

Is it possible to receive medical treatment and care after returning to Africa?

John, who recently tested positive for HIV, asks the advice of Umar, who has recently come to Japan. John wonders if he should return to Africa or not.

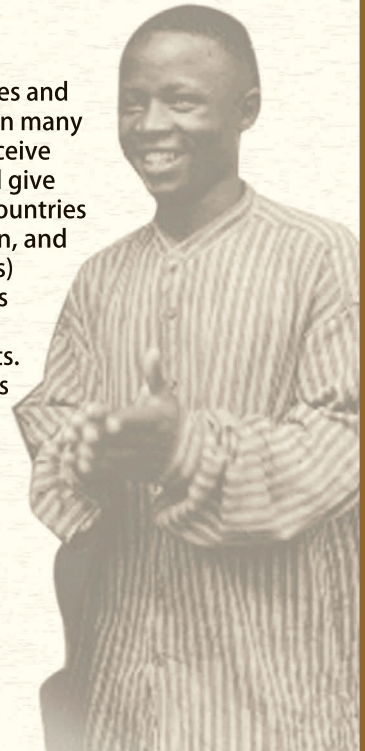
John: I have no other option, so, after being away for 10 years, I have decided to return to my country. But I am very worried that, in my country, I may not be able to get access to the care, support, and treatment that I need.

Umar: There's no denying that, at present, it can be hard to get those things in Africa. But compared to how things were ten years ago, circumstances have greatly improved in a lot of places. People living with HIV/AIDS have formed organizations in the major cities of Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and most of other countries, and there are also a lot of groups providing care and support, too.

John: So, it is possible to receive treatment?

Umar: As far as free and low-cost treatment goes, countries and places providing such treatment are limited, and, in many cases, there are limits on how many people can receive such treatment. But that does not mean that one should give up hope. In Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and in many countries of southern Africa, national programs have begun, and Doctors Without Borders (Medicins sans Frontieres) and Hospitals supported by Christian organizations have started their own independent treatment programs using low-cost medicines and treatments. If you make full use of your own personal connections and network, it may be possible to get access to treatment. But you have to make much effort.

John: I wonder if there is an NGO in Japan that gathers information about the HIV/AIDS-related activities and medical treatment conditions in African countries?



Umar: The Africa Japan Forum, which made this pamphlet, has a service that provides general information about the medical treatment conditions and NGO activities related to HIV/AIDS in the major African countries.

Africa Japan Forum

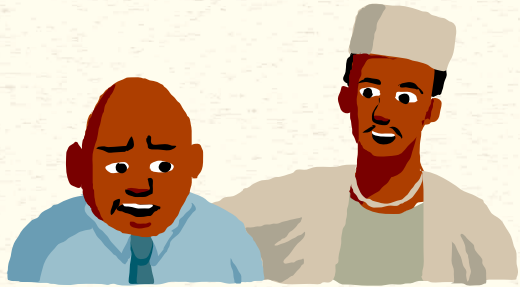
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Points to Remember:

- In most major cities in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is a great deal of care and support for people with HIV/AIDS.
- Some countries are now in the process of introducing free or low-priced treatment options. If you make use of the various connections that you have, and tackle the problem with determination, it is possible to receive care, support, and treatment.

Summary

Our stroll through the issues of HIV/AIDS was a bit long, wasn't it? But we have had a chance to hear from a variety of different people. These days nobody can say that HIV/AIDS is "not my problem." Our world is "A World Co-Existing with AIDS." Let us, starting now, think about ways that we can intelligently live in coexistence with HIV/AIDS.

Africa Japan Forum



<What is Africa Japan Forum?>

Africa Japan Forum is a Japan-based NGO whose mission is to make equal partnership between African and Japanese civil society. We are working as one of the focal points of Japanese civil society committing African issues for the Japanese and African grass-roots self-reliance and real independence.

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