

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



February 2023

In June 2021, the Mastercard Foundation partnered with the [Africa CDC](#) to launch the \$1.5 billion [Saving Lives and Livelihoods \(SLL\)](#) 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.

To date, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative has enabled over 12 million people in Africa to access COVID-19 vaccines, while helping to accelerate vaccine uptake in African Union Member States facing the risk of mass vaccine expiration.



COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?

So far, seven African countries have already surpassed the target of vaccinating at least 70% of the population eligible for COVID-19 vaccination according to the WHO. Liberia and Rwanda have fully vaccinated their eligible populations, while Mauritius and Botswana have vaccinated 94 percent. Over 90% of the eligible population have also been vaccinated in Mozambique (92%), and in Seychelles (93%). Zambia has vaccinated 80% of the population eligible for the vaccine.

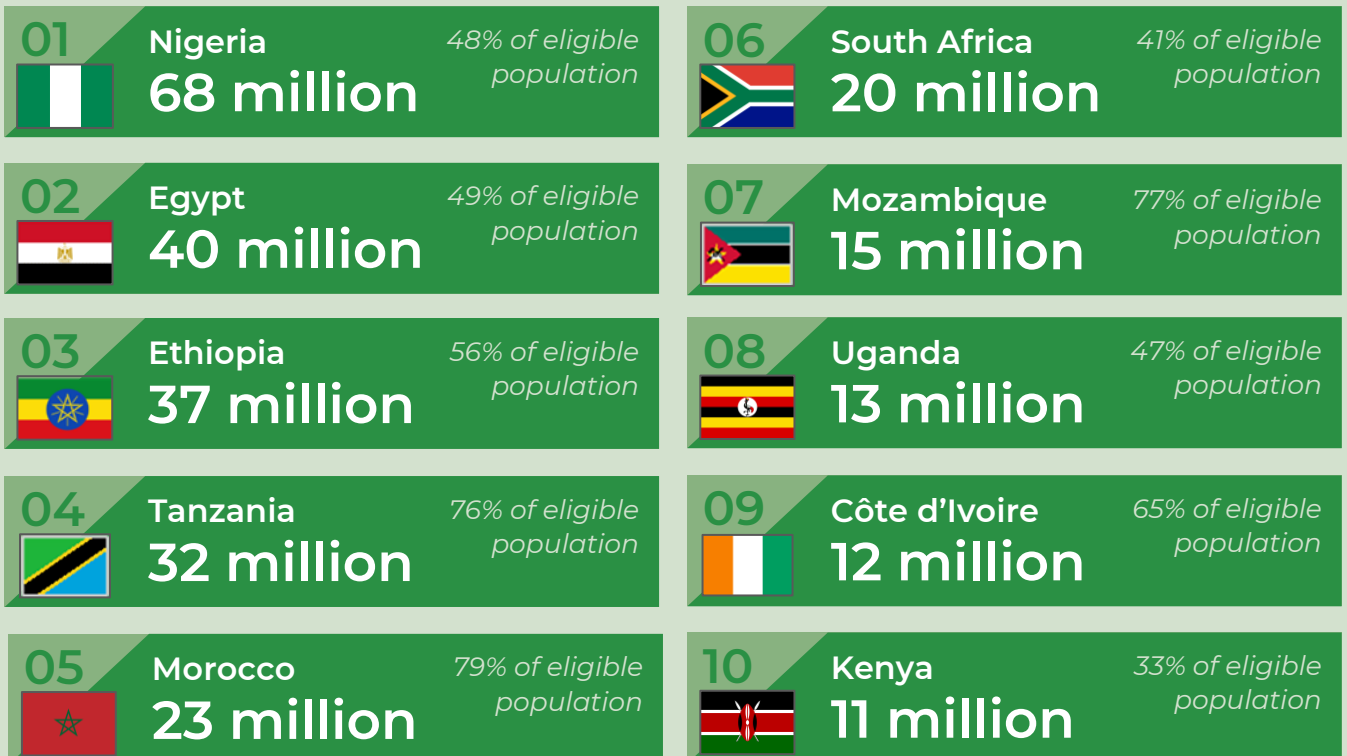
Meanwhile, approximately 44.6% of the continent's eligible population are fully vaccinated.

