

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



In June 2021, the Mastercard Foundation partnered with the Africa CDC to launch the \$1.5 billion Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative. Together, we are purchasing COVID-19 vaccines for more than 65 million people, deploying vaccines to millions across the continent, enabling vaccine manufacturing in Africa by developing the workforce, and strengthening the Africa CDC's capacity.

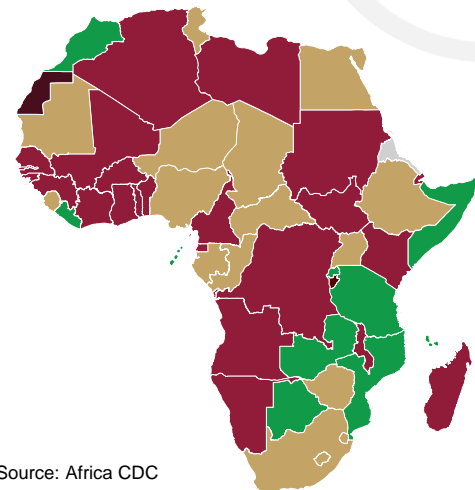
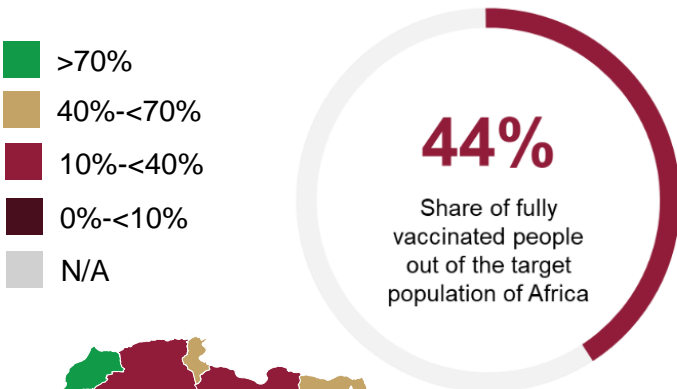
COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?

As of today, the following countries have more than 70 per cent of the populations fully vaccinated: Mauritius, Seychelles, Rwanda, Comoros, Tanzania, Somalia, Liberia, Cape Verde, Morocco, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Africa has registered over 12 million COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. The following countries have recorded the highest number of cases: Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia. [Read more.](#)

Currently, the vaccination rate stands at 44% (of the target population in Africa) with 13 member states having fully vaccinated >70%

Full vaccination rate of African countries as of 28/11/2022; [based on target population¹](#)



Source: Africa CDC

1. Target population varies by Member States (can be 5+, 12+, 13+, 15+ and 18+ years old),
2. Completed two doses of vaccines except for J&J which only requires one

Countries with >70% fully vaccinated target population^{1,2}

Eastern Africa		Mauritius
		Seychelles
		Rwanda
		Comoros
		Tanzania
		Somalia
Western Africa		Liberia
		Cape Verde
Northern Africa		Morocco
Southern Africa		Botswana
		Mozambique
		Zambia
Central Africa		Sao Tome and Principe

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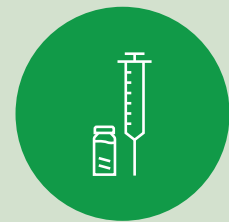
Reflecting back -
Impact so far



49 out of **55** AU
Member States
voluntarily joined
the Programme to date



1.3% of all
Vaccines¹ administered
in Africa contributed by
Saving Lives and
Livelihoods Programme



11mn Vaccines¹
administered across
16 Member States



The second International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022)

Leaders and global health experts attend CPHIA 2022

African Heads of State, Ministers of Health, and leading researchers and scientists convened in Kigali for the second International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022). The conference was hosted by the African Union and the Africa CDC. [Read more.](#)



Africa CDC Acting Director Dr. Ahmed Ouma Ogwel, Chief Organizer of CPHIA, Agnes Binagwaho, Prime Minister of Rwanda, Edouard Ngirente, and Dr. Yvan Butera, the State Minister of Health for Rwanda.



Highlights from the CPHIA 2022 side event

Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation Saving Lives and Livelihoods side event at the CPHIA 2022

The Africa CDC in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation hosted a side event on the Progress in Implementing a Multi-Country Program: The Power of Partnerships in Epidemic Preparedness. [Watch it here.](#)



Documentary on Africa's remarkable COVID-19 response

A brief overview of Africa's response to COVID-19

Over the past few months, the Africa CDC has been working with the Mastercard Foundation to develop a four-part documentary series highlighting Africa's remarkable COVID-19 response. With support from additional partners, the documentary highlights the Africa CDC's fight against COVID-19. It is a story of leadership, swift action, and what made it all possible.

The stories are now airing across the African continent on various media platforms. Follow the journey as it unfolds here:

[Defying the Odds](#)

Part 1

[A Divergent World.](#)

Part 2

[Getting the Job Done.](#)

Part 3

[Our Best Shot.](#)

Part 4



**THE SCRAMBLE TO
PROVIDE A VACCINE**

A look back at moments that defined 2022

In 2022, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative continued to support the Africa CDC's response to public health threats. The Africa CDC strengthened its capacity to fulfil its mandate to boost the capacity of Africa's public health institutions to respond quickly and effectively to disease threats and outbreaks. The drive for a New Public Health Order for Africa intensified in 2022.

