

# A Tribute to Dr. Patrick K. Kayembe (September 9, 1952–June 8, 2020)

One of our collaborators on the course, Professor Patrick K. Kayembe, passed away on Monday, June 8, 2020, in Kinshasa, some months prior to the launch of the course. This tribute is written in his honour and acknowledgment of his immense contributions to the field of global health. Over the past 40 years, Professor Kayembe has contributed eminently to public health efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and many other contexts globally, tackling HIV/AIDS, Ebola, polio, immunization, family planning, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and more recently, COVID-19.

Professor Kayembe received his medical degree from the University of Kinshasa in 1979 and specialized in internal medicine. He completed a master's degree and doctorate in public health at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 1997. He went on to become the dean of research for Kinshasa School of Public Health (KSPH) and then later became the dean. He was also the president of the National Polio Certification Committee and served on the DRC's National Steering Committees for COVID-19 and Ebola virus disease.

As principal investigator for the DRC on the STRIPE Project, he led and oversaw all research activities in the country and was responsible for collaborating and coordinating with other consortium partners, bringing his invaluable experience to the project. Professor Kayembe was truly dedicated to global health, and he was deeply committed to his family, students, colleagues, and country. His loss is felt deeply within our consortium and all around the world.