

Supporter Shares Passion and Expertise for Lasting Health Change in Africa

When Karen Wensley, 71, was asked by a work acquaintance six years ago if she would be interested in volunteering on the Board of Directors of Amref Health Africa in Canada, she was intrigued. At that point, all she knew about the organization was that it worked to improve health in Africa. She did some research, met with the Executive Director and other Board members, and was impressed with what she learned. "I asked how I could help – I had a financial as well as an HR background. There seemed to be a good opportunity to pitch in," she says. "I was particularly interested in Amref's focus on women's and children's health."

Once she started to get involved as a Board member, Karen says she became even more impressed by and proud of the work that Amref Health Africa in Canada is doing on long-term projects, with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada and individual Canadians. "I realized that donations made by individuals like me were matched by the Global Affairs Canada project funding, so I decided to make a multi-year commitment," she says.

Instead of following the more typical route of cash contributions, Karen chose to donate securities. "I have been lucky to have been able to invest in the stock market, and in particular some of my technology stocks and ETFs have done well," she says. "From my financial background, I know that there are tax advantages to donating shares, ETF or mutual fund units, or other securities to a charity when compared to making a cash donation. You get the same charitable tax credit whether you donate \$1,000 in cash or \$1,000 in securities, but in addition, if you donate securities, you don't pay tax

on the capital gain. Plus, psychologically, to me, it feels more compelling to donate securities as I feel like I'm sharing my luck with others who need support."

As a donor and a Board member, Karen feels strongly connected to Amref Health Africa's vision of lasting health change. "My impact feels very personal – more health workers trained, facilities built or improved, more women attending pre-natal clinics," she says.

Through the Board of Directors, Karen can support Amref Health Africa and its work using her professional expertise. "I have absolutely no expertise in running a health care project in Africa, but I can help to make sure Amref Health Africa in Canada is resilient and able to continue its vital work for years to come. This has been particularly important during COVID-19 with restrictions on donor recruitment, changes in government priorities, and impact on how projects in Africa can proceed amidst public health restrictions."

Most recently, Karen had a hand in hiring Amref Health Africa in Canada's new Executive Director, Ky'okusinga Kirunga. "We interviewed some amazing candidates, and were blown away by Ky'okusinga. We are so proud to be welcoming her to Amref."



Leave a Legacy for Better Health in Africa

When you leave a legacy to Amref Health Africa in Canada, you will help ensure the right to health, alleviate poverty and bring hope to many of the poorest communities on the African continent. Your gift will help mothers give birth safely, children stay free from disease, and empower young people to know their rights and reach their potential.

Donating a legacy gift through life insurance is a cost-effective way to maximize your donation. You receive a tax receipt toward your estate for a much greater amount than the cost of the policy, allowing you to leave more to loved ones while still leaving a life-affirming gift for generations to come. Legacy giving through life insurance is an affordable way to leave a gift with set monthly or annual payments. Learn more about legacy

giving on our website at www.amrefcanada.org/leave-a-legacy/ or by sending an email to info@amrefcanada.org.



Road to Equitable Vaccine Access

Amref Health Africa has been on the frontlines of Africa's COVID-19 response, working at the grassroots level with partners and governments to reduce the impact of the pandemic. Just like the rest of the world, communities we partner with in Africa want to move forward with their lives but for most of the continent this reality is still years away.

With your support today, we can address this situation through our **Vaccine Solidarity with Africa** campaign for equitable vaccine access across Africa. We urge you to join with us to achieve vaccine solidarity to make sure no one is left behind.

Please donate today at
www.amrefcanada.org/vaccinesolidarity
 or by calling us at
1-888-318-4442



About Amref Health Africa in Canada

Amref Health Africa, the largest African-led international organization on the continent, reached more than 7.8 million people directly through our health-focused projects in 2020. Founded in Kenya in 1957 as the *Flying Doctors of East Africa*, Amref Health Africa's strategic pillars focus the organization's work around human resources for health, innovative health services and solutions, and investments in health. Our partnerships with communities in Africa to create lasting health change are at the heart of all we do.

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"Habari" is a greeting in Swahili, a widely used language in eastern Africa. It is also used to mean "What's new?" or "How are you?"



