



AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



International
Labour
Organization



World Day for Safety and Health at Work Commemoration

***Stop the Pandemic: Occupational
Safety and Health can Save Lives***

28 April 2020 | 13:00 - 15:00 (CAT)

AFRICA WEBINAR REPORT

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Acronyms

ACDC	Africa Centre for Diseases Control
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
EAP	Employee assistance programme
HCW	Health Care Worker
IOE	International Organisation of Employers-Africa
ICOH	International Congress for Occupational Health
IOHA	International Occupational Hygiene Association
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation-Africa
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
OSHMS	Occupational Safety and Health Management System
ILO	International Labour Organization
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PUI	Means Person under investigation
RSA	Republic of South Africa
RTW	Return to Work
SATBHSS	Southern Africa TB and Health System Support
WHO	World Health Organization
WHWB	Workplace Health Without Borders

Introduction and Background

Historically, April 28 has been commemorated as an international day for the dead and injured workers, organized by trade union since 1996. In 2003, the trade union requested the International Labour Organization (ILO) to be part of the commemoration. ILO then recognized that while we honour the injured and fallen workers, the only best possible way to honour such heroes is to prevent further deaths and injuries. This became an awareness-raising campaign intended to promote and create safety and health culture to reduce and eliminate work-related deaths and injuries. 28 April is the day the world rises in one voice to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases. The ILO uses its tripartism and social dialogue strengths to celebrate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

Recently ILO has revised the World Day for Safety and Health at Work theme from “Violence and Harassment in the World of Work” to “Stop the Pandemic: Safety and Health at Work can Save Lives”. This is in response to the current scourge of COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the pandemic, ILO published the [prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 at Work: ACTION CHECKLIST](#) and due to publish a specially compiled booklet “In the face of

a pandemic: Ensuring Safety and Health at Work”, African Union published the [Africa Joint Continental Strategy on COVID-19 outbreak](#), and African Union Development Agency-NEPAD published a [White Paper on the AUDA-NEPAD Response to COVID-19](#).

It is against this background that the ILO, AUDA-NEPAD and partners organized a virtual Africa World Day for Safety and Health at Work Commemoration. The commemoration focused on the current affected workers and fallen heroes and heroines as a result of COVID-19 and other workplace accidents and injuries, under the sub-theme “Saluting Health Workers in the fight against COVID-19”.

The work came as an ongoing collaborative activity mandated by the signing of the memorandum of understanding between ILO and AUDA-NEPAD. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to promote decent jobs for all the economic sectors. The collaboration will focus on infrastructure, agriculture, innovation, youth entrepreneurship and skills development, occupational safety and health, green jobs and employment-intensive approaches for the benefit of the African people. Furthermore, the collaboration will focus on policy and regulatory framework for occupational safety and health in key

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

To honour our health care workers and workers infected and affected by COVID-19 pandemic and other occupational accidents and injuries

To share knowledge and experience on the global strategies on the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in health care settings and other sectors at high risk

To share sub-regional experiences with and respond to the impact of current and past epidemics/pandemics on workforce

To bring together all the occupational safety and health key stakeholders and partners to discuss innovations aimed at advancing safety and health in Africa, informal business

