



# Democratizing Access to Biologics in Africa

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A Path to Universal Health Coverage



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# Key Points of Discussion

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The pivotal role **Biologics** play in **achieving** Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa.

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How these advanced therapies can be made **Accessible and Affordable**, ensuring that healthcare becomes a **universal right**, not a privilege.

# Overview of Universal Health Care (UHC)

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**Definition:** Access to essential health services without financial hardship

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**Importance:** Reduces poverty, promotes equity, improves health, drives economic growth

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**Goal:** Extend service range and coverage, expand population coverage, ensure non-discriminatory access.



# Biologics and Standard of Care

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**Biologics defined:** Complex medicines made from living organisms, target specific parts of the immune system or disease processes.

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**Role in medicine:** Treats chronic and life-threatening diseases; offer treatment options when no other therapies are effective.

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**Standard of care:** Cornerstone of treatment for numerous health conditions in many developed countries.

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**Access needs in Africa:** Overcome high costs and infrastructure gaps to meet healthcare needs and rights of people of Africa.

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# The Need for Biologics in Africa

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**Rising chronic diseases** demanding advanced therapies.

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**HER-2 positive breast cancer** treatment with Trastuzumab.

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**Healthcare disparities:** Availability and affordability issues.

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**Patients' rights** to best treatments.



# Cancer in Africa: The Untold Story

2.1M Incidences  
1.4M Deaths

**2040**

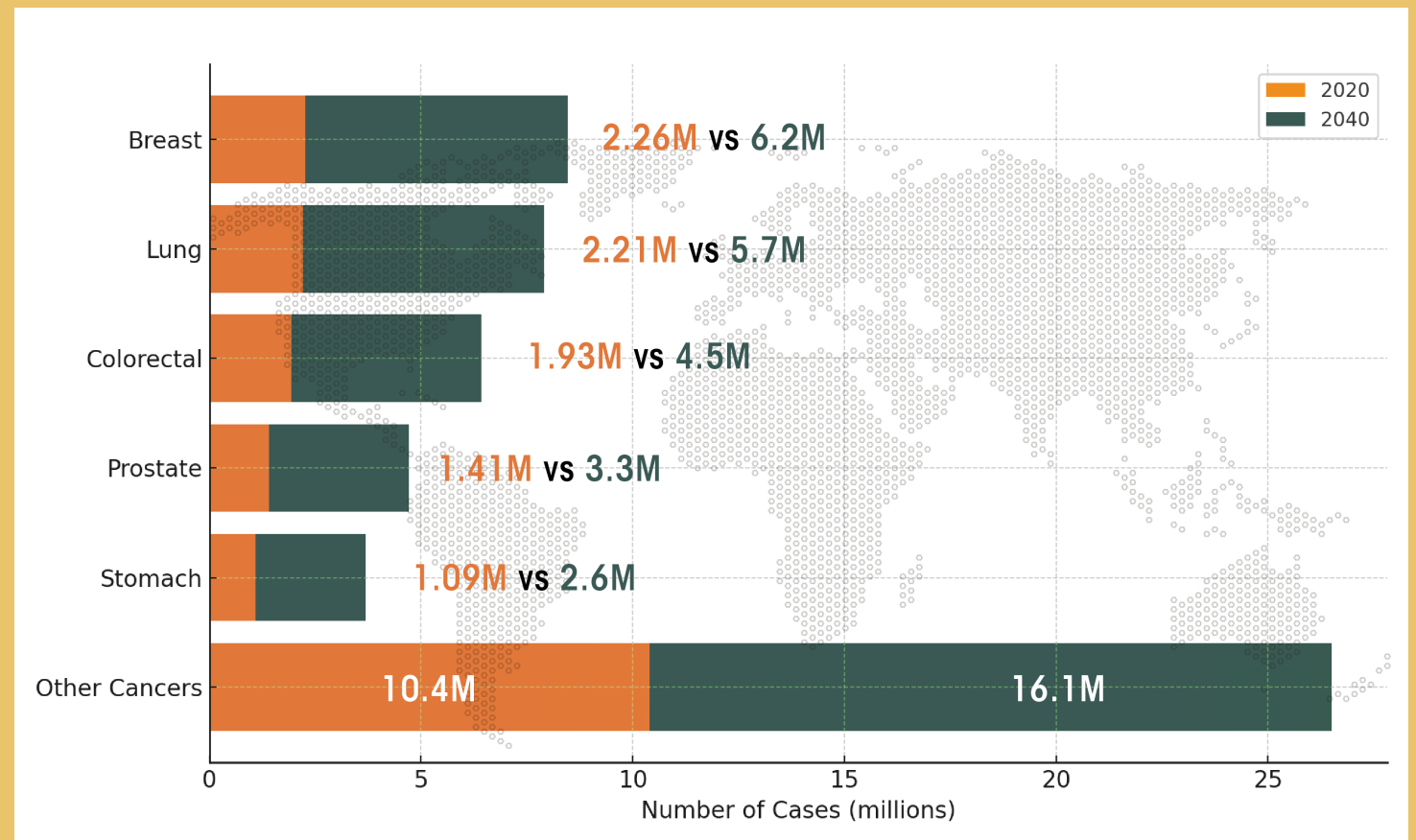
1.1M Incidences  
0.7M Deaths

**2020**

Africa's Cancer Burden  
Projections (2020-2040)

# Incidence of Cancer in Africa

## Comparison of Global Cancer Burden: 2020 vs. 2040





# Economic and Health Inequities

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**High treatment costs** vs. average income.

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**Economic disparity** affects treatment access.

