The Role of Private Sector in Ensuring Quality of Care during COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa

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“Quality health systems not only improve health outcomes in peacetime, they are also applicable during outbreaks and other public health emergencies. UHC and health security are two sides of the same coin” – Tedros Adhanom
COVID-19 poses a huge threat to Africa due to the continent’s relatively limited health systems capacity.

Fragile health systems

Africa has limited…

- <50% of Member States have access to modern health facilities
- <10% of GDP is spent on healthcare for most African countries
- 2 health workers / 1K people vs 25 health workers / 1K in the Americas
- …and continues to be plagued by infectious diseases e.g., Ebola, yellow fever, measles
Global Epidemiological Situation*
as of 10:00 CET 15 June 2020 - for Africa as of 9am EAT 16 June 2020

**Confirmed cases**
- >9.1M

**Deaths**
- >472K

**Countries and territories**
- >208

CFR: 6%

Global numbers are taken from the latest WHO sitrep: [https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports)

All Africa data were provided from African Union Member States.
Epidemiologic Situation in Africa

African Union Member States reporting COVID-19 cases*
As of 22 June 2020, 6pm EAT

African Union Member States (54) reporting COVID-19 cases (307,479) deaths (8,149), and recoveries (146,708) by region:

Central (29,841 cases; 651 deaths; 12,807 recoveries): Burundi (144; 1; 93), Cameroon (11,892; 303; 7,710), Central African Republic (2,808; 23; 472), Chad (858; 74; 752), Congo (1,087; 37; 456), DRC (5,925; 135; 856), Equatorial Guinea (2,001; 32; 515), Gabon (4,428; 34; 1,750), Sao Tome & Principe (698; 12; 203)

Eastern (31,853; 956; 13,605): Comoros (247; 5; 159), Djibouti (4,599; 48; 3,859), Eritrea (143; 0; 39), Ethiopia (4,663; 75; 1,297), Kenya (4,797; 123; 1,607), Madagascar (1,640; 15; 692), Mauritius (340; 10; 326), Rwanda (728; 2; 359), Seychelles (11; 0; 11), Somalia (2,812; 90; 818), South Sudan (1,892; 34; 169), Sudan (8,698; 533; 3,460), Tanzania (509; 21; 178), Uganda (774; 0; 631)

Northern (81,597; 3,421; 33,263): Algeria (11,771; 845; 8,422), Egypt (55,233; 2; 193), 14,736), Libya (544; 10; 70), Mauritania (2,813; 109; 696), Morocco (10,079; 214; 8,319), Tunisia (1,157; 50; 1,020)

Southern (101,685; 1,978; 53,735): Angola (183; 9; 97), Botswana (89; 1; 25), Eswatini (635; 5; 285), Lesotho (12; 0; 2), Malawi (749; 11; 258), Mozambique (733; 5; 181), Namibia (63; 0; 21), South Africa (97,302; 1,930; 51,608), Zambia (1,430; 11; 1,194), Zimbabwe (489; 6; 64)

Western (62,503; 1,143; 33,298): Benin (765; 13; 253), Burkina Faso (903; 53; 819), Cape Verde (890; 8; 413), Côte d'Ivoire (7,492; 54; 3,068), Gambia (37; 2; 24), Ghana (14,154; 85; 10,473), Guinea (4,988; 27; 3,669), Guinea-Bissau (1,541; 17; 153), Liberia (626; 34; 254), Mali (1,961; 111; 1,266), Niger (1,036; 67; 911), Nigeria (20,244; 518; 6,879), Senegal (5,970; 86; 3,953), Sierra Leone (1,327; 55; 788), Togo (569; 13; 375)

*Africa numbers are taken from official RCC and Member State reports.
COVID-19 Situation in AU Member States

African Union Member States reporting COVID-19 cases*
As of 22 June 2020 6pm EAT

1 country
No reported case

43 countries
< 5000 cases

4 countries
5,000 - 10,000 cases

7 countries
> 10,000 cases

*Africa numbers are taken from official RCC and Member State reports.
Coordination of COVID-19 Response by Africa CDC

