

# FELLOWSHIP CALL

## ADVANCING REGIONAL VACCINE MANUFACTURING AND ACCESS IN AFRICA



Afya na Haki (Ahaki) invites applications for a fellowship under the 'Advancing Regional Vaccine Manufacturing And Access in Africa (ARMA)' Programme. Ahaki conceived this Programme to advance research and development and to contribute to enhanced vaccine manufacturing in Africa, by utilizing Africentric approaches.

The COVID-19 pandemic systematically exposed several weaknesses and flaws in current health systems of different countries on the African continent. It further exposed the inequitable access to health and the reliance on the Global North by the health systems in the Global South, especially in Africa. This resulted in delays in access to diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics, and inequitable access to essential health products, and the lack of preparedness in the face of pandemics and similar health emergencies. This leads to vaccine inequity and injustice which has serious implications for Africa particularly when it comes to reducing its disease burden. It is thus imperative to address these glaring inequities.

The Programme will therefore focus on advancing African advocacy and research approaches that strategically enhance COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing and access in Africa. Through defining Africentric approaches on evidence generation and policy engagement, this Programme will highlight the importance of honoring commitments from African governments on Vaccine related Research and Development and Manufacturing under frameworks like the Partnership on African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) framework for Action, including moving beyond powerful commitments and resolutions to actual implementation.

### → Objective

**To enhance capacities of African individuals to conduct vaccine research, evidence-based advocacy to promote regional vaccine manufacturing and access in Africa using African approaches.**

The fellows will contribute towards ensuring that the African populace has access to life-saving therapeutics that are self-designed and self-financed to guarantee availability, accessibility and affordability.

### → Fellowship Programme

Fellows will be capacitated to conduct strategic regional research, advocacy and impact campaign engagements geared towards influencing African states to invest in research and development, and manufacturing of vaccines to promote equitable and sustainable access to vaccines in Africa.

**It is anticipated that the Fellowship Programme shall commence in April 2023 and will be a full-time in-person engagement at Ahaki.** Researchers, scholars, virologists, microbiologists, biochemists, academicians and practitioners from across Africa, who are passionate about advancing regional vaccine manufacturing and access in Africa are encouraged to apply.

### → Personal Specifications

The candidate must have at least a master's degree or experience of at least five years in the following disciplines: pharmacy, medicine, law, public health, social sciences, or any other discipline relevant to pharmaceutical policy. The candidate should have experience in either research or capacity enhancement in the area of pharmaceutical policy. Working experience in project management and implementation will be an added advantage. PhD candidates are also encouraged to apply. The candidate should be proficient with the English language.

**Application Criteria:** Interested candidates in the Fellowship Programme are expected to provide the following documentation:

- Detailed resume
- Motivation letter stating the reasons why the candidate is interested in the fellowship.
- The names and contact information of three reference persons
- Copies of academic documents
- Identification documents including a valid passport and/ or a national identity card
- A reference letter from at least one reference person

### → Benefits

Successful applicants will be entitled to a monthly stipend and will engage in all Ahaki research and capacity enhancement initiatives. Special need for accommodation or travel may be considered for successful candidates.

The complete application documents should be submitted via <https://forms.gle/ZyemAVq7vAAJjiBa9> by **3rd March 2023**.

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**