

## **Advancing Health and Recovery: The Next Phase of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative**

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) initiative is a transformative partnership between the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the MasterCard Foundation. Launched in June 2021, this three-year initiative aims to rapidly scale up COVID-19 vaccination efforts across Africa, targeting 70% vaccination coverage by the end of its implementation period. The initiative is vital for saving millions of lives, protecting livelihoods, and accelerating Africa's economic recovery from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the largest public health collaboration between a global philanthropic organization and an African institution, the SLL initiative has marked a historic milestone. It builds on the work of other key stakeholders such as the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVATT), COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), the World Health Organization (WHO), and various governments, all striving to ensure that Africa's population has access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Phase I of the SLL project was highly successful, laying a strong foundation for future efforts. With the global health landscape shifting and COVID-19 no longer classified as a public health emergency, the SLL initiative has adapted its objectives for Phase II. A strategic meeting held at the Africa CDC headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during June 2024, helped shape a new micro-plan for Phase II. This meeting brought together representatives from Member States involved in the SLL project, with the goal of refining interventions to align with the current needs of the continent.



There is significant excitement as Phase II begins, and Namibia is poised to play an important role in this next stage. Namibia’s pharmacovigilance center (the Therapeutic Information and Pharmacovigilance Centre – TIPC) stands to benefit greatly, as the SLL initiative will provide the tools and support needed to enhance its operations. By strengthening this center, Namibia will contribute to the broader goals of monitoring the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and other medicines, ensuring the well-being of its population.



The success of Phase II will depend on ensuring that the activities planned have a long-lasting impact, particularly on Namibia’s pharmacovigilance and public healthcare systems. Emphasizing sustainability, the initiative aims to create substantial and enduring improvements that will benefit Namibia’s healthcare landscape well into the future.



In conclusion, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) initiative remains a beacon of hope for Africa’s recovery from COVID-19. With Phase II underway, there is widespread optimism that it will bring about significant advancements in both vaccination efforts and healthcare infrastructure across the continent. Namibia’s involvement in the project, particularly in the growth of its pharmacovigilance system, is expected to yield remarkable results and long-term benefits. Through sustained efforts, the SLL initiative is set to leave a lasting legacy of improved health outcomes and strengthened healthcare systems for millions across Africa.