

8th ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council

9th December 2021

Intervention by Peter Owiti, Wote Youth Development Projects

What role can Council members play to encourage the financing of the ACTA Accelerator's Strategic Plan, including in the run up to a possible pledging event in early 2022?

Thank you Chair, On behalf of communities our intervention is that:

The Communities on the ACT-Accelerator support the holding of a pledging event - with the meaningful engagement of Communities living with Diseases. To support the ACT-A's work on this, we will -

Encourage the visibility of the work that ACT-A is doing in the media over and beyond COVAX.

Given challenges in global health architecture, it appears ACT-A will only account for half the total budgeted need. While valid, it makes it challenging for advocates to rally around a topline number of funding required. We need a topline number first and foremost, and ACT-A should throw its weight behind this so advocates can push for the other half.

Start introducing ACT-A to strategic allies such as regional bodies (i.e. EAC, ECOWAS, SADC Commissions), so that the message can move from regional to national level government structures.

Working through MPs is another strategic entry point as they represent communities in legislation. Until now, they have been silent on matters related to C19, due to lack of capacity around C19 as well as ACT-A. They have the power and mandate to advocate for better domestic budget transparency, for enabling environments through rights-based laws and policies. This will increase ACT-A's bottom-up visibility. Since USD 6.5 billion will be needed for country specific procurement needs to mitigate vaccine supply risks, domestic resources will be required from countries and multilateral development banks, there is need to form parliamentary caucus for ACT-A for political drive.

At the global level, structures working on Pandemic Preparedness should increase their funding to the ACT-A Strategic plan, as this is a global epidemic that is not going anywhere. We need to get the message through; that C19 nationalist responsive measures are creating a thriving environment for this pandemic.

It is only through collaborative and multi-sectoral interventions such as rigorous testing campaigns, C19 literacy to address legitimate concerns people might have to encourage uptake, as well as market shaping, to ensure that C19 therapeutics, that all populations will be reached, tested & treated (and/ or vaccinated) in an equitable manner. This has been and will continue to be ACT-A's mandate.

Thank you