



# The Exemplar

August 2022

Hi Friend,

Exemplars in Global Health recently published research about stunting in Uganda that opens with the following statistic:

**From 2000 to 2016, Uganda made steady progress reducing its stunting rate from 45 to 29 percent.**

It can feel hard to wrap our heads around what that number really means – and it is easy to gloss over or take for granted when this kind of progress is presented on a page.

But the feat is impressive and inspiring: Uganda, a country of almost 46 million and one of Africa's 10 most populous nations, has seen its stunting rate decline steadily for the past 30 years, thanks to multisectoral interventions, including a sharp focus on malaria control and expanded WASH and nutrition efforts. The result? In 1998, almost half of its children under five were stunted. By 2016, that rate had decreased to under one third.

What does that mean for Ugandans? It means they are now better positioned to avoid other troubling statistics brought on by stunting worldwide: stunted children are two to four times more likely to die before age five than their peers; they experience delayed cognitive development and up to an 11-point reduction in expected IQ; and at the societal level, the costs of stunting add up to as much as 13 percent of expected annual GDP.

Along with our research partners SickKids and Makerere University, and Dr. Emily Keats, Dr. Richard Kajura, Kimberly Charbonneau, Dr. Anushka Ataulhjan, Muhammad Islam, Erica Confreda, Rachel Jardine, Ahalya Somaskandan, Breagh Cheng, Dr. Peter Waiswa, and Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, I invite you to read, reflect, and see how the story of Uganda's progress – and that of other Exemplars in stunting reduction – may help inform your own.

Best,  
Niranjan Bose

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

We want to hear from you! Participate in our Exemplars Twitter poll to let us know what global health topics are on your mind.

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## FEATURED STORIES & ANALYSIS



### Watch and learn about Uganda's success in reducing stunting

Then, read about the investments the country made in reducing poverty, improving agriculture and food security, as well as in MNCH, malaria prevention and control, WASH, and education to deliver progress.



### How Uganda started to tackle stunting – without a stunting plan

Learn from Dr. Richard Kajura of the Makerere University School of Public Health, who shares how the country significantly reduced prevalence of the condition.



### How did Bangladesh's Community Health Workers reach the most vulnerable?

See how Bangladesh, once the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world, helped 130,000 CHWs deliver care for over 100 million of its residents, driving extraordinary health outcomes for the entire nation.

### How India is moving from an 'ego-based' to an 'ecosystem-based' digital health system

Lav Agarwal, the Joint Secretary of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, shares his vision for the country's newly launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

### Nearly one in three women in LMICs become mothers as teenagers

UNFPA researchers discuss a new study that shows though far too many adolescents are having babies, often due to conditions outside their control, some countries are forging a different path.

### Expanding access to care for the world's indigenous: a blueprint for health equity

On International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, global organizations called for increased health care for a population that remains largely underserved.

## EVENTS

### World Field Epidemiology Day (#WorldFieldEpidemiologyDay) September 7, 2022

World Field Epidemiology Day is a global movement to recognize and raise awareness of the vital role field epidemiologists play in protecting the health of populations and advancing global health security, and advocates for increased investment in field epidemiology training, research, and professionals.

### Action Against Stunting Day (#StandUpToStunting) September 8, 2022

In the second annual Action Against Stunting Day, key priorities in the battle against stunting are explored, including nutrition policy, food security, and advancing a just transition to sustainable food systems.

### United Nations' 77th General Assembly (#UNGA77) September 13-27, 2022

The 77th annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN, where all 193 Member States of the UN gather for dialogue and debate on the world's most pressing issues.

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### Become an Exemplar

Join a passionate and dedicated community of global health leaders working on the biggest challenges of our times. Take advantage of critical learning from countries around the world as you tackle similar problems at home. And, add your knowledge and voice to a robust and growing set of resources designed to ensure the positive and most equitable global health outcomes.