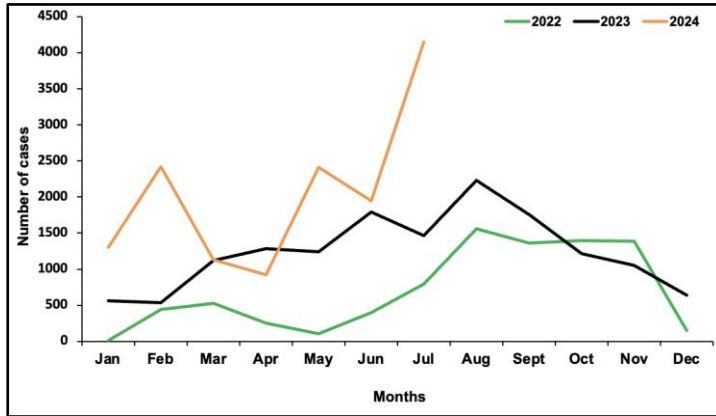


Press statement
Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: 5th August, 2024

AU Committee Grants \$10.4M Emergency Funds to Africa CDC for Mpox Response

The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) of the African Union (AU) has made emergency approval of \$10.4 million from the existing COVID funds for the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to support ongoing efforts to combat the Mpox outbreak across the continent.



From January to July 2024, 15,074 Mpox cases (2,853 confirmed; 12,221 suspected) and 461 deaths (a case fatality rate of 3.06%) have been reported across Twelve (12) AU Member States.

This represents a 160% increase in cases and a 19% increase in deaths in 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

Figure 1: Monthly case trends from 2022 to 2024 highlight a sharp increase in May 2024

The funding released by the PRC will complement national efforts by

African Governments and support from various partners to strengthen five critical areas in the fight against Mpox: (1) enhancing Mpox surveillance and deployment surge capacity, (2) boosting laboratory testing and genomic sequencing capacity, (3) strengthening regional and national data collection and analytics, (4) enhancing case management, infection prevention and control, and risk communication and community engagement, and (5) improving access and delivery of vaccines, diagnostics, and supplies across the continent.

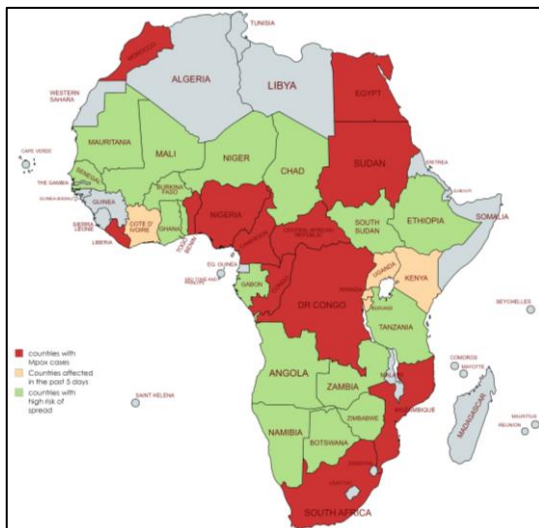


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of reported cases across Africa, indicating countries with ongoing (red), recent (yellow), and no reported cases (green).

Since 2023, Mpox cases have been reported in all five African regions (Central, East, North, South, West) affecting a total of **17 countries**: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, and South Africa.

A strong regional and cross-border approach is necessary to control the outbreak.

The primary modes of contamination are contacts with infected animals or people, mostly through sexual transmission. Risk factors include multiple sexual partners, co-infections (e.g., HIV), and malnutrition.

H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC, expressed gratitude for the timely support from the PRC. "We are incredibly grateful for the

continued partnership and support from the Permanent Representatives Committee of the

African Union. This funding will significantly enhance our capacity to lead the response to the Mpox outbreak at continental level and protect the health and well-being of our communities in close collaboration with our member states and key partners such as WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, AfreximBank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, African Development Bank, GAVI, CEPI, Wellcome trust, European Union, United States, MSF, and so many others."

Africa CDC has already achieved significant milestones in the fight against Mpox. In March 2024, the institution supported the development of a national response plan in the DRC. In April 2024, a high-level Regional Ministerial meeting was held in DRC to adopt a regional approach against this disease. From April to July 2024, readiness assessments were conducted in all affected member states. So far, Africa CDC has distributed 20,000 Mpox RT-PCR kits and ancillary supplies to 44 African Union member states and supported them with training.

H.E. Mohamed Gad, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the AU and Chairperson of the PRC Subcommittee on Budget emphasized the importance of solidarity and collective action. *"The PRC is committed to supporting Africa CDC in its mission to combat the Mpox and all other diseases. By pooling our resources and expertise, we can strengthen our health systems and ensure a swift and effective response to public health emergencies across Africa."*

This allocation demonstrates a unified effort to tackle the Mpox outbreak and bolster the continent's preparedness for future health emergencies. The Africa CDC remains steadfast to working with member states and partners to achieve a healthier and safer Africa.

About Africa CDC

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is a specialized technical institution of the African Union that supports Member States to strengthen health systems and improve surveillance, emergency response, and prevention of infectious diseases.

About the PRC of the African Union

The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) is responsible for preparing the work of the African Union's Executive Council and acting on its instructions. The PRC is vital in implementing decisions and policies to promote peace, security, and stability in Africa.

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