

African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2021

Leapfrogging Africa: Healthcare, Education, Connectivity, and Finance

Online Forums | July 2020 - January 2021

August 26 Session Summary- Highlights - Action Steps

August 26, 2020 / Wednesday
8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 3:00 PM GMT



Fireside Chat

Africa's Approach to COVID-19



Dr. Amadou Alpha Sall,
CEO of Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal,
Director of the WHO collaborating center
for Arboviruses & Viral Hemorrhagic Fever

Ndeye Makalou, Pharm.D.,
Moderator
Global Commercial Supply Strategy
Leader, Genentech Roche

Panel Discussion

Human Capital Development: From Healthcare Access to Delivery



Josh Ghaim, PhD,
Moderator,
IgniteBrands

Josephine Fubara, PhD,
Chief Science Officer,
Sanofi Consumer
HealthCare

Alan Main,
Executive Vice President,
Consumer Healthcare

Éliane Ubalijoro, PhD,
Deputy Executive Director for
Programs, Global Open Data
in Agriculture and Nutrition
(GODAN)

#ADIS21 Registration: <http://adis21.africandiasporanetwork.org/>

Context:

African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS21) is the sixth annual global convening that celebrates and champions the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans, Diasporans and friends of Africa.

The ongoing pandemic has devastated the world and hit Africa hard. At the same time, it has forced a renewed focus on accelerating development across sectors. This focus presents an opportunity to leap forward African development, bypassing physical infrastructure that the continent has lacked for the most part of a century. We foresee acceleration across four areas: **connectivity, education, healthcare, and finance**. ADN intends to be at the forefront of this momentum.

To prioritize community well-being in light of the current global health crisis, ADIS21 will take place as a monthly virtual series from **July 2020 to January 2021**.

We value your feedback.

Please take a few minutes to take the August 26 ADIS session survey here: <https://forms.gle/H2ZnVKvw1x8y4YFY8>.



AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM
Leapfrogging Africa: Health Care, Education, Technology, and Finance

Summary

On August 26, 2020, African Diaspora Network hosted its second ADIS virtual forum: “Human Capital Development: From Healthcare Access to Delivery.” The session brought together Africans, Diasporans and friends of Africa to highlight opportunities to advance the development of ongoing healthcare initiatives in Africa.



The session began with an uplifting performance by Zimbabwean born multi-talented singer and recording artist, Piwai. Her music, featuring the Mbira, took the group to the motherland and honored the pan-African presence of the audience through songs in a variety of languages, including “One People’s for the Future.” From their homes across the globe, participants danced, up until the concluding number, “Lord Bless Africa.”

Almaz Negash, founder and executive director of African Diaspora Network, welcomed attendees, thanked funders, board members, executive leadership council, champions and team members for making the symposium possible. Negash welcomed the session speakers and reminded participants that the symposium is **more than a one-time discussion: it is a launch point for continued conversation to develop long-term solutions, partnerships, and collaboration.** Then, Dr. Josh Ghaim, ADN Board Member provided brief information on ADN and encouraged attendees to be active participants and to support the African Diaspora Network.

Fireside Chat: Africa’s Approach to COVID-19

Fireside chat moderator Ndeye Makalou, Global Commercial Supply Strategy Leader at Genentech, began a conversation with Dr. Amadou Alpha Sall,



CEO of Institute Pasteur de Dakar, who has been at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19 with his work on the \$1 diagnostic test in Senegal.

“Creativity and innovation in Africa have presented an opportunity for the continent to lead the world in the fight, because we have what it takes,” Ndeye asked Dr. Sall, “The rapid tests you have been working on with your team have been fantastic and are meant to be shared across the continent. Manufacturing in Africa will solve problems of market access. Where are we now in terms of testing?”



According to **Dr. Amadou Alpha Sall**, *“One of the main problems we have in Africa is access. When we talk about access, we talk about medical contribution. The healthcare system in Africa is weak and for that reason detection is not doing well and diagnostic, which is usually a point of entry, is hurt by that.*

That is why I wanted to have tests that can reach different populations—a test that is affordable in terms of financial access. We came up with a simple technology that allows us to do tests for \$1. We started two tests—one for antibody and one for antigen. In June we finalized the antibody one. It is available in terms of performance and we will begin manufacturing.

After we manufacture the first batch, we will deploy in Senegal as a pilot study. We will have deployment in other countries starting next month.”

