Partnerships for Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa (PAVM)

The Call to Action
Agenda 2063 is Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent’s strategic framework that aims to deliver inclusive and sustainable development. Agenda 2063 aligns with the Sustainable development goals, and its priorities include improving health outcomes, health systems and health security.

A new public health order is needed to meet the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and for Africa to be resilient, to adapt, and to cope with 21st-century disease threats.

The Four Pillars of the New health Order are:

1. **Expanded manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics**
2. **Strengthened public health institutions**
3. **Strengthened public health workforce**
4. **Respectful, action-oriented partnerships**

**Vaccine Manufacturing sites in Africa**

- **Institut Pasteur de Tunis**
  - (BCG)

- **Egy Vac (Vacsera)**
  - (BCG-T, Tuberculin, Tetanus, Typhoid, DTP, Cholera)

- **Institut Pasteur Algeria**
  - (Rabies)

- **Institut Pasteur Dakar**
  - (Yellow Fever)

- **Innovative Biotech**
  - (Plan to manufacture vaccines)

- **Biovaccines**
  - (Plan to manufacture vaccines)

- **Biovac**
  - (BCG, Measles, Pneumococcal conj., Hepatitis B, DTP, Polio, Hib and HepB)

- **Aspen Pharmacare**
  - (J&J COVID-19 candidate vaccine)

**Limited vaccine manufacturing capacity**
The beginning
– African Vaccine Manufacturing summit

On 12-13 April 2021, the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC) hosted a two-day Summit focused on "Expanding Africa's Vaccine Manufacturing for Health Security." Over 40,000 people attended via Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook, hearing from more than 70 expert panelists.

Major outcomes arising from the Summit were:

1. A commitment to developing a detailed "Framework for Action" with key milestones on the way to reaching 60% local manufacturing of Africa's routine vaccine needs by 2040;
2. The launch of the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), by H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, Chair of the African Union Commission and President of the DRC;
3. The live, virtual signing of two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the African Union and CEPI, and Afreximbank and the Africa Finance Corporation.

The ambition
– To Produce 60% of vaccines used in Africa by 2040

At the Summit, the African Union set a bold goal: that by 2040, African countries should themselves produce at least 60% of the vaccines they use instead of the 1% manufactured regionally today.

This is a multi-year effort. We have taken the first steps to express a clear ambition for the continent for 2040, articulate the potential intermediary stages on that journey, and define clear short-term priorities to get underway.
The Enabling Environment
- Africa needs to act immediately to take advantage of new technologies and put in place enabling factors

- Act now to take advantage of momentum, while establishing long-term political commitment
- Accelerating existing continental efforts such asAfCFTA and the AMA can support the clearing of regulatory and infrastructure barriers.
- Technology choices (e.g. mRNA) and transfer will be key to unlocking vaccine manufacturing, while Africa builds its R&D capabilities
- IP is not always the biggest barrier, and can be unlocked with the right enabling environment

- Funders are eager to support; manufacturers need additional support with project preparation
- Africa’s got talent: capability-building and attracting the diaspora home will be important
- Concerted efforts to achieve demand certainty are critical to make the opportunity attractive to manufacturers
- Partnerships will be necessary: partners will need to act together to unlock the enabling environment

Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) launched to coordinate efforts to build the enabling environment

Steering the ambition
- the PAVM Task Force

Africa CDC is leading the creation of a central PAVM Task Force with a clear mandate, operating model, and governance structure. The Task Force will support partnerships in creating an environment conducive to the emergence of a thriving manufacturing base. It will also steward a continental strategy that efficiently maintains both scale and cost-competitiveness and guards against vaccine nationalism should future demand surges emerge across part or all of the continent.

The Task force is at the centre of the PAVMs governance structure, an inclusive, expert-driven, scientifically rigorous governance mechanism to ensure that the vaccine manufacturing ambitions for Africa are driven by the best evidence available.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, President Macky Sall of Senegal, and President Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission met Uğur Şahin, CEO and Co-Founder of BioNTech in Berlin at the Barenboim-Said-Akademie to discuss the development of sustainable vaccine production for Africa.
The PA VM play a strategic role in supporting, as required, countries and manufacturers in the course of developing their local manufacturing capacity. It is already engaging through the Africa Union to support the countries with the most developed ambitions (“frontrunners”) specifically, to understand their interest in vaccine manufacturing and offer support from the PA VM.

