



Athletics  
Integrity  
Unit

# Road Running Report

# 2023-2024



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# Foreword



**David Howman**  
AIU Board Chair

**I am not aware of any other sport where brands directly support anti-doping efforts, and this should be applauded.**

The years 2023 and 2024 marked a defining period for the Road Running Integrity Programme, both in terms of scale and effectiveness. After its early years of pandemic disruption, the Programme moved into full gear in 2023 and built further momentum in 2024. Thanks to consistent funding and stronger global coordination, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has been able to expand testing, education, investigations, and case management – reaffirming the road-running industry’s commitment to clean competition.

The Programme’s \$3 million annual budget has laid the foundation for a wide-reaching operation. A dedicated Registered Testing Pool (RTP) of approximately 300 elite road runners has been established and maintained under a well-controlled year-round testing structure, with each RTP athlete being tested approximately 7.5 times per year. Testing volume has continued to grow both in and out of competition. In 2023, a total of 5,578 samples were collected from 1,455 athletes. That effort expanded in 2024, with 6,098 samples collected and 4,399 tests performed on 1,829

athletes from 89 countries. The Programme now captures a wider cross-section of athletes than ever before: 3,159 out-of-competition samples, 769 pre-competition, and 2,170 in-competition in 2024.

Our work in investigations and intelligence is crucial to support the testing programme in uncovering dopers. Throughout both 2023 and 2024, AIU continued its focused work in Kenya, supporting the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) and Athletics Kenya (AK) with a long-term, anti-doping framework. This included support for law-enforcement partnerships, targeted athlete surveillance, and structural reform in how investigations are handled. Capacity building was a central pillar – from interview-techniques training to establishing intelligence-sharing protocols with agencies such as the Kenya Medical Practitioners & Dentists Council, Pharmacy & Poisons Board, and Directorate of Criminal Investigations. These partnerships are not only improving investigations today but laying the groundwork for sustainable integrity systems in the future.

The AIU’s Investigations & Intelligence team also intensified its efforts in Ethiopia, aiming to introduce similar best-practice frameworks in collaboration with national stakeholders. Intelligence-driven testing and deeper investigations have directly supported successful prosecutions.

Our robust work in testing, investigations and intelligence has resulted in the prosecution of over 80 cases in 2023 and 2024. There have been high-profile bans such as Titus Ekiru’s 10-year sanction for Use and Tampering after falsifying medical documents. The case against Lawrence Cherono concluded in 2024 with a seven-year ban after the AIU and ADAK proved Tampering alongside Presence/Use violations, exposing falsified documents and untruthful testimony.

There were multiple athletes sanctioned for Presence/Use of EPO, Testosterone, and other substances. Notably, several cases involved Whereabouts Failures and evidence of Evasion, while Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) violations led to bans

for athletes such as Tsehay Gemechu, Rhonex Kipruto and Rodgers Kwemoi.

Enforcement activities are far from being the AIU's only focus. Across 2023 and 2024, we invested heavily in education for road-running athletes. Our education sessions reached 840 road-running athletes with over 75 hours of delivery. Sessions were conducted online, in-person and on-demand (via WhatsApp and Telegram) in five languages (Amharic, English, Kelanjin, Oromo and Swahili). Increasingly, the focus has been on individualised assistance with RTP on-boarding and one-one-one sessions being popular.

All of this is only possibly because the Road Running Integrity Programme has been well supported. Its multi-stakeholder funding model - backed by World Athletics, athletes, race organisers, athlete representatives, and shoe brands - is central to its long-term viability. In late 2024, we welcomed On as the newest brand which will be backing the Road Running Integrity Programme from 2025.

On joined three sportswear brands that have supported the Programme since its inception - adidas, ASICS and Nike. I am not aware of any other sport where brands directly support anti-doping efforts, and this should be applauded. The broad support enjoyed by the programme not only ensures resources but also signals an industry-wide refusal to tolerate doping.

In Kenya, this wider commitment has been underlined by the government's pledge of \$25 million over five years to tackle doping in athletics. The industry should be proud that it was the Road Running Integrity Programme which helped uncover the extent of the doping issue in Kenya and led to this extraordinary funding commitment from the Kenyan government. In 2023 and 2024, ADAK testing increased sharply, from 783 total tests in 2022 to over 4,000 in 2024. Prosecutions have followed suit, with national cases rising rapidly. This level of domestic coordination with AIU efforts is helping to lift standards for the entire running cohort, protecting the credibility of Label Road Races.

In summation, the years 2023 and 2024 represented a leap forward in the fight for clean sport in road running. Testing volumes grew. Education is more accessible. Investigations and prosecutions are stronger. And global partnerships - both financial and operational - are delivering results. None of this progress would be possible without the dedicated professionals, national bodies, and industry partners who continue to work with the AIU to uphold integrity.

We thank you for your continued commitment and energy. Together, we are ensuring more rightful winners are celebrated, and more road races showcase fair competition.

