

Pharmaceutical Crisis in Africa

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I am here today to tell you about the pharmacological deviance in Africa.

I have great respect for all the efforts that have been made by our authorities to preserve the drug circuit in Africa, but it is a fact: the parallel drug market persists. Pharmacists are the first actors to ensure compliance with the pharmaceuticals regulations regarding the use, possession and delivery of drugs.

A traffic booming, a lucrative activity with a low penalty, accepted by the weakness of our African governances contribute to the development of a parallel market, tolerated by the economic weakness of the African society. This would be responsible tomorrow for the pharmacological deviance and would represent the major toxicological risk factor in Africa. It is an international Public Health Emergency in Africa, I call it PHEA.

Fake drugs represent a health scourge for the African continent. As a young pharmacist, before I started school, the market for fake drugs already existed, and many years after, it still exists. Street drugs market also known as "Pharmacy on the ground", a common phenomenon in Africa. Drugs are simply beyond traceability and quality control. Africa should no longer be looked at and qualified as a continent in which there is a street drug market. It's really strange and sad at the same time, that illicit trade in substandard medicines and counterfeit pharmaceuticals are widespread in Africa despite all these efforts.

Is it a recklessness on the part of our politico - administrative, health and social authorities? Is it a problem of carelessness or a livelihood?

This situation lead to serious health consequences, therapeutic failures, contributed to the emergence of resistance to treatment and sometimes irreversible complications. Many people get intoxicated and in serious cases die. The economic conditions are far from optimal in Africa, many people join these street pharmacies for economic reasons, but I think that money is not everything and health is better.

To my humble opinion, African leaders have the power and the duty to thwart the manufacture and distribution of fake health products, and an international legal tool must be put in place in order to improve the health of populations, by reinforcing the penalization of trafficking. Raising public awareness of this deadly risk. Africa need a move.

Are we missing the Real?

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