



AUDA - NEPAD
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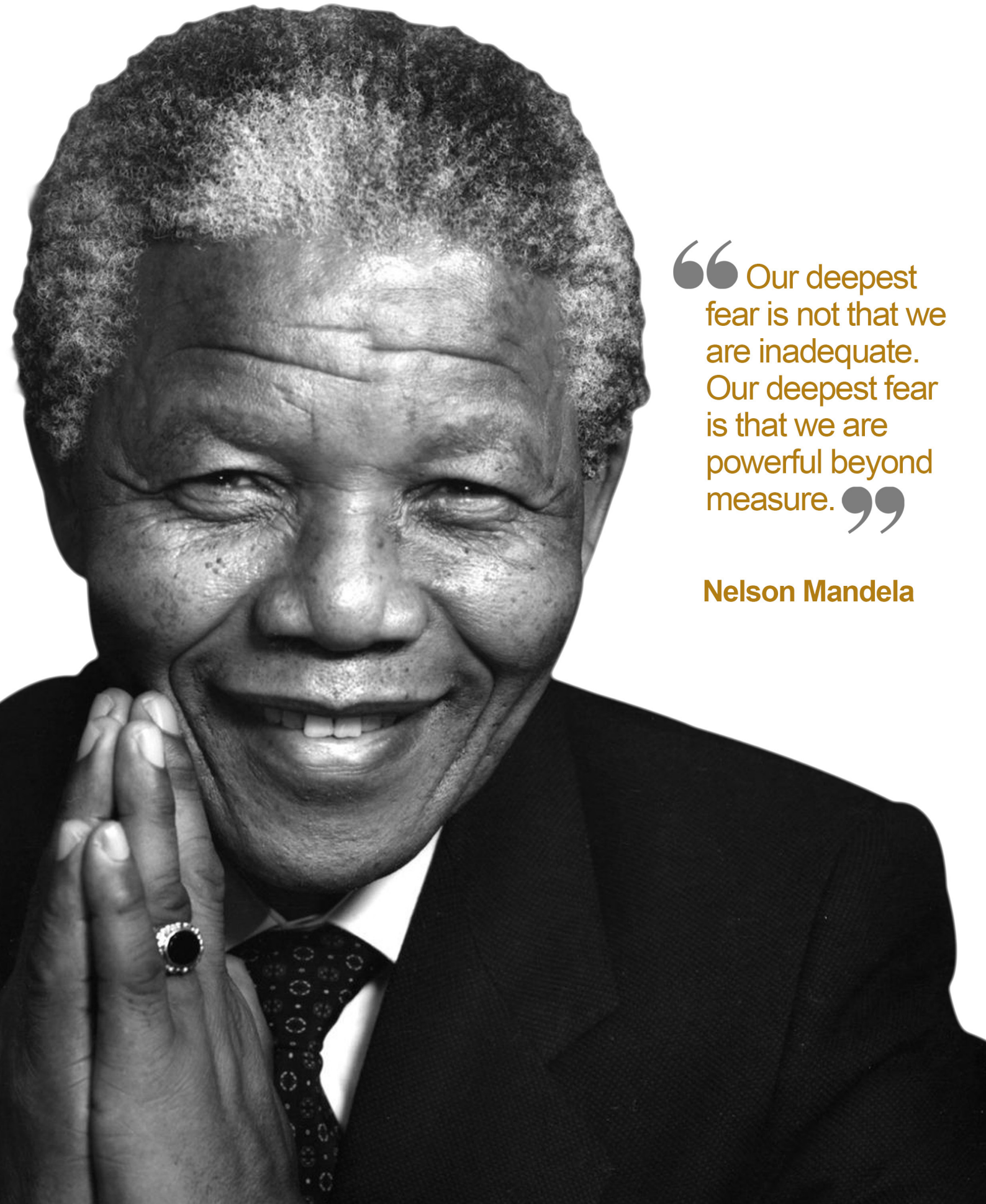
FOOTPRINT REPORT

**AUDA-NEPAD'S COVID-19
WORKPLACE INTERVENTION
BRINGS CHANGE**

**11TH EDITION OF ADFNS:
AUDA-NEPAD TO PLAY AN
ACTIVE ROLE IN THE
COMMEMORATION**

**ENSURING FOOD SECURITY
ON THE CONTINENT**

**THE AFRICAN FINANCIAL
SECTOR AND AUDA-NEPAD
TO SUPPORT MICRO, SMALL
AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**



“ Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. ”

Nelson Mandela

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This Footprint Report is a temporary publication aimed at informing Member States of the African Union on the actions the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is undertaking within the framework of its mandate. Coming up within the context of the various crises sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic, this publication has as aim to maintain the link with our usual interlocutors in the Member States on actions taken towards the implementation of initiatives, projects and continental programs.

