

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

in partnership with



June 2023

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC partnered to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and hasten the economic recovery of the African continent.

Saving Lives and Livelihoods is a \$1.5 billion USD initiative that addressed the urgency to purchase COVID-19 vaccines supporting the delivery of vaccinations to millions more, as well as in the longer-term ensure Africa's health security and response to future pandemics.

WHO recently declared the end of COVID-19 as a public health emergency.

Africa CDC is leading the charge to integrate COVID-19 vaccinations into routine immunization programs. We will prioritize specific groups – health care workers, the elderly, and those who have underlying illnesses – to ensure they are fully vaccinated.

THE IMPACT - TWO YEARS ON

Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods

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Contributed to the full vaccination of
52% of the target population in Africa

Over 32 million doses
of vaccines administered.



22,520 jobs created in
25 member States and 5,628 youth
employed



Trained and deployed
37,609 health workers



Convened funders and industry experts
to establish a Pan African Vaccine
Manufacturing strategy to manufacture.

60%
of the continent's vaccines
by 2040.

Program implementation in

25
member states



Strengthened
Africa CDC's capacity,
including

106
new staff.

Through the urgent support model,

2,573,762
doses were safely administered.

Invested in the procurement of
cold chain equipment across

32

countries in phase one.



Significant investments, moving
from **2 to 32 laboratories on the
continent for genomic
sequencing** of SARS-COV-2
and other pathogens.



COVID-19 in Africa: Where are we today?











Currently, 14 African nations have vaccinated 70 percent of their eligible population with the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the WHO. Tanzania and São Tomé and Príncipe have fully vaccinated their populations, while Botswana has immunised 94 percent of theirs. Mauritius, Seychelles, and Somalia have vaccinated over 90 percent of their eligible population. Comoros, Liberia, Rwanda, and Zambia have vaccinated about 80 percent of the eligible population.

Meanwhile, approximately 51.8 percent of the continent's eligible population is fully vaccinated.

More than 12 million COVID-19 cases have been reported in Africa since the outbreak began. Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia have reported the greatest number of cases.



Top 10 countries in Africa where vaccines have been administered

01		Nigeria 69 million	49% of eligible population
02		Ethiopia 45 million	67% of eligible population
03		Egypt 42 million	52% of eligible population
04		Tanzania 32 million	76% of eligible population
05		Morocco 23 million	79% of eligible population
06		South Africa 20 million	41% of eligible population
07		Mozambique 15 million	77% of eligible population
08		Uganda 13 million	47% of eligible population
09		Kenya 13 million	39% of eligible population
10		DR. Congo 13 million	59% of eligible population

Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative



Dakar hosts high-level session on Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

Leaders and experts from Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation convened in Dakar for a two-day joint workshop on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative, COVID-19 vaccination transition strategy, program activities and implementation. Discussions focused on strategies for protecting priority groups with COVID-19 vaccination, ways of integrating COVID-19 management while strengthening routine immunization and building the capacity of public health workforce.



Updates on the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative

Mastercard Foundation partners with Institut Pasteur de Dakar to expand workforce for vaccine manufacturing in Africa

The Institut Pasteur de Dakar (IPD) and the Mastercard Foundation have announced a historic \$45 million partnership in support of the MADIBA (Manufacturing in Africa for Disease Immunization and Building Autonomy) project, a significant step towards achieving vaccine manufacturing autonomy in Africa. The multi-year project, aimed at developing and building a world-class workforce to support vaccine manufacturing, will establish a Centre of Training Excellence to equip talented young people, particularly young women, with specialized skills in vaccine research, manufacturing, production, and distribution.



At the Presidential Palace of His Excellency President Macky Sall: Dr. Amadou Sall, CEO of IPD; Reeta Roy, President and CEO of Mastercard Foundation; Dr John Nkengasong, PEPFAR Global AIDS Coordinator; Dr. Ngongo Ngashi, Chief of Staff Africa CDC; Dr. Jérôme Kim, CEO of IVI and Dr. Solomon Zewdu, Snr Executive Resident, Mastercard Foundation

“This partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and IPD will enhance human capital development for biomanufacturing in Africa. The project is a crucial pillar for vaccine equity and autonomy and a significant driver for high-skilled job creation among young and female Africans.” Amadou Sall, the CEO of IPD. [Read more](#)



One of the sessions at the Dakar Epidemic Forum



High level delegation that attended the CEO Roundtable

Second edition of the Dakar Epidemics Forum

Experts from Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation were among speakers at the second Epidemics Forum organized by Institut Pasteur de Dakar from May 31 to June 1, 2023. It was an opportunity for leading experts and senior executives from across disciplines to engage on how to end and prevent epidemics. This year's theme was 'Ending Epidemics and Preventing Pandemics'.

