LEADERSHIP IN THE AIDS RESPONSE

Dr John Nkengasong
Director
Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

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Overview

01 Importance of renewed African Leadership on Public Health

02 Lessons from UNAIDS to fight COVID-19 pandemic

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Syndemics are exacerbating the disease burden across Africa

- Emerging diseases
- NCD/Injuries/ Maternal & Neonatal conditions
- Endemic diseases (e.g. HIV/TB/Malaria)
Major emerging and re-emerging diseases in Africa | 1950 - 2020

Zika virus
1962: First reported human infection in Uganda
Since 1962, spread in Africa causing outbreaks in Cabo Verde in 2015

Ebola virus
1976: First reported human infection in DRC
Since 1976, caused major outbreaks in DRC, Gabon, ROC and West Africa

Meningococcal meningitis
The African meningitis belt is hyperendemic to meningitis
In 1996, Africa experienced the largest outbreak of meningitis with 25,000 registered deaths

Cholera
Cholera is reemerging in Africa. The most severe outbreak was observed in Zimbabwe in 2008/09

COVID-19
As of August 2020, a total of 1,267,656 confirmed cases and 30,294 deaths are reported from Africa

Measles
Outbreaks occur throughout Africa, largest outbreak in DRC (2010-13)

1950s
Chikungunya
1952: First reported human infection in Tanzania
Since 1960, epidemics were reported from several African countries, the largest was reported from Kenya in 2004

1960s
Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever
1967: First recognized in laboratories.
Since 2000, outbreaks were recorded in Uganda, DRC, Kenya, Angola, and Zimbabwe

1970s
Monkeypox
1970: First reported human infection in DRC
Since 1970, reported from 11 African countries

1980s
HIV / AIDS
1981: First reported cases
In 2020, more than 25 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in Africa

1990s
Bubonic plague
Plague is involved in epidemics in several African countries
Bubonic plague epidemics were recorded in Algeria (2003, 08), Libya (2009), and Madagascar (2014-17)

2000s

2010s

2020s
Yellow fever virus
Since 2010, several outbreaks have been observed in East, Central, and West Africa

Nkengasong and Tessema, 2020, Cell (2020)
Emerging, re-emerging, and other diseases reported to Africa CDC in 2020 (January - August 2020)

Nkengasong and Tessema, 2020, Cell (2020)
While HIV advanced the building of health systems across Africa, emerging diseases are currently disrupting these systems.

HIV / AIDS represented the most recent global deadly pandemic before COVID-19.

HIV / AIDS programmes supported health systems strengthening...

- Priority given to public health by governments
- Strengthened laboratories & diagnostics
- Strengthened infrastructure & primary healthcare facilities
- Built healthcare workforce capabilities

... however, these systems are being disrupted by COVID-19.

- 41% decrease in HIV testing in 2020*
- 37% decrease in HIV referrals in 2020*

Source: UNAIDS; Global Fund
Global Fund is now refocusing its efforts to fight pandemics

Annual investment by Global Fund to defeat HIV, TB and malaria

$4 billion

Investment in 2020 and 2021* by Global Fund to support COVID-19

$4.5 billion

Global Fund’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic is focused on saving lives and is mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the HIV, TB and malaria, protecting health workers and reinforcing health systems.

Source: Global Fund

*Global Fund invested ~ $1 billion in 2020 and received $3.5 billion from U.S. to fight COVID-19 in 2021
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**Letter: To be a peoples’ vaccine, Big Pharma must share IP**

From Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Joint UN Programme on HIV/Aids, UN Under Secretary-General, Geneva, Switzerland

**NOVEMBER 26 2020**
UNAIDS, along with the African Union, supports a temporary waiver from the TRIPS Agreement in relation to COVID-19.

UNAIDS fully supports this proposal, which reflects the urgency and global health emergency that COVID-19 represents…

…Its adoption will enable countries to work together to establish national and multilateral strategies to promote innovation of, and access to, medicines, diagnostics, vaccines and other health technologies.

Winnie Byanyima,
Executive Director of UNAIDS

Source: UNAIDS press statement, Geneva, 15 October 2020
Partnership with UNAIDS on community engagement and risk communication, and healthcare workforce development

Support vaccination community engagement and risk communication

Given UNAIDS’ experience, they are suited for vaccine advocacy, campaigning and community mobilisation targeting the most vulnerable

Secondment opportunities and engagement with Africa CDC

Sharing and transfer of knowledge and skills through secondments
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There is an urgent need to re-imagine Africa’s health security

Africa has limited…

- **Health facilities**: Less than 50% of Member States have access to modern health facilities.

- **Health budget**: Less than 10% of GDP is spent on healthcare for most African countries.

- **Health workers**: 2 health workers per 1,000 people (vs 25 health workers per 1,000 in the Americas).
Africa CDC’s vision | A New Public Health Order for Africa

Commentary

Africa Needs a New Public Health Order to Tackle Infectious Disease Threats

John N. Nkengasong¹,* and Sofonias K. Tessema¹
¹Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
*Correspondence: nkengasong@afroca-union.org
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2020.09.041
A New Public Health Order for Africa’s Health Security

- Strengthened public health institutions
- Strengthened public health workforce
- Expanded manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics
- Respectful action-oriented partnerships

Building back better, bolder and bigger!
Africa CDC’s priorities are aligned to the new Global AIDS Strategy

Global AIDS strategy priorities

1: Maximize equitable and equal access to HIV services and solutions

2: Break down barriers to achieving HIV outcomes

3: Fully resource and sustain HIV responses and integrate them into systems for health, social protection and humanitarian settings

Africa CDC’s priorities are aligned to new Global AIDS Strategy

• Africa CDC’s focus on achieving universal healthcare coverage in Africa through strengthening NPHIs and healthcare workforce development

• Africa CDC’s community-led approach to pandemic preparedness and response to achieve public health outcomes e.g., training and deploying COVID-19 community health workers

• Africa CDC’s New Public Health Order calls for building and investing in our own health systems to build resiliency needed for current and future disease threats

Source: UNAIDS; Africa CDC