



AFRICA PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION Annual Report 2020

Together for a healthy prosperous Africa



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LETTER BY THE FOUNDER AND CHAIR OF THE APHF COUNCIL, DR. BERNARD HAUFIKU



I am pleased to share the first annual report of the Africa Public Health Foundation.

All of you reading this report will have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of you, I know, will have lost friends and loved ones to this terrible disease. On behalf of the Africa Public Health Foundation Council, I extend our sympathies and our gratitude for your perseverance in a challenging year. I hope that 2021 brings you and your families greater health and happiness.

Indeed, we are starting the new year with hope and optimism. Often, these sentiments can come across as naïve. But we have a reason for both hope and optimism thanks to our partners' support and the work of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) throughout 2020.

Five years ago, you will remember that we experienced the Ebola crisis. It was a pandemic that cost us the lives of more than 11,000 people in West Africa and spread fear worldwide. Today we are witnessing concrete steps signaling progress. Out of the Ebola crisis, an investment was made in establishing the Africa CDC, a technical institution of the African Union. The Africa CDC, now just four years old, has been lauded for the leadership role that it is playing in our continent. In the Africa CDC, we see an example of how a continent can emerge building a stronger public health system – and one that is led by Africa, for Africa, from a crisis.

Africa CDC is on track to meet their ambitious goals – backed by Member States, development partners, global foundations, and the African private sector. They are taking a multi-lateral and multi-sectoral approach to the response – all under the banner of a

strategy mandated by the African Union. From this strategy, innovative partnerships have been started and scaled at speed.

As we look ahead to coming weeks, months, and years, there is a great deal of work to do. Besides pandemics, Africa faces a disproportionate disease burden that is allowed to exist and accelerate due to limited healthcare infrastructure. To move along the road to pandemic preparedness, we need to come out of this COVID-19 crisis with the same resolve that we saw after the Ebola crisis – with a shared commitment to invest in our public health infrastructure in Africa.

The Africa Public Health Foundation was founded to work alongside the Africa CDC to accelerate that shared commitment. We offer a partnerships platform for collaboration in service of Africa CDC's critical health work in Africa.

In 2020, we laid the foundations of that platform, securing over USD 20M+ in grant commitments towards the COVID-19 response work led by the Africa CDC and the work on health system strengthening that will follow. Our funders and partners' commitment to work with us as we established the necessary systems, structures, and skills at the Foundation has been humbling – and has given the APHF team another reason to start 2021 with hope and optimism.

To Africa CDC, and the philanthropic partners and supporters we have worked with in 2020, I extend my gratitude and an invitation to continue our collaboration. I look forward to sharing both in person one day soon. In the meantime, I am sharing this annual report of our first year of operation.

'No one doubts that the road to pandemic preparedness requires unprecedented levels of political and financial engagement. It is difficult but achievable. The health of the continent, and of the world, depends on all of us keeping our commitments.'

– Dr. John Nkengasong, Director, Africa CDC

ABOUT APHF

WHO WE ARE

Africa Public Health Foundation (APHF) is the partnership platform for the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). The Foundation exists to forge partnerships and mobilize resources for the Africa CDC, to support critical public health activities across the continent.

For 2020 and moving forward into 2021, APHF has focused its resource mobilization efforts on supporting priority Africa CDC interventions on COVID-19 response and recovery that will strengthen Africa's public health systems for the long-term. The Foundation will advance public-private cooperation to strengthen health systems, develop the healthcare workforce, support innovations for public health, and advocate for robust policies, regulations, and partnerships for resource mobilization.

The Foundation's mission and vision align with that of the Africa CDC to support member states to build their capacity to better detect and respond to disease outbreaks and emergencies.

APHF operations are based in Nairobi.

RELATIONSHIP WITH AFRICA CDC

APHF and Africa CDC teams work closely to identify priority areas for fundraising and grant-making, drawing from Africa CDC's strategic pillars. Africa CDC is also represented in a non-voting capacity at all APHF Council meetings.

APHF'S JOURNEY TO DEC 2020

July 2019: Engaged Axis Fiduciary to begin formal registration of APHF in Mauritius

Sep 2019: APHF launched at the World Economic Forum on Africa

May 2020: Welcomed new Council members to the Governing Council

May 2020: Interim Director, Sahra Noor, is appointed by the Governing Council and interim Secretariat is established in Nairobi

May - July 2020: First Grants received from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and BD Global Health

August 2020: Acceleration of Resource Mobilisation through hiring additional capacity in CCS Fundraising

Nov 2020: Appointment (by the APHF council) of Dr. Francisco Songane as interim CEO. Around the same time, Dalberg was onboarded to provide Secretariat services and robust implementation capability

Dec 2020: Mobilized \$ 20M+ of grant commitments from partners

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ABOUT APHF

APHF'S CORE ACTIVITIES

In light of the global crisis we are facing, mobilizing philanthropic support for Africa CDC's work is urgent. . APHF is focused in the immediate term on ensuring that all Africa CDC programs related to COVID -19 response are well resourced and funded. APHF purpose is to support programs that improve Africa's public health infrastructure beyond pandemic preparedness in the long term.