The forum also provided the opportunity to recognize the major achievements of Dr John Nkengasong and the significant scientific contribution of Dr Peter Piot. [Read more.](#)

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Snapshot of key successes for COVID-19 vaccination acceleration in Africa.



A health worker administering a COVID-19 vaccine during a vaccination drive in the Democratic Republic of Congo

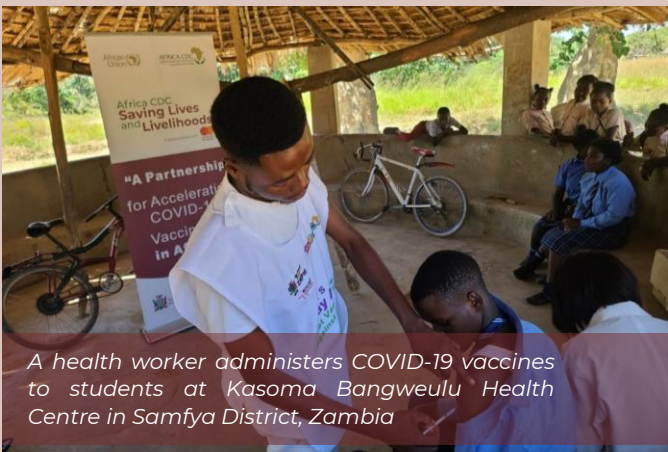
Mass COVID-19 vaccination campaign reaches over 300,000 people in DRC

The Ministry of Health in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in collaboration with Africa CDC, DRC Red Cross, and other partners led a two-week rapid results initiative on mass COVID-19 vaccination drive. During the campaign, over 304,800 individuals were immunized across 49 health zones. The campaign that was held in April, primarily targeted high-priority groups such as the elderly, those with co-morbidities, and healthcare workers. It aimed at bolstering vaccination rates in the country. The outreach was held in a combination of fixed vaccination sites and mobile teams, leading to a significant increase in the number of vaccinated individuals. [Read more](#)

Amref Health Africa promotes equitable COVID-19 immunization for adolescents in Zambia

Amref Health Africa is driving uptake of COVID-19 vaccination in Zambia's Luapula Province through mobile outreaches that target 75 percent of the eligible population, including children between the ages of 12 and 17.

Administering newly acquired doses of the Pfizer vaccine in a door-to-door initiative that includes school-based vaccination sites, the region has seen a significant rise in vaccine uptake among younger populations. Health education has also been pivotal in encouraging voluntary vaccination among the students.



A health worker administers COVID-19 vaccines to students at Kasoma Bangweulu Health Centre in Samfya District, Zambia

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Field trip assesses vaccination program in Botswana

The Botswana Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the African Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP), a

public-private community development partnership, and the Ministry of Health recently organized a field trip to assess the effectiveness of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in Kgalagadi North District in Botswana.

A highlight of the trip was COVID-19 vaccination for students at Motaung Junior Secondary School,



Representatives from the Botswana Red Cross Society, Ministry of Health, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the African Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP) at Kgalagadi North District, Botswana.

a great measure to protecting them from the virus. The initiative aims to enhance students' protection, reduce infections, and foster resilient future leaders. The collaborative efforts have successfully boosted COVID-19 vaccine uptake in the region.