In addition to the progress reports provided through the usual channels, this publication will provide an overview of our activities. In line with our mandate to provide Member States with evidence-based technical assistance, this publication will also disseminate informative content for policy makers. The content will cover all areas of development, scope of action of AUDA-NEPAD; with particular emphasis on public health issues, regulatory harmonization and epidemic control.

The global economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has major repercussions on the Member States of the African Union; with the first recession to be expected in Sub-Saharan Africa since 1995. A survey conducted by AUDA-NEPAD in May 2020 among more than 500 African micros, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs) indicated that, more than 75% of them had seen their incomes drop by more than 30% with only 5% of these businesses said they had received enough financial support to keep them in business. In line with the 2013-2023 ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, one of the priorities of the NEPAD Agency is to support the African private sector.

The effects of the crisis, combined with our objective of protecting and creating jobs, has led us to accelerate the implementation of the *“100,000 MSMEs by 2021”* initiative; launched in September 2019 and conceived as a contribution from the Agency to *“1 Million Youth by 2021”* program of the President the African Union Commission - HE Moussa Faki Mahamat.



Amine Idriss Adoum
Director of Program Delivery and Coordination
AUDA-NEPAD

The first activities of *“100,000 MSMEs by 2021”* are already being implemented, with thousands of entrepreneurs supported in many AU Member States. Future editions of this publication will provide more information on the progress of this initiative.

We are optimistic that Africa will overcome the hardship imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The interactions to which we have been accustomed will then be able to resume to a certain extent. Until then, this space is yours. We remain available through the usual channels to collect your feedback and advice to improve this publication.

Enjoy the read.



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SUPPORTING AFRICAN MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND. 100,000 SMES INITIATIVE



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Ecobank Group steps up as first strategic partner to join AUDA-NEPAD's 100,000 SMEs initiative

Throughout the African continent, AUDA-NEPAD is determined to support MSMEs as they struggle to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. With over 30,675 675 confirmed cases, including 954,1417 deaths recorded globally (as reported by the WHO on the 20th of September) recorded cases since its outbreak in late 2019 in china, the coronavirus has steadily spread across the continent affecting all segments of society. With predicted global economic recession and, an estimated impact on smaller economies amounting to a contraction of up to 7.8% according to UNCTAD, the economic future of the African continent remains uncertain.

The impact on business so far is significant with wide- ranging consequences from loss of business due to reduced opera- tional capacity, to drop in demand and suppressed markets with direct and widespread adverse impact on jobs and entre- preneurship. Further- more, large numbers of labour force, Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs) and self- em- ployed entrepreneurs are losing access to their sources of income. It is within this framework that, AUDA-NEPAD reinforced and reor- iented the 100,000 SMEs Program to accelerate African economic transformation and build resilience against economic shocks triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 100,000 SMEs initiative seeks

to build the capacity of 100,000 SMEs in Africa through training on entrepreneurial and business skills in order to improve their access to finance and new markets whilst overall, establishing networks for support and incubation to bolster their success.

In order to make this possible, AUDA-NEPAD organised high-level engagements with managers from various financial institutions and stakeholders which, resulted in numerous stakeholders confirming interest and, Ecobank Group stepping up with the proposal of an immediate activity in support of African MSMEs. A series of training webinars were held in 8 countries (Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Rwanda and Chad) between the 21/08/2020 and 23/09/2020.



Progress achieved this far

In Ghana, 361 participants attended the session live on the 21/08/2020. The content was then customised for the radio and through this, we recorded a total outreach estimated 83,000.

In Togo, 511 participants attended the session live on the 25/08/2020. Just like in the case of Ghana, the content was then customised for the radio and through this, we recorded a total outreach estimated at 6,000 listeners.

In Kenya, 511 participants attended the session live on the 02/09/2020. This content was then customised for the radio and through this, we recorded a total outreach estimated at 950,000.

Nigeria recorded 1,093 participants attended the session live on the 03/09/2020. Ivory Coast recorded 136 participants on the 08/09/2020 and, Niger recorded 474 participants live on the 15/09/2020.

A full report on these series of webinars under AUDA-NEPAD's 100,000 SMEs initiative, will be available in our next issue.

