



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

**AFR/RC62/19**  
21 November 2012

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

Sixty-Second session  
Luanda, Republic of Angola 19–23 November 2012

Agenda item 22

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY FUND**

**Report of the Regional Director**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Paragraphs</b>
BACKGROUND .....	1–4
PROGRESS MADE.....	5–11
ACTIONS PROPOSED .....	12–13

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. WHO Regional Committee Resolution AFR/RC59/R5
2. WHO Regional Committee Resolution AFR/RC60/R5
3. WHO Regional Committee Resolution AFR/RC61/R3
4. African Union Decision Document — Doc.Assembly/AU/18/(XIX) Add.4
5. Yearly contributions of Member States to the APHEF

## BACKGROUND

1. In recognition of the high occurrence of public health emergencies in the African Region and the lack of adequate resources to effectively respond to these emergencies, several resolutions have been adopted specifically to promote the setting up of an African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF).
2. The APHEF was agreed to be established as a Trust Fund dedicated to mobilizing additional resources for response to outbreaks of diseases and other public health emergencies in line with Article 50 (f) of the WHO Constitution. The APHEF will supplement existing efforts by governments and partners and promote solidarity among Member States in addressing public health emergencies.
3. The Regional Committee Resolution AFR/RC61/R3 specifically requested the Regional Director:
  - (a) to set up the operations of the APHEF including drawing up the operational manual governing its effective functioning;
  - (b) to negotiate with the African Development Bank (*AfDB*) the instrument for the establishment of the APHEF;
  - (c) to continue advocacy with Heads of State and Governments, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to ensure sustained contributions to the APHEF;
  - (d) to report to the Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee for Africa, and on a regular basis thereafter, on the operations of the APHEF.
4. This document summarizes the progress made in implementing Resolution AFR/RC61/R3 and proposed actions.

## PROGRESS MADE

5. The operations manual for the APHEF, incorporating the management and administrative processes for governance of, requests for, and disbursement of funds, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation, has been drafted. This manual is expected to be endorsed at the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Fund (MCF).
6. The Technical Review Group (TRG), which will be responsible for the review of funding proposals received from Member States, and the APHEF Secretariat responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fund, have been set up by the Regional Director, in line with the composition approved in the APHEF framework document. The internal mechanisms that will guide the operations of the Revolving Fund to be maintained within the WHO Regional Office for Africa have also been agreed upon for implementation.
7. The Regional Director informed the African Development Bank (*AfDB*) of the decision of the Regional Committee to appoint *AfDB* as Trustee for the APHEF. In response, the African Development Bank confirmed its intention in writing to act in that capacity. However, one year after this confirmation, the Trust Fund's account to receive Member States' contributions is yet to be created. As an interim measure, the WHO Regional Office for Africa is now receiving contributions to the APHEF in a WHO bank account.

8. Since the adoption of the first resolution on the APHEF, countries of the Region continue to experience public health emergencies with attendant high morbidity and mortality. In order to accelerate the establishment of the APHEF and render it operational to support response to these emergencies, the Regional Committee may wish to reconsider the proposed role of the AfDB as the Trustee for the APHEF and to designate WHO to mobilize, disburse and manage the financial contributions to the APHEF.

9. In this regard, the Comptroller at WHO headquarters has confirmed that the appropriate conditions are in place to ensure effective management of the APHEF using WHO's existing banking and accounting system. Furthermore, the recent implementation of the WHO online global management system will facilitate segregation, real time processing and reporting of contributions and disbursements. In turn, the Monitoring Committee of the Fund, composed of three sitting ministers of health and three sitting ministers of finance, with the Chairperson of the Programme Subcommittee as an ex-officio member, will regularly review the operations of the APHEF and report on its findings to the Regional Committee.

10. The Regional Director has continued advocacy with Heads of State, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities. This high-level advocacy resulted in the endorsement of the Regional Committee resolutions on the APHEF by Heads of State and Government at the 19th ordinary Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 July 2012.

11. So far, two Member States have transferred to WHO their contributions for 2012. The States are Rwanda (US\$ 4975) and Angola (US\$ 1 750 590).