In Gqeberha, Dr Nkengasong and team had the opportunity to visit the Aspen Pharmacare plant where the fill-finish for the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine takes place and have a strategic discussion on the prerequisites and potential of continental manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, including vaccines.

The visit included an in-depth presentation by Dr Stavros Nicolaou and his team on Aspen's history, and prerequisites for its success and topics to address for future growth and development. During a visit to the production site, the delegation discussed the capacity available and needs – in terms of capabilities, technology and materials – for the further development of continental manufacturing.

Finally, in a strategic discussion, including Aspen Pharmacare’s CEO, Mr Stephen Saad, Dr Nkengasong and team discussed the potential next steps, including a role in the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), spearheaded by the African Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We cannot any longer sustain this continuous dependence on imports, particularly in the midst of a pandemic that we’re witnessing today, and for that matter any future pandemic,”

Dr Stavros Nicolaou,
Aspen’s Senior Executive for Strategic Trade Development. Aspen Pharmacare

By deploying a coordinated regional strategy, Africa can establish vaccine manufacturing hubs in each of the continent’s five regions — western, central, northern, eastern and southern. We can become fully responsible for the manufacture of vaccines of three emerging diseases including Ebola, Lassa fever and Rift Valley disease; have capacity to manufacture vaccines for unknown global pandemic for up to 60% of its population, and should be able to meet 60% of its routine immunisation”

Dr John Nkengasong,
Director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
The PA VM has a four-pronged mandate:

- To foster the emergence of a local vaccine manufacturing industry in Africa with the aim that 60% of routine and outbreak immunization vaccines will be produced locally and sustainably by 2040
- Steward a continental strategy that efficiently maintains both scale and cost-competitiveness of local vaccine manufacturing and promotes equity and security for all countries
- Support partnerships to create a conducive business environment that will encourage the emergence of a thriving manufacturing base
- Play intermediation role between Member States and the global community of supporters on an as-needed basis
- Communicate updates and serve as the central source of information for Africa Vx manufacturing

Workstreams drawing on the best expertise and resources across the continent have been established to define and support the creation of an enabling environment for vaccine manufacturing in Africa. These roles of these workstreams are summarized in the image below:
Progress so far

There has been unprecedented interest in vaccine manufacturing in the continent, driven in part by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crises of limited access to vaccines for Africa, but also driven by the optimism articulated through the role of the PAVM.

Since May 2021, the PAVM has been involved in operationalizing a number of “quick-win” projects. These include:

- Establishment of a consortium working to boost mRNA vaccine production in South Africa, gathering the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), the WHO, Afrigen Biologics, Biovac, the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and Africa CDC
- Establishment of a vaccine industry talent development program in partnership with MasterCard Foundation
- Collaboration with CEPI on pandemic and outbreak preparedness, including vaccine manufacturing for COVID-19 and other diseases
- Development of manufacturing hubs in Senegal and Rwanda in partnership with the Team Europe Initiative
- Stewarding a continental strategy – defining a continental strategy and socialization amongst several group of stakeholders
- Engagement of AU Member States in multilateral meetings aiming at presenting the role of and benefits form the PAVM to Member State on the one hand, and increasing the level of transparency of Member States with one another
- Speaking and advocating in global fora

The outputs

The partnership will develop policies tools and guidance to enable the development of a resilience and sustainable vaccine manufacturing ecosystem, fit for the needs of Africa in the 21st century and beyond.

The PAVM outputs include the production of a continents strategy outlining the priority diseases, technology and value chain steps required to meet the goal of 60% African local vaccine manufacturing by 2040. This strategy will be supported by a Framework for action that offers strategic solutions and an implementation plan.

The PAVM will act as a coordinating mechanism for the developing vaccine manufacturing industry and will aim to link organisations offering support with AU member states and public and private sector vaccine manufacturing interests. It will act as a conduit for information on vaccine manufacturing on the continent.
Call for support
– we need you!

Financial investment:
• Support the PAVM secretariat
• Support emerging projects across member states through direct investment
• Support the development of research and development hubs

Enabling access to expertise
• Support strengthening of national regulatory bodies
• Capacity building through training the required workforce
• Enabling technological transfer

Advocacy
• For access to technology and shared intellectual property rights
• Enabling a supportive global environment for an emerging continental industry

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