Nutrition



11th edition of the ADFNS

AUDA-NEPAD will on the 30th of Oct 2020, join The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the AU Commission and development partners in commemorating the 11th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, under the theme: *“Resilient Food Systems toward Healthy Diets for the Vulnerable during Emergencies: Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic”*

Commemorated every year since the declaration of The Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) in July 2010 by the African Union Heads of State and Government at the 15th Ordinary Session of the AU Summit in Kampala, Uganda tagged as Decision “Assembly/AU/Dec.327(XV)”.

This, was made in the wake of unacceptably persistent food insecurity epitomized by chronic malnutrition on the continent. Following the decision, the ADFNS was launched in Lilongwe, Malawi on the 31st of October 2010. Successive editions of the Day were hosted by Ethiopia, AU Headquarters, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Tanzania and Egypt.

The main objective of this year’s commemoration is to motivate and, appreciate the underlying benefits and potential that investment in resilient food systems can create. It is also hoped that, the event will generate a momentum toward implementation of continental, regional and national food and nutrition policy.

Taking into consideration the fact that, the overarching aim of the ADFNS is to serve as a platform for rallying political, technical and financial commitments at all levels to address contemporary challenges to the implementation of food and nutrition security interventions in Africa, high level collaboration is an indispensable tool for success.

In this regard, AUDA-NEPAD knows that it can count on all 55 Member States of the African Union to collaborate with the relevant stakeholders and exert joint effort to celebrate the ADFNS as informed by the agreed theme of the event. In addition to the Member States, national agencies and government departments coordinating food and nutrition security programmes, or national response to ending hunger in Africa by 2025, are invited to take adequate action in preparing and commemorating the ADFNS in consonance with the continental celebration of the Day.

With upsetting statistics of undernutrition, over-weight, micronutrient deficiencies, uncontrolled marketing and consumption of unsafe food and their related dire effects on health, nutritional status, wellbeing and economies on the continent, it is evident much still has to be done and concerted efforts from all stakeholders will be an assert.

To improve the current situation, a number of policy recommendations – including high level decisions have been documented. However, there remain substantial bottlenecks hindering efforts to reverse the situation with persistent disparities, as well as emerging challenges including conflict and climate variability. The commemoration of the ADFNS also provides a platform



at national, regional and continental levels to share experiences, knowledge and, to take stock of progress made in assuring availability of quality food for improved nutrition and health of all Africans.

We remain hopeful that, this year's event to be commemorated during an uncommon period in the history of humanity- in the midst of a global health pandemic, will go down the annals of history as one which spurred key actions on the part of Member States in their determination to end food insecurity on the continent. We will provide more information on this event in our subsequent editions of this report.

Promoting traditional and indigenous knowledge to enrich Africa's diets and food systems



This is the theme of a webinar scheduled to take place in October as part of the activities leading up to the commemoration of The Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS). Organised by AUDA-NEPAD, this webinar will bring together

stakeholders to share their knowledge on how their investment in indigenous crops and animal species have made significant difference, as well as challenges and opportunities.

On 16 April 2020 Ministers of Agriculture from AU Member States convened an extraordinary virtual meeting and endorsed

"The Declaration on Food Security and Nutrition during the COVID-19 Pandemic", during which, they expressed a fear that the pandemic "poses significant challenges to the already strained health, food and nutrition security and broad socio-economic conditions in Africa".

In this regards, expert knowledge and lessons learnt

need to be harnessed to ensure practical and pragmatic steps toward responding to emergencies in a manner that severe and acute malnutrition does not take advantage. It is to be noted that the CAADP Framework for African Food Security, which was launched in 2009, primarily set focus on the chronically food-insecure, and on populations who are vulnerable to and, affected by various crises and emergencies. One of the 11 principles upheld by this framework inculcate the fact that, Member States *"integrate lessons from success stories in cutting hunger and malnutrition."*

Presentations and discussions informed by this sub-theme will, therefore, be centred on what lessons exist which must be replicated to the rest of the continent in terms of limiting the effect of major emergencies from worsening the rates of under-nutrition, overweight and obesity in Africa through building resilient food systems that meet local peculiarities and contexts.

It has been ascertained that, a big proportion of Africa's population, especially in the Sub-Saharan region, consume unbalance diets generally poor in micronutrients.

