



#### **Decolonizing Knowledge Production and Utilization**

### Perverse effects of global health policies and perpetuating health inequities in sub-Saharan Africa

Dr Angèle Flora Mendy

Prof. Jesse Bump

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public health



### **Background and Methods**

- Historical roots and factors explaining the perpetuation of health inequalities in Africa (Prof. Bump's research projects in Africa)
- Policy and discourse analysis, interviews and exploitation of archives
- 15 African countries studied (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Gabon, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Ouganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Gambia)
- Documents analyzed:
  - Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers (Worb Bank, 1990)
  - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to health (Goals 4, 5 and 6)
  - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health (Goal 3)
  - African National Health Policies Plans

# Discussed topic

- The implementation of global health policies in sub-Saharan Africa perpetuates health inequities.
  - . International health programs: same health priorities in all African countries, even though the health needs may be different.
  - Focusing international resources and knowledge production by partners and donors on the health priorities set by global health policy (MDGs, SDGs, PPPs,).
  - Some diseases and health issues generate more global financial resources and transactions, pharmaceutical industry involvement and profits than others (Maternal and child health; HIV/AIDS...)

## Perverse effects of global health policies on national health systems

- Less attention to the real national health needs, as reflected in the national health policy plans
  - Prevention Health Policy
  - Effective health system with resilient structures
  - Qualified human resources
  - Health infrastructures
  - Focus on health needs of local populations
- Voluntary alignment of national health priorities with donor-driven programs
  - Illustration with the cases of Gambia and Senegal