseases.

Africa CDC's Pathogen Genomic Initiative (Africa PGI) is working to expand genomics and bioinformatics capacity in national public health institutions and reference laboratories in Africa. A total of 11 trainings were conducted for public health and 213 laboratory personnel from 51 Member States participated. These trainings included sample referral, molecular testing, data analytics, and bioinformatics analysis for pathogen genomic surveillance.

Five regional consultative workshops on Implementation of Public Health Pathogen Genomics were conducted between October 2021 to June 2022. The initiative also conducted an Annual symposium on the theme "Beyond COVID-19: Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics for Health Security in Africa" which brought 144 representatives from 50 AU Member States and 31 partner and stakeholder organizations.

4. Strengthening Disease Control and Prevention Across the Continent

Advancing Community Health Workforce

Community health worker (CHW) programmes can be a powerful tool for improving primary health care. To promote cross country learning in community health, webinars covering topics such as the role of community health workers in pandemic preparedness and response and community health financing sustainability in Africa were held with more than 1500 attendees cumulatively, from both public and private sectors. Three Community health advocacy and capacity building workshops to facilitate country engagement and partnerships were also held during the year. These were attended by 62 Directors of Community Health and Directors of Primary Health Care programs from 32 AU Member States. The workshops were aimed at developing a costed continental Community Health strategic plan, an Advocacy strategy and Investment case for community health.

To support the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Uganda, Africa CDC trained, equipped, and deployed 3000 CHWs in Kassanda, Wakisso and Mukono districts.

The year also welcomed three partnerships to scale up community health workers programmes on the continent: (1) for Resilient & Empowered African Community Health (REACH) with IFRC, (2) with Africa First Frontline

(AFF) and the Financing Alliance for Health, and (3) partnership with UNICEF for Community Health system strengthening.

Tackling Non-Communicable Diseases, Injuries and Mental Health

Africa CDC continued to support AU Member States in the prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). A five-year Strategic Plan on NCDs, Injuries and Mental health was launched, with a detailed implementation plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

On capacity building, a total of 30 NCDs national managers were equipped with skills and knowledge on ways to implement evidence-based programmes at country level. A regional workshop to strengthen Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) integration into national emergency preparedness and response plans was also held and an implementation plan agreed.

Combating endemic and Neglected Tropical Diseases

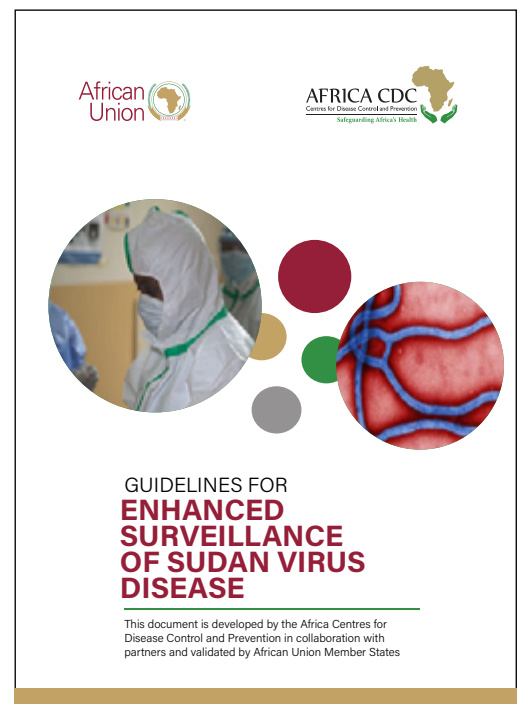
Africa CDC initiated support to AU Member States on endemic (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, and malaria) and neglected tropical diseases by conducting several consultations, both high-level and technical, to identify key priority areas for impactful disease control and prevention.

In addition, a technical training workshop on viral hepatitis C was conducted with the Ministry of Health and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt for AU Member States to gain from Egypt's successful viral hepatitis C screen-and-treat programme.

The report on a continental survey on access to diagnostics and treatment for fungal diseases was validated and launched at a side-event on the margins of CPHIA 2022. This report will form the basis of support needed by AU MS for sustainable improvement of access to diagnostics and treatment of fungal diseases in Africa.

Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network

This flagship programme of Africa CDC continued implementation of key activities in Central Africa and was launched in Western Africa followed by implementation of key regional laboratory strengthening activities, including the strengthening of Laboratory quality management system, supporting the basic Laboratory information system to reduce the turn round time and strengthening the biosafety and biosecurity of selected National reference Laboratories of the Central and Western Africa Regional Coordinating Centers (RCCs).