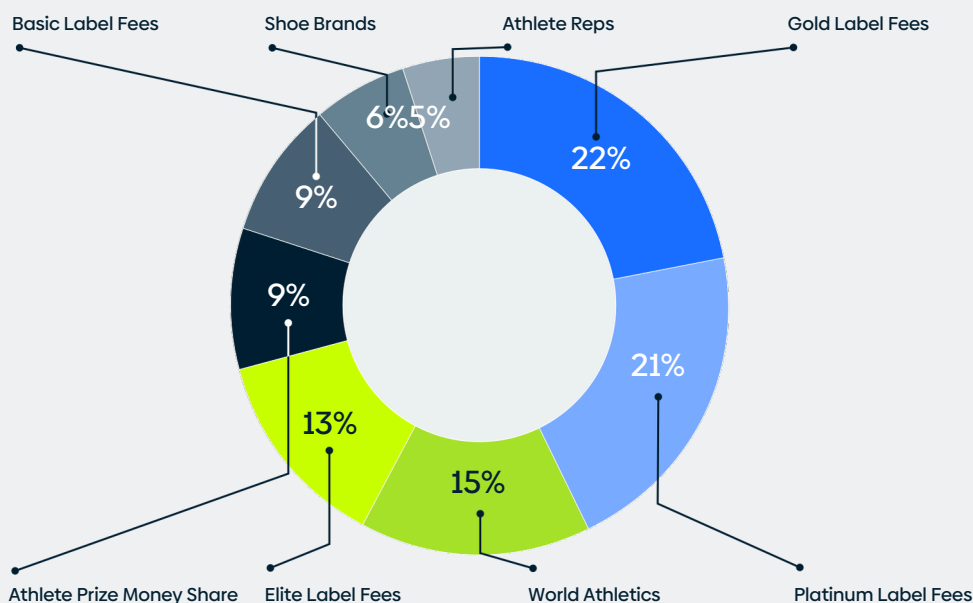
*Davia Howman*

# Programme Expenditure 2023

Testing Programme	\$ 1,335,486
Disciplinary/Legal	\$ 128,971
Education	\$ 62,404
Communications	\$ 12,369
Investigations & Intelligence	\$ 65,935
Supervisory Board	\$ 36,927
Administration	\$ 211,770
Staff Costs	\$ 983,954
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,837,814</b>
AIU Income	\$ 3,074,843
	- \$ 237,029

## Label Road Race Anti-Doping Funding 2023

The Programme is funded by World Athletics, Label Road Races, athletes, athlete representatives, and shoe companies (adidas, ASICS and Nike).

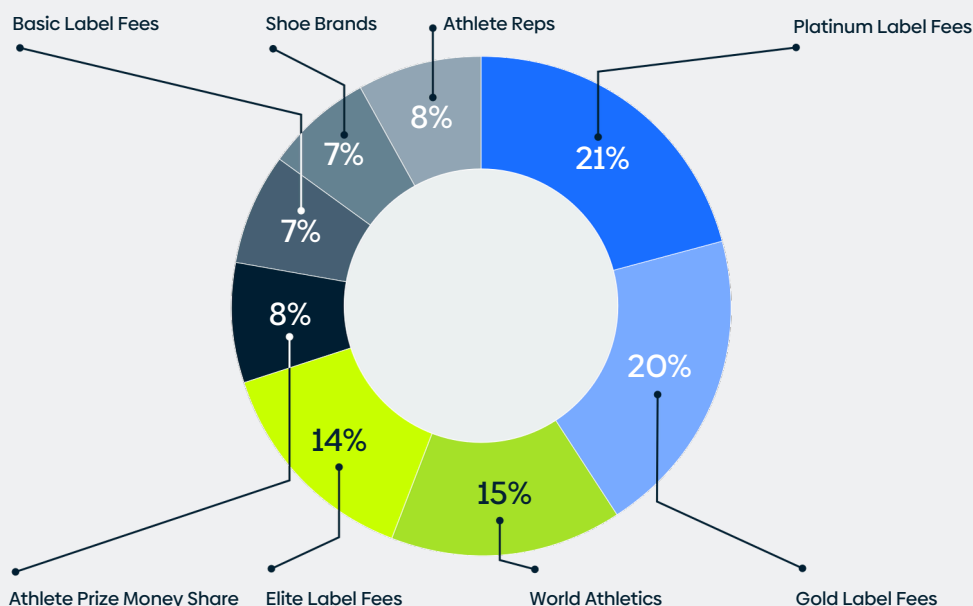


# Programme Expenditure 2024

Testing Programme	\$ 1,573,085
Disciplinary/Legal	\$ 180,070
Education	\$ 77,649
Communications	\$ 34,401
Investigations & Intelligence	\$ 59,485
Supervisory Board	\$ 72,374
Administration	\$ 166,679
Staff Costs	\$ 1,167,741
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,331,485</b>
AIU Income	\$ 3,152,983
	\$ 178,502

## Label Road Race Anti-Doping Funding 2024

The Programme is funded by World Athletics, Label Road Races, athletes, athlete representatives, and shoe companies (adidas, ASICS and Nike).



# EDUCATION 2023 & 2024

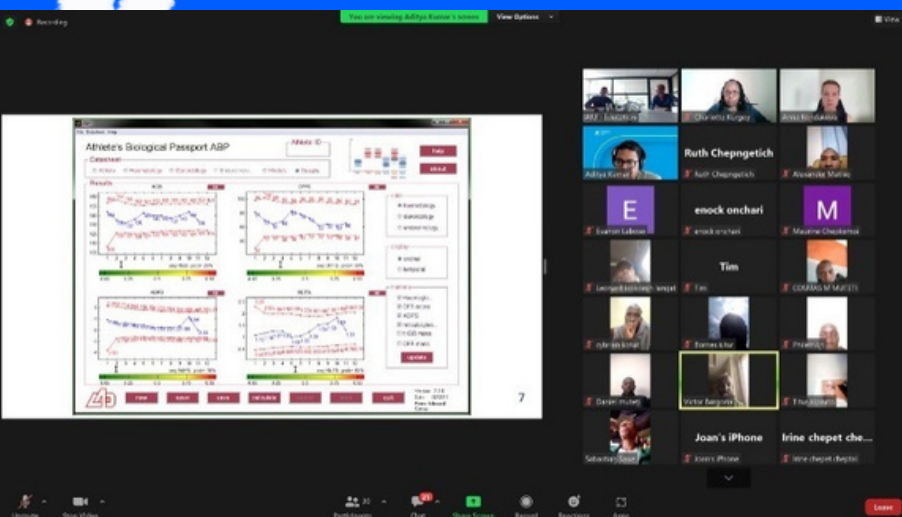
The education programme for road-running athletes and support personnel from East Africa, who comprise over 90% of the AIU's Registered Testing Pool, was significantly strengthened in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, the AIU expanded its educator network in Kenya and Ethiopia, integrating former athletes and coaches to deliver cohort-based online sessions and one-on-one consultations, with flexible formats available in English, Swahili, and Amharic to suit varying schedules and preferences.

Building on this, 2024 saw a deliberate push to build local capability: new educators, including Olympic and

World Championships medallists, were recruited and trained to bring both technical expertise and lived experience into the learning environment. Sessions were further refined in response to athlete feedback and delivered in five languages, including Kalenjin and Oromo, with increased focus on real-life concerns such as supplement use, balanced nutrition, age manipulation, and the Athlete Biological Passport, all supported by pre- and post-session materials tailored to local contexts.

