

# Regional Training Seminar for WOAH National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories (cycle III)

8 - 10 July 2025, Gaborone, Botswana



## AU-PANVAC's Partner Initiatives on Emergency Management and Biological Threat Reduction

**Hassen Belay, AU-PANVAC**



Co-funded by  
the European Union



Counter Proliferation  
& Arms Control Centre



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the European Union



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## 👉 Introduction

## 👉 Key Partners

## 👉 Partner initiatives

1. AU-PANVAC BRM Capacity Buildings
2. Construction of AU-PANVAC's New Facility
3. AU-PANVAC's One Health Collaboration
4. Training of AUMS Lab personnel on BRM
5. Production of New Rinderpest Vaccine Stock
6. Concept note: strengthening biosafety & biosecurity in veterinary laboratories in Africa

## 👉 Challenges faced

## 👉 Conclusion

- ❑ **Capacity Building:** Joint training programs and simulation exercises
- ❑ **Rapid Response Mechanisms:** Development of frameworks for early detection, information sharing & coordinated responses
- ❑ **Technical assistance:** Training of laboratory personnel & Supporting Member States
- ❑ **Strategic Collaborations:** Working with AU bodies and key international partners



**AUMS  
Laboratories**





## ❑ **OIE Twinning Project with Pirbright Institute (2017- 2018):** Build AU-PANVAC's staff capacity on Biosafety/Biosecurity



- Initial Assessment
- Trainings provided to staff
- Review of AU-PANVAC's Biorisk Operational Controls
- Audit of AU-PANVAC's Biosafety against OIE/FAO requirements for RHF conducted by Pirbright Institute Experts

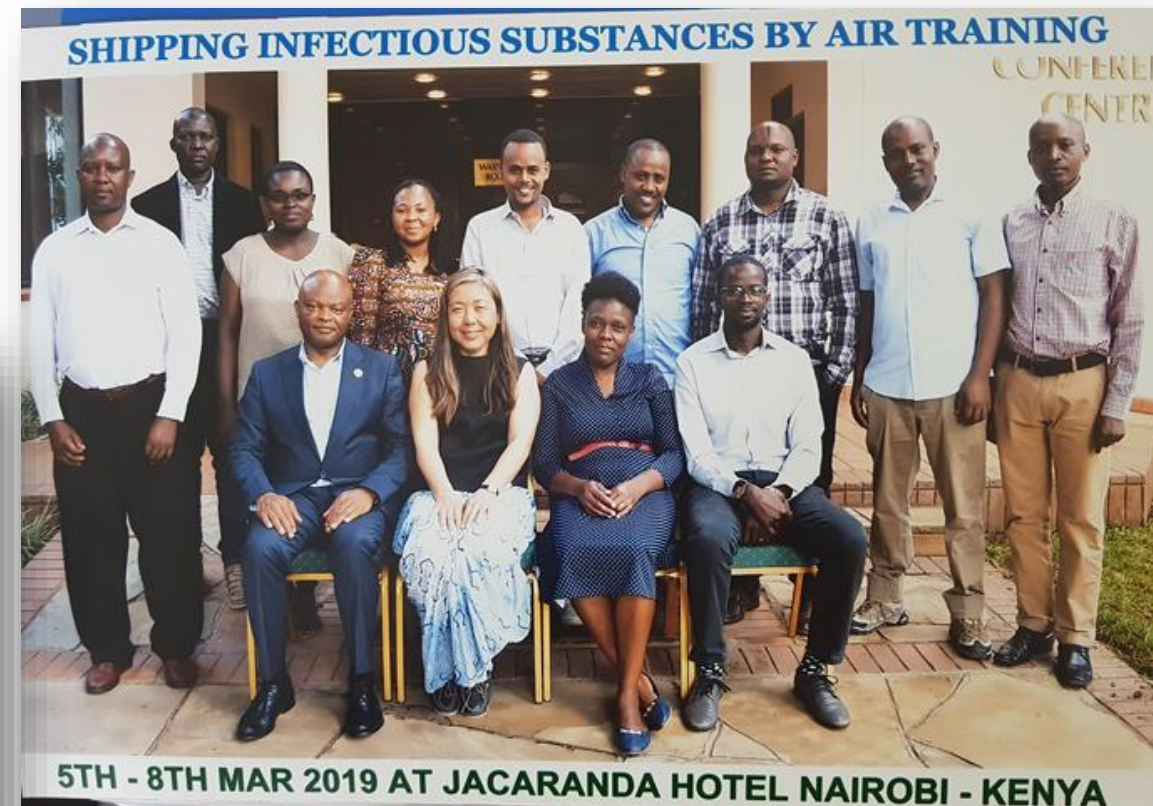
# 1. AU-PANVAC BRM Capacity Buildings...



