

Beyond HIV. Taking HIV to Another Level

Cerro Maggiore, October, 14th, 2024

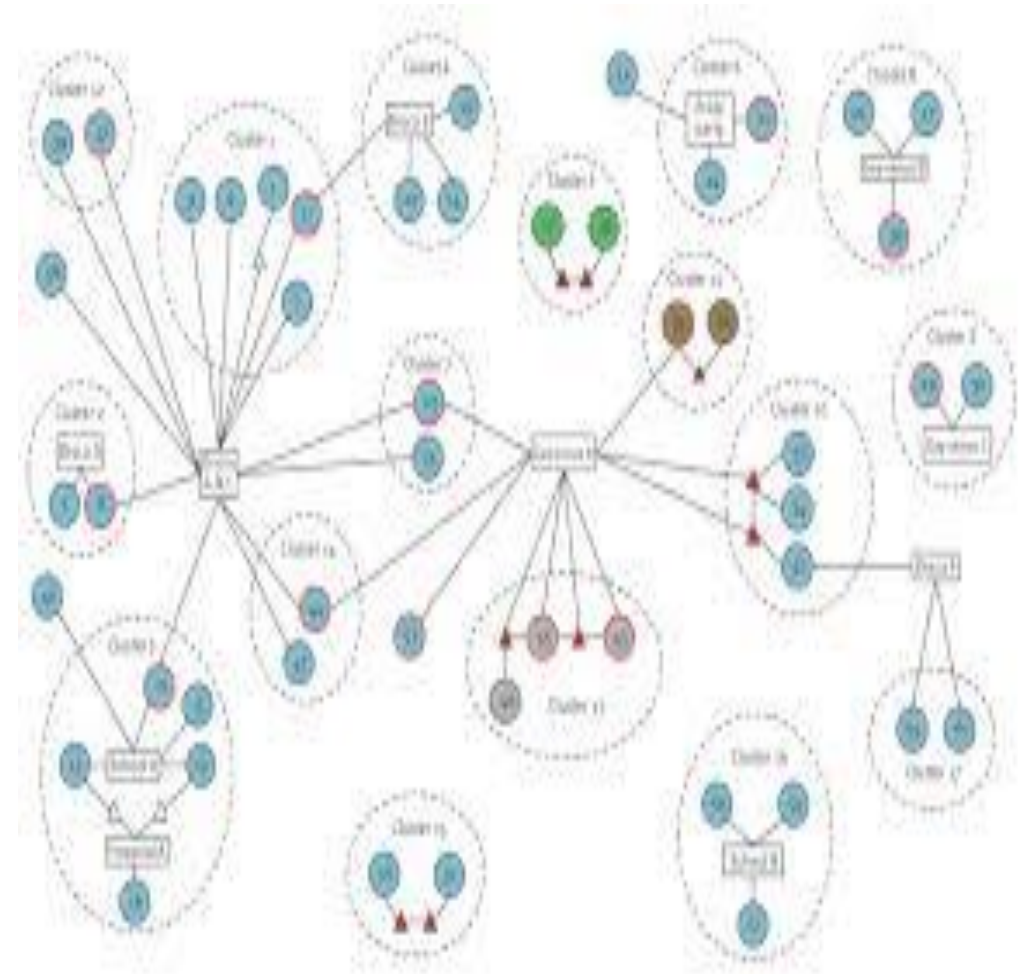
The importance of networking: from Italy to Africa and back

Edoardo Ocra, Doctors with Africa CUAMM



Networking and Community Health in Africa

- The term Networking refers to a system of connecting multiple devices and users to a network, including platforms, operating systems, protocols and network architectures.
- In the context of health cooperation interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa, the model is organized around people and formal and informal institutions, with a minimum level of technology and education, united around social structures and codes of behavior.
- A fragile crystal, on which depends the ability to stem epidemics, direct treatment choices, break down stigmas



Community Networks; A horizontal model, capillary, effective model

- In fragile contexts, where the health system is severely de-structured, the presence of widespread networks of community health workers is a fundamental public health measure.
- They carry out essential tasks of epidemiological surveillance, reference, follow up.





