



**A SAFE, EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE HIV VACCINE
THE CRITICAL ROLE OF DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (DRM)
HIV VACCINE AWARENESS DAY (HVAD) 2019**

AfNHi STATEMENT

AfNHi is an Africa regional advocacy network which exists to unite civil society voices and actions towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. With a vision of “Africa free of New HIV infections,” AfNHi is committed to influencing regional policies that accelerate ethical development and delivery of HIV prevention tools.

While significant progress in reducing HIV and AIDS epidemic has been made through treatment and prevention programs, the rate of new HIV infections remains unacceptably high. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 70% of the global infection (25.6 million people living with HIV). In addition, the continent has the highest incidence of HIV infection especially among adolescents and young people.

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is observed each year to recognize the many volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists working to develop a vaccine to prevent HIV. It is also an opportunity to educate communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research. A safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine is key to ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic. HIV research also includes efforts to develop a vaccine for HIV treatment (called a therapeutic vaccine). A safe and effective therapeutic HIV vaccine could prevent HIV from advancing to AIDS, replace daily use of HIV medicines, and help eliminate HIV from the body.

In public health history, it’s important to note the greatest impact in eradicating or controlling infectious diseases has successfully been achieved through vaccination. However, most of the current HIV prevention methods need regular adherence or daily use. To help end the epidemic, an HIV vaccine which provides long-lasting protection is necessary. Vaccines save lives today, and a new generation of vaccines will save even more lives tomorrow. There are two large HIV vaccine efficacy trials, *Imbokodo* and *Uhambo*, undergoing in the region and a third expected to start later this year. An **effective, affordable and accessible** vaccine will remove the burden posed by rising costs associated with treatment and care of HIV infected populations, moreover it could potentially improve the socioeconomic outlook of Africa.

AfNHi is leading on a campaign to increase domestic resources for HIV prevention research and development. We demand that governments invest in delivery of New HIV prevention tools – to curb new infections, avert more deaths and boost the economy of our nations. Our African prosperity lies in our human capital therefore critical to invest in the health of all people.

On this 18th May 2019 HIV Vaccine Awareness Day 2019, we call on the African Governments and policy makers to;

- 1. Accelerate and sustain efforts to deliver an effective, safe, affordable and accessible HIV Vaccine to end the HIV epidemic**
 - 2. Finance health research and innovation in line with the Bamako commitment – investing at least 2% of national health budgets**
 - 3. All governments and research institutions must ensure vaccine trials are well-conducted and adhere to ethical and meaningful engagement of communities and all stakeholders**
 - 4. Improve research infrastructure in Africa to promote homegrown solutions.**
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Hereby signed by HIV prevention advocates and representatives of communities living with, affected and vulnerable to HIV in Africa;

Sincerely;



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- 1. AfNHi**
- 2. WACI Health**
- 3. Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group (VARG)**
- 4. Advocacy for Prevention of HIV AIDS (APHA)**
- 5. New HIV Vaccine and Microbicides Advocacy Society (NHVMAS)**
- 6. ICASA Youth Front**
- 7. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)**
- 8. Hope for Future Generation (HFFG)**
- 9. Initiative for Solutions Africa (IFSA)**
- 10. Maureen Luba**
- 11. Grace Kumwenda**
- 12. Eric Mcheka**
- 13. Ulanda Mtamba**
- 14. Thandie Msukuma**