PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2020

# Investing in Pandemic Preparedness: Health Systems, Global Governance & Equity

**Dr. Ahmed Ogwell E. Ouma**

Deputy Director

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

10 DECEMBER 2020

# OVERVIEW

01 Epidemiological update in Africa

02 Africa CDC's Continental preparedness and response

03 Investing in Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness

04 Key message

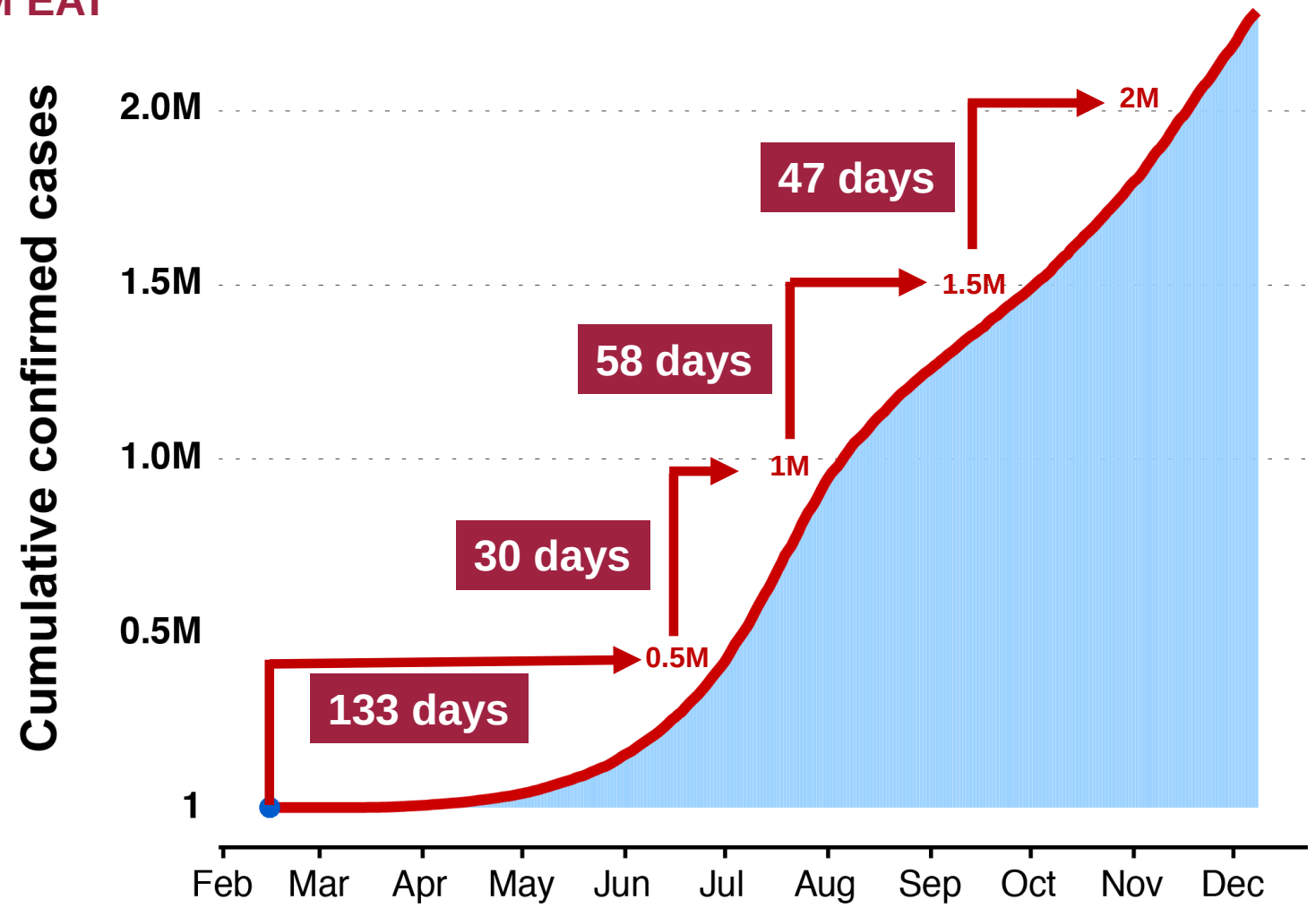
# EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE IN AFRICA | TRENDS

