Effect of COVID-19-related Disruption on Medical Education in Africa
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Impact Question
How did COVID-19 pandemic-related changes to the medical education, impact medical education across Africa?

METHODS
• Participants: Medical Students in Africa
• Surveys were sent through social media platforms via representatives across 35 different African countries.
• Inquired about:
  o Timeline of educational disruption.
  o Disruption, Resumption and format changes to medical education.
  o Perspective of support, learning environment, and mental health.

RESULTS
N= 694

Format of resumed classes:
- In-person: 18.1%
- Online: 65.3%
- Hybrid: 16.6%

Effect on Mental Health
By Length of Disruption
1= extremely positively affected 5= extremely negatively affected

- <60 Days: 3.1
- 60-180 Days: 3.3
- >180 Days: 3.4

Supportive Learning Environment
Prior to Covid-19: 83.7%
After COVID-19 began: 20%

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS
Majority of medical students in Africa had their education disrupted due to COVID-19 with many not resuming months into the pandemic with many downstream detrimental effects. This study highlights the need for flexible and innovative approaches to continuing medical education in Africa and demonstrates a concerning disruption that has the potential to impact medical care across the continent in the coming years.

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