

Africa CDC Health Economics Programme

Inaugural Newsletter: Welcome to Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's Health Economics Programme

NOTE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICA CENTRES FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

The Africa CDC's Health Economics Programme (HEP) has been established to support Member States - and our internal offices - navigate difficult decisions by equipping them with strong health economics evidence. The HEP will also mobilize the broader health economics community to strengthen continental capacity for generating and leveraging evidence for policy and practice. All of this is being done in service of advancement towards our Africa CDC vision of a safer, healthier, integrated and prosperous Africa. This inaugural newsletter of the HEP is timely, as it shares evidence generated to support health sector prioritization mainly relating to the COVID-19 response. We will publish subsequent newsletters on a regular basis to share highlights of the HEP's activities.

Please join me in celebrating and showing support for the Africa CDC's Health Economics Programme by forwarding this newsletter to your networks.

Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma
Acting Director, Africa CDC



WELCOME BY THE ACTING HEAD OF THE HEALTH ECONOMICS PROGRAMME

The HEP was established in November 2020 to support the Africa CDC, Member States, and the broader public health community access and leverage strong health economics evidence to improve health systems. Since establishment, we have:

1. Developed a strategic roadmap to guide the next five years of work,
2. Launched initial research projects focused on COVID-19 vaccine cost effectiveness (and published policy briefs), global inequities in COVID-19 vaccines rollout, and other pressing health economic topics that were identified in consultation with key AU divisions (see details below),
3. Started building partnerships partnerships with researchers, policymakers, and other key stakeholders.

Through our quarterly newsletters, we hope to engage more with stakeholders by sharing highlights of our completed, ongoing and planned work. Welcome to this inaugural newsletter. Read on about our work to realize a safer, healthier, coordinated, and prosperous Africa.

Prof. Justice Nonvignon

HEALTH ECONOMICS PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Mission of the HEP

The HEP will strengthen Africa's capacity for generating and utilizing health economics evidence to improve public health decision-making and practice, leading to more equitable allocation of resources, stronger and more efficient and effective health systems, and healthier populations and communities.

The Three Strategic Pillars:



1) Strengthen Capacity

Strengthen capacity for health economics evidence generation, interpretation, packaging, and use for policy decisions and programme implementation within Africa CDC and Member States



2) Generate & Mobilize Evidence

Generate, synthesize, and translate health economics analysis and evidence to support Africa CDC and Member States



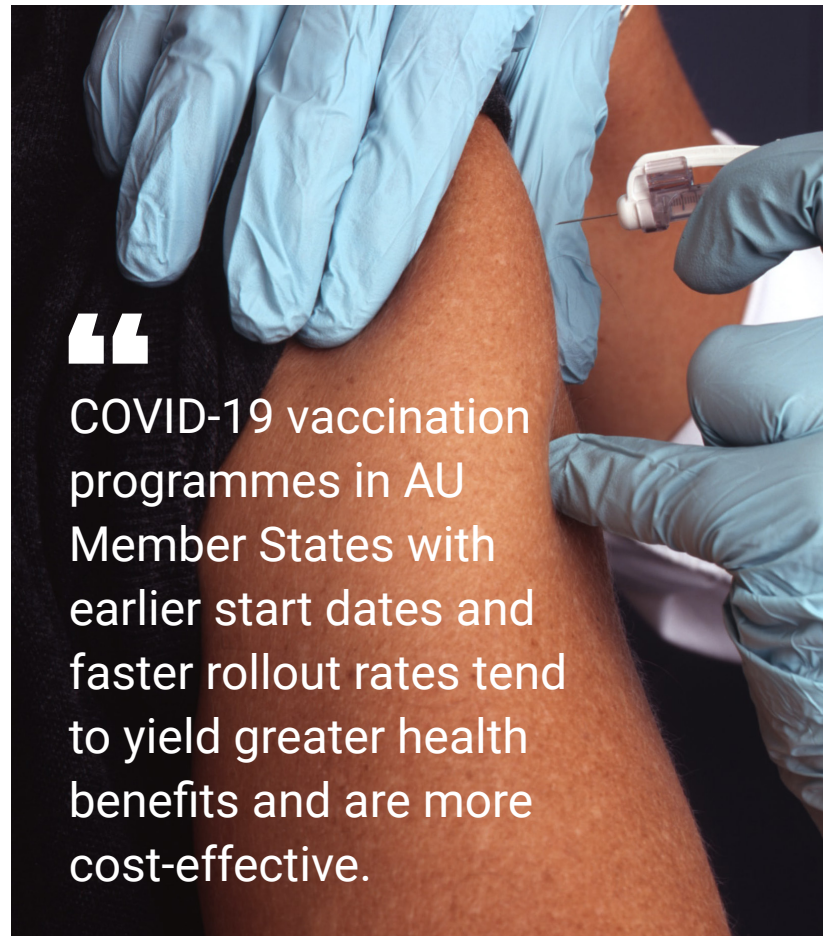
3) Promote Evidence Use

Strengthen the interpretation, presentation, and utilization of, as well as demand for, health economics evidence to inform policymaking and programme implementation at all levels

Spotlight on New Research!

Cost effectiveness analysis of COVID-19 vaccine in 27 African Union Member States

The HEP and partners recently disseminated findings from a retroactive cost-effectiveness analysis showing that COVID-19 vaccination programmes in AU Member States with earlier start dates and faster rollout rates tend to yield greater health benefits and are more cost-effective. Data was analyzed from across 27 AU Member States and yielded insights on the implications of vaccination program start dates, rollout rates, target population, and vaccine product selection. A unique and powerful group of partners came together to drive forward this vital research. To learn more about the research partners, work and recommendations for Member States, click [here](#).



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Ongoing Research/Work

The HEP and partners are conducting ongoing research on the following:

- COVID-19 Pre-Travel Screening Costing Assessment in Ethiopia, Cameroon, and Zambia
- Priority setting for emergency preparedness and response
- Cost-effectiveness of oral antivirals for treatment of COVID-19
- Equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in Africa (ECOVA) (jointly with the AfHEA¹ and UNECA²)
- Cost effectiveness analysis of COVID-19 vaccination in Benin and Ghana (jointly with KEMRI³ and the University of Ghana)
- The African Health Economics and Financing Capacity Forum will be co-hosted by HEP, SPARC⁴ and AfHEA⁵ in September 2022

¹ African Health Economics and Policy Association

² United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

³ Kenya Medical Research Institute

⁴ Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Centre housed within Amref Health Africa

⁵ African Health Economics and Policy Association