**as of 09 December 2020, 9:00 AM EAT**

**>2.2M**
cases

**>1.9M**
recoveries
**(85%)**

**>54K**
deaths
**CFR: 2.4%**

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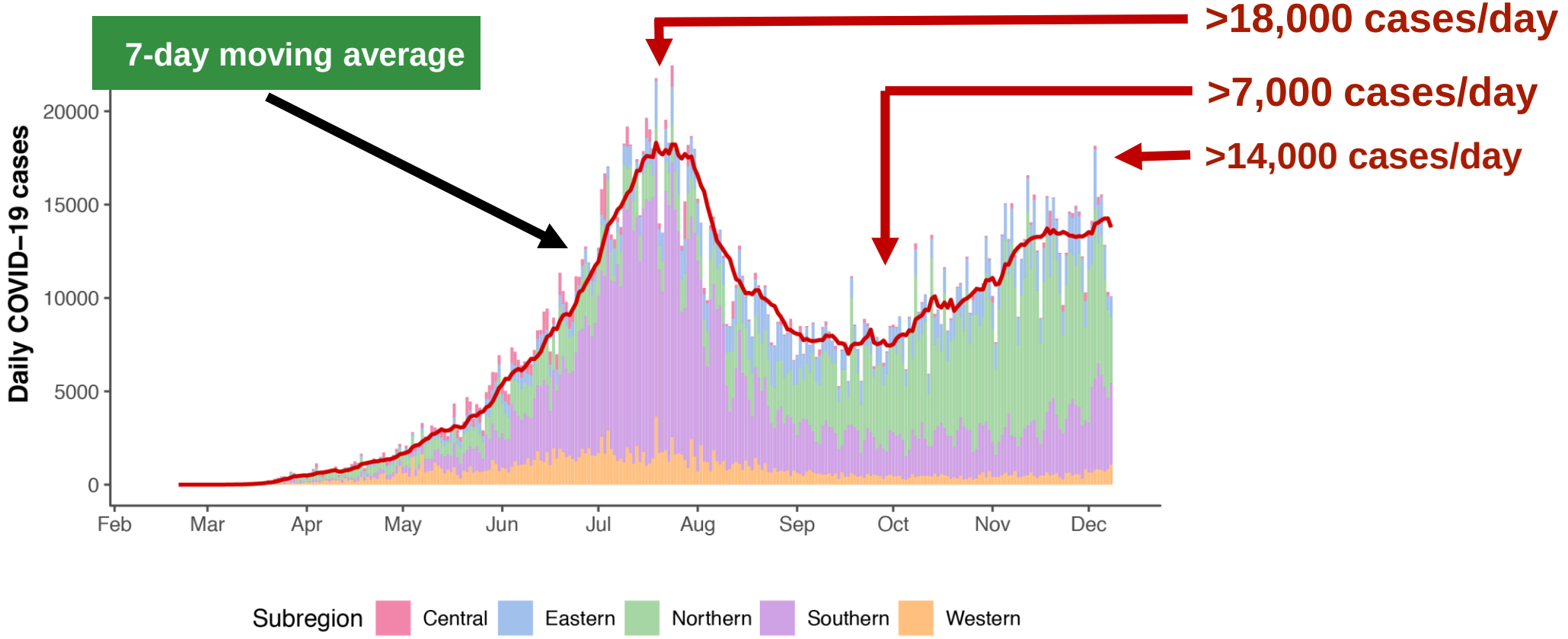
# EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE IN AFRICA | TRENDS

**as of 09 December 2020, 9:00 AM EAT**

**New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa daily by AU Region**
15 February – 09 December 2020




*7 days rolling average is shown

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# NEW COVID-19 CASES REPORTED BY AU MEMBER STATE

## Per one (1) million population, per day

### Epi week 49 (30 November - 6 December 2020)

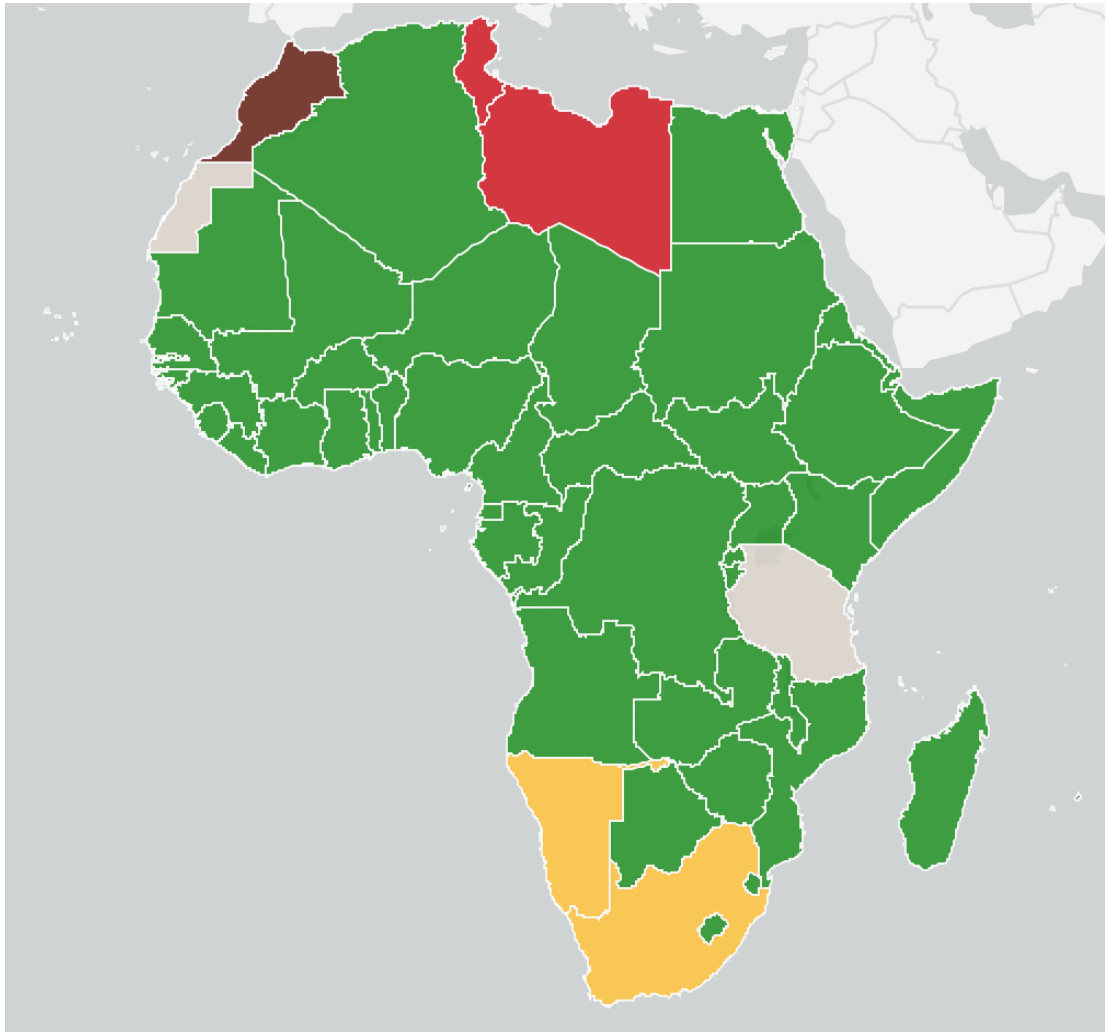
**2**
countries
No information

**47**
countries
< 40 case /1M/day

**2**
countries
40-80 cases /1M

**3**
countries
80-100 cases /1M

**1**
countries
>100 cases /1M



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*cases/1,000,000 population as reported from official RCC and Member State reports.

