PVA AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, 28 SEPTEMBER, 2022

11:00 SAST/12:00 EAT

Zoom Conference Call

<u>Attendees</u>	
Tian Johnson	African Alliance: Chair
Barrack Owino	Campaign & Advocacy Coordinator PVA Africa, African Alliance
Mohga Kamal	UNAIDS Executive Director, Senior Health & Policy Advisor Oxfam
Euphomia Edward	Program Officer, Children Dignity Forum (DCF) Tanzania
Kavengo Matundu	GCAP Coordinator
Rose Mary Nyakame	Executive Director, REMI East Africa
Mohamed Karsan	Visual Aided Stories

Agenda	Discussion / Action / Raised by 1. African Alliance Welcoming note 2. Adoption of previous meeting minutes 3. Presentation on the PVA Africa contributions to PVA Global Strategy Development 4. Updates on ACT-A evaluation progress 5. Key upcoming dates in Q3-2022 6. AOB
Welcome	1. African Alliance Welcoming Note (Barrack Owino)
Discussions	 2. Adoption of the previous Meeting Minutes • overview of the discussions of the previous meeting - Tian Johnson 3. Presentation on the PVA Africa contributions to PVA Global Strategy Development –
	 Introduce the problem statement COVID-19 has killed over six million people and continues to drive the violence of poverty and inequality. The global North has fully vaccinated and boosted over 70% of its population, while The Global South has only managed to vaccinate half of theirs, thanks to the greed, profiteering, and vaccine hoarding of countries in the global North fuelled by their refusal to share the knowledge and tech for us to produce our vaccines and treatments Four months after the pandemic was declared, a global movement was born. Co-chaired by Oxfam (United Kingdom) and UNAIDS(Geneva), the PVA called for a "free vaccine for everyone, everywhere." African civil society, working on COVID vaccine justice since the onset of the pandemic, joined this global movement to ensure that our voices, priorities, and urgent need to decolonize the response were firmly on the agenda. The home of the PVA in Africa is the African Alliance

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As an African Civil society who has played and will continue to play a critical role in this
movement's leadership and governance, the time has come to co-create our next 12-months
strategy and ensure that we all see ourselves, our work, and our priorities reflected in this
roadmap."

The co-creation processes

- African CSOs are working in the COVID-19 vaccine space.
- CSOs working on access to testing, treatment, and therapeutics, and CSOs that are representative of particular communities
- Selection criteria CSOs that work in the COVID-19 vaccine access advocacy space, including
 access to testing, treatment, and therapeutics; and those working in more than one country
 within the region

Sectors of CSOs Engaged

- Healthcare workers (community health)
- People with HIV
- People who use drugs (PWUD)
- Sex workers
- LGBQI+ and the trans community
- Gender non-conforming individuals, faith-based leaders
- Traditional health practitioners
- Community healthcare workers
- Educators
- Adolescent Girls and young women

The Creation Principles

- PVA Africa collaborated with five regional consultants across each region in Africa (North, South, West, East, and Central Africa) to facilitate the co-creation of priority areas for the PVA Global influencing strategy
- The consultants mapped out African CSO in the five regions to engage in the discussions to gauge how the various CSOs felt the future of advocacy movements like the PVA should be shaped.

Common Priority areas identified.

- The primary question under discussion was: "What do you feel should be the top priorities for the Peoples Vaccine Alliance Africa?"
- No right or wrong answers to the question
- Express their opinions without any inhibitions.
- Chatham House rules.
- Consultants+ two volunteers from each discussion, the African Alliance and the steering committee, developed regional summaries

Overarching contextual Issues

Recognizing and sustaining the historical and ongoing work of the Access to Medicines

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movement

- PVA work should be mainstreamed into historical and existing access to medicine advocacy. Unpack clearly what the timelines, costs, and partnerships would look like
- A shift of power: PVAGlobal2.0—Walking the talk of a decolonized approach to ending this
 pandemic, starting with ourselves. Conduct a power mapping of PVA Global Leadership and
 decision making
- Consider meaningful power shifts from North to South leadership (the need for a Global North-based leadership structure and team vs. meaningful regional and Global South leadership and staffing)

Questions:

- 1. Areas caught with conflict need to be prioritized in fighting Covid-19. How would the Covid campaign be approached in such areas i.e Somalia, DRC. Eritrea
- 2. Areas with more lethal issues arising i.e Uganda's Ebola outbreak can the shared strategy contemplate how to address them? Kavengo Matundu
 - To continue this to have in-depth discussions, to come up with proper parameters on how to handle such issues

4. Updates from the Continent

- Update on **Tanzania**: Low levels of routine vaccine uptake and trust in vaccination due to misinformation of the vaccine
 - Use of visual aid stories in the communities, using the power of art, specifically murals, where transforming locations and attaching a message in an artwork. So that the message can actually speak to the people in their communities. And through time, since 2020, when this campaign started like COVID-19. It's been effective where people actually take immediate action, it's a huge reminder, and it increased the believability of the issue at hand. Most people when they encounter the mural, they try to interact with it. The goal is to get immediate action and to have people having dialogues about it and with the help of African Alliance we will be able to reach further communities, especially in the West Lake region, where majority fishing communities, low literacy. And so visual arts, on big public walls are going to have a huge impact. And it just reinforces about having quality, engagement and diversity of voices. *Mohamed Karsan*
- The last one week, there was very active mobilizations across 15 countries in Africa, on a range of issues, as you know, that was the same week that the UN General Assembly was sitting. So we took the opportunity to highlight a number of issues to address them directly to the leaders. Right for at the national level. And also regionally, and also, and then globally. And there were gatherings of people, we normally call them people's assemblies, where people really come together at the grassroots level, and discuss a range of issues. And COVID was one of the key issues that was under discussion. And that the end in each one of the 15 countries that the issue, declarations or letters addressed to their respective governments on issues to take more seriousness on COVID. And that also went to the United Nations itself. So there was that kind of engagement in some countries

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	in South Africa, Eastern Africa, Central and West Africa. And just as Steven said, we seem also to have a challenge in the northern part of this region. So that is what we did at the global level, we also issued a declaration that will be communicated to the United Nations, and one of the key issues that has been raised, and the same issues that we've been discussing under PVA – <i>Kavengo Matundu</i> • We have been engaged in a number of advocacy initiatives during the COVID-19 and even also as a matter of working within our intervention, we have been also encouraging the communities to take the vaccine. Now, with this information, this strategy, I have also enhanced my understanding on what other people are doing to encourage communities and everyone to take the COVID vaccine – <i>Euphomia Edward</i>
	5. Key upcoming dates in Q3-2022
	• Next meeting will be on 26 th October 2022 – Barrack Owino
	-END
Any Other business	
Adjournment	