



# The Exemplar

AUGUST 2020

Dear Friend,

Cooperation is at the heart of Exemplars in Global Health. Our research teams include topic experts from around the world paired with in-country leaders who have created transformative policies, programs, and strategies. Together they distill key lessons from remarkable health successes. Our goal is to expedite progress by helping countries learn from each other.

Which is why we decided, ahead of this year's United Nations General Assembly, to dedicate this month's newsletter to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a remarkable example of global cooperation. While Exemplars is a new platform and still expanding its offerings, we're hopeful our research, methodology, and community may help leaders accelerate progress toward achieving the SDGs.

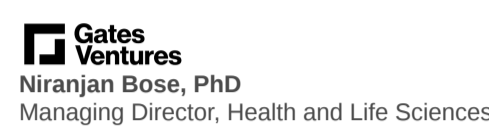
This edition of the newsletter, for instance, highlights a Perspective article by **Dr. Raj Panjabi**, CEO of Last Mile Health, on **how some countries have emphasized a gender lens in their community health worker programs** to magnify impact and help achieve both SDG 2, focused on health, and SDG 5, focused on gender equality.

We also highlight a Perspective by **Dr. Francesco Branca**, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety at the World Health Organization, **Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta**, Co-Director at the Centre for Global Child Health, the Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children and Founding Director of the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at the Aga Khan University, and **Dr. Aatekah Owais**, a research fellow Centre for Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children, on **how countries are identifying, monitoring, and reducing maternal anemia**, which was recently added as a health outcome to track as part of SDG 2 – a commitment recently renewed last year during the SUN Global Gathering in Kathmandu.

This month we also notably feature a **personal essay by Bill Gates on why he launched the Exemplars program**. Finally, we've added a **What We're Reading** section – we hope you enjoy our recommendations.

As always, please reach out to us to let us know how we can help you.

Sincerely,  
Niranjan Bose



Register to join the discussion on the Exemplars in Global Health platform:

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## FEATURE



### Why I Launched Exemplars in Global Health

Written by Bill Gates

In this personal essay describing why he created the Exemplars in Global Health initiative, Bill Gates describes his problem-solving methodology as centered on two obvious questions that can be surprisingly hard to answer. The result of his thinking, the **Exemplars platform and services**, which launched earlier this year, bring together health organizations and experts from around the world to identify which countries have made the most progress on critical health problems, understand what made them so successful, and share the lessons online for free, so anyone can learn from them.

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## PERSPECTIVES



### Fraying Ropes: COVID-19's Impact on Gender Inequality

Written by Dr. Raj Panjabi

Around the world, COVID-19 has exacerbated inequalities for minority communities and the poorest among us. And it has placed a double burden on women – making it harder for them to access the healthcare they need, while at the same time demanding more of their time in their work as frontline health workers. Dr. Raj Panjabi reflects on how countries have inserted a gender lens into their community health worker programs to improve women's access to critical healthcare, elevate women's standing in their families and communities, and strengthen their community health system.

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### Exemplars: A Tool to Help Achieve Progress on Maternal Anemia

Written by Drs. Francesco Branca, Zulfiqar A. Bhutta and Aatekah Owais

Maternal anemia continues to affect 40 percent of women globally, increasing maternal mortality and premature births. This year, the United Nations added the reduction of anemia in pregnant women by 50 percent by 2030 to the SDGs. Meeting this aggressive target will be challenging as the fight against maternal anemia is complex and our understanding of anemia is still evolving.

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## PLATFORM FEATURE

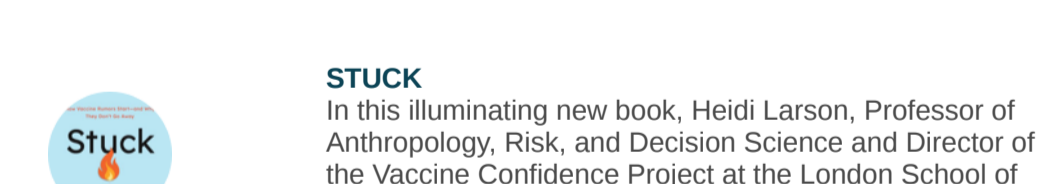


### Stunting in Nepal: The Benefits of Health, Education and Sanitation

Nepal has achieved a remarkable reduction in its stunting rate – from 68 percent (the highest in the world) in 1995 to 36 percent in 2016. We examine the drivers that have enabled the country to reduce its stunting rate by almost half, including heavy government investments in health, education, and sanitation, and support from donors and international NGOs. These investments produced dramatic improvements in women's access to healthcare and helped Nepal achieve gender parity in education.

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## WHAT WE'RE READING



#### STUCK

In this illuminating new book, Heidi Larson, Professor of Anthropology, Risk, and Decision Science and Director of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, illustrates why vaccine reluctance and refusal is cultural and cannot be countered with more evidence or debunking. Only by addressing the root causes of the misconceptions, she says, can we begin to change the conversation.

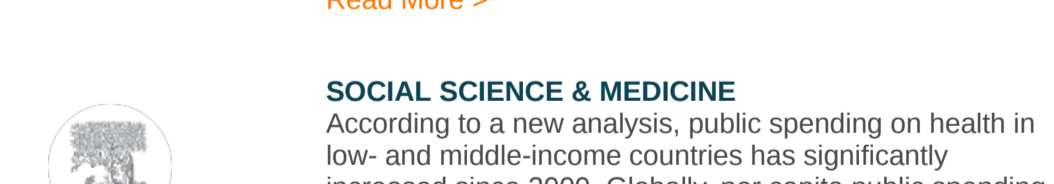
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#### NEW YORK TIMES

COVID-19 isn't just infecting people – it's gobbling up precious global health resources and helping fuel a resurgence of diseases like TB, HIV, and malaria, which had been on the decline. "Covid-19 risks derailing all our efforts and taking us back to where we were 20 years ago," said Dr. Pedro L. Alonso, the director of the World Health Organization's global malaria program.

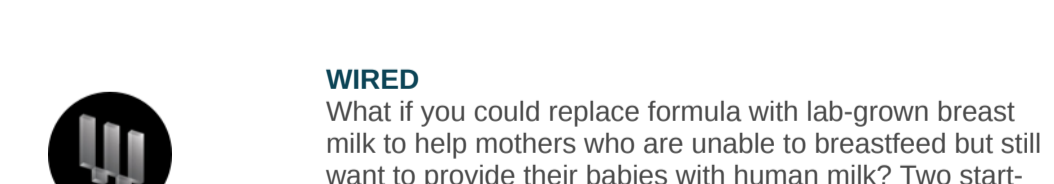
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#### SOCIAL SCIENCE & MEDICINE

According to a new analysis, public spending on health in low- and middle-income countries has significantly increased since 2000. Globally, per capita public spending for health has increased by more than 60 percent – from US\$431 in 2000 to US\$708 in 2017 – with an annual growth rate of four percent. Overall, per capita public spending on health on average grew 60 percent faster than per capita GDP between 2000 and 2017.

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#### WIRED

What if you could replace formula with lab-grown breast milk to help mothers who are unable to breastfeed but still want to provide their babies with human milk? Two start-ups, Singapore-based TurtleTree Labs, which is using stem cells, and North Carolina-based BioMilk, which is working directly with mammary epithelial cells, have raised millions to try to do just that.

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## 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 from conducting desk research, organizing study tours and workshops, and longer-term collaborations to support the design or implementation of evidence-based programming and strategies.

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