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September 16, 2020
Lessons from Past Epidemics: 3 Key Points

Figure: Lessons from past epidemics in Africa

1. Health financing
2. Domestic governance and response (contact tracing, testing, supported isolation)
3. Trust
Health Financing: Relatively Low Levels of Domestic Govt. Health Spending and High Dependence on Donor/External Financing

**Figure:** Health Financing Statistics, 2017. Source: World Bank
High Levels of External Financing Means That Global Governance Institutions Can Mitigate the Effects of Epidemics: Evidence from WHO Meningitis Epidemic Declarations

Figure: More economic activity, < stunting and underweight children currently, if born in high meningitis shock districts and year = epidemic year
WHO Epidemic Declarations Can Trigger Inflows of Disaster Aid: Evidence from World Bank Projects

Figure: More health projects approved and committed and disbursed to health projects overall during epidemic years, less to non-health projects.
WHO Epidemic Declarations Can Trigger Inflows of Disaster Aid: Evidence from World Bank Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 WB Project titles by Epidemic year and Health classification</th>
<th>Health project= 0</th>
<th>Health project=1</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Epidemic year= 0                                               | • Transport sector project  
• Transport sector program support project  
• Urban infrastructure rehabilitation project  
• Transport infrastructure rehabilitation project  
• Local urban infrastructure development project | | • Community action program  
• Social fund  
• Health, fertility and nutrition project |
| Epidemic year=1                                                | • Road Transport project  
• Pilot private irrigation promotion project  
• Post-Primary education  
• Regional Hydropower development project  
• Village infrastructure project | | • Health sector development program  
• Economic recovery and adjustment credit (ERAC) project |

**Figure:** Top 5 World Bank health and non-health projects funded by project title in epidemic and non-epidemic years
Effective Domestic Governance and Response is Key to Mitigating the Effects of Epidemics

Information and contact tracing (COVID-19 tracker apps, WhatsApp chatbots)

2 Testing

3 Supported isolation (large informal sector, 71%, welfare programs like food aid, free water and electricity for very poor, investment in sanitation)
Mistrust in Govt Institutions Can Undermine Vaccination Efforts and Governments Must Work With Local Stakeholders to Mitigate This: Evidence from 1996 Pfizer Vaccine Trials in Nigeria

Figure: “We Are Not Guinea Pigs”