# 205 228

Label athletes from Kenya and Ethiopia attended the sessions in 2023.



# Overview of education programmes for road running athletes 2023

Overall (hybrid) sessions	 25 <sup>sessions</sup>	 3 languages	 438	 40.5
Online education	<sup>12</sup> sessions 6 sessions	3 languages	259	18 hours of delivery
Training sessions		3 languages	<sup>77</sup> attendees	9 hours of delivery
On-boarding sessions	5 sessions	3 languages	<sup>40</sup> attendees	7.5 hours of delivery
On-demand sessions	1 sessions	2 languages	<sup>34</sup> attendees	1.5 hours of delivery
Support staff sessions	1 sessions	1 languages	<sup>28</sup> attendees	4.5 hours of delivery

## Education-on-demand (E-O-D) through messaging applications:

Most road runners were constantly travelling and competing globally. Through the E-O-D service, we used WhatsApp (Kenya) and Telegram (Ethiopia) to provide useful information and educational content directly to athletes in their native languages – Amharic and Swahili.



232 athletes



3 languages



160 posts



2 channels



1021 messages

"I like this kind of Telegram. I believe it will improve as the continuous trainings and feedback from the AIU will change it because I can feel the progressive changes. A year ago it was impossible for me to express my idea, but the journey is changing me so much. Every step has been good."

Asrar Abderehman (ETH)  
Seville Marathon Winner

"Yes, I am on Telegram. I myself see a lot of things on Telegram and, as I said before, it is my favourite way of learning because I can receive education anytime and anywhere."

Ftaw Zeray (ETH)  
3rd Prague Half Marathon

"I am on the AIU Telegram channel and always get impressed with the content."

Tsegaye Getachew (ETH) -  
AMSTERDAM MARATHON WINNER

"I love the true and false options and choice questions. I can use the application for selecting to show my opinion."

Kenenisa Bekele (ETH)  
5x World and 3x Olympic Champion

## Athlete consultations

### Group

- Meetings with athletes to better understand their educational needs and topics of interest.
- We also receive direct feedback from athletes through these consultations on our programmes.
- 6 athlete group consultations with 32 athletes from Kenya and Ethiopia.

### One-on-one

- Meetings with individual athletes face-to-face follow up with each of the 104 RR RTP athletes through our local educator on ground over 12 weeks.
- Connection exercise with the AIU and reflecting on the education efforts.

### Education Initiatives: Outreach

Interact and connect with the athletics community through our campaign "Power of Respect" at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest and the World Athletics Road Running Championships in Riga.

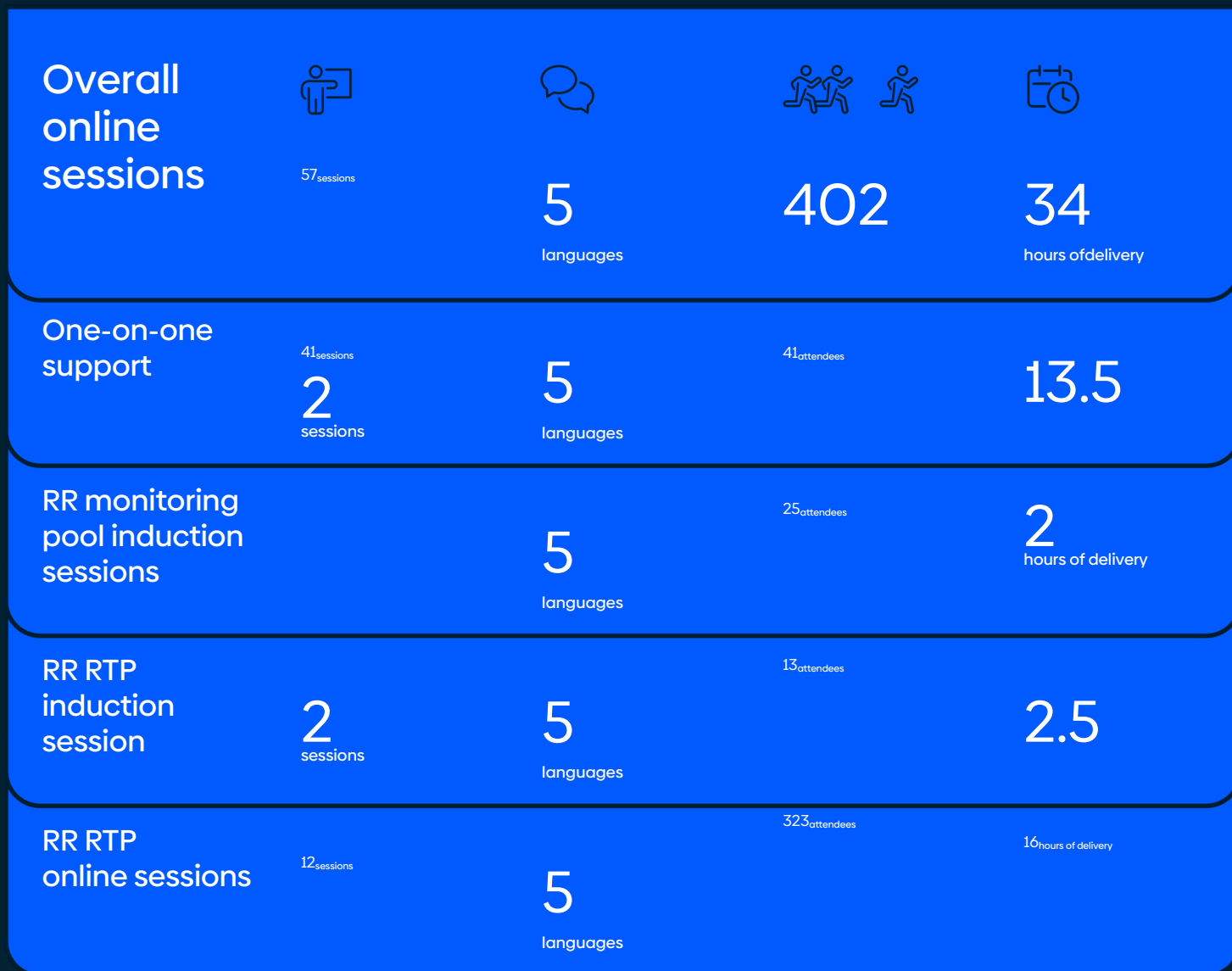
#### On-boarding

All new Label athletes go through a mandatory onboarding programme, where the AIU Education team briefs them about their responsibilities, available resources, and other relevant information and expectations from athletes.