Safeguarding Africa's Health | www.africacdc.org

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# TRENDS IN COVID-19 CASES BY AFRICAN UNION REGIONS

**Avg. % change in new cases over last 4 weeks: 09 Nov – 09 Dec 2020**

## Northern Africa

*7 days rolling average is shown

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# TRENDS IN COVID-19 CASES BY AFRICAN UNION REGIONS

**Avg. % change in new cases over last 4 weeks: 09 Nov – 09 Dec 2020**

## Eastern Africa

*7 days rolling average is shown

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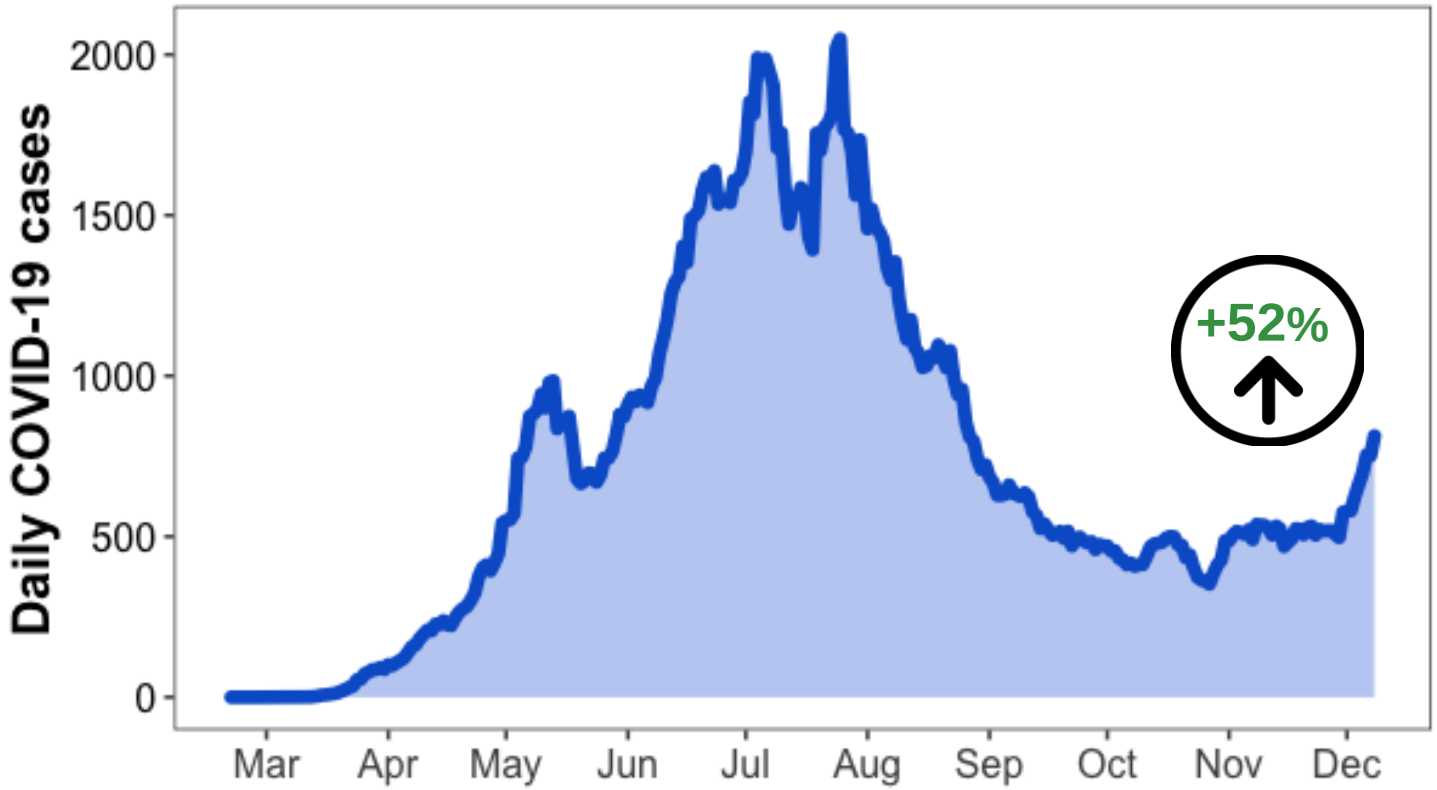
# TRENDS IN COVID-19 CASES BY AFRICAN UNION REGIONS