APHF focuses on three core activities:

Resource Mobilization: Raising funds for programs prioritized by Africa CDC

Grant Management: Effective management of grants received and supporting Africa CDC's program delivery to ensure maximum impact

Platform for collaboration and philanthropy: Providing a platform for effective collaboration to build resilient health systems in the continent.

'APHF remains committed to being the partnership platform supporting Africa CDC. In delivering on our mandate , we will be Africa-led in our approach and embrace international best practices across all our core functions.'

– *Dr. Francisco Songane, Interim CEO*

APHF'S LEADERSHIP

APHF is currently led by an interim CEO, Dr. Francisco Songane, who is also a member of the Foundation's Governing Council.

APHF'S GOVERNANCE

The foundation is governed by a Council. As of December 2020, APHF had a Governing Council of 5 members, and is expected to grow to 9 in 2021. The APHF Council's mandate is to provide strategic direction and oversight on all activities as ambassadors of APHF to critical stakeholders and custodians of APHF's assets. The council's leadership has been instrumental in charting the path for APHF and providing the needed direction during APHF's formative stages.

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APHF's EARLY WINS

FUNDRAISING AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT

APHF has made considerable progress on securing new grants in 2020, raising \$ 20M+ to establish the Foundation and accelerate Africa CDC programs.

Funding secured for APHF and Africa CDC in 2020		Commitments for Africa CDC program	\$19,000,075
		Commitments to start and strengthen APHF	\$2,024,000
		TOTAL	\$21,024,075

See the separate detailed financial report for more information.

These numbers include commitments from the following donors and partners:

THE SKOLL FOUNDATION.

Skoll Foundation also confirmed two grants in 2020. The grants aim to accelerate the establishment of the Africa Public Health Foundation and to support Africa CDC's response to COVID-19.

THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION.

The Foundation finalized two grants to APHF in 2020. This includes a grant to 'Start and Seed the Public Health Foundation of Africa' and a grant to 'Support Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centers.

THE CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation supports APHF and the Africa CDC to invest in more partnership development and fundraising activities so that we may be able to deliver even more for public health in Africa.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

APHF ended 2020 with a grant confirmed from our newest partner, focused on Africa CDC's Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT) throughout 2021-22, including support to strengthen APHF's operations.

APHF's EARLY WINS

FUNDRAISING AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT

APHF would also like to recognize the early support from BD Global Health that allowed APHF to make its first grant in support of Africa CDC's COVID-19 response, funding key aspects of the Africa CDC's Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan.

Overall, this early funding will be critical in driving health outcomes on the continent given the current pandemic through:



Supporting Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centers for Central Africa and West Africa.



Accelerating COVID-19 tracing as well as testing in Africa Union Member States in collaboration with Africa CDC.



Supporting efforts to forge partnerships and mobilize resources to support critical public health initiatives across the African continent through the work of the Africa CDC



Accelerating African involvement in the clinical development of a vaccine and removing barriers to widespread delivery and uptake of effective vaccines across Africa.



APHF's EARLY WINS

INTERIM INTERNAL CAPACITY



Given the critical mandate, APHF's leadership team recognizes the immediate need for a dedicated Secretariat of a lean, highly skilled team able to operationalize the vision of APHF. As such, APHF brought onboard seconded capacity from Dalberg for immediate surge capacity to work with the team from Axis Fiduciary.

The interim Secretariat's specific priority is to design and roll-out organizational systems and processes to strengthen APHF's capabilities and Axis Fiduciary is responsible for corporate, fiduciary, and fund administration processes to ensure the grant-making process is legally above board.

The interim Secretariat works hand-in-hand with the key stakeholders and serves as the primary touchpoint for existing philanthropic partners and supporters. Jointly with CCS Fundraising, they also ensure that an increased number of funding opportunities are sourced and converted in the coming months and that there is a smooth flow of funds to Africa CDC's programs.

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2021 OUTLOOK

GROWING OUR GRANT PORTFOLIO

In 2021, APHF will focus on:

1. Deepening engagement with the existing philanthropic partners and supporters – This will encourage current members to support additional grants to Africa CDC.
2. Diversifying funding beyond philanthropy, including from the private sector and donors in Africa Ensuring there is in house capacity at APHF to manage resource mobilization functions.

BUILDING ROBUST INTERNAL SYSTEMS

APHF remains committed to continuously improving its processes to enable the adequate and smooth flow of information and resources needed for program delivery by Africa CDC and implementing partners. A world class grant management process is one of the requirements in setting standard operating procedures and eliciting confidence in mobilizing resources. We are doing this through continued feedback that allows for iteration. Specific focus is also given to defining the internal operating process and MEL framework.

STRENGTHENING INTERNAL CAPACITY

The interim Secretariat are recruiting and will soon onboard in-house capacity to enable APHF to deliver on its mandate effectively. The interim Secretariat will facilitate a smooth handover of built internal capacity and systems to the in-house team by the end of 2021.