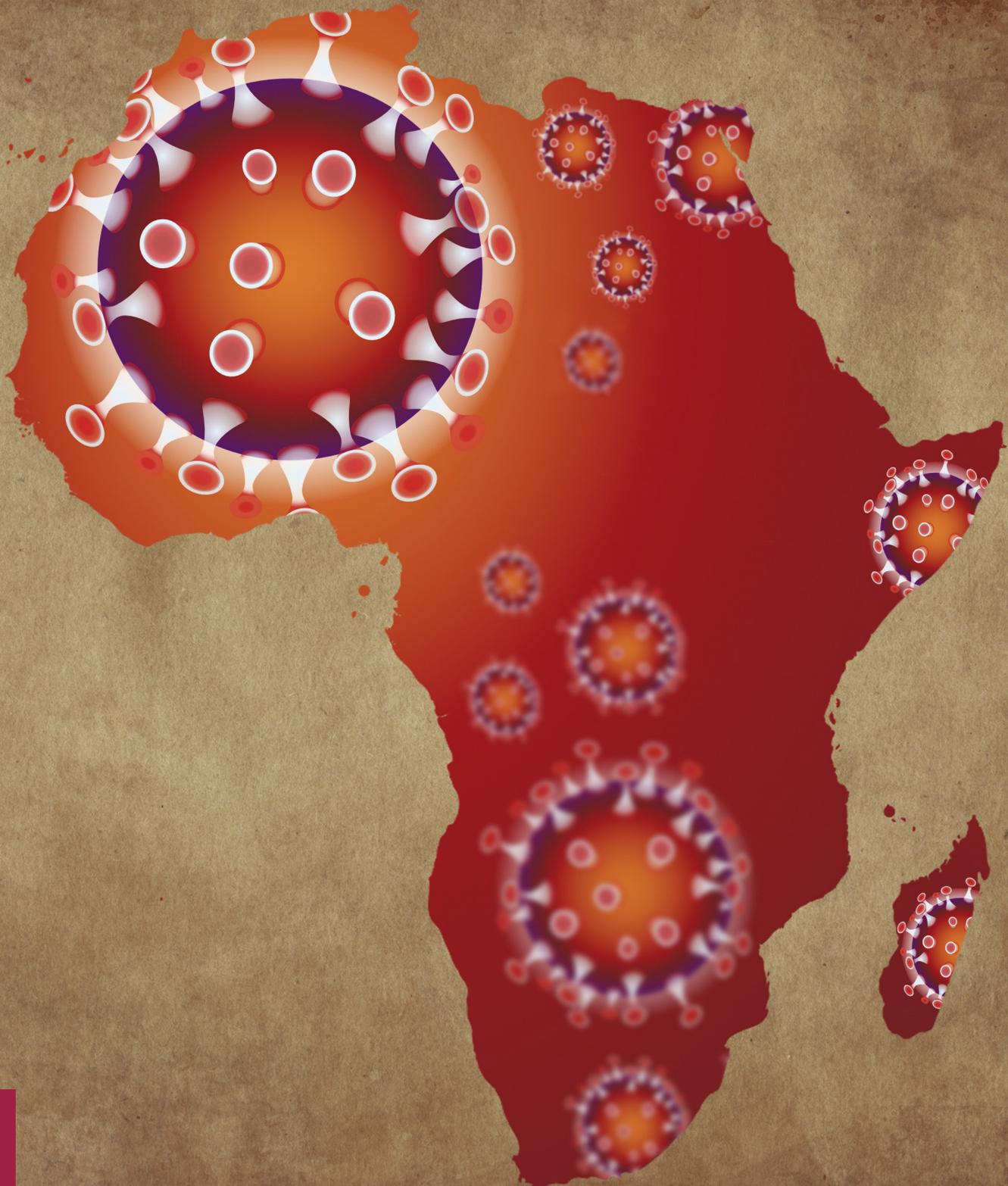




areas including extractive industries and Infrastructure projects in Africa.

369 participants from 38 countries (11 countries from outside Africa) registered for the webinar. Women made up at least 47% of total registrations. Among these were 129 OSH professionals, 94 individuals from governments, 38 from academia, 15 from employers representatives and 15 from workers representatives. The webinar also received 5 registrations from media.

Speakers were drawn from ILO, African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD, International Organisation of Employers (IOE-Africa), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa), Africa Centre for Communicable Diseases (CDC), and OSHAfrica.





Opening and Welcome

The moderator, Mr Tibor Szana, Chief Inspector of the Department of Employment and Labour of South Africa, welcomed all participants and reiterated the importance and significance of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in Africa. He acknowledged the limitations posed by COVID-19 pandemic as the main reason why South Africa will not hold a public celebratory event. He further stated that South Africa has improved the occupational health and safety management systems through a partnership with AU and ILO and engagement with member states through activities under several projects including the Southern Africa TB and Health Systems Support Project (SATBHSS).

