



## 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Region CAPSCA Meeting

# Africa Updates – Management of Public Health Emergency in the Context of COVID - 19

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ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

08 February 2022

# OVERVIEW

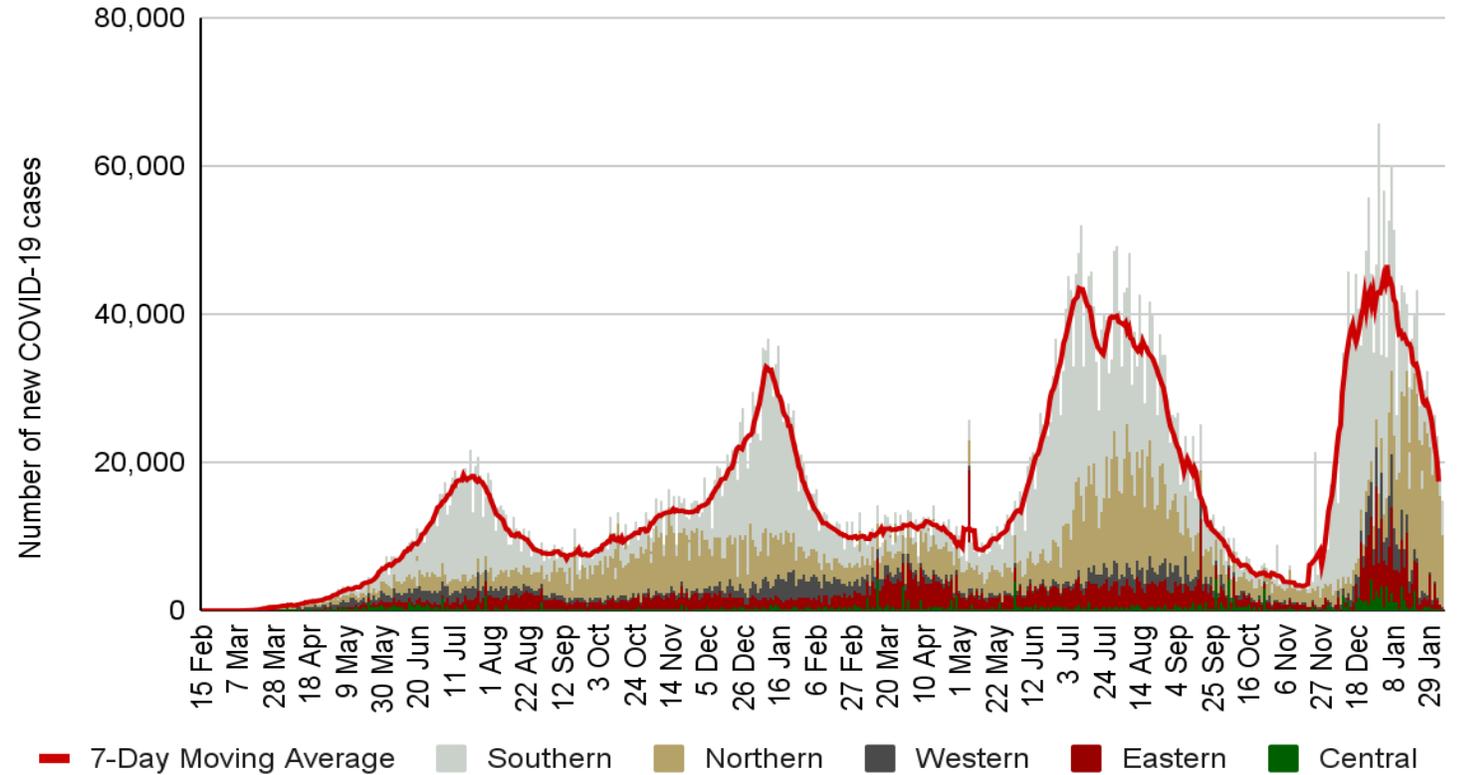
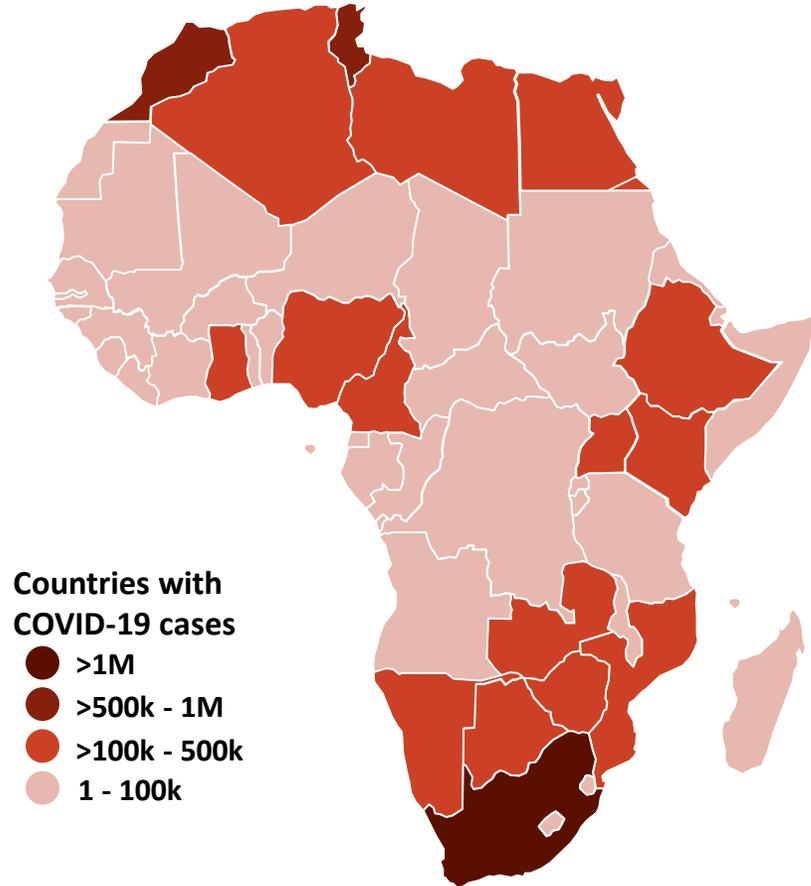
- 01 Trending of cases in Africa**
- 02 Prevention and Response Measures for COVID-19**
- 03 New Public Health Order**
- 04 Lesson learnt and future pandemic management**

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# COVID-19 CASES IN AFRICA | TRENDS