**Avg. % change in new cases over last 4 weeks: 09 Nov – 09 Dec 2020**

## Western Africa




*7 days rolling average is shown

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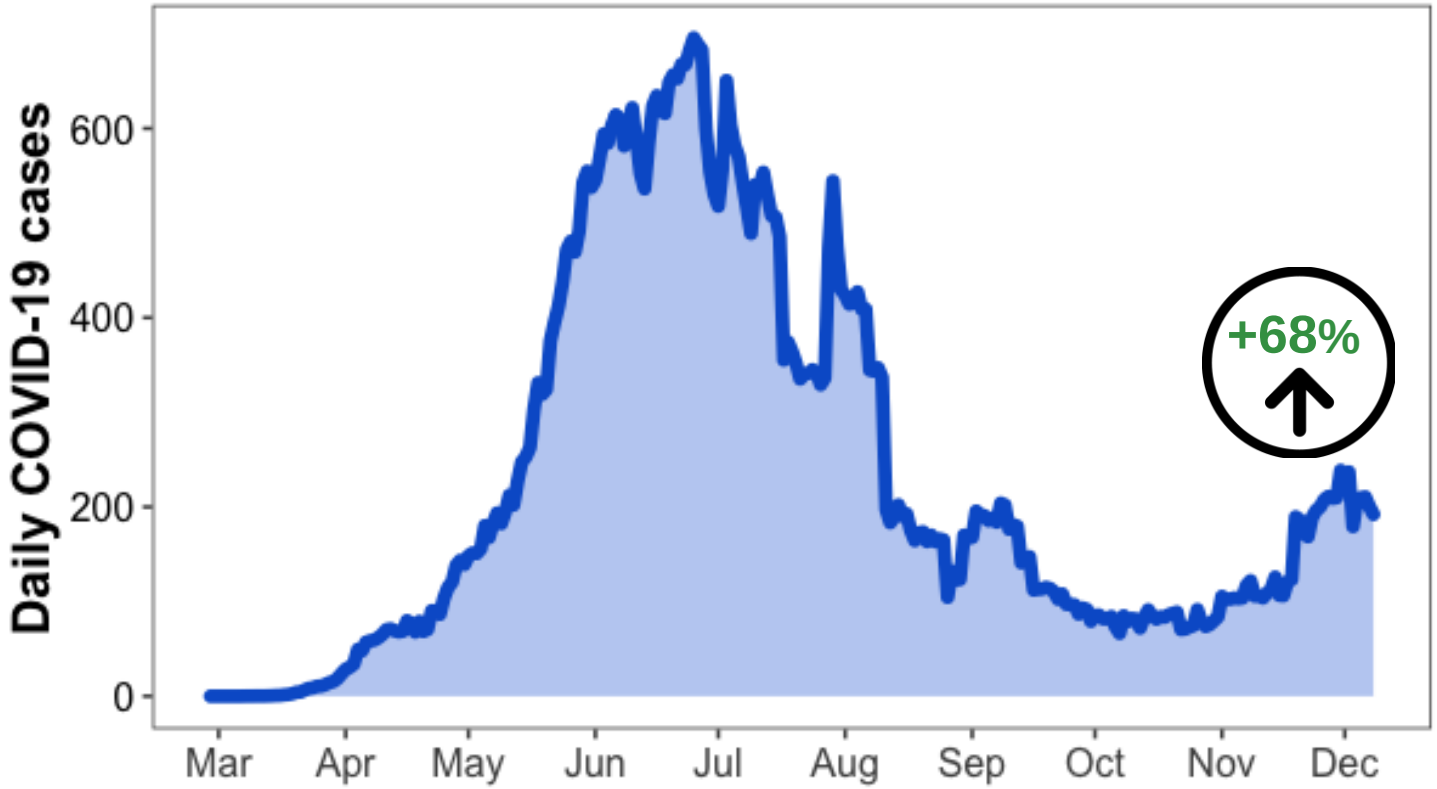
# TRENDS IN COVID-19 CASES BY AFRICAN UNION REGIONS

**Avg. % change in new cases over last 4 weeks: 09 Nov – 09 Dec 2020**

## Central Africa




*14 days rolling average is shown

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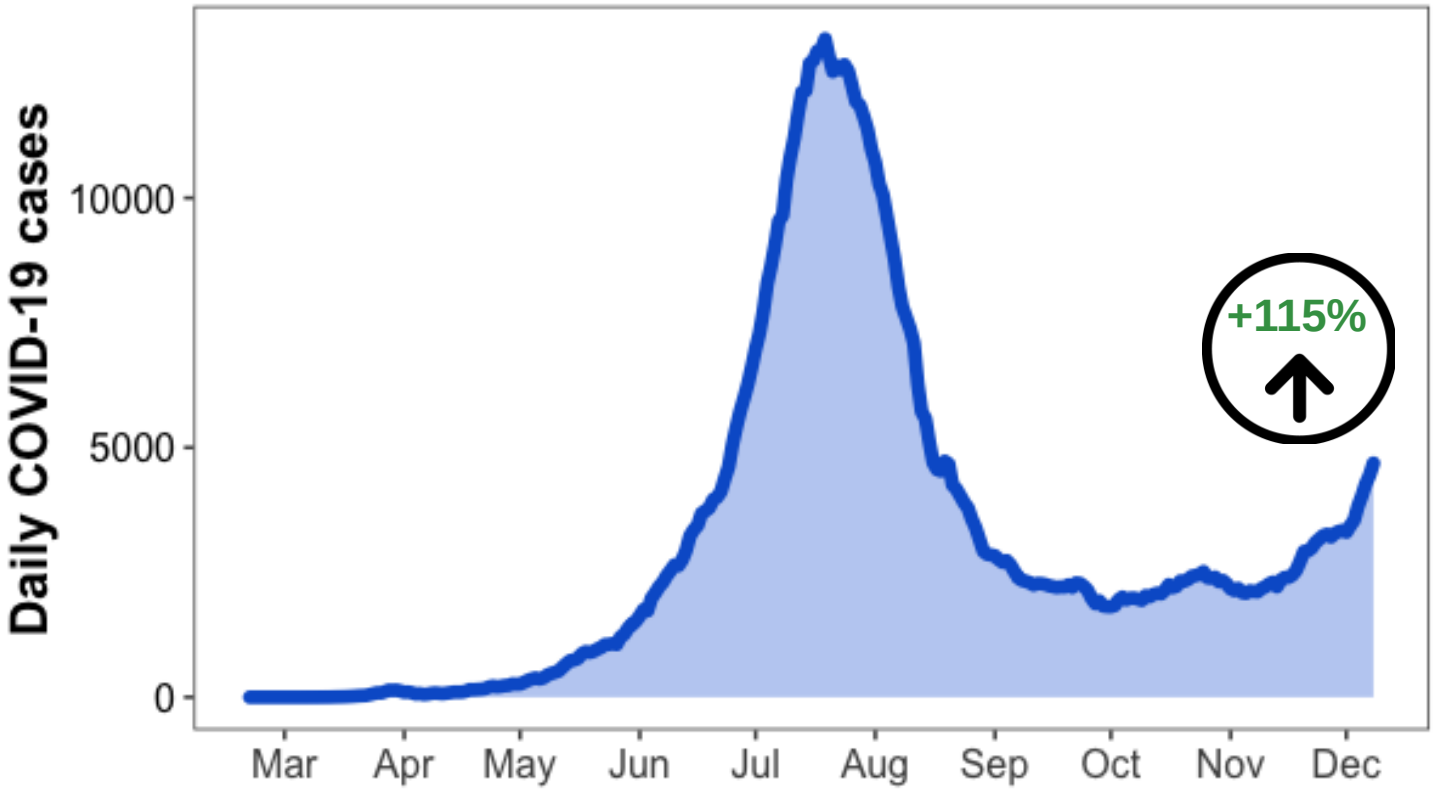
# TRENDS IN COVID-19 CASES BY AFRICAN UNION REGIONS