## **ACTIONS PROPOSED**

12. To ensure the full operations of the APHEF, it is proposed that the Regional Committee should:

- (a) Appoint the following as members of the Monitoring Committee of the Fund (MCF) in line with the composition approved in the framework document:
  - (i) Ministers of Health of Gabon, Namibia and Nigeria;
  - (ii) Ministers of Finance of Algeria, Cameroon and South Africa;
  - (iii) The current Chairperson of the Programme Subcommittee as ex-officio member.
- (b) Designate WHO to mobilize, manage and disburse the contributions to the APHEF using its financial management and accounting system in the interim and to reiterate the mandate given to the WHO Regional Director to continue negotiations with the AfDB to take up the proposed role of Trustee for the APHEF.

- (c) Urge all Member States:
    - (i) to remit their outstanding 2012 Contributions to the APHEF;
    - (ii) to ensure the inclusion of a budget line in their national budgets for subsequent yearly contributions to the APHEF.
  
  - (d) Request the Regional Director to convene the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Fund in order to:
    - (i) endorse the operations manual of the APHEF;
    - (ii) agree on the operational strategy for the APHEF for the next one year;
    - (iii) agree upon measures to ensure compliance with the decision of the Heads of States of the African Union (Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XIX) Add.4) calling upon Member States to support the implementation of the APHEF and make annual voluntary contributions to it;
    - (iv) agree on the modalities for presenting the first financial and technical report to the Sixty-third session of the Regional Committee;
    - (v) discuss any other issues pertaining to the effective establishment and operations of the APHEF.
  
  - (e) Further request the Regional Director to continue advocacy with Heads of State and Government, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to ensure sustained contributions to the APHEF.
13. The Regional Committee noted the progress made and endorsed the actions proposed.



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

**AFR/RC59/R5**  
4 September 2009

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

Fifty-ninth session

Kigali, Republic of Rwanda, 31 August–4 September 2009

## **RESOLUTION**

### **STRENGTHENING OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE AFRICAN REGION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT INFLUENZA PANDEMIC**

The Regional Committee,

Having carefully examined the technical paper on strengthening outbreak preparedness and response in the African Region in the context of the current influenza pandemic;

Aware that national health systems are overburdened and lack adequate human, financial and preparedness capacity to respond to the current pandemic;

Deeply concerned that the continued international spread of the newly emerged influenza A (H1N1) may result in a humanitarian, social and economic burden on Member States;

Concerned about the potential impact of the current pandemic influenza on vulnerable populations in the African Region who are already suffering from multiple diseases and conditions;

Acknowledging the high level of commitment of Member States to prevention and control of epidemic- and pandemic-prone diseases;

Noting the communiqué on the new influenza A (H1N1) issued by the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Health held in Addis Ababa from 4 to 8 May 2009;

Reaffirming our commitment to implementing Resolutions AFR/RC48/R2 on integrated disease surveillance; AFR/RC56/R7 on preparedness and response to the threat of an avian influenza pandemic; AFR/RC58/R2 on strengthening public health laboratories; and WHA61.2 on implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005);

1. **ENDORSES** the technical paper (Document AFR/RC59/12) and approves the proposed actions aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to prepare for and respond to epidemics and pandemics;

