PACT: PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE COVID-19 TESTING IN AFRICA

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The Partnerships for Accelerated COVID-19 Testing (PACT) initiative aims to ensure at least 10 million tests are conducted in Africa in the next 4 months.

**GOALS**

1. Conduct **1M** tests in 1 month; **10M** in 4 months
2. Establish Africa-wide pooled procurement
3. Establish Africa-wide storage & distribution hubs
4. Deploy **1M** health workers for contact tracing
5. Standardize and deploy **new technologies for surveillance** to help reopen economies
WHY PACT: Scaling-up testing capacity is an extremely important way to help contain the COVID-19 outbreak as evidenced by learnings from other affected countries

Scaled-up testing...

...Helps **identify and isolate cases** especially those that have mild symptoms

...Enables **robust contact tracing** especially as countries remove lockdowns

...Uncovers **areas of concentration of cases**, to implement targeted measures, limiting economic and social harm

...Allows for **better insights into spread** of the disease

Lessons from other countries

- **South Korea** ramped up testing capacity to 15K tests / day last Feb, following massive # of cases in Daegu – case growth is now flat

- **Iceland** has tested 10%+ of its people – it has 1,770 cases, and only has 9 deaths *(testing regime should be aimed at identifying cases)*

- **Hokkaido**, had to reinstate the shutdown after 130+ cases with unknown links – Japan has one of the lowest tests / capita

- **USA** was very slow to rollout testing – today it is now the epicenter of the outbreak
TARGET: PACT aims to dramatically accelerate the number of tests in Africa to take advantage of the capacity that exists on the continent already.

Based on current capacity, Africa can conduct ~20M tests (~16K tests / 1M population) but this number could increase if countries scale up testing using the different platforms.

Tests conducted in Africa

- Today: ~0.5M tests, ~375 tests per 1 million population
- End of next month: ~1M tests, ~800 tests per 1 million population
- Target in 4 months: ~10M tests, ~8,000 tests per 1 million population
- By end of year: ~20M+ tests, ~16,000 tests per 1 million population

Tests / 1M population to date:
- Italy = ~21,000
- US = ~12,000
- South Korea = ~11,000

1 Likely does not capture all testing but is the latest figures reported to Africa CDC.
HOW: PACT will scale up Africa’s COVID-19 testing capacity in three ways

1. Test kit supply
- Distribution of initial supply of 78,000 test kits to 42 Member States
- Distribution of ~1M test kits from Jack Ma foundation
- Distribution of additional ~1M test kits (500K from Germany, 500K from Jack Ma foundation)
- Set up of an Africa-wide pooled procurement system, including full distribution to all member states

2. Capability building
- Training of 42 Member States on PCR diagnostics
- Develop guidance on testing strategies and create awareness
- Deployment of laboratory experts to provide targeted technical support
- Virtual training sessions for laboratory technicians in-country to improve their practices

3. Private sector engagement
- Engagement with the private sector for alternative testing platforms e.g., Cepheid for GeneXpert testing, serological tests
- Engagement with private labs to scale up testing capacity in the continent
TRACING APPROACH: PACT’s recommended testing approach aims to help countries better trace chains of transmission for the outbreak

If no known / limited community transmission (Phase 0-2)

- Anyone with **fever and acute respiratory symptoms** who have been in a place in the last 14 days where COVID-19 is transmitting, and who is currently in a location without local transmission.
- All **symptomatic contacts of a confirmed or probable cases** of COVID-19.
- All SARI cases presenting to hospital in place where potential circulation of COVID-19 case is suspected.
- **Healthcare workers** with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 disease regardless of exposure.

If widespread community transmission (Phase 3-4)

- **All severe acute respiratory infections** (including those presenting to hospitals)
- **Healthcare workers** with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 disease regardless of exposure.
- Additional testing in areas with **high likelihood for rapid acceleration in transmission** (e.g., densely packed communities, areas with poor sanitation)
TRACING INITIATIVES: To complement its testing efforts, PACT will also rollout initiatives to strengthen the continent’s capacity for identifying and isolating cases.

In addition to massive testing, robust contact tracing is key to containing an outbreak.

PACT initiatives on identification and isolation of cases:

- Deployment and training of community health workers (aiming for 1M+) to support MSs on active case search, contact tracing, and isolation.
- Engagement with technology companies to support the deployment of tracing technologies e.g., mobile apps.
- Set up of surveillance data systems at MSs’ Emergency Operations Centers by deploying technical experts.

1 More detail in Africa CDC’s contact tracing guidelines.
PARNERSHIP: PACT plans to engage the private sector in FOUR main ways

1. Engage **private sector labs** to supplement government testing capacity

2. Provide support on **logistics of sample collection and transport** (e.g., mobile collection centers)

3. Scale-up capacity for **local manufacturing** of key commodities

4. Deploy and scale **technology applications to support contact tracing**