

The 2nd International Conference on Public Health in Africa 12-15 December 2022, Kigali Rwanda

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It was with great excitement that the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced its second Annual International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022), which took place from 13 to 15 December 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. With as theme, *Preparedness for future Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Recovery: Africa at a Crossroad*, CPHIA 2022 was a three-day, in-person conference that provided a unique platform for African researchers, policymakers and stakeholders to come together and share perspectives and research findings in public health while ushering in a new era of strengthened scientific collaboration and innovation across the continent.

Based on the first-year experience (CPHIA 2021), this year's conference served as a catalyst to build more resilient health systems that will allow African countries to better prepare for and manage emerging health threats while also addressing long-standing infectious diseases. CPHIA 2022 brought together thousands of students, national and institutional representatives, scientific experts as well as public health stakeholders from across the African continent and the world to share science, collaborate on research and implementation, and chart a shared course towards a more secure future for Africa. From the nine scientific plenaries, fourteen parallel sessions, and eight abstract-driven sessions, Africa CDC called on African countries to develop good practices to achieve universal health coverage against common infections and epidemics. These measures include increasing local production in Africa, advocating for research and development capacity in diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccine manufacturing. The acting Director of Africa CDC invited researchers to publish their work in the Journal of Public Health in Africa (JPHIA) (<https://www.publichealthinfrica.org/jphia/about>), which is intended to be an African platform dedicated first for Africans. He also encouraged youth, women and communities' engagement, towards quality health with the goal to move from the "disadvantaged" to the "leaders".

To trigger international collaborative research on infectious disease surveillance and global health, exchange of experience in advanced clinical management, and capacity-building of the next

generation of young African scientists, the JPHIA team organised a side event and other collaborative initiatives at the second International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), from 12-15 December 2022, at the Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda (<https://cphia2022.com/about/>). It is worth noting that CPHIA 2022 provided a unique platform for African researchers, policymakers and stakeholders to present their experience on the continent, to share perspectives and research findings in public health, and to nurture scientific collaboration and innovations between African countries, under the leadership of African scientists. Thus, CPHIA 2022 was also an avenue to strengthen African health systems for a greater preparedness and response to emerging health challenges across the continent.² In this frame, a major recommendation for all African states is the launching and operationalization of National Institutes of Public Health in each country, with regulations for international harmonisation in terms of policy and practise, under the umbrella of Africa CDC.



Photo of some of the Cameroonian participants to JPHIA events.