**Avg. % change in new cases over last 4 weeks: 09 Nov – 09 Dec 2020**

## Southern Africa




*7 days rolling average is shown

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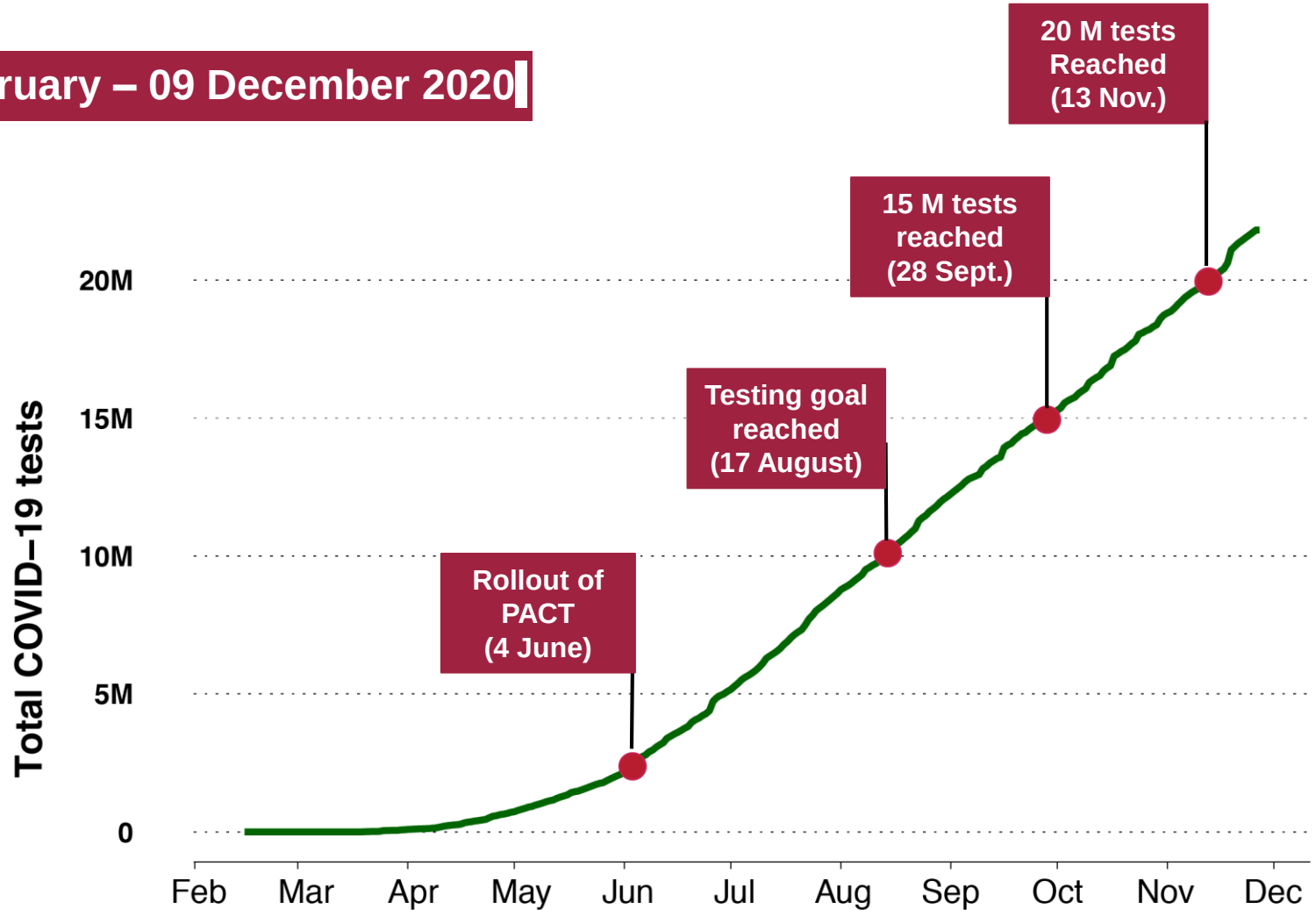
# COVID-19 TESTING IN AFRICA