Below are key highlights from the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in 2022:

Africa CDC became an autonomous agency of the African Union

The 35th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly conferred full autonomy on the Africa CDC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. With this historic approval, the Africa CDC now has the legal, institutional, and operational autonomy to directly mobilize financing for developing public health capacity and acquiring vital continental assets for disease prevention and control. Thus, the Africa CDC will be in a better position to strengthen national health systems in Africa. [Read more.](#)

Africa CDC turned five

The Africa CDC celebrated its fifth anniversary in January. This milestone was marked with significant achievements and partnerships as it continues delivering on its vision of improving health on the continent. By 2040, the Africa CDC hopes to have established five new vaccine manufacturing sites to ensure the continent's self-reliance and health security. Did you miss the fifth anniversary celebrations? [Watch them here.](#)



Women driving impact at the Africa CDC were feted

As part of International Women's Month in March, the Africa CDC honoured women who contributed towards improving public health in Africa. Some of the honourees included Agnes Asele from Uganda and Dr. Herilinda Temba from Tanzania. Agnes is the Project and Grants Management Technical Officer for the health agency, and Dr. Temba is an epidemiologist who is part of the team leading the continent's efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's more about [Agnes](#) and [Dr. Temba.](#)

A look back at moments that defined 2022

The AU and Africa CDC partnered to accelerate self-testing for COVID-19 in Africa

The AU and Africa CDC launched the *Know your COVID-19 Status Initiative* as part of the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT). It aims to upscale rapid antigen self-testing. [Read more.](#)

The AU launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative

The African Union launched *Bingwa*, a public-private youth initiative that seeks to establish a network of COVID-19 vaccination youth champions across the continent to accelerate the uptake of vaccination. Launched in April, the initiative aims to contribute towards the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines across AU member states to rapidly vaccinate people and to do this at scale. [Read more.](#)

Afropop artist Yemi Alade joined the charge against COVID-19



Afro-pop star Yemi Alade was appointed Global Ambassador for the *It's Up to Us* campaign — a pan-African campaign driven by the Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation to encourage Africans to unite and get vaccinated against COVID-19. [Watch a campaign video featuring the singer here.](#)

Supported delivery of vaccines across the continent

By April of this year, more than 12 million COVID-19 vaccines had been officially delivered to 20 countries, including Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.



A look back at moments that defined 2022

Taking stock: Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative hits one-year milestone

The first anniversary of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in June 2022 was marked by the Mastercard Foundation President and CEO, Reeta Roy stating that the next phase would focus on turning vaccine delivery into vaccinations and the Acting Director of the Africa CDC, Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma emphasizing the need to boost both the investment in the public health workforce and the next generation of leaders and experts, while expanding the local manufacture of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

[Read more.](#)

Full implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative kicked off



Acting Director at the Africa CDC, Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma announced the full implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative. In remarks delivered in Addis Ababa, he challenged implementing partners, who are at the forefront of the largest immunization program in the continent's history, to put their best foot forward. [Watch here.](#)

Spotlight on the Mastercard Foundation's Public Awareness Campaign at the SABRE Awards 2022

The Mastercard Foundation's COVID-19 public awareness campaign #ItsUpToUs received seven SABRE awards for superior achievement in branding, reputation, and engagement. The campaign provided information about COVID-19 safety protocols, dispelling myths, and encouraging everyone to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and communities. [Read more.](#)



A look back at moments that defined 2022

Rwanda broke ground and started its vaccine manufacturing journey

The Rwanda Development Board and BioNTech broke ground for the construction of a new mRNA facility in Rwanda during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in June 2022. President Paul Kagame presided over the landmark event. [Read more.](#)



Youth encouraged to apply for the AU/Africa CDC's COVID-19 vaccination *Bingwa* initiative

The Africa CDC invited motivated youth from Eastern Africa, who were willing to contribute to the acceleration of COVID-19 vaccination in their countries, to apply to the African Union's COVID-19 vaccination *Bingwa* initiative. The selected *Bingwas* ("champions" in Swahili) will implement various advocacy duties for a period of up to 12 months. [Read more.](#)

AU Vaccine e-Passport launched

On July 7, during the commemoration of this year's Africa Integration Day, the Vaccine e-Passport, Trusted Health System, and e-Health backbone for the New Public Health Order for Africa was launched. This will result in easier travel within and outside Africa. [Watch here.](#)

Africa CDC called for a New Public Health Order at the 77th United Nations General Assembly

On the margins of the 77th annual United Nations General Assembly in September 2022, the Africa CDC, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, hosted a series of dialogues aimed at advancing Africa's New Public Health Order. The events were attended by representatives of Heads of State, Ministers of Health, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), public and private institutions, ambassadors, not-for-profit organizations, and top international media outlets. [Read more.](#)

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative launched in the Southern Africa region

The launch took place on November 12, officiated by H.E. President Hakainde Hichilema of the Republic of Zambia. It provided an opportunity for stakeholder engagement and to activate the *Bingwa* initiative. [Read more.](#)

The Africa CDC in 2022: Interview with Acting Director, Dr. Ahmed Ogwell



In his role as the Acting Director of the Africa CDC, Dr. Ogwell works closely with AU member states and partners to deliver on the organization's mandate of preventing and controlling diseases across the continent. Dr. Ahmed coordinated the provision of life-saving health products for African countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, which included test kits, personal protective equipment, therapeutics, and vaccines.