Over 12 million COVID-19 cases have been reported on the African continent since the outbreak began. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia have the highest number of reported cases.

[Read more.](#)



Top 10 countries in Africa with the highest vaccination rates



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

Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative



The Saving Lives and Livelihoods team at a field visit in Kajiado County, Kenya.

Stakeholders evaluate implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative

The Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation convened a three-day workshop to evaluate the progress made thus far in the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, and to document policies and guidelines that will impact the program's implementation in member states this year. In Nairobi, Kenya from February 7 to 9, 2023, the workshop allowed stakeholders to discuss ways to strengthen the program's impact.

The team conducted field visits to Kajiado and Kitui counties in Kenya to gain a first-hand understanding of the program's implementation and identify best practices to scale up in other member states.



From left to right: Dr. Lul Pout Riek - Regional Collaborating Centres Coordinator Southern and Eastern Africa at Africa CDC, Dr. Raji Tajudeen - Head, Division of Public Health Institutes and Research at Africa CDC, Rosemary Nduhiu - Acting Chief Operations Officer at the Mastercard Foundation, Solomon Zewdu - Senior Executive Resident at the Mastercard Foundation share a light moment during a field visit in Kajiado County, Kenya.

Commenting after the field visits, Dr. Ahmed Ogwell Ouma, Acting Director General at the Africa CDC, said, **"I am encouraged by the level of preparedness and coordination demonstrated by the county and national governments in Kenya in responding to COVID-19. The commitment of health workers and community members in Kajiado to prevent the spread of the virus is truly commendable. There is still a long way to go in controlling this pandemic, and we must continue to work together to ensure that we leave no one behind."**



Residents queue to receive COVID-19 vaccines in Kajiado County, Kenya.

Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

Stakeholders evaluate implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative *cont'd...*

The collaborative workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to shape the program's direction and future implementation strategy. Stakeholders also resolved to communicate the impact of the program to raise awareness and accountability among stakeholders and the wider public.



The Saving Lives and Livelihoods team at a field visit in Kitui County, Kenya.



Community health workers administer COVID-19 vaccines in Kajiado County, Kenya.

Peter Materu, Chief Program Officer at the Mastercard Foundation, said, **"As we continue to work towards mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities, it is inspiring to witness the commitment and dedication of health workers and community members on the ground. The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative, with an initial focus on vaccine access, is making a significant difference in these communities. We must remain committed to ensuring equitable access to vaccines as we continue to strengthen public health systems on the continent."**



The Saving Lives and Livelihoods team at the evaluation workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative



Healthcare officials brief members of the public before administering COVID-19 vaccines.

Harvard Public Health recognizes Saving Lives and Livelihoods

According to Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, Acting Director of the Africa CDC, local decision-making is needed to prevent pandemics, and strengthening national-level institutions is the way to go.

International aid organizations are recognizing the limitations of the traditional model of aid distribution highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, they are empowering local organizations and building local capacity for better aid distribution.

The Mastercard Foundation's Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in partnership with the Africa CDC aims to create a more inclusive and resilient health system on the continent that can respond better to pandemics and other health crises. [Read more.](#)

AU's COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa initiative accepting applications in Southern and Western Africa regions

The Africa CDC issued a call for applications for young Africans from Southern and Western Africa regions who are keen on accelerating the COVID-19 vaccination uptake in their countries to apply for the AU COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa initiative.

The selected *Bingwas* (champions) will serve for up to 12 months, developing community engagement plans, organizing youth-focused events to encourage vaccination, and documenting progress while serving as AU/Africa CDC focal points for youth vaccination.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

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



Community health volunteers at a vaccination site in Malawi

Kenya advances COVID-19 vaccination through community engagement

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative partnered with the Ministry of Health in organizing a series of community meetings and dialogues with leaders and influencers. In some communities, vaccine hesitancy, information overload, myths, and misconceptions tend to challenge demand creation and mobilization despite successful vaccination efforts.

As a result, a total of 6,404 eligible persons were vaccinated, translating to an increase in vaccination coverage and community acceptance. This vaccination drive strengthened collaboration among stakeholders.



Community leaders and influencers in Kisii county, Kenya.

