

## Call for Applications

# Biomanufacturing Fellowship Programme

### Background

The African Union/African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention have called for a New Public Health Order which will safeguard the health and economic security of the continent as it strives to meet the aspirations of Agenda 2063. A key pillar of this mandate seeks to expand the local manufacture of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics. Less than one percent of vaccines administered on the continent are manufactured locally. This places a great burden on the health systems of African countries and reduces their ability to respond to pandemics and other health crises. The Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing

(PAVM) was established by the African Union (AU) in 2021 to deliver a bold goal: enabling the African vaccine manufacturing industry to develop, produce, and supply over 60 percent of the total vaccine doses required on the continent by 2040, up from less than 1 percent today (with interim goals of 10 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030). Since 2024, the PAVM has been upgraded to the Platform for Harmonized African Health products Manufacturing (PHAHM) to extend its mandate to strengthening the manufacturing of therapeutics, diagnostics, and other health countermeasures.

### How to Apply:

To apply, please complete the form at the link:

[shorturl.at/NyOP5](https://shorturl.at/NyOP5)

**Application Deadline:**  
30th May 2025

**Selected candidates  
notification:** 15th June 2025

### About the Fellowship

The proposed biomanufacturing fellowship programme is designed to provide employees of biomanufacturing companies with necessary advanced competences as described by the developed Vaccine R&D and Vaccine Manufacturing Competency Frameworks – Africa CDC. Furthermore, the programme will equip participants with knowledge and skills in leadership, mentorship, management, resource enterprise planning, and entrepreneurship. Participants will gain a 2-year valuable theoretical and hands-on biomanufacturing and R&D industry experience, including a strong focus in one area of specialization of their choice. The fellows are not expected to leave their job, but they are expected to travel for some short courses/trainings.

### The Challenge

To support the African Union ambition to manufacture 60% of the continent's vaccines by 2040, there is need to almost quadruple the current workforce of 3000 FTEs. Generally, there is an insufficient number of purposely established training programmes for the biomanufacturing sector, often leading to inadequate training and upskilling opportunities for university graduates and existing talent respectively. Furthermore, the available workforce upskilling initiatives are fragmented and do not favour the employees as they cannot leave their job positions for a prolonged period.

### Proposed Solution

To increase the number of biomanufacturing training programmes and upskilling opportunities for biomanufacturing staff on the continent, Africa CDC is launching a biomanufacturing fellowship programme. The fellowship programme will create competence specializations in biomanufacturing and provide the hands-on training necessary to produce best-in-class workforce and leaders in the biomanufacturing industry in Africa.

### Eligibility:

The Africa CDC Biomanufacturing Fellowship programme is targeted at employees of active biomanufacturing companies who hold a minimum of a Master's degree in the following or related fields:

- Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Biochemical Engineering

### Additional requirements:

- Citizens of an African Union Member States
- Citizens of an African Union Member States that has an active vaccine manufacturing company.

- Must possess a valid passport
- Applicants should be willing to allocate the time required to complete both the virtual and in-person meetings/trainings.
- Applicants should also be able to get leave of absence from their employers.
- Must submit a support letter from their employers

### Selection process

The Africa CDC PHAHM will set up a committee to review all applications, and only those selected will be contacted for further processes. Only five (5) candidates will be selected and sponsored.

### Period of the programme

The Africa CDC Biomanufacturing Fellowship programme will be undertaken between July 2025 and June 2027.

### Financing

Africa CDC will provide the funding which includes:

- DSA to support daily expenses when on travels for training
- Return flight tickets to training locations
- Travel and health insurance
- Laptop and internet allowance
- Visa fees
- Post fellowship allowance

### Important Dates

- Deadline for Application: **30th May 2025**
- Selected candidates will be notified in by **15th June 2025**

**Africa CDC welcomes applications from all qualified persons from all AU Member states regardless of their gender, race, disability, religious belief, caste, or marital status. Women are encouraged to apply.**