**14 February – 09 December 2020**




**>23M**
Tests

**10.3**
Test/Case Ratio

**9.7%**
Positivity rate

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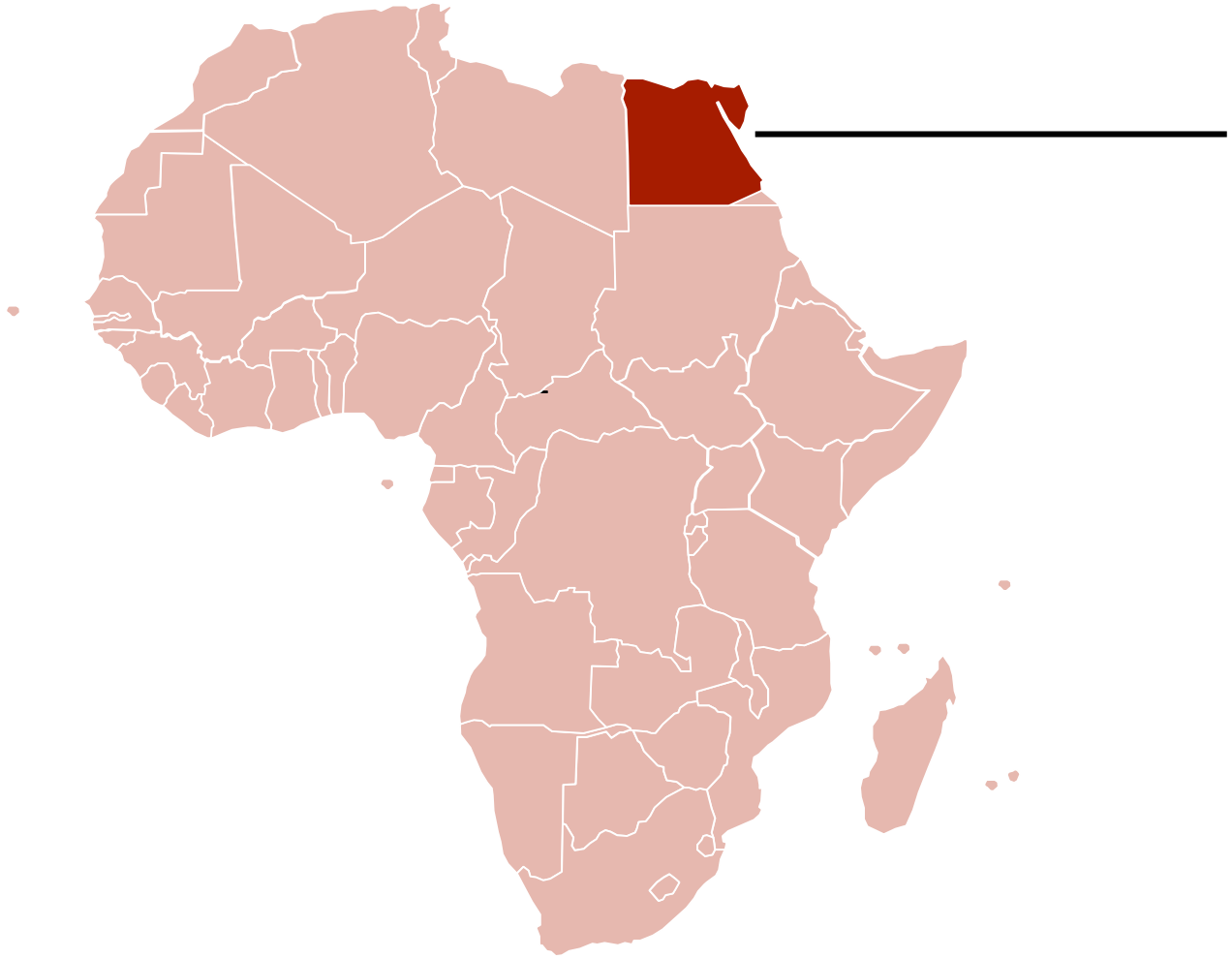
# COVID-19 IN AFRICA | THE BEGINNING



## 14 FEB 2020

Africa's **first case** of COVID-19 is recorded in **Egypt**.

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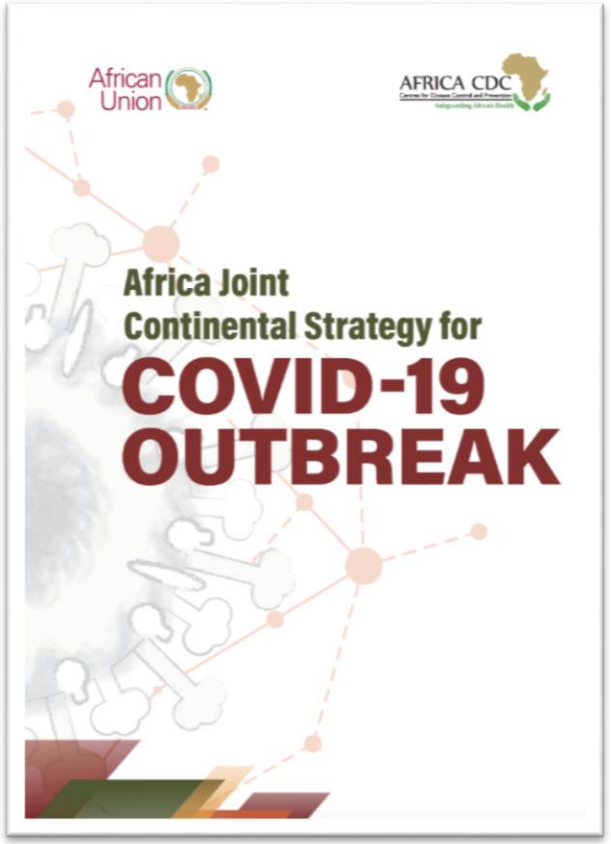
# AFRICA JOINT CONTINENTAL STRATEGY FOR COVID-19

