

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

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Walkabout's Tanzanian vaccination program benefits local communities and workers

Perth, Australia – Walkabout Resources has initiated a weekly COVID-19 vaccination program at the Lindi Jumbo mine site in a bid to educate and protect workers and communities in the project surrounds – as construction activity ramps up for the graphite mine developer. (See ASX Announcement 20 September 2021).

The team at Walkabout Resources has engaged with local district health authorities to administer the vaccination clinics. Qualified health professionals from Ruangwa conducted a brief information session before administering the vaccine to any willing participants.

Uptake has been encouraging, with 100% of the Lindi Jumbo project team having now received their 1-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Among contracted workers, the vaccination rate sits at around 55%, but is believed to increase with further sessions planned in the near future. Education and demystification about the virus has been a key driver of the vaccine uptake.

With encouraging inoculation rates on site, planning is now in place between the District Medical Officer and the Lindi Jumbo team to extend the COVID sessions to villages surrounding Lindi Jumbo. Once implemented, the program could benefit up to 8,000 locals. Plans to include an inoculation program for Hepatitis-B are also under discussion in response to a recent, localised outbreak in the community.

Commenting on the benefits of the vaccine program, Andrew Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer of Walkabout Resources said, "We are giving our people – contracted or otherwise – the opportunity to receive a vaccination where there would otherwise be limited or no opportunity to do so. "

Extending this opportunity to local communities within Lindi Jumbo's sphere of influence is a critical step by the Company, especially in remote areas where low inoculation rates continue to be reported.

"Mining companies have a unique opportunity to leverage resources and relationships to drive greater health and safety outcomes in the communities in which we operate – such as setting up clinics to make them more readily available. Potentially devastating impacts could arise if these unvaccinated communities are exposed to the virus and we can play an important role in not only providing globally accepted health advice and education so that individuals can make informed decisions, but also facilitate vaccine accessibility should they choose to protect themselves," concluded Cunningham.

It is Walkabout Resources' goal to improve the lives of our host communities. Vaccination is just another way we can do this.

Greater transparency and acknowledgement of the presence and spread of the virus in Tanzania has assisted the company in evidencing the benefits of vaccination. Since 5 October, the Tanzanian government has made COVID-19 updates on a weekly basis and has urged the public to remain compliant with recommended prevention methods.

Latest figures indicate the number of individuals attending clinics countrywide has risen from 3,000 to nearly 50,000 per day since the announcement. However, the vaccination rate is still alarmingly low, as of 18 October, only approximately 1% of the population had been fully vaccinated against the virus.

The government is hopeful that further promotion will see the 1,058,400 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccines donated by the US government utilised before their expiry in December.

-ENDS-



Figure 1: Walkabout Resources COO Allan Mulligan addresses workers regarding the benefits of receiving a vaccine, with Lindi Jumbo's Paul Shauri translating to Swahili.



Figure 2: Walkabout Resources CEO Andrew Cunningham (L) with members of the Lindi Jumbo team, displaying their vaccination cards

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