

# THE TRANSFORMATION AGENDA: AN INTRODUCTION

WHO in the African Region launched the Transformation Agenda in 2015 to ensure that it was in the best possible position to address the health challenges the continent faces. The reform programme is a vision and a strategy for change aimed at facilitating the emergence of "the WHO that the staff and stakeholders want": more transparent, responsive and results-driven. The Agenda also aims to strengthen WHO's leadership in the African Region, its ability to deliver on priority technical areas at country level, its internal and external communications, and to expand its resource base through innovative financing mechanisms.

The effectiveness of the Transformation Agenda in the African Region in delivering results is making an impact on the health of populations in the Region, and moving countries towards achieving the health goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda. These reforms have been validated by an independent evaluation of the Transformation Agenda, a staff perception survey as well as through consultations with key stakeholders and advisors. The on-going changes in WHO in the African Region are evident that we are becoming effective, accountable, results-driven and transparent.

There are 4 areas of focus within the Transformation Agenda. This document summarises some of the key achievements within each focus area.



## PRO-RESULTS VALUES

This objective focuses on creating an organizational culture characterized by the values of excellence, team work, accountability, integrity, equity, innovation and openness. It supports the Agenda through "accountability and transparency" and the "strengthened culture of evaluation" outcomes.



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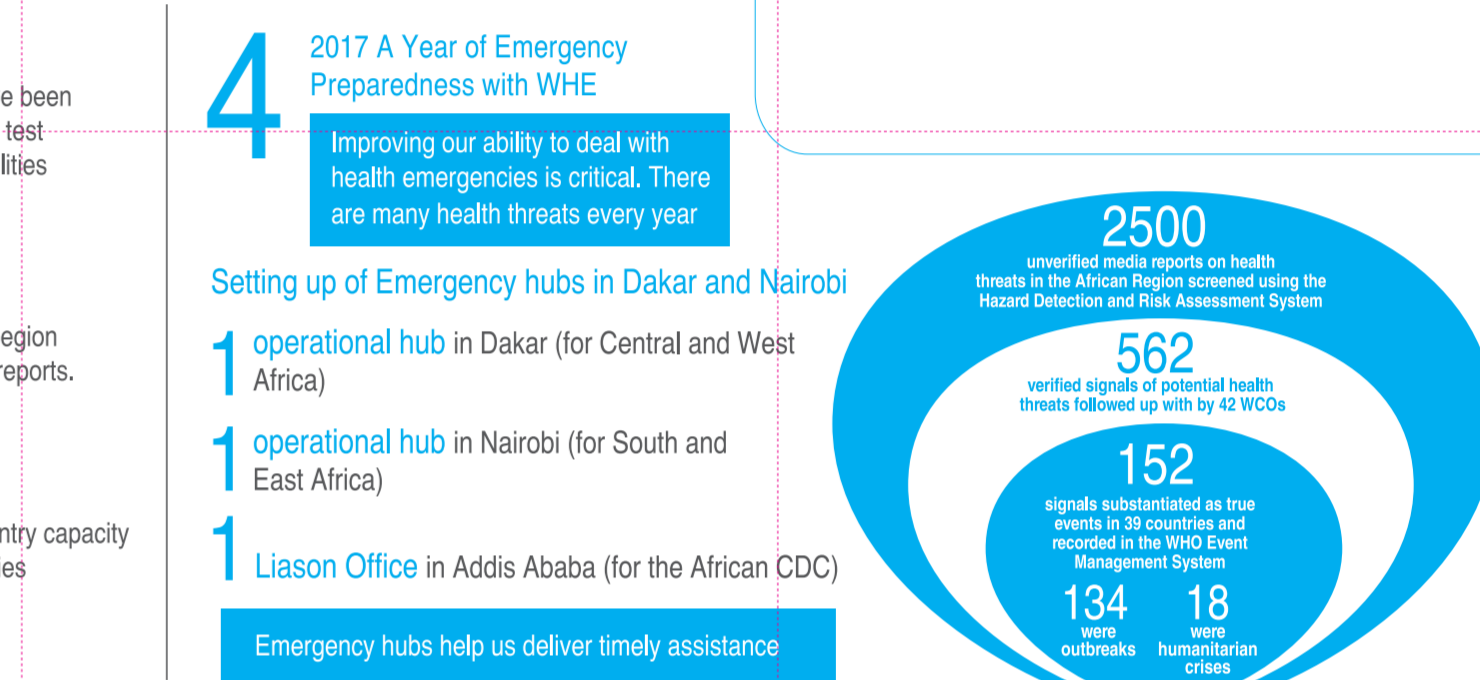
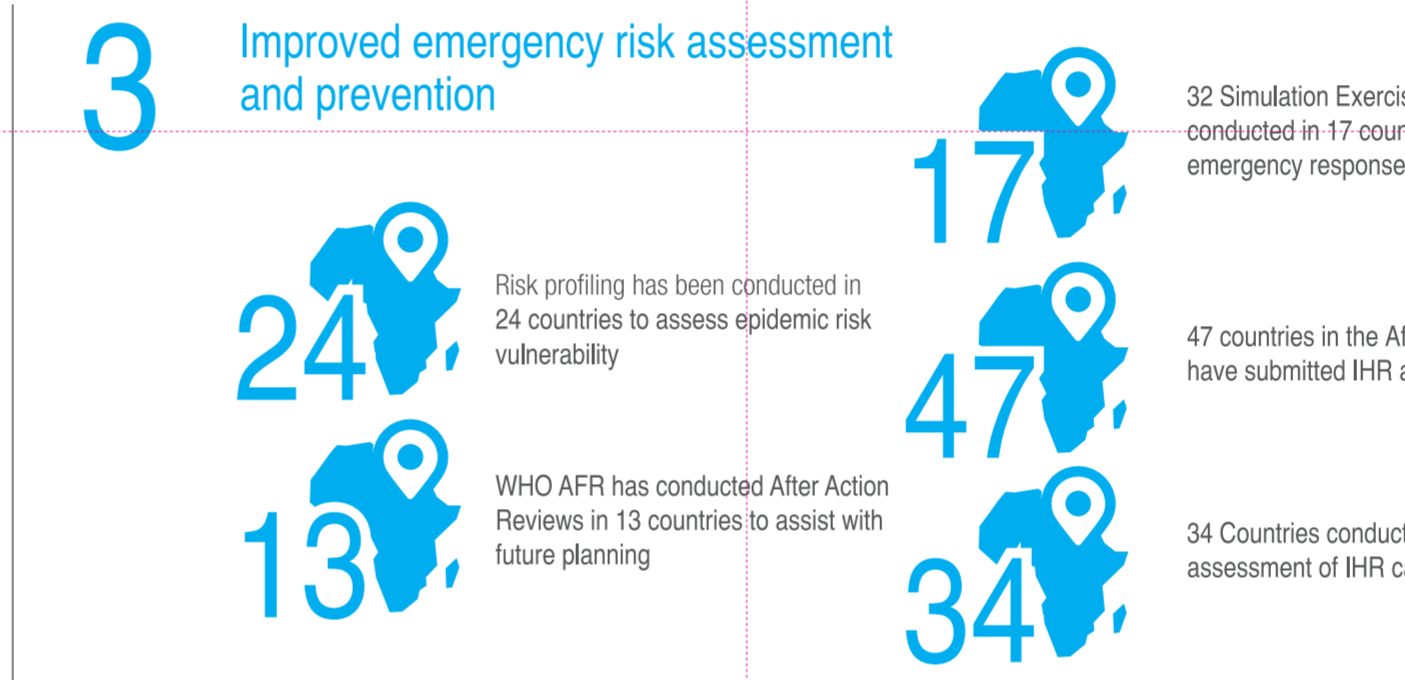
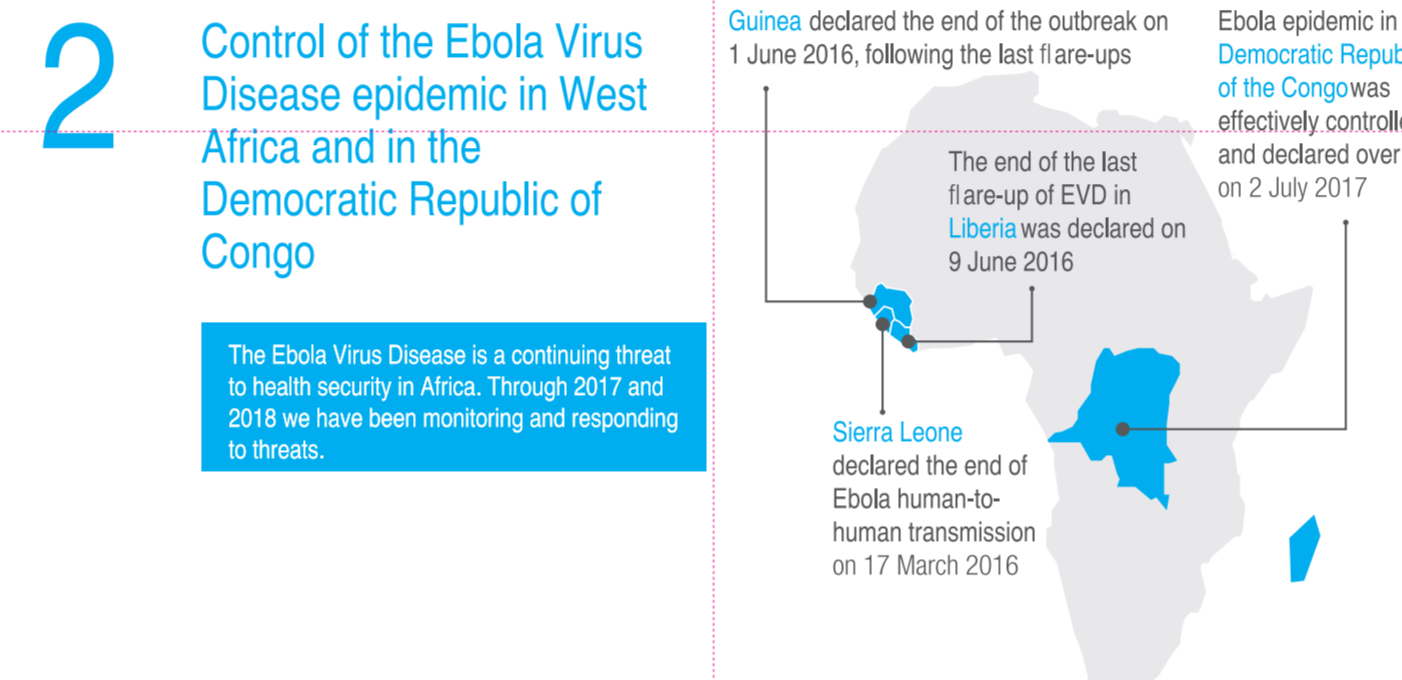
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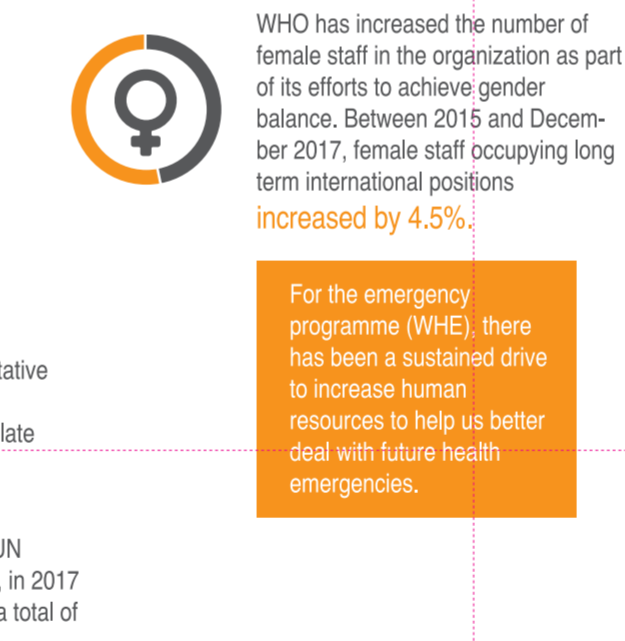
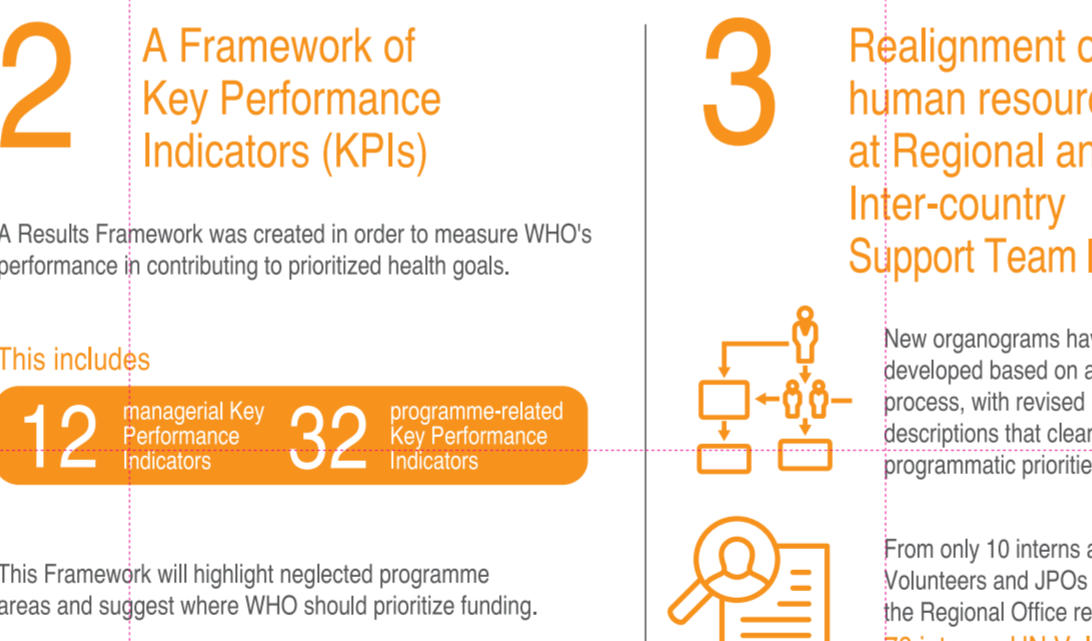
## SMART TECHNICAL FOCUS