New COVID-19 cases\* reported daily by AU Region, 15 Feb 2020 – 6 Feb 2022



10.9M

cases

241k

deaths

2.2%

CFR

9.9M

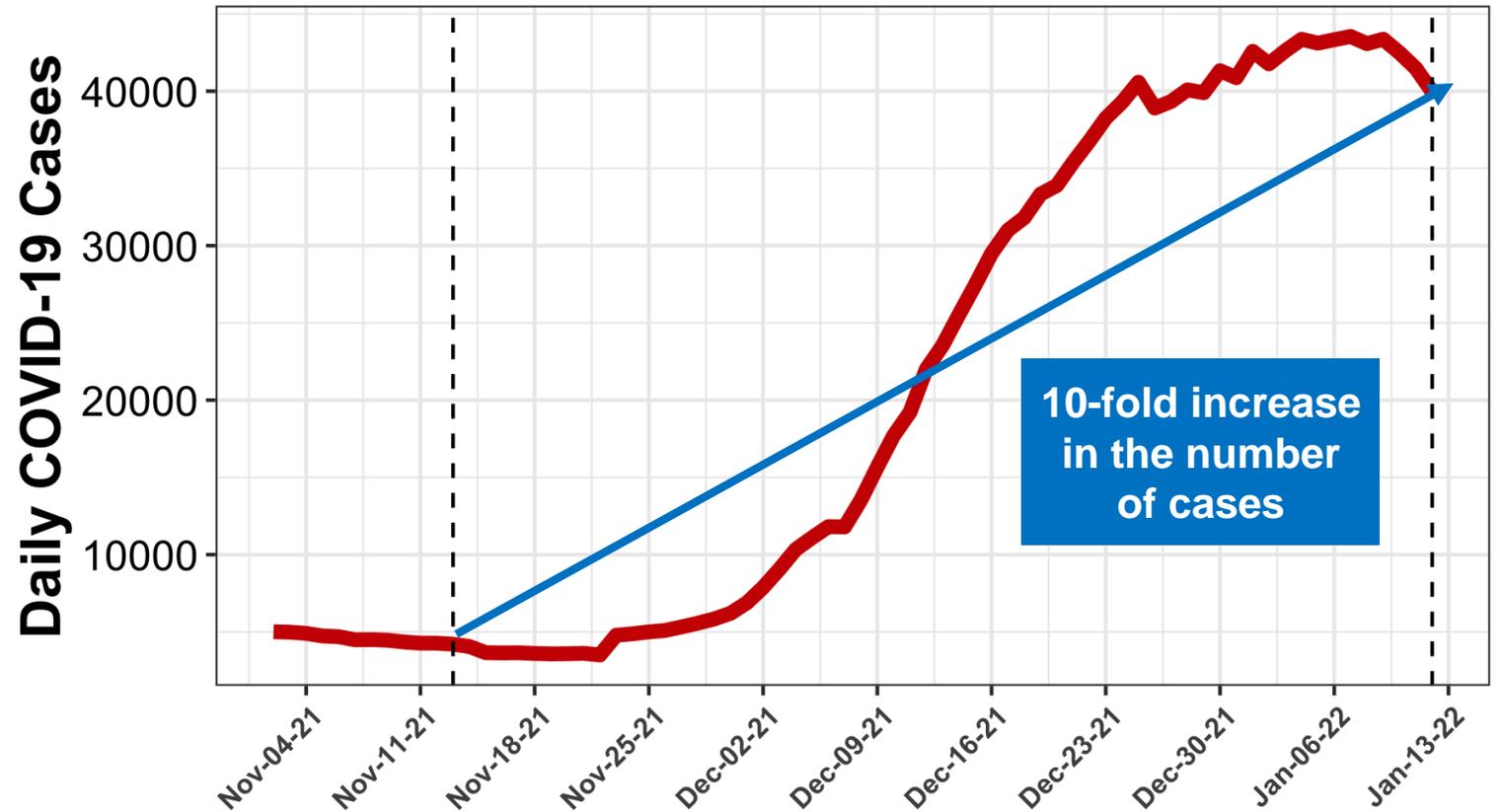
recoveries

# THE FOURTH WAVE OF COVID-19 IN AFRICA

13 Nov 2021 – 13 January 2022 (in the past two months)

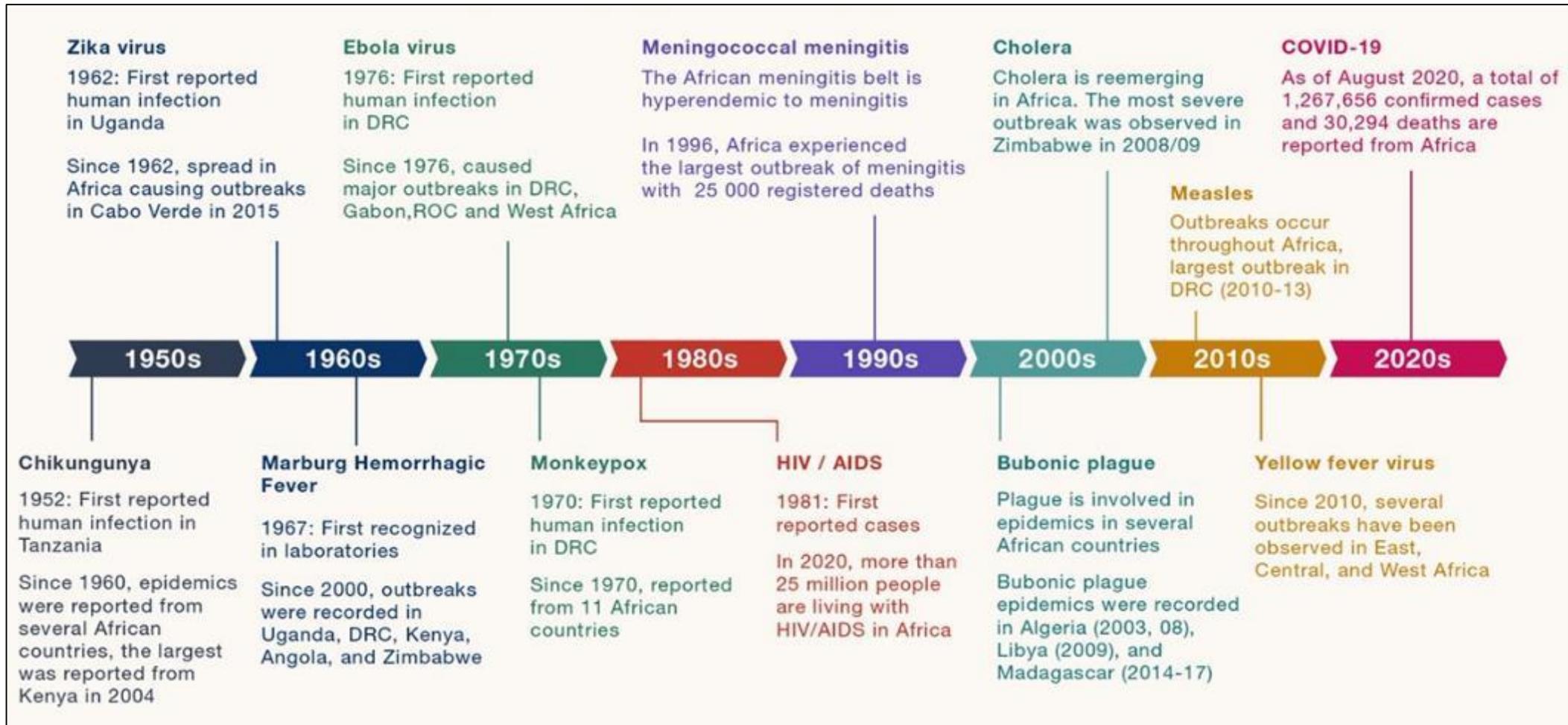
**>1.6M Cases**  
(16% of all cases)