HABARI

News from Amref Health Africa in Canada

Spring 2022

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A note from Ky'okusinga: Joining the Amref Health Africa Family



Hello, Amref Health Africa in Canada supporters and friends!

It's a great pleasure for me to be joining the organization as the Executive Director. Although I'm a new recruit, I have known and admired Amref Health Africa for many years. I first connected with Amref when I was working with the Stephen Lewis Foundation. That's how I learned about the organization's deep roots in Africa and its commitment to partnering with communities for lasting health change. I'm looking forward to contributing my experience and perspective from my 15 years working in the Canadian and international public health sectors.

In this issue of Habari, we are sharing stories of our work that your support makes possible - ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in African countries, with a focus on hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities. I hope you feel proud and inspired after seeing how your support is making a lasting difference.

With deep gratitude,

Ky'okusinga Kirunga Executive Director

Amref Health Africa Hero: Ann Njogu



Ann Njogu is Chairperson of the Amref International University (AMIU) Student Council in Nairobi, Kenya where she is in her final year of the degree program in Health Systems Management & Development. Through Ann's leadership, the Student Council has set up and run COVID-19 vaccine clinics in

an area of Nairobi, called Kibra, where poverty rates are very high and access to vaccines has been limited. We asked Ann to tell us more about the student-run clinics.

"We had the first COVID-19 vaccine outreach clinic in Kibra on December 4, 2021, in partnership with the Kenya Ministry of Health and the Nairobi Metropolitan Services. The day before the clinic, our students, together with community health workers, visited community members in their homes, their small-scale businesses, their social places like restaurants, and talked to them about the importance of getting a COVID-19 vaccine. We let everyone know that AMIU would be having an outreach clinic the following day; all they needed to do was show up. We held the clinic on a Saturday when most people would not be working or going to school.

We chose to integrate COVID-19 vaccination services with other health care services, such as blood sugar and blood pressure screening, because COVID-19 does not exist in isolation. Other health challenges, especially non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, affect our people as well. All these health services were offered by the Amref International University students in tents set up outside the Amref Kibera Health Centre.

During our engagement with the community members, the students helped to demystify myths and misconceptions about COVID-19 vaccines. Many of the community members were receptive because they received information at a personal level in a language they understand broken down in the simplest way possible.

During that very first outreach clinic, we vaccinated 352 people against COVID-19, screened 189 people for blood sugar and the same number for high blood pressure. All in just a few hours on a rainy day! More than 100 Amref International University students took part in the clinic. All of the health services provided were free of charge. The Global CEO of Amref Health Africa, Dr. Githinji Gitahi, was there to support the students and community members. The clinic was so successful, we held two more in January and plan to continue them for some time."

To read the full transcript from our interview with Ann, visit www.amrefcanada.org/our-stories. You can learn more about Amref International University at www.amref.ac.ke

IN FOCUS

Creating Vaccine Solidarity with Africa

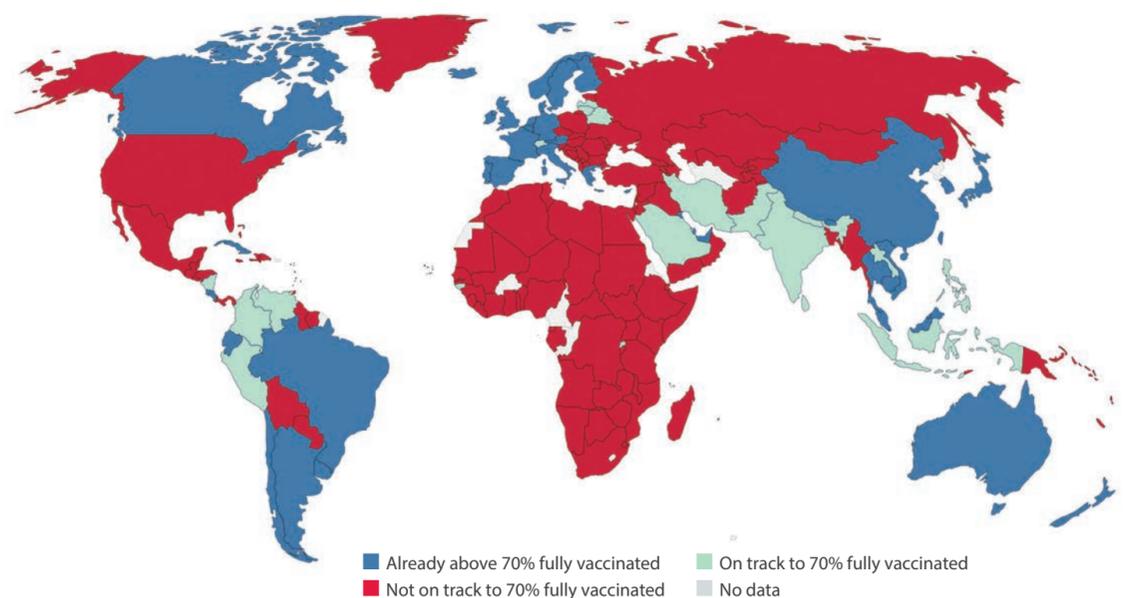
At the current pace of COVID-19 vaccine delivery in Africa, it could be 2023 by the time at least 70% of the population is vaccinated - far longer than the target set by the World Health Organization for all countries around the world to vaccinate 70% of their population by June 2022.