Based on a medical semantics and "other" value systems, community workers spread prevention campaigns through culturally appropriate ways and codes, leading to more effective behavior change and contributing to the reduction of risk factors ...and collect data

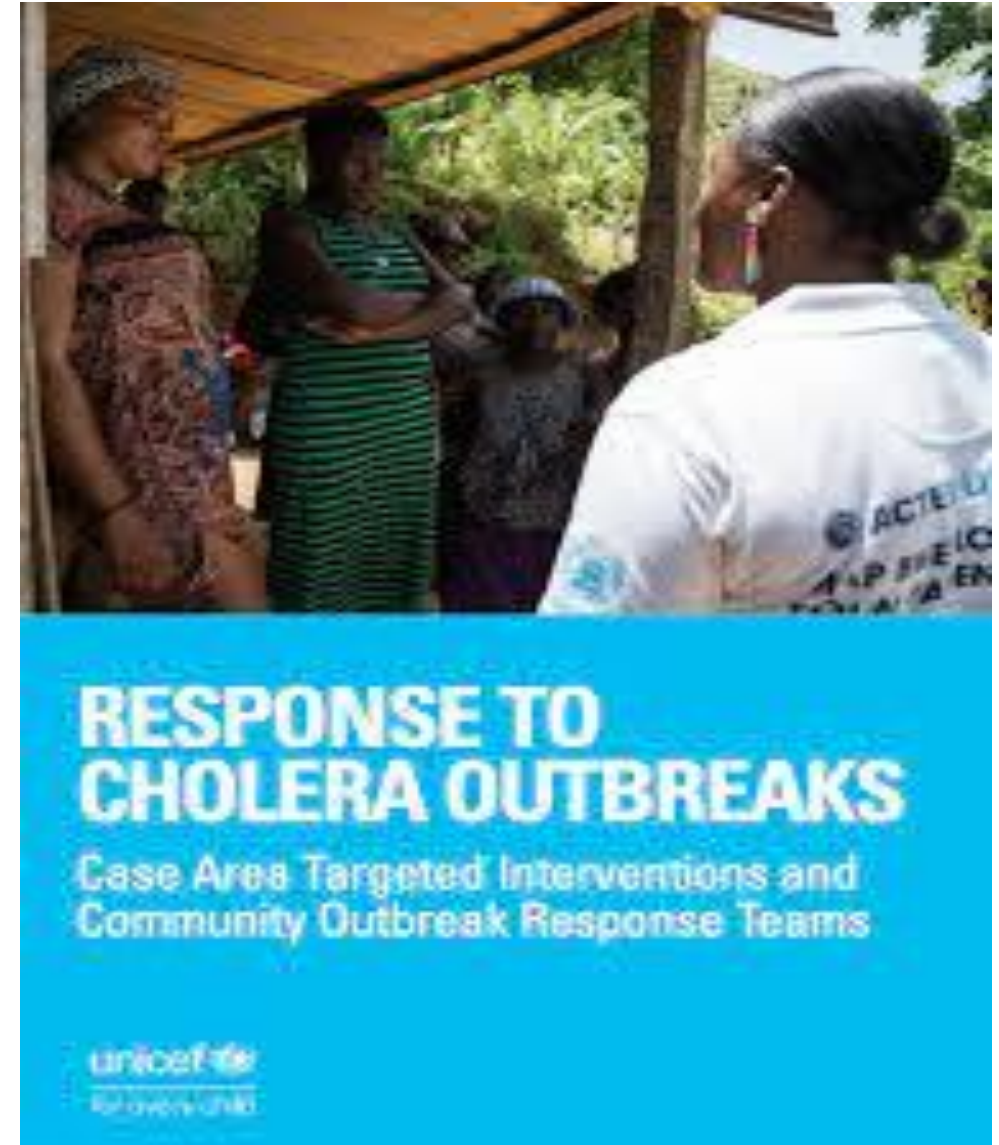
In the city of Beira, Mozambique, we have 3 times more HIV+ adolescent girls than boys. This is due to social norms that lead to the verticality of transmission. Understanding the behavioral and cultural determinants, the linguistic and symbolic codes become a tool for epidemiological investigation and allows for the implementation of measures capable of limiting transmission, especially due to the most vulnerable categories (indigent adolescent girls, transactional sex, etc.).



In Mozambique, a cholera epidemic between '22 and '23 in various provinces, aggravated by cyclone Freddy that hit the city of Quelimane in the province of Zambezia on March 11, 2023

In February 2024, there were approximately 65k cases and hundreds of victims

CUAMM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF, has been working on a rapid response to the epidemic since the beginning, through various types of intervention