The Department of Employment and Labour in South Africa in the current financial year has conducted approximately 2000 inspections. Which are not enough, hence the Department is currently recruiting 500 inspectors to increase their capacity especially in the area of occupational health and hygiene.

“We have conducted above 2000 inspection, with an average of 60% compliance. We closed businesses which did not comply. The non-compliances were lack of risk assessment, continuing to work with confirmed cases of COVID-19, etc.” ~ Mr Szana

The results of our inspection showed an average of 60% compliance, the main contraventions were lack of risk assessment, non-compliance to the guidelines, lack of controls and non-adherence to preventive measures.

We have been successful in enforcement whereby we closed several companies due to non-compliance. The Department is currently establishing an occupational hygiene laboratory in partnership with several stakeholders, this is to improve the delivery of comprehensive risk assessment and monitoring to the informal economy in South Africa.

The moderator stated that South Africa is happy to be part of this year’s celebration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, joining the rest of the continent under the theme: Stop the Pandemic: Occupational Safety and Health can Save Lives: Sub-theme: Saluting health workers in the fight against COVID-19. I, therefore, would like to welcome all of you, as well as our speakers from AU, ILO, IOE, ITUC, AUDA-NEPAD, etc.

COVID-19 Messages of Support and Appreciation to Health Care Workers from OSH Networks

Messages of support and appreciation were shared with the participants by occupational safety and health networks and partners. The messages were packaged in a video format from the president of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA): Mr Rene LeBlanc, OSHAfrica president Mr Ehi Iden, Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB) Mr Kevin Hedges and the final video message was from AUDA-NEPAD Mr Amine Idriss Adoum - Director, Programme Delivery and Coordination.



Tribute to Frontline Workers in the Fight Against COVID-19

Mr Simphiwe Mabhele, ILO Health and HIV/TB Technical Specialist rendered a tribute which was as follows: Fellow Africans, over the years we have come to realise that in any crisis, we are fully dependent on the dedication of Health Workers. Whether in conflicts and wars, malaria, tuberculosis, Ebola, MERS-CoV, displaced people, poverty and in the recent COVID-19 it remains the same. We might have taken the dedication for granted, but we want to reverse that oversight. We want to recognise and appreciate our heroes and heroines in the struggle against COVID-19. We now know that hundreds of health workers in private and public sectors have contracted and some even lost their precious lives while trying to save lives.

The reality is that many have suffered physical injuries and psychosocial and mental trauma caused either to them, their families, fellow workers and communities at large. We would like to dedicate this webinar and the celebration in Africa, specifically to our frontline officials. Our sincere prayers are with the infected and affected, we thank you for your bravery.



Keynote Address

Stop the Pandemic: OSH at Work can save lives

Dr Joni Musabayana, ILO Director Decent Work Team for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work was first organized and commemorated by trade unions in 1996. Since 2003, the ILO and constituents maintained an annual commemoration. This year's theme was revised from "Violence and Harassment in the World of Work" to "Stop the Pandemic: Safety and Health at Work can Save Lives", to resonate with the current situation, he stated.

The ILO and AUDA-NEPAD found it fit to bring the region together through a virtual commemoration for Africa Region. They also identified the need to honour the healthcare workers and their contribution to combating COVID-19, hence the sub-theme "Saluting Health Workers in the fight against COVID-19". Dr Musabayana commended AUDA-NEPAD for recognizing the need for a united and coordinated response as a region to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on the working population. In an effort to ensure the availability of necessary expertise in providing evidence-based guidance.

Dr Musabayana further alluded to the economic factors and impacts to workers

in sectors such as hospitality and food services, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and real estate and business activities will feel economic risks the hardest. These sectors represent 26% of the African employed population, of which 72% is in the informal economy, with only a mere 18% of these workers with access to social protection. Lack of social protection, rights at work and decent working conditions have been persistent characteristics of informal economy's employment, he stated.

