

ACHIEVE Africa

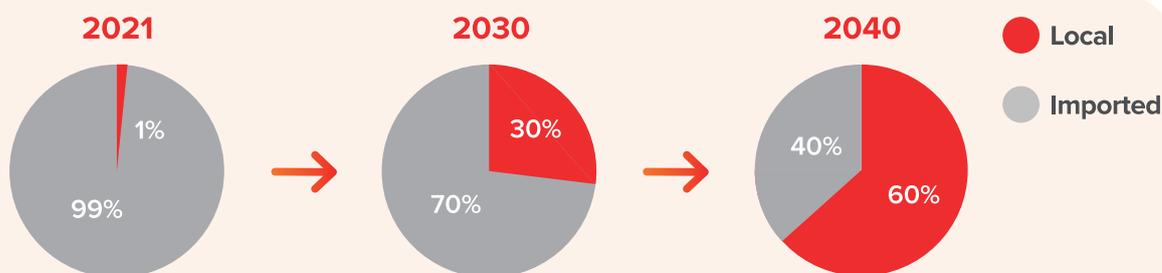


Accelerating Health Innovation, Equity, and Development of Vaccines and Biologics in Africa

Africa stands at a pivotal moment in its journey toward health security and self-reliance. Scientific capacity is expanding and biomanufacturing is scaling up—yet global health financing is declining, putting hard-won progress at risk and exposing fragile systems. This moment calls for African-led solutions more than ever.

ACHIEVE Africa is an African-led, African Union member-state-championed continental response to this moment—a US\$100+ million initiative designed to close Africa’s research and development gap, and strengthen the continent’s engine for vaccines and biologics, from discovery through clinical trials and regulatory readiness, in partnership with public, private, and philanthropic organizations.

The initiative is rooted in the continent’s long-term development vision, including the aspirations captured in the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and African Union leaders’ ambitious target of producing 60% of Africa’s vaccines locally by 2040. It is aligned with critical declarations and commitments on research and development, self-sufficiency, and human development. It seeks to leverage a range of innovative technologies, such as mRNA vaccines, adjuvanted protein-based platforms, and viral vectors.



The AU has set a goal to increase vaccine manufacturing on the African continent to meet 60% of the demand by 2040.

Envisioned as an initial five-year project, ACHIEVE Africa strengthens the continent’s research and development ecosystem to:



Build resilient, innovation-led health, and industrial ecosystems.



Build the full value chain from discovery to delivery—designing, developing, testing, and manufacturing vaccines and biologics end-to-end.



Enable local production of vaccines and biologics, across multiple technology platforms, while upgrading laboratories, expanding clinical trial sites, and accelerating solutions for priority health challenges.

At a Glance

-  ACHIEVE Africa offers governments, institutions, and development partners a unique opportunity to advance Africa's scientific, health, and economic leadership while strengthening global health security.
-  Championed by African Union member states and continental institutions, ACHIEVE Africa expands equitable access to innovation, in alignment with the continent's broader development objectives.
-  Coordinated financial commitments from African and international partners, combined with strategic use of existing capabilities and structured twinning, create sustainable pathways for African-led capacity development beyond individual projects or funding cycles.
-  African leaders design, govern, and co-finance ACHIEVE Africa — ensuring decisions are made in Africa, for Africa.



Empowering African-led Research and Discovery

African-led research and development is essential for the continent to design, develop, and produce vaccines and biologics that address priority health needs in Africa. Strengthening this capacity will enhance innovation across the health and life sciences ecosystem, as well as enable Africa to contribute more effectively to global health security. This marks a shift from dependence on external supply toward sustainable, home-grown solutions, aligned with the principles of the Accra Reset.

Through strategic partnerships and catalytic funding, ACHIEVE Africa is establishing a dedicated secretariat to coordinate partners, align activities, and drive implementation across complementary workstreams focused on:



Capacity strengthening and the support of existing African centers of excellence



Advancement of African vaccine and biologics research and development, led by African institutions

Funding is administered by the executive director and a leadership team of African scientists under the oversight of a Stakeholder Council, with African implementing partners spanning defined research and development pillars. Resources are disbursed in milestone-linked tranches released upon technical validation and reporting, ensuring accountability and results-based financing.

A structured network of lead, twin, and support institutions forms a continent-wide collaborative ecosystem for research, training, clinical development, and manufacturing—enabling shared learning, technology transfer, and sustainable capacity growth.

Concretely, the initiative is working to deliver two medical countermeasures—vaccines and biologics—while reinforcing the end-to-end research, development, and manufacturing ecosystem. This approach ensures readiness for future products conceived of, developed, tested, and produced on the African continent.

