

CALL TO ACTION

UPTAKE OF COVID-19 VACCINATION IN AFRICA

We, the Religious Leaders from the different faith communities in Africa, Health Actors from Christian Health Associations (CHAs) and faith-based Drugs Supply Organizations (DSOs) and interested parties having met in-person and virtually on **23rd - 25th March 2022** and held discussions focusing on the status and challenges of COVID-19 vaccinations uptake in Africa.

Having come together as faith health systems and communities, we commit to continue offering health services based on our values anchored on spiritual support and wholeness; to creating welcoming communities, and to full respect for the God-given dignity of all people regardless of age, gender and health status;

Seeking to ensure that all people are granted equal treatment and access to quality health services including information on COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination uptake in society through our places of worship; and in our health and education facilities as well as in our communities;

Recognizing that, we are all affected by COVID-19 pandemic in different ways, socially, economically and psychosocially including loss of loved ones and that the uptake of vaccinations has been slow in some of the countries in Africa; and that the ripple effects of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), mental health challenges and economic crunch affects us all;

Acknowledging that together with all people, we are one human community, united in the love of God;

Understanding the need to move beyond the theoretical, political and legal debates, to practical partnerships between the faith-based health systems, the African governments and development partners in protecting the rights and dignity of people, families and communities affected by COVID-19 and as well promoting their education levels and responsibilities around vaccinations uptake;

Appreciating the proactive efforts of the vaccines and medicines manufacturers, African Governments, Local and International partners to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and the open collaboration with religious institutions, faith-based facilities, and DSOs;

Mindful of our religious duty to love one another, and to care for the vulnerable and marginalized in our society and to as well ensure that they live responsibly;

We jointly therefore call upon:

The African Governments:

1. To provide collaborative efforts and partnership with CHAs and DSOs in delivery of COVID-19 vaccination uptake.
2. To provide access to COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, care and treatment services in all government and faith-based institutions.
3. To allocate domestic resources towards research and development of vaccine plants in the African region.
4. To collaborate fully with faith leaders in delivery of messages to communities on COVID-19 in order to dispel myths and misconceptions.
5. To actively include CHAs and DSOs in the planning and implementation of COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.
6. To provide comprehensive care for orphans and vulnerable population.
7. To integrate community-based surveillance in the health system.

The Development Partners:

1. To continually provide resources towards building the capacity of religious leaders on COVID-19 vaccinations and other emerging issues.
2. To support CHAs and DSOs in the process of reporting and documentation of uptake and adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccinations evidence.
3. To support the mobilization of resources towards the establishment of a vaccines hub in Africa.
4. To support the development of the capacity of researchers in Africa.
5. To strengthen partnership with Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and other stakeholders to collaborate effectively in response
6. To collaborate with and built on the capacity of faith leaders to scale up demand for vaccination uptake.
7. To support Development of data bases to inform decision making.

8. To support in developing of policies governing equitable vaccine access in African countries.
9. To support the faith-based leaders CHAs, and DSOs develop/adopt/ domesticate emergency response and preparedness guidelines.

The European Union Member States and US Government:

1. To continually provide resources towards building the capacity of religious leaders on COVID 19 vaccinations and other emerging issues.
2. To promote and support an equitable system of vaccine distribution and response through COVAX Facility.
3. To support countries in Africa in terms of financing large national campaigns and fill the huge vaccines logistics funding gaps.
4. To support initiatives that address vaccine hesitancy within the local context using appropriate information.
5. To consider the fact that without technology transfer and building up regional response capacity there will be more mutations that will put all of us at risk.
6. To support a full patent waiver for COVID-19 vaccines diagnostics and treatments as demanded by South Africa and India together with 65 co-sponsors within World Trade Organization(WTO).
7. To strengthen local production capacities of medicines in Africa through long-term financial and technical partnerships.
8. To attach "access conditions" to public funds for pharmaceutical companies and other actors in research and development of medicines, such as the mandatory transparency of the use of such funds, fair prices and worldwide, in particular African, availability of medical products to be developed.
9. To financially and politically support platforms for COVID-19 health tools, such as the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool C-TAP, the Medicines Patent Pool MPP, and the South African based World Health Organization (WHO) mRNA Hub, in order to enhance knowledge sharing and technology transfer for better access to health tools for Africa.

We, the Religious Leaders do hereby commit:

1. To support vaccination initiatives within the places of worship and related platforms by;

- a. Make use of the available information on vaccines and disseminate messages within the places of worship and related platforms.
- b. Encourage the congregation to know their COVID-19 status when they exhibit symptoms.
- c. Constantly talking about the importance of COVID-19 vaccination uptake during worship session and Lead by example in taking the vaccination.
- d. Support and partner with ministries of health and CHAs to bring vaccinations closer to the people through congregational response.
- e. Encouraging vulnerable groups to uptake COVID-19 vaccinations through the provision of accurate information.
- f. Support continued advocacy for vaccination uptake through existing platforms.
- g. Discuss COVID-19 related comorbidities such as diabetes, hypertension and other Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
- h. Support in addressing myths and misconceptions surrounding COVID-19 Vaccination Hesitancy.
- i. Establish a community of practice for continued capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange.
- j. Provide comprehensive care for orphans and vulnerable population.
- k. Support the development, adoption and domestication of emergency response and preparedness guidelines for use by faith communities and faith-based health systems.