Guidelines for enhanced surveillance of Sudan Ebola virus disease

5. Surveillance and Disease Intelligence in Africa

The Africa CDC continues to strengthen health-related surveillance systems for improved public health decision-making and action for the continent. Africa CDC has been supporting MS to reduce the burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through enhanced surveillance and capacity building; establishing robust early warning

systems (riding on event-based surveillance) using the one health approach and enhancing mortality surveillance leveraging on innovative digital solutions. In addition, Africa CDC has been improving cross-border collaboration and health information exchange as a means to achieving regional and continent-wide health security.

Antimicrobial Resistance

The Africa CDC launched the African Antimicrobial Treatment Guidelines for Common Bacterial Pathogens for African Union Member States. The guidelines will serve as a template for countries or other sub-national units that may develop local guidelines, and will promote appropriate use of antimicrobials in human beings.

The Africa CDC Legal Framework for Infection, Prevention and Control and standards for safe healthcare facilities in Africa was also adopted by the specialised technical committee for Health, Drug Control and Population. This tool can be used by AU Member States to develop legal instruments or amend existing ones, to increase support for infection prevention and control programmes at national, sub-national and facility level.

Africa CDC also collected data of 2016-2019 on AMR across Africa, in 14 AU Member States and over 200 laboratories, through the Mapping Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership (MAAP). The findings show high prevalence of 5 AMR priority pathogens in Africa; Carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, *methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)*, 3rd generation cephalosporin-resistant Enterobacterales and Fluoroquinolone-resistant *Salmonella* species.

Africa CDC also supported strengthening of external quality assessment for pathogen identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing in 14 AU Member States. Two regional centres of excellence were set up in Senegal and Kenya for regional capacity and coordination to provide bacteriology external quality assessment. Over 250 participants from 14 AU Member States were trained as part of workforce development on building human resource and capacity for AMR surveillance.

On advocacy, Africa CDC participated in the 3rd Global Ministerial Meeting on AMR, in Muscat, Oman, and convened a high-level meeting for AMR advocacy during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2023, in collaboration with African Quadripartite organisations, and the Government of Senegal, in Dakar, Senegal.

One Health

Africa CDC provided technical support to 8 AU Member States, 2 Regional Economic Communities and partners with building One Health capacity including implementation of Africa CDC One health framework for National Public Health Institutes.

Africa CDC in collaboration with the AU- Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) convened representatives of relevant African Union agencies to set up an AU inter-agency group on One Health. The group will coordinate, support, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the African Union One Health Strategy for Zoonotic Disease Prevention and Control across the Member States.

Africa CDC also convened a Master Facilitator Training on the One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization (OHZDP) tool to provide the needed expertise

required for supporting AU Member States with the OHZDP process. It will use a multi-sectoral, One Health approach to prioritize zoonotic diseases of greatest concern and develop collaborative next steps, including action plans, to address the identified priority zoonotic diseases.

Event-Based Surveillance

Africa CDC launched the first edition of the Africa CDC event-based surveillance framework in 2018, which has been adapted by 20 AU Member States. This year, following lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa CDC revised this framework and supported eight (8) AU MS to adapt the revised version.

Africa CDC in collaboration with regional partners, developed national guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and Monitoring and Evaluation tools on EBS in five (5) AU Member States (Gambia, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda). In addition, Africa CDC supported these Member States in establishing multi-sector technical working groups consisting of stakeholders from human, animal and environmental sectors to strengthen early warning systems in these countries.

This year, one of Africa CDC's flagship initiative- a digital solution to manage and track public health threats [event management system (EMS)] was developed and deployed in three (3) AU Member States (Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia). This system is supporting these MS in the capturing, tracking and analyses of structured and unstructured data to improve early warning and response.

Africa CDC in collaboration with regional partners trained 1,054 surveillance officers (from human, animal and environment sectors) and community health leaders from six (6) AU Member States (Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique, Rwanda, The Gambia and Tanzania) on EBS and alert management to improve early detection and reporting of public health risks.

Africa CDC organised three (3) regional advocacy workshops, which brought together 82 surveillance directors from 28 AU MS, representatives from regional economic communities and partners within the Central, Northern and Southern regions to develop a road map for the advancement of Epidemic intelligence in the regions. Following this regional workshop, EBS communities of practices were established in all three (3) regions to facilitate information exchange of public health threats.

