



المؤسسة الإفريقية لمرضى الكبد
African Liver Patients Association
L'Association Africaine des Patients
atteints d'Hépatite Virale



African Union
Scientific Technical Research Commission

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING WORKSHOP ON VIRAL HEPATITIS FOR AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES

19th – 20th November, 2018

Cairo, Egypt

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background

Africa experiences a disproportionate burden of infectious disease, and death with appalling disparities within and between the Member States. Infectious diseases are diverse and dynamic; new outbreaks occur frequently and we are discovering new infectious agents' year on year.

Since the outbreak of viral hepatitis, the world has been experiencing several threats from this epidemic from mild to severe. The mortality rate from viral hepatitis (18.3 per 100000 globally) is the highest in the western Pacific regions (24.1 deaths per 100000), followed by south-east Asia regions (21.2 deaths per 100000) and in the America Region (11.2 deaths per 100000).

Africa is not secluded from this crisis and has (13.7 deaths per 100000) in this region. Untreated chronic viral hepatitis also contributes to life-threatening complications such as Primary Liver Cell Carcinoma (PLCC), and Liver Cirrhosis. In addressing this challenge of viral hepatitis, the continental framework **AU Agenda 2063** is crucial in this development and would not be achieved without recognizing endemics and its associated health issues; this is also in consonance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Goal 3. Thus, the framework recognizes Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) as multi-functional tools and an enabler for achieving its development aspirations and objectives. In the same vein, the **Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2014- 2024 (STISA 2024)** is developed to facilitate the transition of the continent to an integrated and prosperous Africa where citizens are assured of equal access to quality healthcare.

Accordingly the endorsement by the African Union Head of States and Government the African Union Science and Technology Framework for the Detection, Identification and Monitoring of Infectious Diseases of Humans, Animals and Plants in Africa EX.CL.766 (XXII) and the Africa Health Strategy 2016 - 2023 which seek to monitor infectious diseases of Human and enhancing African Capacity and participation in Scientific and Technological Development for early detection, specific diagnosis, early warning of evolving disease events and building National/Regional capacities for response while taking in consideration technology transfer, acquisition and domestication of health tools and equipment in the continent.

Consequently, further activities in the health science realms where the development of a strategic document that is targeting research translation for a better health and lifestyle in the continent is presently ongoing that built upon the output of the **UNESCO-MARS SUMMIT 2017** Breakaway Session on the

identified problem hindering research Translation from Bench to Bedside in Africa. It will also address the enhancement of intra-Africa research cooperation in health and developing health capacity, capabilities and professionalism.

The African Union Scientific Technical Research Commission AU-STRC which is a specialized institution of the AU that deals with Science Technology and Innovation (STI) with a mandate to implement the **STISA 2024** dwelling on the strategy's pillar on Building Technical and Professional Competency with a priority area "Prevention and control of diseases". With the technical support of **the African Liver Patients Association (ALPA)** the continental organization whose aim is improving care and treatment for people suffering from hepatitis through the co-operation of its members and the global stakeholders. ALPA also contributed in bringing together the personnel working in the field of hepatitis worldwide to establish the World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA).

Whence, the duo AU-STRC and the ALPA realized the challenges of hepatitis virus and the strength of the continent in the prevention, control and management of the viral hepatitis to build the capacity of the continent.

II. Justification

Viral hepatitis infection affects 550 million people worldwide, viral hepatitis causes substantial mortality, globally accounting for more than 1 million deaths each year. In fact, most of 550 million people with chronic hepatitis B and C, the most of serious forms of Viral Hepatitis, do not know they are infected. This enables the infection to go unnoticed and undiagnosed until it has caused a serious liver damage or attains the chronic stage and shows forth dangerous signs and symptoms. This, in turn, has resulted in Viral Hepatitis comparable to other dreaded diseases like the HIV, Malaria, etc. It is also responsible for the estimated 1.4 million deaths annually from acute infection and related liver cancer and cirrhosis according to World Health Organization.

In the many deaths caused by hepatitis worldwide, Africa contributes (13.7 per 100,000 deaths) to it, which is about 10% of the total death. And this is noticeable that there is a need to take the necessary steps in fighting it. In addition, hepatitis B and C cause approximately 80% of all liver cancer deaths, and this means that its impacts are underestimated and has minimal public Health and political attention. This rapid increase of viral Hepatitis case is as a result of its mode of transmission. Hepatitis is transmitted through blood and bodily fluids and since we often come in contact with many people daily there is a higher tendency of its spread among the human populace.

The vast majority of individuals infected with viral hepatitis live in low to middle-income countries of Africa and Asia, where screening and access to care and treatment are not readily available. There are insufficient trained personnel or clinicians in these areas to deliver health care. Current prices of the medicines for treatment are variable and unaffordable. These prices threaten the sustainability of health systems in many countries and prevent the large-scale provision of treatment.

Against this backdrop, this capacity building training workshop leverage on the stakeholders, pharmaceutical companies, foundations, philanthropies, international organizations, non-governmental organization, among others to see how the requisite capacity to manage the viral hepatitis can be built and to see how immediate action to mitigate the problem to bring relief to the African Union Member States that are threatened by the infection. That can be achieved by tapping in the experiences ALPA and to extend its coverage to the entire continent gradually.

III. Aim

The aim of this capacity building training workshop on viral hepatitis is to equip participants with the requisite knowledge, and competencies to fight the endemic hepatitis and to share the experience on the challenges and successes of hepatitis through establishing a lasting intra-African co-operation and to set a periodic meeting to track progress.

IV. Objectives

- To raise awareness on Viral Hepatitis situations in the African continent.
- To enhance intra-Africa cooperation among existing organizations and stakeholders fighting Viral Hepatitis.
- To share the experiences on the prevalence and surveillance of the epidemic.
- To benefit from the Egyptian experiences in the management of Viral Hepatitis.
- To estimate the real situation of hepatitis in Africa and to know how drugs and vaccines on Viral Hepatitis can be accessible and affordable to the other Member States.

V. Expected outcome

- Increased level of awareness on the continental level for Viral Hepatitis.
- The participants are equip with the requisite knowledge and should be able to train other professionals in the management of Viral Hepatitis.
- Supported intra-Africa Technology transfer and acquisition.
- Partnership developed among stakeholders.

VI. Workshop organizers

The workshop is organized by AU-STRC and the ALPA.

VII. Date and Venue

Date: 19th to 20th November, 2018.

Venue: Dusit Thani Lake View, Cairo -Egypt

VIII. Participants: the workshop aims at assembling participants representing various categories of stakeholders and partners;

- **National Chairman of Parliament Committee on Science from the AU Member States.**
- **National Chairman of Parliament Committee on Health from the AU Member States.**
- **Health Ministry Representative.**
- **Science Ministry Representative.**
- **Food and Drugs Authorities from the AU Member States.**
- **Pharmaceutical Companies.**
- **International Organizations' Representatives.**
- **Funding Agencies**
- **ALPA's Member Organizations**

I. Agenda and Programme of Work (it will be sent to you later)