

# Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



April 2023

The Mastercard Foundation is deploying \$1.5 billion in partnership with the [Africa CDC](#) to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Africa, hastening the economic recovery of the continent.

This bold partnership is ensuring vaccine equity for Africa by purchasing vaccines for more than 65 million people, supporting the delivery of vaccinations to millions more, and integrating into and supporting the delivery of routine immunization ensuring the strengthening of public health systems in Africa.

The [Saving Lives and Livelihoods](#) initiative is assuring the long-term health security of the continent by developing the workforce for vaccine manufacturing in Africa and strengthening the Africa CDC.

This partnership is an **enabler of**, and a **contributor to**, the Foundation's Young Africa Works strategy, which seeks to enable 30 million young people, particularly young women, to access dignified and fulfilling work by 2030.



# COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?

Currently, 14 African nations have vaccinated 70 percent of their eligible population with the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the WHO. Tanzania and Sao Tome and Principe have fully vaccinated their populations, while Botswana has vaccinated 94 percent. Over 90 percent of the eligible population have also been vaccinated in Mauritius, Seychelles, and Somalia. Comoros, Liberia, Rwanda, and Zambia have vaccinated about 80 percent of the eligible population.

Meanwhile, approximately 51.6 percent of the continent's eligible population is fully vaccinated.

More than 12 million COVID-19 cases have been reported in Africa since the outbreak began. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia have reported the most number of cases.



## Top 10 countries in Africa where vaccines have been administered

01 **Nigeria** 60% of eligible population  
**183 million**

02 **Egypt** 57% of eligible population  
**174 million**

03 **Ethiopia** 66% of eligible population  
**75 million**

04 **Tanzania** 103% of eligible population  
**66 million**

05 **Morocco** 79% of eligible population  
**55 million**

06 **South Africa** 41% of eligible population  
**47 million**

07 **Mozambique** 77% of eligible population  
**35 million**

08 **Uganda** 47% of eligible population  
**33 million**

09 **Kenya** 39% of eligible population  
**31 million**

10 **Rwanda** 88% of eligible population  
**28 million**

Source: [Africa CDC](#) (2023)



# Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative



## The Big Catch Up: Recovering the gains made in Africa through vaccinations

The 2023 African Vaccination Week (AVW), themed "The Big Catch Up", aims to increase awareness of the importance of protecting every person, particularly children and women, from vaccine-preventable diseases. It is an opportunity to highlight the barriers to vaccination, including conflict and emergencies, and to elevate specific asks for priority countries.

According to the Director General of the Africa CDC, Dr. Jean Kaseya, routine immunization systems remain critical in Africa's health security as they help prevent the spread of diseases and reduce the likelihood of outbreaks.

The Africa CDC's New Public Health Order aims to advance local production of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to better prepare for future pandemic responses.

The Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) initiative, established in 2021, seeks to build a sustained African vaccine manufacturing industry that can meet continental demands while ensuring vaccines are affordable. The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, a partnership between Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation, is implementing the largest vaccination programme in Africa's history, with a focus on reaching vulnerable populations. Additionally, member states are encouraged to strengthen vaccination programs to avoid losing gains made in accelerating efforts and to ensure access to essential health services and build resilient health systems.

[Read more.](#)

# Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

## Achieving Sustainable Vaccine Manufacturing: Insights from the 2023 World Vaccine Congress

The Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation participated in the World Vaccine Congress to highlight the progress of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, with a focus on enhancing vaccine manufacturing in Africa through the Africa CDC Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM).

The congress, held in Washington, DC from April 3 to 6 2023, convened global experts to discuss the latest learnings and most pressing issues facing global health, especially in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. Key themes including sustainable global manufacturing, private and public sector funding, and safety surveillance emerged as pillars for successful vaccine capabilities. Collaboration is needed throughout the vaccine ecosystem, and funding is a critical component of success, but support must go beyond vaccine procurement. Additionally, behavioural science insights are key to patient education and combatting vaccine hesitancy. [Read more](#)

## Highlights from the 2023 World Vaccine Congress in Washington DC

The Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation showcased the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, particularly focusing on regionalizing vaccine manufacturing in Africa with the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM).



# Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

## About Africa CDC initiatives contributing to the vaccine value chain

1. The Africa CDC partnership with the Mastercard Foundation is a perfect example of the possibilities that are borne from respectful and action-oriented partnerships. In 2021, the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC launched a joint initiative, Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, a historic partnership that aims to enable COVID-19 vaccination for millions of people. The partnership further aims to develop a workforce for vaccine manufacturing, establish systems for pharmacovigilance, build logistics capacity for vaccine delivery and strengthen the Africa CDC's capacity to oversee a historic vaccination campaign and respond to future outbreaks, ensuring long-term health security of the continent.
2. This collaboration led to the launch of the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), which is being

implemented on a large scale. It aims to boost vaccine production on the continent from one to 60 percent by 2040 and further develop the human capital for vaccine production in Africa.