**>11K Deaths**  
(5% of all cases)



\*7 days rolling average is shown

# Major emerging and re-emerging diseases in Africa | 1950 - 2020



Nkengasong and Tessema, 2020, Cell (2020)

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# RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC | TIMELINE 2020-21



# Joint Continental Strategy to fight COVID-19: **enhanced approaches to Prevent, Monitor, and Treat**

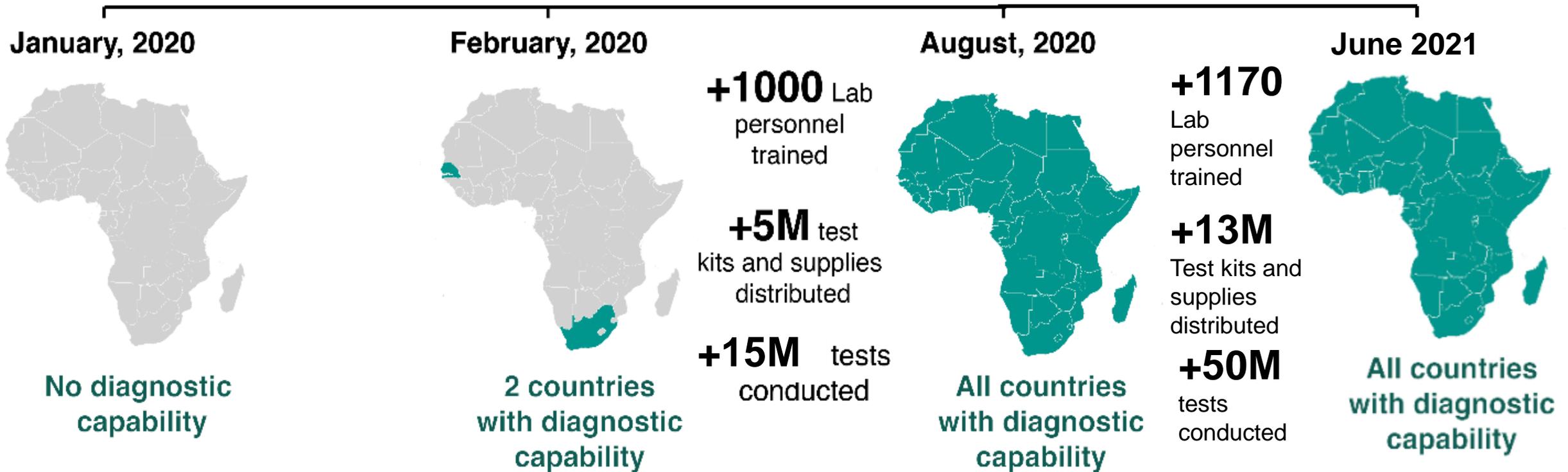
Africa CDC convened emergency meeting of 55 ministers of health on COVID-19, February 22, 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



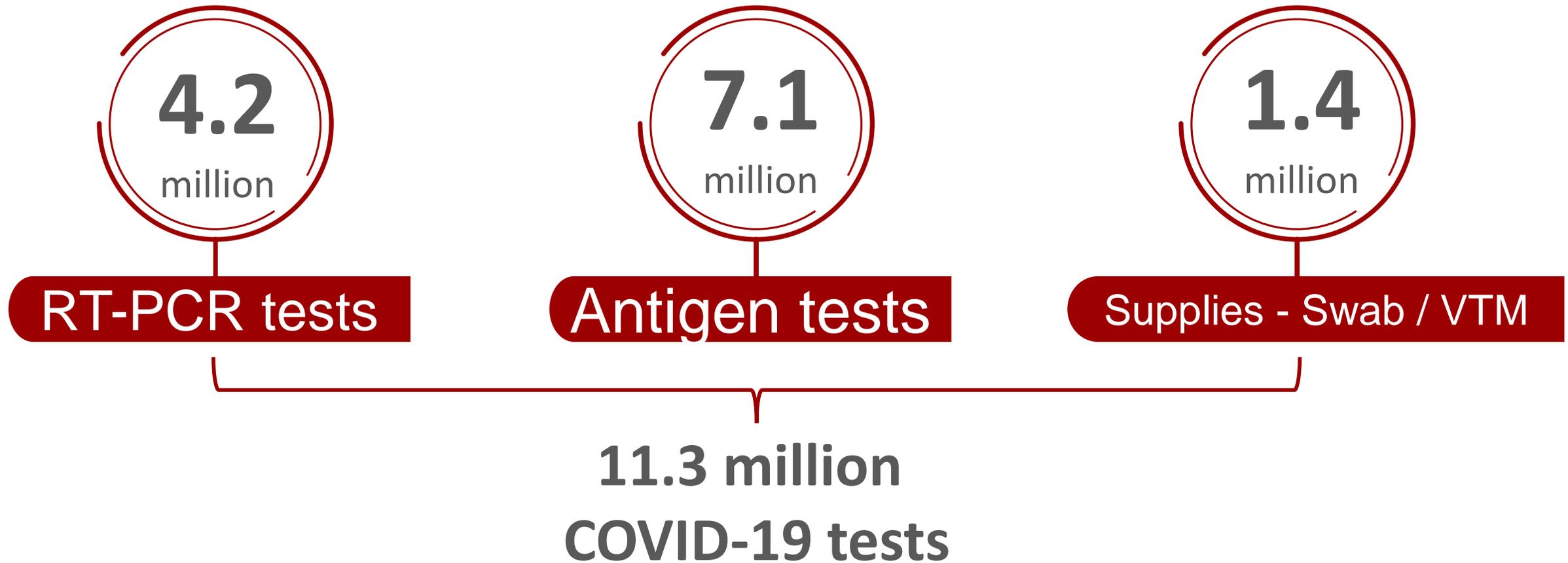
On 8 May 2021, African Health Ministers of Health endorsed an adapted strategy to fight COVID-19 underpinned by enhanced approaches to Prevent, Monitor and Treat



