



People's Vaccine Alliance Africa

Civil Society Meeting

August 30, 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 the 30th of August.

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
David Awusi	Youth Rise International
Barrack Owino	African Alliance
Kristine Yakhama	Good Health Community Program
Martie Mtange	African Alliance
Takudzwa Kampira	African Alliance
Daraus Bahikire	Purpose Healthcare
Marlise Richter	Health Justice Initiative
Thulisile Maziya	Wixsite
Goerge Jobe	MHEN
Youba Darif	Roots Lab for Gender and Development
Elliot Orizaarwa	Women and Girl Child Development
Tom Muyunga-Mukasa	AdNetA
Timothy Wafula	
Rasigan Maharajh	
Rodrick Vuxika Mhlongo	
Rachel Meloyer	
Maccollins Chisale	
Peter Owiti	

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Meeting Agenda & Key Points

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks and Introductions?

The PVA Africa CSOs meeting held on August 30, 2023, focused on important discussions about vaccine equity and justice. The meeting featured a special guest, the Health Justice Initiative (HJI), represented by Dr. Marlise. The key highlight of the meeting was the discussion surrounding HJI's legal action against the South African government regarding vaccine procurement and transparency. This report aims to summarize the important points discussed during the meeting.

The meeting commenced with greetings and introductions, with participants expressing their excitement to have Dr. Marlise from HJI as the guest speaker.

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

The coordinator of the People's Vaccine Alliance Africa (PVA Africa), Martie extended a warm welcome to all attendees and emphasized the significance of their continued work towards health justice and vaccine equity across the African continent.

The coordinator together with the African Alliance team gave presentations on the People's Vaccine Alliance, providing details on:

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

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

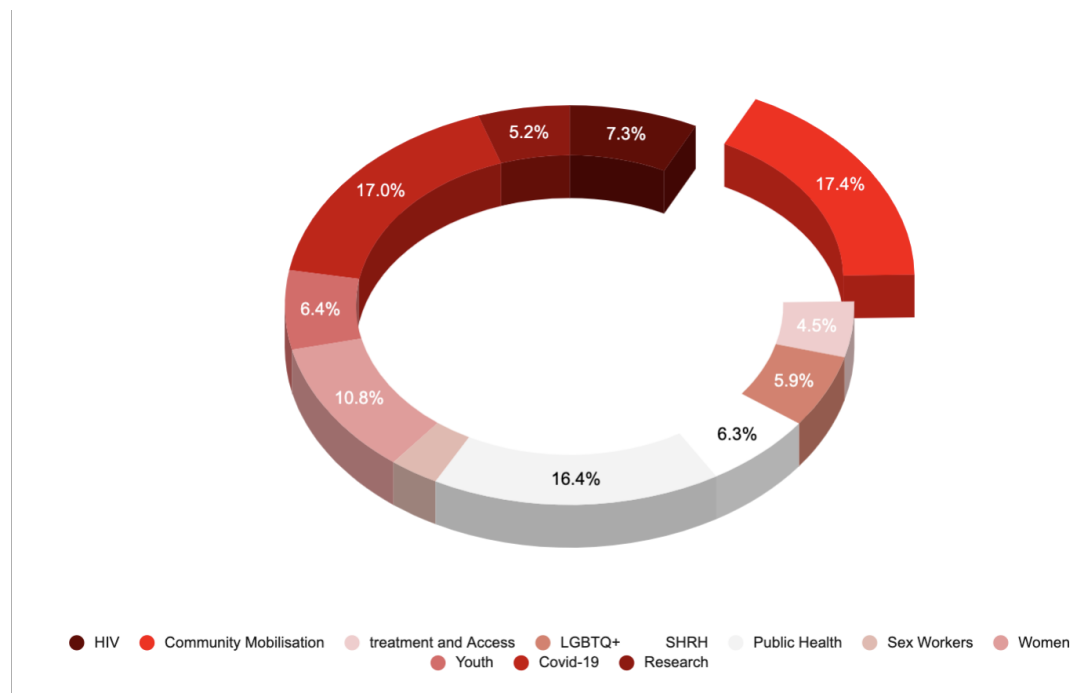
Agenda Item 2: Membership Landscape

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: Health Justice Initiative Case Against the South African Government