2. URGES Member States:

- (a) to implement communication strategies that regularly provide up-to-date information to all levels of the community regarding what is known about circulating epidemic- and pandemic-prone diseases, appropriate home-based care and protective measures people can take to reduce the risk of infection;
- (b) to ensure the highest level of government support in addressing the new influenza A (H1N1) threat;
- (c) to reduce the potential impact of epidemic- and pandemic-prone diseases on populations by ensuring uninterrupted provision of health care services, maintaining adequate treatment supplies and implementing basic infection control measures to protect health care staff and patients;
- (d) to strengthen the capacity of health services to reduce disease transmission in health care facilities by ensuring regular water supplies and sanitation and by assuring access to hand-hygiene facilities with water and soap at all levels;
- (e) to continue integrated disease surveillance and expand it to all levels including the community and implement the International Health Regulations (2005) within the framework of integrated surveillance;
- (f) to strengthen capacity for influenza diagnosis by providing sufficient material and financial resources to support public health laboratory functions;
- (g) to periodically update their preparedness and response plans and ensure that there is adequate funding for that purpose;
- (h) to ensure financial contribution to the “African Public Health Emergency Fund”, as articulated in the terms of references proposed by WHO Secretariat.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to provide technical support to Member States for the development and implementation of national outbreak prevention and control plans;
- (b) to advocate for additional resources at national and international levels for the implementation of outbreak prevention and control measures in Member States, taking into account the continued threat of outbreaks of diseases including influenza;
- (c) to facilitate the creation of an ‘African Public Health Emergency Fund’ that will support the investigation of and response to epidemics and other public health emergencies; by:
  - (i) developing the justification for and terms of reference of this fund, including the use of the WHO financial management systems;
  - (ii) consulting the African Union Commission on the establishment of this fund and advocating to heads of state and government on the need to contribute to this fund;
  - (iii) proposing to Member States the minimum contribution to be made to this fund;
  - (iv) creating a rotational advisory committee that will advise the Regional Director on the utilization of the funds raised;

- (d) to continue collaborating with the African Union and regional economic communities in strengthening disease surveillance in the African Region;
- (e) to report to the Sixtieth Regional Committee, and on a regular basis thereafter, on the progress being made.

*Fifth meeting, 1 September 2009*



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

Sixtieth session

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 30 August–3 September 2010

**RESOLUTION**

**THE AFRICAN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FUND**

(Document AFR/RC60/13)

The Regional Committee,

Having carefully examined the framework document for the African Public Health Emergency Fund (Document AFR/RC60/13);

Recognizing the inadequacy of resources available to Member States to combat epidemics and other public health emergencies in the African Region;

Deeply concerned that the continued occurrence of epidemics and other public health emergencies in the African Region results in a humanitarian, social and economic burden on Member States;

Concerned about the potential impact of continued occurrence of epidemics and other public health emergencies on vulnerable populations in the African Region who are already suffering from multiple diseases and conditions;

Cognizant of the need to supplement existing efforts by governments and partners and promote solidarity among Member States in addressing recurring epidemics and other public health emergencies;

Recognizing the function of the Regional Committee under Article 50(f) of the WHO Constitution "to recommend additional regional appropriations by the governments of countries of the respective regions if the proportion of the central budget of the Organization allotted to the Region is insufficient for carrying out regional functions";

Reaffirming its commitment to implementing Resolution AFR/RC59/R5 on strengthening outbreak preparedness and response in the African Region;

1. APPROVES the creation of the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF) in light of the principles set out in the framework document;

2. URGES Member States:

- (a) to ensure the highest level of government support towards the sustainability and successful functioning of the APHEF;
- (b) to continue to advocate for the sustenance of the APHEF at national, sub-regional and regional forums;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to convene a technical consultation among Ministries of Health and Finance of Member States of the African Region, the African Union, the African Development Bank, and Regional Economic Communities, with the objective of elaborating on the principles for financial contributions by countries, including criteria and modalities relating thereto, as well as the governance of the APHEF;
- (b) to advocate with Heads of State and Governments, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to ensure sustained contributions to the APHEF;
- (c) to report to the Sixty-first session of the Regional Committee for Africa, and on a regular basis thereafter, on the operations of the APHEF.



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

Sixty-first session

Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire 29 August–2 September 2011

**RESOLUTION**

**FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT FOR THE AFRICAN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
FUND (APHEF) (Document AFR/RC61/4)**

The Regional Committee,

Having carefully examined the framework document for the African Public Health Emergency Fund (Document AFR/RC61/4);

Reaffirming its commitment to implementing Resolution AFR/RC60/R5 approving the creation of the African Public Health Emergency Fund;

Cognizant of the need to operationalize the APHEF and ensure sustained contributions of Member States to the Fund;

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the technical working group comprising representatives from ministries of health and ministries of finance of countries in the African Region, *the coordinating organization for the fight against endemic diseases in Central Africa* (OCEAC), African Development Bank (AfDB) and the WHO Secretariat, which was set up to elaborate on the principles of financial contributions by Member States, including the criteria and modalities thereof, as well as the governance of the APHEF;