3. As part of the Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative (Africa PGI), the Africa CDC Institute of Pathogen Genomics aims to enhance disease surveillance and public health partnerships through integrated, cross-continental laboratory networks equipped with the tools, human resources and data infrastructure to fully leverage critical genomic sequencing technologies. Each year, nearly 140 disease outbreaks are detected across Africa. By using genomic sequencing technology, health systems will be able to better prevent, identify, and track outbreaks. Pathogen genomics sequencing is not only crucial for disease surveillance and outbreak response, but it is also vital for developing diagnostic tools and vaccines. The technology has not been widely adopted in Africa due to several limitations, including cost, lack of laboratory infrastructure and trained human resources.

## Saving Lives and Livelihoods Safety Messages

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 can help to stop the spread of the virus. Don't miss out, get your vaccine today. #GetVaccinated

African Union

AFRICA CDC  
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
Safeguarding Africa's Health

COVID-19 vaccines are proven safe to protect you from the virus.

Get your shot today!

#GetVaccinated

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# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

*Snapshot of key successes for COVID-19 vaccination acceleration in Africa.*



*Africa CDC, AMREF, Botswana and Malawi Red Cross Societies staff at Malawi Red Cross offices on March 21, 2023. Photo credit: Jacqueline Nhlema.*

## Botswana and Malawi Red Cross Societies host Africa CDC delegates for Technical Assessment on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

From March 16 to 22, 2023, the Botswana and Malawi Red Cross Societies hosted delegates from the Africa CDC to monitor the technical component of RCCE interventions for vaccine uptake led by the implementing partners. The visit aimed to assess project implementation and discuss integration and acceleration plans for the Saving Lives and Livelihoods program, with a particular focus on RCCE integration with other public health programs.

During the visit, the delegates provided valuable feedback on the use of data to influence messaging for vaccine uptake and the alignment between RCCE and COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs) activities. The review also assessed the effectiveness of the internal control system in addressing implementation, monitoring, evaluation, program documentation, reporting, fund management, and financial reporting of program activities.

Overall, the visit provided an opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods program and improve the coordination and integration of RCCE interventions with other public health programs. The feedback and assessment received from the Africa CDC delegates will be crucial in enhancing the program's effectiveness and ensuring the successful uptake of COVID-19 vaccines.

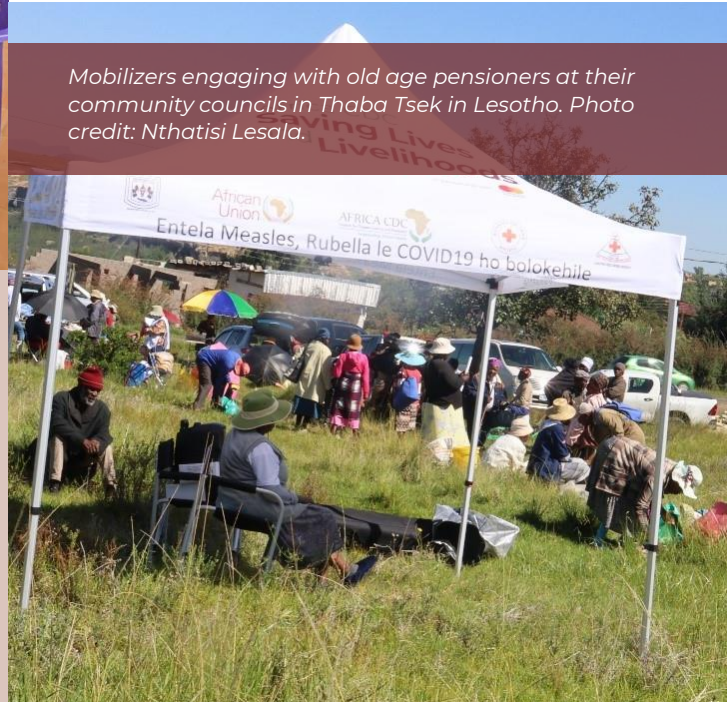
# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



COVID-19 vaccination in progress at Bumpeh Health Centre in Pujehun District, Sierra Leone.

## Lesotho Red Cross Society targets special populations for COVID-19 sensitization

Mobilizers engaging with old age pensioners at their community councils in Thaba Tsek in Lesotho. Photo credit: Nthatsi Lesala.



## Improving COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Sierra Leone using people-centred approaches

As of March 2023, Sierra Leone has achieved over 84 percent full COVID-19 vaccination coverage, with the support of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, Focus 1000, and the Africa Medical Supplies Platform.

To build trust and acceptance of the vaccine, the partners have implemented mobile strategies to complement the fixed post-COVID-19 vaccination centres. They leverage regular community meetings to listen to the community's fears and respond to misinformation, leading to an increase in trust and social cohesion. Overall, the partners focus on local solutions for underserved communities, targeting the most vulnerable. [Read more](#)

Construction workers, traditional initiates, old age pensioners, and herd boys were among the special populations targeted by the Lesotho Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Health for COVID-19 vaccinations. Through one-on-one and group sessions, as well as public addresses, volunteers reached 1,074 people in the Berea and Thaba-Tseka districts in February 2023. Messages were tailored to meet the specific needs of these groups.



# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



*A member of the Muslim community receiving a COVID-19 vaccine dose at Mansa Mosque in Mansa, Zambia. Photo credit: Faith Mwanza*

## Zambia Red Cross Society targets Muslim community to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake

The Zambia Red Cross Society, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, is scaling up social mobilisation targeting special populations. In Mansa District, Luapula Province, volunteers created demand for the COVID-19 vaccines at the Muslim community in the Mansa Mosque, where they identified and vaccinated eight out of 57 unvaccinated males. The initiative is using places of worship such as mosques and churches to increase vaccine uptake among special groups.

## Zimbabwe rolls out Saving Lives and Livelihoods program to promote COVID-19 vaccine uptake

The Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society held inception meetings for the roll-out of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in Mashonaland West and Midlands provinces. The 10-month program aims to promote the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and increase trust and social cohesion through people-centred and community-led approaches, ultimately leading to an increase in the number of vaccinated people in the two districts.

Key approaches include understanding community beliefs, fears, rumours, questions, and suggestions about COVID-19 and vaccines to inform the response, as well as reducing fear, stigma, and misinformation about vaccines.



*Delegates at the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Program inception meeting in Gweru, Midlands province on March 8, 2023. Photo credit: Euvancia Matete.*



# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

*The Ministry of Health provincial team and members of the Zambia Red Cross Society during a radio interview at Kasama Radio Station in Zambia.*



## Zambia Red Cross Society uses radio to reach communities

To improve vaccine uptake in hard-to-reach communities, the Zambia Red Cross Society partnered with the Ministry of Health and K-FM radio station to conduct live radio programs in Luapula Province. These programs were aired twice a week for two weeks and aimed to educate listeners about the benefits of getting vaccinated against COVID-19, particularly in low-performing districts.

Thanks to this initiative, over 250,000 people across 12 districts of Luapula and surrounding areas were reached with COVID-19 vaccination messages. The program effectively reinforced the importance of vaccinations in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

As the pandemic continues to pose a threat, the Zambia Red Cross Society remains committed to reaching out to communities through various channels. By continuing to engage with local partners and leveraging innovative outreach strategies, the Society hopes to further increase vaccine uptake and promote public health and safety across the country.

## Addressing vaccine hesitancy among Ethiopia's disciplined forces

The Ethiopian Ministry of Health and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society partnered to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among members of the Defence and Federal Police, who are at high risk of contracting the virus due to their living and working conditions. A capacity-building workshop was organized and attended by public relations experts from the forces.



*Participants follow proceedings during the workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Participants shared ideas and strategies to improve vaccine acceptance among the disciplined forces.

# Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



*Christina Kamodzi (second from the right) shares her vaccination journey with the Malawi Red Cross Society team in Blantyre District on March 8, 2023.*

## Malawi, Botswana Red Cross Societies intensify COVID-19 vaccine mobilization drive

The Malawi Red Cross Society and Botswana Red Cross Society have made significant strides in their COVID-19 vaccination campaigns despite the widespread vaccine hesitancy caused by safety and efficacy concerns, religious and cultural beliefs, and misinformation.

Fortunately, community mobilization efforts have played a critical role in addressing these concerns and encouraging more residents to get vaccinated. One such effort involved Christina Kamodzi, who shared her positive experience of taking the COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant. Her willingness to share her experience has helped to address fears and vaccine hesitancy, thereby highlighting the success of the implementing partners' mobilization efforts.

Through these mobilization efforts, the Red Cross Societies in Malawi and Botswana hope to continue to increase vaccine uptake, promote public health and safety, and overcome vaccine hesitancy and misinformation. Their commitment to community outreach and education will be critical in achieving these goals and mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

## Zimbabwe Red Cross Society mobilizes volunteers for national COVID-19 vaccination campaign

A nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign was conducted in Zimbabwe in March with support from the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society. Volunteers were mobilized to encourage communities to get vaccinated.



*A Zimbabwe Red Cross Society volunteer engages a woman during a COVID-19 vaccination drive in Gweru, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Nyasha Marize.*



# Other Important Developments



## Africa CDC congratulates WHO on its 75th anniversary

The Africa CDC has sent a congratulatory message celebrating the WHO's 75th anniversary.

The message, signed by the then Acting Director of the Africa CDC, Dr. Ahmed Ogwell Ouma, noted that the WHO made significant strides, showed commitment to achieving health for all, and has been a leader in helping tackle epidemics, pandemics and diseases.

## Africa CDC launches Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program

The Africa CDC Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program aims to train pathogen genomics and bioinformatics workers in national public health institutions and laboratories in AU member states to improve outbreak detection, investigation, and disease surveillance in Africa. It is implemented in partnership with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine.

Training will be led by continent-based educational and professional subject matter experts and conducted at state-of-the-art facilities across Africa. A call for applications has been issued, targeting at least 25 fellows for the 2023 cohort. For more details and to apply, click [here](#).



## Rural Kenyan women benefit from e-commerce surge during COVID-19

COVID-19 pandemic has prompted several women in rural Kenya to venture towards e-commerce to save time and money. Access to this digital technology avenue has made their lives comfortable and easy. They are slowly joining millions of others worldwide who also shop and run their businesses online. [Read more.](#)



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