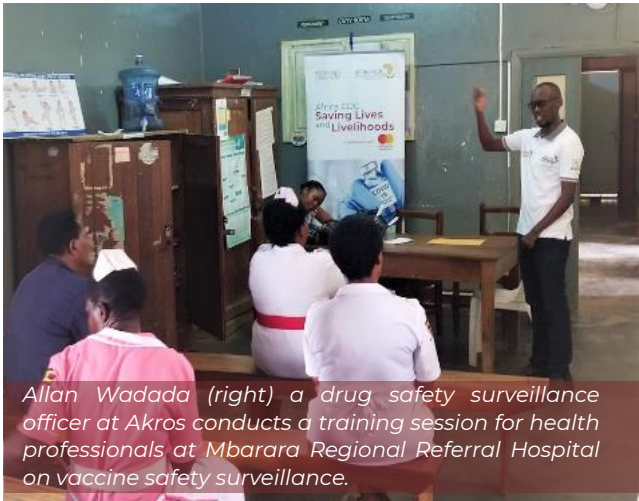
Lesotho's Health Minister lauds Red Cross volunteers in COVID-19 vaccination outreach

Lesotho's Minister of Health Selibe Mochoboroane has commended the Lesotho Red Cross Society for their role in mobilizing COVID-19 vaccinations during an outreach event in Quthing-Sebapala. The event aimed at providing health services, including COVID-19 vaccinations, to remote communities. The Minister urged the volunteers to continue their work as some community members still await their primary or booster vaccine doses.



Lesotho's Minister of Health, Selibe Mochoboroane (second left) joins community health volunteers at a COVID-19 vaccination drive in Quthing-Sebapala district.

Spotlight on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



Allan Wadada (right) a drug safety surveillance officer at Akros conducts a training session for health professionals at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital on vaccine safety surveillance.

Uganda's first vaccine safety surveillance initiative boosts public trust and engagement

In a major public health win, Akros, a data-driven health firm, has implemented Uganda's first active safety surveillance system for COVID-19 vaccination.

The system had dedicated drug safety surveillance officers (DSSOs) stationed at two key hospitals to actively monitor vaccinated individuals, report adverse reactions, and educate the public and healthcare staff about potential side effects.

The surveillance system is already proving to have transformative effects on the community's trust. For instance, one woman, touched by the care from a follow-up call, pledged to encourage her friends to get vaccinated. The initiative has also enhanced the quality of safety surveillance and reporting. In recognition of its value, the Ministry of Health and the National Drug Authority are considering expanding this approach to other hospitals in Uganda.

Local bar owner boosts COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Botswana

Lesego Kgolo, a prominent businesswoman and community influencer in Kang Village in Botswana, is spearheading COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the community by sharing information related to health and COVID-19 with her patrons.

With the support of volunteers from the Botswana Red Cross Society, she hosted an information-sharing session at her bar. This resulted in 27 of her patrons receiving their COVID-19 vaccines. Kgolo also safeguards patrons' vaccination cards and reminds them of their upcoming appointments.

Her collaborative efforts have earned praise from a delegation that included the Ministry of Health, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, Botswana Red Cross Society, and the African Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP), who hailed her as a key player in disseminating accurate information and boosting vaccine acceptance within the community.



Representatives from the Ministry of Health, IFRC, Botswana Red Cross Society and ACHAP with Ms. Lesego Kgolo (rightcap), a bar owner in Kang Village, Botswana.

Insights from a member state

**Dr Meseret Zelalem,
Director, Maternal, Child Health & Nutrition,
Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia.**

Exclusive Interview

Ethiopia's Ministry of Health has been a pioneer implementing partner for the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative. To mark the initiative's second anniversary, we feature an exclusive interview with the Ministry's Dr Zelalem.

Q: Please provide a brief overview of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative and the role of the Ministry of Health?

A: The Saving Lives and Livelihood initiative has improved COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Ethiopia, particularly in areas affected by conflict and drought. It is a three-year project implemented by the Ministry of Health Ethiopia, Africa CDC, and other implementing partners (Amref Health Africa, Akros research, IDI, Red Cross, UNICEF and WFP) to support the country's effort to vaccinate 70% of the population.

The Ministry of Health has been part of the project since inception in November 2021. In 2022, implementing partners drafted micro plans for the first-year's interventions with the Ministry of Health providing leadership and guidance in alignment with the country's priorities, which were approved and an MOU signed.



The implementing partners, the Partnership and Collaboration Directorate, and the Ministry of Health have been following up on implementation through focal persons and in-person meetings. The Ministry's role is ensuring the alignment of the micro plans with government priorities, following up and monitoring the implementation, and supporting implementing partners.

Continued overleaf>>

Insights from a member state

Dr Meseret Zelalem,
Director, Maternal, Child Health & Nutrition,
Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia.