3° bairro nhamatanda

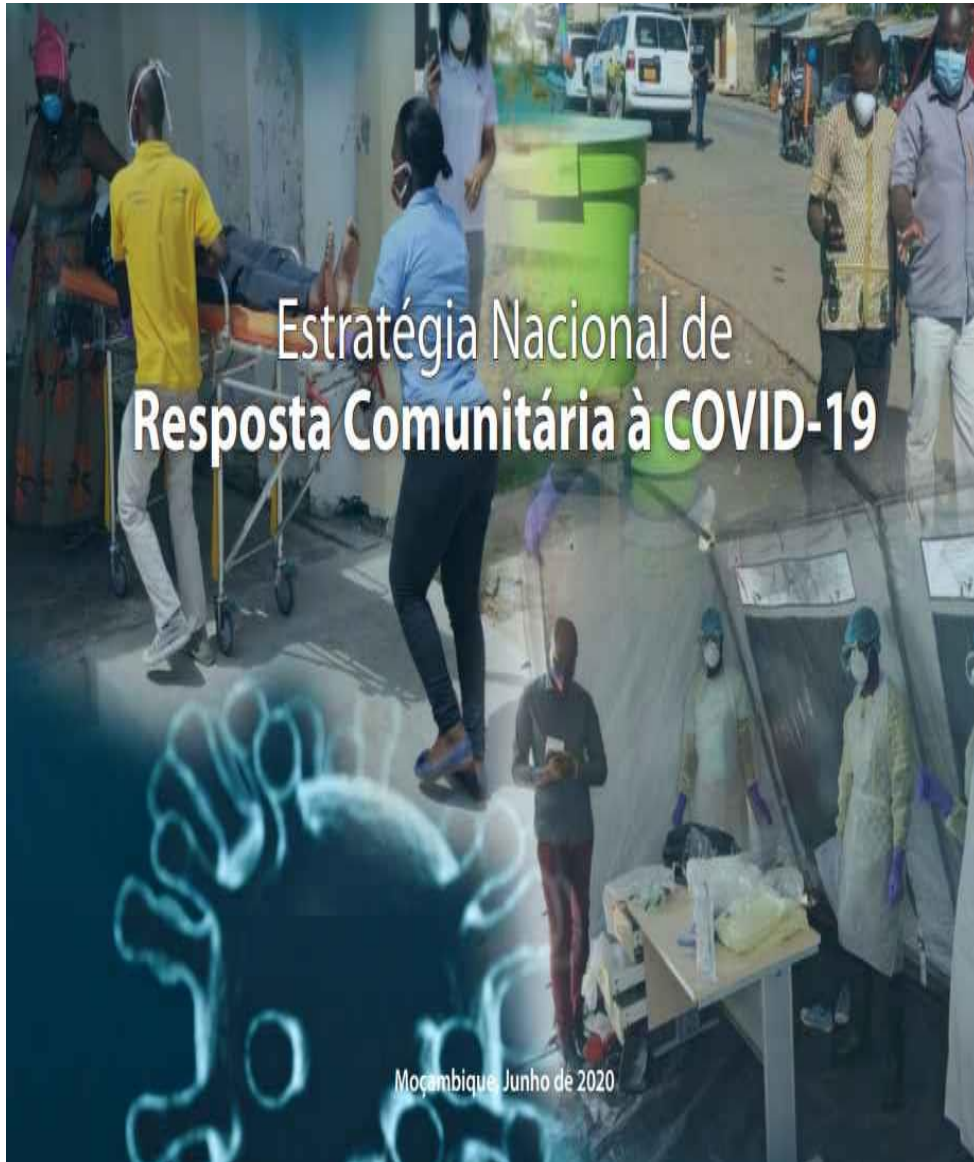
Through active community based networks, Cuamm program achieved to reach 96% (1.2k) of cholera confirmed cases within 24hrs to apply disinfection and prevention protocol

Academic Networks:

Field Data Collection and Knowledge Dissemination

- Data collected in most remote areas become scientific evidence necessary for in-depth knowledge of the country, planning and strengthening the health system
- Data from the field as bridges between institutional architectures, scientists and policy makers





Institutional Networks

Ministry of Health, Association of Traditional Doctors, Religious Leaders, United Nations agencies, INGOs such as CUAMM, gathering inputs from the field, have developed the national policy for the response to Covid19 in Mozambique. From laboratories to the definition of "substitute rites" to avoid gatherings, networking is a methodology that applies the principles of complexity theory in the field.

A necessary scientific paradigm shift

- The necessary interdependence between subjects that complement each other allows the development of effective strategies.
 - From the most remote epidemiological sentinel to the district, from the ministry of LMIC countries to statistical research and social science centers, in Africa, in Italy and back, a movement of concrete cooperation aimed at understanding and addressing the complex challenges that medicine poses to us in this historical era

From Global Health to One Health, from integration to Entanglement of Disciplines for a More Effective and Resilient Knowledge and Action

Taking HIV to Another Level Begins Here..



Thanks for listening!

Health is a universal right, it is therefore a duty to
work to make it happen

www.mediciconlafrica.org

Join us at CUAMM Annual Meeting in Turin, Saturday 16th November !

Edoardo Occa e.occa@cuamm.org