

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

Press Release

Date: 24 May 2020

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AFRICAN UNION COVID19 RESPONSE FUND AIMS TO RAISE \$1 MILLION ON AFRICA DAY

The African Union has created an African Union COVID-19 Response Fund with the aim of strengthening the continental response to COVID-19 and mitigate its socio economic and humanitarian impact on African populations. The fund was established by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat on 26 March 2020.

This AfricaDay, 25 May, all Africans, people of African descent and friends of Africa are encouraged to “give a little” to the fund. A target of USD\$1million has been set for the day. Contributions can be made in any currency and this will be automatically converted into United States dollars, which is the original currency of the Fund account.

Donations can be made at <https://au.int/en/AUCOVID19ResponseFund>.

Money raised under the Fund will be used to:

Mitigate the social, economic and humanitarian impact of COVID-19 in all African countries. This is important because the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse the socio-economic advancements made by Africa in the last 30 years as the pandemic proves to be more severe on the socio-economic well-being of populations in Africa.

Boost the capacity of the Africa CDC to support response to public health emergencies across the continent. Africa CDC was created to support efforts by Member States to prepare for and respond to public health threats across the continent. Its establishment followed the hard lessons from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014, which caused the loss of thousands of lives and had a heavy toll on the socio-economic well-being of individuals and groups in Africa. Part of this fund will be used to boost the capacity of Africa CDC to fully play its role as a continental public health institution as stated in its statute.

Support the procurement and distribution of essential COVID-19 medical equipment and supplies and mobilize rapid response by Member States. There is stiff competition on the world markets for the supply of COVID19 response materials. This Fund will support pool procurement of diagnostics and other medical

commodities by the Africa CDC for distribution to the Member States, and to support the deployment of one million community workers and community healthcare workers to support contact tracing.

The fund is managed by a 10 member board of distinguished Africans. They are

- One (1) representative from each regions of the Union:
 - Central Africa Region: Mr. Ndolamb NGOKWEY (DRC)
 - Eastern Africa Region: Mr. Martin MOGWANJA (Kenya)
 - North Africa Region: Professor Mohamed Awad TEGELIN (Egypt)
 - Southern Africa Region: Professor Wiseman Lumkile NKUHLU (South Africa)
 - West Africa Region: Mr. Abdoulaye DAFPE (Mali)
- Chair of the Bureau of the STC of Ministers of Health: H.E. Dr Hala Zaid, Minister of Health and Population, Arab Republic of Egypt
- AU Commission, represented by the Commissioner of Social Affairs: H.E Mrs. Amira Elfadil
- Two (2) representatives of the private sector: i.e. Prof. Benedict Okey Oramah, President & Chairman of the Board of Directors, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank); and Eng. Mansur Ahmed, President, Pan-African Manufacturers Association/ Executive Director, Dangote Group
- One (1) representative of the AfroChampions Initiative: Mr. Paulo Gomes, Co-Chair, AfroChampions Fmr. Executive Director, World Bank
- The Director of the Africa CDC is the secretary

As of May 23, Africa had reported nearly 105 000 cases of infection, nearly 4000 deaths and 42 000 recoveries.

Give a little at <https://au.int/en/AUCOVID19ResponseFund>

For further inquiries, please contact:

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