



People's Vaccine Alliance Africa

Civil Society Meeting

June 29, 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 made during the 2023 PVA-Africa remote CSOs meeting hosted by the African Alliance on from 29th of June.

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
Rasigan Maharajh	Tshwane University
Barrack Owino	African Alliance
Kristine Yakhama	Good Health Community Program
Martie Mtange	African Alliance
Takudzwa Kampira	African Alliance
Ayman Sabae	EIPR
Tian Johnson	African Alliance
Thulisile Maziya	
Muwonge Gerald	
Youba Darif	
Nelda	

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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: Using Science, Research, and Technology to Maximise the Impact of CSOs

Science, technology and research to impact Egyptian communities

Ayman Sabae

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (**EIPR**)
Shamseya for Innovative Community Healthcare Solutions



Ayman, a representative from the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), delivered a presentation titled “Science, Technology, and Research: Influencing Egyptian Communities”. EIPR, a human rights organization, has been operating in Egypt for over two decades, addressing human rights violations, socio-economic rights, rights of individuals with disabilities who are often deliberately discriminated against, and access to justice, among other issues. EIPR applies a rights-based approach across all communities it serves.

Shamseya



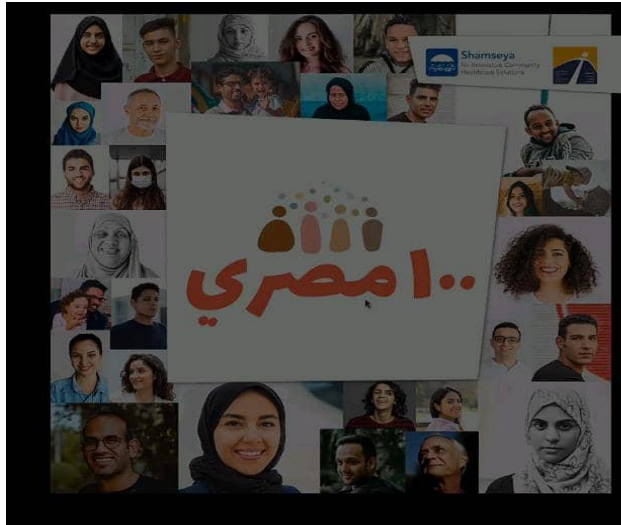
Ayman introduced Shamseya, a social enterprise and non-profit consultancy in Egypt. Its mission involves identifying and resolving various challenges within Egypt's healthcare sector. Shamseya's solutions are people-centered, derived from the firm belief that individuals are the best experts of their own needs and desires. Recognizing the importance of listening to the people, Shamseya gathers their feedback and uses this information to support decision-making processes, thereby giving voice to the community.

Interventions that employ technology, social innovation, and community-led action

Eghospital

COVID-19 lockdowns, when individuals had restricted mobility to seek necessary healthcare services.

Salamatna



This tool serves to notify individuals about which centers provide specific services.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion

Q&A

Nelda: What role do you think we, as university students, can play to help Africa in terms of advancing the role of technology in the health space around Africa?

Martie: What processes does EIPR use to identify interventions? Is it through research or through identifying social needs?

Ayman: this is usually done through the community then EIPR tries to find an intervention that can address the issues in that community.

Martie: Who are some of the stakeholders that EIPR targets the most?

Ayman: It depends on the intervention. For example, if it is research then it targets the government.

Barrack: How best can research be done in a decolonized manner?

Ayman: if you do research in a way that it is from the bottom up, you would have already factored in decolonized research as you will be working with the community.

I have seen a lot of campaigns fighting to drop Intellectual property rights. Don't you think this will suppress innovation, especially now that scientists are not motivated to create the technologies?

Other Inputs from the Discussion

Nelda: As university students, what role do you believe we can play in helping Africa advance the role of technology in the health sector?

Martie: What procedures does EIPR follow to identify interventions? Is it through research or identifying social needs?

Ayman: The process usually begins with the community, from which EIPR identifies an intervention appropriate for the community's needs.

Martie: Who are some of the key stakeholders that EIPR primarily targets?

Ayman: It depends on the intervention. For instance, if it involves research, the government is the primary target.

Barrack: How can research be conducted in a manner that is decolonized?

Ayman: If research is conducted from a bottom-up approach, involving the community at every step, it inherently incorporates aspects of decolonized research.

Nelda: There have been numerous campaigns advocating for the relaxation of Intellectual Property rights. However, don't you think this could stifle innovation, especially when scientists lack sufficient motivation to develop new technologies?

Rasigan: Intellectual property regimes should be viewed with both caution and opportunity. Their appropriate use should be in alignment with actual developmental stages, rather than normative assumptions.

Rasigan: It's crucial to understand that while Intellectual Property rights can provide revenue, our primary concern should be survival. Therefore, IP rights should never supersede human lives.

Rasigan: Many drug discoveries originate from ordinary people's knowledge about what works. However, we have yet to establish an efficient system to capture this knowledge.

Rasigan: We need to bridge the gap between people and science, bringing science closer to society. We should strive to ensure that science works for us rather than on us, and this is best achieved through community-led interventions.

Nelda: I often sense that we, as Africans, have focused too much of our protests towards the West, while neglecting to criticize the inaction of African leaders in advancing/supporting technology in the health sector.

Rasigan: People are experts in their own needs. Hence, community involvement in decision-making is crucial.

Rasigan: When we acquire knowledge through research and other platforms, we must question the theoretical perspectives shared with us. Through such critical analysis, we can identify conditions detrimental to us and propel research that genuinely benefits us.