Good Politics, Bad Politics and the Future of AIDS

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Global HIV prevalence in adults, 1985

UNAIDS/WHO, 2006
Global HIV prevalence in adults, 1995
Changing dynamics of the epidemic

Proportion of HIV infections from different population groups, 1988-2010 (estimates to 2005, projections >2005)

HIV Prevalence by Wealth Quintile of Women in Eight African Countries

Mishra V, Bignami-Van Assche S, Greener R, Vaessen M, Hong R, et al. (2007) HIV infection does not disproportionately affect the poorer in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS (supplement)
HIV Prevalence among pregnant women attending Antenatal clinics in Sub Saharan Africa 1997-2006

- Cote d'Ivoire
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Botswana
- Swaziland
- Zimbabwe
- Burkina Faso
Number of people on antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income countries, 2002–2007
How did we get here?

Convergence of:

- Activism
- Political leadership
- Availability of treatment
- Favourable funding climate
Activism

Zackie Achmat (second from left) from South Africa’s Treatment Action Campaign demonstrates with Archbishop Njongonkulu Winston Hugh Ndungane of Cape Town (second from right) at the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa.
Leadership

Former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil.
Leadership

Here with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Al Gore, Vice President of the USA, chaired the first debate on AIDS as a major security issue at the UN Security Council in January 2000.
Availability of treatment
Prices of First-Line Antiretroviral Regimen in Uganda: 1998-2003

Prices (US$/year) of first-line antiretroviral regimen in Uganda: 1998-2003
Funding
Total annual resources available for AIDS
1986 – 2007

Notes:
[1] 1986-2000 figures are for international funds only
[2] Domestic funds are included from 2001 onwards

Negative Politics

- Policy debates around sex and drugs
- Government leadership and policies
- Donor policies
Policy debates

- Sex education in schools
- Abstinence only
- Condom promotion, particularly for adolescents
- Homosexuality
- Harm reduction among injecting drug users
艾滋病是全社会最大的挑战之一
One of the Biggest Challenges to Society
Government Leadership

- Leadership
- Governance and accountability
- Funding allocation and spending
- Space for civil society
- Link with development
Funds not going where the epidemic is
Preventive expenditure for men who have sex with men against % of AIDS cases

Donor Policies

- Short term and volatile
- Lack of coherence and coordination
- Conditionalities
- Trade and TRIPS policies
- Opposition to treatment until 2002/3
Volatility in Aid for Health, Selected Countries, 1999–2003

The need for a long-term approach to AIDS

- AIDS becoming a long-wave event
- Long-term challenges
Long-term Challenges

- Politics and leadership
- Evidence-informed policies
- Funding
- Programme implementation
Crude Prevalence by Sex - Masaka Rural Cohort Uganda

Source: LA Shafer et al., Ministry of Health Uganda, MRC, UVRI, 2006
Long-term Challenges

- Sustainability of impact
- Social change
- Technological innovation
AIDS transcends traditional boundaries of health and development
Lessons

- Anything can happen
- Solution must come from within
- Global action does make a difference
- Don’t take success for granted
- Politics does make a difference