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Gove. In 1987, the photographe Robert Caputo visited Uganda to document the impact of the AIDS epidemic in that country. This photograph illustrates the suffering caused by AIDS and demonstrates a public health response that was the most aggressive and successful in Africa at that time. In this image, a worker from Makerere University collects blood for a regional AIDS survey. In a perverse inversion of photographic history, however, it is the photograph and not the subject that has aged since it was taken. The pervasiveness of the epidemic in Africa underscores what Stephen Lewis, UN Secretary-General's special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, views as the "fact that [the epidemic] is so completely unnecessary, the fact that we could stop this pandemic if the world put its mind to it..." This statement conveys his enraged lament for the enormous numbers of African women lost to AIDS that "the tragedy of knowledge, love and care from one generation to the next is going and that "everything proceeds at glacial speed for so many..." ("Where Have All the Women Gone?" The World, April 9, 2004). At a moment of time, then, this photograph illustrates the "glacial speed" of the response to AIDS, for it is evident that we are very, very late.

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