



Statement

Launch of mVacciNation Initiative and Capability

21st April 2021, 10h30-12h00, Zoom

On behalf of H.E. Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, AUDA-NEPAD

Excellencies

H.E. Semano Sekatle, Minister of Health, Kingdom of Lesotho

Distinguished Representatives of Ministries: South Africa, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique

Mr Shameel Joosub, CEO of Vodacom

Mr Jacques de Vos, CEO of Mezzanine

Ms Milani Wolmarans, Chief Director: Policy Coordination & Integrated Planning, National Department of Health South Africa

Ms Khadija Jamaloodien, Director: Affordable Medicines Directorate, National Health Insurance Branch

Distinguished Representatives of Africa CDC

Distinguished Representatives of the African Union, National Departments of Health, Members of the Diplomatic Corp

Distinguished Representatives of Development and Partner Organisations

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely delighted and feel greatly honoured to welcome you today to the launch and presentation of the mVacciNation digital platform which is a critical milestone in accelerating the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccines on the continent.

The SARS-Cov-2 pandemic has affected almost 135million people globally across 192 countries and data from the Africa CDC shows at least 4million people in Africa are affected to date.

I would like to begin by asking that we observe a **moment of silence** in memory of the many on our continent and around the world who have lost their lives to COVID-19, and in solidarity with their families and communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is mandated to strengthen the capacity of Member States and regional bodies, guided by the aspirations, goals and targets articulated in Agenda



2063 – Africa’s long-term vision and action plan to achieve The Africa We Want. Included in this plan is the need to accelerate the use of technology and digital solutions to improve productivity and services.

The response to the COVID-19 crisis has significantly accelerated the adoption of frontier technologies and fast-tracked the 4th Industrial Revolution on the continent. The pandemic has taught us that Africa’s booming digital sector offers many opportunities for public-private partnerships to help us build stronger and more resilient health systems, in order to enhance equitable access to care for our people and to improve readiness for future outbreaks.

In order to assist countries in harnessing the power of digital technologies, AUDA-NEPAD has partnered with Vodacom to provide access to a suite of world class solutions and advisory services designed to strengthen health service delivery and overall health system resilience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The joint AUDA-NEPAD and Vodacom Mezzanine mVacciNation initiative specifically responds to the AU vaccine strategy objective of supporting the widespread distribution and management of vaccines with an African developed solution.

mVacciNation addresses two critical priorities for African health systems: to ensure people get the right vaccine at the right place and time, and to provide real-time information for health workers of available vaccines and medical equipment.

The mVacciNation modules are provided across the member states as network agnostics, open architecture, and software as service solutions, with the aim of leveraging existing infrastructure and legacy system landscapes in the countries of deployment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

South Africa is the first country that has started to invest in and utilise mVacciNation to support the equitable provision of vaccines for all eligible individuals. The partnership is proud to note that the homegrown Mezzanine mVacciNation platform supports certain functions within the Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS), as well as through the Supply Chain Stock Visibility modules. Health workers are to be vaccinated in the first wave of the vaccine roll-out and nearly 279 000 Covid-19 vaccinations have been completed to date.



mVacciNation has also been utilised by the Ministries of Health in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Nigeria as they have sought to increase immunisation rates in children. Over 1.3 million vaccinations have been recorded in those countries of which 262,000 were children registered and vaccinated supported by mVacciNation.

Ladies and Gentleman,

mVacciNation is a good example of how a public-private partnership under the African Union can provide home-grown and scalable solutions to respond to continental priorities, and help countries better manage future pandemics and other large-scale health programmes such as infant inoculations. As the development agency for the continent, with a continental mandate and reach, AUDA-NEPAD is proud to act as channel to connect innovators and governments to localise, roll-out, and upscale these solutions, and contribute towards the realisation of Agenda 2063.

The current unprecedented environment provides an opportunity to galvanise cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to:

- Accelerate impactful development outcomes across sectors, including health, education
- Provide services more effectively and efficiently
- Find new solutions to policy challenges
- Engage with private and non-traditional partners to develop new delivery models
- Stimulate local economic growth and productive societies

To this end AUDA-NEPAD is excited to partner with Vodacom Group to harness the benefits of digital technologies in enabling improved access to critical services and supporting the implementation of transformative policy interventions. The purpose of the mVacciNation partnership is to catalyse a collaborative, multi-sectoral response to Member State challenges, using the power of digital to drive change.

In the context of this partnership, as well as the specific mVacciNation project, we call on partners and implementation sector stakeholders to work with us to support Member States in addressing their challenges.

It is my strong belief that Africa and its partners have the means and tools to collectively fight the pandemic and draw lessons from the crisis to build more inclusive, equitable and sustainable economies post-COVID-19. AUDA-NEPAD remains committed to providing the necessary support in these unprecedented times to attain the goals and targets of Agenda 2063.



Ladies and Gentleman,

The investments we make to fight Covid-19 today, will pay dividends into the future, and across all sectors.

I thank you