



Back to Our Roots? Tracing the Evolution of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in Africa



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Affiliations

- 1 Association of Volunteers in International Service
- 2 Afya na Haki Institute
- 3 Medicines Transparency Alliance

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1 Background

African Traditional Medicine is one of the oldest forms of healthcare systems that has stood the test of time. The advent of COVID-19 and other epidemics such as Ebola and Marburg call for urgency for Africa to meet its increasing need and demand for pharmaceutical products and tackle persistent lack of access to essential medicines.

2 Methods

The study was conducted in 2022 using a case study design focusing on a local indigenous pharmaceutical manufacturer start-up in Uganda. Qualitative methods were used. Reflexivity and positionality were applied to improve the sensitivity of the researchers to the political and social context.

4 Conclusion

Africa needs to transform its traditional and complementary medicines into a frontier for pharmaceutical innovation and production to meet its ever-growing needs for sustainable access to medicines. This will be achieved through targeted investments across the pharmaceutical value chain with emphasis on regional collaborations.

3 Results

- In pre-colonial African society, health problems were resolved using African Traditional Medicine. However, the coming of Europeans marked a turning point of this age-long tradition and culture. Colonial states used both civil and criminal laws to challenge and marginalize most African therapeutics. Medical pluralism became the norm even when colonial services received the lion's share of resources.
- In post-independence, concerted efforts were and are being made to recognize traditional medicine as an important aspect in healthcare system.
- Recently there has been a resurgence in use of traditional therapeutics coupled with calls for Africa to develop capacities in pharmaceutical manufacturing and integration of traditional medicines to improve access to medicines.

➤ **Key words:** African Traditional Medicine, Pharmaceutical manufacturing

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Biography:

Mr. Muhumuza Abdulkharim is the Head of Partnerships and Communications at Afya na Haki, an African research and training institution that advances Health, Human Rights and SRHR and uses Africentric approaches to generate evidence and undertake advocacy capacity enhancement at national, regional and global level. He is also the Regional Hub Coordinator for the Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health (COPASAH) for East and Southern Africa.

Muhumuza is a programming and partnerships enthusiast with over 8 years work experience in the field of Health, Human Rights and SRHR. He coordinates partnerships, collaborations, communications and networks at national, regional and international level. Muhumuza holds a Master's degree in Public Health, a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences, a certificate in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV, TB and Human Rights Advocacy and Training in Southern and East Africa and a certificate in Project Management in Global Health.