# Africa CDC rapidly developed diagnostics capacity



# SARS-COV-2 TESTING | SUPPORT FOR MEMBER STATES



# Importance of technology | **Launched Trusted Travel Platform**

**Simple, Free, Secure, Convenient & Connected with Free Toolkits for African Countries to Deploy Vaccine Passports**



**Cross Border  
Travel Solution**



**Vaccine Record  
Management**



**Vaccine Allocation  
& Administration  
Scheduling**



**Post Vaccine  
Administration &  
Feedback  
Management**

# We launched the **Saving Lives, Saving Livelihoods Programme**



African Union  AFRICA CDC   
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Safeguarding Africa's Health   
mastercard foundation

AFRICAN UNION, AFRICA CDC & MASTERCARD FOUNDATION  
**Launch Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative:**

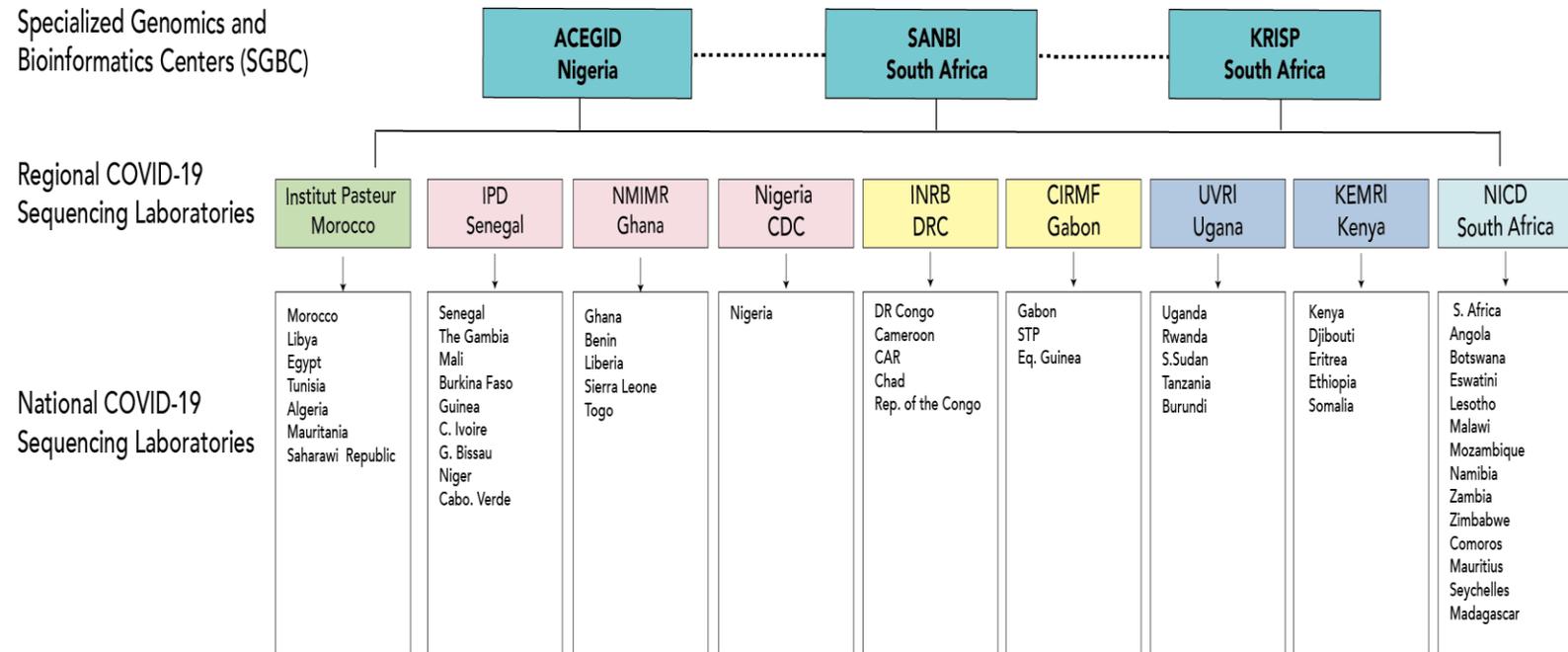
**A Partnership for  
COVID-19 Vaccination  
in Africa**

On 8 June 2021, the MasterCard Foundation announced that it will deploy \$1.3 billion over the next three years in partnership with Africa CDC to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Africa and hasten the economic recovery of the continent.

# African Pathogen Genomics Institute

- Capacity building
  - Training
  - Infrastructure support
  - Supplies
- Data management
- Coordination of specimen referral
- Coordination of surveillance network for genomics