On social risks and impacts, he said globally, there are 136 million in human health and social work activities, he emphasised the fact that informal workers are particularly vulnerable due to absence of OSH arrangement, sick leave and unemployment benefits compelling them into choosing income over health and subsequently increase infection risk to both their health and the health of others.

On the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19, he outlined four pillars. Pillar 1: Stimulating the economy and employment Pillar 2: Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes Pillar 3: Protecting workers in the workplace Pillar 4: Relying on social dialogue for solutions. His presentation focused on pillar 3, to resonate with the plight of frontline workers.

Dr Musabayana continued to say that the ability of informal workers to comply with the OSH and COVID-19 precautions mandated by authorities, such as physical distancing, hand washing or self-isolation, is almost close to nil, this calls for authorities to provide adequate support, including education and training on safe and healthy work practices, free provision of PPE as needed, access to public health services and livelihood alternatives. In acknowledging greater importance of safety and health at the workplace, discussions are underway to recognise occupational safety and health as a fundamental principle and right at work and place key OSH Convention, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No 155) among the core conventions, he concluded.



The Impact of COVID-19 on Workers

Mr Joel Odigie, Deputy General Secretary, ITUC-Africa. The effect and impact of COVID-19 are clear and we all have started to realise the impact it has had into the economy, loss of jobs and incomes, especially in our continent where the majority of the working population works in the informal economy, said Mr. Odigie. Beyond the economic impact, we have witnessed the psychological trauma and mental health issues on migrant workers due to fear of infection and being away from families. ITUC-Africa recognizes that this is war and it should be treated as such on the African continent. We learn with concern the recent discriminations experienced by our African brothers and sisters in China, ITUC-Africa stands against any discrimination and xenophobic attack on anyone.

“We need to re-think and open up a discussion on social contracts in the world of work because after this pandemic things will change and we need to anticipate and be ready.” ~ Mr Odigie

The Deputy General Secretary posed a question on how do we prevent and improve workplaces? He stated that there is a need to accelerate the provision of required personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, gowns, aprons, etc., as well as to scale-up testing and treatment of frontline workers and the general public. There is a need for stronger cooperation between Government, employers and employees to create mutually agreed workplace policies, programmes and control interventions. Mr Odigie concluded by saying the world needs to re-think and open up a discussion for social contracts in the world of work because after this pandemic things will change and we need to be ready.



AU COVID-19 at Workplace Guidance in Africa

Mr Sabelo Mbokazi, Head of Employment and labour, AUC. Mr Mbokazi re-iterated the commitment of the African Union, in the fight against COVID-19. The COVID-19 permeates all spheres of life and societal spaces including the world of work. The focus of the Commemoration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in 2020 is predetermined to address COVID-19 dynamics. The response measures are anchored on the vision of the African Union which is “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena”. This noble idea is articulated in Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want. Organizations have a moral duty to protect their workers by ensuring safe and healthy workplace, Mr Mbokazi stated. The strategic repositioning of workplaces to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic calls for the development of comprehensive and robust occupational safety and health management. AU joins the ILO to amplify the zeal with which the world rises in one voice to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases in the workplace on 28th April 2020. AU underscores the importance of tripartism framework and social dialogue’s strengths to celebrate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

“AU is committed to fight COVID-19 pandemic and broader occupational safety and health. We hope to use the experience gained during the pandemic to enhance our workplace OSH management systems in our member states.” ~ Mr Mbokazi

He introduced the AU workplace guidelines recently approved by the AU commissioner and the chairperson of the STC. He reiterated that the guidelines are biased towards COVID-19. The guidelines mainly focus on workplace policies; organizational arrangements such as the role and responsibilities, competency and training and communication; planning and implementations addressing initial risk assessment and risk controls. The guidelines continue to specify the need for isolation of people suspected of having COVID-19 from those with confirmed cases of the virus to prevent further transmission, move potentially infectious people to locations specified by the Ministry of Health as isolation centres, rearrangement of the workplace to minimize close contact of workers, and adoption of shifts or work arrangements that reduce the number of workers at workstations or being transported to and from work.

