

Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Response in Africa

The Context

The Africa Health Strategy 2016 – 2030 envisions an integrated, inclusive, and prosperous Africa, free from its heavy burden of disease. To achieve this vision, the African Union (AU) has prioritised the building of an effective African-driven response to addressing this challenge. Efforts include strengthening health systems and institutions, leveraging public-private partnerships, improving capacity for local manufacturing through access to technologies, know-how and regulatory capacities, enhancing inter-sectoral actions, and empowering communities.

Pandemics and public health challenges have a tremendous impact on realising Africa’s transformation goals. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has been at the forefront of Africa’s response to the threats of diseases and outbreaks. Strengthening the resilience of frontline regional institutions like the Africa CDC including its Regional Collaborating Centres (RCCs), the Africa Medicines Agency (AMA), African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation (APTF) amongst others will provide the needed impetus for the attainment of a new public health order for Africa’s health security.

The Objective

The project objective is to ‘strengthen the resilience of Africa CDC and related continental health institutions’. This objective is in line with the Agenda 2063 goal on achieving a safer, healthier, integrated and prosperous Africa, in which Member States can efficiently prevent disease transmission, implement surveillance and detection, and prepare to respond effectively to health threats and outbreaks.

Project name	Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Response in Africa
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	African Union (AU)
Lead executing agency	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)
Budget	EUR 16.17 million
Duration	12/2021 – 12/2025

Our Approach

The project takes a systematic approach to enhancing the institutional and programmatic capacities of the Africa CDC, AMA and the APTF in the following key areas:

1. Strengthening institutional capacities at Africa CDC

The project provides technical advisory on selected organisational functions, including human resource and risk management. The project also supports strengthening strategic partnership management at Africa CDC through the development of a corporate strategy for partnership management and the Partnership Management Information System (PMIS).

2. Strengthening vertical and horizontal cooperation among health institutions

The project supports technical assistance towards enhancing vertical and horizontal cooperation amongst various regional and AU health institutions respectively. Through the support to the Africa CDC – RCCs Cooperation, the project helps to leverage the comparative advantages of institutions at the continental and regional levels to control, prevent, detect, and respond to disease





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threats and outbreaks. In addition, the project also enhances capacity, knowledge exchange and networking amongst National Public Health Institutes and supports the operationalisation of the Africa Epidemic Service.

Support is also provided to strengthen Africa CDC's community engagement through institutionalised approaches to youth, women and civil society engagement in public health decision making on the continent.

3. Strengthening local pharmaceutical manufacturing

The AU has set the goal of increasing regional capacity for pharmaceutical production to locally manufacture 60% of vaccines administered in Africa by 2040. The project aims at improving capacity for local manufacturing through access to technologies, know-how and regulatory capacities on the continent by strengthening the institutional and programmatic capacities of African Medicines Agency (AMA) and the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation (APTF).

4. Implementation of the Africa CDC Digital Transformation Strategy

The Africa CDC Digital Transformation Strategy aims to enhance disease surveillance and response, improve healthcare delivery, and support sustainable development through digital solutions. To catalyse the realisation of this vision, the project supports the building of institutional capacities of the Africa CDC Center for Digital Health and facilitates continental knowledge exchanges and networking through digital health convenings such as the Africa Health Tech Summit as well as bridging the digital health gender gap through the African Women in Digital Health (AWiDH) Initiative.

Furthermore, the project also serves as the internal coordination hub for all GIZ implemented projects with Africa CDC in various technical areas including vaccine manufacturing, One Health among others.

Results

The project contributes to ensuring long and healthy lives and promote the well-being for all in Africa in the context of 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want', and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Specifically, the project has:

- Contributed to improved programme management capacities through the delivery of project management trainings for middle and senior level staff of the Africa CDC. More than 60 Africa CDC staff have taken part in the trainings;
- Supported the development of the Africa CDC Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Strategy. The strategy will help the Africa CDC build sustainable collaboration, cooperation and coordination with strategic partners at national, regional and global levels;
- Supported the technical design of the African Union COVID-19 Bingwa Initiative and provided capacity building for the vaccination champions to stimulate massive demand for the COVID-19 vaccine among the youth population in Africa. The project also facilitated the collaboration with Trace Foundation to catalyse vaccine demand amongst young people through digital and physical activities and events. Around 810.000 people were directly reached through various vaccination events, with another 28.4 million reached digitally with campaign materials.

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