The technical areas of WHO's work in the African Region are prioritized in line with regional priorities, commitments, and interventions based on evidence and lessons learned from experience. This focus area contributes to WHO's managerial reform through the outcome on "effective technical and policy support for all Member States", and the programmatic reform theme through the outcome on "WHO's priorities defined, addressed and financed in alignment with agreed priorities."



## RESPONSIVE STRATEGIC OPERATIONS

The goal of this focus area is to evolve into an organization with enabling functions that efficiently support the delivery of programmes. This area has the following outcomes: staffing matched to needs at all levels of the Organization; financing and resource allocation aligned with priorities; and the assurance of managerial accountability, transparency and risk management.



### Front Cover Position

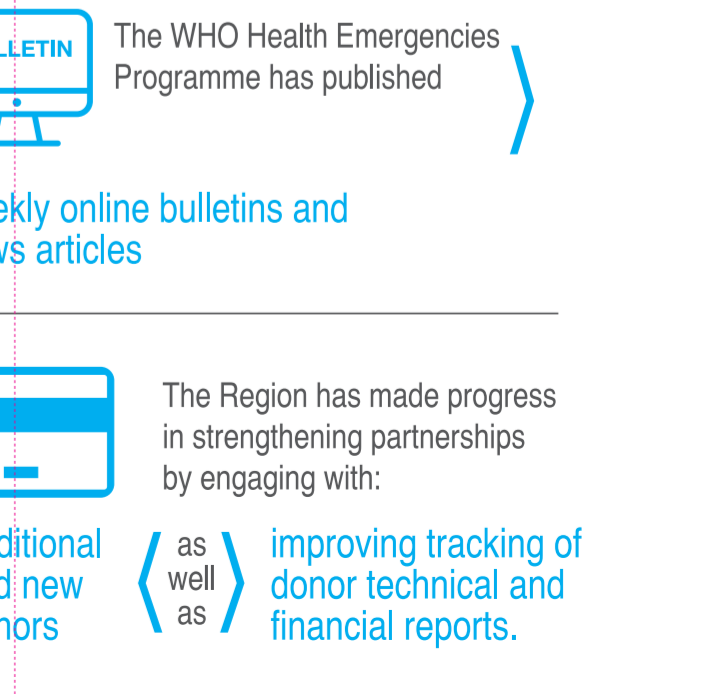
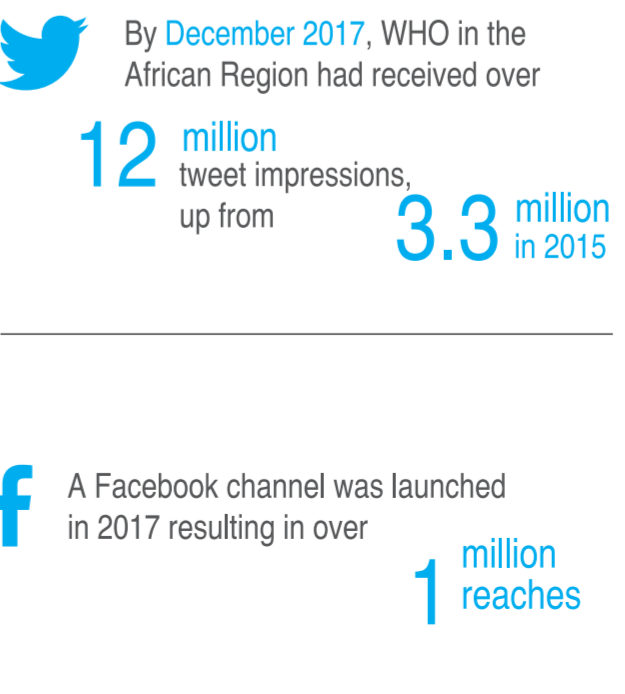
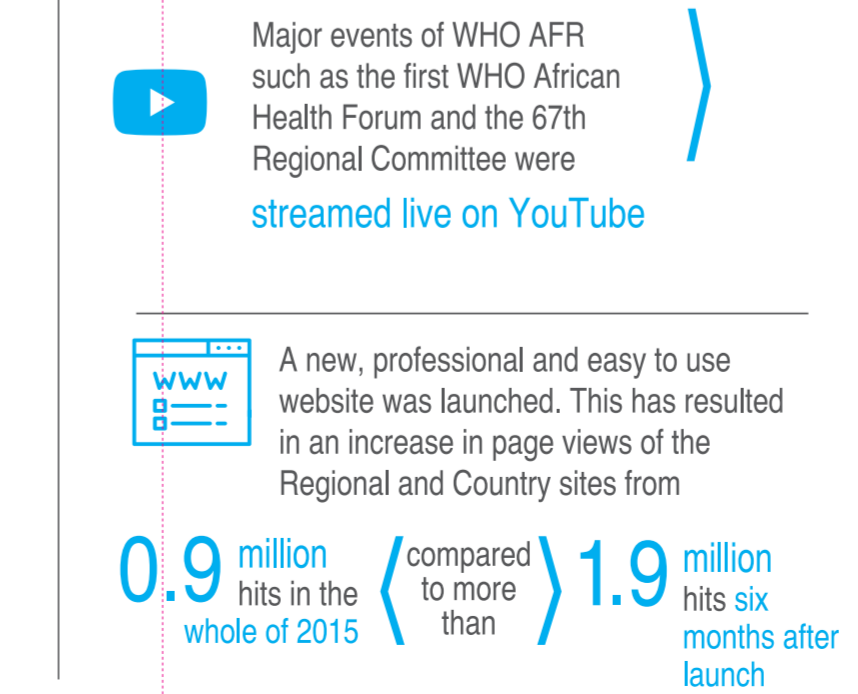
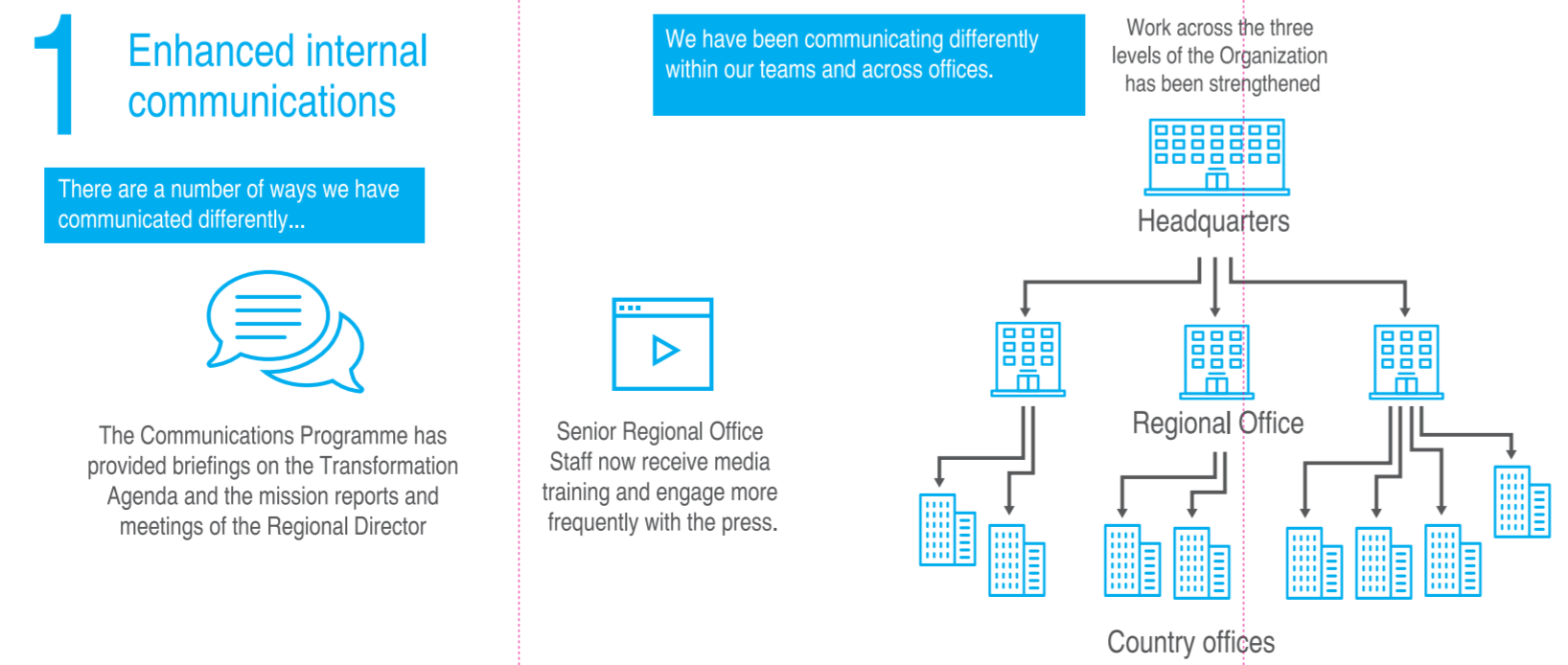
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## COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

