



**THE
PEOPLE'S
VACCINE**

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People's Vaccine Alliance Africa

Civil Society Meeting

April 30, 2021

Hosted by the [African Alliance](#)

Co-hosted by [Action Aid](#) & [Oxfam](#)

Meeting Objective

As Coordinators of the People's Vaccine Alliance in Africa, the African Alliance sought to create a space where civil society representatives from around the continent could receive briefing on the work of the PVA thus far, while also developing improved mechanisms for amplifying African voices within the PVA and better coordinating African vaccine access and equity efforts.

Participants (25 individuals representing 13 organizations)

African CSOs

- African Alliance (South Africa) – 5 participants
- Africa Health Research Institute (South Africa) – 1 participant
- Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (South Africa) – 1 participant
- People's Vaccine Kenya (Kenya) – 1 participant
- Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives – REPSSI (South Africa) – 1 participant
- Solidarity Africa Network in Action (Kenya) – 1 participant
- SRHR Africa Trust - SAT (South Africa) – 1 participant
- Tax Justice Network Africa (South Africa) – 1 participant

International Organizations

- ActionAid (Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria) – 5 participants
- Frontline AIDS (South Africa) – 1 participant
- Oxfam (Kenya) – 2 participants
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC (Ethiopia) – 1 participant

Other

- University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa) – 2 participants
- Journalists (Nigeria, Spain) – 2 participants

Meeting Agenda & Key Points

Agenda Item 1: What is the [People's Vaccine Alliance](#)? (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 01:51)

Maaza Seyoum (African Alliance) gave a presentation on the People's Vaccine Alliance, providing details on:

- what the Alliance stands for,
- what the current state of play is,
- what the Alliance is calling for, and

- what we mean by the TRIPS Waiver.

She also highlighted:

- who the People's Vaccine Alliance is trying to influence,
- what the Alliance's plan is for influence,
- recent achievements, and
- upcoming opportunities.

Finally, Maaza gave a brief overview of how the People's Vaccine Alliance coordinates its work and informed participants that the PVA is enthusiastic for more African members. Participants are encouraged to reach out to Maaza if they would like to join the PVA or have any questions (maaza@africanalliance.org.za).

Maaza's presentation is available [here](#) in electronic format and the slides will also be included as an appendix attached to this report.

Agenda Item 2: What is the role of the [African Union](#) and [Africa CDC](#) on COVID-19 vaccine access on the continent? (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 28:35)

Tian Johnson (African Alliance) gave a brief presentation on the work of the African Alliance and its role as part of the Africa Centres for Disease Control, which falls under the African Union. This included an explanation of AVDA (the African Vaccine Delivery Alliance) and its various pillars. Most importantly, Tian gave some detail on AVDA's Community Engagement Pillar, which the African Alliance co-chairs. They briefly touched on AVDA's plans going forward and encouraged people to reach out (tian@africanalliance.org.za) if they wanted to get involved. (The African Alliance has set up a writing group to work on an African Charter on COVID-19 – you can sign up to get involved [here](#).)

Agenda Item 3: Highlights from the last few months (on vaccine equity and vaccine access issues) across the continent (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 43:49)

Organizations were asked to provide highlights of any key activities in which they had played a role in the last few months.

Buba Khan shared that Action Aid is focused on inequality and macroeconomic factors. They have been targeting the meeting of African finance ministers and are conducting advocacy around cancellation of debt for African countries, in order to release resources for funding of vaccines.

Suhayl Omar ([People's Vaccine Kenya](#)) shared that much of the work they are doing is focused on advocacy, litigation (of government), access to information, and awareness about the vaccine. They are also advocating for the TRIPS Waiver and pushing for support of the waiver with the Kenyan government, which doesn't seem as interested in these policy issues as civil society would like to see.

Jaob Okanda (Oxfam) shared that his team put together a civil society statement for the March 11 People's Vaccine Day of Action that was reflected in several media outlets. They have also been consistently doing a lot of work to get African leaders and other influentials to support the TRIPS Waiver.