If vaccine inequity continues, Africa will be the last home of the COVID pandemic, bear the brunt of long term social and economic burdens and become a breeding ground for new variants.

Through our Vaccine Solidarity with Africa campaign, Amref Health Africa is supporting governments in getting vaccines into arms by setting up COVID-19 vaccination centres, training more health workers to become vaccinators, combatting vaccine misinformation, educating communities about COVID-19 vaccines in their own languages and cultural contexts, and advocating globally for vaccine equity to ensure middle- and low-income countries are not left empty-handed.

COVID-19: Which countries are on track to have fully vaccinated 70% of their population by mid-2022?

Projections are based on each country's last-reported vaccination coverage, and the number of people who completed their vaccination protocol in the last 14 days.



Source: Data collection and projections by Our World In Data, based on official sources. Last updated: February 3, 2022.

Note: Fully-vaccinated people are those who received all doses prescribed by the initial vaccination protocol. We exclude countries that have not reported data for more than 30 days. The global target of 70% by mid-2022 has been set by the World Health Organization. OurWorldData.org/coronavirus - CC BY

SUPPORT IN ACTION

Uganda: Vaccine clinics deliver 407,000+ doses

In Uganda, Amref Health Africa administered more than 407,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines over three weeks in December 2021. Partnering with the Ugandan Ministry of Health, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, we set up COVID-19 vaccine clinics in eight districts that are hard-to-reach because of poor, or no, roads and where vaccination rates are still very low. Our vaccine outreach didn't take a holiday for Christmas or New Year's. In fact, outreach teams were out and about on Christmas Eve to meet community members, share information about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, and tell people how they could get their shot. The project will continue until December 2022, with a goal of vaccinating 1.6 million people.

Watch a short video of the vaccine clinics in action on our YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/z1iwKUWliH8>



We're ensuring communities in Uganda have access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Malawi: Volunteer Community Health Worker gets COVID-19 training through his phone

He's only 20 years old, but Chikhulupiliro Kalembe is already making a difference in his community in Malawi where he volunteers as a community health worker. He's been learning about how to prevent and treat COVID-19, as well as the importance of vaccines, through Amref Health Africa's

mobile health learning platform, called Leap. Using a basic cell phone that doesn't need an Internet connection, Chikhulupiliro can access lessons, take part in chats with other community health workers, and do quizzes. It's a way of learning that he enjoys because he can do it at his own pace, and he doesn't need to do in-person training with a large group of people.



Thanks to training provided by Amref Health Africa, Chikhulupiliro can teach his community about COVID-19 prevention.

"Having gone through the material I feel more confident to share information on COVID-19 to people from my village. I have conducted three sensitization meetings in the village where I have reached nearly 300 people with information on COVID-19 prevention and how it is spread. I have also made 60 household visits (reaching an estimated 264 people) where I have shared information on COVID-19 prevention," he says.

Training of community health workers in Malawi using Leap is supported by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.

