



**THE  
PEOPLE'S  
VACCINE**

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## **People's Vaccine Alliance Africa**

Civil Society Meeting

June 24, 2021

Hosted by the [African Alliance](#)

## **Meeting Objective**

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As Coordinators of the People's Vaccine Alliance in Africa, the African Alliance seeks to develop improved mechanisms for amplifying African voices within the PVA and support coordination of African vaccine access and equity efforts.

These meetings are an effort to create a space where civil society representatives from around the continent:

- are briefed on the work and upcoming priorities of the PVA at global level,
- share their own achievements and challenges on issues of vaccine access & equity, and
- feed African priorities into the global PVA strategies.

## **Participants (27 individuals representing 20 organizations)**

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### **African Organizations**

- African Alliance – 3 participants
- Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organisations (EANNASO) – 1 participant
- Gays & Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) – 1 participant
- Gender Links– 1 participant
- Jamaity – 1 participant
- Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) – 1 participant
- People's Vaccine Campaign South Africa (PVC-SA) – 1 participant
- Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives (REPSSI) – 1 participant
- SafAIDS – 1 participant
- Section 27 – 1 participant
- Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group (VARG) – 1 participant

### **International Alliances and Organizations**

- ActionAid – 5 participants.
- Amnesty International – 1 participant
- AVAC – 1 participant
- Fight Inequality Alliance – 1 participant
- Frontline AIDS – 1 participant
- International Commission of Jurists – 1 participant
- Oxfam – 2 participants

### **Other**

- AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) – 1 participant
- University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) – 1 participant

## Meeting Agenda & Key Points

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**Agenda Item 1: Update from the [People's Vaccine Alliance Global](#)** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 14:16)  
Maaza Seyoum (African Alliance) gave a presentation on updates from The People's Vaccine Alliance, providing details on:

- What the Alliance stands for,
- the Alliance's [5 demands](#),
- how the Alliance works,
- what the current state of play is.

She also highlighted:

- Recent actions:
  - anti-IP protests and media “stunts”
  - global petition
  - recent op-eds and letters
- opportunities to join PVA committees, and
- other upcoming opportunities

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

Rehad Desai (People's Vaccine Campaign, South Africa) highlighted the urgency of the situation in South Africa and raised questions about movement building outside of media “stunts” in order to gain support from mass-based organizations, peoples organizations, trade unions, etc.

Joab Okanda ([Oxfam International](#)) encouraged the group to share what is happening in their respective countries. Joab also raised questions about the shelf life of vaccines donated to African countries and inequality of access to those vaccines once they reach African countries.

Susan Tolmay shared that [Gender Links](#) had recently hosted an event regarding vaccine justice from a women's rights and feminist perspective. She also shared that she was pleased to see that most people on the call were women, highlighting that this allowed for a thorough discussions from women's perspective.

Samson Orao ([ActionAid Kenya](#)) raised questions about the best way to hold local governments accountable when advocating for the equitable delivery of vaccines.

Njoki Njehu ([Fight Inequality Alliance](#)) raised two questions regarding: 1) how African countries (particularly those from the “Commonwealth”) can call upon allies in the Global North to hold their governments accountable, and 2) how to address vaccine hesitancy in African countries.

Tian Johnson (African Alliance) introduced African Alliance's plans to develop monthly reports on the status of vaccine rollout in Africa. Tian shared that lack of data from certain countries posed a barrier in the development of these reports, and urged participants from Algeria, Botswana, Djibouti, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, and South Africa to share their perspective on vaccine rollout in those countries.

Onesmus Kalama shared that [EANNASO](#) was working to make sure communities were well prepared to accept vaccines. Onesmus also shared that EANNASO was building a virtual platform (with webinars) to increase vaccine awareness and acceptance in communities.

**Agenda Item 2: Brief introduction by Sofien Asta on the work of [Jamaity](#) (African Alliance's partner in North Africa).** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 1:03:43)

Sofien Asta provided details on:

- Jamaity and the work they do in Tunisia,
- Jamaity's new COVID information sharing platform, and
- the current state of COVID-related affairs in Tunisia

Violet Asiko ([KMPDU](#)) raised a question about community engagement interventions in Tunisia and their effectiveness. Sofien responded that not much work was being done regarding engagement in Tunisia, with the exception a few NGOs that were working to increase awareness on the vaccine. Sofien also explained that Facebook was a good platform to build community engagement in Tunisia.

**Agenda Item 3: Updates from meeting participants** (SEE TRANSCRIPT AS OF 1:13:01)

- ActionAid International
  - Planning on organizing session around regional dialogue, looking at the SADC development community 10-year plan (June 29-30<sup>th</sup>)
- International Commission of Jurists
  - Advocacy strategy planning event (early June)
  - African Commission summits
  - Litigation workshop (July 15<sup>th</sup>)
- KMPDU
  - People's Vaccine Stakeholders Roundtable Meeting (June 26<sup>th</sup>)

Closing remarks by Maaza: Participants are encouraged to reach out to Maaza if they would like to join the PVA or have any questions ([maaza@africanalliance.org.za](mailto:maaza@africanalliance.org.za)).

## **Appendices**

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[PVA Presentation](#)

[Meeting Chat](#)

[Meeting Transcript](#)

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

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