- Inadequate budget for operation costs for vaccinators and coordinators
- Challenges in vaccination service delivery in high-risk communities or hard to reach areas and refugee internally displaced people
- Limitations in addressing youth vaccination at school and universities
- Improving multi-sectoral coordination and leadership engagement in education
- Limitations in immunization program data management and information use at all levels
- Shortage of human resources for COVID-19 vaccination service delivery program
- 3 EPI officers at national level for 12 regions and additional TAs (short-term consultants)
- 1 EPI focal at regional level for an average of 13 zones (Max.-21 zone Oromia and Min. 5 zones Somali and Afar)
- One EPI, Child Health & Nutrition focal at zonal level
- One RMNCAYH-N Focal at Woreda level

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Q: As the first implementing partner, what unique opportunities and challenges did the Ministry face during the early stages of this initiative?

A: The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is supporting the Ministry of Health efforts towards its 70% vaccination target, which is nearly 70 million people. The initiative is addressing challenges in the vaccination program, including:

- Low vaccine uptake in most major cities that are epicenters of infection

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is a unique opportunity to address challenges in hard-to-reach populations.

Q: How does the initiative align with the Ministry's strategy for health in Ethiopia?

A: The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is aligned with the ministry's plan that targets vaccinating 70% of the population, focusing on hard-to-reach segments. It is also strengthening the COVID-19 vaccination service delivery by deploying technical assistants, continuous supportive supervision, mentorship, and review meetings.

Insights from a member state

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Q: Can you highlight some of the impacts that the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative has had in Ethiopia so far?

A: The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative has supported COVID-19 vaccination service delivery in 33 select zones and six regions by mobilizing people for vaccination and organizing COVID-19 vaccination centres in hard-to-reach areas. The project supported: third round national COVID-19 vaccination campaign; integrated measles and COVID-19 vaccination campaign; and fourth round national COVID-19 campaign

The initiative has supported vaccination of more than 30 million individuals with support from global donors and implementing partners led by the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia. The major intervention specific to the project includes:

- Deployment of technical assistants and supervisors at regional and zonal level which improved planning and coordination, skills of health workers and the COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in hard-to-reach areas and those affected by conflict and drought. It also supported implementation of the immunization program in these hard-to-reach zones.
- Support to national COVID-19 vaccine and integrated EPI Campaigns at the national level through the deployment of vaccination teams.
- Training selected health facilities on identified gaps in reporting and use of the DHIS-2 which changed the reporting of data captured during mass campaigns.
- Regular supportive supervisions and review meetings strengthened the EPI team at the zonal level in terms of preparedness for vaccination campaigns
- Evidence generation on Immunization Program Evaluation across all building blocks with five local universities, a priority initiative of the ministry to improve national level immunization program and COVID-19 vaccination service integration with existing system.

Procurement of ICT equipment to strengthen the MOH DHIS2 system

Q: What does partnership look like in the context of this initiative? How do you collaborate with other organizations and stakeholders?

A: The partnership with implementing partners is in planning and implementation of activities to utilise resources efficiently. Partners' focal persons regularly engage in technical working group meetings of the EPI Desk to understand and align project activities in accordance with the Ministry of Health. Regular face-to-face and virtual meetings also enable better collaboration.

Q: Going forward, how do you envision the future of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in Ethiopia? What goals does the Ministry aim to achieve?

A: The Ministry of health Ethiopia envisions coming years of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative with broad scope to support the country's immunization programs. The ministry's goal is to vaccinate 70 % of the total target population in the coming year and routinize the COVID-19 service delivery, focusing on people aged 12 years and above, who have not received the first dose and highest priority-use of SAGE in selected health facilities.



Kenya advances creation of vaccine manufacturing facilities

The Government of Kenya, through the Finance Bill 2023, is offering tax exemptions on raw materials used to manufacture pharmaceutical and biopharmaceuticals to encourage establishment of drugs and vaccine manufacturing plants in the country. According to the country's Health Cabinet Secretary, Susan Wafula the move will reduce the cost of vaccines and drugs further reducing the cost of medication.

[Read more.](#)



Kenya's Health Cabinet Secretary, Susan Wafula addresses the media in Shinyalu, Kakamega County.

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