## Africa Pathogen Genomics Surveillance Network for COVID-19 and emerging pathogens



# SARS-COV-2 SEQUENCING | SUPPORT FOR MEMBER STATES

**+100,000**

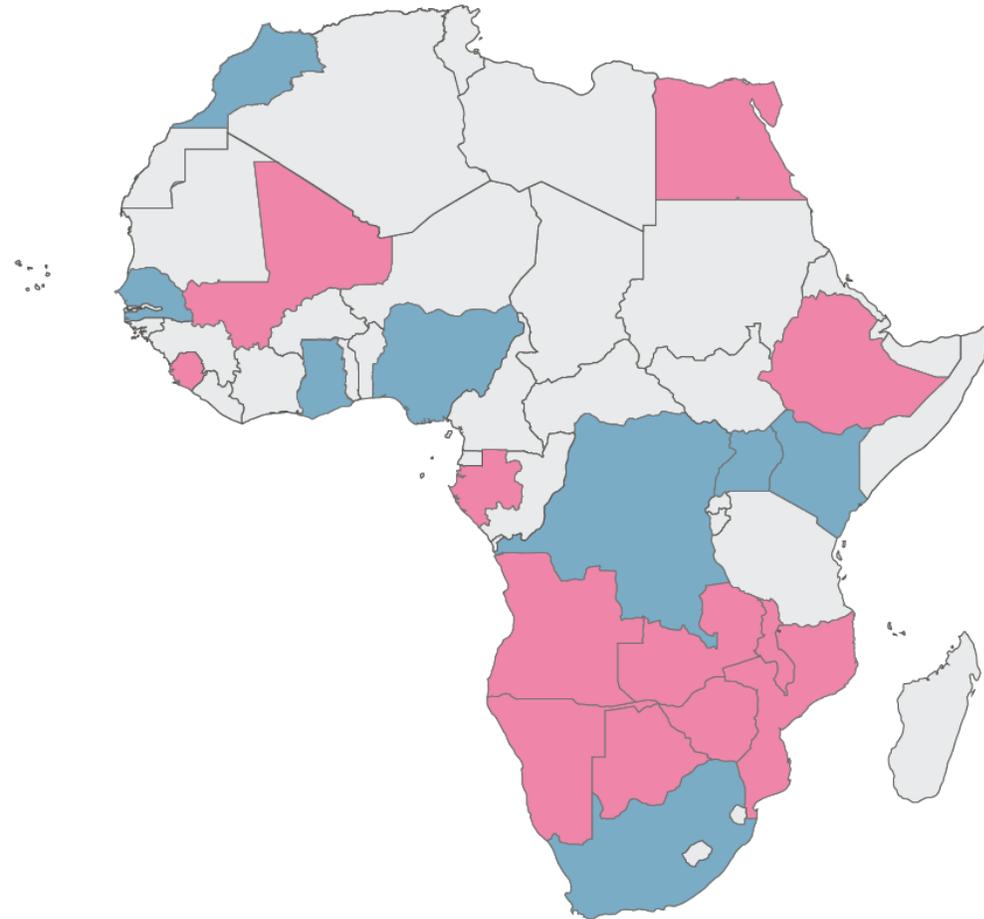
sequencing reagents

**24**

sequencing equipment

**22**

Member States



■ Regional hubs ■ National laboraotry

# SARS-COV-2 SEQUENCING | SAMPLE REFERRAL NETWORK

## Support for Member States



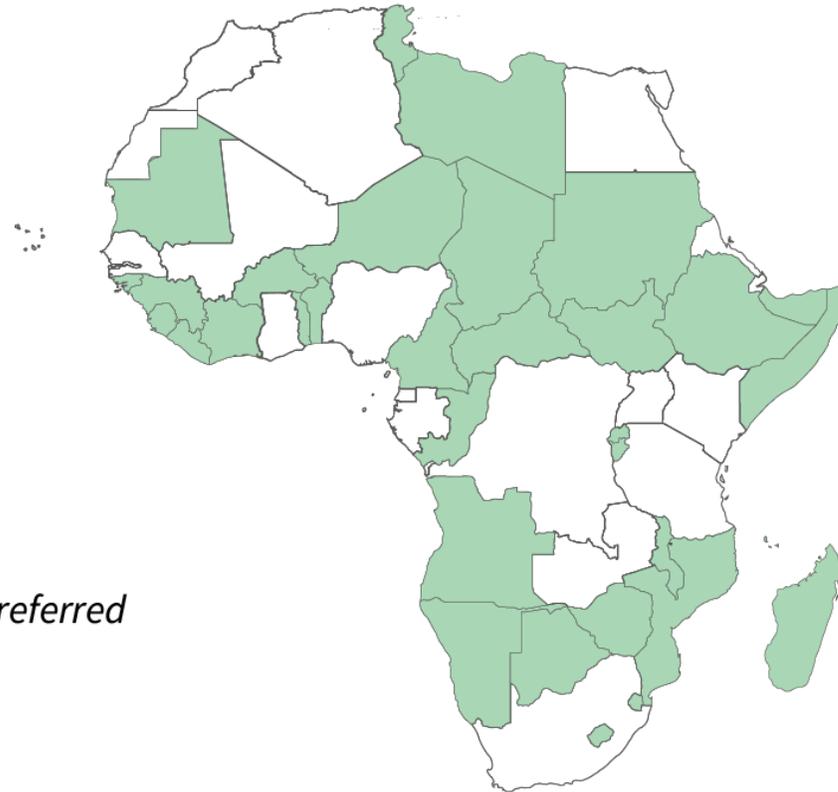
**36**

Member States

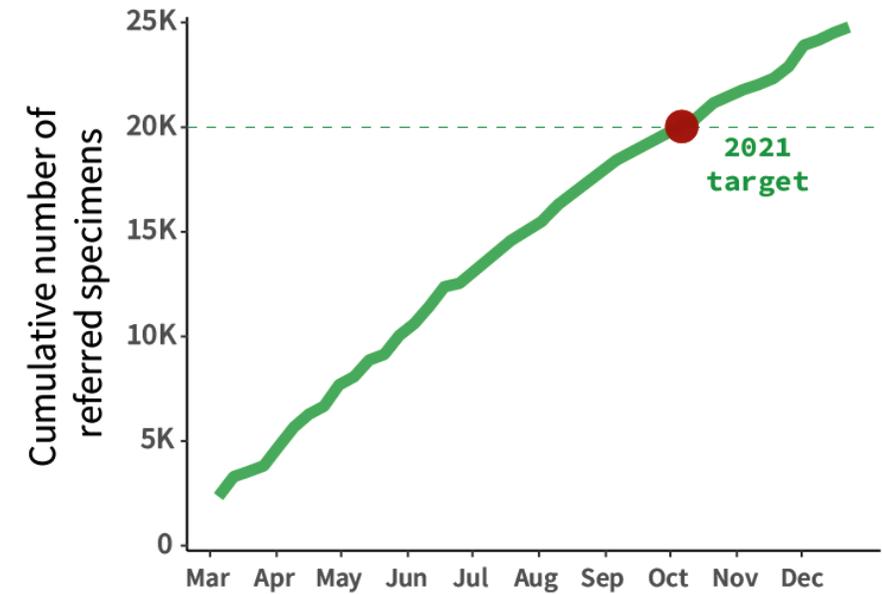


**24,784**

SARS-CoV-2 specimens referred



■ Sample referring Member States



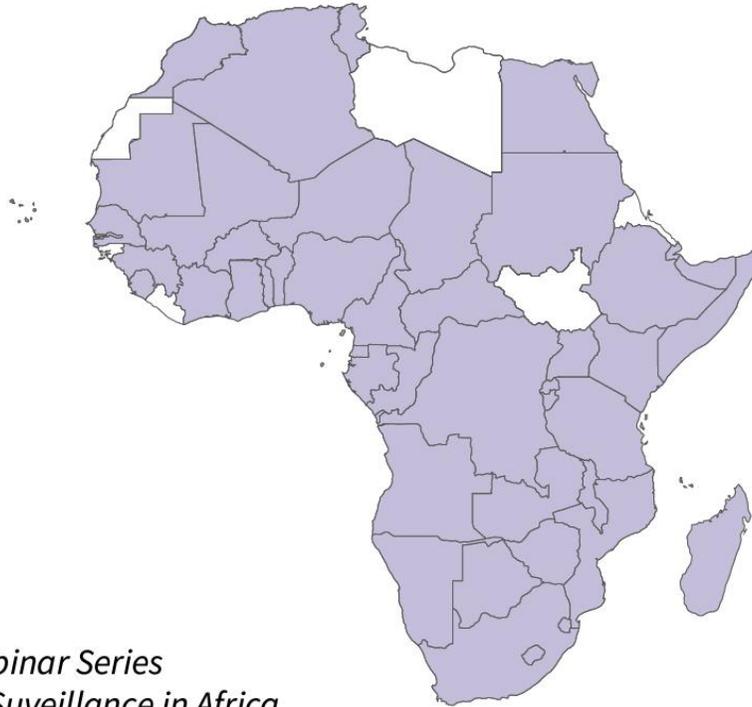