- **23 Jan 2020**: Africa CDC Director updates the RCCs on COVID-19
- **27 Jan 2020**: Activation of the Africa CDC EOC in response to COVID-19
- **28 Jan 2020**: Briefing of NPHIs in Member states on COVID-19 and actions being taken by Africa CDC
- **14 Feb 2020**: West African (WAHO) Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19 response
- **22 Feb 2020**: Emergency Ministerial Meeting convened by Africa CDC to align on a Joint Continental Strategy to prepare and respond to COVID-19
Africa CDC’s strategy is grounded on three pillars and underpinned by the Africa Coronavirus Taskforce (AFTCOR)

Africa CDC’s COVID-19 Strategy
~$430M total budget

Preventing transmission
- Procurement of surveillance, diagnostic and IPC supplies
- Enhanced surveillance and data collection
- Cascade trainings on surveillance, laboratory and IPC

~$175M

Preventing deaths
- Tailored technical assistance to MSs
- Ongoing clinical management trainings to health workers
- Procurement of medical equipment and supplies

~$220M

Preventing social harm
- Tailored technical assistance on physical distancing policies
- Risk communication cascade trainings
- Tracking and dismantling rumors

~$35M

Africa Coronavirus Taskforce (AFTCOR)
# Key achievements of AFTCOR Technical Working Groups to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveillance</th>
<th>Clinical management</th>
<th>Infection prevention &amp; control</th>
<th>Supply chain &amp; stockpiles</th>
<th>Laboratory diagnosis &amp; subtyping</th>
<th>Risk communications</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 countries trained in Enhanced Point of Entry surveillance and / or Event based surveillance</td>
<td>5000+ Clinicians and nurses onboarded into the weekly online clinical management discussions</td>
<td>37 countries trained on IPC ToT</td>
<td>1.5M laboratory tests and IPC supplies from Jack Ma foundation distributed to African countries</td>
<td>48 countries trained on PCR diagnostics</td>
<td>26 countries trained on risk communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developed Africa-specific guidance on quarantine</td>
<td>15 countries trained on Risk Assessment, PoE &amp; case management</td>
<td>Developed Africa-specific guidance on quarantine</td>
<td>Stockpiled surveillance, PPE, laboratory and medical supplies</td>
<td>1M tests distributed to Member States</td>
<td>Developed risk communication materials on COVID-19</td>
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1 50 Member States have COVID-19 testing capacities, 42 were trained by Africa CDC
The Role of Private Sector in Ensuring Quality of Care

… anything less than a healthcare that is effective, safe, and people-centred is not acceptable.

- High Quality Care is underpinned by four essential values: timeliness, equity, integration, and efficiency.
Session 3: Improving the Quality of Care

Chair: West Africa Health Organization

COVID-19 poses a huge threat to Africa due to the continent’s relatively limited health systems capacity.

**Fragile health systems**

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  ...and continues to be plagued by infectious diseases e.g., Ebola, yellow fever, measles
ICU Capacity Across Africa

- No of ICU beds/100,000 Population
  - 4000/1,000,000 for the West (1/1,000,000 – 540/1,000,000)
  - 19/1,000,000 is Africa’s average

- No of Ventilators/100,000 Population
  - 6/1,000,000 is Africa’s average (0.6/1,000,000 – 97/1,000,000)
  - 2500/1,000,000 is the Western World average

- Total number of ICU beds in Africa is 25,619 Vs 121,000 that is needed based on modelling study

- Critical Shortage of Critical Care Specialist

- Critical Shortage of Oxygen and other medical supplies
Scaling-up testing capacity

**GOALS**

1. Conduct **1M** tests in 1 month; **10M** in 4 months
2. Establish Africa-wide pooled procurement (COVID-19 tests Quota for Africa)
3. Establish Africa-wide storage & distribution hubs
4. Deploy **1M** health workers
5. Standardize and deploy new technologies for the pandemic response to help reopen economies
PACT Initiative