This, principally based on three key factors:

To begin with, average households cannot always afford the cost of a balance meal especially due to the small size of their budget. In urban areas, the situation is usually more profound due to higher food prices mostly affected by poor road networks between the urban and rural areas from where the bulk of the food consumed in urban areas is produced. The multiplier effect of this, is the resultant high cost of transportation which intend increases the prices of the produce by the time they arrive the urban markets. Meanwhile, majority of rural populations can afford only what is locally produced and/or available.

In addition to this, there is an insufficient intake of a variety of foods across and within different food groups and species. In majority of African countries, food production systems have mainly focused on few crop varieties and animal species (mainly cereal grains and cash crops). Households develop the habit of consuming what is available to them and usually do not go out of their way to find some other food crops that could enhance their diet. This, even when the families are rich and can afford.

More to that, a change in lifestyle and commercial influences has affected feeding habits. Technology has undoubtedly affected all segments of society and influenced consumer behaviours. Households tend to consume what others consume without taking out time to find out whether or not these are nutritionally beneficial.

It is evident that, our indigenous diets have been inadvertently ignored in our agricultural, food and nutrition security policies for a long time. The neglect has resulted in our food systems relying on very limited staple crops. Africa needs to awaken and invest in the neglected and under-utilized (NUS) indigenous crop and animal species if we have to realise the AU's ambition of ending hunger by 2025 and feed our growing population.

To contribute in resolving this, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD in a bit to spur more informed consumer decisions have documented recommendations from nutrition experts demonstrating the fact that, several indigenous African crop and animal species can play a vital role in reducing micronutrient deficiencies and that such crops need to be integrated into the African food baskets. More details will be provided in our subsequent issues.



Ensuring food security on the continent: AUDA-NEPAD takes action

On the 23rd of July, AUDA-NEPAD organised the first technical webinar to review the Guidelines for harmonizing Food Safety Standards and Legislation. The webinar brought over 75 participants from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States, AUC, AUC/PACA, AU-IBAR, ARSO, WHO, WFP, FAO, IFNA/JICA, academia and research institutions, to present and share more technical information on food safety and quality management related issues. In addition to this, these participants shared their comments and provided more insights on the existing food safety strategies and programmes to enrich the guidelines.

AUDA-NEPAD's Guidelines for harmonising Food Safety Standards and Legislations come in as part of the implementation of their Nutrition and Food Systems Strategic Programme (2019-2025). Under this programme, it seeks to support countries to establish harmonised standards, regulations and legislations and to adopt food safety and quality management frameworks that effectively combat food safety hazards plaguing the continent.

Specifically, the guidelines define: the objectives and scope of the food safety standards and regulations

Photo credit: Earth.

harmonisation programme, key considerations for successful harmonization outcomes, approaches adopted for the harmonisation of standards and regulations, roles and responsibilities of institutions, guidelines for the maintenance of a listing or database of harmonised standards and regulations and, capacity development and awareness creation.

With these, there is therefore no doubt the guideline defines a consistent, effective and sustainable programme for harmonisation of food safety standards on the African continent.

It is important to reiterate here that, the guideline is meant to facilitate the prioritisation and integration of food safety issues in relevant harmonised regional, sub-regional and national standards, legislations and regulations to promote fair trade practices and consumer protection. To ensure that all countries have strong food safety control systems and institutions, adequate and harmonised policies, standards and legal frameworks, the need for a quick reference guide co-developed by Member States for use by countries and sub-regions to help them manage the process more efficiently arose. In a period when the continent is striving towards a continental free trade area, this is an indispensable tool for success of related projects.

Hence, this guideline was developed through scoping missions to some RECs (COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC) and Member States, online surveys, food safety workshops with stakeholders and review of documents; all of which were organised, facilitated and funded by AUDA-NEPAD. For more details, visit AUDA-NEPAD guidelines for harmonising food safety standards and legislations: technical review webinar <https://www.nepad.org/event/auda-nepad-food-safety-guidelines-technical-review-webinar>



Health



AUDA-NEPAD's COVID-19 workplace intervention brings change

In a move to ensure safe working spaces for employees, AUDA-NEPAD successfully launched a series of twelve COVID-19 Workplace Response Trainings for all sectors of the economy. The trainings took place from 18 May 2020 till 10 July 2020 with over 2158 participants joining from 33 Member States. Organised in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), The International Labour Organisation (ILO), East Central and Southern Africa- Health Community (ECSA-HC), Department of Health South Africa, the National Institute for Occupational Health South Africa (NIOH) and OSH-Africa, the trainings focused on the implications and management of COVID-19 in the workplace and strengthening Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).

