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Quiet While 'They' Die: Unraveling the HIV/ AIDS Pandemic in Africa

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QUIET WHILE THEY DIE: UNRAVELING THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC IN AFRICA

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Thanks ^{Dr. Meister} ~~Just Meister~~ ^{April 5 2005} ^{Zuckerman School of Public Health} ^{College} ^{The Summit Film Fest} ^{Planning Committee} ^{Jamie Mullins and} ^{Julia Furusay de Zapien}

Introduction

Could have entitled this talk: 'We talk, they die.'

Every day worldwide
2000 children are born with
HIV and 10,000 people die from
~~the impact of AIDS on people and societies~~
Over 20 million people have died of AIDS since the first identifiable cases in 1981.
Critical that we note that AIDS is
a global problem, not an African or
a 'black' problem.

(which is probably the way
most Americans look at it)
Insert #1A

Despite what I've just said

Africa, for analyzable reasons, is
ground zero of the crisis with
28 million people or 64% of HIV/AIDS
cases.

Africa is ground zero because of
its poverty, because of slavery, because
of colonialism, because of wars, because
of intervention.

#1A

Sadly, most Americans yet look at the "country" of Africa with Tarzanian lenses. It is a racialized view, just as ~~their~~ the view many yet hold of Native Americans ^{remains sadly} ~~is~~ a racialized view.

The popular American grocery-store-books novelist, Robert Ruark, (author of Something of Value amongst other works) captured ~~the~~ the ~~way~~ perspective many Americans yet hold about Africa and things African when he wrote:

To understand Africa you must understand a basic impulsive savagery that is greater than anything we civilized people have encountered in two centuries."

(2)

because of debt. It is, in a sense, a whole continent that is sick and tired of being sick and tired.

The HIV/AIDS crisis has hit ^{the} African continent hardest of all ~~the~~

precisely because it is so weakened,

291 million Africans, ^{so vulnerable} nearly 50% of the continent's population live on \$1.00/day!

According to UN AIDS,

In 2003 2.2 million Africans

deaths - caused about 20% of deaths from opportunistic infections and related deaths, pneumonia, TB, STIs

died of AIDS, the equivalent of twice the population of Tucson in just 2003

infected #s

while 3 million people became newly infected.

There are today more than 12 million AIDS orphans in Africa. It is expected that at a minimum there will be 40 million such orphans in Africa by 2010.

orphans

currently, less than 30% of these orphans get publicly supported services in countries like Zambia & Mozambique & Kenya

Today there are more or ~~less~~ ^{less than} 1% or approximately 40,000 people of Africa's ~~29 million~~ ^{29 million} with HIV or AIDS are getting the urgent treatment they need.

treatment

The S.A. gov't ~~is~~ ^{today} In SA where there are approximately 5.3 million HIV positive people, 11,000 HIV positive folk are getting public health system-delivered antiretrovirals. ^(ARVs) with tens of thousands more getting them through employers and insurers. The President, Thabo Mbeki, committed in 2003 to give out ARVs to 53,000 HIV positive people by March 2004

③

AIDS in Africa, like the USA, increasingly has
 - a young woman's -
a woman's face. Today there is a

dramatic gap in ~~the~~ ~~pre~~ HIV prevalence

between African men and African women. This
 gap pattern is even ~~stranger~~ ^{bigger} in rural Africa than

urban Africa. A ~~new~~ ^{review} ^{of 15-24 year olds prevalence rates} last year ~~of~~

~~the~~ ^{found that} ~~rates~~ ²⁰ of young women in South Africa had

HIV compared to every 10 men, and in

Kenya and Mali 45 women ~~had~~ were positive

for every 10 men.

CONTEXT OF GLOBAL APARTHEID + RACISM

if it was happening to white people, it would be known
 + Booker/Minter piece

Impact + Scale

Africa

- Stopping all development, ^{lowering} ~~turning back~~ life expectancy rates

- ~~ongoing~~ ^{ongoing} holocaust ^{takes out the most} ^{productive} ^{populations}
 - every bit like the Black Plague

AFRICANS ARE FIGHTING BACK but barriers grow

but barriers ^{include}

- inadequate supply of human + \$ resources
- lack of human resources with implementation skills
- lack of support of decision makers to implement policies
- stigma attached to HIV/AIDS
- daunting size of the HIV/AIDS burden

regional organizations and planned responses
 planned education drives

WHAT IS TO BE DONE

Fight back

- STIGMA

- Mobilize Fight US cutbacks
 contribute to the UN Fund

- fighting for health care and access

- Get tested. have your friends and family tested.

quote p.55
 2004 UNAIDS
 Report

to top 4

IMPACT OF AIDS ON PEOPLE AND SOCIETIES

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disproportionate impact on women

the fact that (worldwide) women are not protected from sexual violence makes them particularly vulnerable to HIV and other STAs

- women, older women (who become the caregivers)
 - and younger women = most severely impacted, used most by the men,
 - and girls especially forced out of school

- already poor families driven into utter destitution
- already poor monthly incomes fall another 66-80%

AIDS attacks the poor and starving

- 90% of AIDS CARE occurs in households that are undernourished As a 2004 UNAIDS report puts it

"This means the epidemic is unfolding in a setting dominated by chronic malnutrition and food insecurity." (p.45)
2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic

The vicious cycle of food shortages, malnutrition and AIDS!!

The ILO projects that in 34 African countries the labor force will be between 5% and 35% smaller because of AIDS by 2020. ^{salute the work of COSATU}

In Africa the epidemic attacks the agricultural base of Africa's economies (56% of Africa's more than 430 million people work in agriculture) The UN's FAO estimates that by 2020 "AIDS will have claimed one fifth or more of agricultural workers in most countries in Southern Africa."

AIDS Impact on the workplace and on productivity

AIDS Attacks the peasant base of production

children orphaned can't get to school. They run households ["the sky in her eyes" film] teachers and lecturers among most vulnerable group [my story of the teacher in Zambia] many children taken out of school to compensate for labor losses and income losses. schools close due to not having enough money for school fees to pay the teachers

AIDS kills off education

AIDS kills off health care workers

- AIDS hit when health systems cutting back or being forced to cut back by loan conditions and SAPs. health care workers leaving or being recruited in order to get regular pay. studies show AIDS causes 19-53% of all government health employee deaths. ^{World Bank/said}

one report in the Lancet said Southern Africa lost 80,000 health workers