- ❑ In Collaboration with SNL (US) financially supported by US-DTRA
  - Biorisk management trainer development course (in person & virtual): 2017 – 2024
  - Biorisk management auditing course: 2019



- ❑ **In Collaboration with FAO:** 2 staff members have been trained and licensed for shipment of infectious substances



- ❑ Packaging materials for Category A and B have been procured

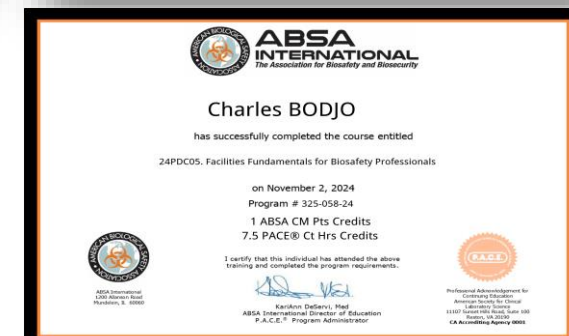
- ❑ **In Collaboration with SNL (US) funded by:**
  - 8 Staff members have been trained and licensed for shipment of infectious substances (2020, 2021)
  - 5 staff members have been trained and licensed for shipper trainer (2021)





❑ **In Collaboration with US DTRA:** AU-PANVAC staff participated in the annual ABSA Conferences:

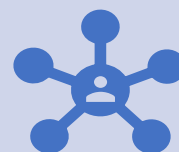
- **Birmingham - 2018**
- **Omaha - 2023**
- **Phoenix - 2024**







