HIV/AIDS THROUGH THE YEARS

1968

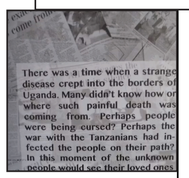
- "A neighbour and later her boyfriend die in Makindye after suffering from a strange disease
- 'Slim'. People got thinner and died

1978

- President Amin refers to AIDS as 'funny disease' brought by the soldiers from Tanzania
- Community involvement in the struggle against AIDS started.
- AIDS called "Mukenenya", "Nabwokeera", "Kattira"

1982

- Dr Anthony Lwegaba, then working as a Medical Officer in Kalisizo Health Centre, Rakai District, described the first cases of HIV disease in Uganda
- AIDS was associated with witchcraft.
- New Vision publishes about a new disease


There was a time when a strange disease crept into the borders of Uganda. Many didn't know how or where such painful death was coming from. Perhaps people were being cursed? Perhaps the war with the Tanzanians had infected the people on their path? In this moment of the unknown people would see their loved ones

1984

- ELISA test, first HIV test available in Uganda

'Slim' has an official name — HIV/AIDS

1986

- Uganda soldiers went to Cuba for training and when they were tested, 30% were HIV positive. President Fidel Castro told the president about the issue.
- Doctors would not touch AIDS patients

1987

- Founding of TASO and the Immune Suppression Syndrome (ISS) clinic was started by Prof. Elly Katabira
- TASO treats opportunistic infections
- The key mode of transmission was discovered as sex
- "TASO HUG" by counselors born
- Philly Lutaaya came out publicly about his status. However, after Philly's testimony people who had AIDS were classified as promiscuous people

1988

- Nsambya Home care started with palliative care for HIV/AIDS patients
- Dying with dignity
- First counselling manual released

1989

- Recognition of counselling and as a core activity in the HIV care
- Launch of Philly Lutaaya Initiative to train in public speaking and offering emotional support to people living with HIV
- Drama becomes central to HIV behavioural change messaging
- Medications imported from Kenya but too expensive

1990

- HIV/AIDS term started being used and HIV challenge clubs in schools were formed sensitized by Philly Lutaaya
- JCRC started trials on ARVS AZT-Zidovudine
- AIDS Information Centre started
- Tuberculosis was killing many People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA)
- Research intervention JCRC set up as a research institute.
- Publication of Uganda as the best country in fighting against HIV aired on Uganda Television UTV (Now UBC)

National prevalence of HIV estimated at 14%

1992

- First mass launch of red ribbon
- The Uganda AIDS commission born in parliament
- Canon Gideon came out as first religious leader to come out as HIV positive, by then a Reverend. People were encouraged to test because of his courage
- School drama competitions, The Riddle 1992-93 for Primary schools

1993

- TB associated with HIV
- DOT (Direct Observation Therapy) was started in response to poor adherence to the anti-TBs due to stigma
- Radio Uganda scares tactics programs of sounding of the drum, "Gwanga mujje" to alert people for HIV messages on Radio Uganda.

1994

- Many PLHAs were claiming to have been healed and many went for prayers to be healed
- PLHAs started their Networks to protest against being used and fight for their right to get drugs
- UAC introduced the multi-sectoral approach, involving churches, mosques, and cultural leaders
- Nanyonga Miracle Soils. She declared that she discovered the medicine that could cure AIDS and crowds went to her place to get the miracle soils

1996

- The Condoms use campaigns was at the peak
- Treatment transitions from monotherapy to Dual therapy in 1991 then optimal triple to date.
- ARVs required refrigeration

1998

National HIV prevalence at 10%

2000

- Evolution of counselling since 1987 from "wait to die" to "adhere to your treatment"

2001

- South Africa court case brings the ARV access issue to the global stage
- WTO adoption of the Doha declaration on public Health to increase access to medicine
- HIV workplace policy was put in place to reduce stigma

2002

- The International AIDS Society Conference in Durban highlighted the inequality between PLHIV receiving ART in resource rich settings and hardly anyone in Africa receiving ART
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, was established
- First Ugandan Ministry of Health Voluntary Testing and Counselling (VCT) guide-line released
- PMTCT was initiated by the first lady of Uganda to reduce the number of babies getting HIV from their mothers

2003

- Diagnosing HIV in infants in Uganda 2003 at JCRC
- National forum for people living with HIV networks in Uganda launched (NAFOPHANU)
- WHO launched the 3million people on treatment by 2005 initiative- 2% of PLHIV in Africa were on treatment
- The Presidents Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was established by President George W Bush

2004

- TASO distributed first ART under donation programmes

HIV National Sero-behavioural survey found: Six percent of Ugandan adults aged 15-49 are infected with HIV and prevalence among women is higher (8%) than among men (5%)

The national prevalence of HIV at 8%

2005

- Ugandan MOH ART scale up begins
- UNAIDS introduced the three (3) zeros that is, Zero news infection, Zero HIV stigma and discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related deaths
- Clinton Foundation announces deal for Indian companies to make generic ARVs for Africa – dropping the price from around $1500 to $15 per month

2007

- Rakai Health Science programme showed that circumcision reduced the spread of HIV (published in The Lancet)

2008

- Second National HIV treatment guideline was released
- 300 government health centres were providing medication; 100,000 people getting medication
- CD4 count testing and monitoring included in guidelines
- Expansion of treatment for people who had a CD4 count <350cells/ul

2011

- Partners Prep study including Ugandan researchers shows that in HIV negative partners taking ART can prevent them becoming infected (Pre-exposure prophylaxis – PREP)

2012

- 750,000 PLHIV on ART countrywide
- Voluntary medical male circumcision programme established
- UNAIDS and partners launched 3 ambitious 90-90-90 targets for 2020

2013

- Updated guideline recommended starting people on treatment much earlier (with a Cd4 count <500cells/ul)
- Test and Treat - All pregnant women and children and those with TB or Hepatitis B should start ART for life as soon as diagnosed with HIV

2014

- Test and treat for all with HIV policy launched in Uganda (December 1st) as part of global goal of ending HIV by 2030
- Monitoring of HIV by viral load (which can also measure how infectious someone is) started
- SDGs launched-SDG3 targets and end to the AIDS epidemic by 2030

The national prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15 to 64 in Uganda is 6.2%

2015

- Number of children infected in pregnancy/ childbirth dropped by 89% to less than 3,000 per year

Babies born with HIV 3,500

2016

- PFTI (presidential fast-track initiative) to end AIDS by 2030 June was formed
- Dreams programme set up to help young women and girls avoid HIV

2017

2018

Total so far - 3.6 million Voluntary medical Male Circumcisions performed
PLHIV on ART = 1.1 million

Babies born with HIV 28,000
Free drugs for Ugandans

THE FUTURE

LONG ACTING INJECTABLE ANTI RETROVIRAL

CURE FOR HIV

HIV VACCINE