Mr Sabelo Mbokazi concluded his talk by stating the AU’s commitment to fighting COVID-19 pandemic and broader occupational safety and health. We hope to use the experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance our workplace OSH management systems.



The Regional Response to COVID-19 in the Workplace

Mr Amine Idriss Adoum, AUDA-NEPAD Director for Programme Delivery and Coordination said the impact of COVID-19 is clear even in the absence of comprehensive data. So far with the limited data, it is known that approximately 16% of all cases are associated with workplaces and 19% of them are health care workers CDC reported as of 09 April 2020.

Mr Adoum noted some of the gaps in the continent such as lack of OSH systems, regulatory frameworks fragmentation, poor wellness systems, inadequate human capacity and large informal sector with zero OSH systems. He reiterated that the main objective for a regional response is to have a coordinated response and harmonisation of systems to ensure that even the poorest member states benefit from the knowledge that exists in the continent. The specific objectives are:

- Facilitate the sharing of regional best practices and lessons learnt
- Provide technical guidance on the management of COVID-19 in the workplace
- Make recommendations on required guidelines and training needs.
- Bring together a pool of OSH experts to provide technical assistance and capacity development for member states
- Develop regional technical guidelines on issues of COVID-19 and OSH and ensure alignment with best practices and international standards.

“AUDA-NEPAD looks beyond COVID-19 the focus is on OSH systems, policy and capacity strengthening interventions in member states. Everyone is invited to participate. ” ~ Mr Adoum.

What have we accomplished so far? Working in partnership with the AUC we provided our technical skills into the recent published AU Guideline for COVID-19 in the workplaces. This guideline was presented by our colleague Mr Mbokazi. We have established an African Union Expert Advisory Group on Occupational Safety and Health for COVID-19 Response, which is made up by a pool of experts to support OSH interventions in Africa established

in collaboration with ILO and partnership network established with key partners including AUC, ACDC, ILO, ECSA-HC, OSHAfrica, IOM, IOE, SAIOH, ITUC-Africa, NIOH.

In his conclusion, Mr Adoum said that AUDA-NEPAD next steps are to launch the knowledge sharing and training platform, issue sector-specific guidelines for countries to use as a benchmark, expand the pool of experts to cover all the regions of AU, expand our OSH networks and finally to look beyond COVID-19 and institute sustainable OSH capacity strengthening interventions. We, therefore, invite everyone to participate in these developments.



The Employers' Perspective on the Impact and Mitigation of COVID-19 in the Workplace

Ms Grace Nabakooza, Head, Employment Relations and Legal - IOE-Africa addressed the issue of “ the employers’ perspective on impact and mitigation of COVID-19 in the workplace”.

Grace pointed out that the pandemic has indeed posed several challenges for employers e.g. complete shut down of certain sectors and hence likely to change the nature of work among others. She also observed that while indeed there has been a loss of lives (both working and non-working population), there are number of lessons that employers can draw from to further embrace safety and health at workplaces which include;

- 1) Disseminating information on safety and health is important
- 2) Observing legislated safety and health standards is key with or without this pandemic

She indicated that in response to the above, employers should do more through hazard identifications/ audits and risk assessments thereafter at a country level, the following has been done at a global level;



- 1) There have been several webinars organized by the IOE for employer organisations to draw from the lessons of this pandemic to improve their members' workplaces and productivity overall.
- 2) The ILO has provided technical support on developing employer guides for use by the members.

“We add that COVID-19 is a pandemic and therefore not an occupational disease.”
~ Ms Nabakooza

Grace concluded by stating that, the current situation of COVID-19 has enabled us to draw lessons to further observe and implement safety and health at the workplace; and that this is a pandemic and therefore not an occupational disease; and lastly that, we continue to renew our commitment to the 4 principles which include;

- 1) Elimination of all forms of forced labour
- 2) Effective abolition of child labour
- 3) Elimination of discrimination in respect to employment
- 4) Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining





Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19: Leveraging on OSH Networks

Mr Ehi Iden, President of OSH Africa indicated that the continent was not prepared for the emergence of COVID-19, and did not have enough information about it and as a result, everyone had to learn about the virus together because it is a common enemy. It is evident that there are insufficient provisions for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in most policies at both country and enterprise levels, healthcare systems are fairly fragile and immediate resource mobilization efforts are inadequate. In spite of all the challenges, immediate actions are urgently required.

