



The Exemplar

April 2021

Hi Friend,

COVID-19 has showed the world a fundamental principle of public health: that inequality is in and of itself a dangerous disease.

The pandemic has also put access to healthcare under a global microscope, revealing race-based, gender-based, or socioeconomic inequities that worsen the odds for so many. Additionally, it has revealed that today, with only half the world's population given access to essential health services, we are still ill-equipped to respond to and contain public health emergencies.


This month, we join the WHO's call on World Health Day for "a fairer, healthier world" and provide tools and insights to build more resilient and inclusive health systems that can deliver on this promise.

A fairer world is one where there is no gender gap in access to childhood vaccinations. [Dr. Subhash Chandir](#) from Harvard's Blavatnik Institute and [Danya Arif Siddiqi](#) from IRD Global's Maternal and Child Health program highlight how Electronic Immunization Registries (EIRs) monitor vaccination and help us fight inequalities that jeopardize the entire planet's health.

A healthier world is also one in which routine immunization can withstand a pandemic. [Dr. Moussa Sarr](#) and [Mr. Daouda Gueye](#) share five things Senegal did to ensure that every child got their shots at the height of COVID-19, a timely read for World Immunization Week.

I hope these Perspectives inspire you to join the global conversation, and encourage you to share your thoughts with our team through the [Exemplars platform](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes,
Niranjan Bose

 **Gates Ventures**
Niranjan Bose, PhD
Managing Director, Health and Life Sciences

Register at Exemplars in Global Health to add your thoughts and perspectives to the pieces featured in this month's newsletter

[SIGN UP](#)

PERSPECTIVES



Dr. Subhash Chandir and Danya Arif Siddiqi: How Pakistan is Boosting Immunization Rates Among Vulnerable Groups, Including Girls

COVID-19 has slashed childhood immunization rates the world over – cutting the proportion of children who receive all recommended childhood vaccinations from a record high of 84 percent to 70 percent. Immunization rates for children in vulnerable groups, including low-income and rural communities, and girls have declined the most. Health officials in Pakistan are using an Electronic Immunization Registry to monitor immunization rates in real time and identify the populations and individuals most at risk. Health workers can now track how many children missed immunizations, including their names, locations, and contact details, and act on this information – reaching the most vulnerable populations. As a result, one year after the onset of the pandemic, average daily immunization rates have increased 141 percent above baseline estimates.

[Read More >](#)



Dr. Moussa Sarr and Mr. Daouda Gueye: Five Things Senegal did to Maintain Routine Immunization During COVID-19

Over the last 20 years, Senegal has cut its under-five mortality rate by more than half, in part, by increasing routine immunization. But COVID-19, disrupted routine vaccinations for 80 million children under one. Senegal adapted quickly to minimize disruptions to immunizations and offers lessons for how health systems can respond to the current and future health crises, including sending text messages to parents, launching media campaigns, and relying on cohorts of community health workers to boost immunization rates. The country's quick implementation of text messages and other media campaigns targeting parents and its established cohort of trusted community health workers offer lessons for how health systems

[Read More >](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PARTNER PUBLICATIONS

Epidemics That Didn't Happen

Exemplars collaborator [Resolve to Save Lives](#) published a first-of-its-kind interactive report called [Epidemics That Didn't Happen](#), which highlights how investing in preparedness and effective governance can save lives from infectious diseases. Instead of reacting to the next pandemic after it emerges, we should make sure it doesn't happen.

World Immunization Week, April 24-30

Since 2012, the last days in April have been dedicated to World Immunization Week, to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines. Today, although vaccinations save millions of lives every year, some 20 million children worldwide still do not receive the routine immunizations they need to lead healthy, productive lives. Vaccine hesitancy is one reason for this gap. In this [Perspective](#), Heidi Larson, founder of the Vaccine Confidence Project, addresses ways governments can help turn this around.

World Health Assembly - International Year of Health and Care Workers, May 24th, 2021

Last year, the World Health Assembly designated 2021 as the International Year of Health Care Workers. With the pandemic placing a tremendous burden on the world's healthcare systems, the WHO's member states wanted to recognize their "dedication and sacrifice." In low- and middle-income countries, those workers are often trained volunteers who provide care in their communities, bridging the enormous gaps that otherwise prevent hundreds of millions of people from accessing healthcare. Learn more about how Community Healthcare Workers (CHWs) are changing the landscape of health in their back yards, and around the world, [here](#).

Follow us on Twitter [@ExemplarsHealth](#) for additional updates, resources, and research, and join the conversation with [#Exemplars](#)

[FOLLOW](#)

ABOUT

Exemplars in Global Health

Exemplars in Global Health is more than just a research platform. We also offer governments, researchers, NGOs, and funders a variety of support services. Our services include conducting desk research, organizing study tours and workshops, and longer-term collaborations to support the design or implementation of evidence-based programming and strategies.

[Visit Exemplars.Health to Learn More >](#)

