



People's Vaccine Alliance Africa

Civil Society Meeting

July 26, 2023

Hosted by the [African Alliance](#)

Name of the Rapporteur:	Takudzwa Kampira
Organisation responsible for the meeting	The African Alliance
Meeting name:	PVA Africa Monthly CSOs meeting

This document contains a report of the proceedings, deliberations, and resolutions made during the 2023 PVA-Africa remote CSOs meeting hosted by the African Alliance on from 26th of July.

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 a briefing on the work of the PVA Africa thus far while also developing improved mechanisms for amplifying African voices within the PVA and better coordinating African vaccine access and equity efforts.

Participants

Participant	Organization
Princess Akona	KNUST
Barrack Owino	African Alliance
Kristine Yakhama	Good Health Community Program
Martie Mtange	African Alliance
Takudzwa Kampira	African Alliance
Daraus	Purpose Healthcare
Kapil	Department of Health South Africa
Thulisile Maziya	Wixsite
Goerge Jobe	MHEN
Youba Darif	
Nelda	KNUST
Mercy Ogwel	African Alliance

Table of Contents

Meeting Objective	3
Participants.....	3
Meeting Agenda & Key Points.....	5
Agenda Item 1: What is the People’s Vaccine Alliance Africa?	5
What is The African Alliance	5
The Peoples Vaccine Alliance	5
PVA Africa.....	6
Agenda Item 2: Membership Landscape	6
Sectoral Representation within PVA Africa	7
Agenda Item 3: Understanding Community Engagement & Empowerment – A Perspective from Purpose Health Care.....	8
Importance of Community Based Organisation in Times of Crisis: PHC's Role during the COVID-19 Crisis	8
Campaigns and Community Awareness Programs	9
Health Education.....	9
Significance of Community Engagement and Empowerment	10
Enhancing COVID-19 Awareness and Vaccination in Kawempe slums, Kampala City	10
Agenda Item 4: Understanding Community Engagement & Empowerment – A Perspective from Good Health Community Programs.....	11
Area of Focus.....	11
Community Engagement and Empowerment.....	11
Vaccine Distribution and Storage	12
Agenda Item 5: Panel Discussion.....	13
Questions and Answers	13

Meeting Agenda & Key Points

Agenda Item 1: What is the People's Vaccine Alliance Africa?

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

- What the Alliance stands for,
- The sub-granting process,
- PVA Africa strategy development
- Membership Landscape

What is The African Alliance

The African Alliance is a 100% African-led and staffed global health non-profit that works across diverse portfolios, including work to ensure that communities - in all their diversity - are meaningfully engaged in all aspects of COVID-19 vaccine research development and eventually equitable access. The African Alliance was formally founded as a queer-led non-profit organization in 2013 to provide a space where some of the continent's best minds

in the development and transformation space could come together to collaborate, strategize, and collectively advance rights-based work with a shared understanding of our past, our present and our hopes for the future. Over the years, the work of Alliance has grown from being a consultancy agency to a full-service non-profit with partnerships and networks globally with an equally diverse portfolio of work.

The Peoples Vaccine Alliance

The People's Vaccine Alliance is a coalition of over 90 organizations and networks supported by Nobel Laureates, health experts, economists, Heads of State, faith leaders, and

activists, working together for a People's Vaccine, available free of charge to everyone, everywhere.

PVA Africa

The People's Vaccine Alliance (PVA) - Africa's role is to ensure that the voices, priorities, and work of African activists and communities, in all of our diversity, are meaningfully reflected in the global position of the PVA. PVA Africa also ensures that interventions, strategies, and approaches to address the lack of access to COVID-19 vaccines are addressed on our (African) terms. We do this by ensuring that the work of indigenous organizations in all five regions of the continent is spotlighted and supported and shapes our collective advocacy. Housed in the African Alliance, PVA Africa, under the guidance of the Steering Committee, comprises leaders of five regional networks and never loses sight of our collective desire for the decolonization of public health and rights-based access to products and science that saves

lives, keeps us healthy and accelerates our right to dignity as Africans.

Martie also emphasized the following points:

- The intended target audience of the People's Vaccine Alliance Africa,
- Forthcoming opportunities.

In conclusion, Martie provided a succinct overview of the coordination of work within the People's Vaccine Alliance Africa. He also communicated the organization's enthusiasm for more African members, particularly from underrepresented North African countries. Participants were urged to register through the provided link.