## CONVENING POWER

**Emergency Meeting of 55 Ministers of Health on COVID-19**

*(**February 22, 2020** | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)*



# AFRICA CDC RESPONSE TIMELINE

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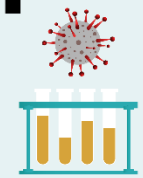
# AFRICA JOINT CONTINENTAL STRATEGY | 3 GOALS

01



## Preventing transmission

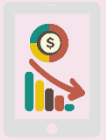
- Require enhanced and surveillance
- **Effective vaccines limit virus transmission**

02

## Preventing deaths

- Medical equipment and supplies
- **Effective vaccines prevent deaths**

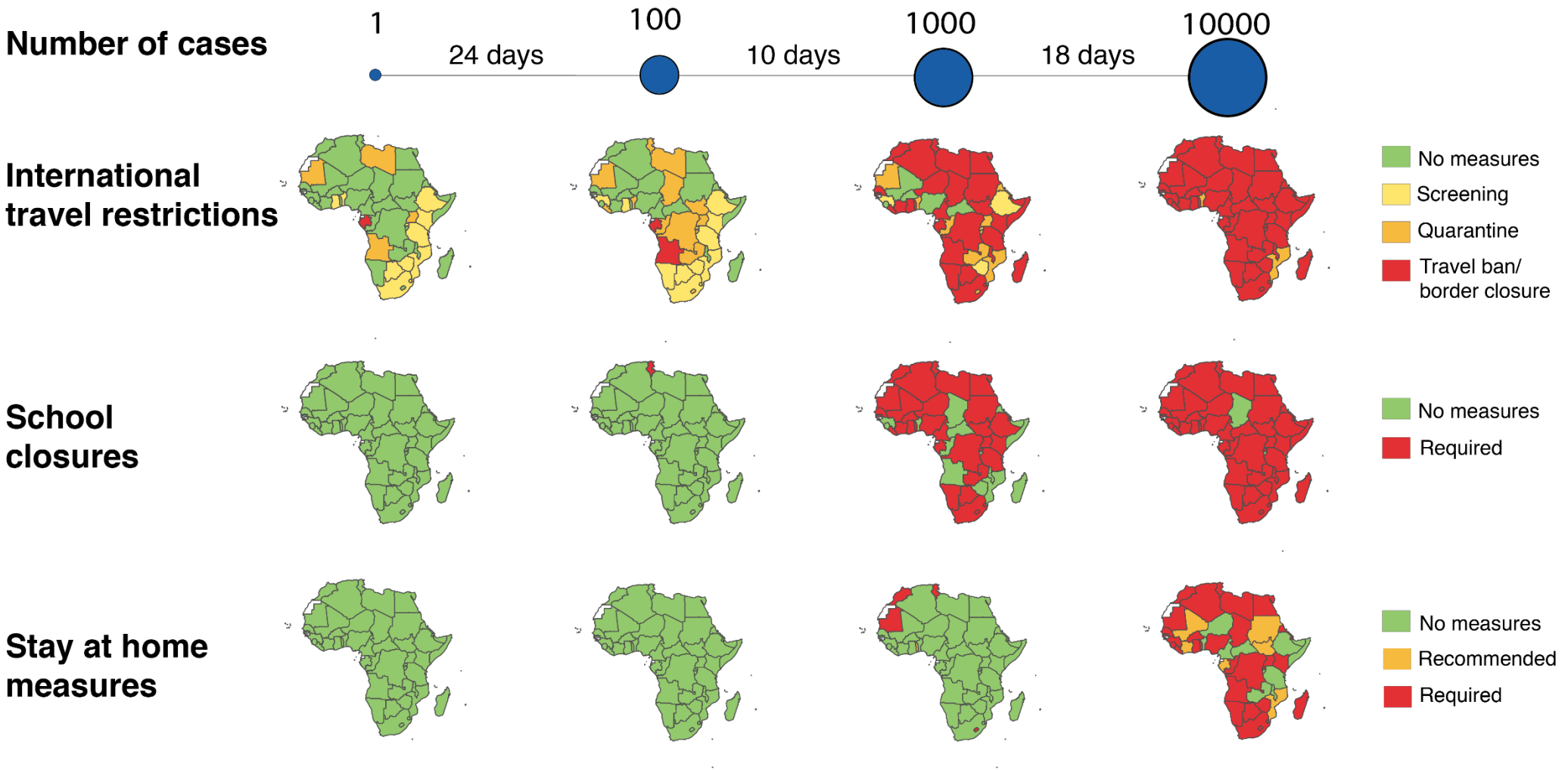
03



## Preventing social & economic harm

- Responsible lifting of lockdowns
- **Effective vaccines could prevent economic loss**

# STAY-AT-HOME REQUIREMENTS ACROSS AFRICA

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*Data sources: RCCs, MOH, https://ourworldindata.org/*

# AFRICA CDC COVID-19 RESPONSE | LABORATORY

**January, 2020**



**No diagnostic capability**

**February, 2020**

**2 countries with diagnostic capability**

**+1300** Lab personnel trained

**+6M** test kits and supplies distributed

**+20M** tests conducted

**November, 2020**

**All countries with diagnostic capability**

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AFRICA CENTRES FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (AFRICA CDC)

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE INITIATIVES

## 1 AFRICA JOINT CONTINENTAL STRATEGY FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK

**Aim**

Enhance cooperation, collaboration, coordination and communication for COVID-19 response

**Goals**

- Prevent severe illness and death from COVID-19 infection in Member States
- Minimize social disruption and economic consequences of COVID-19

**Objectives**

- Coordinate efforts of Member States, African Union agencies, World Health Organization, and other partners to ensure synergy and minimize duplication
- Promote evidence-based public health practice for surveillance, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of COVID-19

https://africacdc.org/download/africa-joint-continental-strategy-for-covid-19-outbreak/

