

PVA Africa CSO Meeting

25th May 2022

Agenda

- Introductions
- African COVID-19 Update
- PVA Africa
- Call for Proposal - COVID 19 advocacy grant.
- Second US COVID 19 Summit.
- Upcoming International day for action and other key dates
- Campaign Strategies

African COVID - 19 Update

- Africa's population -1,373,486,472 (2021)
- Population that has received 1 t dose in 53 out of 54 countries – 23.3%
- Population that is fully vaccinated-17.7%
- WHO, as at 5/23/2022
- African COVID – 19 vaccine uptake



African COVID - 19 Update

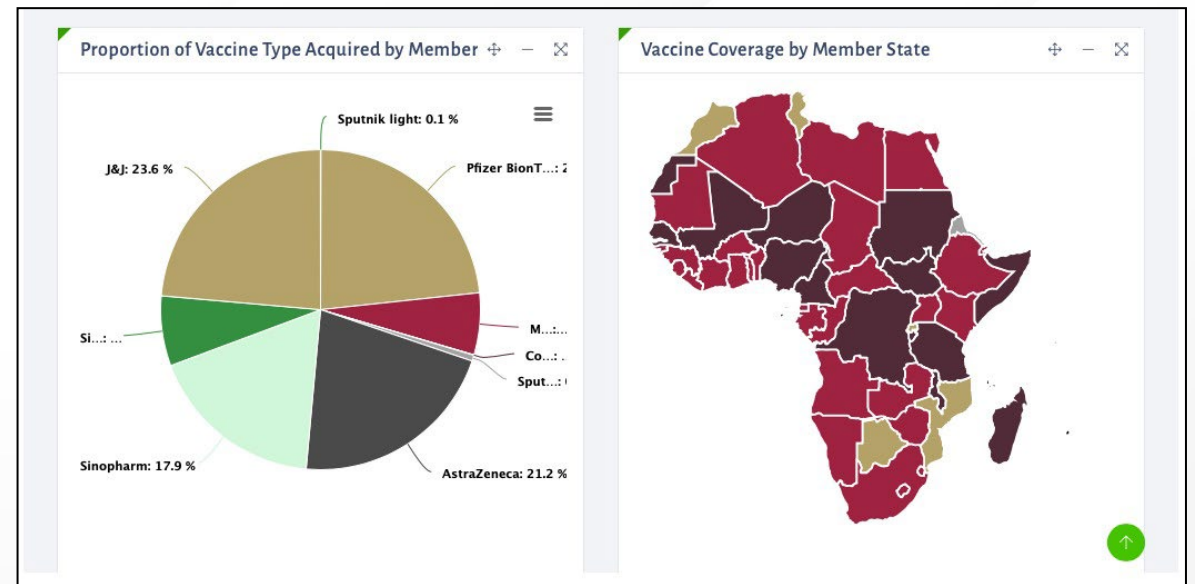
Reduced urgency on vaccination (among public and government)

Some countries, including SA are experiencing surges in infections

The current low COVID-19 immunization coverage reflects lack of commitment and quality of social mobilization, and in general, this is an exposure of the weak community engagement and planning capacity of many African health systems

WTO Trips negotiations challenges and the argument that a waiver is no longer needed as supply is not an issue.

Effects of COVID -19 on long COVID including the social- economic including increase in SGBV, loss of jobs among others.



PVA Africa

Mothers Film

- The African Alliance has begun the process of documenting a tale of two mothers and two daughters connected across continents by loss and legacies of love.
- It is envisioned that the new film will shine a light on the violence of COVID-19 vaccine injustice and the new generation of activists in South Africa and the USA fighting to ensure that lack of access to dignity and healthcare becomes history.

Engagement in key and strategic campaigns

- In April, the African Alliance worked with Muslim and Christian leaders to garner support for a PVA Global Campaign statement reminding world leaders that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. Muslim leaders were positive, with many signing the statement.
- The African Alliance shared the PVA campaign statement with Muslim leaders to get their support by signing the statement released in May in preparation for the second Global COVID-19 Summit.
- The statement's aim was to call on world leaders to take immediate action to address global inequality in access to COVID-19 vaccines. The African Alliance received signatures of endorsement from the following Muslim leaders during Ramadan.

Media

- On the 23rd of March, Tian Johnson, Founder of the African Alliance and Community Co-Chair of African CDC's Vaccine Delivery Alliance, shared reflections on how to make progress in the push for vaccine equity as the world enters the third year of the pandemic—and what African civil society organisations are asking for now.

