



The AIDS Memorial Quilt on the National Mall in Washington DC, USA, Oct 11, 1987.

Stigma remains a huge issue. "It is very tough for a black man in Arkansas, Oklahoma, or Mississippi to walk into a public clinic and say that he is having sex with lots of men

and he needs PrEP—that needs to be addressed", stresses Beyrer. In which case, community engagement is indispensable. "HIV control only works when the community is involved and has leadership roles", said Beyrer. Changing sexual dynamics make outreach trickier, now that young people tend to find partners online. "We are going to have to use innovative technology and virtual approaches to reach people", said Beyrer.

An estimated 14% of people living with HIV in the USA have some involvement with the criminal justice system every year. They typically face treatment interruptions after they are released from prison and can very quickly become viraemic. The disproportionate rates of incarceration for black men might help explain why African-American women, despite

their low sexual risk profile, have high rates of HIV. "We need re-entry programmes to keep people stable on treatment as soon as they re-enter the community", said Millett. "The lack of scale-up of these programmes has been a persistent problem for some time".

Despite these challenges, Millett is cautiously optimistic about the prospects for eliminating the HIV epidemic in the USA. He points out that the plan does not have to show immediate success everywhere. "We just need proof-of-concept that this approach can work in one place; if that happens, then policy-makers and advocates are going to ask why it cannot be brought to other places, and when that happens, it will really open the floodgates."

Talha Burki

Infectious disease surveillance update

Polio in Nigeria

The first case of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 in 2019 has been reported in Nigeria, with an onset of paralysis date of Jan 22. The case was reported in Baruten, Kwara state. Currently, Nigeria has two vaccine-derived poliovirus outbreaks: one that began in the Jigawa state and has since spread to other areas and to Niger; the second outbreak is in the Sokoto state. The last case of wild poliovirus type 1 in Nigeria was reported in the Borno state with an onset of paralysis on Aug 21, 2016.

Ebola in DR Congo update

As of March 9, 921 cases of Ebola virus disease have been reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the current outbreak; 856 confirmed and 56 probable in the North Kivu and Ituri provinces since the outbreak began in August, 2018. 308 people have recovered and 582 deaths have been reported. A further 191 cases are still under investigation. More than 40%

of new cases were in people who died outside an Ebola treatment centre, and most of those with Ebola had not been identified as a contact of other patients, suggesting that the virus is spreading outside the known chain of transmission. Community mistrust is common and treatment centres have been attacked. On Feb 24 and Feb 27, two Ebola treatment centres supported by Médecins Sans Frontières were attacked by unknown assailants, resulting in the suspension of medical activities in Katwa and Butembo, North Kivu. Activities in Butembo were resumed; however, the centre was attacked again on March 9.

Dengue in the Philippines

On March 9, the Department of Health in the Philippines reported 36 664 cases of dengue between Jan 1 and Feb 23, 2019. This is 67% higher than the cases reported for the same period in 2018. Dengue is now present in the Philippines all year round, affecting mainly infants and

young children. The Department of Health has re-emphasised methods to reduce dengue transmission including searching for and destroying breeding sites, especially around the home, and implementing self-protective measures, such as wearing long trousers and long sleeved tops and daily use of mosquito repellent.

Cholera in Yemen

Between January, 2018, and February, 2019, 428 317 suspected cases of cholera have been reported in Yemen, including 560 deaths. 31% of the cases were in children younger than 5 years. 22 of 23 governorates in Yemen have been affected by the outbreak. During the period Jan 21–Feb 10, the highest number of cases were reported in Amanat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, and Dhamar. Since January, 2018, 11 577 samples have been collected, of which 3683 have been confirmed as culture-positive for cholera in public health laboratories in Yemen.

Ruth Zwizwai

For more on **polio in Nigeria** see <http://polioeradication.org/polio-today/polio-now/this-week/>

For more on **Ebola in DR Congo** see <https://www.promedmail.org/post/6360031>

For more on **dengue in the Philippines** see <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/dengue-cases-67-percent-philippines-57691/>

For more on **cholera in Yemen** see <http://www.emro.who.int/pandemic-epidemic-diseases/cholera/outbreak-update-cholera-in-yemen-7-march-2019.html>