

# HIV/AIDS THROUGH THE YEARS

**1968**

- First clinically diagnosed AIDS patient is identified in Rakai by Dr Andrew Lwegaba.
- AIDS was associated with witchcraft.
- New Vision publishes about a new disease **NOTE: Uganda Argus became New vision in 1986 so AIDS articles were reported after Cuban President told President Museveni to check his soldiers**
- Global Researchers announce that HIV causes AIDS and that the leading mode of transmission is through sex

**1970**

- Uganda Cancer Institute treated cases of 'epidemic' Kaposi Sarcoma
- President Amin refers to AIDS as 'funny disease' brought by the soldiers from Tanzania
- AIDS called "Mukenyanya", "Nabwokeera", "Kattira"

**1978**

- "A neighbour and later her boyfriend die in Makindye after suffering from a strange disease
- "Slim". People got thinner and died

**1982**

- There was a time when a strange disease crept into the borders of Uganda. Many didn't know how or where such painful death was coming from. Perhaps people were being cursed? Perhaps the war with the Tanzanians had infected the people on their path? In this moment of the unknown people would see their loved ones

**1984**

- 'Slim' has an official name - HIV/AIDS

**1986**

- Uganda soldiers went to Cuba for training and when they were tested, 30% were HIV positive. President Fidel Castro told the President Yoweri Kaguta about the issue.
- Museveni then led the campaign against the disease and dedicated 5 minutes of his speech during every function to talk about it. Government Officials and Resistance Council Members (now Local Council members) were given handbooks to guide their community sensitisation. They too had to dedicate 5 minutes of all their public addresses to talking about HIV and AIDS.
- Doctors would not touch AIDS patients
- ELISA test - first HIV test available in Uganda.
- Community involvement in struggle against AIDS started
- Establishment of the AIDS Control Programme as a department under Ministry of Health in Entebbe. ACP Communication Campaign
- ACP Sensitisation programme included use of war drums to alert the population about the killer AIDS.
- Radio Uganda scares tactics programs of sounding of the drum, "Gwanga mujje" to alert people for HIV messages on Radio Uganda.

**1987**

- Founding of The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO)
- Establishment of an Immuno-Suppression Syndrome clinic in Mulago Hospital by Dr Ely Katabira.

**1988**

- Recognition of counselling and as a core activity in the HIV care
- Drama becomes central to HIV behavioural change messaging
- Medications imported from Kenya but too expensive
- Establishment of the Nakasero Blood Bank as a testing site for AIDS
- Yowanina Nanyonga Miracle Soils. She declared that she discovered the medicine that could cure AIDS and crowds went to her place to get the miracle soils

**1989**

- National prevalence of HIV estimated at 14%

**1990**

- HIV/AIDS term started being used and HIV challenge clubs in schools were formed sensitized by Philly Lutaaya
- JCRC started trials on ARVS AZT-Zidovudine
- AIDS Information Centre started to provide volunteering testing and treating
- Tuberculosis was killing many People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA)
- Research intervention JCRC set up as a research institute.
- Publication of Uganda as the best country in fighting against HIV aired on Uganda Television UTV (Now UBC)
- First HIV Policy published in Uganda. It was estimated that 10% of the AIDS patients were children under 5 years old.

**1991**

- A play called "Ndiwulira" by the Bakayimbira Dramactors in launched by the then Minister for Health Dr. James Makumbi at Pride Theatre.
- A play "The Riddle" became part of the Uganda Primary School drama competitions

**1992**

- The Uganda AIDS commission born in parliament
- Music, dance and Drama became part of Community HIV sensitization. A play "The Hydra" became part of the Uganda Secondary Schools and post primary institutions AIDS Drama Competition.

**1993**

- TB associated with HIV
- DOT (Direct Observation Therapy) was started in response to poor adherence to the anti-TBs due to stigma

**1994**

- Many PLHAs were claiming to have been healed and many went for prayers to be healed
- PLHAs started their Networks to protest against being used and fight for their right to get drugs
- UAC introduced the multi-sectoral approach, involving churches, mosques, and cultural leaders
- DJ Berry (a popular DJ on Capital FM proposes a project on Positive Health Project (PHP).