#### Educator training

Three-day Train the Trainers event in Eldoret in collaboration with ADAK and AK to strengthen education efforts on ground with 35 educators including former athletes and coaches.

# Overview of education programmes for road running athletes 2024



Hybrid Session format with support from local educators for athletes from Ethiopia to overcome network problems.



192 of the 218 label athletes from Kenya and Ethiopia attended the session.

## Education on demand through messaging applications:

Most road runners were constantly travelling and competing globally. Through the E-O-D service, we used WhatsApp (Kenya) and Telegram (Ethiopia) to provide athletes with the opportunity to reach out and ask questions from wherever they were, using their native languages – Amharic and Swahili.



228 athletes

125 athletes  
Whatsapp (Kenya)

103 athletes  
Telegram (Ethiopia)



3 languages

2 channels

368 messages

## Local Education Support on Ground

Providing education through local educators in Kenya and Ethiopia in the native languages of Swahili, Kalenjin, Amharic and Oromo, is crucial for effective learning and community engagement. Our local educators understand the cultural context, traditions, and challenges in the communities, allowing them to deliver education in a way that is relevant and relatable. The sessions, along with support in the native language, enhance comprehension, encourage active participation, and foster a deeper connection to the content. Ultimately, through our educators on the ground, we strengthen local capacities, and support long-term development, to ensure that knowledge is meaningful and sustainable.



AIU Testing Manager Raphael Roux, who is based in Eldoret, in a conversation with an athlete at a training camp in Iten.



“Providing personal support directly in Ethiopia is really important for the athletes. Language is the bridge that connects ideas and foster understanding. The AIU has opened a platform for Ethiopian athletes to communicate effectively and empowering athletes to express their ideas confidently in their own language.”

**Kidist Tadese,**  
AIU Educator in Ethiopia



“As an AIU local educator, I get to be part of building integrity on the ground as it is the base for clean sports and pursuit of excellence without shortcut”

**Eskedar Asfaw,**  
AIU Educator in Ethiopia



“As a former Olympic champion and now an educator, I strive to inspire athletes to compete with integrity, uphold clean sport and become true ambassadors of fair play for our nation and the whole world.

Teaching them in their native language has been very vital because it breaks down communication barriers, enhances understanding of complex rules, self-confidence/expression and builds trust. Also, it empowers athletes to make informed ethical choices in sports.”

**Nancy Langat,**  
Former Olympic champion  
and AIU Educator in Kenya



“It’s amazing how athletes are comfortable now with education sessions being held in Swahili and Kalenjin. Most athletes couldn’t express themselves well in English but now with our local educators we will understand better and ask as many questions as possible. Kudos to AIU for this consideration”

**Joan Chelimo,**  
Road Running Athlete



“Athletes feel comfortable wherever they are when the message resonates with them. They are most receptive when the content is delivered in a language they understand.”

**Charlotte Kurgoy,**  
AIU Educator in Kenya

# What did the community think of the sessions?

“Whenever there is an issue, we will be updated, we will be welcomed with everything. So, I just wanted to say thank you for your time, thank you for always teaching us. It is good to always have many of such sessions, that we athletes got to learn such things.”

- Kenyan Road Runner

“I just want to say thank you for this kind of education. You know whenever we benefit from these sessions, we then extend this to the other athletes. It is good to always have sessions like this, so that we can learn every day.”

- Ethiopian Road Runner

81 retention rate

%

84 average session length

min

## Community feedback

99%

Strongly agreed or agreed that the information presented was clear.

99%

Strongly agreed or agreed that the information presented was engaging.

98%

Strongly agreed or agreed that the information presented was relevant.

92%

Average retention rate throughout the 6 Sessions.

“Thanks for the session. We have learned a lot.”

“Whenever there is an issue, we will be welcomed with everything. So, I just wanted to say thank you for your time, than you for always teching us. It is good to always have many of such sessions, that we athletes got to learn such things.”

“Thanks, the session was educative.”

“I just want to say thank you for this kind of education. You know whenever we benefit from these sessions, we then extend this to the other athletes. It is good to always have sessions like this, so that we can learn every day.”

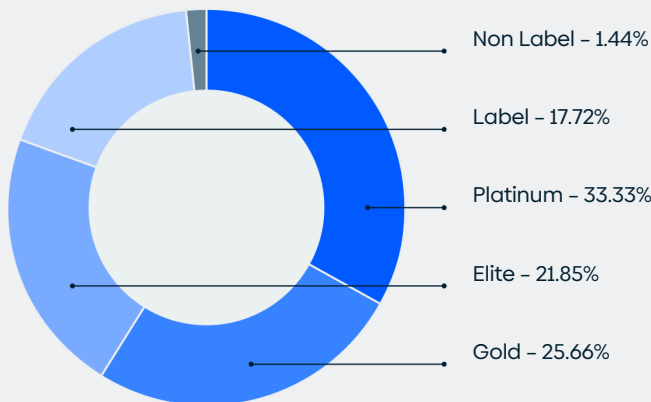
# Testing Programme

## 2023 & 2024

### Testing Programme Implemented at Full Pace in 2023

For the first time since the inception of the dedicated Road Running Integrity Programme in 2020, the AIU was able to deploy the testing programme in full in 2023, resulting in a total of 5,578 samples collected from 1,455 athletes. By way of comparison, these figures are comparable with the testing programme implemented by World Aquatics for swimming in 2022 (latest WADA statistics) and would place the testing component of the dedicated Road Running Integrity Programme in the top five of the most comprehensive testing programmes implemented by International Federations.