# SARS-COV-2 SEQUENCING | TRAINING ON SEQUENCING

 **46**  
Member States

 **9**  
trainings (5 hands-on)

 **230**  
trainees

 **+2,000**  
attended Africa PGI Webinar Series  
on Pathogen Genomic Surveillance in Africa

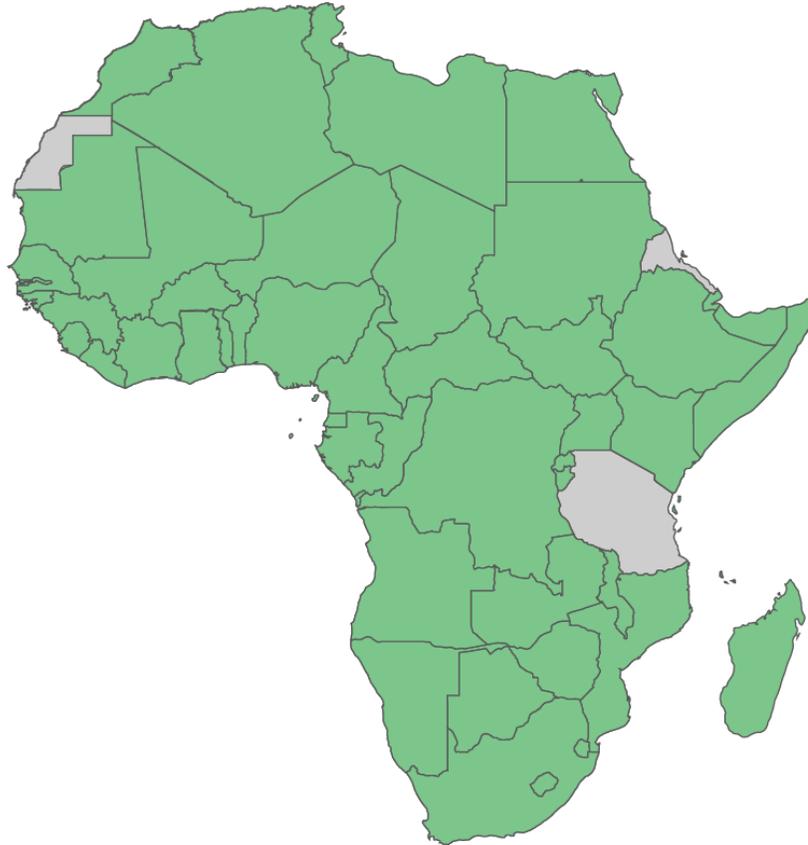


# AFRICA CDC COVID-19 RESPONSE | VARIANT DETECTION

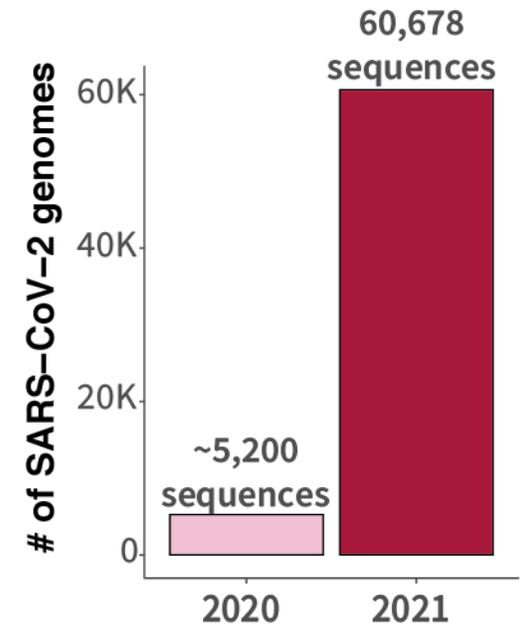
As of 31 Dec 2021

**60,678**  
SARS-CoV-2 Sequences

**51**  
Member states



**12X**  
more SARS-CoV-2  
sequences in 2021  
(compared to 2020)



# COVID-19 VACCINES IN AFRICA

## African Union target:

COVID-19 vaccine coverage :

**70%**

Fully vaccinated people:

**900M**

Total vaccines need (in doses):