SETTING UP AN OPERATIONAL BASE

APHF has started the process of establishing operations in Nairobi. This will include formal registration of APHF in line with Kenyan law paving the way for establishment of a physical presence in Nairobi in 2021.

SOLIDIFYING OUR POSITION AS A PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATION

APHF will continue efforts to become the preferred partner for public health collaboration across the continent. Collaboration approaches will include bringing existing philanthropic partners capacity in-house for more seamless collaboration and advocacy efforts on the continent by amplifying the impact stories from grants managed by the Foundation to influence the policy landscape.

STRENGTHENING THE APHF COUNCIL

APHF is keen to add more members to its Governance Council to reach its target of 9 council members. This will be done to add further experience and diversity of thought to the council as it leads APHF to achieve its mandate. Ongoing conversations and due diligence are already underway with potential new council members.

'I am confident that APHF is on a good trajectory, as evidenced by the milestones we have achieved in 2020 and will push forward in 2021 to ensure we continue to contribute to the improvement of public health care systems in Africa for the long term.'

– *Dr. Francisco Songane, Interim CEO*



GRATITUDE

We want to extend our thanks to our stakeholders who have supported us through 2020; special thanks to:

- Existing philanthropic partners and supporters who have stood behind the Africa CDC supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and work to strengthen public health systems in Africa. They have supported and challenged the Africa Public Health Foundation to accelerate our work and elevate our ambition to forging and catalyzing partnerships for health in Africa.
- Africa CDC, whose role, continues to provide strategic guidance and a collaborative effort to ensure we achieve our strategic vision.
- Council members for their tireless efforts, which ensured 2020 was a success.

We welcome all potential stakeholders to work with us in the coming year.

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ANNEX

APHF'S LEADERSHIP



DR. FRANCISCO SONGANE – INTERIM CEO AND COUNCIL MEMBER

Dr. Francisco Songane is the current interim CEO of APHF. Dr. Songane brings with him a great depth of public health experience and visionary leadership. He was the founding director, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the former Minister of Health of Mozambique (2000-2004). He has served on the boards of many high-profile health initiatives, including the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the International Vaccine Institute.

Dr. Songane took over from Ms. Sahra Noor, APHF's former Interim Director who worked with Africa Health Business to help set up the Secretariat in Nairobi. Plans are underway to recruit a substantive CEO in 2021.



DR. BERNARD HAUFIKU – FOUNDER AND COUNCIL CHAIR

Dr. Haufiku is a Namibian medical doctor and the former Health and Social Services Minister of the Republic of Namibia (2015-2018). Dr. Haufiku has also served as a member of the governing board of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (2015-2018).



AMB. DENNIS AWORI – COUNCIL VICE CHAIR

Mr. Awori is Chairman and Country delegate, Toyota Kenya Limited & CFAO Kenya limited and has spent most of his working life in the Motor Industry across East Africa. He was the founding Vice Chair of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance and served as the Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Japan and Korea (2003-2009).



MS. AYA CHEBBI – COUNCIL MEMBER

Ms. Chebbi is an award-winning pan-African feminist who has founded multiple platforms to address youth issues in the continent, such as the Afrika Youth Movement. She was the first-ever Africa Union Special Envoy on Youth and the youngest diplomat at the African Union Commission Chairperson's cabinet.

APHF'S GOVERNANCE

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ANNEX

APHF'S GOVERNANCE



DR. FRANCISCO SONGANE – INTERIM CEO AND COUNCIL MEMBER

Dr. Songane is a council member and the current interim CEO at the Foundation. Dr. Songane was the founding director, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the former Minister of Health of Mozambique (2000-2004). He has served on the boards of many high-profile health initiatives, including the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the International Vaccine Institute.



MR. ASSAD ABDULLATIFF– COUNCIL MEMBER

Mr. Assad Abdullatiff is the Managing Director at AXIS Fiduciary Ltd (AXIS), the Management Company and Company Secretary of the Foundation. Prior to joining AXIS, Assad was Assistant Director at the Board of Investment of Mauritius, where he headed the Financial Services Cluster and was also responsible for the promotion of Mauritius as an International Financial Centre.

New Council members in 2021



PROFESSOR. SENAIT FISSEHA – COUNCIL MEMBER

Professor Senait Fisseha is a globally recognized leader in the advancement of reproductive health, education and gender equality in Ethiopia and around the world. She currently serves as the Director of Global Programs at the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation, as well as the Chief Advisor to the Director General of the World Health Organization. She has received numerous awards, including the recognition of the transformative contribution to the Ethiopian Health Sector by the Nobel Peace Prize Winner Abiy Ahmed. Furthermore, she was named as one of the 100 most influential Africans for 2018 by New African Magazine.



PROFESSOR HELEN REES

Professor Helen Rees is the Executive Director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg where she is also a Personal Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Co-Director of the Wits African Local Initiative for Vaccinology Expertise (ALIVE). Prof Rees is widely recognised for her work as a global health practitioner and has been appointed as chair and member of many international scientific committees and Boards. She has been actively involved in national, regional and global response efforts to COVID-19 including the development of COVID-19 vaccines, their potential rollout and utilization.

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