

**Title of Pre-Conference Workshop:** Introducing the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) eLearning Course on Mortality Surveillance

**Background:** The recent COVID-19 pandemic led to significant loss of lives and livelihoods in the African continent. Despite the over 12 million cases and over 250,000 deaths documented [by Africa CDC](#), the true burden of the pandemic on health in the continent still remains unknown. By monitoring deaths in a population, public health authorities can quickly identify unusual patterns or increases in mortality rates that may indicate the presence of a disease outbreak, monitor specific preventable deaths and raise awareness of public health issues.

In September 2022, Africa CDC launched the [Continental Framework](#) (continental framework) for strengthening mortality surveillance systems across Africa. While the framework was conceptualized before the COVID-19 pandemic, its launch came at a most opportune time, as the demand for improved mortality data and integrated public health information systems has surged. The Continental Framework outlines key steps in developing a coordinated national strategy, for building harmonized mortality information systems for routine data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination to various stakeholders for action.

Africa CDC in collaboration with partners has developed a blended [eLearning course](#) on mortality surveillance based on the Continental Framework. This course provides participants with a basic understanding of the importance of mortality data and introduces various approaches for routine collection and analysis of mortality data as outlined by the continental framework.

**Workshop goal:** Raise awareness on the Africa CDC eLearning Course on Mortality Surveillance

**Workshop objectives:**

- Increase awareness of the importance of mortality surveillance and its role in early detection, preparedness and response to public health emergencies
- To equip public health surveillance officers with the needed understanding and knowledge related to analysis and interpretation of mortality data

- To provide participants with the basic knowledge and information needed to develop, better manage and implement routine mortality surveillance systems in their respective countries
- The gaps and challenges in mortality surveillance and the continental intervention and strategies available to strengthen it.
- Provide insights into the future direction of mortality surveillance in Africa, including emerging trends, technological advancements, and strategies for sustained improvement.

**Workshop Approaches:** The workshop will cover a wide range of topics and engage participants in interactive sessions, panel discussions, and presentations to ensure a thorough understanding of the subject matter.

**Workshop Scope:** The one-day workshop on introducing the Africa CDC Continental Framework for Strengthening Mortality Surveillance Systems is designed to comprehensively address key aspects related to mortality surveillance, its challenges, opportunities, current and future agendas. The workshop's scope encompasses a holistic understanding of mortality surveillance, ranging from foundational concepts to practical implementation strategies, and from current challenges to future-oriented agendas.

Through active engagement and collaborative discussions, participants will gain insights, skills, and actionable takeaways that can be applied to strengthen mortality surveillance systems in their respective countries and contribute to improved public health outcomes across the African continent.

The scope of the workshop includes:

1. Introduction to the Africa CDC Continental Framework providing an overview of the framework's purpose, objectives, guiding principles and role in advancing public health outcomes across Africa.
2. Current Landscape of Mortality Surveillance in Africa focusing on best practices, innovations, and lessons learned in mortality surveillance implementation from various African countries.

3. Identification and discussion of common challenges faced by countries in strengthening mortality surveillance systems and exploration of potential solutions, strategies, and collaborations to overcome these challenges.
4. Strategies for data collection, reporting, analysis and interpretation of mortality data
  - Practical insights into effective data collection methods, tools, and techniques.
  - Discussion on standardized reporting practices and data quality assurance.
  - Data Analysis and Interpretation Techniques:

This will be followed by a panel discussion on the topic: The role of national governments and development partners to the continued advancement of mortality surveillance efforts in Africa

**Duration of workshop: Full day**

**Target Participants:** Epidemiologists and Public Health surveillance experts from Ministries of Health and allied agency officials in Africa, Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Partner Organizations, Members of academia including faculty staff and students.

**Number of participants: 50**

**Facilitators & Co-Facilitators:**

1. Dr. Yenew Kebede, Ag. HOD Surveillance and Disease Intelligence Division
2. Ms. Emily Barigye Atuheire – Africa CDC
3. Dr. Kokou Alinon – Africa CDC
4. Prof. Kofi Mensah Nyarko, mortality surveillance consultant – Africa CDC
5. Mr. James Mwanza – Vital Strategies
6. Dr. Melissa Marx – John’s Hopkins University, USA

**Panel Discussion Members** will be from CDC, WHO AFRO, Vital Strategies USA, ACDC and Ministry of Health (TBD)

Moderator: Dr. Joy Ebonwu, Africa CDC