This focus area seeks to foster a more responsive and interactive organization, internally among staff members and externally with stakeholders. Reform in this area seeks a strengthened culture of evaluation and improved strategic communication. It is also aligned with governance reform through: streamlined reporting of and communication with Member States; and strengthened effective engagement with other stakeholders.





# Highlighting some of the key events and achievements in countries in the WHO African Region

since the launch of the Transformation Agenda

## WHO AFRICAN REGION

establishment of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE)  
Bringing new operational capacity and capabilities to issues of outbreaks and humanitarian emergencies.

**Nigeria**  
Incident Management System activated for Lassa Fever (2017)  
Ensuring effective coordination leading to the rapid disease control

**Sub regional response to endemic polio (2016)**  
Rapid response and vaccination campaigns implemented to halt further wild poliovirus cases.

**Kigali, Rwanda**  
Hosted first ever Africa Health Forum (June 2017)  
Developing strategies on persistent challenges in public health in the Region.

**Uganda**  
IMS activated for Marburg (2017)  
Ensuring effective coordination leading to the rapid disease control

**Niger**  
IMS activated for meningitis outbreak (2017)  
Ensuring effective coordination leading to the rapid disease control

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (February 2016)**  
Endorsement of the Addis Declaration on Immunization  
Heads of State at the 28th African Union Summit endorsed the pledge, aiming to increase political will to achieve ambitious targets to eradicate polio, eliminate measles, rubella and maternal and neonatal tetanus by 2020.

**Horn of Africa (2017)**  
Immediate funding provided for crisis response through the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)  
Utilized \$11.6 million for regional crisis in the Horn of Africa and 13 countries with graded emergencies.

**Dakar, Senegal (2017/2018)**  
Establishment of emergency operational emergency hub  
Effectively and efficiently managing health emergencies for the Central and West Africa regions, leveraging existing collaboration with regional and sub-regional and operational partners.

**Cabo Verde**  
Incident Management System (IMS) activated for malaria outbreak (2017)  
Ensuring effective coordination leading to the rapid disease control

**Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**  
(2017) ESPEN Lab moved to new refurbished premise  
Providing a home for the new hub for a planned network of labs.

**West Africa (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia) (2016)**  
Ebola epidemic ended  
Control of the longest and most severe Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in human history indicates capacity for swift containment in these countries

**Accra, Ghana**  
56th Regional Programme Meeting held (April 2018)  
Held with senior leadership to establish buy-in, ownership and joint implementation and track progress prior to launching the second phase of the Transformation Agenda.

**Nairobi, Kenya (2017/2018)**  
Establishment of operational emergency hub  
Effectively and efficiently manage health emergencies for the South and East Africa regions leveraging existing collaboration with regional and sub-regional and operational partners.

**Burundi**  
IMS activated for malaria outbreak (2017)  
Ensuring effective coordination leading to the rapid disease control

**WHO AFRO (Brazzaville, Republic of Congo)**  
1.4 million USD saved through strengthened procurement processes  
Implementing competitive bidding and other innovative ways to save money and efficiently allocate funds and resources  
Comprehensive induction program instituted  
Helping over 100 new staff adjust to the challenging work environment in the African Region through orientation and support.

**Windhoek, Namibia**  
First Regional Forum linking SDGs and UHC held (Dec 2016)  
Building synergies and promoting joint work and interconnectedness and dialogue to address cross cutting issues.

