



HANSEN ADVOCATES

ONE VISION. ONE FIRM

“OUR TAKE”

“Sex Just Got Riskier”

Africa's Fight, Africa's Solution—Mpox and Beyond

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Introduction

Historically, pandemics like HIV/AIDS and now Mpox have disproportionately affected Africa, often with minimal global support. The pattern is distressingly familiar: HIV/AIDS was once labeled as a disease uniquely affecting Africa, and now Mpox is following a similar trajectory. Both of these diseases have been linked to sexual transmission, exacerbating the urgency for effective interventions.

Africa's Battle...

In a world where pandemics like mpox can ravage continents, Africa finds itself on the frontlines—yet again—with minimal support from the global community. The stark reality is this: while Europe has swiftly moved to contain mpox, Africa is left grappling with a surge in cases, a lack of vaccines, and scant treatment options. It begs the question: Does Europe want Africa to beg for help, or are we content to watch the continent struggle on its own?

Mpox, previously seen as a distant threat, is now spreading like wildfire across 10 African nations, with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) reporting a staggering 160% increase in cases over the past year. The situation is dire, particularly in Congo, where the death rate is up to ten times higher than in the West. Yet, while vaccines and treatments have quelled outbreaks in Europe, Africa's cries for aid have largely fallen on deaf ears



This neglect is not just a health crisis; it's a legal and moral failing on a global scale. The World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledges the severity of the outbreak but has not funneled any significant resources to stop it. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations has only recently announced studies in Congo and other African nations to explore post-exposure vaccination—a reactive measure, not a proactive solution. The message is clear: Africa must fend for itself.

But should Africa rely on the generosity of others, or is it time to rise above and develop our own solutions? The continent has a choice: to continue on a path of dependency or to assert its autonomy in the face of global indifference. This is a call to action—by Africa, for Africa.

Legally, African states must explore the possibility of regional cooperation in health crisis management. The establishment of a pan-African health body with the power to coordinate responses, pool resources, and advocate for the continent on the global stage is imperative. Africa's reliance on external entities like WHO has only served to expose the continent to the whims of global politics, often to its detriment.

Additionally, African governments must prioritize funding for research and development in healthcare. The legal framework should incentivize innovation within the continent, fostering an environment where African scientists and health professionals can lead the charge against diseases like mpox. Trade agreements and partnerships must be revisited to ensure that Africa is not merely a recipient of aid but a contributor to global health solutions.



In the same breath, African leaders must challenge the status quo at international forums, demanding equitable access to vaccines and treatments. This is not charity; it is a legal and moral obligation that the world owes to a continent that has long been on the receiving end of neglect and exploitation.

Conclusion

The Mpox crisis is a stark reminder of the dangers of dependency. Africa cannot wait for Europe or the WHO to save it. The time has come for the continent to take control of its destiny, developing homegrown solutions that can withstand the challenges ahead. By Africa, for Africa—this is the only way forward.





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