

# Strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccines uptake in COMESA Member States: Lessons learnt



4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**WEBINAR**

#COVIDvaccines #VaccinesWork #CovidVaccineSavesLives #CovidVaccineRollOutCOMESA



## Introduction

The advent of the COVID-19 towards the end of 2019, and its subsequent fast spread across the world has caused countries to impose travel restrictions and lockdowns among other measures to contain the spread of the virus. The deaths caused by the virus have been mounting. Fortunately, several leading medical institutions have developed vaccines for the virus. However, African countries have had differing experiences in the uptake of the vaccines. Thus, the Africa Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in collaboration with COMESA has identified the need to create public awareness and sensitization on COVID-19 vaccines among its Member States. Subsequently, **a two-day webinar** for the 21 COMESA Member States will be conducted on **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021**.



## Objective of the Webinar

To conduct a webinar on strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccine uptake in COMESA Member States through experience sharing.

### Specific Objectives

- Identify possible reasons behind slow uptake of the vaccines by some COMESA Member States. (Analyse the response of 5 surveys question on vaccines hesitancy)
- Strengthen strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccine uptake in COMESA Member States
- Strengthen experience sharing among COMESA Member States on COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

### Expected Outputs:

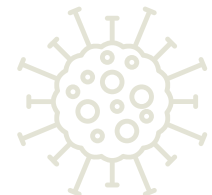
- Reasons and causes of the low uptake of vaccine in the Member States identified
- Enhanced capacity of COMESA Member States to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake in their countries
- Strengthened interactions between the COMESA Member States on the COVID-19 response and vaccine.



## Organisation of the Meeting

The two-day meeting will be held virtually on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Central African Time (GMT +2) on both days, with the following participants:

1. Minister of Health, Republic of Rwanda as Guest of Honor
2. Secretary General of COMESA
3. Director of Africa CDC
4. Permanent Secretaries from the ministries of Health from each of the 21 COMESA Member States
5. Representatives from Member States
  - a. Extended Programme Immunisation (EPI) program managers
  - b. COVID-19 response coordination managers
6. COMESA Secretariat staff in Zambia (COVID Taskforce members and others)
7. Participants from the Africa CDC Southern, Eastern and Central Africa RCC
8. Representatives from partners (WHO Afro, US CDC Zambia, WFP Zambia, GAVI, Public Health England Zambia, UNICEF regional office, BMG regional office, World Bank Zambia, Global Fund Zambia, Africa Development Bank, AMREF, AU ECOSOCC).
9. Representatives from COMESA Institutions outside Zambia
10. Participants from Regional Economic Communities (SADC, EAC, ECCAS, IGAD, IOC)
11. Representatives from the Africa RCC regional offices
12. Representatives from the Africa CDC HQ
13. Civil society organizations
14. Invited media



# Meeting Agenda

## Day 1: Wednesday, 4 August 2021

| Time                 | Event description  | Responsible Person  | Chair for the session |
|----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 10.00-10.05          | Introduction   | ALL   | COMESA                |
| 10.05 -10.15         | Opening remarks  | Dr. John Nkengasong, Director, Africa CDC                       |                       |
| 10.15-10.25          | Opening remarks.   | H. E Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe,<br>Secretary General of COMESA.  |                       |
| 10.25-10.40          | Guest of honour  | Hon. Dr. Daniel Ngamije,<br>Minister of Health, Rwanda          |                       |
| 10.40-10.45          | Objectives of the meeting  | COMESA  |                       |
| 10.45-10.55          | COVID 19 situation in Africa with a special focus on COMESA Member States. | Africa CDC HQ   |                       |
| 10.55 -11.10         | COVID 19-vaccine situation in Africa and snapshot of COMESA Member States. | Dr. Nicaise Ndembi,<br>Senior Advisor on Vaccines<br>Africa CDC |                       |
| 11.10- 11.35         | Questions & answer session.  | Africa CDC  |                       |
| <b>11.35 - 11.45</b> | <b>Break</b>   |   |                       |
| 11.45 - 12.15        | Experience sharing from Zimbabwe/Uganda on fostering vaccine uptake.       | Zimbabwe/<br>Uganda   | Partner - AMREF       |
| 12.15-12.25          | Question and answer.   |   |                       |
| 12.25 – 12.30        | Closing remarks.   | COMESA  |                       |