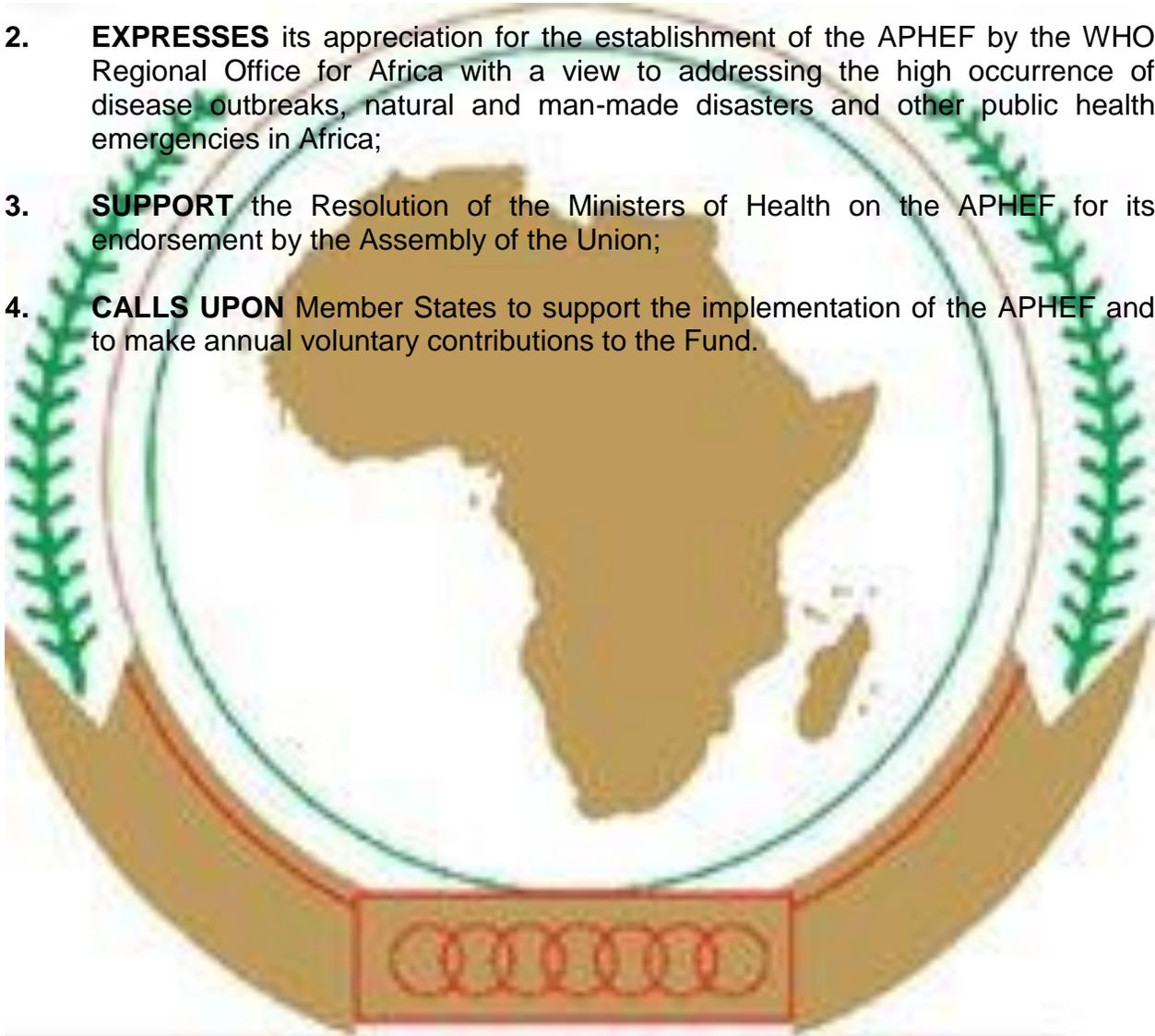
1. **ADOPTS** the Framework document for the African Public Health Emergency Fund (Document AFR/RC61/4);
2. **APPROVES** the governance structure of the APHEF including the Monitoring Committee of the Fund, the Technical Review Group and the APHEF Secretariat, in line with the terms of reference specified in the framework document;
3. **APPROVES** also the proposed composition of the Monitoring Committee of the Fund which includes three sitting ministers of health, three sitting ministers of finance and the chairperson of the Programme Subcommittee as an *ex-officio* member, and the modalities of appointment to membership;
4. **ENDORSES** the designation of the African Development Bank (AfDB) as the Trustee for the management of contributions to the APHEF and the domiciliation of a Revolving Fund with a limit of US\$ 30 million within the WHO Regional Office for Africa in line with the modalities set out in the framework document;

