



COVID-19 in Africa: Supply chain disruptions and the role of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement

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ABSTRACT

The pandemic has led to discourse on the supply chains of African countries' healthcare markets, emphasizing the need for an increase in local manufacturing of medical resources. Several African countries' health markets have been heavily reliant on imports, highlighting the need to strengthen continental value chains and local manufacturing capacity. COVID-19 has led to an increase in self-reliance through production partnerships and collaboration between health organizations, which are essential to establish the continent's new public health order. The case studies presented are the COVID-19 test developed in Senegal, hands free washing stations in Sierra Leone, and the creation of personal protective equipment in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi. This highlights progress made toward health market reform and calls attention to the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area to strengthen the supply, manufacturing, and trade of medical resources.

(137 words)

BIOGRAPHY

Jonta Kamara is health systems and health policy analyst. She is currently a Junior Professional Consultant at UNICEF Headquarters working within the Digital Learning Unit. She was selected as a Youth Delegate to attend the 2022 Conference of Public Health in Africa representing the Diaspora. She completed her Master of Public Health at King's College London and her Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Health Studies with a double minor in African Studies and Immunology at New College, University of Toronto. She has over 3 years of public health research experience in maternal and child health, disability-inclusive education, and health policy. Jonta is the recipient of the 2022 Best Poster Award at the Canadian Global Health Students and Young Professionals Summit, 2022 CJ Little Johns Prize at King's College London, the 2021 Trudy Bush Fund at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and the 2018 Best Delegate in the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office at the London Model World Health Organization Conference. Jonta is also a TEDx speaker. To learn more about her work, visit: <https://www.jontakam.com/>

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