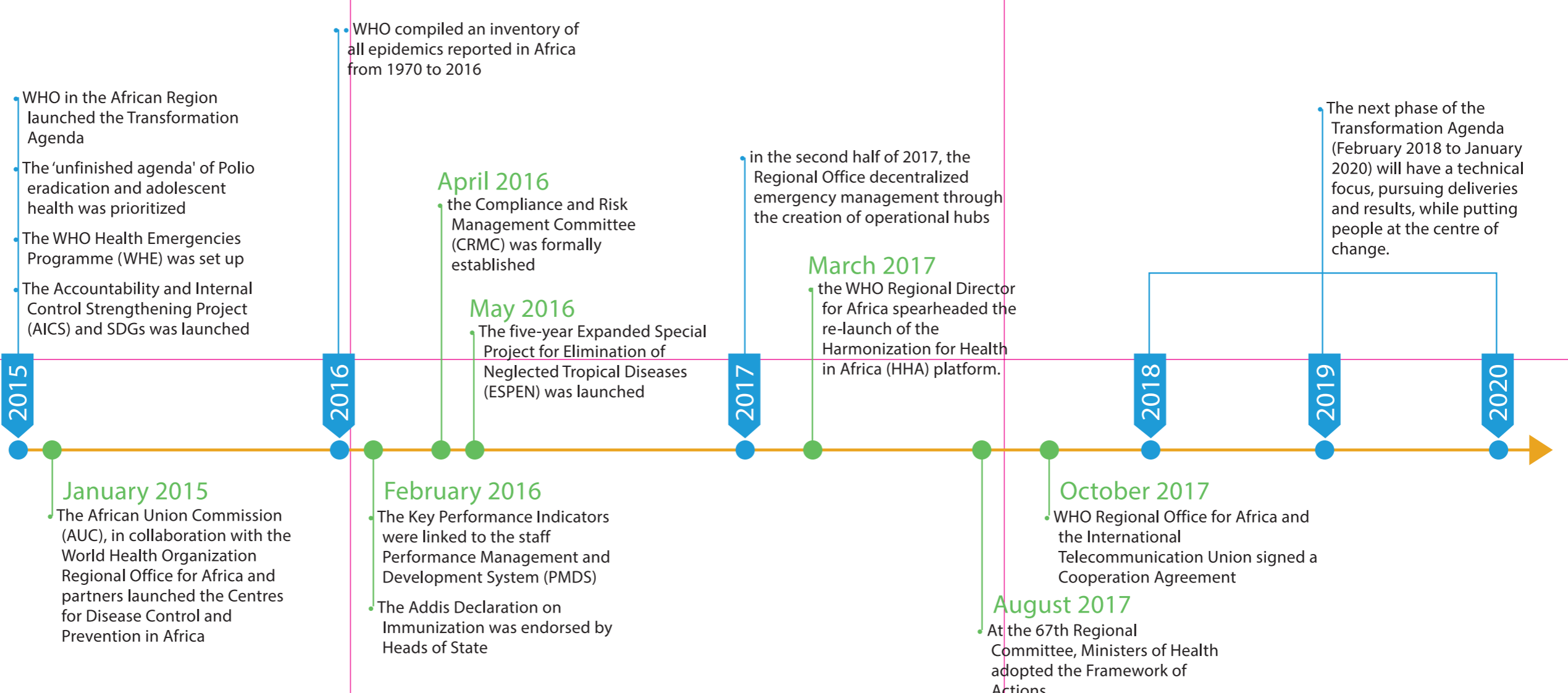
**Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**  
67th Regional committee adopts UHC framework for action (August 2017)  
Working tool to be used by WHO Member States to strengthen health system to achieve UHC and SDG3, suggesting operational action to assist in determining priorities when planning, implementing and monitoring.

**Madagascar**  
IMS activated for plague (2017)  
Ensuring effective coordination leading to the rapid disease control

**Democratic Republic of Congo (2017)**  
Ebola epidemic successfully controlled  
• Immediate coordinated response from WHO and partners, including deployment of interagency rapid response teams.  
• Testament to improved capacity of Emergency Programme

**Magaliesburg, South Africa**  
3rd Independent Advisory Group meeting held (March 2018)  
Providing valuable strategic direction and policy advice for ongoing capacity strengthening of WHO in the Region

**Johannesburg, South Africa**  
Sponsored 2016 CNN Best African Health and Medical Journalism award



## Countries Implementing the WHO "Treat All" policies: 30 June 2017

ART expanded to reach over 13.8 million people in the region by the end of 2016, representing a coverage rate of 54%.

Thirty Member States have adopted the policy and are implementing the "Treat All" recommendations. As a result, ART expanded to reach over 13.8 million people in the Region by the end of 2016, representing a coverage rate of 54%.