Following the declaration of the Sudan Ebola virus disease (SVD) outbreak in Uganda and the report of alerts in neighbouring high risk AU MS, Africa CDC developed guidelines for enhanced surveillance of Sudan Ebola virus disease to improve early detection of cases in the MS. To add, Africa CDC established alert desks in three (3) high-risk districts in Uganda to improve community reporting of potential cases of Ebola and other diseases.

During this year, Africa CDC detected and captured 247 events from 47 AU MS which guided its response efforts and strategic planning at country and regional levels. In addition, 52 weekly reports and 88 outbreak briefs were disseminated externally to provide updates to stakeholders and the public on continental public health emergencies.

Mortality Surveillance Program

Africa CDC has been working towards strengthening availability of quality and accurate mortality data for evidence based public health actions and decisions across AU Member States.

In 2022, Africa CDC launched the Continental Framework for strengthening mortality surveillance systems in Africa during a high-level ministerial meeting held in Lusaka Zambia, in Sept 2022. The Vice President of the Republic of Zambia officiated at the launch which was attended by three Ministers of Health from Liberia, Uganda and Zambia and over 130 participants from 50 AU Member States.

The Continental Framework was presented and endorsed by AU Member States during the Expert meeting of the sixth conference of ministers responsible for CRVS in Addis Ababa, Oct 2022; with a recommendation for AU Member States to adopt and implement the guidance for mortality surveillance as provided within the continental framework.

Africa CDC established five regional technical working groups (TWGs) for mortality surveillance in the five regions of the continent (Eastern, Southern, Central, Northern and Western regions). In collaboration with the TWGs, the 2022-2026 continental road-map for implementing the framework for mortality surveillance was developed and validated.

To facilitate the implementation process, Africa CDC developed a training course for epidemiologists and other senior level managers to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to establish and implement mortality surveillance in a harmonised and standardised manner. A total of 26 AU Member States were trained in the process of validating the training materials. The training materials were developed in close consultation with a team of selected subject matter experts and TWG Members from AU Member States.

Africa CDC conducted a readiness assessment and mapping of data sources across the 55 AU Member States to identify the gaps, needs and priorities for mortality data improvement. Survey responses were received from 25 AU Member States and preliminary findings disseminated for further discussion at country level.

Four AU Member States were supported to implement mortality surveillance. South Africa and Uganda were supported to implement rapid mortality surveillance within epidemic settings, Nigeria and Cameroon were supported with stakeholder convening as an Initial process towards domestication of the continental framework.

Cross Border Surveillance

Africa CDC developed a strategic road map to strengthen cross border surveillance and information sharing on the continent at points of entry.

As part of Africa CDC's efforts to contain the SVD outbreak in Uganda, a regional workshop on enhanced surveillance for SVD was held to strengthen cross border Information exchange for public health threats in the eastern region.

Health Information Exchange

Recognising the critical role health information exchange (HIE) plays in advancing regional health security on the continent, Africa CDC developed a health information exchange guideline and standard document aimed at providing AU MS with standards for the establishment of interoperable digital systems at all levels.

This year Africa CDC convened health information experts from 47 MS in all 5 AU regions to validate the Health information exchange (HIE) guidelines and standards document to foster ownership and domestication.

To improve data access, availability and use on the continent, the Africa CDC' EMS was integrated with the Epidemic Intelligence for Open-Source platform (EIOS). This integration has facilitated real time detection and reporting of public health threats from open sources on the continent. In addition, Africa CDC supported three (3) MS (Lesotho, Uganda, and Zambia) to integrate their electronic disease surveillance and response (e-IDSR) solution and EIOS into their EMS.

Africa CDC developed and shared a continental data sharing agreement with AU Member States for signing. This agreement would facilitate data acquisition from AU MS to guide regional and continental strategic planning and resource allocation.

6. Public Health Workforce and Capacity Development

Africa CDC supported strengthening of National Public Health Institutes (NPHI) across AU Member States by assessing NPHIs' organizational structures and program priorities.

According to the desktop assessment, 19(35%) Member States have fully-established NPHIs with clear mandates with scientific and operational autonomy given by an Act or Regulation, 20(36%) Member States are in the

Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA) annual scientific conference- 14-15 November 2022





Commitment to strengthen public health workforce in Africa

process of establishing NPHIs and the remaining 16(29%) Member States have not yet started a process to have one.

