

African  
Union



AFRICA CDC

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
Safeguarding Africa's Health



## THE LAST STRETCH: TO END THE COVID19 PANDEMIC

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

Like all other continents, the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged Africa, exacerbating existing inequalities and vulnerabilities in the process. Given the transmissibility of the virus combined with its capacity to mutate into different and more resistant strains, public health experts agree that vaccination remains the only realistic path to finally halting the spread of the virus. As of January 2021, the African Union had reserved a total of 1.27 billion doses of the vaccine from different multilateral and bilateral sources, with delivery estimated in the second half of 2021 and early 2022. The continent is set to commence vaccination across Member States soon. However, in Africa, a flood of misinformation and fake news surrounding COVID-19 vaccine regarding its safety and efficacy stands in the way of the continent catching up with the rest of the world in recovering from the pandemic or being left behind. Against this background, the African Union ECOSOCC in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the Africa CDC, is embarking on a continental COVID-19 Vaccination Sensitization campaign aimed at ensuring that the wider African public has access to verified information on the COVID-19 vaccine from authoritative sources in the African public health community, with particular focus on the Africa CDC.

#### Objective

To promote accessibility and use of the COVID-19 vaccine to build herd immunity in Africa and thereby halt the spread of the pandemic and its impact on development in Africa.

#### Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of the various COVID-19 vaccines, their safety, efficacy, and side effects.
- Strengthened sense of shared responsibility among African citizens regarding the choice of immunization as the most effective tool against the spread of COVID 19.
- CSO engagement mechanism activated to support the Africa CDC and AU Member States in promoting and administering a safe and effective vaccination program in Africa.
- Public accountability for the management of the continental COVID-19 immunization strategy.
- Ensure the African public to recognize and counter misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Methodology

- Conduct a baseline mapping of information needs on the COVID-19 vaccine in Africa
- Organize online webinars sessions on COVID-19 vaccine, new strains and resilience building,
- Coordinate ECOSOCC National Chapters and General Assembly members and AfDB Civil Society Network with engagement in the promotion of effective COVID 19 response,
- Develop a compendium of best practices of CSOs contribution to building community resilience for COVID-19 response.
- Deployment of mass media tools for effective communication through the hiring of a PR company

## Inclusiveness & Continental Outreach

In an endeavour to optimise the outreach, the webinar sessions will be held in all AU working languages

## Webinar Dates

The Inaugural Session is scheduled for Friday 05th March 2021 (1130 UTC/1330 CAT). Dates for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> sessions planned for April, May and June respectively will be published on our website and social media platforms.



*Lusaka, 24 February 2021*