Impacts of COVID-19 in the workplace range from an increase of man hours for frontline Health Care Workers,

psychological challenges associated with changes in the way work is done, as well as an increase in medical cost and loss of wages. Out of the 12 popular trainings, the top 3 most attended trainings were “Epidemiology and Management of COVID-19 in the Workspace”, followed by “Rational use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during COVID-19”, and “COVID-19 Health Risk Assessment”.

To reiterate the importance of these training sessions, ILO Occupational Safety and Health Specialist Ms. Peneyambeko Alina Munkawa reiterated,

“The multi-disciplinary in managing OSH and the need to solidify the link with public health started receiving prominent attention. The trainings signify one of Africa’s concrete steps towards addressing challenges and embracing opportunities presented by the pandemic and



the future of work” she stated.

On his part, NIOH Public Health Medicines Specialist Dr. Muzimkhulu Zungu while thanking AUDA-NEPAD and its partners for ensuring the trainings were context appropriate, pragmatic, timely, and most importantly aimed at contributing to Africa’s COVID-19 OSH information, tools and skills, he added in a statement,

“The African region’s economy - as the second most populous region in the world - with only 3% of the global GDP is facing a grim future in the face the COVID-19 pandemic.”

COVID-19 OSH guidelines have been developed as reference materials for member states. They are expected to have an overall positive impact on strengthening OSH and labour productivity in Member States. In the words of AUDA-NEPAD Principal Policy Officer Ms. Chimwemwe Chamdimba who played a lead role in implementing the COVID-19 Workplace Response,

“Most African countries lack basic organized systems and infrastructure for Occupational Health and Safety, some have fragmented policy guidance responses on PPE, Isolation, infection prevention and control. The COVID-19 OSH guidelines aim to address the OSH gaps in Africa. There is a lack of technical guidelines for managing workplace programs such as risk assessment and medical surveillance, we have also seen gaps in the informal sector which are due to neglect and poor regulation in terms of OSH,” she concluded.

It should be noted that, there are a total of 6 COVID-19 OSH Guidelines which focus on; COVID-19/OSH risk management guidelines, COVID-19/OSH guidelines for mining industry, COVID-19/OSH guidelines for occupational safety and health and wellness of health



workers, COVID-19/OSH guideline for educational sector, COVID-19/OSH guidelines for food and retail sector and finally, COVID-19/OSH clinical occupational health guidelines. The aim of these guidelines is to help close the OSH gaps and strengthen response capacity among Member States in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Repurposing African Industrial capacity towards critical medical supplies

On the 13th of April 2020, AUDA-NEPAD organized a COVID-19 webinar under the theme: *“African industrial capacity towards critical pharmaceutical and medical supplies”*. The webinar organized with the support of the Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, AfDB, Afreximbank and other relevant partners, assessed the current status and developed a strategy to boost the technical and financial capacity of local pharmaceutical and manufacturing industry. This, to enable them supply the much-needed essential medical products.

The event, which brought together participants from 32 African countries, 144 local pharma and medical supply companies, 45 multilaterals and development agencies 25 researchers, 24 government officials, 12 investors and DFIs 15 NGOs and civil society organisations and representatives from the media was, the first in a series aimed at ensuring Africa’s access to essential products while at the same time, making the African pharmaceutical and manufacturing sector sustainable.

Financing for local manufacture of pharmaceutical and medical supplies in Africa

On 28th April 2020, the Agency organized a second webinar on the theme: Access to affordable financing for local manufacture of pharmaceutical and medical supplies in Africa. The objective of this second event was, to identify strategies capable of increasing access to public and private finance by local manufacturers of pharmaceutical and medical supplies on the continent. Additionally, a special consideration was given to criteria for private sector companies receiving investment funds from DFIs and their roles in ensuring there is access to capital for small and medium businesses specialized in medical supplies within the COVID-19 context. More details on this webinar and the outcomes can be accessed: <https://www.nepad.org/publication/28-april-webinar-post-webinar-report>



COVID-19 Digest: Taking it up a Gear!

“How AUDA-NEPAD is supporting Member States with global and continental level health information to curb the pandemic.”

See more in our biweekly COVID-19 Digest!

<https://www.nepad.org/publication/auda-nepad-covid-19-digest>



For clarifications, technical support or specific capacity building in any of the areas listed, AU Member States Officials are welcome to contact the AUDA-NEPAD COVID-19 Task Force using this email address: **COVID19@nepad.org**.



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