

Transcript

Good day everyone.

00:04

Let's dive into something super important today.

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We all know COVID-19 messed things up globally, right?

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It turned our world upside down.

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But let's talk specifically about Africa.

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The continent faced unique challenges and had its own stories to tell.

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Africa's knowledge.

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Which breaks down how the pandemic hit the continent.

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This book is a treasure trove of insights.

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This book is important because it doesn't just tell us what happened.

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It's like a guidebook for fixing things.

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It offers solutions and strategies for moving forward.

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Now, Africa isn't one big country, right?

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It's a diverse continent with over 50 nations.

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Each with its own story, so experiences varied wildly.

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Some nations handled the virus better than others.

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Some had robust healthcare systems, while others struggled to keep up.

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But one thing for sure, COVID-19 showed us the cracks in the system.

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Healthcare systems struggled, economies took a hit, and everyday life was disrupted.

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And let's not forget about misinformation.

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It's spread faster than the virus itself, causing confusion and fear.

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But here's the thing about Africa.

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We're resilient.

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Communities came together, supporting each other through tough times.

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We've been through a lot, and we always find a way to bounce back.

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Our history is full of stories of resilience and strength.

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This book helps us understand the challenges so we can build back stronger.

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It provides a road map for recovery and growth.

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It's about learning from the past to create a better future.

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By understanding what went wrong, we can make things right and ensure a brighter tomorrow for all of Africa.

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For instance, did you know that according to Africa's Knowledge Bridge?

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Over 30% of African countries experienced a significant drop in GDP during the pandemic, or that healthcare spending in some nations increased by nearly 50% to combat the virus.

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The book also highlights that vaccination rates varied widely, with some countries achieving over 70% coverage while others struggle to.

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Aged 20%, these stats help us understand the scale of the challenge and the efforts made to overcome it.

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Let's talk vaccines People's vaccines have been a game changer in the fight against many diseases, but their success depends on widespread acceptance and access.

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In many parts of Africa, getting vaccinated wasn't as simple as rocking up to the clinic people often had to travel long distances, sometimes on foot, to reach the.

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Nearest health care facility access to vaccines was a major issue, especially in rural areas.

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The logistics of delivering vaccines to remote locations posed significant challenges.

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According to Africa's Knowledge Bridge, only 28% of rural populations had easy access to health care facilities, but even when vaccines were available.

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Residency was a big problem.

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Many people were unsure about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

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A survey cited in Africa's Knowledge Bridge found that 35% of respondents were hesitant to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

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Some folks were worried about side effects.

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They had heard stories, often exaggerated or false, about adverse reactions.

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The book notes that 22% of people cited fear of side effects as their main reason for hesitancy.

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Others believed conspiracy theories circulating online.

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Misinformation spread rapidly through social media, fueling fears and doubts.

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Africa's Knowledge Bridge highlights that 40% of misinformation was spread through social media platforms.

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This is where trust comes in, or the lack thereof.

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Trust in the healthcare system and government is crucial for vaccine uptake.

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The book reports that only 45% of people trusted their local healthcare providers.

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When people don't trust their governments or healthcare systems, they're less likely to get vaccinated.

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Historical injustices.

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The current inequalities contribute to this mistrust.

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Africa's Knowledge Bridge indicates that 30% of people cited government mistrust as a reason for vaccine hesitancy.

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This is where clear communication is crucial.

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Governments and health organizations need to provide transparent, accurate information.

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The book emphasizes that effective.

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Communication can increase vaccine acceptance by up to 20%.

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Governments need to be upfront about the vaccines, address concerns and combat misinformation.

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They must engage with communities directly and empathetically.

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We need to meet people where they are, using trusted community leaders and local languages to get the message across.

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Building trust and understanding is key to overcoming vaccine hesitancy.

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Africa's Knowledge Bridge suggests that community LED initiatives can improve vaccine uptake by 15%.

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COVID-19 wasn't just a physical health crisis.

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It took a toll on mental health, too.

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Lockdowns, job losses and the constant fear of getting sick.

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It all added up.

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Anxiety and depression were on the rise, and access to mental health services was limited.

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Imagine being stuck at home, unable to provide.

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For your family or losing a loved one to the virus without even being able to say goodbye, these experiences leave scars and we need to talk about them.

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Mental health is just as important as physical health.

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According to Africa's Knowledge Bridge, over 40% of people in sub-Saharan Africa reported increased anxiety.

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During the pandemic, it's time to start talking about mental health openly and honestly.

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The book also highlights that only one in 10 people had access to mental health services during the crisis.

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We need to invest in mental health services, train healthcare workers, and reduce the stigma around seeking help.

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Let's be real, the pandemic.

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Colonies worldwide and Africa was no exception.

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The bustling streets turned eerily quiet and the vibrant markets were left deserted.

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Lockdowns meant businesses closed, tourism dried up and people lost their jobs.

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The once thriving small businesses.

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Had to shut their doors, leaving countless individuals without a source of income.

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According to America's Knowledge Bridge, over 30 million jobs were lost in sub-Saharan Africa due to the pandemic.

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This pushed many into poverty and made it.

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Even harder to access basic necessities, families struggle to put food on the table and children had to walk miles just to collect water.

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The book highlights that poverty rates increased by 10% in the region.

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But here's the thing, it wasn't just about the virus.

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Itself, the healthcare systems were overwhelmed and the lack of resources became glaringly obvious.

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Africas Knowledge Bridge notes that healthcare spending dropped by 15% during the crisis.

07:04

It was about the systems in place.

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Or the lack thereof.

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Government struggled to provide adequate support and community meetings became crucial in addressing health and safety concerns.

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The book also mentions that 40% of healthcare facilities face severe shortages of essential supplies many African countries.

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Really heavily on a few industries.

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So when those industries shut down, the impact was devastating.

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Mining operations halted, manufacturing plants closed and agricultural fields were left untended.

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The book reports a 25% decline in industrial output.

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We need to diversify our economy and invest in small businesses and create social safety Nets to protect the most vulnerable.

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Market vendors and small business owners are the backbone of our communities and they need our support.

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Africa's knowledge bridge.

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Suggests that a 20% increase in investment in small businesses could significantly boost economic recovery.

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This pandemic exposed the weaknesses in our systems, but it also presented an opportunity to build back stronger and more resilient.

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Strategic planning and community efforts.

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We can create a brighter future for all.

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For more details on what we discussed in this video, grab the open book title *Africa's Knowledge Bridge* by Osuagwu Levy and colleagues.