## 2. Construction of AU-PANVAC's New Facility



Consolidate all scattered Facilities **(Red)** in one Building

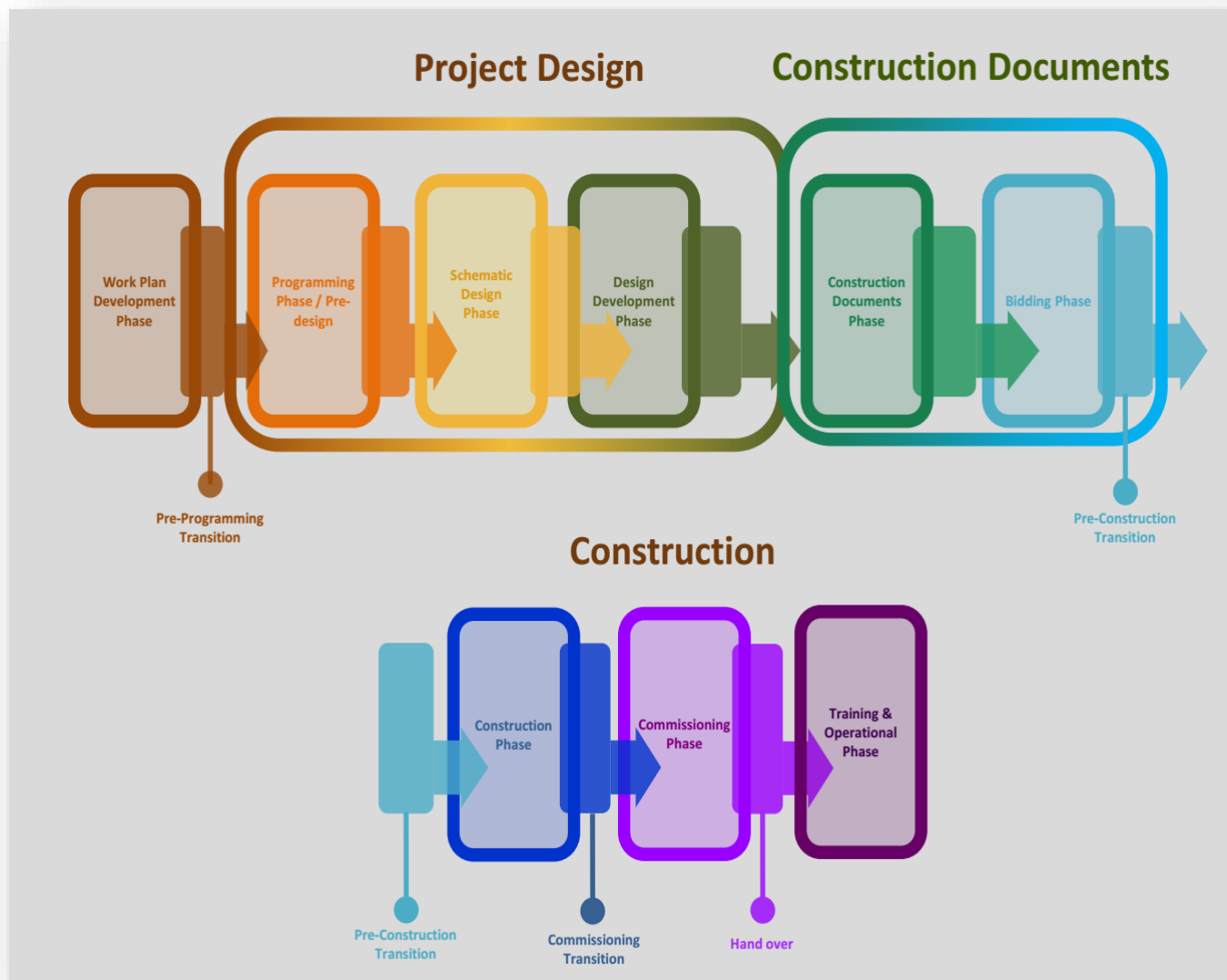


Enhance Biosafety and Biosecurity measures



Expand Laboratory operation and Training capacity





1. **Training in Biorisk Management & Lab Design**

2. **Basis of Design (Pre-Design)**

3. **Architectural Design**

4. **Construction documents and award of contracts**

5. **Construction**

**All these activities were fully supported by**



## 2. Construction of AU-PANVAC's New Facility...



❑ **Design &  
Construction  
Fully  
supported by  
US-DTRA:  
Estimated to  
be \$ 64 million**

- ❑ **Laboratories Block: Vaccine Quality Control laboratory, Biological Reagent Laboratory, Process development laboratory, Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory**
- ❑ **Vaccine bank, Vaccine seeds and for pathogens storerooms**

- ❑ **Training & Technology Transfer Center, Conference and Recreation/Canteen facility**
- ❑ **Offices and meeting rooms**



❑ Held on **21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2024** with AUC, Ethiopian and US Officials



