

# Health Challenges in Africa

This issue has several articles on health challenges in Africa. It elaborates the importance of intersectoral integration if Africa is to overcome these challenges.

The Opinion by Francis Omaswa on “Realizing the Social Mission of Universities and training institutions” highlights the renewed activity in Africa and globally on the subject of health professionals’ education and training. It calls on university leadership to engage proactively with politicians and the public to ensure that knowledge, research and training are aligned with efforts to improve the performance of health systems and advocate and guide investments in health. It describes the three-legged African stool as a metaphor representing service delivery, teaching and research noting that all these are equally important for a training institution to meet its obligations and be socially accountable.

The APO Group on behalf of African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) gives a report entitled: African Union Malaria Progress Report 2022: Sustained Political Will and Adequate Resources Needed to Achieve the Goal of Eliminating Malaria in Africa by 2030. The report was presented by His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance. It highlights the ongoing challenges in the fight against malaria in Africa and the urgent need for strong political commitment and leadership, robust partnership, and increased investments from Member States to reach the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030. He urges member states to redouble their efforts to achieve the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030.

The article by Mohammed Assair discusses the pros and cons of cost sharing in health, using a case for Somalia. He defines cost sharing and gives a background to the health status of Somalia. He emphasizes that the idea of a cost sharing mechanism in service delivery can be applied in Somalia in particular health centers and general hospitals to ensure the substantiality of the health services. Noting that delivery of health services is expensive and cannot be left to international organization alone.

Talisuna et al describe Road Traffic Injuries (RTIs) as a neglected epidemic in Africa. They give the background on the global burden of RTIs. They discuss why RTIs are worrisome in Africa giving the risk factors, noting the key challenges and summing it by suggesting that African countries ought to take a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to address the “epidemic” of RTIs.

A comprehensive literature search of African initiatives based on Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC) core projects is presented in this issue. It highlights the challenges in the management of childhood cancers in Africa, but also showcases the attempts that have been made to mitigate the challenges in specific countries.

The group calls on governments to address childhood cancer care with transparent reporting and effective use of available resources. It notes that collaboration and capacity building are key to sustainable improvement of health outcomes in Africa.

Another team of experts from several universities discuss the burden of HBV infection, factors enhancing its spread and the challenges of controlling the spread of the infection in Africa. They also recommend some strategies that will help in achieving the 2030 goal of elimination of HBV in Africa. This article also brings the viewpoint that Africa still has challenges with infectious diseases for which vaccines have been available for a considerable period of time. It makes one ponder why this is so. It is important to note that both articles, one on paediatric oncology and another on hepatitis highlight the importance of vaccination in combating diseases.

Umar Ibrahim and Jason Prior discuss how transdisciplinary collaboration integrates health and environmental disciplines, for innovative and resilient solutions that address planetary health challenges through a systematic review. This article brings to light how Africa will continue to suffer a large share of challenges which may not necessary be a result of its making. Using a systematic review methodology, the team describes what planetary health is, what the challenges confronting planetary health are, how to maintain reliable relationship in transdisciplinary collaboration and how transdisciplinary collaborations addresses unforeseen issues.

Alliance Against Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (Triple-A) describes the importance of creating simple, clear, and translated AMR messages for the population and gives examples of its work.

There is our usual medicine digest and quiz, plenty of news and advertisements.

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