



Saving Lives and Livelihoods

In partnership with Mastercard Foundation



Launched in June 2021, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is a USD\$1.5 billion partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC with four goals:



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1. To purchase vaccines for more than **65 million** people
 2. To enable vaccination of millions more by supporting the logistics of vaccine delivery and administration
 3. To lay the groundwork for vaccine manufacturing in Africa, through a focus on human capital development
 4. To strengthen the Africa CDC's capacity to oversee a historic vaccination campaign and its ability to lead the continent's public health agenda going forward.

Below, is a look back at some of the key highlights from 2021 since Saving Lives and Livelihoods launched in June.

Highlights from 2021: Saving Lives and Livelihoods



Saving Lives and Livelihoods surpasses initial vaccine

procurement target: In June 2021, the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC committed to purchasing vaccines for at least 50 million people under their \$1.5 billion

partnership. Since then, the Foundation has committed an additional \$200 million, bringing the total partnership value to \$1.5 billion and enabling the procurement of vaccines for more than 65 million people.

Supporting delivery of vaccinations to millions more across the continent: The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is investing in a spectrum of activities required to turn vaccines into vaccinations, including safe storage and transportation of vaccines, ancillaries, and other supplies; to establishing COVID-19 vaccination centres, training health workers; promoting vaccinations in communities; conducting pharmacovigilance to monitor, evaluate, and manage adverse events; establishing genomic sequencing to identify potential variants; and providing technical assistance to national vaccination programs.



First tranche of 15 million vaccines delivered: A first tranche of 15 million vaccines, procured through the Saving Lives and Livelihoods, is currently being distributed across Africa. [Read full statement](#)

Addressing expiring vaccines: In July, Saving Lives and Livelihoods deployed rapid response teams to support vaccination in countries facing the prospect of vaccine expiration, including Sierra Leone, Cameroon, and South Sudan. In Cameroon, this included training health workers to address vaccine hesitancy in communities. A total of 265 attendees, representing 43 member states, took part in capacity building workshops in Ethiopia,

Rwanda, and Morocco. Since then, Member States have been leading conversations on country needs and potential ways of working with implementing partners.



Enabling local vaccine

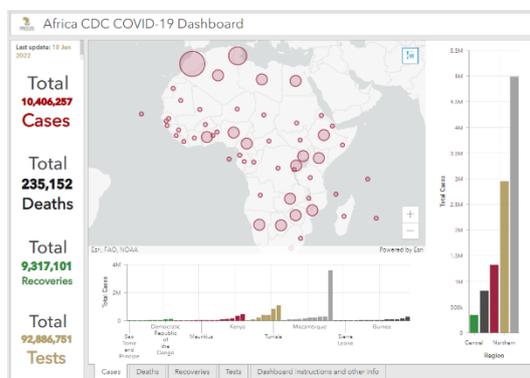
manufacturing: Last year, the governments of Senegal and Rwanda signed a Memorandum of Understanding with German biotechnology company BioNTech to establish mRNA vaccine

sites in their respective countries. The sites will initially focus on COVID-19 vaccine production, but will eventually expand to produce other vaccines. The Mastercard Foundation is supporting the transfer of critical technical knowledge that will be key to enabling mRNA vaccine manufacturing by funding the development of a historic white paper intended to facilitate the transfer of knowledge. [Read the press release](#)

Strengthening the Africa CDC: The Africa CDC launched a massive recruitment to fill 106 positions, which will expand their capacity to oversee continental COVID-19 vaccination. As of December 2021, only two positions were yet to be filled. To view the open positions, visit <http://www.afenet.net/index.php/careers>

Following the Global COVID-19 Summit, the African Union and Africa CDC, in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies delegation to the African Union, and the U.S. Mission to the African Union, organized a high-level side event to discuss how to ensure equitable vaccination in Africa. [Watch highlights of the session here](#)

Other important developments



Africa has registered a total of more than 10 million cases since the start of the pandemic, according to the latest figures from the Africa CDC. South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia and Libya are among the countries with the highest number of cases on the continent. [Read more](#)

In 2021, The African Union and Africa CDC launched the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) to coordinate action on Africa's vaccine manufacturing agenda. PAVM convened three times, most recently in December when they highlighted the importance of strengthening the African Medicines Agency, which will play a central role in harmonizing the regulation of vaccines and medicines. [According to Dr. John Nkengasong](#), Director of the Africa CDC, at least 9 African countries are set to produce COVID vaccines. These include Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria have also expressed interest in vaccine manufacturing. [Watch recording of the December event here](#)

To ensure widespread access to COVID-19 vaccines across Africa, the African Union launched the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) to pool the vaccine demand of African countries and enable the procurement of vaccines for Africa. The trust aims to secure vaccine doses to complement initiatives such as COVAX and to help immunize 70% of Africa's population by the end of 2022. Over 41 countries are signed on to procure vaccines through AVAT. The first batch of vaccines purchased under this agreement have already been rolled out in 28 countries. Partners in the initiative include the Afreximbank, Africa CDC, and World Bank. [Read more](#)