5. APPROVES the amount of US\$ 50 million as the total annual recommended voluntary contributions of Member States to the APHEF;
6. ADOPTS the use of the United Nations methodology presented as scenario 1 in the framework document as the basis for Member States' recommended voluntary yearly contributions to the APHEF;
7. URGES Member States:
  - (a) to ensure the creation of a budget line in national budgets for yearly contributions to the APHEF;
  - (b) to continue to advocate for the sustenance of the APHEF with the African Union, regional economic communities, and at national and international levels;
8. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
  - (a) to set up the operations of the APHEF including drawing up the operational manual governing its effective functioning;
  - (b) to negotiate with the *AfDB* on the instrument for the management of APHEF;
  - (c) to continue advocacy with Heads of State and Government, the African Union and regional economic communities to ensure that the current resolution is introduced to the AU for endorsement by the Heads of States;
  - (d) to report to the Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee for Africa, and on regular basis thereafter, on the operations of the APHEF.

**DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FUND (APHEF)  
Doc. Assembly/AU/18(XIX) Add.4**

**The Assembly,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Republic of The Gambia on the establishment of the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF);
2. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the establishment of the APHEF by the WHO Regional Office for Africa with a view to addressing the high occurrence of disease outbreaks, natural and man-made disasters and other public health emergencies in Africa;
3. **SUPPORT** the Resolution of the Ministers of Health on the APHEF for its endorsement by the Assembly of the Union;
4. **CALLS UPON** Member States to support the implementation of the APHEF and to make annual voluntary contributions to the Fund.



**AFRICAN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FUND (APHEF)  
YEARLY CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES**

Member State	Contribution	
	%	US\$
Algeria	19.74	9 868 183
Angola	3.50	1 750 590
Benin	0.81	406 098
Botswana	1.80	900 155
Burkina Faso	0.77	384 845
Burundi	0.01	5000
Cameroon	3.23	1 616 162
Cape Verde	0.20	101 055
Central African Republic	0.16	82 482
Chad	0.37	183 555
Comoros	0.07	34 491
Congo	0.81	403 568
Cote d'Ivoire	3.09	1 542 897
D R Congo	0.01	5000
Equatorial Guinea	0.77	386 822
Eritrea	0.01	5000
Ethiopia	0.01	5000
Gabon	1.45	725 638
Gambia	0.07	35 172
Ghana	1.78	890 116
Guinea	0.42	211 330
Guinea-Bissau	0.01	5000
Kenya	3.69	1 846 717
Lesotho	0.34	167 625
Liberia	0.01	5000
Madagascar	0.63	317 316
Malawi	0.01	5000
Mali	0.80	397 845
Mauritania	0.39	193 476
Mauritius	1.27	634 709
Mozambique	0.64	319 466
Namibia	1.44	721 231
Niger	0.01	5000
Nigeria	22.00	11 000 000
Rwanda	0.01	5 000
Sao Tome and Principe	0.01	7010
Senegal	1.72	860 613
Seychelles	0.17	83 000
Sierra Leone	0.01	5000
South Africa	22.00	11 000 000
Swaziland	0.52	260 855
Tanzania	1.88	938 339
Togo	0.24	121 544
Uganda	1.30	648 075
Zambia	1.26	630 517
Zimbabwe	0.56	278 504
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>50 000 000</b>