[link](#) here

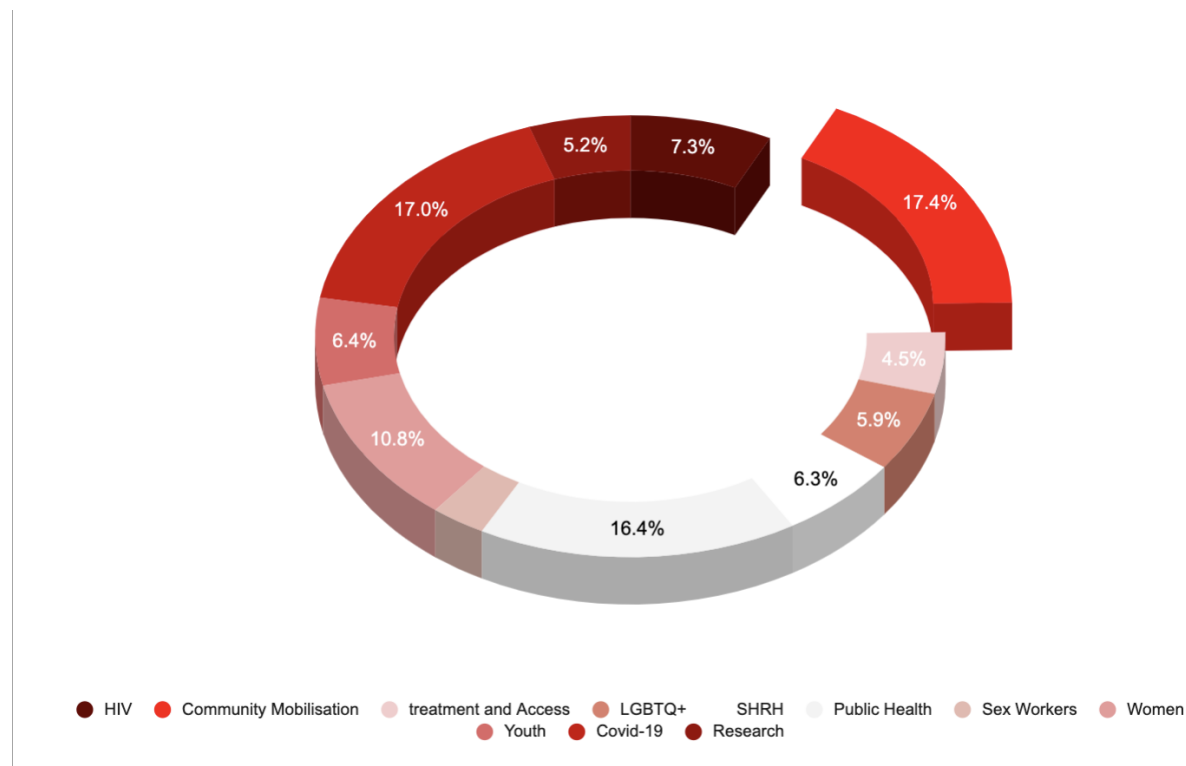
Agenda Item 2: Membership Landscape

Takudzwa Kampira, the Membership Coordinator of PVA Africa, presented an overview of the organization's membership landscape. PVA Africa is committed to ensuring that African voices are adequately represented in global affairs. To achieve this, PVA Africa collaborates closely with a network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across the continent, referred to as PVA Africa Members. Presently, PVA Africa

boasts 93 validated and active members spanning across the five regions of Africa.



Sectoral Representation within PVA Africa



Members of PVA Africa represent a diverse range of sectors, including community mobilization, public health, women's advocacy, and research among others. This diversity is a deliberate strategy to ensure that the Alliance represents all demographic groups within African communities, particularly those often marginalized. The sector with the most considerable representation is community mobilization, accounting for approximately 17.4% of all members.

The sector with the least representation within PVA Africa is sex work, which constitutes about 3% of all members. PVA Africa extends an open [invitation](#) to organizations working with sex workers to [join](#) the Alliance. The organization aims to network with more organizations representing the health rights of sex workers, ensuring their adequate representation in all health-related interventions.

Agenda Item 3: Understanding Community Engagement & Empowerment – A Perspective from Purpose Health Care

Daraus Bahikire from Purpose Health Care (PHC), a youth-led non-governmental organization based in Uganda, delivered a presentation titled “Understanding Community Engagement and Empowerment”. PHC aspires to cultivate

empowered populations and resilient communities, contributing to sustainable health and development in Uganda. PHC seeks to achieve this through community dialogues, research, risk communication, and capacity building.

Importance of Community Based Organisation in Times of Crisis: PHC's Role during the COVID-19 Crisis

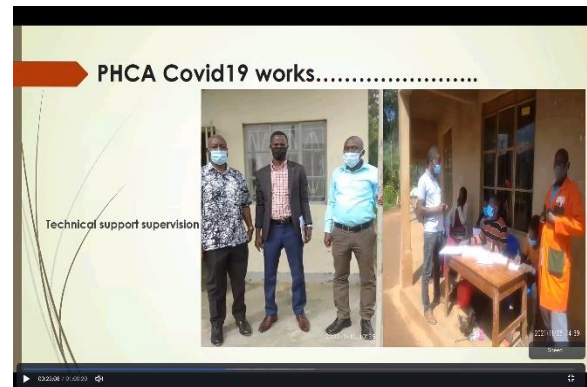
During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, PHC launched awareness programs to educate the public about the virus, its transmission, and preventative measures. The organization also worked tirelessly to combat misinformation and disinformation surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine, thereby improving its accessibility.