Mr Iden stated that through e-learning platforms and engagements with government leaders, various organisation and OSH networks, they developed the following COVID-19 programmes:

- i. Conducting education and training on COVID-19 using the employee and employee family approach
- ii. Designing Incidence Management Plan (end-to-end)
- iii. Implementation of plan and review of outcomes
- iv. Education on remote working
- v. Communicating and planning a return to work

He emphasized that lockdown and isolation measures implemented by various country can cause mental health and psychological bruise to workers. Therefore, provisions need to be made as workers are returning to work. New workplace plans such as distancing of seats, the presence of more opened doors than shut ones and having fewer colleagues in workplaces at a given time have to be developed. Workers' psychology is also important and therefore humanity has to be brought into management systems, the anxiety of workers that will not be returning to work immediately has to be managed, and mental health support is provided by employers.

“We must acknowledge that the lockdown and isolation measures implemented by various country can cause mental health and psychological bruise to workers. ”
~ Mr Iden

Participants were informed of various OSH networks and COVID-19 pool of experts which are utilised for collaborative work and information sharing. Mr Iden concluded by appreciating the sacrifices made by all frontline health workers and passed his condolences to families and colleagues who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19 pandemic.



OSH for Health Care Workers: Celebrating our Heroes and Heroines in the Fight Against COVID-19

Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, Deputy Director, Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) thanked the webinar organisers for arranging a platform where information can be exchanged on COVID-19 pandemic and paying tribute to health care workers. Africa CDC is a specialised agency of the African Union and mandated to tackle public health emergencies in Africa such as Ebola, monkey fever, cholera, and now COVID-19.

Dr Ouma indicated that the first case of COVID-19 case in Africa was confirmed around mid-February 2020 in Egypt and on the 22nd of February 2020, they convened an urgent AU Ministers of Health meeting to discuss a continental response to the pandemic. The Ministers adopted an Africa joint continental strategy for COVID-19 outbreak which was subsequently endorsed by the AU Bureau of Heads of States. The strategy's implementation is coordinated by the Africa Task Force for Coronavirus. The Africa Task for Corona Virus covers 3 pillars, namely:

i. **Prevention of transmission** which looks at ensuring that countries

have appropriate surveillance and diagnostic materials; appropriate infection, prevention and control supplies for health workers; and capacity building at a continental and country level.

ii. **Prevention of deaths** looks at clinical management and ensuring that medical supplies and equipment are provided in a timely manner.

iii. **Prevention of social harm** focuses on governments' implementation of social distancing policies to minimise transmission, risk communication, track and tracing of rumours in order to provide correct information to the public.

What has been done for the protection of health workers? The Africa CDC provided capacity building on enhanced surveillance to 25 countries; conducts weekly online training on clinical management, and provided capacity building to 40 countries on medical supplies and equipment needed by personnel. They further developed guidelines on how to protect workers and correctly utilise PPEs. He said Africa CDC procured and distributed PPEs across Africa, engaged governments on the need to ensure a safe working environment for health workers as currently, 1.5% confirmed cases in Africa are from health workers. He concluded by applauding and appreciating all health workers including paramedics, cleaners, ambulance drivers, cooks, hospital security personnel, etc for their selflessness and sacrifices.



“Africa CDC procured and distributed PPEs across Africa, engaged governments on the need to ensure safe working environment for healthworkers as currently 1.5% confirmed cases in Africa are from health workers. ” Dr Ouma

ACDC’s mandate is established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.



Africa Webinar Closing Remarks

Ms Peneyambeko Alina Munkawa, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist for Eastern and Southern Africa, closed the session by stating that the uncertainty. Such uncertainty is just another call, a much louder one this time, on the OSH professionals and inspectorates to pick up and revitalize the most important feature of their function, that’s the sense of anticipation.

