



People's Vaccine Alliance Africa

Civil Society Meeting

November 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, deliberations, and resolutions made during the 2023 PVA-Africa remote CSOs meeting hosted by the African Alliance on the 29th of November

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
Tampose Mothopeng	The Peoples MATRIX Association
Barrack Owino	African Alliance
Kristine Yakhama	Good Health Community Program
Martie Mtange	African Alliance
Takudzwa Kampira	African Alliance
Daraus Bahikire	Purpose Healthcare
Thulisile Maziya	Sinatsisa Lubombo
Youba Darif	Roots Lab for Gender and Development
Elliot Orizaarwa	Women and Girl Child Development
Tom Muyunga-Mukasa	AdNetA
George Jobe	MHEN
Prince Thompson	
Rodrick Vuxika Mhlongo	
Mary Ger	SHAPE
Peter Owiti	Wote Youth Development Projects

Table of Contents

Meeting Objective	3
Participants.....	3
Meeting Agenda & Key Points.....	5
Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks and Introductions	5
Agenda Item 2: What PVA Global Overview	5
Agenda Item 3: PVA Africa Membership Overview.....	6
Regional Representation	7
Sector Representation.....	7
Media Training.....	7
Survey on Membership Communication	7
Sponsorship of Lamar's Participation in Brazil Meeting	7
Future Funding Support	8
Agenda Item 4: PVA Africa Coordination, Advocacy, and Research.....	8
Campaigns against Big Pharma	8
Standing in Solidarity with the Health Justice Initiative	8
Investigative Journalism against Corruption in Malawi.....	8
Marking Three-Year Anniversary of COVID-19:	9
The Mothers Film	9
Infographics on COVID-19 Statistics.....	9
Presentations in Nigeria	9
Agenda Item 5: PVA Africa Sub-Granting	9
Agenda Item 6: Discussion	11
Conclusiom	11

Meeting Agenda & Key Points

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks and Introductions

The PVA Africa Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Meeting, held on the 29th of November 2023, served as a platform for members to convene, celebrate significant strides made over the year, and engage meaningfully in shaping future actions. The meeting aimed to update the attendees on the various activities undertaken by the PVA Africa network in 2023 and foster a sense of engagement and collaboration among the participants.

The meeting was divided into seven thematic sections, each focusing on a distinct facet of the network's work. These sections included an overview of the PVA Global initiatives, an evaluation of PVA Africa's membership growth, updates on coordination and advocacy, discussions on research activities, a review of sub-granting projects, and a forum for questions and answers.

Throughout the meeting, transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness were emphasized as fundamental values of the PVA Africa network. Striving to amplify the voices, priorities, and efforts of African activist communities within the global public health sphere, PVA Africa tackled the pressing issue of vaccine hoarding by the West and monopolisation of intellectual property by big pharmaceutical companies. Through social media campaigns PVA Africa campaigned for vaccine equity and challenged the monopolization of knowledge and intellectual property related to vaccine production.

This report offers a succinct summary of the key highlights, outcomes, and initiatives discussed during the meeting. It serves as a beneficial resource for members to reflect on the progress made and pinpoint avenues for future collaboration and action.

Agenda Item 2: What PVA Global Overview

Martie commenced the meeting with a comprehensive overview of the People's

Vaccine Alliance (PVA) Global. He shed light on the alliance's origins and objectives, which were formulated in response to the COVID-19

pandemic, vaccine inequality, and injustice. He noted the challenges African nations encountered in securing vaccines and treatments, while wealthier nations managed to procure larger supplies.

PVA Global brought together Nobel laureates, presidents, former heads of state, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for vaccine equity and challenge the monopolization of knowledge and intellectual property related to vaccine production. The main goal was to ensure affordable and universal accessibility to vaccines.

Martie emphasized that PVA Global's work focused on the Global South, including regions such as Asia and Latin America. The global team operated numerous campaigns and groups, such as the Influential Group, which aimed to enlist influential individuals worldwide to combat vaccine inequality.

As part of PVA Global, PVA Africa aimed to ensure the voices, priorities, and work of African activism communities were reflected in global public health discussions. By focusing on COVID-19 vaccine equity and access, the

Agenda Item 3: PVA Africa Membership Overview

Takudzwa presented an overview of the PVA Africa membership, spotlighting key activities related to membership engagement.

network strived to identify and advocate against policy and industrial barriers to treatment and access.

PVA Africa's leadership comprises a steering committee, with Tian Johnson as its chairperson and Sandrine as the vice-chairperson. Other principal members include Rouzeh, representing Southern Africa, Onesmus representing East Africa, and Florita representing West Africa. Alternate members include David of YORI for West Africa, Youba Darif for North Africa, and Tampose for Southern Africa.

Martie also provided a snapshot of membership overview, coordination, advocacy activities, research efforts, and sub-granting initiatives, underscoring successful projects and engagements in each domain.