A record-high number of Label Road races (241) were held in 2023 at which 1,707 samples were collected as follows:



The programme was not only comprehensive, it was also very focused, with a higher number of target tests at races resulting in an average of 7.6 tests and 13.2 samples per athlete for the athletes in the Road Running RTP.

The growth continued in 2024 with 6,098 samples collected.

### Consolidation and Expansion of the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

In 2023 & 2024, the AIU was able to consolidate and build up the ABP profiles for all 300 athletes in the RTP with an effective follow-up when required.

The AIU was one of the first anti-doping organisations to launch two new ABP modules to complete the current ones and to further improve the detection of athletes using steroids and Human Growth Hormone which are potent doping agents used in endurance events.

### Significant Increase of Testing in Kenya

The AIU testing team actively assisted the Kenyan authorities with the enhanced domestic testing programme in 2023 & 2024. Thanks to the AIU's assistance and a great mobilization of the local workforces, the number of tests conducted in athletics in Kenya has grown from 700 per year to more than 4,000. This is a very positive development for the road running testing programme as the enhanced Kenyan testing programme now includes a deep testing pool of 150 Kenyan athletes specializing in road running in addition to the AIU pool, which was not the case before.

The enhanced programme in Kenya will result in an earlier detection of emerging talents and earlier testing under the domestic programme - before they reach the international elite level and the AIU RTP.

# Testing Programme 2023 & 2024

## Ethiopia

Alongside Kenya, the AIU continues to develop its capacity in Ethiopia with more Doping Control Officers recruited for a more agile and responsive testing programme in the country. The AIU is also working closely with the local authorities (Ethiopian Athletics Federation and Ethiopian Anti-Doping Agency) for further developing the domestic testing programme, especially with respect to Road Running athletes. As with Kenya, it is key for the AIU to be able to rely on a robust and comprehensive domestic testing programme which is able to ensure that athletes are tested and educated before they reach the elite level.

In this context, the AIU is also contributing to the project of a WADA-approved laboratory in Addis Ababa to analyse blood samples for Athlete Biological Passport purposes. This project is led by the Ethiopian authorities with the active (including financial) support of the AIU and of the WADA-accredited laboratory in Lausanne for scientific and technical aspects.

## Uganda

A coordinated large-scale testing mission was organised during the summer of 2024 in training camps in Uganda where 112 athletes (225 samples collected) were tested out-of-competition. Tests were conducted at eight different training camps mainly in the Kapchorwa/Bukwa region. These testing missions were an opportunity to test elite and sub-elite athletes from Uganda who, for many of them, are not followed under any testing programme. These tests allowed the AIU to start an Athlete Biological Passport profile and to send a strong message to Ugandan athletes that although AIU testing capacity and operations are mainly focusing on Kenya and Ethiopia, neighbour countries such as Uganda, Tanzania and Eritrea, are also within AIU's reach.

## More Testing for "Development" Athletes Funded by Shoe Companies

In 2024 the AIU received several requests from shoe-company sponsors to include their sponsored athletes in the AIU's RTP. The stated motivation for the request is to help ensure the integrity and credibility of their athletes. The requests pertain to younger or emerging athletes who have yet to graduate to the AIU RTP, but who the shoe sponsor believes will soon be capable of top international performances.

# Testing Programme 2023

Total number of samples collected

5,578

Total number of analyses performed

7,385

Total number of tests conducted

3,827

Number of Athletes tested

1,455

From athletes from

73 countries

Number of athletes in the RTP in 2023



311



representing

28 nationalities

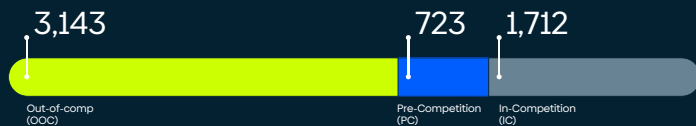
Average number of tests & Samples per Athlete in the RTP

13.2

13.2



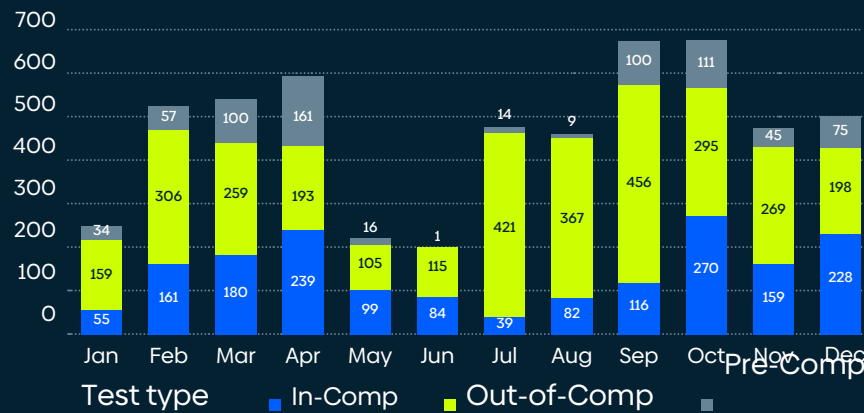
Samples collected by type



Samples collected by gender



Test distribution



Footnote <sup>1</sup>

**Pre-competition (PC)** Testing refers to samples collected at the location of an event, usually in the days before the event. For WADA's official statistics, pre-competition testing is classified as out of competition, but the AIU keep a separate record.  
**In-Competition (IC)** Testing refers to samples collected the day of an event, usually immediately following the event.  
**Out of competition (OOC)** Testing refers to testing conducted in other periods, based on the Whereabouts filings of athletes.  
**Group Testing:** Testing conducted at training camps or organised gatherings for profiling purpose in the context of Athlete Biological Passport.

