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VACCINE**

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**People's Vaccine Alliance Africa
Civil Society Meeting
September 28, 2021**

Hosted by the [African Alliance](#)

Meeting Objectives

As Coordinators of the People's Vaccine Alliance in Africa, the African Alliance seeks to create a space where civil society representatives from around the continent can:

- receive updates on the PVA's global efforts,
- contribute to the PVA's activities and strategies,
- amplify African voices within the PVA,
- share information with each other on activities, challenges, and successes,
- develop advocacy strategies and activities together, and
- work towards improving communication and coordination related to African vaccine access and equity efforts.

Participants (10 individuals representing 8 organizations)

African Organizations

- African Alliance (2 participants)
- Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO) (1 participant)
- Health Justice Initiative (1 participant)
- People's Vaccine Kenya (1 participant)
- People's Vaccine Alliance (1 participant)

International Organizations

- Christian Aid (2 participants)

Other

- London School of Economics (1 participant)
- University of KwaZulu Natal (1 participant)

Meeting Agenda & Key Points

Agenda Item 1: Review of previous PVA Meeting Report and action items from report [SEE TRANSCRIPT 08:31]

Maaza Seyoum (African Alliance) asked for feedback on last month's PVA meeting report and presented updates on the following action items listed in report:

- Marlise Richter to share relevant links to Johnson&Johnson/Aspen story
 - Update: Marlise shared links with group immediately after the August meeting.
- Buba Khan to recommend colleague for PVA Storytelling subgroup
 - Update: Buba has recommended a colleague. Maaza has contacted her for participation in the group.
- Plan digital COVID memorial wall
 - Update: tentative plan is for memorial to go live on Dec. 8th, which marks one year since the delivery of the first Pfizer vaccine in the UK. The PVA Storytelling group has been

working on this and will hopefully finalize collection form for photos and stories shortly. Updates will continue.

- Buba Khan to reach out to contacts to secure slot for PVA Africa at GMAC conference
 - Update: slot secured.

Agenda Item 2: Update on COVID cases/deaths and vaccine rollout [SEE TRANSCRIPT 15:00]

Maaza Seyoum presented graphics from [Our World in Data](#), highlighting the following points:

- 66% of people in the United Kingdom have been fully vaccinated (compared to ~4% on the African continent)
- 2.5 million booster shots have been administered, to date, in the United States, while some countries have not provided, or been able to provide even the first vaccine

Maaza provided a brief rundown of PVA working groups (Campaigns & Media, Policy, Influentials) and encouraged participants to join in order to participate in PVA planning and influence outcomes. [SEE TRANSCRIPT 16:36].

Agenda Item 3: Maaza presented key achievements from the recent PVA Week of Action (WoA) [SEE TRANSCRIPT 21:40]

Maaza highlights the following WoA activities and achievements:

- Letters were sent out to potential incoming German leaders urging them to refrain from blocking the TRIPS Waiver. The head of the Green Party wrote back to the PVA and said that she would support the Waiver.
- PVA drafted a letter (ahead of Biden's summit) to world leaders about vaccine inequity.
- PVA coordinated various press releases (ahead of Biden's summit) talking about the profits that are being made from the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Offline actions targeting Germany took place in various countries (including Kenya, South Africa, Brazil, Australia, and Sri Lanka).

Robert Mwanyumba ([Christian Aid, Kenya](#)) speaks about organizing the Day of Action in Nairobi. [SEE TRANSCRIPT 25:22].

Robert explains that Christian Aid Kenya was able to recruit representatives from ActionAid, Fight Inequality Alliance, Amnesty Kenya, and activists to participate in Day of Action Nairobi activities. Christian Aid Kenya organized demonstrations at the Goethe-Institute (the German Cultural Center in Nairobi), the German Embassy in Nairobi, and the Kenyatta International Conference Center.

In addition to this, Christian Aid organized a "social media flash" and managed to reach 1.9 million people in an hour, and become #5 on the Twitter trending list in Kenya. Robert states that recruiting social media influencers helped make the flash successful.