He expressed gratitude for the members' support and involvement in PVA Africa's activities, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in addressing vaccine equity and access in Africa.

Throughout 2023, PVA Africa experienced substantial growth, with the member count escalating from 41 to over 97 by the year's end, marking a remarkable increase of over 100%.

Regional Representation

PVA Africa's membership saw significant growth across the five African regions in 2023. In Southern Africa, 37 members represented countries like Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Botswana. East Africa's membership grew to 23, primarily from Kenya and Tanzania. Efforts were also made to establish representation in North Africa, resulting in a handful of members from Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco. The upcoming year's objective is to further expand membership in countries such as Somalia and Sudan. Central Africa saw a noticeable increase in membership, with representation from countries like Cameroon and Congo.

Sector Representation

PVA Africa is a diverse network with its members working in different sectors such as community mobilisation, research, public health etc. From the membership review

majority of PVA Africa members were engaged in community mobilization and public health initiatives, reflecting the network's commitment to grassroots engagement. However, there was recognition of the need to increase representation from specific sectors such as sex workers' rights and mental health.

Media Training

In May 2023, PVA Africa conducted a successful media training workshop aimed at equipping members with the necessary skills for advocacy efforts to ensure vaccine equity in the continent. The training equipped members with valuable skills in journalism, interview preparation, and effective communication. Several members benefited from this training and have since actively engaged in media campaigns and interviews with one member-David From YORI [publishing](#) in one of the national newspapers following the trainings organised by PVA Africa, on the crucial topic teenage pregnancy in Ghana.

Survey on Membership Communication

PVA Africa conducted a survey to gauge the effectiveness of its communication. The results revealed that members found the network's communication channels, such as Twitter and WhatsApp, invaluable in disseminating accurate information and staying updated on current affairs. The survey also highlighted members' appreciation for PVA Africa's robust network in driving positive change and its unwavering commitment to supporting activists and communities.

Sponsorship of Lamar's Participation in Brazil Meeting

Taku shared the exciting news of Lamar, a PVA Africa member, being sponsored to attend a

health and climate conference in Brazil. Representing PVA Africa, Lamar highlighted the network's advocacy efforts throughout the year, emphasizing vaccine justice issues across the continent. This participation underscored PVA Africa's crucial role in global health dialogues.

Future Funding Support

Taku reassured members that PVA Africa remains committed to supporting them by

providing information on funding opportunities and offering assistance in proposal writing. Recognizing the resource mobilization challenges faced by members, particularly in West Africa, PVA Africa aims to foster collaborations, leverage collective expertise, and secure funding to support member organizations in executing impactful projects.

Agenda Item 4: PVA Africa Coordination, Advocacy, and Research

The Martie presented on a range of campaigns and initiatives undertaken by PVA Africa throughout the year to promote vaccine equity, enforce institutional accountability, and heighten awareness about COVID-19.

Campaigns against Big Pharma

PVA Africa partook in digital advocacy campaigns against major pharmaceutical companies on social media platforms. The campaigns aimed to expose these companies' malpractices during the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on African countries. By

voicing concerns and ensuring accountability, PVA Africa aimed to combat vaccine injustice and ensure fair access to vaccines.

Standing in Solidarity with the Health Justice Initiative

PVA Africa stood in solidarity with the Health Justice Initiative during their case against the South African government. Martie accentuated the need for advocacy towards transparency and accountability in the healthcare sector. By supporting Health Justice Initiative through social media, PVA Africa demonstrated its commitment to addressing the misuse of COVID-19 funds and fighting for justice in healthcare systems.

Investigative Journalism against Corruption in Malawi

PVA Africa supported investigative journalism efforts in Malawi, specifically targeting the corruption of COVID-19 funds. Martie highlighted the collaboration with media organizations in training journalists on

investigative reporting. The aim was to expose the mishandling of funds and ensure that those responsible for corruption would be held accountable.

Marking Three-Year Anniversary of COVID-19:

To commemorate the three-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, PVA Africa launched billboards in Durban and Johannesburg, strategically reminding communities of the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic. This initiative aimed to renew the call for vigilance and accountability from governments and pharmaceutical companies regarding pandemic preparedness and response.

The Mothers Film

Martie showcased "The Mothers Film," which explored the impact of COVID-19 on the relationships between girls and their mothers. The film highlighted the experiences of those who had lost their mothers during the pandemic and emphasized the importance of acknowledging their grief and supporting them through their healing process. This initiative aimed to bring attention to the human aspect of the pandemic and underscore the need for compassionate responses. The film is in the final stages with plan to release it in the first quarter of 2024.

Infographics on COVID-19 Statistics

PVA Africa developed infographics to present COVID-19 statistics, including the number of cases, deaths, and vaccination rates across different regions of Africa. This visual representation aimed to increase awareness and promote dialogue about the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, while also emphasizing the need for equitable vaccine distribution and access.