**1.8B\***

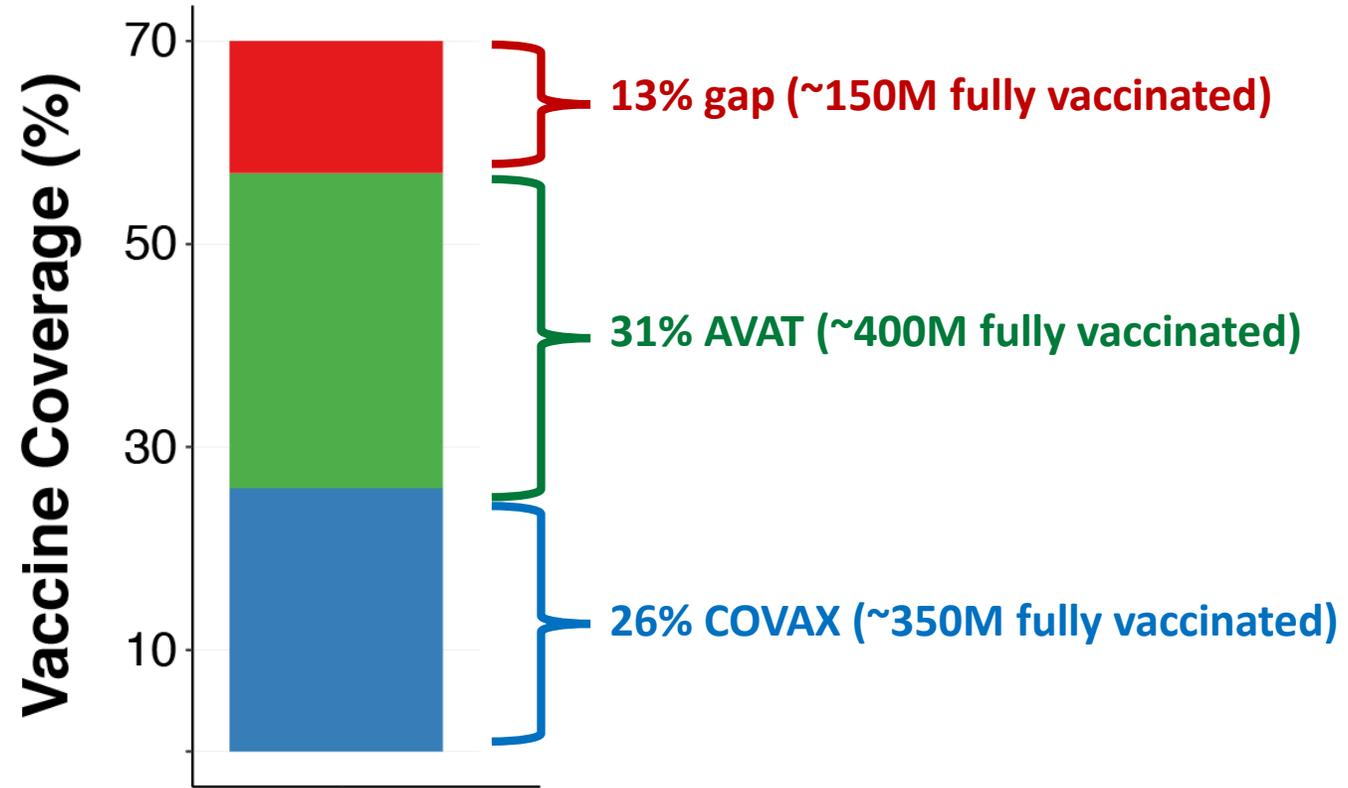
*\*2 doses per person fully vaccinated*

# COVID-19 VACCINATION IN AFRICA | PROJECTED ACCESS TO VACCINES

**70% Target**

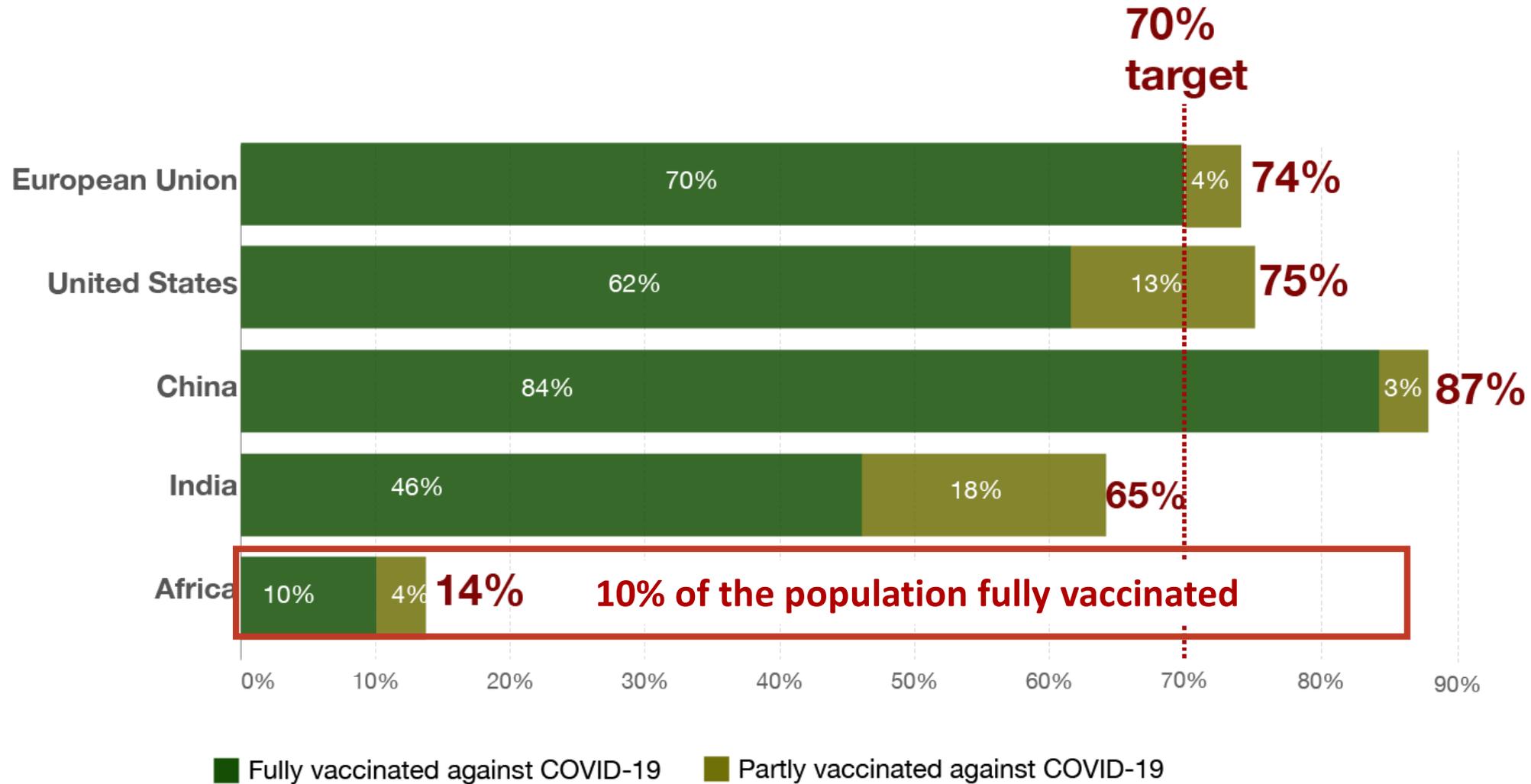
**Vaccines Needs:  
1.8 billion**

**Target: 70% coverage  
(900 million people)**



**Purchase of AVAT doses is supported by Afreximbank facility and additional partners support is needed**

# VACCINES SAVE LIVES, LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIES



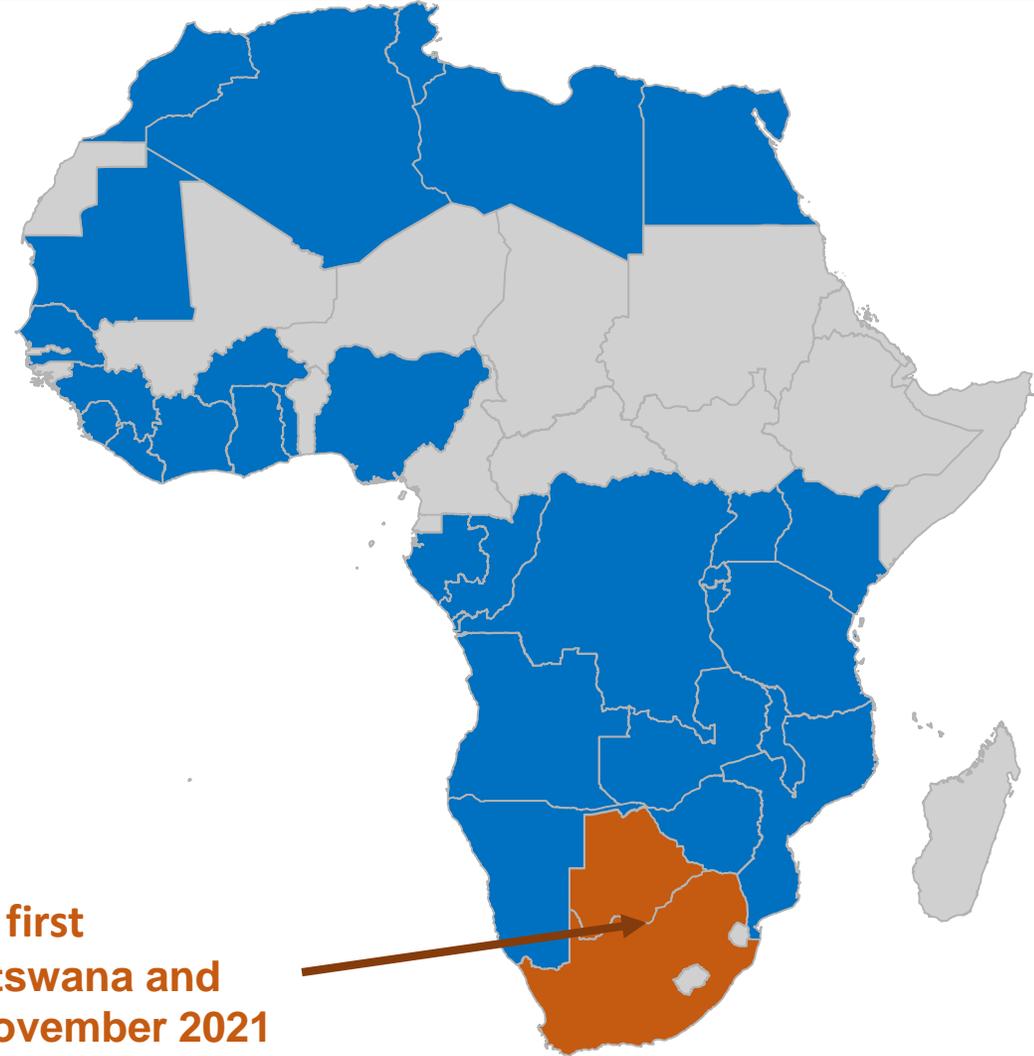
# OMICRON FUELLED THE 4<sup>th</sup> WAVE OF COVID-19 IN AFRICA

As of 14 January 2022

First reported in  
Botswana and South  
Africa

33 (60%)  
of Member States reported  
Omicron Variant

Omicron first  
reported in Botswana and  
South Africa in November 2021



# MAINTAIN THE GAINS AND RESPOND FOR **THE FOURTH WAVE**

**No complacency, no prevention fatigue:** intensify public health and social measures against COVID-19 by:

**Continuous support MS to implement the following:**

1. Enhance community engagement for improved usage of face masks and hand washing measures
2. Avoid large gatherings and crowded events
3. Support PACT: test, trace and treat (ensure Oxygen supply)
4. Enhance surveillance for early detection of hotspots
5. Ensure adequate supply of personal protective equipment

# AU SUMMIT PHYSICAL MEETING **SUPPORT MEASURES**

- **Minimise the numbers** of delegates and staffs
- **Use virtual** options for meetings as much as possible
- **Engage with local safety experts** to ensure public health measures at the airport, hotels and road transport
- **Dedicate technical team** to support safety throughout the meeting

# AU SUMMIT PHYSICAL MEETING AFRICA CDC'S SUPPORT



## ■ Given the 4<sup>th</sup> Wave of COVID-19, Africa CDC Ensured:

- Only essential in-person meetings allowed;
- Participants and service providers checked for proof of being fully vaccinated;
- A negative PCR test be required at least 72 hours before travel to venue;
- Daily testing of all participants, including service providers, using rapid antigen tests;
- Distribution of mask at all sites of the venue

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# A NEW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER | **FOUR PILLARS**



**Strengthened public health institutions**



**Strengthened public health workforce**



**Expanded manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics**



**Respectful action-oriented partnerships**

# PILLAR 1: STRENGTHENED PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

## Strengthened Continental Public Health Institution (Africa CDC, AMA, AUDA NEPAD etc.)

- Strong continental public health institutions are critical to **harmonize** and **coordinate public health responses** to epidemics / pandemics.
- Africa CDC with its **5 Regional Collaborating Centres** (RCCs) and **Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network** (RISLNET).
