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- Meningitis disease remains a major public health problem in the African meningitis belt
- Despite efforts made with MenAfriVac rollout, Non -A meningitis epidemics still affecting countries
- Member States of the World Health Organization African Region endorsed the Regional Framework to Defeat meningitis that envisions to make African Region free of meningitis by 2030 and its planning and implementation started

## BACKGROUND

- Meningitis disease remains a major public health challenge in the African Region (figure 1).
- Before 2010, *Neisseria meningitidis* A accounted for almost 90% of meningitis cases and epidemics.
- The MenAfriVac® vaccine rollout since 2010 in 24 out of the African meningitis belt resulted with a dramatic reduction of meningitis cases and epidemics

## METHODS

- World Health Organization African Region (WHO AFRO) Secretariat developed in collaboration with African countries, meningitis experts and other health international agencies.
- The Regional Framework for implementation of the Global road map to defeat meningitis by 2030.
- This regional Framework was presented for endorsement by the 47 Member States of WHO AFRO during the 71<sup>st</sup> Regional committee held in August 2021.

## RESULTS

- On August 25, 2021, WHO African Region Member States endorsed the regional framework for implementation of the global roadmap to defeating meningitis by 2030 during the Regional Committee 71.
- The vision is to make African region free of meningitis by 2030.
- The goals are: (i) To eliminate meningitis epidemics, (ii) to reduce cases and deaths from vaccine-preventable bacterial meningitis, and (iii) to reduce disability and improve quality of life after meningitis infection.
- Main issues and challenges were found especially (1) Lack of risk assessment model to effectively help predict the occurrence, scale and pathogens that could cause future outbreaks; (2) Insufficient funding in most of the Member States in the African meningitis belt to implement meningitis action plans; (3) Limited access to affected communities because of security challenges and civil strife; (4) Insufficient laboratory capacity; (5) Lack of care for meningitis survivors; and (6) Negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on meningitis prevention and control.
- To tackle these challenges some priority interventions and actions were identified as follows: on epidemic prevention and control actions are to achieve and maintain high immunization coverage, to introduce effective and affordable new vaccines, including *N. meningitidis*, *S. pneumoniae* and *Hemophilus influenzae b* (*Hib*), to develop evidence-based policy on *N. meningitidis*, *S. pneumoniae*, *Hib* and Group B Streptococcus (*GBS*) vaccination and improve strategies for epidemic prevention and response and to improve diagnosis of meningitis at all levels of care and increase in the timely collection and testing of diagnostic.

## RESULTS CONTINUED

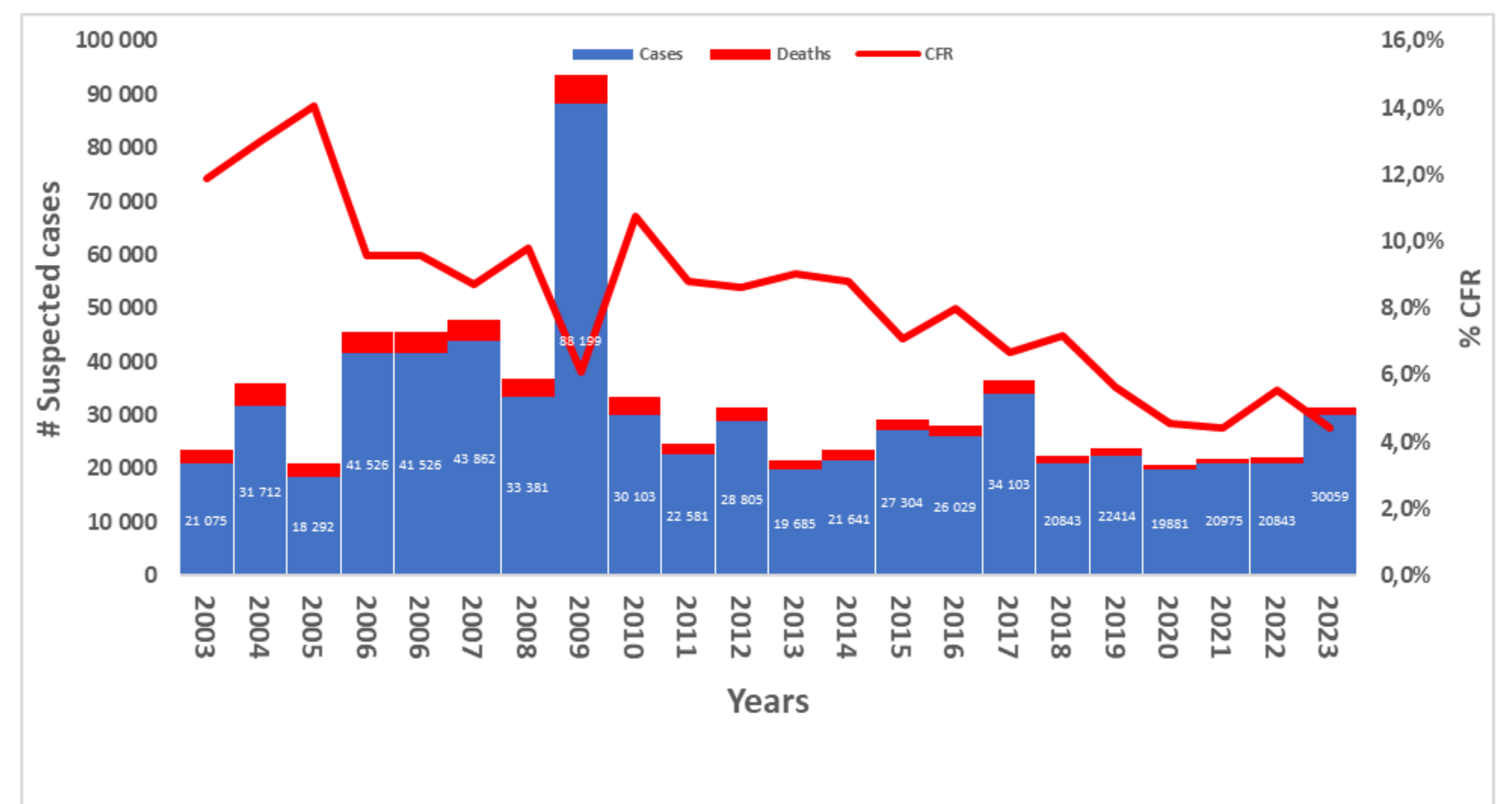
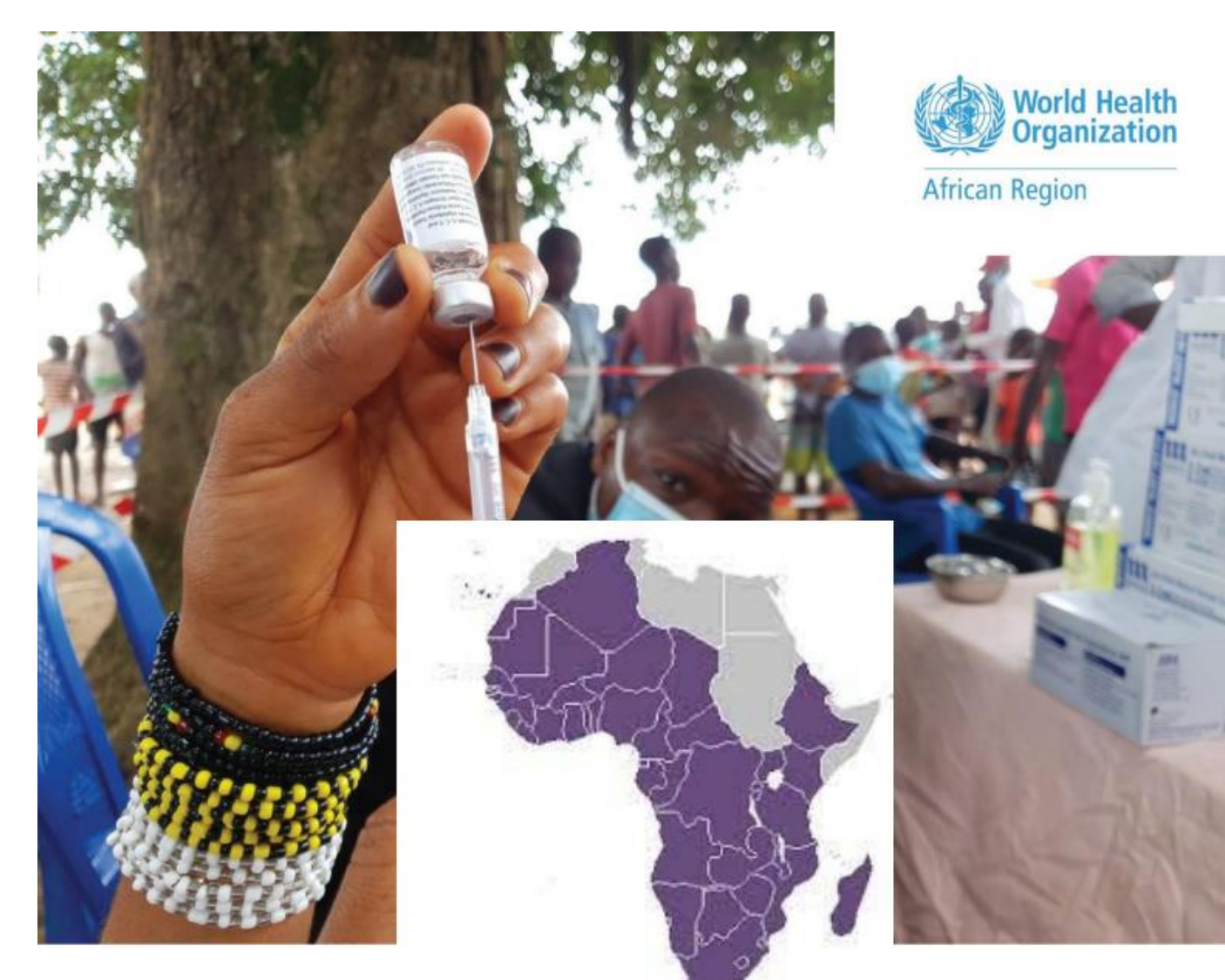
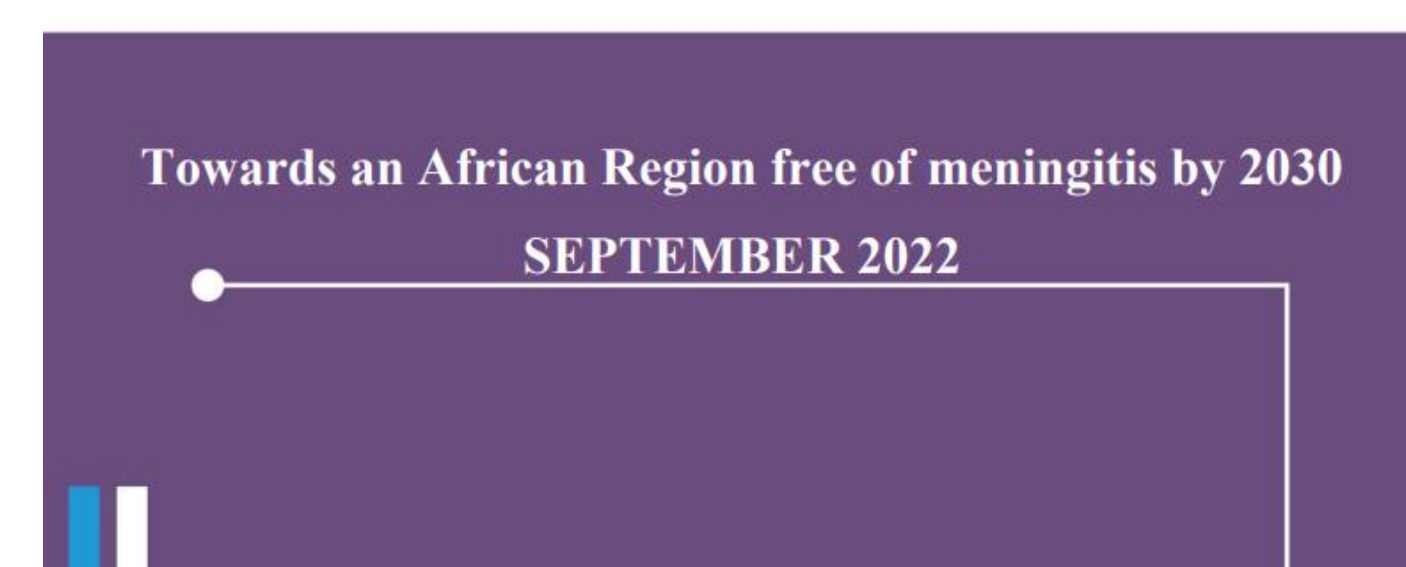


Figure 1: meningitis, cases, deaths and case fatality rate 2003-2023



### REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK TO DEFEAT MENINGITIS IN AFRICA BY 2030



## CONCLUSIONS

- Member States started to develop and implement their national plans to defeat meningitis by 2030.
- Member States commitment, Community engagement, Researchers and health partners including WHO AFRO effective involvement should help to mobilize appropriate resources and technical assistance to make African Region free of meningitis by 2030.

## ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

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- No conflicts of Interest
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