

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 22 April 2024

EU-IGAD COVID-19 Response Programme Delivers Mobile Laboratory Truck to the Ministry of Health of Kenya

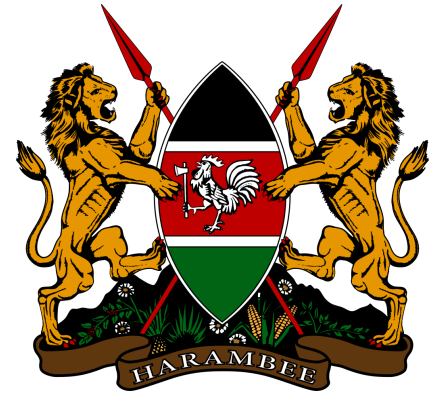
A mobile laboratory truck was handed over to the Ministry of Health of Kenya today in Nairobi as part of the recently completed European Union-funded EU-IGAD COVID-19 Response Programme, with the objective to support countries in the IGAD region to strengthen surveillance and the healthcare system.

The mobile lab, worth EUR 167,300, will be used to collect specimens from suspected patients across the country and within the cross-border areas in case of an outbreak of an infectious disease and for sample transportation to the nearest lab for testing. It will be stationed in the National Public Health Laboratories in Nairobi and will be deployed to support the outbreak interventions in the country including the cross-border sites and as per the need. The mobile laboratory will help the medical workers to reach out to the patients from the cross-border areas, areas of emergency response, truck drivers in main truck stops and parking areas as well as people crossing the border in case of mass population movement or displacement.

Previously under the programme, Kenya received three ambulances and one field vehicle, 1,826,161 PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment), 27,016 COVID-19 test kits and two PCR labs donated to the hospitals in Moyale and Lamu to support surveillance and laboratory services in Kenya. This was part of the IGAD programme's effort to improve the health response, strengthening national capacities and support cross-border communities and vulnerable populations especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Programme implemented in the period April 2020 - December 2023 focused on critical cross border areas in the region, refugee settlements and aims to enhance IGAD's coordination capacity, increase access to health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, combat gender-based violence, improve community engagement, ensure borders are safe for trade and promote digital health solutions.

Funded by the European Union, the €60 million EU-IGAD COVID-19 Response Project was managed by UNOPS PMU Djibouti and coordinated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD),



International Organization for Migration (IOM), TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the aim to provide a comprehensive and coordinated COVID-19 response and its social economic impact on cross border areas and refugees across the IGAD region namely; Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda as well as to strengthen the health care systems in these countries.

....ENDS.....

For More Information please contact the below:

Mr. Petar Janjatovic, UNOPS ETMCO Communications Officer petarj@unops.org