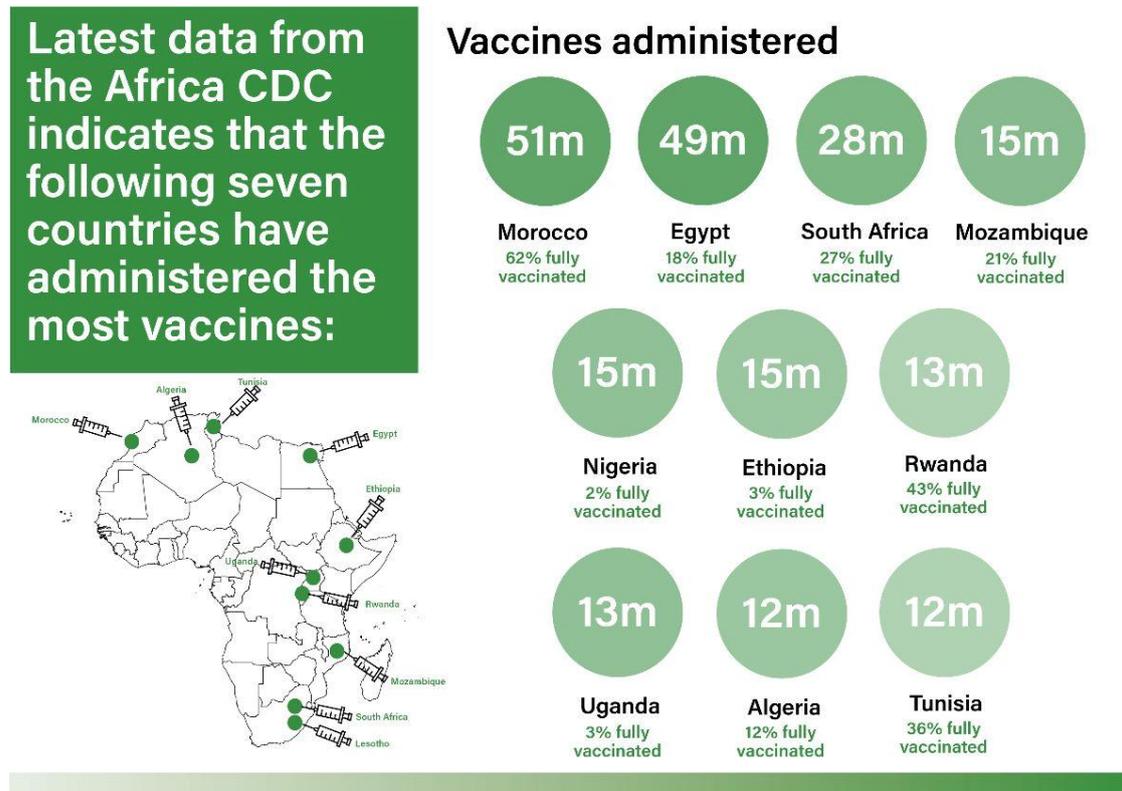
Africa CDC co-hosts maiden high-level continental public health forum:

The Conference on Public Health in Africa was held virtually from December 14 to 16, 2021. Hosted by the Africa CDC and African Union, it offered a unique platform for African

researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to share scientific findings and public health perspectives, and collaborate on research, innovation, and public health across the continent. The conference shone a spotlight on emergency health response in Africa with participants sharing and learning on progress made, best practices in public health interventions, and the latest innovative research.

More than 10,000 participants from 140 countries around the world attended the virtual gathering. Missed it? [Watch it here](#)

Latest data from the Africa CDC indicates that the following ten countries have administered the most vaccines:



Source: [Africa CDC](#)



According to [WHO Africa](#), Rwanda is the seventh country in Africa to attain the global target of

vaccinating 40% of their population by end of 2021. The other six

countries are Seychelles, Mauritius, Morocco, Tunisia, Botswana, and Cape Verde. The WHO has set a further target of 70% coverage for all countries by June 2022. The Africa CDC has [called for more COVID-19 vaccination](#) uptake amid the worrying surge of the Omicron variant. About 10 percent of the population in Africa has received one dose of a vaccine, compared with 64 percent in North America and 62 percent in Europe. [Read more insights here](#)



In September, President Biden hosted a virtual Global COVID-19 Summit on the sidelines of the 76th United Nations Global Assembly, rallying over 100 leaders across the public, private, and philanthropic sectors to help deliver urgently needed vaccines and ancillary supplies and to invest in creating an

effective global pandemic preparedness architecture. Speaking at the event, Mastercard Foundation President and CEO Reeta Roy urged leaders to “listen” and support African leaders’ vaccination plans because “there is no global health security, without regional health security.” Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of the Africa CDC, called for a “reset” of architecture for global health security, recognizing that this starts at the national, then regional, then global levels. [Read statements and releases](#)

News and Media

To mitigate the impact of future variants, the world needs to establish and strengthen virus monitoring and surveillance systems that can identify emerging variants quickly so that leaders can respond, says Dr. John Nkengasong, Director, Africa CDC. [Read more](#)



Africa's readiness to tackle COVID-19 vaccination has been built by successfully addressing other public health crises like Ebola, HIV/AIDS, and Malaria. What is needed is more equity and building capacity for vaccine delivery, according to Reeta Roy, President and CEO, Mastercard Foundation, and Dr. John Nkengasong, Director, Africa CDC. [Read more](#)



Africa will continue to see a cycle of new COVID-19 variants if more people are not vaccinated, according to experts. Africa CDC's public health expert Dr. Lul Riek argues that the continent needs to have reached between 60 and 70 percent of the

population by the end of 2022 if herd immunity is to be achieved. [Read more](#)



In an effort to accelerate access to and roll out of COVID-19 vaccines, the African Union has called on the international community to work towards ensuring a steady, predictable supply of vaccine doses to COVAX and AVAT, and to avoid donating vaccines that are close to expiry. The principles for vaccine donation were developed to help countries better plan and effectively deploy vaccines. [Read more](#)



South Africa has, through the African Renaissance Fund, signed an agreement with the African Vaccination Acquisition Trust to donate two million doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to African countries—a demonstration of leadership and solidarity. The vaccines will be made available to African countries

through the African Medical
Suppliers Platform, over the next
year. [Read more](#)