Recognizing Dr. Sall’s expertise in epidemics, Ndeye inquired into his current collaboration with the West African Health Organization to address challenges of medical access in various African countries. From supplies to the workforce to access, Dr. Sall named the primary obstacles that African countries are facing. He also named three primary opportunities: training to provide skills and boost the healthcare workforce; manufacturing to augment the production of goods for medical measures, such as masks; and diagnostics as a step toward detection and treatment.

We encourage you to view the recorded video to hear the fireside chat in its entirety.

Panel Session: Human Capital Development: From Healthcare Access to Delivery

The fireside chat was followed by a panel discussion on the status of healthcare in Africa, the current narrative of investment and how we can change this, and innovation and how to support individuals with innovative ideas.

Josh Ghaim, Founder & Managing Partner of IgniteGB Inc., launched into the panel discussion by asking what the view of healthcare looks like outside of Africa. **'What is the state of Africa today? How do you support people with innovative ideas? What are we willing to do to help?'**



The session speakers drew upon their unique expertise to share insights on building capacity on the continent.

Éliane Ubalijoro, Deputy Executive Director for Programs at Global Open Data in Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) asked where do we go from here? She pointed out how there are very few African companies around the world who are leading, locally or globally, in the health sector. She points out proud efforts in areas such as Rwanda who have implemented the use of robots and pool testing, along with socioeconomic initiatives like digital transfers that reduce the spread of the virus.



"Part of it is, what is your engagement? If we're in the diaspora how often do we go back? We can mentor, we can give talks, we can mentor one-on-one or we can give talks like we have today. We can mentor hundreds of people. I've been able to equip people who did not necessarily feel that they had the confidence, but they had great ideas. How do we ensure that recognition of Africans happens so it helps them get to the next level wherever they are?"



Alan Main, Executive Vice President of Sanofi Consumer Healthcare shared his observations of successful human capital development and investment on the continent, bringing up the question of how the network can bring resources to augment that. He points out that not just government, but institutions and enterprise can look to harness human capital and invest backing in the continent. *“Sanofi is a sponsor of a digital technology conference. I was lucky enough to be a judge and look at some of these great innovative ideas coming from Africa, then supporting 3 or 4 of*

them. We talked about storytelling, about getting the message out, about making the connections and building the network. Somehow we need to persuade corporations that this is a new emerging market and then the investment opportunity will come.”

Josephine Fubara, Chief Science Officer at Sanofi Consumer Healthcare,

addressed the question of how to make healthcare innovation sustainable. She pointed out the importance of telemedicine and smartphones in advancing healthcare, but that there are still challenges to be resolved, such as misinformation. *“I took a personal look at myself and asked, 'What have I done and what will I continue to do?' This session has helped me stop and think about where I can*



start to make a difference. Educating myself more about the wonderful things happening on the continent. Making connections. Because of my position at Sanofi, I have more of an opportunity to bring a greater level of visibility and access to the work that is happening on the continent. We need to continue to shine light on what's happening in the continent.”

Suggested Action Steps:

- **Direct Medical Support:** Organizations or individuals with the capacity to provide direct health care, either on the continent or through telemedicine, are encouraged to aid the healthcare workforce in Africa.
- **Funding Initiatives to Scale:** As diagnostics accelerate, there needs to be a way to develop more tests. Funding initiatives are happening across different parts of Africa to scale production and support the distribution of tests.
- **Mentorship** provides an effective way to enhance learning and build capacity. Help young innovators make connections that will help them succeed.
- **Amplify Success Stories** by sharing the stories of progress and medical advancement led in Africa and by Africans. People don't know about the great things happening on the continent. We need to change the world's mindset. Africa is a land of opportunity.
- **Diaspora is a Force for Good:** The diaspora can invest in specific projects, programs, and initiatives that are prone to make an impact in Africa. The diaspora can bring their knowledge, talents, and resources to fund healthcare related and other research projects.

Key Questions:

- What is the focus of healthcare in Africa?
- What are some challenges and opportunities regarding healthcare in Africa?
- How can diasporans get involved in the healthcare initiatives in Africa?
- What is the current status of Dr. Sall's \$1 COVID tests?
- How can we support people with innovative ideas?