Background on Health Justice Initiative (HJI)

Dr. Marlise provided a detailed introduction of the Health Justice Initiative, which focuses on the intersection of health, law, racism, and sexism. The organization aims to address issues of health equity, access to healthcare, and transparency and accountability in South Africa and the African continent as a whole. Their work includes advocacy for fair access to life-saving medical technologies, research on equitable benefit-sharing in clinical trials, and promoting transparency in the health sector.

Pandemic Transparency & the HJI 'Open Contracts' case

#PandemicTransparency
There can be no secrecy in a pandemic

HEALTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Presented by:
Marlise Richter

Date:
30 Aug 2023

PVA Africa CSO meeting

marlise@healthjusticeinitiative.org.za

The Open Contracts Case against the South African Government:

Dr. Marlise, from the Health Justice Initiative (HJI), provided a detailed presentation on the open contracts case against the South African government. The case focused on the issue of vaccine procurement and the lack of transparency and accountability surrounding the contracts signed between the government and pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The HJI argued that in order to build trust in the government's pandemic response, it is crucial for the public to have access to the contracts that were signed. The contracts would provide important information on the terms of the agreements, pricing, delivery schedules, and any conditions that may have been imposed by the pharmaceutical companies.

The presentation emphasized the significance of transparency in vaccine procurement, especially during a global public health emergency. The HJI believed that the secrecy surrounding the contracts undermined the management of the pandemic and contributed to vaccine hesitancy and distrust in the government.

Dr. Marlise highlighted several concerns regarding the contracts, such as the possibility of South Africa paying inflated prices compared to other countries, restrictions on exportation of vaccines, and the absence of recourse for late or non-delivery of supplies. The HJI argued that making the contracts public would enable greater accountability and support efforts to avoid corruption and ensure fair access to vaccines.

The open contracts case received a favourable judgment from the court, with the judge ruling that the government should provide the vaccine contracts within a certain timeframe. The HJI rejected a request by the government for an extension, stressing the importance of transparency and accountability.

The presentation concluded by stating that the case could have a significant impact on both South Africa and other countries. If successful, it would provide valuable insights into the agreements made between governments and pharmaceutical companies, potentially leading to more equitable and transparent vaccine procurement practices in the future.

Overall, Dr. Marlise's presentation highlighted the importance of open contracting in the context of vaccine procurement and the need for transparency

and accountability to ensure trust in government decision-making during public health emergencies.

Significance and Impact

The South African court's decision and the ongoing case have significant implications for vaccine equity, transparency, and accountability across Africa. By exposing potential irregularities and ensuring greater transparency, the case aims to strengthen

public trust, advocate for fair vaccine procurement practices, and prevent corruption. The outcome of this case may pave the way for other countries to demand open contracting and accountability in their own contexts.

Agenda Item 4 Discussion: Member Contributions and the African Movement

During the meeting, participants shared their experiences and challenges in obtaining access to information from governments and local governing bodies. Examples were provided from Kenya and Ghana, highlighting the importance of civil society's

role in demanding accountability and transparency. The need for a global movement to hold both the source and recipient countries accountable for public funds and resources aligned with the discussions.

Conclusion

The PVA Africa CSOs meeting on August 30, 2023, proved to be a significant platform for discussing vaccine equity and transparency in health procurement. Dr. Marlise's presentation on HJI's case against the South African government highlighted the

importance of access to information and accountability. The successful outcome of the case could set a precedent and influence global efforts to demand transparency in vaccine procurement and pandemic response.

Overall, the meeting emphasized the need for greater transparency and accountability measures, both at the national and global

levels, to ensure fair access to vaccines and ultimately achieve health justice and equity for all.

[Link](#) to the meeting