To support establishment of new NPHIs and strengthen existing NPHIs, an onsite mentorship and technical assistance was provided to 17 countries in Africa between July and November 2022. Africa CDC shared information on the 3 models of NPHIs that can be adopted by Member States, facilitated the development of roadmaps for the establishment and shared various Legal Frameworks that can be adapted to back up the establishment of the NPHIs. The Member States were advised to respectively set up Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to review the various documents and NPHI models and recommend what will most appropriate to meet the NPHI needs of their respective States.

A high-level advocacy workshop was organized for Members of Parliament and Senior Government Officials and partner organizations in South Sudan to create awareness about NPHI and expedite the adoption of the South Sudan Public Health Institute establishment bill which is expected to pass early 2023.

To strengthen networking among NPHIs, share experiences and discuss on priority public health issues in the continent, a meeting of NPHIs in Africa was conducted on the margin of the 2nd Conference of Public Health in Africa (CPHIA). Continental public health agendas like the role of NPHIs for Health security, Workforce Development, Biosafety and Biosecurity, and Data for Public Health Action were discussed. Suggestions and recommendations were provided by the participants including establishing close working relationship and engagement of political leadership, adequate resource allocation, strengthening of stakeholders' collaboration and complementarity, strengthening of Centers of Excellences, and continuous capacity building for health data collection, warehousing, use and sharing.

Africa CDC Institute for Workforce Development

Workforce development is one of the key pillars of the New Public Health Order because effective public health interventions requires an adequately staffed, highly skilled, diverse, and interdisciplinary workforce. The Flagship programmes include:

- Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Fellowship - seeks to model aspirational African public health leaders to emulate the exemplary leadership qualities of the late Secretary General Kofi Annan and to support them in acquiring advanced skills and competencies needed to strategise, manage and lead public health programmes that will positively transform public health in Africa.
- Kofi Annan Scholars program - aims to place experienced public health experts (from within Africa or African Diaspora) to serve time-limited placements in relevant government ministries, National Public Health Institutes as well as any other significant national health institutions, to guide strategic leadership and management on specific and critical public health challenges faced by those countries.
- Kofi Annan Policy Forum - aspires to create a policy dialogue on contemporary health related issues that challenge our continent.

Recognizing the critical role played by nurses and midwives, Africa CDC in collaboration with Harvard T. Chan School of public health have designed the **Africa CDC - Harvard Global Leadership program** to provide Ministry-level nurses and midwives a foundational understanding and field

experience in global public health and population health management. This Leadership Program was launched on October 29, 2022, with a virtual convening of nationally prominent nurses from across the continent. The program has enrolled 15 nurses in leadership roles from 11 African Countries, with the expected date of graduation being in June 2023.

Africa CDC with partners is supporting the generation and utilisation of data in member states. One such intervention, is the Global Burden of Disease workshops. These trainings were attended by 66 experts from 29-member states from two African regions.

Following a Health Workforce Consultation Session in December 2021, where several recommendations were tabled to grow a health workforce that is fit for the needs of the continent. H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of Republic of South Africa and the African Union (AU) COVID-19 Champion called for the establishment of an **African Union Health Workforce Task Team** to meet current and future health workforce needs of the continent. The call was unanimously endorsed in February 2022, at the 35th Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government. Consequently, the task team core team was established with members consisting of the South African Government, Africa CDC, Amref Health Africa and Seed Global Health to move this agenda forward. The core team has prepared the relevant documents to get the task team foundational team on board and has fund raised to get these critical human resources. Furthermore, the Africa CDC with its partners held two high level side events at the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva Switzerland and at the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA to socialize the mandate of the workforce task team and to advocate for the task team.

As per Africa CDC's mandate to support Member States in capacity building in public health through medium- and long-term field epidemiologic and laboratory training programmes, Africa CDC is currently supporting 63 FETP residents at an advanced level within Southern (48) and Central (15) African Member States. The programme is in its second and final year. Additionally, further support was provided to train 30 candidates in Frontline FETP from 8 Member States in the central African Region.

To build the capacity of Africa CDC staff, an exchange programme between Africa CDC and the Robert Koch Institute named **Developing Global Public Health Leadership (DG-PHaL)** was designed. DG-PHaL aims to prepare a new generation of global public health leaders who are attentive to the impact of structures and settings on disease prevention and health promotion, are able to work across disciplines, and possess a high level of technical skills in their respective area of expertise. In this regard, during the last reporting period, seven delegates from the Robert Kock Institute completed a 4-week placement in Africa CDC.

