

Strengthening Africa's resilience to health threats

Introduction

Over the past decade, Africa has faced a series of unprecedented health threats — from the Marburg virus in Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea, to cholera in Malawi, Ebola and Rift Valley fever in Uganda, and yellow fever in Kenya. At the same time, climate shocks - floods in some regions and droughts in others - have amplified outbreak risks, stretching already limited resources and health system capacities.

While many countries have made important progress in pandemic preparedness, critical capacity gaps remain: limited training in emergency response, weak supply chain systems, and gaps in leadership and accountability across public health institutions. These challenges call for African-led, community-driven solutions that strengthen both prevention and preparedness.

For Amref Health Africa, health security is not just about response. It is about preparedness, trust and equity - ensuring every community across Africa is protected from future emergencies. Amref partners with governments, regional institutions and communities to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats, while ensuring continuity of essential health services, even in times of crisis.

Our Approach

Our approach is rooted in real-time learning and evidence: data from Amref's Information Management System (AIMS) guides continuous improvement, ensuring every investment strengthens long-term resilience. Amref puts communities at the center of health security.

Our Africa-led model strengthens local systems to prevent, detect, and respond to health threats - ensuring countries can act independently, not rely on external emergency teams. From design to response, we partner with governments and communities to build resilience that lasts; rooted in Africa, led by Africa, and committed for the long haul.

By investing in leadership, skills and infrastructure, Amref ensures that health security gains last well beyond individual projects.



How We Work

Community Health Systems Strengthening

- Engage communities to effectively prevent and respond to public health threats and events.
- Facilitate and monitor the provision of essential health services at community-level during health emergencies.
- Provide technical assistance to develop effective community engagement policies and guidelines.

Disease Surveillance and Intelligence

- Enhance community and events-based disease surveillance capacity among healthcare and community health workers.
- Support deployment of innovative tools to enhance disease surveillance and early warning systems.
- Provide technical support in the development and deployment of disease surveillance policies, protocols and systems.

Strengthening Public Health Institutions and CSOs

- Provide technical assistance to regional and national stakeholders and public health institutions to enhance decision-making, planning and coordination for health emergencies.
- Strengthen CSOs' capacity for increased health security and resilience.

Strengthening Laboratory Diagnostics

- Leverage the Amref Regional Laboratory Programme as a technical advisory resource centre.
- Enhance laboratory capacity, biosafety and quality management systems in support of health security.
- Provide technical assistance to global and regional laboratory platforms relating to health security.

Across all four pillars, Amref promotes **innovation and technology** to strengthen data-driven decision-making and real-time response. We ensure that **youth engagement** and **gender equality** are embedded in every intervention, empowering women and young people as active agents of change.

Our work is grounded in multi-sectoral collaboration and the One Health approach, recognising that the health of people, animals and the environment are interconnected, and that only by working across sectors can we achieve lasting resilience.

"My alerts* contribute to the safety of my entire community. I urge my fellow CHWs to never keep vital information to themselves - reporting saves lives." — **Community health worker, Tanzania**

**These "alerts" are early warning reports submitted through the community event-based surveillance system to flag unusual symptoms or suspected outbreaks.*

Key Achievements

Emergency Response	165,000 frontline health workers trained in COVID-19 response
	32.6 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered across Sub-Saharan Africa
	580,000 people sensitized on hygiene during cholera response (<i>Malawi & Zambia, 2024</i>)
	1,591,000 people provided with integrated vaccination services (<i>vaccinated against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Tetanus and Diphtheria, M-pox, Cholera, Malaria and Meningitis</i>)
Surveillance and Detection	470 Community Health Workers trained in event-based surveillance (<i>Tanzania, 2024</i>)
	Cross-border surveillance networks established in Eastern Africa on Mpox outbreak, with 200+ health workers trained
	Over 2,400 health facilities supported in building capacity for life course immunisation and providing integrated vaccination services (<i>Sub Saharan Africa, 2025</i>)
Laboratory Capacity	1,000 health workers trained annually (2021-2024) across 28 African countries
	165 laboratories supported to implement quality management systems (2024)
Health Systems Strengthening	Over 1,800 frontline health workers trained in emergency preparedness (<i>South Sudan, 2024</i>)
	22 countries supported to develop, customise or implement Life Course Immunisation guidelines and policies (2025)

Where We Work



Why Amref

For more than 65 years, Amref Health Africa - Africa's largest health organisation - has worked hand in hand with communities and governments to build systems that endure. Rooted in Africa and trusted across the continent, we build lasting partnerships that strengthen systems and help every community stay strong, safe and healthy.