The Impact of Decolonization and the End of the Cold War on Health Development in Africa

Meeting in Nairobi, February 6-8, 2007

WHO's initiative on Global Health Histories.

**Background:** Understanding the historical context of health in the last 60 years helps us respond to the health challenges of today. Learning from history is vital in helping shape a healthier future for everyone, especially those most in need.

The Global Health Histories (GHH) initiative was launched by the World Health Organization in 2005 with these basic principles. Significant contributions will published in 2008, when on April 7 of that year, WHO will celebrate its 60th anniversary. An African perspective on this history needs to be recorded and given a much wider visibility, and to be fully incorporated into histories of WHO and health.

The creation of AFRO in 1951 was influenced by colonial imperatives in the aftermath of World War II. It was an attempt to combine politics and geography. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the African region was confronted by daunting challenges posed by decolonization and racial discrimination. The cold war brought new dynamics to the region, framing eradication efforts and primary health care. During the 1990s, as AIDS struck, structural adjustment, health sector reform and public-private partnerships came to Africa.

**Format:** The Global Health Histories initiative seeks to bring together 30 African scholars, historians of medicine, and public health leaders in a three-day meeting; ten other international participants will join. The meeting is kindly supported by WHO's Department of Knowledge Management & Sharing, and by the U.N. Special Program for Research & Training in Tropical Diseases.

Several papers will feed the meeting through a web sharepoint, and presentations and panel discussions will take place at The Stanley hotel in Nairobi. The lessons and insights gained from this meeting will be published on its own right and also feed the main books planned by WHO's Global Health Histories initiative for 2008 (select chapters will be shared in advance with all participants).

**Expected output:**
- Regional perspectives on global health histories for WHO initiative and products.
- Preparation of several papers on the history of health in Africa for local and international journals as well as Rochester University Press (which has expressed interest in a book).
- A bibliography of the history of health in Africa and resource guide to the Rockefeller's Archive Centre.
- Plans for future activities for this new African network on health history.
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Nairobi, Kenya - 6-8 February 2007

First day - Tuesday, Feb 6th

8:30-09:00  Registration for participants

09:00-10:00  Opening of the meeting
   Moderator (a.m.): Ariel Pablos-Méndez (Geneva)
   ▪ Welcoming remarks - James Nyikal
   ▪ Brief introduction of participants
   ▪ Background, objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting
     Marcos Cueto, Joe Kasonde

Theme of first day: “Decolonization and the legacy of colonialism in Africa's health”
Developments related to the end of European colonialism in the context of the emerging cold war. It will also examine the continuing legacies of colonialism after the formal political independence

10:00-11:00  How the great powers shaped the world after WWII
   James Gillespie (Australia)

11:00-11:30  Coffee break

11:30-12:30  The history of social medicine in Africa
   Shula Marks (South Africa/UK)

12:30-14:00  LUNCH
   Moderator (p.m.): Ebrahim Samba (Gambia)

14:00-14:40  The legacies of colonialism in African medicine
   Seganne & Nakanyike Musisi (Uganda)

14:40-15:20  Institutes and Universities: observations on patterns of medical research in the immediately post-colonial period in East Africa
   David Bradley (UK)

15:20-15:50  Coffee break

15:50-16:30  Decolonization and the Bias of Post-Colonial Public Policy against Traditional Medicine in West Africa
   Adebayo Lawal (Nigeria)

16:30-17:00  First day review and agenda adjustments
Second day - Wednesday, Feb 7th

Theme: “Africa's health during the cold war”
Day 2 will deal with the political and economic context of the development of health services since the 1960s, the creation of WHO's Regional Office, and major health programmes and developments in Africa. Special attention will be devoted to the struggle to build health systems during the independence period.

Moderator (a.m.): Ade Lucas (Nigeria)

8:30-9:15 The Yoruba Indigenous Healthcare System in the Post Colonial Era
Oldele Caleb Orimoongunje (Nigeria)

9:15-10:00 The Christian Medical Commission and other Faith-based efforts
Dan Kaseje (Kenya)

10:00-10:45 The waves of Primary Health Care
Marcos Cueto (Peru)

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:00 Eradication in Africa - a historical evolution.
Ebrahim Samba (The Gambia)

12:00-14:00 Group photography and LUNCH

Moderator (p.m.): Elizabeth Fee (USA)

14:00-14:45 The evolution of the health professions in Africa
Nelson Sewankambo (Uganda)

14:45-15:30 Health Research in Africa: a historical perspective
Adetokunbo Lucas (Nigeria/UK)

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-16:45 Paper title t.b.a
Mwelwa Musambachime (Zambia)

16:45-17:30 Women health at the crossroads of history in Zimbabwe
Glen Ncube (Zimbabwe)

18:30 Departure for dinner
**Third day - Thursday, Feb 8th**
Theme: “Contemporary challenges in the Globalization era” This session will address the more contemporary challenges of African health, discuss what we can learn from history, and future plans and specific outputs of the meeting such as a book and articles.

*Moderator (a.m.): Marcos Cueto (Peru)*

**8:30- 9:15**  
Global history of AIDS  
*Elizabeth Fee (USA)*

**9:15-10:00**  
The HIV war - how it was fought in Africa  
*Peter N'Dumbe (Cameroon)*

**10:00-10:45**  
NGOs and HIV/AIDS in PEPFAR times  
*Mary Inez Lyons (Kenya)*

**10:45-11:15**  
Coffee break

**11:15- 12:00**  
Structural adjustment and health sector reform  
*Bert Voetberg (Kenya)*

**12:00-14:00**  
LUNCH

*Moderator (p.m.): Martins Helder (Mozambique)*

**14:00-14:45**  
What can we learn from history?  
*Joseph Kasonde (Zambia)*

**14:45-16:00**  
Conclusions and Next Steps  
*Marcos Cueto*

**16:00-16:30**  
Closing of the Meeting  
*Ariel Pablos*

**16:30**  
*Adjourn*