Malawi Red Cross Society partners with media to boost COVID-19 vaccination drive

A total of 52 journalists from public and private media houses in Mzuzu, Blantyre, and Lilongwe received training to disseminate accurate information about the vaccine. Media personnel were also vaccinated. The training aimed to combat misinformation and vaccine hesitancy as part of efforts to achieve the 70 percent target of the vaccinated population in Africa.



Journalists with Red Cross Society staff at vaccination sites in Mzuzu, Malawi.

Other Important Developments



Ghana National Assembly session.

Ghana Approves National Vaccine Institute Bill, 2022

The National Vaccine Institute Bill, 2022 was approved by parliament on February 14, 2023, allowing the country to produce its own vaccines. This landmark legislation establishes the National Vaccine Institute to coordinate vaccine development and production in Ghana.

The institution's creation will help address the problem by enabling Ghana to manufacture its own vaccines and contribute to the production of vaccines in Africa. This is a significant step towards improving healthcare access and reducing dependence on external sources for vaccines, and marks an important milestone in the country's efforts to build a self-sufficient healthcare system and strengthen its biotechnology industry. [Read more.](#)

The Africa CDC welcomes the Pandemic Fund's call for Expressions of Interest for its first Call for Proposals



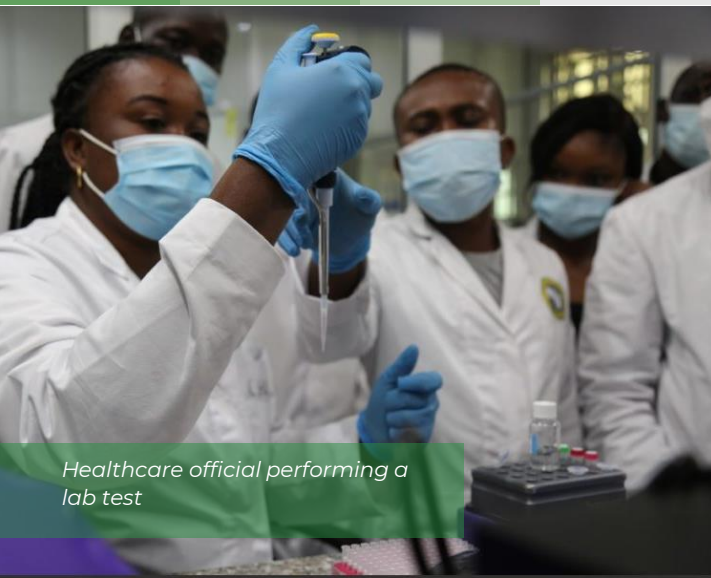
Heads of Member States during a recent AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Africa CDC has welcomed the Pandemic Fund's recent Call for Proposals and encourages AU Member States to submit their expressions of interest (EOIs) before the February 24 deadline.

Despite being unable to participate in the Pandemic Fund's first call for EOIs or proposals due to its accreditation status, the Africa CDC urges all AU Member States to participate in the Fund's activities. The institution can support Member States and regional entities as they develop and submit their proposals. Additionally, the Africa CDC advocates for inclusive representation in governance structures and technical teams as an observer at the Board of the Pandemic Fund.

The Pandemic Fund, hosted by the World Bank and technically led by the World Health Organization (WHO) is a source of public and private financing which seeks to aid low and middle-income countries in pandemic preparedness and response. [Read the full statement.](#)

Other Important Developments



Healthcare official performing a lab test

Boost for Africa's biomanufacturing workforce

Over 30 partner organizations convened in Senegal for the inaugural Biomanufacturing Workforce Development workshop from February 7 to 9, 2023.

The workshop was co-hosted by the Africa CDC, Institut Pasteur de Dakar, and the South African Medical Research Council.

The three organizations collaborated to determine the best model to build capacity in Africa in biomanufacturing.

Additionally, they sought to identify gaps and opportunities in the sector and understand local, regional, and global training initiatives. [Read more.](#)

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News & Media



Medic administering a COVID-19 vaccine.

Study provides clues on why COVID-19 death rates in Africa were relatively low

A University of Edinburgh team recently completed a study in Zimbabwe and found that the higher prevalence of common cold viruses in Africa may have contributed to lower death rates from COVID-19 in the country. [Read more.](#)



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