TEST, TRACE AND TREAT
Accelerating COVID-19 testing in Africa

TEST
to diagnose cases

TRACE
to identify cases and their contacts

TREAT
to provide supportive care in symptomatic cases
Human Resources for Health

Supporting Member States
- Epidemiologists
- IPC Experts
- Data Managers
- PH Laboratory Experts
- Risk Communication
- Community Health Workers/Volunteers
- Others
• Rumour tracking
• One by One campaign and the Facebook campaign.
• As of today the Facebook campaign has reached 127,991,700 Facebook users in Africa.
• Weekly press briefing to provide update to journalists.
• Webinars on COVID-19 risk communication for CSOs.
• Working with AU Youth Envoy
• Health systems without adequate IPC can be a source of health-care-associated infections.
TEST, TRACE AND TREAT
Accelerating COVID-19 testing in Africa

TEST
to diagnose cases

To increase targeted testing, actions will focus on:

- **Ensuring** uninterrupted supply of test kits, reagents, and other essential testing supplies
- **Pooling** testing
- **Reinforcing** and expanding the existing workforce by training additional laboratorians to run tests
- **Decentralizing** testing to other qualified laboratories within countries
- **Automating** streamlining, and ensuring uninterrupted laboratory processes
- **Considering** rapid diagnostics where this can be validated and standardized
- **Ensuring** a rapid and reliable specimen transport system

#Africaresponds  Safeguarding Africa's Health  www.africacdc.org  www.au.int
Laboratory Testing

- **Total tests** = 3,604,696
- **Positivity rate** = 7%
- **29% increase from last week**
- 5 countries contribute 62%
- 10 Countries contribute 79.4%
  (South Africa, Morocco, Ghana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mauritius, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda)
TEST, TRACE AND TREAT
Accelerating COVID-19 testing in Africa

TRACE
to identify cases and their contacts

To accelerate case-finding for rapid isolation of cases and quarantining of contacts, actions will focus on:

- **Smart screening** in at-risk populations
- **Sensitizing** and activating local detection points like patent medicine vendors, traditional healers, and laboratories to identify cases
- **Tracing** all case contacts
- **Conducting** active case searching while investigating known cases
- **Training** and deploying community health workers to assist with contact tracing, community engagement and education
- **Facilitating** and encouraging care-seeking for symptomatic individuals
- **Engaging** and empowering community members to self-report and seek care
TEST, TRACE AND TREAT

Accelerating COVID-19 testing in Africa

- **Providing** guidance on home-based care to individuals experiencing mild symptoms
- **Immediate triage** and testing of symptomatic individuals at the healthcare setting
- **Implementation** of infection prevention and control practices
- **Ensuring** that critical equipment is in place and functioning (e.g. oxygen and oxygen-delivering interfaces)
- **Early identification** and evidence informed management of those with moderate to critical illness and the medically vulnerable (e.g. older patients, existing comorbidities)

To ensure access to supportive care for symptomatic COVID-19 patients and minimize related deaths, actions should include:
Case Management

Key priorities

- Conduct weekly online trainings targeting 10,000 clinicians from all M/States
- Update ICU capacities in Africa to inform supply needs and clinical strategy
- Launch a mobile health platform to support treat component of PACT
- Map and engage with local manufacturers of clinical equipment
- Map clinical trials in Africa, work with research consortiums and TWG on Science & Standard
- Development of Guidance Documents.

Support needed

- Link up Member States Clinicians to Africa CDC Clinical Community of Practice Webinar, Hub and Office Hours
- Deployment and training of 100,000 Community Health Workers to support PACT
- Deployment of Technical Experts to Support the Treat Component of PACT
Affordable & Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

- Vaccine Research & Development
- Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa
- Affordable & Equitable Access
- Ethics & Community Engagement
- Logistics and Supply Chain
Guidance on Easing Lockdown

- Public health and social measures are critical for slowing COVID-19 transmission
- Restrictions should be eased slowly in a stepwise approach and monitored continuously
- Easing strategies need to be adapted to the local context
- Protect vulnerable groups and engage local communities
- Sustained social behavioral change
Continuation of Essential Health Services?

- A protocol to govern the delivery of essential health services
- Use of Telehealth Strategy
- An ongoing monitoring of performance indicators for utilization & gaps
- Include messages on continuity of essential health services in COVID-19 public updates
- Plan for recovery
Thank you!
Merci beaucoup!
Muito obrigado!
Shukran!