



# The African AIDS Vaccine Programme

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The AAVP is a network of African scientists, working to promote and facilitate HIV vaccine research and evaluation in Africa, through capacity-building and regional and international collaboration.

## Vision and goal

The AAVP advocates and supports a coordinated effort to contribute to the global HIV vaccine development effort, ensuring that appropriate vaccines are developed and made accessible in Africa in the shortest possible time.

## Background

A group of African scientists, meeting in Nairobi on 14 June 2000, adopted “*The Nairobi Declaration: An African Appeal for an AIDS Vaccine*”, pledging to use their personal and collective commitment and expertise in the development and implementation of *an African Strategy for AIDS Vaccines*. With encouragement and support from WHO and UNAIDS, a Steering Committee for the AAVP was nominated to further develop the principles, strategic milestones, activity framework, and to coordinate the initial implementation of the plan of action for the AAVP.

## Principles

The AAVP:

- Involves all countries in the region.
- Coordinates efforts with the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa (IPAA) and with other regional and national HIV programmes.
- Serves as a transparent collaborative process, with equitable participation of multiple partners, from the public and private sector, from countries in the region, and from the international community.
- Is being developed as a long-term and sustainable effort.
- Promotes research with the utmost respect for human rights.
- Aspires to the highest ethical and scientific standards.
- Ensures full community participation.
- Promotes simultaneous development and evaluation of several candidate vaccines, focusing on those deemed more appropriate for the region.
- Contributes to the development of HIV vaccines, consistent with the concept of an international public good.

## Strategic milestones

The strategic milestones are defined by the conduct of clinical trials, ensuring that by:

- 2002 appropriate candidate vaccines are available for testing in Africa.
- 2003 at least four phase I/II trials are initiated or completed.
- 2004 at least one phase III (efficacy) is initiated.
- 2007 at least one phase III trial is completed, with concrete plans developed to ensure vaccine access in Africa.



## Activity framework

To achieve the above strategic milestones, a number of *research/training/capacity-building* activities are being implemented in the following five thematic areas:

- **Advocacy and resource mobilization**
  - Partners/donors identification
  - Community mobilization
  - Resource mobilization in support of AAVP goals
  - Dissemination of information
- **Biomedical sciences (laboratory and clinical studies)**
  - Identification and strengthening of laboratory expertise
  - HIV isolation and characterization
  - Immunology methods for vaccine evaluation
  - Appropriate conduct of clinical trials (Good Clinical Practice)
- **Population studies (epidemiology and social behavioural research)**
  - Identification and strengthening of potential sites for vaccine trials
  - Socio/behavioural research protocols to support vaccine trials
- **Ethics, law and human rights**
  - Assess research ethics infrastructures
  - Build capacity for ethics, law and human rights
  - Support the development of national guidelines
- **National strategic planning**
  - Assess vaccine activities in National AIDS Programmes
  - Support development and implementation of National AIDS Vaccine Plans/Strategies
  - Address issues related to future access to HIV vaccines

## Structure

- **Steering Committee:** Composed of 8 African scientists responsible for overall technical coordination. Selected members of the Steering Committee are leading and coordinating the work of the five Thematic Working Groups.
- **Thematic Working Groups:** Established for each one of the activity areas. A small group of African scientists (5-8) are responsible for planning, implementation and coordination of thematic activities.
- **Affiliated institutions:** African institutions forming part of the AAVP Network for implementation of activities.
- **Forum:** Broad participation of key partners from Africa and abroad.
- **Sponsors:** Selected key partners providing direct contributions to the Programme.
- **Coordinating Committee:** Selected sponsors and members of the Steering Committee, responsible for overall management.
- **Interim Secretariat:** The WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Initiative.

**MORE INFORMATION** can be obtained from:

- WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Initiative, Geneva, Switzerland  
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WHO



AfriCASO



UNAIDS

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