Highlights

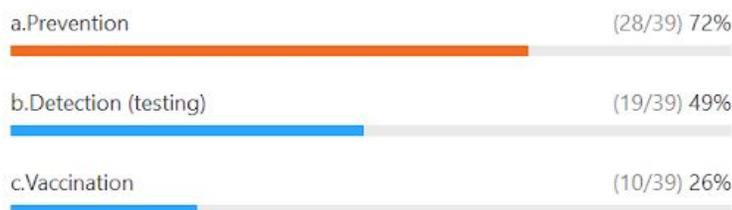
- In Senegal, public health focus is on research and training. This training is for both PhD level occupations as well as technicians that administer tests.
- We have an opportunity to show what Africans are doing-how they are taking advantage of this difficult situation. There is a lot of creativity emerging to face the challenges presented by COVID-19.
- We have the chance to build a new public health order in terms of reinforcing the public health system, workforce, and set up.
- Dr. Sall and his team are working to provide affordable testing to different populations through \$1 antibody and antigen COVID-19 tests. Their project is funded by four different partners. After the team manufactures the first COVID test batches, they plan to expand and scale up manufacturing. Deployment of tests in African countries to start next month. The Africa CDC will help deploy batches in other countries starting in December.
- Challenges of healthcare in Africa include limited access to supplies and lack of workforce training for administering tests.
- Needs in Africa and opportunities that exist to supply these needs include training for healthcare workers to administer COVID tests, manufacturers to make supplies such as masks, and the creation of diagnostics and vaccines.
- The diaspora can invest in the work happening in Africa by bringing their knowledge to specific projects/initiatives or funding these projects.
- Governments, institutions, and enterprises can harness human capital and invest back in Africa. When possible, create internships and mentorships.
- The Global Healthcare Federation affiliated with WHO is working to harmonize regulatory systems and maintain a level of confidence and trust in drugs being offered in Africa. A global survey showed that trust in medicines and healthcare systems was low in Africa.
- Telemedicine will play a significant role in how we advance health care and the provision of care, but there are still challenges, such as misinformation, we need to overcome.

- Share stories of success in Africa. People don't know about the great things happening in Africa. We need to change the world's mindset. Africa is a land of opportunity!
- We can support people with innovative ideas by providing mentorship and helping them connect to helpful networks of people.

Poll Results

A live poll was conducted during August's virtual forum (pictured below). The results of the poll show that of the poll participants, the work of 72% of participants related to prevention, 49% to detection (testing), and 26% to vaccination. The work of 51% of the poll participants supported improved health facilities and equipment in Africa, communities and healthcare workers on the ground (46%), provision of basic necessities to impacted communities (33%), investment in research and private-public partnerships (31%), funding for medical supplies and salaries for workers (28%), and insurance and access to medical care (13%). 87% of poll participants believed that workforce training is a top priority in sustaining Africa's workforce, 56% believed that workforce retention (better PPE, pay, insurance) is a top priority, 28% believed that medical internship programs is a top priority, and 21% believed recruitment drives are a top priority.

1. Does your work relate to any of the following areas of medical response? (Multiple choice)



2. Does your work directly or indirectly support strengthening Africa's healthcare system in the following ways? (Multiple choice)



3. 3. What key priorities would help amplify and sustain Africa's healthcare workforce? (Multiple choice)



Conclusion

Medical leaders across the continent have been leading healthcare advancements for decades, yet the acknowledgment of Africa as a leader in the public health sector is little acknowledged on the global frontier. We have the opportunity to lift up progress and support communities on the continent and where we live by supporting initiatives in the areas of prevention, detection, and treatment. Currently, Africa has developed testing costing less than \$1 that will soon be distributable across various countries in Africa. How do we support medical advancements and accelerated growth? Through direct support such as on-the-ground medical aid or virtual telemedicine, increased support of funding initiatives, and mentorship of individuals, we can catalyze innovative ideas into action. To ultimately transform the narrative of Africa, we can amplify stories of success with investors. Africa is a land of opportunity. Let's change the narrative by sharing stories of success!

We invite the participants of the August 2020 forum to share their feedback by filling out the following survey: <https://forms.gle/H2ZnVKvw1x8y4YFY8>.

We look forward to having you at the upcoming ADIS21 September 2020 event!

Thank you,

The African Diaspora Network Team

Resources:

Visit [ADIS21](#) Website for Resources on Education - Healthcare - Connectivity - Finance

Get to know the speakers better. Visit their organization websites

- [Institut Pasteur de Dakar](#)
- [Genentech](#)
- [Ignite Growth Brands](#)
- [Sanofi Consumer HealthCare](#)
- [Programs at Global Open Data in Agriculture and Nutrition \(GODAN\)](#)
- [McGill University](#)

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Digital Connectivity Across Africa at [ADIS21](#)



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