Distribution by sample type

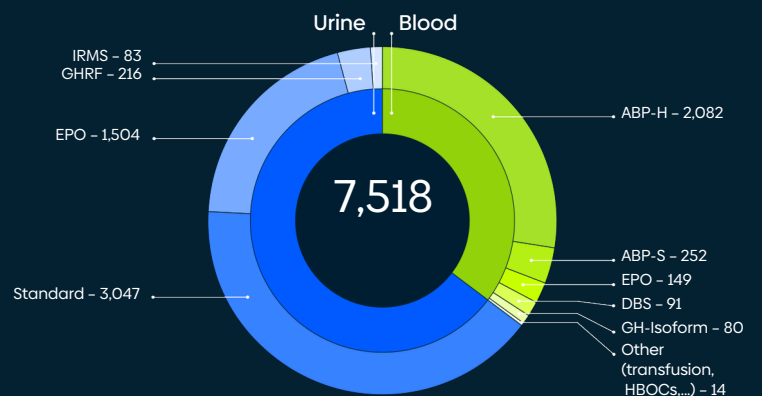
Urine - 3,046 Samples

54.6%

Blood - 2,532 Samples

45.4%

Analyses distribution 2023 RR Programme



# Testing Programme 2024

Total number of samples collected

6,098

Total number of analyses performed

8,374

Total number of tests conducted

4,399

Number of Athletes tested

1,829

From athletes from

89 countries

Number of athletes in the RTP in 2024



309



representing

26 nationalities

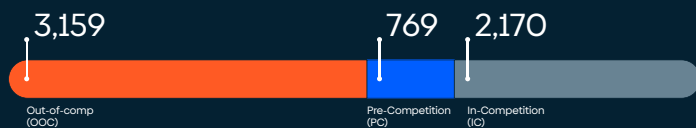
Average number of tests & Samples per Athlete in the RTP

Per Athlete

12.4



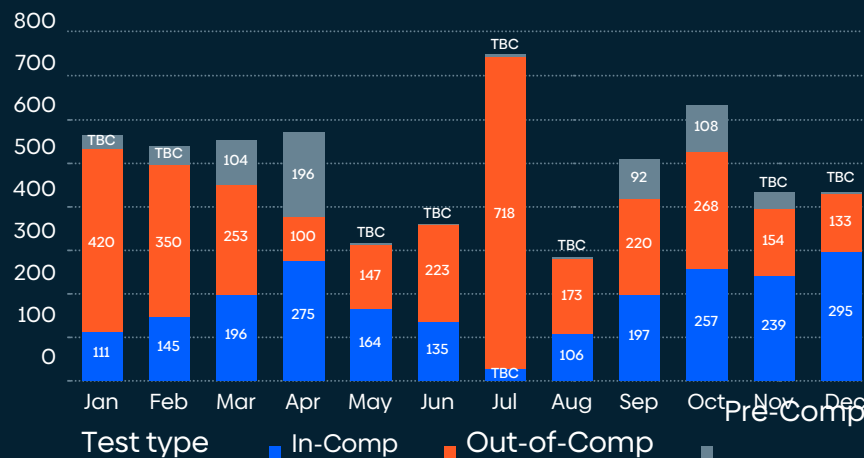
## Samples collected by type



## Samples collected by gender



## Test distribution



### Footnote <sup>1</sup>

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**Group Testing:** Testing conducted at training camps or organised gatherings for profiling purpose in the context of Athlete Biological Passport.

## Distribution by sample type

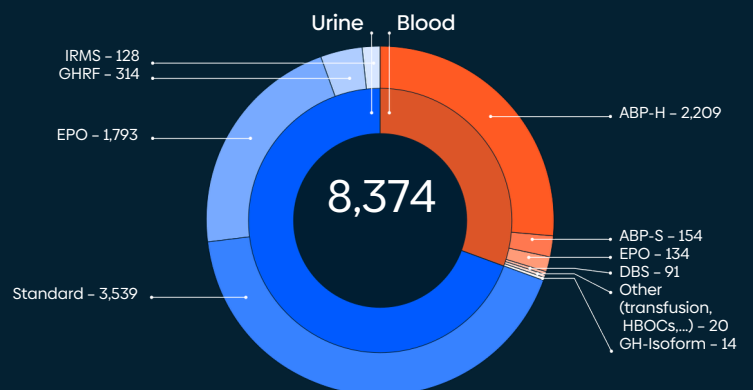
Urine - 3,539 Samples

58%

Blood - 2,559 Samples

42%

## Analyses distribution 2024 RR Programme



# Case Management 2023 & 2024

The Case Management of road-running cases for 2023 and 2024 has reflected the AIU's broader commitment to use the full force of the Anti-Doping Rules to bring athletes and athlete support persons to account.

This has meant vigorously pursuing non-analytical cases wherever possible, whether cases of Tampering with the Doping Control Process (Ekiru, Cheron, Nalyanya, Kunyuga), Use cases through application of the Athlete Biological Passport (Kwemoi, Kipruto, Barsosio, Gemechu), Evasion from Testing (Komen) or athletes simply not complying with their Whereabouts obligations (Chepkoech, Cheboror, Kipyego, Frère, Weldu).

It also meant the AIU seeking increased sanctions wherever the facts permitted under the definition of 'Aggravating Circumstances' in the Rules (Ekiru, Kunyuga, Nalyanya, Barsosio, Jimma, Komen, Kwemoi, Achol, Weldemicael). Eleven athletes challenged the evidence in contested cases before the Disciplinary Tribunal (Nalyanya, Jouaher, Kwemoi, Kamau, Bakry, Wangari, Kipruto, Frere and Gemechu) and/or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Korobkina and Frère) respectively, and the remainder accepted violations and consequences as proposed by the AIU without proceeding to a hearing.