Presentations in Nigeria

In collaboration with partners, PVA Africa sponsored 5 of its members to attend a decolonisation of research conference held in Nigeria. Members from PVA Africa also presented during the conference advocating for the importance of decolonised health on the continent. By engaging in these discussions, PVA Africa aimed to ensure that African voices were included in policy development and decision-making processes.

PVA Africa actively leveraged Op-Eds and social media to raise awareness about vaccine inequity and advocate for improved access to vaccines. These platforms were used to reach a wider audience and to keep the issues of vaccine equity at the forefront of public discourse.

Agenda Item 5: PVA Africa Sub-Granting

Barrack presented the Sub-Granting section, spotlighting the successful implementation of sub-grants during the year. The sub-granting initiative aimed to support indigenous organizations in their COVID-19 advocacy and related work across the African region.

A key achievement of the sub-granting program was the training of 10 journalists in investigative journalism by Purple Innovation in Malawi. These journalists were equipped with the necessary skills to conduct investigations and write impactful stories related to COVID-19 fund mismanagement. As a result, 10 stories were published, shedding light on the misuse of funds in Malawi. The stories have contributed to raising awareness and holding the government accountable, and some cases are being investigated further with the support of anti-corruption boards.

In Uganda, an initiative trained nine rural healthcare workers on storytelling for vaccine equity. These healthcare workers were taught how to effectively communicate issues surrounding vaccine equity and share stories of change within their communities. The project resulted in the collection of nine videos highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on rural communities and the importance of equitable vaccine distribution. These videos

are currently being edited and will be shared to amplify the voices of these communities.

Additionally, three national expert consultations were held in Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco. These consultations brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from WHO, the World Bank, and Ministries of Health, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on health systems in North Africa. The consultations provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by the region and paved the way for future collaborations and interventions in North Africa.

Overall, the sub-granting program has been instrumental in supporting grassroots organizations and facilitating impactful projects in various regions. The success of these initiatives demonstrates the commitment of PVA Africa to address COVID-19 related issues and advocate for equitable vaccine access and distribution.

Going forward, PVA Africa aims to continue supporting indigenous organizations through further rounds of sub-granting. The network will actively seek funding opportunities and prioritize projects that align with its strategic goals. The goal is to expand the impact and outreach of PVA Africa, particularly in underfunded regions such as West Africa, and strengthen the coordination and collaboration

among members in pursuit of health justice for all Africans.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion

George Members engaged actively in the meeting by providing inputs and asking questions. They expressed their appreciation for the transparency and accountability demonstrated by PV Africa in updating members on the work conducted throughout the year.

Mary mentioned the need to explore additional funding opportunities and suggested incorporating the element of mental health into fundraising efforts. She offered her support in linking vaccine access with mental health and expressed their willingness to provide technical assistance in this area.

David from YORI commended the effectiveness of the media training provided by PVA Africa, sharing their own success in engaging with the government and healthcare system through media channels. They

expressed the challenge of resource mobilization, particularly in West Africa, and requested capacity building sessions to enhance fundraising skills and expand their funding base.

PVA Africa acknowledged the feedback and expressed their commitment to supporting members in capacity building and resource mobilization. They highlighted their plan to provide training sessions for fundraising and encouraged members to reach out whenever they come across relevant calls for proposals or need assistance in nominations for awards.

The discussion concluded with members expressing gratitude and offering continued support for the network's initiatives. PVA Africa reiterated their dedication to collective growth and the importance of collaboration among members.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the PVA Africa CSOs Meeting held on November 29, 2023, was a successful event that provided members with a comprehensive update on the network's achievements throughout the year. The meeting covered various important aspects, including the overview of PVA Global, membership updates, coordination and advocacy activities, as well as the sub-granting initiatives.

During the meeting, it was evident that PVA Africa has made significant strides in advocating for vaccine equity, pandemic preparedness, and strengthening healthcare systems across the continent. The network demonstrated its commitment to amplifying the voices of African communities and ensuring their priorities are reflected in global health discussions.

The presentations highlighted the impactful activities carried out by PVA Africa, such as media training, supporting investigative journalism, facilitating national expert consultations, and engaging in digital advocacy campaigns. These efforts have contributed to raising awareness, promoting accountability, and addressing the challenges faced by African populations in accessing vaccines and healthcare services.

Moving forward, PVA Africa emphasized the importance of resource mobilization and fundraising to sustain its work and expand its

impact. The network encouraged members to collaborate and support each other in writing proposals and concept notes, leveraging the collective expertise within the network to secure funding for vital projects.

Overall, the PVA Africa CSOs Meeting provided an enriching platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration among members. The dedication and passion exhibited by the network members demonstrated their commitment to achieving health justice and equitable access to vaccines for all Africans.