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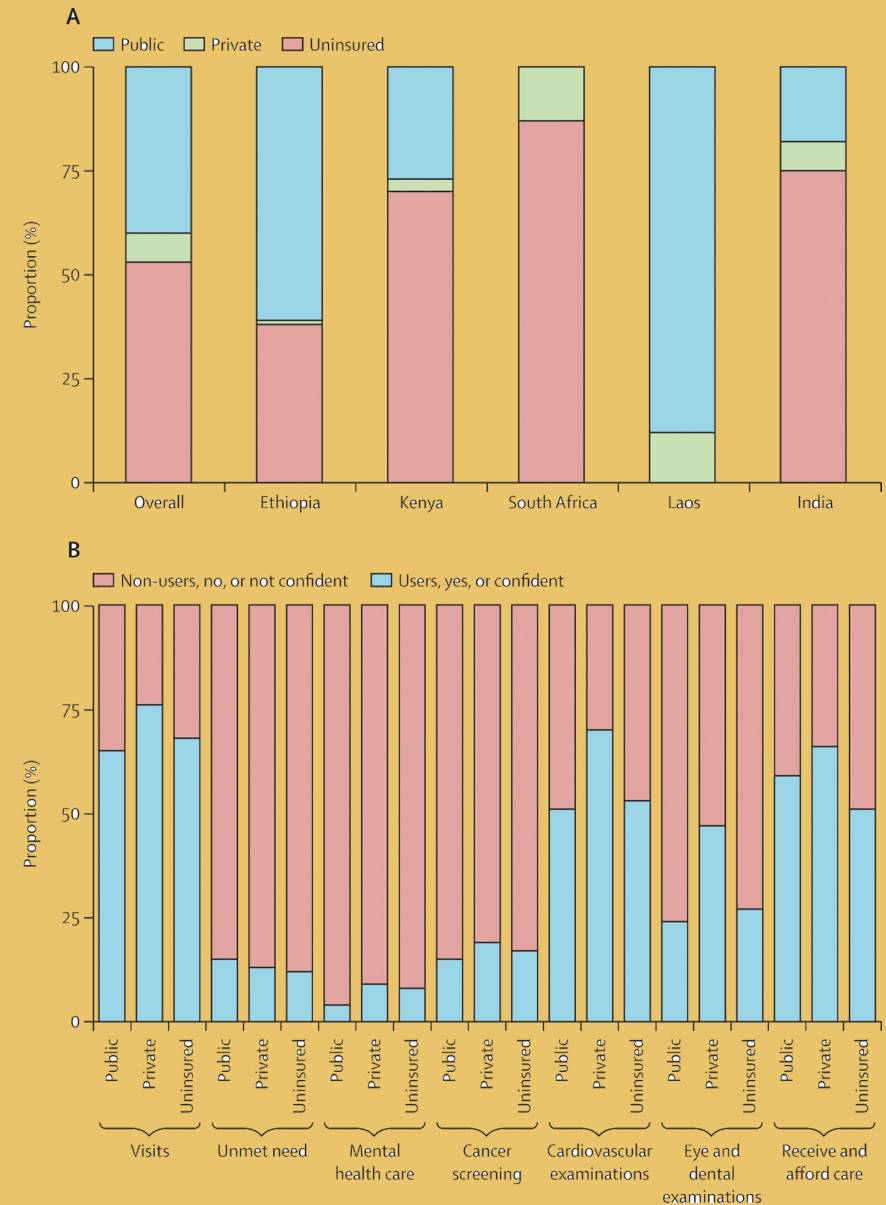
**Ethical implications:** Address healthcare inequities.



# Types of Insurance by Country and Healthcare Use Status

## The path to universal health coverage in five African and Asian countries: examining the association between insurance status and health-care use

(A) Type of insurance by country. Insurance status is categorised as public, private (including private insurance and other voluntary or employer-offered schemes), and uninsured. Laos is assumed to have 100% public health insurance, whereas South Africa does not have public insurance. (B) Type of insurance by health-care use status. Insurance status was categorised as public, private (including private insurance and other voluntary or employer-offered schemes), and uninsured. Visits were categorised as users and non-users. Unmet health-care need, mental health care, cancer screening, cardiovascular examination, and eye and dental examination were categorised as a yes if participants received the service and a no if participants did not receive the service. The ability to receive and afford care was categorised as confident or not confident.





I was diagnosed with HER2 breast cancer in 2013. Despite it being recommended by my doctor, **my medical aid declined to cover HERCEPTIN\* claiming that it was too expensive.** I could never afford to pay half a million rand for it. Without access to Herceptin, my cancer has spread, and last year, I was diagnosed with bone cancer of the spine. This medicine is a last hope for patients like me. Chemo alone isn't enough.

### **TOBEKA DAKI**

HER2 Positive Breast Cancer Patient  
Eastern Cape, South Africa



Tobeka, a mother of two, left us on November 14, 2016, after courageously battling her condition without access to the treatment she needed.

# Biosimilars As A Solution

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**Biosimilars:** Affordable alternatives post-patent.

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**Economic and access benefits:** Lower costs, broader coverage.

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**Global examples:** Price reductions and improved access.



# Local Production Initiatives

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**Need for Local Manufacturing:** ensures supply chain resilience; reduces dependency on international suppliers.

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**Benefits of Local Biologics Production:** Cost reduction, job creation, improved public health.

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**Vision for Africa:** Potential net exporter of biologics.



# Call to Action

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**Advocate** for biologics in health policies.

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**Support** local production and awareness campaigns.

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**Engage** global community for support.





# Conclusion

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**Recap:** Importance of biologics and biosimilars in healthcare.

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**Future Outlook:** Africa as a leader in biopharmaceutical industry.

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**Commitment** to equity and universal health coverage.





When patients die because there is no cure, it's a tragedy.

When patients die even when there is an effective cure  
because of the cost, it's an **Injustice.**



**Bio Usawa Inc.**





Q&A