

Using political leadership to overcome the increase and effects of HIV: The case of South Africans investment to HIV

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Abstract

The HIV epidemic is a prime example of the opportunity for political leadership to fundamentally redirect health attitudes and possibly, as a result, behaviors among a population. Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, important factors relating to the growth of the epidemic have centered on people's sexual choices (e.g. number of total lifetime partners, number of concurrent sexual partners, duration of time between new partners, age of sexual debut, use of condoms or other protective measures, type of sexual intercourse). These choices are influenced in large part by individual decision-making, societal norms and expectations, cultural context, and subsequent consequences including health outcomes, but also legal and economic repercussions. The political system, particularly through elected officials such as the President and Prime Minister, can also have an influence on people's knowledge and attitudes with regard to HIV transmission. However, there is limited data on the way in which various countries have utilized their political systems to promote aspects of national public health responses to HIV.

Since the discovery of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, which emanates from the human immunodeficiency virus, South Africa is one of the highly impacted countries with HIV epidemic. In 2016, South Africa was estimated to have had 7.1 million people living with HIV. In addition to the high burden of HIV, the social determinants of health further compromise the call for universal health coverage particularly for the poor in the country. This abstract argues that political leadership in South Africa has championed robust policy change driven by incremental funding to respond to HIV. The study was conducted by reviewing Parliamentary Reports and Annual Reports of the National Department of Health and South African National AIDS Council. The study considered national policy trajectory and political leadership through incremental budget allocation to overcome the spread and decrease the effects of HIV. The study found that policy directive of HIV prevention and provision of antiretroviral treatment is key. Arising from this political policy directive is a significant investment from the public purse allocated strategically across government departments to decrease the drivers of HIV including its socioeconomic effects. Furthermore, the study found that political leadership has

demonstrated its resolve to overcome HIV through appropriating incremental funding to the extent of surpassing the international funding for HIV in South Africa. The study recognizes that funding and political leadership alone are inadequate to the challenge of HIV. However, it underscores the importance of these attributes towards mitigating and ceasing the spread of HIV. The study recommends for an increased domestic funding to HIV and drivers of social health unlike depending on international funders.

Significant regions of study in the field merit explicit consideration, remembering direct association of open authorities for initiating wellbeing efforts, the affirmation of an individual relationship to the HIV pandemic, open testing and divulgence of HIV status, willful circumcision by government authorities, direct general wellbeing informing with clear suggestions and goals, and contribution of the nation's political administration in worldwide HIV/AIDS associations. various topics rose supporting political pioneers' endeavors toward HIV/AIDS program improvement, remembering direct inclusion of open authorities for battle leading, the affirmation of individual relationship to the HIV plague, and open testing and divulgence of HIV status. Zones for future improvement were likewise recognized, including the requirement for progressively coordinated informing, expanded straightforwardness both broadly and universally and the decrease of criticizing informing from pioneers.

The political framework has an enormous task to carry out inside the medicinal services framework, especially for HIV/AIDS. This organization among legislative issues and the wellbeing must proceed to fortify and be utilized to impact significant change in practices and perspectives across Sub-Saharan Africa. Political initiative as it identifies with medicinal services presently can't seem to be methodically contemplated or estimated inside and out. The HIV/AIDS plague in Sub-Saharan Africa requests solid political resolution from nation governments to help shape wellbeing efforts and impact the open's disposition, information, and practice concerning checking the scourge. We present key topics and diagram solid and frail practices that different sub-Saharan African governments have shown in their reactions to the HIV plague. We recommend the production of a HIV/AIDS political administration scale that can be used to methodically survey political pledge to HIV and the results that are in this manner influenced. By having an instrument by which to

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contrast different governments in their responsibility with fighting HIV/AIDS, common social orders and the universal network can request more from political pioneers in abridging the spread of the ailment.

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