# Case Management – Cases 2023 & 2024

Athlete	Nat	ADRV	In-comp (IC)/ Out-of-Comp (OOC)	Sanction	Status
Titus EKIRU	KEN	Use (Triamcinolone/ Pethidine), Tampering	IC	10 years	Final
Yelena KOROBKINA	RUS	Use (McLaren/LIMS case)	N/A	4 years	Final
El Hassan EL-ABBASSI	BRN	Use (Blood Transfusion)	IC	3 years	Final
Samir JOUAHER	MAR	Presence/Use (EPO)	IC	6 years	Final
James (Mwangi) WANGARI	KEN	Presence (19-norandrosterone)	IC	8 years	Final
Joyce Chepkemoi TELE	KEN	Presence (Triamcinolone)	IC	18 months	Final
Michael Njenga KUNYUGA	KEN	Presence/Use (Norandrosterone), Tampering	IC	8 years	Final
Eglay Nafuna NALYANYA	KEN	Presence/Use (19NA)-Tampering	IC	8 years	Final
Agness Jeruto BARSOSIO	KEN	Use (ABP)	N/A	5 years	Final
Maurine CHEPKEMOI	KEN	Presence/Use (EPO)	OOC	3 years	Final
Thomas KIBET-KUTERE	KEN	Presence/Use (Norandrosterone)	IC	3 years	Final
John TELLO ZUNIGA	COL	Presence/Use (EPO)	IC	3 years	Final
Fouad IDBAFDIL	RT	Use (EPO)	OOC	3 years	Final
Rebecca Korir JEPCHIRCHIR	KEN	Presence/Use (Methylprednisolone)	IC	2 years	Final
John HAKIZIMANA	RWA	Presence (Triamcinolone)	IC	2 years	Final
Esther Birundu BORURA	KEN	Presence/Use (Norandrosterone)	OOC	3 years	Final
Janat CHEMUSTO	UGA	Presence/Use (Norandrosterone)	IC	4 years	Final
Xin ZHANG	CHN	Presence/Use (Metandienone)	IC	3 years	Final
James KARANJA	KEN	Presence/Use (19-NA)	IC	4 years	Final
Ebesie Ayele BALCHA	ETH	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	3 years	Final
Fantu Eticha JIMMA	ETH	Presence/Use (EPO)	IC	5 years	Final
Daisy CHEROTICH	KEN	Presence/Use (EPO)	OOC	3 years	Final
Ahmed BAKRY	EGY	Presence (Dexamethasone)	IC	18 months	Final
Hosea KISORIO	KEN	Presence/Use (EPO)	IC	3 years	Final
Ayub KIPTUM	KEN	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	3 years	Final
Prisca CHESANG	UGA	Presence/Use (Furosemide)	OOC	2 years	Final
Sarah CHEPCHICHIR	KEN	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	8 years	Final
Shume TAFA DESTA	ETH	Presence/Use (Methylhexanamine)	IC	4 years	Final
Stellah Jepngetch BARSOSIO	KEN	Presence/Use (Trimetazidine)	IC	4 years	Appealable
Sitora KHAMIDOVA	UZB	Presence/Use (DHCMT)	IC	6 years	Appealable
Zita KOSAČ	LTU	Presence/Use (Oxymetholone)	IC	6 months	Final
Charles Karanja KAMAU	KEN	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	4 years	Final
Caroline CHEPKOECH KIPKIRUI	KEN	Whereabouts Failures	N/A	2 years	Appealable
Rosemary Mumu KATUA	BRN	Presence/Use (Triamcinolone)	IC	4 years	Final
Purity KOMEN	KEN	Presence/Use (Norandrosterone), Evasion	IC/OOC	6 years	Final
Norbert KIGEN	KEN	Presence/Use (Exogenous Steroids)	OOC	3 years	Final
Kennedy CHEBOROR	KEN	Whereabouts Failures	N/A	2 years	Final
Beatrice TOROTICH	KEN	Presence/Use (19-NA, Canrenone, Clomifene)	IC	Life	Final
Agnes MUTUA	KEN	Presence/Use (Trimetazidine, Testosterone)	IC	5 years	Final
Vilmante STASAUŠKAITE	LTU	Presence/Use (Meldonium)	IC	21 months	Final
Rodgers KWEMOI	KEN	Use (ABP)	N/A	6 years	Final
Nicholas KOSIMBEI	KSA	Presence/Use (Trimetazidine)	IC	3 years	Final
Salina JEBET	KEN	Presence/Use (19-NA)	IC	7 years	Final
Tsehay GEMECHU	ETH	Use (ABP)	N/A	4 years	Final
Youssef Mohamed AL-ASIRI	KSA	Presence/Use (Darbepoetin, EPO)	OOC		Pending
Wesam ALFARSI	KSA	Presence/Use (Darbepoetin)	OOC		Pending
Ebsite Tilahun ASRES	ETH	Presence/Use (Triamcinolone)	IC	2 years	Final

# Case Management – Cases 2023 & 2024

Athlete	Nat	ADRV	In-comp (IC)/ Out-of-Comp (OOC)	Sanction	Status
James KARANJA	KEN	Presence/Use (19-Norandrosterone)	IC	4 years	Final
Caroline CHEPKOECH	KAZ	Whereabouts Failures	N/A	2 years	Final
Celestine CHEPCHIRCHIR	KEN	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	OOC	3 years	Final
Josphat KEMEI	KEN	Presence/Use (CERA; Testosterone)	IC	5 years	Final
Josephine CHEPKOECH	KEN	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	7 years	Final
Elias KEMEI	KEN	Presence/Use (Trimetazidine)	IC	3 years	Final
Marius KIMUTAI	BRN	Presence/Use (EPO)	OOC	3 years	Final
Sophy JEPCHIRCHIR	KEN	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	3 years	Final
Ibrahim WACHIRA	KEN	Presence/Use (Tamoxifen-19-NA)	IC	6 years	Final
Jackline JEPTANUI	KEN	Presence/Use (Triamcinolone)	IC	2 years	Final
Lucy KARIMI	KEN	Presence/Use (EPO)	IC	3 years	Final
Mehdi FRERE	FRA	Whereabouts Failures	N/A	2 years	Final
Lawrence CHERONO	KEN	Presence/Use (Trimetazidine), Tampering	OOC	7 years	Final
Daniel MUINDI	KEN	Presence/Use (Norandrosterone)	IC	3 years	Final
Judith JERUBET	KEN	Presence/Use (Norandrosterone)	IC	3 years	Final
Reuben KIPYEGO	KEN	Whereabouts Failures	N/A	2 years	Final
Dorcas TUITOEK	KEN	Presence/Use (EPO)	OOC	3 years	Final
Nazret WELDU	ERI	Whereabouts Failures	N/A	2 years	Final
Nataliya LEHONKOVA	UKR	Presence/Use (EPO)	IC	3 years	Final
Shintshe CHULUUNKHUU	MGL	Presence/Use (Meldonium)	IC	4 years	Final
Taoufik ALLAM	MOR	Presence/Use (EPO)	IC	3 years	Final
Yimer BILLIGEN	ETH	Presence/Use (Prednisolone)	IC	2 years	Final
Faith CHEPKOECH	KEN	Presence/Use (EPO)	OOC	3 years	Final
Charles LANGAT	KEN	Presence/Use (Furosemide)	OOC	2 years	Final
Rodgers GESABWA	KEN	Presence/Use (Cocaine)	OOC	3 months	Final
Rhonex KIPRUTO	KEN	Use (ABP)	N/A	4 years	Pending (CAS)
Emmaculate ACHOL	KEN	Presence/Use (EPO, Testosterone)	IC	6 years	Final
Beatrice JELAGAT	KEN	Presence/Use (Triamcinolone)	IC	2 years	Final
Kibrom WELDEMICAEL	ERI	Presence/Use (EPO, Furosemide)	IC	6 years	Final
Aberash AMENA	ETH	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	3 years	Final
Ezekiel KIPKORIR	KEN	Presence/Use (Testosterone)	IC	3 years	Final