## Meeting Agenda (cont'd)

### Day 2: Thursday, 5 August 2021

| Time                 | Event description  | Responsible Person                            | Chair for the session |
|----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 10.00 -10.05         | Introduction   | ALL   | COMESA                |
| 10.05 -10.30         | Vaccine hesitancy and AEFI   | WHO -AFRO                                     | Africa CDC            |
| 10.30 -10.50         | Questions & answer session   |   |                       |
| 10.50 - 11.20        | Strategizing on vaccine roll out: Rwanda experience.                                   | Rwanda  |                       |
| 11.20 -11.40         | Questions & answer session   |   |                       |
| <b>11.40 - 11.50</b> | <b>Break</b>   |   |                       |
| 11.50 -12:15         | Promoting Demand for Health and Immunization Services and COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance. | UNICEF regional office                        | MS from Eastern RCC   |
| 12.15 -12.25         | Closing remarks and way forward.   | Dr. Ahmed Ouma<br>Deputy Director, Africa CDC |                       |
| 12.25 -12.30         | Closing remarks  | COMESA  |                       |



# Keynote Speakers

## Chief Guest



**Dr. Daniel Ngamije**

Minister of Health – Rwanda

Dr. Daniel Ngamije has been Rwanda's Minister of Health since February 2020. He leads the development and execution of the Health Sector Strategic Plan. Prior to this, he served as the Director for Malaria and neglected tropical diseases in WHO's Country Office, based in Kigali. Before that, he spent 10 years (2007-2017) coordinating mobilization of resources and implementation of projects funded by multilateral and bilateral partners of the Ministry of Health through a single projects' implementation unit. Dr. Ngamije is a member of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB), an

independent monitoring and accountability body to ensure preparedness for global health crises. He has served in different capacities in the Rwandan health system since 1995. For the last 12 months, he led the development and successful implementation of COVID-19 comprehensive response plan.

## Africa Union - Centre for Disease Control



**Dr. John N. Nkengasong**

Director – Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

African Union Commission

Twitter: @JNkengasong

Dr Nkengasong is the Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition to this role, he is one of the WHO Director-General's Special Envoys on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response. He was most recently awarded the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's 2020 Global Goalkeeper Award for his contributions to the continental response in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. Prior to his current position, he served as Acting Deputy Principal Director of the Center for Global Health and Chief of the International Laboratory Branch, Division of Global HIV and TB for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr Nkengasong holds a Master's degree in tropical biomedical science from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and a doctorate in medical sciences (virology), from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

## Keynote Speakers (cont'd)

### Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa – COMESA



**H. E. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe**

Secretary General – COMESA

@ChilesheKCOMESA

Ms Kapwepwe was appointed Secretary General of COMESA in July 2018. She has vast experience in both private and public sectors with service in both local and international organizations spanning 30 years in middle and top management. She has worked in various sectors including the motor industry, trade facilitation and quality assurance, aviation and government. She has served as Chief Financial Officer, Managing Director of the National Airports Corporation Limited, Deputy Minister of Finance, Member of Parliament in Zambia and as an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, representing 23 African countries. Ms Kapwepwe is a Chartered Accountant and also holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Bath, U.K.

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### About COMESA

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa is a regional economic community comprised of 21 Member States which have agreed to co-operate in developing their natural and human resources for the good of their people. These are Burundi, Comoros, D.R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. COMESA's focus is on the formation of a large economic and trading bloc that is capable of overcoming the barriers that individual states face.

<https://www.comesa.int/>

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## About the Africa CDC

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), as a specialized technical agency of the African Union, aims to support African Union Member States in their efforts to effectively respond to public health emergencies. This is through capacity building of public health professionals and technical assistance to countries to address complex health challenges. To fulfill its mandate, Africa CDC has recognized a strong need for partnerships to deploy public health assets timeously, effectively, and efficiently across Africa. Strengthened collaboration among Africa's laboratory systems is a prerequisite for building resilient continental health security architecture.



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