



Health Systems Resilience in Epidemic Response: Lessons from African Experiences

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Abstract

The global health landscape has seen a surge in epidemics due to rapid urbanization, climate change, and globalization, leading to unprecedented challenges for health systems worldwide. In Africa, particularly in Egypt, these systems have demonstrated resilience but also highlighted critical areas needing improvement. The analysis employs a mixed-methods approach combining secondary data review from government reports, academic literature, and expert interviews to provide a comprehensive overview of health system resilience in Egyptian epidemic response. Qualitative insights are used to explore specific case studies and thematic areas in depth. Findings indicate that Egypt's health systems have shown remarkable adaptability during recent epidemics such as the - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak, where timely vaccination campaigns were implemented effectively. However, there is a notable gap in preparedness for pandemics like COVID-19 due to underinvestment in research and infrastructure. This analysis underscores the importance of sustained investments in health systems, particularly in pandemic preparedness, alongside continuous improvement in governance structures and public-private partnerships to enhance resilience against future epidemics. To improve health system resilience, Egypt should prioritise increased funding for research into emerging diseases, strengthen collaboration between government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and ensure equitable access to healthcare services across the country.

Keywords: *Geographic, Urbanization, Resilience, Public Health, Anthropocene, Complexity Theory, Community Engagement*

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