



AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control
and Prevention



**World Health
Organization**

Joint Emergency Action Plan (JEAP)



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JEAP

JOINT EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

With climate change and conflict aggravating more than half of the continent's health emergencies, the next pandemic is not just a possibility, it's imminent.

Each year, over a hundred health emergencies occur in Africa, disrupting the economic, socio-political and human health of communities. Already, Africa accounts for nearly half of all of the world's infectious disease outbreaks. Among the 25 nations most susceptible to infectious diseases, 22 are on the continent. With disease outbreaks further catalysed by the growing impacts of conflict and climate change, preparing for crises is critical.

The African continent is part of a highly interconnected world with porous borders, and a crisis anywhere quickly becomes a crisis everywhere. Despite being home to some of the fastest-growing countries globally, the African continent continues to underinvest in emergency preparedness and function in isolated bubbles, needlessly duplicating efforts that cross-border collaboration could streamline.

In an era where crises are worsened by fragmented efforts, overlapping strategies, and uncoordinated resources, Africa's Joint Emergency Action Plan (JEAP) emerges as a platform for collaboration.

Launched at the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva (2023), the JEAP is a transformative collaboration between Africa CDC and WHO built on the foundation of existing frameworks and initiatives. It brings together the priorities of the two organizations to amplify their collective yet unique strengths by charting a course for strengthening emergency preparedness, detection, and response in the context of humanitarian crises and climate-related disasters.

The JEAP is a continental support system that aims to benefit the emergency, preparedness and response (EPR) of each country, leaving no one behind.

Key JEAP Measures of Success

The Joint Action Plan is anchored around the goal of significantly improving emergency efforts within the first 24-48 hours of a disaster.

Overcome **supply chain barriers** by reducing delays to deliver life saving supplies from **20 days** to only **24-48 hours**, mitigating morbidity and mortality from outbreaks.



Deploy the AVoHC-SURGE workforce within **24-48 hours** of an emergency, so that communities have access to much needed care during crisis.

Expand **surveillance and laboratory capacity** in all 55 Member States, ensuring sample diagnosis and action within **24-48 hours** to achieve the **7-1-7 target**.

Key Highlights

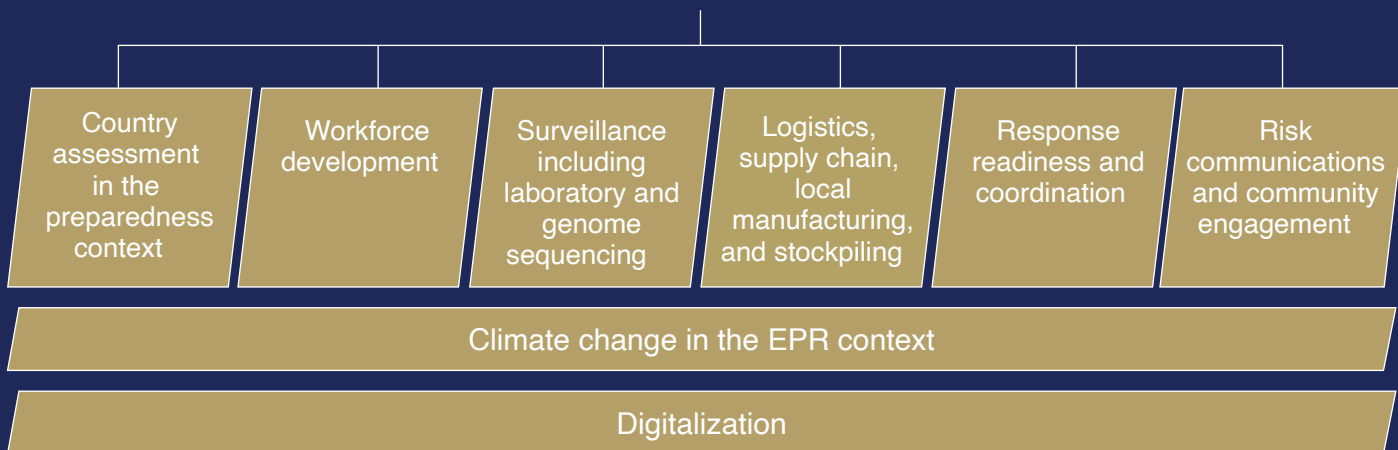
- Kicked off interagency meetings in March 2022 to review respective strategic plans and begin aligning efforts
- Formally launched the partnership on the sidelines of the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva (2023)
- Finalized a 5-year Detailed Action Plan (2023-2027) reflecting a comprehensive review of regional and global evidence approved in October 2023
- Established governance and management structures, including a Steering Committee and eight Technical Working Groups focused on each of the eight collaboration areas
- Brought onboard funding partners, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- Pioneered a coordinated proposal strategy for Africa for the Pandemic Fund's 2nd Call for Proposals, addressing the prior absence of successful regional or multi-country proposals from Africa



Early implementation achievements highlighting the potential of the Partnership:

- Delivered joint training sessions for over 150 health emergency and logistics experts
- Held joint simulation exercises in Malawi, Eswatini, and Zambia
- Held a continent-wide Ministerial meeting advocating for stronger health security commitments
- Launched the Strategic Plan for Strengthening Public Health Emergency Operations Centres in Member States of Africa and Eastern Mediterranean Region (2023–2027)
- Began consolidating rosters and protocols to better serve a joint workforce of 1,300 African first-responders

The JEAP articulates eight collaboration areas, two of which are cross-cutting



The Way Forward

Over the next three years, the Partnership will work closely with Member States to harmonize efforts and improve collaboration amongst partners.

Planned high-impact activities in the near term include harmonizing systems for supply chain management and the training and deployment of African first responders, rapidly assessing the capacity of Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOCs) across the continent, training the logistics workforce in fragile countries, launching a network of health emergency leaders, and establishing a regional platform to collect environmental surveillance data.



The JEAP welcomes partners to collaboratively change emergency preparedness and response on the continent. Together, we can leverage shared human resources, disease surveillance capabilities, and other technical expertise to implement multifaceted, targeted solutions for health emergency capacities across all African countries.

Reach out for further information here:

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