

ABOUT PERC

The Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) is a public-private partnership that supports evidence-based measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on African Union Member States. PERC member organizations are: Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies; the World Health Organization; the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team; and the World Economic Forum. Ipsos and Novetta Mission Analytics bring market research expertise and years of data analytic support to the partnership.

Updated February 2021

Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC)

As soon as the first cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) were announced in Africa, African Union (AU) Member States responded quickly with public health and social measures (PHSMs)—the most effective tools for combating a rapidly spreading infectious disease in the absence of effective treatments or vaccines. A sustained response from AU Member States that saves as many lives as possible and minimizes the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 requires evidence-based policymaking.

The Partnership for Evidence-based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), a consortium of global public health organizations and private sector firms, was created in March 2020 with the objective of providing AU Member States with real-time information and guidance to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the continent. The initiative is funded by Resolve to Save Lives with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and through private sector contribution from Ipsos.

PERC Members and Partnership Roles

- **The African Union through the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC):** Provides overall technical and ethical oversight; data collection, analysis, and ownership; product review and final clearance; dissemination and promotion of PERC guidance; support to AU Member States to adapt PERC recommendations.
- **Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies:** Provides overall technical oversight and project implementation; development of PERC dashboard and analytical plan; implementation of: opinion polls, including survey design, data analysis and reporting; production of PERC reports and guidance; support to AU Member States to adapt PERC recommendations.
- **World Health Organization (WHO):** Provides technical leadership and capacity building support; ensures new evidence is quickly adopted by and shared among Member States. WHO leverages the close links with a range of United Nations agencies at the country and regional level to use outcomes to promote multi-sectoral action to mitigate socioeconomic impact at the country and regional level through United Nations agencies.
- **UK Public Health Rapid Support Team:** Development, dissemination and promotion of PERC guidance; support to AU Member States to adapt strategy according to evidence.
- **World Economic Forum (WEF):** Provides overall project management support; partnership engagement; distribution of PERC guidance through WEF platforms.
- **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicines (NASEM):** Engages African and US experts to provide rapid peer review of PERC findings on PHSMs and works with academies in Africa and around the globe to disseminate report messages to key audiences to inform and build country and regional-level capacity for evidence-based policy decisions.
- **Ipsos:** Provides survey implementation; collects “big data” related to population movement; development of the dashboard for PERC reporting.
- **Novetta Mission Analytics:** Provides analysis of traditional and social media narratives.





PERC Approach

PERC synthesizes and interprets social, economic, epidemiological, population movement and security data to help determine the acceptability, impact and effectiveness of PHSMs for COVID-19. PERC translates these findings into actionable guidance for AU Member States, particularly the Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), for operational strategy and planning. In particular, PERC analysis informs the development of risk communication and implementation of PHSMs. Data sources include official reports of cases and deaths, survey data, reports of government response measures, analysis of traditional and social media narratives, mobility data and reported security incidents. Data sources and project protocols are listed in the Annex.

PERC Analysis

- **Public opinion polls:** Ipsos conducts public opinion polls in 19 AU Member States to understand the public's knowledge, risk perception, attitudes, access to information, reactions, behaviours and practices related to COVID-19. Trends are being studied across multiple rounds of surveys and written into **country briefs and regional reports**.
- **Interactive executive dashboard** for data visualization and analytics. Data streams will include social media analysis, mobile movements data, epidemiological data; survey data will be included when available (see appendix).
- **Hotspot dashboard** to identify countries with increasing case rates of COVID-19, and to provide country-specific analysis on PHSM implementation.
- **Biweekly reports** with analysis of the interdisciplinary data to guide decision-support.
- **Periodic regional reports and situational analyses for selected AU Member States** that contain the comprehensive analysis of data available via PERC and offer a forward-looking perspective on the pandemic in Africa.
- Other products are available on website: www.preventepidemics.org/perc

Additionally, outcomes from the above projects will inform PERC partner policy guidance documents, risk communication materials, webinars, and public health technical support provided to AU Member States.

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Epidemiology and Testing	<u>Africa CDC</u>	Member States report to Africa CDC, which conducts routine event-based surveillance activities to monitor and collect verified epidemiologic and testing data daily. Updates are limited by the frequency of Member State reporting.
Sentiment	Novetta Mission Analytics traditional and social media analysis	Novetta Mission Analytics uses African media, geo-located African Twitter sources and human-curated aggregation of open source content to identify trends. Article- and quote-level metadata are then added based on a taxonomy for identifying message topics and sentiment.
Public Health & Social Measures	<u>Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker</u>	OxCGRT collects publicly available information on 17 indicators of government responses. Data are collected from public sources by a team of over one hundred Oxford University students and staff.
Security	<u>Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) Coronavirus- Related Events</u>	The ACLED database catalogs conflict, security and protest activity by location, type (peaceful or non-peaceful) and actors involved. It includes a short description of each event that can be used to determine whether or not it is related to the pandemic.
Relief Measures	<u>Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures</u>	A “living paper,” updated weekly, that collates and analyzes data on government social protection programs in response to COVID-19. Data are collected from public sources by a World Bank research team. The data are limited to public reports of new measures and may not be comprehensive or reflect the latest information about measures.
Mobility	<u>Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports</u>	The dataset shows how visits and length of stay at retail and recreation locations (including restaurants, cafes, shopping centres, theme parks, museums, libraries and movie theatres) change compared to a baseline (the 5-week period Jan 3– Feb 6, 2020.) The data is from users who have opted-in to location history for their Google account; this may or may not represent the exact behaviour of a wider population.
Public Opinion	Public Reactions to COVID-19: A 19-Country Survey Across Africa (Ipsos)	Ipsos periodically conducts 1,200 interviews with adults aged 18 and above in each of 19 countries. Respondents are be sampled by random digit dial incorporating landline and mobile phones for telephone fieldwork. The survey sample will cover urban and rural locations. Survey waves occurred in May and August 2020 and February 2021, with the last planned for June 2021.

Note: Our analysis is limited by the availability of data. Our data sources cover different date ranges updated at difference frequencies. Some secondary sources are subject to delays and retrospective corrections. Findings reflect the latest available information at the time of analysis.