- **Stronger NPHIs** with guidance from Africa CDC on **priorities** and **programs**, **integrated efforts**, and **standard-setting and surveillance**



## Strengthened National Public Health Institutions (NPHIs)



Public Health Research



Public health workforce development



Public health laboratory



Surveillance systems



Emergency preparedness and response



Disease prevention and health promotion

# PILLAR 2: STRENGTHENED PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE



- Africa currently has a **significant skills gap** in public health workforce.
- A **sufficiently large, well-prepared health workforce** is key to enabling the New Public Health Order.
- Adequate investments to develop and maintain a **prepared cadre of public health experts and leaders** will be **fundamental** for the continent to **cope with its disease threats**.
- **Africa Epidemic Service.**

1. WHO recommends at least 1 trained epidemiologist per 200,000 population. Africa currently has 2,000 epidemiologists and needs additional 4,000 national level epidemiologists and 20,000 frontline epidemiologists



# Promoting local manufacturing of personal protective equipment in Africa

Special workshop for manufacturers and distributors of PPE in Africa



**Date:** Thursday, 3 September 2020  
**Time:** 1.00-4.30 pm Eastern Africa Time

Register and connect to the workshop through this link:

 [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Q--PI60nQWamHnxe\\_CNPwg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q--PI60nQWamHnxe_CNPwg)

# PILLAR 4: RESPECTFUL ACTION-ORIENTED PARTNERSHIPS



**Africa-originated and Africa-defined priorities**



**Co-ordinated partnerships**



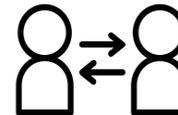
**Alignment with continental priorities (Agenda 2063, AfTCA)**



**Committed partnerships**



**Trusting and effective partnerships**



**Mutual benefits and understanding**

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# SEVEN MAJOR LESSONS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE

- 1. Strong political leadership matters – the whole of Africa approach**
- 2. Critical role of national institutions in pandemic preparedness and response**
- 3. The power of regionalism to coordinated response**
- 4. Continental manufacturing of health security commodities**
- 5. The urgent need for Africa's public health workforce development**
- 6. Respectful and action-oriented partnerships are key**
- 7. Pandemics erode gains on other infectious diseases**

# MAJOR TAKEAWAY MESSAGES

- **COVID-19 should be a stimulus to strengthen health systems in Africa**
- **Invest in public health institutions, local manufacturing of medical interventions for Africa's health security**
- **Africa leadership and ownership to meet the Agenda 2063 goals and other developmental agenda**
- **A New Public Health Order for Africa is needed to building back better, bolder and bigger for future**

# THANK YOU



LEARN MORE AT

[africacdc.org/covid-19](https://africacdc.org/covid-19)

Safeguarding Africa's Health