



Gates Archives

## The Exemplar

December 2023

Hi Friend,

The end of the year often brings about an opportunity for reflection, and this year is no different. In 2023, the global health community was encouraged by a few big wins — exemplary stories of success that remind us of the progress we have made throughout the year.


Here were some of our favorites:

- 1. A new vaccine against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) was rolled out in many countries**, which helps to protect adults over 60 and children in infancy from the effects of the disease. RSV, a common respiratory disease, affects 64 million people and causes roughly 160,000 deaths globally every year.
- 2. AIDS-related deaths have fallen by almost 70% since their peak in 2004, and new infections are at the lowest they've been since the 1980s.** UNAIDS' goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 is also on the horizon. Currently, 95% of people living with HIV in Botswana, Eswatini, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe know their status, and 95% of those who do are on lifesaving antiretrovirals. Sixteen other countries in the region are close to replicating these impressive awareness and treatment figures.
- 3. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 over as a global health emergency** — a landmark moment in time following the administration of more than 13 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine since 2020. While the crisis period has ended, the global health community must continue investing in research to better understand its impacts and to prepare ourselves against future pandemics.

For all of this, we are grateful. Of course, being grateful for the big wins we've seen in 2023 does not mean our work is done — far from it. But it does fuel our ambitions for the new year and offers us hope that there will be more good news to celebrate in 2024.

Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season.

Best,  
Bose and all of us at Exemplars in Global Health

  
Niranjan Bose, PhD  
Managing Director, Health and Life Sciences

Notice anything new? We've refreshed the Exemplars in Global Health home page to highlight lessons and insights from our research.

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### EXEMPLARS STORIES

#### Lab scientists from across Africa share their recipes for success in unique 'cookbook'

Researchers from across the continent and beyond are collaborating in the LabCop project to share best practices for strengthening the performance and impact of medical laboratory systems.

#### Bjorn Lomborg argues for the 'boring stuff' that could save 4.2 million lives each year

Working alongside his team at the Copenhagen Consensus Center, Bjorn Lomborg is recommending the best investments and policies to drive progress in achieving the global goals by 2030.

#### To ease impact of climate change on health, take a local focus

With COP28 putting a spotlight on the health impacts of the climate crisis, experts discussed initiatives that have the potential to help protect people from the harmful effects of rising temperatures.

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