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/q-and-a-africa-s-fight-for-vaccine-equity>

- On the 31st of March, Tian Johnson, spoke to BBC World Radio about the need to continue pushing to ensure that people on the African continent have access to testing, as test kits are currently expensive and out of reach to many:

<https://youtu.be/tLvOlkRixX0>



Influencing

- In February 2022, the African Alliance took part in a campaign driven by PVA and signed an Open letter to the Moderna CEO and Chairperson calling Moderna to immediately withdraw the mRNA vaccine patents it has filed in South Africa, and to provide technical expertise to the WHO mRNA in South Africa

https://twitter.com/Afri_Alliance/status/1493286931224055810

<https://app.box.com/s/hszkfopwtq3wzky7ow335qbdcvu3dhpi>

- As we entered the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, the African Alliance called on leaders to act to #EndCOVIDmonopolies. In March 2022, the African Alliance participated in the #ENDCOVID Monopolies campaign together with its regional partners:

<https://africanalliance.org.za/end-covid-19-monopolies/>

- In April 2022, reacting to the complaint from a broad civil society coalition, including the African Alliance, the United Nations condemned countries blocking the TRIPS waiver for racial discrimination:

https://twitter.com/Afri_Alliance/status/1520075090335051776

<https://africanalliance.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/PR-CERDStatementCOVID.pdf>

Partnerships

In April 2022, the African Alliance reached out to SOFEPADI, a women-led organisation based in the Ituri Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo to be their Central Africa Regional Partner. SOFEPADI was established in 2000, with a mission to promote and defend the rights of women and girls in order to ensure that mothers and children have access to their basic rights.

Current lessons

- African governments receiving vaccine doses almost at the expiry date and cannot access newer treatment for COVID- 19 for their market.
- Intellectual Property and TRIPs waiver continues to be a stumbling block to manufacturing of commodities and technologies.
- Demand creation.



DRC

Very low vaccination rate with under one percent coverage of the general population and two and a half percent coverage among health workers by mid-April.

DRC faces multiple complex emergencies with 30% of the population in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, resulting in competing priorities.

- vaccination campaigns to vaccinate 11 million Congolese by July 2022.
- A pastoral letter was issued during the Easter holiday by the Catholic Church to encourage vaccination.
- Plans are ongoing to utilize a Papal visit in July to further encourage this.
- The Senate President advanced World Bank MoUs (\$200 million) and sent them to President for signature, unblocking a critical funding bottleneck.
- Agreement by the Senate President to advocate to the Minister of the Interior for vaccinating police and military forces.
- Agreement to bundle COVID-19 vaccination with polio and measles campaigns.
- Provinces, including Kasai Orientale, with higher vaccination coverage have demonstrated that engagement from authorities (especially the governor) is critical for successful vaccination campaigns.
- Agreement on 1.4 million doses at risk of expiry (end of May 2022) to be used in campaigns



ETHIOPIA

There has been remarkable progress with Ethiopia increasing the number of people vaccinated by five times, though facing a complex set of needs due to conflict and its humanitarian emergency

- Over \$4.4 million in funding was provided from UNICEF and WHO to support COVID-19 vaccination operational costs in the Tigray region, where there is ongoing civil war.
- The funding will also support integration of COVID-19 vaccination with the upcoming childhood vaccination campaign in May.
- Ethiopia is working to improve sub-national access to COVID-19 vaccines with plans to integrate at the health post level, following upcoming campaigns.
- Contracts for 5,000 surge support health workers will be extended beyond June 2022, with World Bank funding, consented to by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).
- To complete the primary series of AstraZeneca (AZ) among those who received their first dose, COVAX approved the request for additional AZ doses.

Call for Proposal - COVID 19 advocacy grant.

1. Advocate for equitable, affordable, and proportionate access at national and
2. Campaign to highlight the contribution of pharmaceutical companies in
3. COVID-19 medicines, tests and treatments to cover all LMICs. These includes others.
4. Advocate for increased domestic accountability for fully funded, inclusive
5. Skills strengthening including media visibility and Intellectual Property Rights.
6. Movement building.

Deadline for submitting applications: 30th May 2022 Q&A Webinar held on 20th May, 2022, recording available for reference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNRY-A2rKBU>

Website: www.africanalliance.org.za



Second US COVID 19 Summit.

- Hosted by USA, Belize, Senegal, Germany and Indonesia.
- President Biden called on High Income countries to give:
 - a) USD 1.2 billion for vaccines
 - b) USD 2 billion for treatment
 - c) USD 1 billion for oxygen supply.
- The United States National Institute of Health (NIH) has finalized an agreement with WHO's COVID-19 patent sharing facility (C-TAP) to share the patent rights on 11 government-funded coronavirus medicine and vaccine technologies.³
- Call to redouble global efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future health emergencies.
- Call on leaders to accelerate financial and policy commitments – country by country and community by community

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-mpp-us-c-tap-patent-pool/>

Upcoming International day for action and other key dates

- WTO Ministerial Global Days of Action June 2022
- International AIDS Society Conference, Montreal- Canada July/August 2022
- UNGA Summit +Global Citizen September Concert in South Africa/ Botswana

Campaign Strategies – Group Discussion

- Accountability and monitoring of the promises made during the Second US COVID summit.
- Tracking and monitoring of COVAX and Africa Union’s African Vaccine Acquisition Trust AVAT activities and strategy
- Media and CSO engagement on the current events and activities



THANK YOU