❑ Construction completion expected in **2028**





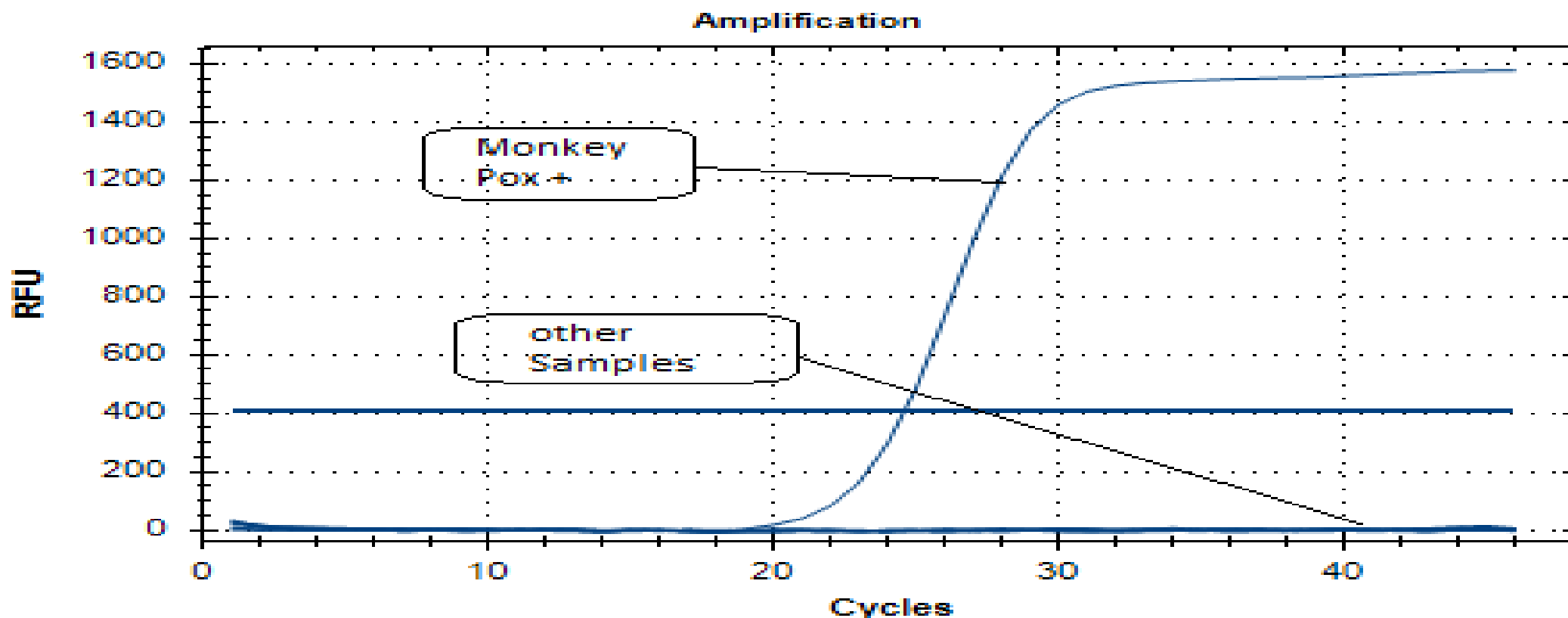
Launching of the **African Union COVID-19 Diagnostic Laboratory** by The **Commissioner of Social Affair** (H.E. Amira Elfadil) & **Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture** (H.E. Josefa Sacko), May 2020



**2020-2023:**  
**>100,000**  
**samples** tested

**COVID Test in AU-PANVAC BSL-3**

- ❑ Monkeypox real-time PCR set-up at AU-PANVAC
- ❑ It has been validated using positive and negative controls



### ❑ AU-PANVAC trained participants from French-Speaking AUMS labs on shipment of Infectious Substance and Biological Specimens

#### Batch 1:

- 27 Sept. to 01 Oct. 2021
- 11 Participants



#### Batch 2:

- 18 – 22 Oct. 2021
- 12 Participants





□ **AU-PANVAC**  
**trained**  
**Laboratory**  
**personnel from**  
**NVI, Ethiopia** on  
**Biorisk**  
**Management, 2022**



## CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

**Dr Kenenet Atnafu**

Participated in the:

### Biorisk Management Training

Which includes the following topics:

- Introduction to Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biorisk
- Risk Assessment, Mitigation & Performance Evaluation
- Principles of Personal Protective Equipment
- Principles of Laboratory Entry and Exit
- Working safely with a Biological Safety Cabinet
- Waste Management
- Decontamination
- Packaging & Transport of Biological Materials
- Biosecurity
- Emergency Preparedness and Incident Response

**5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Dr. Nick Nwankpa**  
Director, AU-PANVAC

❑ **Feb. 2019:**  
AU awarded  
contract to NVI  
(Ethiopia) for  
production of  
**2 Million  
Doses**

❑ Inspection of  
NVI facility by  
RP-Secretariat  
took place on  
**October 2022**

AFRICAN UNION  
الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE  
UNIÃO AFRICANA

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Director, AU-PANVAC  
Through: Thereza Negokhe Louise (IPC Secretary)  
From: [Signature]  
Subject: INTERNAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE DECISION: Request for Approval for the supply of Tissue Culture Rinderpest Vaccine to AU-PANVAC

File No.: AHRM/PTSD/IPC/1/2.19  
Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Sender's Tel. Ext.: 4321

Reference is made to your request on the above matter to the Internal Procurement Committee Decision in respect of Evaluation report for approval.

