



Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention



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THE CONCEPT

Member States of the African Union have been implementing various public health initiatives, including strengthening health systems, disease surveillance, control and prevention, and disaster preparedness and response. However, despite significant efforts by countries to contain disease outbreaks and prevent epidemics, the continent is still faced with huge public health challenges, some of which include inadequate health infrastructure, shortage of human resource capacity and equipment, limited disease surveillance, insufficient laboratory diagnostic capacities, and delayed preparedness and response to health emergencies and disasters.

To provide a continent-wide coordinated solution to these challenges and reduce the negative impact of diseases among populations across the continent, the African Union, through its Statute approved by the 26th Ordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2016, established the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) as a specialized technical agency of the African Union to support Member States in their efforts to strengthen health systems and improve surveillance, emergency response and prevention of diseases.

Officially launched in January 2017 and guided by principles of leadership, credibility, ownership, delegated authority, timely dissemination of information, transparency, accountability and value addition, Africa CDC works with all African countries to strengthen

Strengthen the capacity, capability and partnerships of Africa's public health institutions to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats and outbreaks based on science, policy and data-driven interventions and programmes.

MISSION

A safer, healthier, integrated and prosperous Africa, in which Member States can efficiently prevent disease transmission, implement surveillance and detection, and always be prepared to respond effectively to health threats and outbreaks.

VISION



the capabilities of their public health institutions for disease surveillance, emergency response, prevention and control, including the capacity to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and other health burdens. It also serves as a platform for Member States to share and exchange knowledge and lessons from public health interventions.

With an agenda anchored on integration and capacity strengthening, Africa CDC is championing a new public health order to support the 2063 Agenda of the African Union Commission on free movement of people. The institution seeks to achieve its vision of an integrated, safer, healthier and stronger Africa where Member States are capable of effectively responding to outbreaks and other public health threats, through five strategic pillars and the establishment of Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Networks (RISLNET) that are driven by the Regional Collaborating Centres (RCCs).





STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE AFRICA CDC

PILLAR 1: Strengthening Surveillance and Disease Intelligence

Africa CDC is supporting the establishment of strong national surveillance systems, supplemented by a centralized surveillance centre that can support early warning and response surveillance platforms to address in a timely and effective manner all health emergencies. Through collaboration with the National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) and the RCCs, Africa CDC is supporting multisectoral, inter-country and regional collaborations for data collection and use for policy, advocacy, decision-making and other health actions, and for disease-specific responses, with linkages to the animal, agriculture and environmental sectors. Efforts are being made to assist African Union Member States in developing a surveillance workforce that can handle national surveillance responsibilities.

PILLAR 2: Strengthening Public Health Information Systems

Africa CDC is supporting Member States to develop and establish high quality information and technology systems that are interconnected through an integrated data-sharing platform with each national public health institute and can support health responses across Africa. Efforts are being made to support the training of health personnel through the RCCs to support operationalization of the data centres that are being established.

PILLAR 3: Strengthening Laboratory Systems and Networks

Africa CDC is supporting Member States to strengthen clinical and public health laboratory systems and to establish national laboratory networks in each country with modern advanced molecular technologies and multiplex pathogen assays that can accurately and promptly test routine samples and are linked to a network of quality assured regional laboratories that can test highly dangerous pathogens. Efforts are being made to strengthen laboratory workforce, develop and implement national laboratory strategic plans and enabling policies, including regulation of laboratory diagnostic testing as well as secure and safe handling of highly dangerous pathogens. Africa CDC is supporting establishment of patient-centred integrated point-of-care diagnostic testing for syndromic management and surveillance at the community level.

PILLAR 4: Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response

Africa CDC is supporting Member States to develop and implement comprehensive (multi-hazard and multi-sectoral), regularly-tested preparedness and response plans that are complemented by a continent-wide rapid response force that can network effectively to combat the most dangerous outbreaks. Efforts are being made to support the establishment of functional national public health Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) as part of the NPHIs, national and regional stockpiles for public health emergency responses, and sustained partnerships for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration for emergencies.

PILLAR 5: Strengthening National Public Health Institutes and Research

Africa CDC is supporting the establishment and development of National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) by Member States and strengthening their public health research capacity at different levels to provide evidence for public health advocacy, decision-making and practice for improved health outcomes. Efforts are being made to support the NPHIs in each country to become independent, data-driven and responsible for comprehensive and effective disease control, prevention, detection and response.



PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

Africa CDC is establishing five regional collaborating centers in Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, through which it will be supporting the NPHIs and linking them to the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI). The institution is promoting partnerships and collaboration among Member States to address emerging and endemic diseases and public health emergencies. It works with a wide range of partners including other African Union entities, regional economic communities, regional health organizations, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, donors, development partners, United Nations agencies as well as bilateral, intergovernmental, regional and international organizations.

Efforts are being made to facilitate inter-sectoral networking and collaboration on health among academic and health institutions and networks as well as engagements with the private and philanthropic sectors in Africa for productive involvement in public health initiatives.

Africa CDC currently receives direct technical and financial assistance from the US CDC, China CDC, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IANPHI, African Development Bank, World Bank, State of Kuwait, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, RESOLVE to Save Life, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Emory University to ensure its full establishment and operationalization towards the achievement of health security in Africa.

GOVERNANCE AND SECRETARIAT

Africa CDC is administered by a Governing Board, which provides overall strategic guidance to the secretariat in accordance with African Union policies and procedures and ensures that Africa CDC strategic agenda of prompt and effective disease surveillance, detection and response are integrated into the overall African Union Commission development strategy.

The Governing Board is supported by an Advisory and Technical Council, which advises on emerging issues and other matters related to disease control and prevention and provides advice on the strategic plans, advocacy, resource mobilization and activities of Africa CDC.

Day-to-day activities of Africa CDC are coordinated by the secretariat located within the African Union Commission headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the leadership of a Director and with support of a multidisciplinary team of experts, support staff and volunteers.