Here are his key insights from 2022.

Q: How is the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative strengthening health systems in Africa?

The initiative is not only addressing immediate COVID-19 vaccination needs, but it also the manufacture of human vaccines on the continent and strengthening the Africa CDC as a continental institution. This speaks directly to strengthening health systems. A stronger Africa CDC will be able to effectively deal with COVID-19, Ebola, and everything else that is a potential public health threat to the continent. When we bolster vaccine manufacturing, this is for all types of diseases. The experience we are getting through this initiative is strengthening the health system by default. When we get the system for vaccination running, it can work against any disease. When experts are trained, it builds capacity across the board. Thus, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is a good example of how partnerships can address systems instead of addressing individual disease conditions.

Q: Considering the many competing health priorities in the continent, how has the year been for the agency?

Disease outbreaks are on the rise; climate change, food insecurity, population growth, and political instability have brought new health risks; and too many lives are lost to preventable diseases. Despite these considerable challenges, innovations, strategic health investments, and African-driven solutions are helping to improve health outcomes and drive progress.

The Africa CDC in 2022: Interview with Acting Director, Dr. Ahmed Ogbwell

Q: The COVID-19 pandemic was in full swing when you took over the agency's reins. What's the biggest lesson you've learned as you oversee the continent's vaccination rollout?

From the pandemic, we learned that the continent has some resilience and just needs to build capacity to respond more effectively in future. One of our first actions when the pandemic struck was to put together a group of scientists. We also mapped assets, what exists on the continent, what quality and capacity we have, where it is, and what is needed. There is huge opportunity to strengthen our capacity. If we do not have our own manufacturing facilities for simple things like masks or more complex things like vaccines, we cannot effectively respond to a large outbreak.

Q: Give us an overview of the New Public Health Order's implementation.

The vision for a New Public Health Order in Africa is bold and ambitious, yet achievable and vital for an integrated, prosperous continent. It is about actively tackling health challenges and planning for the future, shaped by local leadership and regional solutions. It is about ensuring that effective health systems exist before a crisis strikes and remain resilient during and after the crisis. We must strengthen public health institutions at continental, regional, and national levels. To fix African health systems, we need to do three main things: provide them with more resources, improve health worker capacity, and secure our own supply chain and manufacturing capabilities. The sheer value of a national institution vested with responsibility for health security is invaluable. Countries that had functional national health institutions did better.

Q: As you look ahead, what kind of engagement do you expect from your partnerships?

African countries and development partners must build respectful, action-oriented, and sustainable partnerships that promote country ownership and African health priorities. The Saving Lives and Livelihood initiative is a model for partnership that addresses Africa's health priorities respectfully and effectively.



Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

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

Supporting Tanzania's vaccination campaign

Influential community leaders participated in the vaccination campaign as community mobilizers to minimize hesitancy and encourage COVID-19 vaccination uptake. Prior to that, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative held a planning meeting with the Office of the President, the Ministry of Health, and the Regional Administration, and Local Government.



DRC volunteers trained on promoting vaccination

Forty-eight volunteers and community health workers from the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the city of Kinshasa have been trained in Risk Communication and Community Engagement, as well as health education and COVID-19 vaccination promotion. The training was co-organized by the Red Cross Society of the DRC and the Kinshasa provincial Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) as part of the Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, which aims to support the acceleration of COVID-19 vaccination. These social mobilizers were stationed around vaccinodromes (CVCs) that had been set up to ensure mass vaccination delivery using advanced strategies, and Kinshasa will have 11 trainees, four of whom have already been deployed. Each CVC is supported by a team of 12 volunteers from the Red Cross Society of the DRC and community health workers.



Other Important Developments

Africa CDC convenes public health officials and experts to prepare the continent's response to future outbreaks

Taking place at the AU's headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from November 29 to December 1, the forum set the stage for evaluating how prepared African countries are for disease threats post-COVID-19. Participants included public health officials, researchers, and scientists from 49 AU member states, as well as local and international partners. [Read more.](#)



News and media

AU targets 70 percent COVID-19 vaccination rate through youth

In a bid to increase COVID-19 uptake on the continent, the AU, together with the Africa CDC have launched an initiative with youth to scale up the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines on the continent. [Read more.](#)

UNECA pushes for production of COVID-19 vaccines



The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has highlighted the need to upscale domestic production of COVID-19 vaccines in Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Egypt, and Morocco. UNECA also noted the importance of advanced vaccine supply chains in Africa and equitable access to vaccines throughout the continent." [Read more.](#)

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Best wishes
for 2023