**1996**

- The Condoms use campaigns was at the peak
- Treatment transitions from monotherapy to Dual therapy in 1991 then optimal triple to date.
- ARVs required refrigeration
- UNAIDS is formed and Noerine Kaleeba is invited to join as the Programme Development Advisor for Africa

**1997**

- Makerere University John Hopkins University Project begins using ART for prevention of Mother to Child transmission of HIV.
- Evolution of counselling since 1987 from "wait to die" to "adhere to your treatment"

**1998**

- South Africa court case brings the ARV access issue to the global stage
- WTO adoption of the Doha declaration on public Health to increase access to medicine
- HIV workplace policy was put in place to reduce stigma
- Uganda Virus Research Institute/International AIDS Vaccine Initiative programme begins to conduct Phase I/II HIV Vaccine trials in Entebbe.

**1999**

- National HIV prevalence at 10%

**2000**

- TASO distributed first ART under donation programmes
- Mama's Club, a post test club for Women Living with HIV was established.

**2001**

- HIV National Serological survey found: Six percent of Ugandan adults aged 15-49 are infected with HIV and prevalence among women is higher (8%) than among men (5%)

**2002**

- The International AIDS Society Conference in Durban highlighted the inequality between PLHIV receiving ART in resource rich settings and hardly anyone in Africa receiving ART
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, was established
- First Ugandan Ministry of Health Voluntary Testing and Counselling (VCT) guide-line released
- PMTCT was initiated by the first lady of Uganda to reduce the number of babies getting HIV from their mothers
- Uganda signed the UNGASS declaration of the UN.
- Cost of ARVs came down to US\$ 70 per month per person.

**2003**

- Diagnosing HIV in infants in Uganda 2003 at JCRC
- National forum for people living with HIV networks in Uganda launched (NAFOPHANU)
- WHO launched the 3million people on treatment by 2005 initiative- 2% of PLHIV in Africa were on treatment
- The Presidents Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was established by President George W Bush
- National Prevalence at 6.4%
- Launch of the Presidential Initiative on AIDS Strategy for Communication to Youth (PIASCY).

**2004**

- The national prevalence of HIV at 8%

**2005**

- Ugandan MOH ART scale up begins
- UNAIDS introduced the three (3) zeros that is, Zero new infection, Zero HIV stigma and discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related deaths
- Clinton Foundation announces deal for Indian companies to make generic ARVs for Africa - dropping the price from around \$1500 to \$15 per month

**2007**

- Partners Prep study including Ugandan researchers shows that in HIV negative partners taking ART can prevent them becoming infected (Pre-exposure prophylaxis - PREP)
- Campaign by the First Lady of Uganda, Janet Museveni

**2008**

- Second National HIV treatment guideline was released
- 300 government health centres were providing medication; 100,000 people getting medication
- CD4 count testing and monitoring included in guidelines
- Expansion of treatment for people who had a CD4 count <350cells/ul

**2009**

- Free drugs for Ugandans Babies born with HIV 28,000

**2011**

- Updated guideline recommended starting people on treatment much earlier (with a Cd4 count <500cells/ul)
- Test and Treat - All pregnant women and children and those with TB or Hepatitis B should start ART for life as soon as diagnosed with HIV

**2012**

- 750,000 PLHIV on ART countrywide
- Voluntary medical male circumcision programme established
- UNAIDS and partners launched 3 ambitious 90-90-90 targets for 2020

**2013**

- Number of children infected in pregnancy/childbirth dropped by 89% to less than 3,000 per year

**2014**

- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**2015**

- Test and treat for all with HIV policy launched in Uganda (December 1st) as part of global goal of ending HIV by 2030
- Monitoring of HIV by viral load (which can also measure how infectious someone is) started
- SDGs launched-SDG3 targets and end to the AIDS epidemic by 2030

**2016**

- Babies born with HIV 3,500
- Total so far - 3.6 million Voluntary medical Male Circumcisions performed
- PLHIV on ART = 1.1 million

**2017**

- PFTI (presidential fast-track initiative) to end AIDS by 2030 June was formed
- Dreams programme set up to help young women and girls avoid HIV

**2020**

- The national prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15 to 64 in Uganda is 6.2%

**THE FUTURE**

**CURE FOR HIV**

