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The Exemplar

February 2023

Hi Friend,

In ten days, the world will celebrate International Women's Day (#IWD2023), a day that has, for more than 100 years, honored the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. It's also a day that has traditionally called for accelerating equality for women.

Equality – giving all people the same resources or opportunities – has long been a desired outcome for the disenfranchised. But this year's theme for IWD – Embracing Equity – makes a powerful differentiation. Equity means giving individuals or groups the essential resources and opportunities they require to be able to achieve outcomes equal to others.

It's one of the reasons Exemplars in Global Health has a dedicated Women's Health team, researching topics such as Family Planning, and the effects inequity has on women at the individual, community, and country level.

According to the United Nations:

One in five young women are married before the age of 18.

26% of ever-partnered women over 15 years old have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

In the first year of the pandemic, an estimated 12 million women in 115 lower- and middle-income countries experienced disruptions to family planning services, leading to an estimated 1.4 million unintended pregnancies.

Also in 2020, women's food insecurity levels were 10% higher than men's, compared with 6% higher only a year prior.

In low- and middle-income countries, 234 million fewer women than men have access to the internet on their mobile phones.

Women occupy just over one-third of local governments.

Women account for 39.4% of total employment, but during COVID-19 they represented 45% of global employment loss.


Between 2018 and 2021, only 26% of countries had comprehensive systems in place to track public allocations for gender equality.

As we take a moment to honor women worldwide, we must also look at the causes and remedies for the inequity women so gravely experience, including in health.

Just one year ago, health systems researcher [Dr. Asha George](#) said "[gender inequality is man-made, which means it can be changed.](#)" I fervently agree. So, this IWD, let us understand how equity can be the path to true equality.

Wishing all women and allies in equity across all genders a very happy International Women's Day.

Best,
Niranjan Bose

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

How do gender data and family planning impact broader global health initiatives and outcomes?

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STATISTIC OF THE MONTH

One billion women

More than **one billion women** reported a desire to use some type of modern contraceptive in 2020 – yet much of that demand remains unmet.

EXEMPLARS STORIES

Interview: Ellen Starbird on her 30-year career fighting for women and girls

The former Director of USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health, and member of EGH's Family Planning technical advisory group, reflects on her biggest successes in family planning and some lessons learned along the way.

Global health highlights from 2022

The year that began with the largest surge in COVID-19 cases ended with progress against Mpox, Ebola, and malaria.

Beyond floods and droughts: examining the insidious impacts of climate change on nutrition

We asked Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta how climate change is impacting food systems and what leaders worldwide can do to adapt.

EVENTS

Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) 2023 (#AHAIC2023) March 5-8, 2023

This year's conference will bring together Africa's top thought leaders, researchers, policymakers, and health workers to evaluate and re-envision the future of resilient health systems.

International Women's Day (#IWD2023) March 8, 2023

A global day for honoring the social, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year's theme is Embrace Equity, a call to create a more inclusive world.

UN Women Commission on the Status of Women (#CSW67) March 6-17, 2023

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal intergovernmental body devoted to the promotion of gender equality across the world. The 67th session of the commission will focus on how technological changes can empower all women and girls.

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ABOUT

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.

