Africa needs to work together to combat pandemics

Africa is plagued by many epidemics – from tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS to malaria and wild polio – but the continent has also worked for decades to combat pandemics.

The key to fighting these deadly diseases is turning inward to existing expertise and finding locally driven solutions. The recent COVID-19 pandemic placed public health back in the global spotlight and has also served as a reminder of the need for local ownership and control over global health systems.

This is not a new idea. In fact, it is something that has been so familiar with fighting the HIV pandemic. Notably, South Africa has invested in HIV prevention and treatment for decades, and has made significant progress in reducing the country’s HIV prevalence over time.

The continent has also worked to strengthen its health systems and respond to emerging threats. In recent years, Africa has increased its investment in research and development to combat emerging infectious diseases, and has made progress in ensuring that these diseases are not just managed but also prevented.

Africa needs to continue to work together to combat pandemics and ensure that the continent is not left behind in the global health landscape. It is important to recognize the role of local ownership and control in the fight against epidemics and pandemics.

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