She reminded the audience that the world of work is rapidly evolving, forms of

employments arrangements, manners of conducting work and unusual hazards are emerging.

The interconnection between workplace, environment and the general public is becoming more and more impactful on safety and health at work as well as public health. OSH professionals and inspectorates can not afford to remain static, or they are bound to be rendered obsolete.

She reminded the OSH professionals that ILO Convention 161 on Occupational health services demonstrates that OSH is a multi-disciplinary effort. Such multi-disciplinarity brings in a big question of what it will mean to be an OSH professional in the future. The changes in the structure of economies and the ever blurring boundaries between work, domestic life and public roles in communities challenges you to develop new skills sets and remain relevant in the field.

Training institutes played, and keep playing a critical role in OSH information and knowledge fora. There is however an equal deficit in inaction and out-dated action. There is a growing need for mainstream OSH into

the core of general education for everyone before they enter the world of work and continuing throughout their working lives. Academia has a responsibility in enhancing the OSH knowledge in general public and keeping OSH professionals and role players competent and credible at all times. Including OSH education and training in lifelong learning can help workers and employers adapt to new, emerging, and persistent safety and health risks and improve OSH outcomes at work. She invited OSH professionals to examine the two reports published by ILO last year: [the Global Commission on Future of Work](#), and [the Safety and Health at the heart of Future of Work](#).



“You will agree with me that this pandemic has lumped us all into a control and mitigation unit which is not an ideal situation.” ~ Ms Munkawa

Ms Munkawa reminded Governments, employers that despite COVID-19 being a new and unprecedented problem, the principle of anticipation of risks and adoption of a preventative safety and health culture is already entrenched into the provisions of key ILO’s OSH conventions C155 and C187. She emphasised that domestication and commitment to the application of these instruments dictate the effectiveness of OSH inspectorates in anticipating and responding to OSH threats.





ICOH Message of Tribute to Health Care Workers

Ms Claudina Nogueira, ICOH Vice President for Scientific Committee, said that the world is living in unprecedented times, where every country is experiencing the tragic and far-reaching impacts of the pandemic due to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which causes the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). This situation and its impacts are anticipated to continue for many months/years to come. Across the world, there are now close to 3 000 000 cases of COVID-19, and above 200 000 deaths (as at 26 April 2020). Unfortunately, developing countries will be affected the most due to limited resources, vulnerable populations, poor socioeconomic and living conditions, and an already heavy burden of diseases.

Even though the elderly and those persons with underlying medical conditions (e.g. cardiovascular disease, diabetes, immunosuppression) seem to be most vulnerable to infection, the WHO advises people of all ages to take steps to protect themselves from the virus, e.g. by following good hand and respiratory hygiene, and practising social distancing.

“Let’s all work together as a ‘global team’ for occupational health and safety, sharing and pooling our resources and lessons learned, to fight this global pandemic and to ensure the health, safety and general wellbeing of our workers, particularly those in high risk sectors, such as our health workers. ” ~ Ms Nogueira

With the exponential explosion of confirmed cases of COVID-19, healthcare systems and facilities across the globe are stretched beyond capacity; many are at a high risk of total collapse. Health workers are at the frontline of the COVID-19 outbreak response and therefore at the highest risk of exposure to the virus and development of the infection. Hazards include pathogen exposure, long working hours, psychological distress, fatigue, occupational burnout, stigma, and physical and psychological violence.

The ICOH VP concluded and said let’s all work together as a ‘global team’ for occupational health and safety, sharing and pooling our resources and lessons learned, to fight this global pandemic and to ensure the health, safety and general wellbeing of our workers, particularly those in high-risk sectors, such as our health workers.





Final Word from AUDA-NEPAD

Ms Chimwemwe Chamdimba, AUDA-NEPAD Principal Policy Specialist. On behalf of AUDA-NEPAD, I would like to thank our moderator, keynote speakers, panelists, partners and participants. I would like to re-iterate as presented previous by our director Mr Amine Adoum that we have set-up a team of experts aimed at the development of OSH/COVID-19 guidelines and training materials. The training will be rolled out soon to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond the current pandemic to OSH. We, therefore, would like to invite experts from Africa and beyond to hold hands with us. We appreciate everyone's contributions.