Consequently the 1<sup>st</sup> Internal Procurement Committee Meeting which was held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 has considered your request as follows:

Observation:  
IPC took note of the procurement process as explained by the resource persons. The first part of the process being approval of Companies to participate in the Limited Competition process. IPC further noted that there was a huge difference in price between the two bidders. The resource person explained that the reason for this could be the transportation cost. The vaccines require a special shipment process which turns out to be expensive. A chartered plane could be used and in some cases they're escorted by the military. The locally based bidder therefore has a greater advantage

Decision:  
IPC approved the award of contract for Supply and delivery of 2 million doses of Tissue Culture Rinderpest vaccine to AU PANVAC, to National Veterinary Institute of Ethiopia at a total price of ETB 2,017,500 (US\$71,965.67)

CC: - All Members of IPC

GF-TADs  
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Rome, Paris, 10 November 2023

Dear Dr Tefera,

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) present their greetings and refer to previous communications between the African Union (AU), National Veterinary Institute (NVI), FAO and WOAH, specifically the letter from AU to FAO and WOAH on 19 March 2019, the letter from NVI to FAO and WOAH on 8 April 2019, and the letter from FAO and WOAH to NVI on 17 September 2019 and 5 March 2023.

The FAO-WOAH Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (the Committee) has reviewed the proof of implementation of the corrective actions, listed in the report of the site inspection to your facility which took place on 16-21 October 2022.

We are pleased to inform you that the Committee during their virtual consultations held in August and September 2023, recommended that FAO and WOAH authorised NVI to exceptionally manufacture rinderpest vaccine (Plowright/RBOK vaccine) to replenish the vaccine reserve at the African Union – Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), noting that the vaccine seed will be shipped from the FAO vaccine seed bank: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), France, to AU-PANVAC. We remind you that in the post-eradication era safety and efficacy tests can no longer be done in live animals and a strict production process by AU-PANVAC, a thorough independent review of the full batch release dossier and the batch quality controlled at AU-PANVAC.

We kindly ask you to liaise with the FAO-WOAH Rinderpest Secretariat at [rinderpest.secretariat@fao.org](mailto:rinderpest.secretariat@fao.org) and [rinderpest@woah.org](mailto:rinderpest@woah.org) to coordinate the shipment of vaccine seed in accordance with your availability to start the production campaign.

Thank you for supporting FAO and WOAH's mission to keep the world free from rinderpest.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Thanawat Tiensin  
Director  
Animal Production and Health Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Dr Monique Eloit  
Director General  
World Organisation for Animal Health

Dr Takele Abayneh Tefera Director General  
National Veterinary Institute Bishoftu/Debre-Zeit  
Ethiopia

CC:  
AU-PANVAC: S. C. Bodjo  
FAO: K. Sumption, M. J. Arshed, K. Sudo, FAO Regional Office, FAO Subregional Office, FAOR  
WOAH: M. Arroyo, K. Hamilton, M. Marrana, WOAH Delegate, RR Africa, SRR Eastern Africa

❑ **Nov. 2023:**  
FAO-WOAH JAC  
authorized the  
National  
Veterinary  
Institute (NVI)  
Ethiopia to  
produce the **New  
2 million of RP  
Vaccine.**

**AU-PANVAC should assist NVI for the  
production of the new RP Vaccine Stock**

- ❑ AU-PANVAC in collaboration with AU-IBAR, WOAHA and FAO developed a concept note
- ❑ The project to be funded by US-DTRA
- ❑ The project will be implemented over a period of 5 years
- ❑ Meeting of stakeholders held in Nairobi, Kenya



CONCEPT NOTE:

STRENGTHENING BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY IN VETERINARY LABORATORIES IN AFRICA TO SUPPORT THE PPR ERADICATION



### □ Key outputs and activities

- Situation analysis of the implementation of biorisk management system in veterinary laboratories in Africa
- Strengthening biorisk management measures in veterinary laboratories
- Capacity building for laboratory personnel
- Strengthening regional laboratory networks & enhancing the diagnosis of PPR and other priority diseases in Africa
- Developing Post-Eradication plan

- ❑ Limited funding
- ❑ Political instability
- ❑ Inadequate Infrastructure
- ❑ Need for more coordinated Regional-level initiatives



- ❑ **Expanding Technical Assistance in BRM:**
  - ❑ AU-PANVAC's new facility will be a center of excellence for training and technology transfer
  - ❑ Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
- ❑ **Strengthening regional partnership:** Collaboration with key partners is crucial
- ❑ **Advocating for Political Commitment**
- ❑ **Strengthening infrastructure to labs in AUMS**



**AU-PANVAC!**  
**ADDING VALUE TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUMAN LIVES!!**

*Thank you* 

[WWW.AUPANVAC.ORG](http://WWW.AUPANVAC.ORG)