Robert mentions that Tyson Majani at ActionAid helped Christian Aid track their performance on social media with an analytics tool. Robert states that he will reach out to Tyson and ask if he is willing to come speak to the group about these tools.

Maaza closes this discussion by informing the group that the People's Vaccine Alliance currently has small amounts of funding available for these smaller activities but the hope is that more substantial funding will be available in the near future. **[SEE TRANSCRIPT 36:04]**.

Agenda Item 4: Updates from the group **[SEE TRANSCRIPT 37:58]**

Suhayl Omar ([People's Vaccine Kenya](#)) presents the following updates from PV Kenya **[SEE TRANSCRIPT 38:54]**:

- PVA Kenya is working a wide range of regional and continental activities. The one most of interest to the larger group seems to be the African Week of Action. Suhayl initially suggested holding this in November, but Maaza and Robert suggest early December as this would coincide well with Christian Aid's activities, and broader PVA efforts. Maaza and Suhayl agree to discuss this offline.

Robert Mwanyuma (Christian Aid) presents the following updates from Christian Aid **[SEE TRANSCRIPT 47:08]**:

- Christian Aid plans on rolling out a campaign on vaccines targeting Sierra Leone, Kenya, Burundi, and Zimbabwe.
- Christian Aid has been in touch with a media group in Ghana in order to organize a panel discussion on the promotion of vaccine equity in Africa at the [Kusi Ideas Festival](#) which will take place in Ghana in early December. Robert will send further details about the festival.

Marlise Richter ([Health Justice Initiative](#)) presents the following updates from the Health Justice Initiative (HJI) **[SEE TRANSCRIPT 54:42]**:

- HJI (in collaboration with African Alliance and [Peoples Health Movement South Africa](#)) is organizing a webinar series titled "5% Continent." Marlise will send additional information to the group.
 - Overarching themes of webinar: Greed, Divides, Solidarity

Tian Johnson (African Alliance) updates the group on a African manifesto initially drafted by the African Alliance **[SEE TRANSCRIPT 1:00:08]**. Tian informs the group that the manifesto has been revised after input from multiple members of this group. Tian recommends organizing a group meeting to finalize the revisions and discuss next steps.

Suhayl Omar recommends that the People's Vaccine Alliance organize a webinar on the TRIPS Waiver to address misinformation on the continent regarding the Waiver. Tian Johnson suggests putting together a press conference instead to avoid logistical difficulties that may arise when planning a continent-wide event of this sort. The group agrees to discuss this offline. **[SEE TRANSCRIPT 1:06:30]**.

Agenda Item 5: Key Dates [SEE TRANSCRIPT 1:10:55]

- UNGA **14-30 September**
- World Bank Annual Meetings **15-17 October**
- G20 in Rome **30-31 October**
- COP26 in Glasgow **31 October - 12 November**
- One year anniversary of Ensemble (J&J) trial launch in SA: **6 November**
- World AIDS Day: **1 December**
- Kusi Ideas Festival: **2-4 December**
- One year anniversary of first COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer) being administered in the UK: **8 December**

Agenda Item 6: Presentation by Mohga Kamal-Yanni, PVA Policy Advisor and Co-Chair of PVA Policy & Advocacy Group (SEE TRANSCRIPT 1:12:51)

Mohga provides advice on how to best target African leaders and conduct advocacy campaigns. She gives the following pieces of advice:

- Be consistent in outreach efforts (i.e. sending one letter to one leader is not enough)
- Target African events as well as global events (i.e. it is not enough to only target huge, global summits. Attend Africa-based summits as well)
- Create list of feasible action items as well as a list of long term demands
- Create a list of potential Africa targets (people and events)
- Increase outreach to pharmaceutical companies
- Set up meeting with Dr. Nkengasong before he starts working for PEPFAR

Since the discussion with Mohga was a bit rushed, the group agrees that she will be invited back for another meeting to continue strategizing.

Appendices

[PVA Presentation](#)

[Meeting Transcript](#)

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