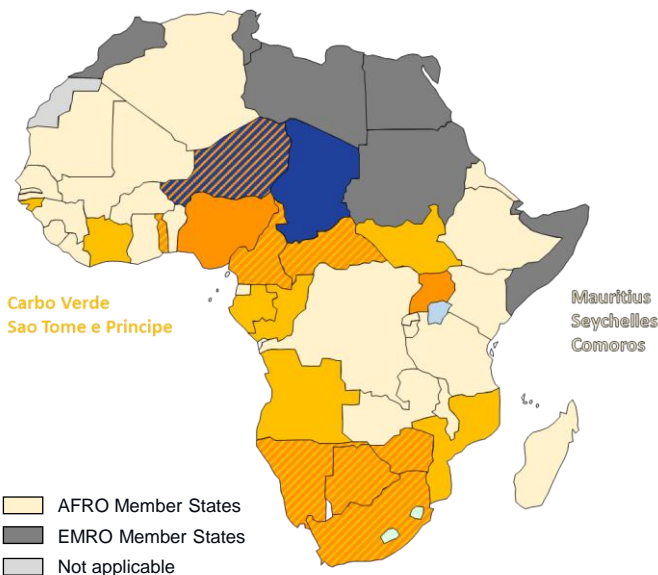


## PREPARING FOR THE NEXT RESPIRATORY PANDEMIC IN WHO AFRO

### Pandemic preparedness planning: from influenza to a pan-respiratory approach

In line with the WHO's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework, and following the recommendations from the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee, WHO and its partners are working to strengthen global pandemic preparedness to ensure a timely and appropriate response to pandemics. The recent publication "Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Module 1: Planning for respiratory pathogen pandemics" provides guidance to encourage all countries to review their response to COVID-19 and to revise/develop pandemic preparedness plans with a focus on respiratory pathogens.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 15 (32%) Member States of the WHO African Region reported having national influenza pandemic preparedness plans. Many Member States adapted these plans to support their COVID-19 response. It is planned that at least 25% of Member States in the region will have a respiratory pathogen pandemic preparedness plan that incorporates lessons from COVID-19 pandemic by the end of 2025, and 60% by the end of 2031.



Countries with an influenza pandemic preparedness plan already endorsed	2/47 (4%)
Countries planning a national workshop or simulation exercise for respiratory pandemic preparedness in 2023	10/47 (21%)
Countries engaged in respiratory pandemic preparedness with the PRET Module 1	16/47 (34%)

### Three regional workshops were held in May/June to introduce the new guidelines and tools for respiratory pathogen pandemic preparedness and response and to engage countries in respiratory pandemic preparedness

In 2023, the WHO Regional Office for Africa organised three regional workshops in English, French and Portuguese for a total of 16 countries to support them in [revising their National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan](#) to integrate a pan-respiratory approach or in [developing a new National Respiratory Pathogen Pandemic Preparedness Plan](#).



During 4 days, groups composed of up to five participants from each country and representing the following sectors: [emergency coordination](#), [surveillance](#) and [laboratory](#), [risk communication](#) and [community engagement](#), "One Health", [law and regulations](#), [supplies and procurement](#), [ICT and data management](#), worked to develop a first draft of a plan.



### Coming up next?

#### Regional workshop

- West Africa: 2-5 October

#### National workshops

- Togo: 14-19 August
- Cameroun: 5-8 September
- Namibia: 18-22 September

#### Simulation exercise (SimEx)

- Nigeria: 29-31 August