Strengthening Capacity for Sustainable Innovation

Through an operational strategy that prioritizes African-led discovery and innovation, the initiative leverages existing intellectual property and technology platforms, including mRNA and other advanced modalities, to strengthen training and capacity development across integrated pillars such as:



Epidemiology and effectiveness studies



Vaccine discovery and early-stage research and development



Translational research



Clinical research



Manufacturing and post-registration

Building on Africa's expanding scientific capacity, strong political commitment, and the availability of new technologies ready for transfer, ACHIEVE Africa represents a unique opportunity to deliver durable health innovation. It is anchoring a new generation of African scientists, institutions, and enterprises at the center of vaccine and biologics research, development, and manufacturing—serving both continental priorities and global health security.

Advancing Solutions for Africa's Priority Health Challenges

Against the backdrop of African leaders' commitments to increase national investment in research and development, ACHIEVE Africa offers a pathway to long-term innovation that is led and owned by the continent, reflecting Africa's determination to secure its own health future.

By upgrading laboratories, expanding clinical trial sites, and piloting manufacturing using advanced and adaptable technology platforms, ACHIEVE Africa supports the development of solutions for priority diseases such as HIV, mpox, chikungunya, and Rift Valley fever. These new platforms are designed to evolve over time, enabling rapid adaptation to new and emerging health threats. Importantly, African-led science will serve as both a research and development and human-capital development engine, building scientific and technical capacity throughout the biotech value chain.

The initiative is inclusive by design and complements African and global strategies and efforts. It aligns with global health priorities while strengthening Africa's voice, leadership, and agency within international partnerships.

ACHIEVE Africa is designed to complement and reinforce:

- Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa
- Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want
- New Public Health Order
- African Union Immunization Agenda 2030
- Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technology Products in Africa (MAV+) / Team Europe Initiative
- Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034
- Accra Reset
- Africa CDC and African Medicines Agency priorities
- World Health Organization, Gavi, and CEPI priority pathogen frameworks
- National and regional science, technology, and health strategies

Mobilizing a Continental Network



ACHIEVE Africa already involves African scientists from 20 countries and more than 50 institutions, supported by the International Vaccine Institute and a range of global government, scientific, institutional, manufacturing, and development funding partners. This breadth of engagement reflects a coordinated, continental approach, moving beyond isolated national efforts toward shared ambition and collective impact.

ACHIEVE Africa connects African scientists, institutions, manufacturers, funders, and global partners in a collaborative innovation network to deliver scientific, technical, and policy solutions for Africa's health challenges.

Through these partnerships, and with a strong emphasis on collaboration, capacity strengthening, and innovation, ACHIEVE Africa is:

- ✔ Building advanced infrastructure spanning preclinical research, clinical development, and manufacturing
- ✔ Developing a pipeline of products targeting priority pathogens in Africa, using cutting-edge and adaptable technology platforms, including mRNA
- ✔ Strengthening regulatory systems and pharmacovigilance and safety monitoring capacities
- ✔ Establishing a robust research and development ecosystem that enables and sustains local manufacturing
- ✔ Demonstrating African political and scientific ownership in the development of regionally relevant vaccines and biologics
- ✔ Ensuring African leadership of scientific efforts by mobilizing domestic funding and retaining stewardship over intellectual property, data, and biological samples—within equitable partnerships—so that value generated remains anchored in African institutions and communities

Momentum and Opportunity

ACHIEVE Africa is supported by a strong and growing financial foundation, including commitments from African Union Member States and the University of Pennsylvania with Professor and Nobel Laureate Drew Weissman.

The initiative builds on proven experience in enabling end-to-end vaccine development and manufacturing in Africa, including technology transfer for local production of oral cholera vaccine with Biovac in South Africa and collaboration with Afrigen on Rift Valley fever vaccine development, working with the International Vaccine Institute.

The momentum aligns with broader political commitments across the continent, with African governments pledging to increase national research investment to 1% of GDP, up from the current 0.5%. At the same time, global partners increasingly recognize that strengthening Africa's scientific base advances health equity, enhances global health security, and positions the continent as a long-term partner in discovery, development, and manufacturing.

With political will, scientific talent, and advanced technologies ready for transfer, Africa has a unique opportunity to translate decades of investment into a self-sustaining engine for health innovation, developed in Africa and for Africa, while contributing to global solutions. ACHIEVE Africa offers a long-term development pathway, moving beyond short-term projects towards durable capacity and shared prosperity.

ACHIEVE Africa extends an open invitation to partners in Africa and worldwide—governments, scientists, institutions, manufacturers, and global partners—to join in building Africa's end-to-end R&D ecosystem, delivering innovation developed in Africa, for Africa. Join us.



For more information,
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