

What is the Africa CDC?

Opened in January 2017, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is a Specialised Technical Agency of the African Union. Africa CDC works with all 55 Member States to achieve its vision of: 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.

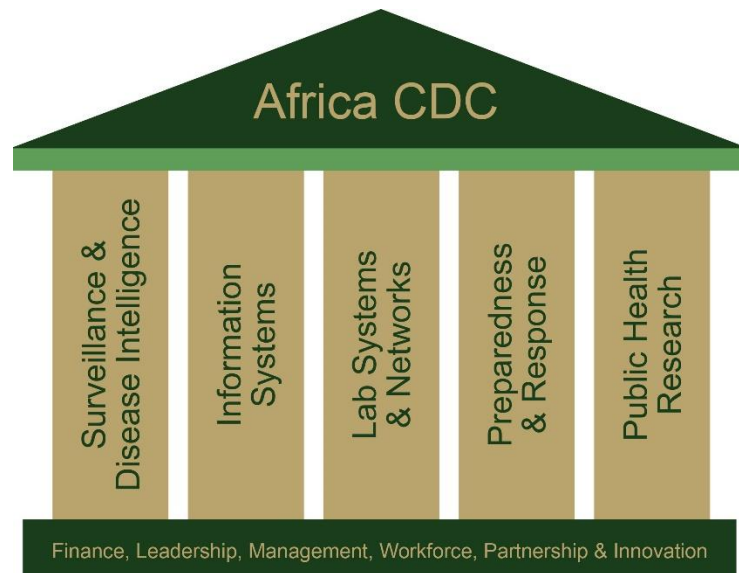
Objectives of the Africa CDC

To achieve its vision, Africa CDC will:

- Establish early warning and response systems to address all health threats, including infectious diseases, chronic diseases, and natural disasters, in a timely and effective manner;
- Strengthen health security in Africa, by helping Member States achieve compliance with the International Health Regulations;
- Map hazards and assess risk of diseases and other health threats for Member States;
- Support Member States in responding to outbreaks and other health emergencies;
- Promote health and prevent disease by strengthening health systems for infectious diseases, chronic disease and environmental health;
- Promote partnership and collaboration among Member States to address emerging and endemic diseases and public health emergencies;
- Harmonize disease control and prevention policies and the surveillance systems in Member States;
- Build public health capacity in Africa by training epidemiologists, laboratorians, and other public health workers through medium and long-term courses.

Strategic priorities of the Africa CDC

The Africa CDC will operate under five functional pillars:



Africa CDC's role on the continent

Timely, actionable, and continent-wide surveillance and disease intelligence data.

Rapid deployment of coordination and technical expertise to respond to outbreaks.

Public health diplomacy through the AU promoting the value of National Public Health Institutes.

Seamless regional lab and surveillance networks coordinated across countries.

Structure of the Africa CDC

Governing Board

The Governing Board of the Africa CDC guides strategy for the secretariat, in accordance with AU policies and procedures. It examines decisions and proposals submitted by the Secretariat, and makes recommendations to the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control. The board further works to integrate Africa CDC's strategy into continental development strategies.

Advisory & Technical Council

The Council advises on emerging issues and other disease control and prevention issues, including Africa CDC's surveillance, detection, response and research activities. The Council also helps advocate and mobilize resources for Africa CDC across the continent.

Secretariat

The Secretariat supports Member States to develop appropriate disease surveillance, detection and response policies, programmes, systems and structures. It provides technical support and capacity building to the Member States for disease control and prevention. It further develops and implements strategic advocacy programmes and stakeholder communication plans. The Secretariat is responsible for networking with Member States, WHO, Regional Health Organisations, Regional Economic Communities, private sector organisations, Regional Health Networks, Partner CDCs, and other key stakeholders.

Regional Collaborating Centres

Africa CDC work with its Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC) in five regions of Africa: Northern, Eastern, Western, Central, and Southern. The RCCs work closely with the Ministries of Health and National Public Health Institutes in Member States to implement Africa CDC's strategic plan.

High Priority Activities

Africa CDC has established the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (AMRSNET) to coordinate antimicrobial resistance programmes in Africa. Composed of WHO, Ministries of Health, and other stakeholders from human, animal and environmental health, AMRSNET works with its members to measure, prevent, and mitigate harm from antimicrobial resistant organisms.

Africa CDC's RCC established the Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Networks (RISLNET) to improve surveillance, control and elimination of high-priority endemic or neglected conditions. A core activity of RISLNET will be to leverage surveillance and laboratory networks from public agencies, foundations, and universities.