Campaigns and Community Awareness Programs



PHC partnered with local authorities in Uganda to combat disinformation through social media campaigns and national radio broadcasts during the pandemic's peak. The



organization also offered technical support to local ministries to enhance the effectiveness of their awareness campaigns.

Health Education



PHC conducted health education across various counties in Uganda, focusing on individuals visiting health facilities for the COVID-19 vaccines. The organization



educated the public about how vaccines work, their effectiveness, and the importance of encouraging others to get vaccinated such as achieving herd immunity

Significance of Community Engagement and Empowerment

Daraus Bahikire emphasized that community engagement and empowerment can foster trust and credibility, aiding compliance, especially during health crises. Such engagement also helps alleviate anxieties and fears surrounding new drugs and treatments

by fostering a sense of ownership rather than imposition. Furthermore, community engagement aids in navigating socio-economic differences through tailored interventions.

Enhancing COVID-19 Awareness and Vaccination in Kawempe slums, Kampala City

Objective	Activities
To enhance stakeholders and influencers' involvement in vaccination activities in Kawempe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identification and mapping of stakeholders and influencers (local political and religious leaders, artists etc.)▪ Engagement workshop for stakeholders and influencers
To increase COVID-19 awareness among residents in Kawempe slums	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ VHT orientation on Covid19 communication basics▪ Community activations▪ VHT mobilization activities▪ Local media activities (audio towers)
Facilitate and promote COVID-19 vaccinations in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Orientation of vaccination teams on current vaccination best practices▪ Rotational vaccination outreaches at selected sites

With over four million residents residing in Kampala's slums, accounting for over 60% of the city's population, this demographic remains one of the most under-vaccinated groups in the country. To address this

disparity, Purpose Health Care is set to launch an initiative titled "Enhancing COVID-19 Awareness and Vaccination." This campaign aims to bridge the gap in vaccination access between slum dwellers and other segments of

the population, thereby contributing to a more equitable health landscape.

Agenda Item 4: Understanding Community Engagement & Empowerment – A Perspective from Good Health Community Programs

Kristine Yakhama, a representative from Good Health Community Programmes, delivered the second presentation on “Understanding Community Engagement and Empowerment”. Good Health Community Programmes is a women led grassroots organisation working in Shinyalu sub county, Kakamega Kenya



Area of Focus

Good Health Community Programmes advocates for women's, children's and adolescent's healthcare. The flagship program of Good Health Community Programmes is SRMNCAH + 1 (Sexual

Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health plus Immunisation).

Community Engagement and Empowerment

At During the peak of the pandemic, Good Health Community Programs facilitated mass education at market places and other social gathering points. The organization encouraged mothers to visit health facilities for vaccinations and reinforced adherence to

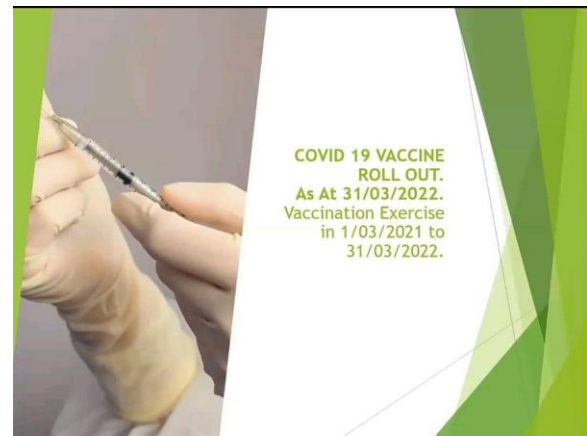
COVID-19 preventive measures, such as social distancing and hand hygiene. The organization also helped facilitate immunization for children during lockdowns.

Vaccines Audit

Good Health Community Programmes carried out a vaccine audit program in Kakamega county during the peak of the pandemic. The audit aimed to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccine drive in the region. The audit encompassed a review of budget allocation, vaccine sources, barriers to access, and distribution.

The audit revealed that the county government had not specifically budgeted for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, leading to funds being diverted from other vaccination programs such as child immunization. This

highlighted the critical importance of pandemic preparedness.



Vaccine Distribution and Storage

The audit also highlighted shortcomings in the storage and distribution of vaccines, with a notable obstacle being the lack of facilities with the capability to store vaccines at the recommended temperature. This situation

reflects the broader state of health facilities in many African countries, underscoring the urgent need for investment in pandemic preparedness and community empowerment.

Agenda Item 5: Panel Discussion

Questions and Answers

David:

In your community engagement efforts, was there diversity in the languages used? If so, what impact did it make that we can learn from? Additionally, since Kenya is now classified as a middle-income country, are there any commitments to allocate local resources towards vaccine equity?

George:

How is the situation of vaccine hesitancy in your communities, and how are you addressing it? In Malawi, vaccine hesitancy

remains a significant obstacle to vaccine access. What, in your opinion, is the best approach to combat this?

Answers:

Daraus: It's crucial to use dominant native languages in each community you operate in when creating awareness material, as we did in Uganda.

The best way to combat vaccine hesitancy is to engage the communities directly through public participation. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership rather than imposition, which is a significant step towards improving vaccine access.