

**Library Frontiers: Disasters, Emergency Preparedness and Emerging Diseases
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Title

The WHO AFRO Library and Partnerships for Delivering Health Information on Emerging diseases

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Abstract

The objective of the WHO Regional Office for Africa is the attainment by all Africans of the highest possible level of health. Its Library is the heart of health information in Africa in the sense that it receives and collates information from the body that is Africa and pumps it back to the various parts of the body in a more utilizable form. The creation of the Knowledge Management and Information Technology Department which coordinates the Informatics and Communication Technologies Unit and the Library has strengthened this role. The Library's activities were manual for long time. Its computerization and the arrival of the Internet have absolutely changed data processing and information dissemination methods. Many health emergencies such as emerging diseases and disasters are devastating Africa and threaten the world. This is a new challenge for the Library, which has strengthened its partnerships with a range of organizations, including other libraries, to collect, to manage and to disseminate information and to contribute to the response to such emergencies.