The legacy of COVID-19 must be robust and resilient primary healthcare systems with community health workers as the backbone for its delivery. Together, we can build the coalitions of actors required to make bold reforms and build back better for the COVID-19 response, and beyond.”

- H.E. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
  FORMER PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA

Africa Frontline First

Working toward health, health security, and economic recovery across Sub-Saharan Africa

We are at a pivotal moment in human history. COVID-19 has caused over six million direct deaths worldwide. Millions more have died from disrupted health services. Across Africa, the pandemic has overwhelmed health systems, many of which have been unable to maintain routine care and surge for emergencies, especially at the community level.

Evidence shows that community health programs save lives, especially when they are part of an integrated health system. Ebola and COVID-19 have confirmed that professional community health workers (CHWs) are essential frontline health workers, early sentinels of epidemic events, and a trusted bridge between health systems and communities. They extend life-saving care to the unreached and to the most vulnerable populations, equipped with the tools to tackle the leading causes of death and prevent future pandemics. Most recently, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response found that community health was a hallmark of many successful COVID-19 responses and declared it critical for preventing future pandemics.

Despite its proven value, in 2020 the annual financing gap for community health in Africa reached $4.4 billion, contributing to millions of preventable deaths.

What is the Africa Frontline First (AFF) Initiative?

AFF is a collaborative initiative that supports the financing and strengthening of integrated, sustainable community health service delivery to achieve health for all. Through unique partnerships between governments, donors, implementers, and technical allies, AFF will institutionalize and scale 200,000 community health workers across 10 African countries by 2030.

“Community health is founded on the belief that where one lives should not determine whether one lives.”

-- Community health is founded on the belief that where one lives should not determine whether one lives --
“[Community health workers] can truly be the nexus between universal health coverage and health security, as they can improve access and uptake of health services, sanitation and hygiene, and primary health care to the community and improve overall health outcomes.”

- DR. JOHN NKENGASONG
FORMER AFRICA CDC DIRECTOR

IMPACT GOAL

200,000 CHWs
in 10 countries
by 2030

Worldwide, community health workers improve health outcomes by:

- Delivering lifesaving care door-to-door, often in remote communities
- Boosting health-seeking behaviors and promoting healthy practices
- Preventing, detecting, and responding to pandemics and diseases like malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS
- Connecting communities to the public health system

What will AFF do?

Anchored in each country’s local context and health reform journey, AFF will:

- **Reduce morbidity and mortality** through the prevention, vaccination, testing, and treatment of infectious diseases
- **Advance health security** through integrated digital disease surveillance to prevent, detect, and respond to emergent infectious disease threats
- **Accelerate economic recovery** through a compensated workforce that contributes to the formal economy and elevates the role of women

The **AFF Catalytic Fund (AFF-CF)** is the first phase under AFF. Hosted by the Global Fund, the AFF Catalytic Fund aims to mobilize $60-100 million in community health investments by 2024, which includes 1:1 matching funds from Global Fund grants. As the Catalytic Fund prepares to launch, AFF will move into **Phase 2: Implementation and Execution** to fund the training and deployment of 200,000 professionalized community health workers across 10 countries. **Phase 3 will focus on increasing domestic resources and commitments** to sustain community health delivery and financing gains.

How will AFF reach its goals?

AFF works across three pillars:

**FINANCING**
Develop sustainable funding mechanisms that better leverage investments to achieve lasting impact.

**POLITICAL PRIORITIZATION**
Influence agendas and engage champions to prioritize community health institutionalization and financing.

**COUNTRY LEADERSHIP**
Partner with countries to align international financing with national community health goals.

Join AFF Today

Under the leadership of H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, AFF’s key coalition members are Financing Alliance for Health, Community Health Impact Coalition, Community Health Acceleration Partnership, and Last Mile Health. Additional partners are invited to join this important work as advocates, funders, implementers, and more. **Together, we can build a healthier and more secure future.**

To learn more, visit [www.africafrontlinefirst.org](http://www.africafrontlinefirst.org) or contact us at [info@africafrontlinefirst.org](mailto:info@africafrontlinefirst.org)