

Leaders Support Epidemic Preparedness Funding

Political leaders and experts in Nigeria and around the world agree: Investing in epidemic preparedness is key to a strong health system that will prevent, find and stop disease outbreaks before they get out of control. Here's what some of these leaders are saying:



“The threats posed by COVID-19 have cast a spotlight on the shortcomings in health systems in the African region. Countries must invest in emergency preparedness. This investment is worthwhile when you consider the cost of responding to outbreaks.”

Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Natalie Moeti,
Regional Director – Africa, World Health Organization

“We spend a lot of money preparing for terrorist attacks, but don't invest enough to prepare for infectious disease outbreaks which can have more economic, social, political impact when they happen.”



Dr. Wondimagegnehu Alemu,
Country Representative – Nigeria, World Health Organization



“Emergencies and epidemics have a significant cost on the economy. This translates to a loss in revenue and increase in government spending when we have epidemics.”

Olumide Ayodele,
Budget Office of the Federation

“The lesson in this coronavirus outbreak is for us to be well prepared. After coronavirus, what virus is next? We need to be more aware of the danger of epidemics and be better prepared.”



Distinguished Senator Ibrahim Oloriegbe,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health



“We don't have to always wait until there is an epidemic. During the Ebola Outbreak, we had sanitizers everywhere but that stopped. With coronavirus, they are bringing it back. We all have to make preparedness, a culture in Nigeria”

Distinguished Senator Utazi Chukwuka,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Diseases

“The World Bank estimates that the annual global cost of moderately severe to severe pandemics is roughly \$570 billion, or 0.7% of global income.”



Dr. Inyang Asibong,
Commissioner for Health, Cross River State



“Health security is a shared responsibility. Intersectoral collaboration among different players is key; over 70% of human diseases originate from animals.”

Dr. Hiver Boussini,
Senior Animal Health Officer, African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

“COVID-19 could cost the global economy more than a TRILLION dollars. And it costs \$1/capita/year to upgrade systems to find faster, stop sooner, and better prevent emerging health threats. The world needs sustained commitment to better health protection.”



Dr. Tom Frieden,
President and CEO, Resolve to Save Lives

Please join these leaders in speaking up about the importance of investing in epidemic preparedness. Support increased funding for epidemic preparedness today.