# Investigations & Intelligence 2023 & 2024

## Kenya

As part of the work being done by the AIU Investigations & Intelligence (I&I) team to support the Road Running Integrity Programme, a specific Kenya project has been going throughout 2023 and 2024'. This project is part of the Kenyan Government's enhanced anti-doping programme and is built on four pillars of support for the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) and Athletics Kenya (AK). They are:

- The development of a new and

enhanced organizational and governance structure being established to reflect full I&I functionality, including interviewing, intelligence-gathering and analysis capacity. Additionally, it will involve the identification of required changes to laws, rules, and regulations, to enhance the anti-doping agenda. Relevant policies and procedures are being identified for implementation to support the new structure and approach.

- AIU providing analytical training to the ADAK I&I team and supporting local training programmes specific to roles (interviewing, searches with law enforcement, data and financial information-acquisition pathways). Interviews have been completed and recruitment is ongoing.
- The implementation of a strategic-intelligence assessment programme to identify and investigate doping networks, substance accessibility, and pharmacy distributors. The implementation of operational deep-dive analyses of suspicious elite athletes for intelligence-driven target testing.

- The development of key partnerships and co-operation mechanisms (MoUs). Those identified are:

- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Directorate of Criminal Investigations
- Kenya Medical Practitioners & Dentists Council
- Pharmacy & Poisons Board
- Ethics & Anti-Corruption Commission
- National Registration Bureau
- Directorate of Immigration and Citizen Services
- National Intelligence Service
- Customs Services Department (Kenya Revenue Authority)

Continuous communication between AIU I&I and ADAK I&I ensures responsive activities, also working closely with the AIU staff member working in Kenya on the testing programme, and a newly placed AIU junior analyst working within I&I. The AIU I&I team is also focusing on Ethiopia, examining means and methods of introducing a similar 'best practices' approach to its anti-doping programme.





### Worldwide

Throughout 2023 and 2024, the AIU Investigations & Intelligence Department continued to focus across the range of integrity concerns, with anti-doping continuing to be a particular priority for road running.

The I&I department undertakes intelligence collection and analysis activities to enhance the AIU’s testing programme, and conducts investigative activities supporting wide-ranging Case Management prosecutions. Below are two case studies, demonstrating the I&I team’s high-level work which resulted in successful prosecutions in 2023 and 2024.

#### Case Study: Titus Ekiru

Ekiru was the sixth-fastest marathon runner of all time, having won seven big city marathons. In 2023, after returning two Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) – and being charged with Tampering – he received a 10-year ban from the sport, effectively ending his professional career.

Initially, Ekiru tested positive for Triamcinolone Acetonide and subsequently for Pethidine and Norpethidine. During I&I interviews and through written submissions, including medical documentation, Ekiru claimed he had been unaware of Prohibited Substances being used to treat an injury.

Through a joint AIU and ADAK (Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya) investigation, Ekiru’s collusion with an active medical practitioner from a highly reputable medical facility in Kenya was uncovered. This conspiracy included the administration of Prohibited Substances to Ekiru in undocumented treatments, as well as the provision of falsified medical documents subsequently submitted by Ekiru to the AIU.

In addition to Ekiru’s sanction, the joint AIU and ADAK investigation led to a referral to law enforcement authorities in Kenya regarding the corrupt practices of the medical practitioner.

#### Case Study: Lawrence Cherono

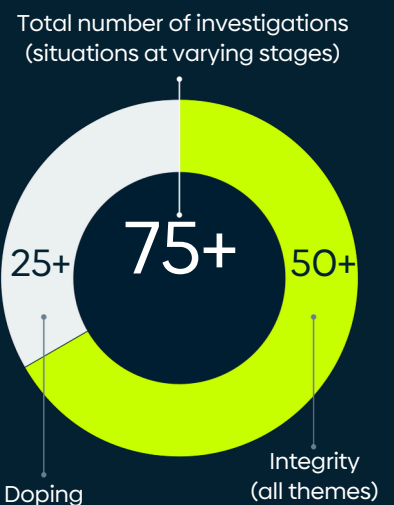
After testing positive for Trimetazidine, Cherono was notified of his Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) and provisional suspension in-person by an AIU investigator, on the eve of the 2022 World Championships marathon, in Eugene, Oregon.

Throughout engagement with the I&I Department, Cherono provided inconsistent explanations regarding his AAF, offering many different scenarios and stories, via formal interviews and written submissions, including medical documentation.

The AIU investigated this case with ADAK, ultimately being able to demonstrate that medical documentation provided by


Cherono was falsified. Subsequently, the investigation “was materially obstructed and substantially undermined”, with repeated attempts to obtain a proper explanation from the clinic and to obtain copies of the real medical records proving unsuccessful.


Further investigative action, including additional interviews and surveillance, led to a Kenyan court order to obtain the required medical documentation, resulting in the formal confirmation that the explanations provided by Cherono, and the medical documentation supplied, were false. In 2024, Cherono was banned for seven years for three Anti-Doping Rule Violations.





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