

Doctors Without Borders:

THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS



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HOW WE'RE CHANGING THE FACE OF TREATMENT

In the early days of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Doctors Without Borders faced a difficult question: How can an emergency medical care organization undertake to treat an illness that has no cure and requires lifelong treatment with antiretroviral medications (ARVs)?



“ Around 100 people have tested at each event, taking a break from the entertainment to find out their status. This collaboration between our medical team and the local theater group is allowing us to effectively gain access to large numbers of people and is helping, little by little, to tackle the huge problem we have here of public misunderstanding of HIV. ”

—DR. ROB VERRECCHIA, HIV AND TB DOCTOR IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

INDEPENDENT, NEUTRAL, IMPARTIAL
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
HUMANITARIAN AID



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Out in the field, our medical teams were encountering so many people who, without the vital treatment they needed, were dying from opportunistic infections like tuberculosis (TB) or pneumonia as their immune systems became weakened by HIV. We knew we had to **address the underlying disease** and come up with a simpler and more efficient treatment model.

TREATMENT BY THE NUMBERS



We provided care for over
216,700 patients
with HIV/AIDS in 2017.

Over the past two decades, Doctors Without Borders has pioneered HIV/AIDS treatment designed specifically for people living in areas with low resources. For instance: in a single visit, we allow patients to pick up **three months' worth** of their needed medications (and, in some cases, medications on behalf of others in their communities). It's a simple way to eliminate the need for people to travel long distances for unnecessary additional appointments. Our comprehensive model includes proven programs that focus on prevention, education, HIV testing, counseling, and distribution of life-saving ARVs.

LEARN MORE

about how we can help end the HIV/AIDS epidemic together:
doctorswithoutborders.org

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Awarded the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize