AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Safeguarding Africa's Health

DATA AND SAFETY MONITORING BOARD (DSMB)

About the DSMB Training

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is an autonomous institution of the African Union that supports the Member States (MS) in planning, preparing and responding to the health threats and disease outbreaks on the continent. Its work is guided by the leadership principles of credibility, ownership, delegated authority, the timely dissemination of information, transparency, accountability and value addition.

Among the units at Africa CDC is the Science and Innovation division whose mandate includes ensuring effective safety monitoring in clinical trials to uphold ethical research standards and protect participant well-being. Adverse events can arise during the administration of investiga-tional products, requiring rigorous oversight to assess risks and ensure timely interventions. The Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) plays a vital role in reviewing clinical trial data, safe-guarding trial participants and maintaining the integrity of study results. To strengthen DSMB ex-pertise across the continent, Africa CDC, in collaboration with the Safety Platform for Emergency Vaccines (SPEAC), is offering a structured training course in data safety monitoring.

An entity of the African Union

CEPI SPEAC

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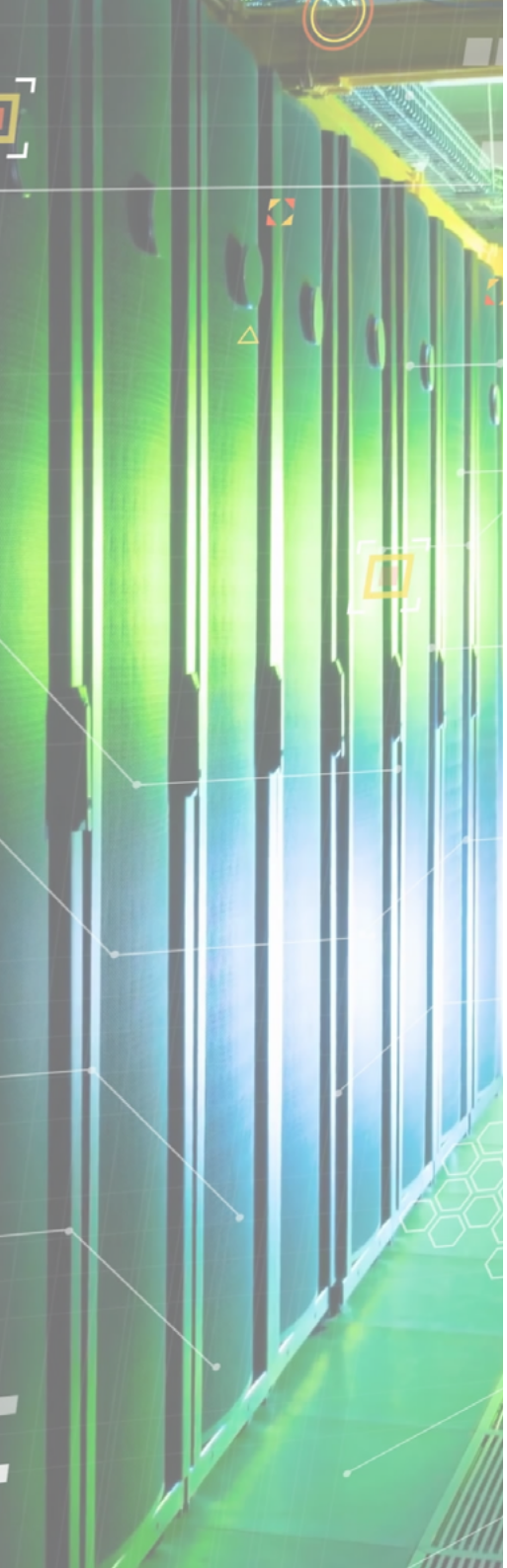

This course aims to expand the pool of qualified DSMB members by increasing the availability of trained experts to support the ethical oversight of vaccine trials and strengthen global prepar-edness for emerging health threats. The eight-week programme combines self-paced learning and live virtual sessions facilitated by experts in vaccine safety and clinical trial monitoring. Up-on successful completion, participants may join the DSMB Pool and hey may be considered for future clinical trial oversight roles.

Africa CDC and CEPI/SPEAC jointly sponsor this training to equip professionals with the skills needed for effective safety monitoring in clinical trials, thereby improving research quality and public health outcomes.

Goals

- Increase the global pool of qualified DSMB members.
- Enhance expertise in vaccine clinical trials, epidemiology and statistics.
- Improve clinical safety monitoring decision-making skills.
- Expand training accessibility to a geographically diverse audience.
- Strengthen competency assessment in safety monitoring.

Objectives

- To bolster the proficiency of clinical trial stakeholders in safety monitoring practices, leading to improved participant safety and data integrity.
- To strengthen adherence to regulatory and ethical standards in clinical trials, ensuring credible and reliable research outcomes.
- To foster awareness and adoption of safety monitoring best practices within the African clinical research community, promoting excellence and accountability.
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Methodology and Deliverables

The training will employ a modular format, combining recorded lectures with live virtual sessions. This approach ensures flexibility while maintaining interactive learning opportunities. Expert trainers and subject-matter specialists will facilitate the course, leveraging their real-world experience to deliver high-quality instruction.

Course Structure

The programme consists of eight weekly modules covering key topics:

- Introduction to Clinical Trials & DSMB
- Vaccine Clinical Trials & Safety Monitoring
- DSMB Roles & Decision-Making
- Regulatory & Ethical Considerations
- Safety Monitoring & Risk Assessment
- Statistical Methods for DSMB
- DSMB Meetings & Case Discussions
- Practical Applications, quizzes and final assessment

Eligibility and Call for Applications

The training is open to professionals working in:

- Vaccine safety surveillance organisations
- Clinical trial hubs
- National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs)/National PV centres
- Ethics committees
- Applicants should have a background in clinical trials or vaccine pharmacovigilance.

Trainers and Facilitators

The course will be led by a team of experienced trainers from the Safety Platform for Emergency Vaccines (SPEAC), a CEPI-funded initiative to enhance safety for CEPI-funded trials across various platforms for multiple priority pathogens.

Certification Requirements:

To receive a Certificate of Completion in Safety Monitoring in Clinical Trials, participants must:

- Achieve a passing score of 70% in all quizzes.
- Actively participate in all live sessions (maximum of two absences permitted).
- Score 70% or higher on the final exam (two attempts allowed).

Registration and Participant Selection

Course start date: February 12, 2026
Registration Deadline: January 31, 2026
Registration Link: https://redcap.link/az7t1w59
Required Application Details: Full Name, Country of Residence, Current Position, vaccine, DSMB and clinical trial related experience, Curriculum Vitae, Contact Information (Phone & Email)

How to apply

- All applications must be submitted using the online application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- All applicants must provide the following required information:
  - A support letter from the current employer
  - Letters of recommendation from two reputable professional referees.
  - A personal statement (maximum 500 words) demonstrating the candidate's commitment to medicine safety in Africa. This statement should outline the applicant's technical qualifications, professional experience and achievements, and articulate their vision for the future impact of effective medicine safety and regulation systems across the continent.

Selection Process

A total of 40 participants will be chosen for each course based on their professional background, relevant experience and geographical representation to ensure a diverse cohort,

For Enquiries: any questions or clarifications regarding the DSMB training program? Please reach us at alemayehud@africacdc.org

Important Dates to Remember

Registration Deadline:

January 31, 2026

The course start date:

February 12, 2026

Completed applications with all supporting documents should be submitted through https://redcap.link/az7t1w59

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