## 2 AFRICA TASK FORCE FOR CORONAVIRUS (AFTCOR)

Steering committee comprising representatives of public health and research institutions, ministries of health, non-government organization, Africa CDC staff, multilateral and bilateral organizations, United Nations entities

**Objectives**

- Discuss and achieve consensus on complex technical and policy issues
- Promote coordination of data collection, analysis and sharing
- Effectively transmit critical information to key decision-makers in Member States
- Identify urgent needs for training or other capacities within Member States

**6 working groups**

- Surveillance/point-of-entry screening
- Infection prevention and control in health care facilities
- Clinical management of severe infections
- Laboratory diagnostics and subtyping
- Risk communication and community engagement
- Supply chain and stockpiling

https://africacdc.org/download/africa-joint-continental-strategy-for-covid-19-outbreak/

## 3 PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE COVID-19 TESTING IN AFRICA (PACT)

To mobilize partnerships, experts, community workers, supplies and other resources to enhance COVID-19 testing, tracing and treatment in a timely manner and to minimize the impact of the pandemic in Africa

**#TestTraceTreat**

**TEST,** to diagnose cases

**TRACE,** to identify cases and their contacts

**TREAT,** to provide supportive care in symptomatic cases

**Key targets**

- Conduct 10 million COVID-19 tests by end of October 2020 (New target is 20,000)
- Deploy 1 million community health workers across Africa by end of 2020
- Train 100,000 healthcare workers to support COVID-19 response in Africa
- Establish a continent-wide procurement platform for laboratory and medical supplies

https://africacdc.org/download/partnership-to-accelerate-covid-19-testing-pact-in-africa/

## 4 AFRICA MEDICAL SUPPLIES PLATFORM (AMSP)

- One-stop online marketplace for the procurement and supply of COVID-19-related diagnostics, medicines and medical equipment for Africa
- Immediate access to vetted manufacturers, suppliers and procurement strategic partners in Africa and across the globe.
- Unique interface that enables volume aggregation, quota management, payment facilitation as well as logistics and transportation to ensure equitable and efficient access to critical supplies for governments and partners in Africa

https://amsp.africa

## 5 CONSORTIUM FOR COVID-19 CLINICAL VACCINE TRIALS (CONCVACT)

An African initiative with African priorities and interests, to accelerate progress on COVID-19 vaccine trials in Africa through partnerships with relevant institutions and networks.

**Objectives of CONCVACT**

- Facilitate the start and successful completion of clinical trials for at least six promising COVID-19 vaccine candidates
- Strengthen enablers of high-quality vaccine clinical trials on the continent
- Support the development of vaccine clinical trial sites/cohorts across all African sub-regions
- Accelerate post-trial regulatory approval, rollout and uptake of safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccine
- Foster Africa-based vaccine manufacturing capacity

https://africacdc.org/download/africa-cdc-consortium-for-covid-19-vaccine-clinical-trials-concvact/

## 6 AFRICA AGAINST COVID-19: SAVING LIVES, ECONOMIES AND LIVELIHOODS

Promoting harmonized, standardized and coordinated entry and exit requirements for African Union Member States through digital solutions

- Protecting borders and travel
- Protecting economies and livelihoods
- Protecting schools and schoolchildren
- Trusted testing with digitized, secure, standardized, tamper-proof transcontinental validation of COVID-19 test results for border entry and exit controls

**Access the Africa CDC COVID-19 Travel Pass at:**

www.africacdc.org/trusted-travel


**Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), African Union Commission**
Roosevelt Street W21 K19, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
+251 11 551 7700 africacdc@africa-union.org www.africacdc.org africacdc @AfricaCDC


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# COORDINATION MECHANISMS FOR AFRICA CDC COVID-19 RESPONSE

A "whole of government approach" was adopted in our coordination effort to ensure an effective and integrated response to COVID-19.

These are:

- Heads of States of AU Member States (Solidarity)
- Ministers (Health, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Transport)
- Regional Economic Commissions (RECs)
- African Union Commission

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# STATE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

The state of Healthcare systems in Africa: Challenges

- Underfunding (poor budgetary allocation to the health sector)
- Inadequate human resources and the surge in skilled public health workforce deficit
- Poor leadership, management and planning in the health sector
- Lack of political commitment
- Weak health infrastructure

# INVESTMENT CASE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING IN PANDEMICS

The case for strengthening health systems in the context of a pandemic is compelling especially as we are faced with COVID-19 pandemic currently:

- Economic disruption
- A scramble for health care capacity
- Poor health outcomes

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING HEALTH SYSTEMS IN AFRICA POST COVID-19

In a bid to build resilient health systems Post COVID-19, the following are recommended:

- Greater public private partnerships – to build a higher level of trust on improving health outcomes. Partnerships must be established and coorperations pre-planned to be effective.
- Better application of targeted interventions to protect public health - Rethinking our approach to using health data in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic may broaden our understanding of infectious diseases, diagnosis and management.
- Advocacy for political support and commitment for health systems strengthening (encouraging domestic funding in Member States)
- Continuous Capacity building for health care workers

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# KEY MESSAGE

COVID-19 is not the last pandemic, it is therefore imperative to make smart investments now to reimagine health systems globally and in Africa in order to build an always-on-system that will be resilient enough to rapidly detect, prevent and control public health emergencies while maintaining essential services.

# MAINTAIN THE GAINS AND PREPARE FOR THE SECOND WAVE

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

**Continuous political leadership 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. Continue to scale-up PACT: test, trace and treat
4. Enhance surveillance for early detection of hotspots
5. Ensure adequate supply of personal protective equipment

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# THANK YOU

LEARN MORE AT

## africacdc.org/covid-19

**Safeguarding Africa's Health**