Please see the transcript for details and the following social media accounts for regular updates:

- Action Aid: @ActionAid
- People's Vaccine Kenya: @VaccineKe
- Oxfam: @Oxfam

Agenda Item 4: Advocacy opportunities for the rest of Q2 2021 (May & June)

- May 3-6th: G7 Foreign & Development Ministers mtg
- May 5th: full WTO General Council Meeting
- May 11th: AstraZeneca closed-door shareholder AGM
- May 21st: G20 Global Health Summit
- May 23-26th: G7 Trade Ministers Meeting
- May 24 – June 1: UN World Health Assembly
- May 25: Africa Day
- June 8 & 9: Now TBC: formal meeting of the WTO TRIPS General Council
- June 11-13: G7 Summit with vaccines one of two priorities on the agenda.

Participants were asked to mention any events they are planning for the next two months. (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 1:13:46)

- People's Vaccine Kenya event: May 2021 - "Draft a way forward for Africa with expert practitioners". Details to be shared on social media platforms and outcomes shared with the broader Alliance.
- Action Aid event with Africans Rising for the Africa Day celebrations on May 25 looking at vaccine allocation in Africa from a Pan African perspective. Details to be shared on social media platforms and outcomes shared with the broader Alliance.
- [Frontline AIDS](#) is planning a session at the Generation Equality Event by UN Women that's coming up at the end of June and there might be some opportunities for integration. The [Generation Equality Forum](#) is a civil society-centred, global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. The Forum kicked off in [Mexico City, Mexico, on 29–31 March 2021](#), and will culminate in [Paris, France, on 30 June – 2 July 2021](#), with the aim of securing a set of concrete, ambitious, and transformative commitments to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality. The landmark effort will bring together governments, corporations and change to define and announce ambitious investments and policies. To learn more about the Forum, the Action Coalitions and to stay up-to-date on all the latest developments, visit the [Generation Equality Forum website](#).
- The African Alliance has a series of webinars planned during May to unpack the [Framework for Fair, Equitable and Timely Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa](#). These webinars will culminate in a live

session that the African Alliance will be hosting with the African CDC leadership, the African Union leadership, and civil society partners to ensure that these spaces are opened to broader civil society.

Agenda Item 5: Next steps (Coordination & Streamlining)

Item	Point Person(s)	Note
Monthly meetings	Maaza Seyoum	Last Thursday of each month 12:30-14:00 Banjul / 14:30-16:00 Johannesburg / 15:30-17:00 Nairobi. African Alliance will send out calendar invites.
Communication platform	Maaza Seyoum	African Alliance will set up a GoogleDoc and WhatsApp group to facilitate communication.
Steering Committee & writing group for African Charter on COVID-19	Buba Khan Joab Okanda Maaza Seyoum Tian Johnson	All participants who would like to be part of the PVA Africa Steering Committee and writing group for the African Charter on COVID-19, sign up here .
PVA membership	All	Interested organisations and individuals can sign up here .
Participation in AVDA pillars	All	All participants who would like to be more involved in AVDA pillars to sign up here .

Q&A

Note The questions listed here are those that were not answered in the discussion. All other questions and related answers can be found in the transcript, which is attached to this report.

Aqeel Madhi: I've noticed that newspapers will publish articles highlighting the amounts of money vaccine companies are making, affecting their stock and bringing them media attention. If we can get newspapers to stop publishing articles about this and non-necessary articles about vaccine companies, perhaps it'll affect their stock price, which will, in turn, affect their bottom line and incentivise them to collaborate? Also collaborating with newspapers to bring us more media attention and help us in any way possible could be a good idea.

It's not clear that the PVA can influence what newspapers publish about pharmaceutical companies. But the PVA has made a big push to publish many opinion pieces over the last few months, and influence news articles with important data about vaccine access and COVID-19. A few of those pieces are included in Maaza's presentation (see slide titled Recent Achievements), and we will continue to share those as they are published going forward. The PVA is also quite keen in getting opinion pieces and news pieces in African newspapers. If any of the participants have media contacts that could be helpful on the continent please let us know.

P (Vassie) Naidoo: What action has PVA taken on pharmaceutical companies that want the governments to take responsibility for any adverse effects/events that vaccinated persons may experience?

We will try to get an answer to this question from the People's Vaccine Alliance leadership before the May 27 meeting.

Appendices

[PVA Presentation](#)

[Meeting Transcript](#)

[Meeting Recording \(audio\)](#)

[Meeting Recording \(video\)](#)