

May 18, was World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HVAD). I was standing in my garden, hot coffee in my hand, and I kept wondering, what on earth is delaying the HIV vaccine anyway? It's been almost 40 years and billions of dollars since scientists began their quest for a vaccine to prevent HIV.

I know everyone is asking themselves, at this point, why continue this expensive and seemingly excessive vaccine search? After all, we have a basket of other proven ways to protect ourselves from HIV, like condoms, male circumcision, oral and injectable PrEP, U=U and even more coming down the pike. Well, we can look to history for the answer: A vaccine is the best and only way to truly eliminate a virus as a threat. Given that most vaccinations are a one-off jab or two, they're also inexpensive to roll out to scale.

What happened to the HIV vaccine? – Part 1



With about 1.3 million people newly infected in 2023 the world has failed its 2020 target of less than 500 000 new HIV infections. Clearly, there is a need for a vaccine that history has shown can get the job done. History has also shown that vaccine development can take a long time. Or, in the case of Covid, a short time.

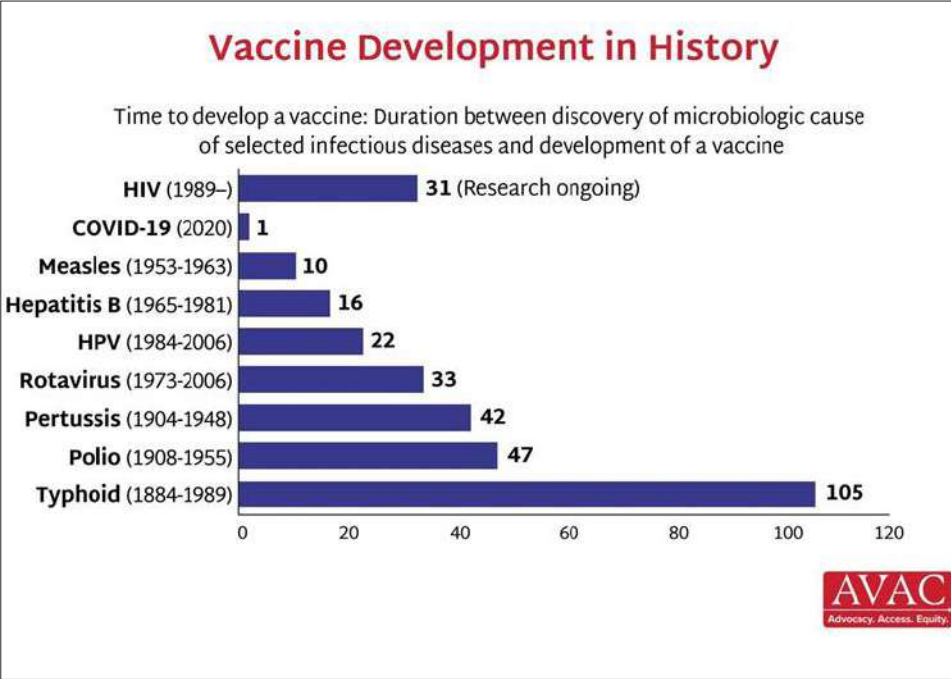
So why has an HIV vaccine taken, thus far, more than 30 years? Well, this is what I found out: Developing an effective HIV vaccine presents unique scientific challenges due to HIV's rapid mutation and immune evasion.

HIV mutates (changes) quickly, creating countless genetic variants within a single infected person. This constant evolution allows the virus to change, making it unrecognisable and difficult for the immune system, or

any single vaccine, to effectively target and stop the virus.

Additionally, the human body rarely clears HIV naturally, even after infection. The virus hides in immune cells and forms latent reservoirs, which render immune responses ineffective. The virus also attacks and destroys the very immune cells meant to fight it. These are the challenges scientists are up against.

However, we mark HVAD every year because we are hopeful that science, funding and political movements will uphold the continued search for a vaccine. We need to stay mindful that the timeline between identification of a virus microbe to the development of its vaccine can take a long time — 105 years for typhoid and 47 years for polio. Or it can take less than a year, as we saw with Covid-19. Let these lessons light our way on the path to HIV vaccine development. With lots of hot coffee too.



LESEHO LOGISTICS LICENCE APPLICATION

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE: LESEHO LOGISTICS LICENCE APPLICATION

The Lesotho Communications Authority informs the public and industry stakeholders that it has received an application for Courier Services Licences from **Leseho Logistics (Pty) Ltd**. The Courier services licence authorizes the holder to operate courier services. The duration of the licence will be five (5) years, from the licence issuance date.

Acting in terms of Section 4 (j) of the Communications Act No. 4 of 2012, the Authority hereby invites comments from the public and industry stakeholders in respect of the above application. The application of **Leseho Logistics (Pty) Ltd** may be obtained from the LCA's offices or by downloading from www.lca.org.ls.

Comments should be submitted in writing to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Lesotho Communications Authority
30 Princess Margaret Road
Old Europa
P. O. Box 15896
Maseru

Or E-mail to: lca@lca.org.ls
Closing date for submission of comments is **3rd July 2025 at 16:00 hours**.
Notice issued on: **4th June 2025**



SKYBERG LICENCE APPLICATION

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE: SKYBERG LICENCE APPLICATION

The Lesotho Communications Authority informs the public and industry stakeholders that it has received an application for Courier Services Licences from **Skyberg (Pty) Ltd**. The Courier services licence authorizes the holder to operate courier services. The duration of the licence will be five (5) years, from the licence issuance date.

Acting in terms of Section 4 (j) of the Communications Act No. 4 of 2012, the Authority hereby invites comments from the public and industry stakeholders in respect of the above application. The application of **Skyberg (Pty) Ltd** may be obtained from the LCA's offices or by downloading from www.lca.org.ls.

Comments should be submitted in writing to:

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