



PORTS2ARMS TOOLS SUMMARY – MAY 2023

Introduction

Ports2Arms (P2A) is a public health accountability mechanism that uses a Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) approach to monitor and document barriers and enablers on the ground to COVID-19 vaccine, testing, and treatment access and uptake. This ensures communities are better prepared for and able to respond to future pandemics. This project is being piloted in South Africa by the African Alliance, funded by and in partnership with the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the National Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). We have also successfully tested the engagement tool's practicality in Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, South Africa, and DRC.

The P2A Community-Led Monitoring Approach

The P2A approach is powered by community engagement; therefore, building relationships with partners and key stakeholders in-country (at local and national levels) is essential to the success of the community-led monitoring approach. The strong relationship enables access to information, facilitates joint sense-making of the data, collective influencing, and advocacy – and ensures that the information collected is owned by communities to serve their best interests.

As part of the process, a data monitor (community-based organisation) undertakes a series of data collection and monitoring activities through relationship building with key stakeholders. This is done using a fortnightly monitoring report (provincial), a monthly provincial summary report, an ad hoc incident report, and a monthly national summary report.

The P2A Tools

1. The Fortnightly Report

The Fortnightly Monitoring Report captures quantitative and qualitative data on a fortnightly basis. The report provides a high-level summary of stakeholder engagements conducted by the data monitor, a provincial data summary (within the fortnight period) and civil society best practices e.g., raising awareness for demand creation and vaccine access. Other key sections include Advance Notification, Current Vaccine Stock, and On-going Clinical Trials. The Media Monitoring section tracks the provincial media coverage of COVID-19 infections and vaccination status, and any other related issues that may contribute to barriers to vaccines, testing or treatment therapeutics distribution, access, and uptake, such as service protests, health worker strikes, infrastructure issues inhibiting supply chain access, etc. The data captured in the two fortnightly reports feed into the monthly report.

2. The Monthly Report

This Monthly Report provides a monthly summary of the collated data covering a province and districts. The report captures an overview of the province and its COVID-19 response over the past three years, a monthly data summary (total) which includes data at the start of the month and the end of the month. The report also provides an overview of stakeholder and community engagements from the month. The Summary Analysis provides a summary of responses from the co-analysis discussions with the community members and a summary of the barriers and enablers to vaccine distribution and access. The Media Coverage section provides a summary of the key issues related to COVID-19 that were highlighted in the media (mainstream and

social) over the course of the month. The report also tracks the extent to which the Government has achieved the national vaccination target.

3. The Incident Report

This report documents specific incidences of barriers, roadblocks and bottlenecks encountered throughout the COVID-19 vaccine, tests and treatment distribution and uptake process. It includes summary information (location, witness accounts, civil society notification, media and so on) as well as an assessment of the type of barrier and implication for the country's national COVID-19 response strategy and vaccine rollout plan.

4. The Monthly National Report

This report provides a monthly national summary of the collated data from the provinces as provided by the provincial partners. The report provides an overview of the country and its COVID-19 response over the past three years, a data summary, media coverage stakeholder and community engagement, and a summary analysis at the national level.

5. A Guide to Semi-Structured Discussions

This is a 'lite' guide, intended to support the partner in having semi-structured conversations with key stakeholders and community members, and to ensure some consistency in terms of what we ask to support the data collation and analysis process where we have similar themes across all the conversations. Questions are adapted depending on the context of the conversation and with whom it takes place.

The Co-analysis Process

The co-analysis process draws on a light synthesis of the data collected over the month by the partner, presents it to community members to make meaning, and then takes that information to prepare a monthly summary report for the province. This is then shared with the African Alliance and community participants and used to generate monthly briefings to key stakeholders, Op-Eds, learning papers, and research reports. A very high-level summary of barriers and enablers and good practices would then be shared on an online Tracker.