Research to Inform Policy

As part of the Africa CDC Vaccine Confidence Working Group in collaboration with ORB international and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), two large scale vaccine confidence surveys were conducted across the continent – the first in January 2022 with over 14 000 participants in 14 AU Member States and the second in August 2022 with over 7000 participants in 7 AU Member States.

Africa CDC in collaboration with Global Action for Fungal Diseases (GAFFI) validated findings of a GAFFI-conducted continental survey in 48 AU member states on diagnosis and treatment of fungal diseases in Africa.

Further, Africa CDC in collaboration with the Global Health Network, Chatham House and PANDORA-NET organized three online capacity



High-level Ministerial Cross Border Collaboration Meeting for Ebola Disease Preparedness and Response in Kampala, Uganda

building workshops for 900 rapid responders' teams in Africa on three themes: (1) "One Health research tools for preparedness and response to zoonotic disease outbreaks", (2) "Social sciences and One Health research during epidemics" and (3) "Adopting a One Health Approach to zoonotic diseases risk assessment and risk communication".

To build capacity on the continent, Africa CDC in collaboration with Robert Koch institute organized an in-person training on "Public Health Surveys design and analysis for Epidemic Preparedness and Response" for 13 research focal persons from 7 AU Member States.

7. Regional Coordinating Centres

Eastern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre (EA-RCC)

Africa CDC facilitated at least 15 Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) public health information and experience-sharing sessions for the 14 Member States in the Eastern Africa Region during the year, connecting over 185 subject matter experts, and enhanced the timely sharing of public health information and experience in the region.

Africa CDC leadership conducted a high-level official visit to the East Africa Community (EAC), the African Court of Human and People's Rights, and the East Central and South Health Community (ECSA-HC) in Arusha, Tanzania, from April 18 to April 22, 2022. The purpose of this visit was to align the Africa CDC's public health priorities with RECs, AU institutions and regional health organizations.

During the Inaugural Africa CDC Eastern Africa Region ministerial meeting held in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania from 15th to 16th August, 2022, ministers of health from the region established the Eastern Africa Regional Steering Committee (ReSCO). The ReSCO will

provide an overarching oversight role in providing strategic guidance to the EA-RCC on public health initiatives and interventions based on priorities to ensure effective public health coordination and collaboration in the Eastern Africa region.

Africa CDC actively responded to the Sudan Ebola Virus Disease (SVD) Outbreak in Uganda since September 2022. It trained and deployed over 450 community leaders and health workers in the affected districts of Uganda. It also built the capacity of more than 55 health promoters from 11 affected and high-risk districts in Uganda.

Africa CDC also convened regional public health information and knowledge exchange virtual meetings on the ECHO platform and shared timely information and assessed countries' preparedness and readiness for the SVD outbreak. It also convened a High-level Emergency Ministerial Meeting on Ebola Disease Control in Uganda on 12th October 2022, where ministers of health from the region agreed on a regional strategy for cross-border collaboration on health emergencies including Ebola.

Southern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre (SA-RCC)

Africa CDC convened the 2nd Ministerial Steering Committee (ReSCo) for the Southern Africa Region on 9 – 10 September 2022 in Zambia. Health ministers and their representatives from ten (10) African Union Member States attended and adopted an implementation framework for the Lusaka Call To Action on Public Health Emergency Operations Centres.

Africa CDC also launched the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative (SLL) implementation in Southern Africa Region. The launch was officiated by the President of the Republic of Zambia, H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, and attended by the Ministers of Health and their representatives from AU Member States in the Southern Region as well as partners.

Africa CDC has also supported capacity building for health workers in Malawi on infection prevention and control as efforts to control the cholera outbreak are increased in the region. Africa CDC also facilitated 20 ECHO sessions and shared useful information with AU Member States in the region.

Central Africa Regional Coordinating Centre (CA-RCC)

Africa CDC convened its first Regional Technical Advisory Committee (ReTAC) for Central Africa AU Member States on 6 – 7 December 2022 in Equatorial Guinea. It was decided at the meeting that the CA-RCC be officially launched in early 2023. The CA-RCC members also committed to expand support for the operationalization of the RCC.

Africa CDC also supported the Ministry of Health of Gabon to build the capacity of the monitoring committee for the implementation of the National Community Health Policy in Gabon. A regional situational analysis workshop to discuss community health workers, programmes and systems in Africa was also conducted in Gabon in September 2022. It brought regional Member States together to discuss the status of implementation of community health programmes, identify and document community health gaps, opportunities and practical solutions to strengthen and support community health programmes. The workshop also mapped community health resources and developed regional and national support plans.

Africa CDC in Pictures






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