To view the webinar video please visit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z9EsX7XBa7kinUmy_Tz4AqZHI0lqEFbr/view?usp=sharing

Recommendations

- The importance of developing a robust risk management plan as member states are gearing towards the return to work.
- Review of national occupational disease compensation systems and list of occupational diseases.
- Review and strengthening of national OSH policies and programme towards the Integration of COVID-19 responses.
- Strengthening of interdisciplinary and regional and international networks and collaboration.
- Strengthening of research capacity, data management and production of peer-reviewed evidence.
- Integration of public health and occupational safety and health data management.
- Introduction of public health systems audit to strengthening its performance.
- Reviewing of OSH professionals and Inspectorates skill sets and competence.

Publications

1. Capital FM Radio interview: <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2020/04/occupational-safety-and-health-at-work-can-save-lives-experts/>
2. https://www.ilo.org/africa/countries-covered/zambia/WCMS_743019/lang--en/index.htm
3. https://www.ilo.org/africa/countries-covered/zambia/WCMS_742798/lang--en/index.htm
4. <https://www.nepad.org/event/world-day-safety-and-health-work-commemoration-africa-webinar>
5. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Beko98b88l0b1QwlatpAstPkU7xGONM9?usp=sharing>

Endnotes

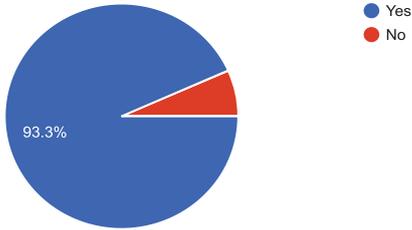
- 1 Zhan M., Qin Y., Zue XX., and Zhu S. 2020. Death from Covid-19 of 23 Health Care Workers in China. The new England Journal of Medicine. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2005696
- 2 CDC. 2020. Characteristics of Health Care Personnel with COVID-19 — United States, February 12–April 9, 2020



Post Webinar Survey

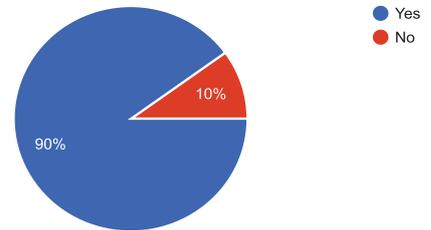
Was the "World Day for Safety and health at work" webinar useful to you?

30 responses



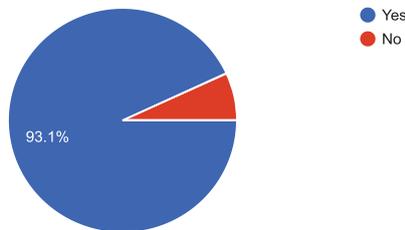
Was the webinar structured well?

30 responses



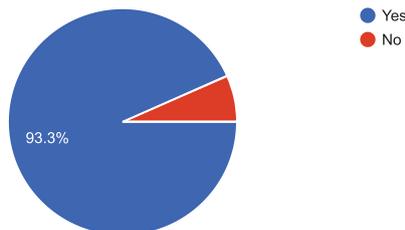
Do you plan to attend another of our webinars in the future?

29 responses



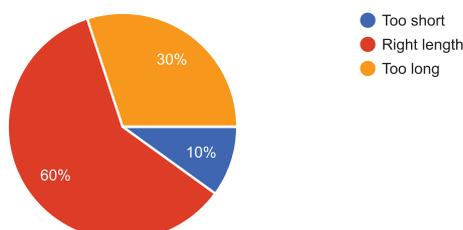
Did the webinar improve your knowledge of worker safety and health and what is currently being done to address it?

30 responses



Was the webinar too short, too long or the right length?

30 responses



We would like to thank all our partners who made this webinar possible.



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