

# Review of: "Post-Pandemic Reflections from Sub-Saharan Africa: What We Know Now That We Wish We Knew Then"

Rodrigo Lopez Barreda<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

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I find it a very interesting article that collects reflections in relation to what happened during the control of the pandemic in two countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Although I agree with most of the conclusions, I think that the authors could try to propose solutions to the problems that they themselves state. For example, although it seems very true to me that it is important that "governments should steer clear of making uninformed statements on infectious disease outbreaks," the truth is that politicians must make decisions about public health policies and sometimes the scientific community is not able to provide them with simple information. We academics tend to confuse scientific articles with policy briefs, and there are very few who know how to effectively address non-academic audiences.

As for health insurance, one could talk for hours about its role (and profit) during the pandemic, including good and bad examples. However, I believe that the opportunity could be used to advocate for financial systems that allow universal access to health care services, which in many cases can include private insurance. In cases where private participation is considered, and especially in contexts in which the population does not have a sufficient educational level to make an informed decision on these issues, appropriate regulations should be proposed to prevent the unscrupulous from taking advantage of the people.

Some specific comments may be problematic. Given the problems discussed in the text, phrases like "Some individuals (including the first author) missed their international flights" seem not relevant. In addition to that, "Although COVID was projected to devastate economies, this proved not to be the case for many high- and middle-income nations as immediate negative impacts were short-lived" is debatable, because the inflation that has been seen in many countries could be a reflection not only of the war in Ukraine, but also of the economic policies implemented during the pandemic.

It seems very important to me to welcome this type of article, which comments on non-technical aspects that health professionals experienced in contexts with fewer forums, such as the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.