We Christian Health Associations and our Drug Supply Organizations Commit;

1. To support vaccinations initiatives within the Church health systems and the community:

- a. Sensitize communities using available scientific evidence on the importance of vaccination.
- b. Address underlying barriers to acceptance of vaccination by providing health information to communities.
- c. Build capacity of religious leaders and other community gatekeepers with updated information on vaccination.

- d. Collaborate with ministries of health to ensure access and availability of vaccines at faith-based health facilities.
- e. Encourage the health care workers of their own facilities to take the vaccination and act as role models.
- f. Provide input, capacity close cooperation for the planning and implementation of national vaccination campaigns.
- g. Provide supportive supervision to health care workers to help them deal with challenges during emergency response.
- h. Equip health care workers with skills in emergency response.

2. To support vaccines deployment and supply chain initiatives within the countries:

- a. Continue lobbying and advocating for vaccine access with their respective stakeholders and national and international supporters.
- b. Avail DSOs supply chain experience to support vaccines deployment in hard-to-reach areas and participate in countries' initiatives to build their cold chain capabilities for vaccines.
- c. Continue improving DSOs and CHAs capabilities in emergency procurement of medical products and PPEs.
- d. Promote local manufacturing capacity development for health security commodities and encourage related African Union's initiatives.
- e. Continue promoting Pooled Procurement initiatives for health commodities and other health devices in Africa.



Dr. Richard Neci Cizungu,
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Ecumenical Pharmaceutical
Network




Ms. Nkatha Njeru,
Coordinator / Chief Executive
Officer,
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Platform.




Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki,
General Secretary,
All Africa Conference of Churches.



Organization logo	Representative	Organization logo	Representative
Burundi		Cameroon	
	Réseau des Confessions Religieuses pour la promotion de la Santé et le Bien Être intégral de la Famille (RCBIF) Mr. André Bizosa, General Secretary		Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services Prof. Tih Pius, Health service Director
Chad		Cote d'Ivoire	
	Association Evangélique pour la Santé au Tchad Dr. Djékadoun Ndilta, Chief doctor		Initiatives Chrétiennes Pour la Promotion Humaine (ICPH) Mr. Bamba Mamadou, Permanent Secretary

Democratic Republic of Congo			
	Community of Baptist Churches in Central Africa Mr. Isaac Muyonga, Health Department Director		Depot Central Medico-Pharmaceutique (DCMP 8e CEPAC) Ph. Georges M. Mutombo, Director
	Eglise du Christ au Congo ECC Mr. Nicolas Mihuhi, Medical Coordinator		
Germany			
	German Institute of Medical Mission Dr. Gisela Schneider, Director		Bread for the World, Rev. Dr. Dagmar Pruin, President
Ghana			
	Christian Health Association of Ghana Dr. Peter K. Yeboah, Executive Director		Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana Mrs. Rebecca Ackwonu, Volunteer Church Worker
Guinea			
	Reseau Confessionnel Sanitaire Chretien de Guinee, Dr. Goumou Emmanuel, Coordinator		
Kenya			
	Christian health Association of Kenya Dr. Samwel Mwenda, General Secretary		International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV (INERELA+) Kenya Chapter Rev. Jane Ng'ang'a, National Coordinator
	Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church Rev. Margaret Obaga, Coordinator		
Liberia		Malawi	
	Christian Health Association of Liberia Mrs. Patricia S. Kamara, Executive Director		Christian Health Association of Malawi Mr. Happy Makala, Executive Director
Mozambique			
	Conselho Cristão de Moçambique Rev. Joao Damiao Elias, Secretary General		

Nigeria			
	Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) Very Rev. Evans Onyemara, General Secretary		Christian Health Association of Nigeria (CHAN) Mr. Michael A. Idah, Secretary General
	ECWA Central Pharmacy Limited Mr. Jonathan Dogo, Managing Director		Faith-Based Central Medical Foundation Sr. Jane Frances Chioke, Chief Executive Officer
Sierra Leone			
	Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone Ms. Florence Bull, Health Coordinator		Council of Churches, Sierra Leone Mrs. Keziah Kargbo, General Secretary
South Sudan			
	Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA) Rev. Tut Mai Nguoth, Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Fundraising Officer		
Switzerland		Uganda	
	World Council of Churches Dr. Mwai Makoka, Programme Executive for Health and Healing		Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau Dr. Tonny Tumwesigye, Executive Director
United States of America			
	World Without Orphans Dr. Susan Hillis, Senior Technical Advisor		
Zambia			
	Council of Churches in Zambia Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya, General Secretary		Reformed Church In Zambia, Dr. William Zulu, General Secretary
Zimbabwe			
	Zimbabwe Association of Church-Related Hospitals Mrs. Vuyelwa Chitimbi, Executive Director		Zimbabwe Council Of Churches Mr. Justice Tapatapa, National Health Coordinator