THE EXEMPLAR
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Hi Friend,

At a time when global health faces tremendous challenges and uncertainty, Exemplars in Global Health continues to find bright spots by answering a simple question: what's working?

As we enter our fifth year since launching the program, we're reflecting on how, together with our partners, our research on that question has shown progress is possible even when there are significant constraints.

A critical theme among Exemplar countries is the power of data-driven decision-making. When country leaders have relevant data at their fingertips, they make better investments in their health systems and drive major health improvements. We've seen this clearly across several of our research areas:

Anemia among women of reproductive age: Pakistan and the Philippines have shown some of the highest rates of annual anemia reduction globally since 2005. In addition to improvements in women's nutrition and micronutrient intake via efforts like food fortification, strategies to improve women's economic status and empowerment led to increased access to health care and nutrition for low-income women.

Community health workers: Bangladesh has relied on comprehensive and rigorous data collection to get insights into the country's most pressing health challenges – data they've used to design community health worker programming that more effectively meets local needs and adapts to changes.

Primary health care: Starting in the early 2000s, policymakers in Peru began collecting data on health system performance, which was used for strategic planning and more transparent decision-making. They also tied financing to results, which combined with more autonomy at lower levels of the health system, improved efficiencies.

Neonatal and maternal mortality: Senegal introduced a National Family Planning Action Plan in 2012, in which data-driven logistics teams were created to improve a new supply chain through an "informed push model," using forecasting to avoid stockouts. In recent years, increased access to contraception has empowered women and helped to reduce high-risk births, contributing toward mortality declines.

Under-five mortality: In Nepal, program implementers demonstrated unique commitment to using local research when applying global best practices for maternal and child health, while also fostering a greater sense of national ownership. This helped strengthen implementation of interventions in a context with diverse cultural groups, economic levels, and geographies.

EGH is excited to continue working alongside many of you this year, with new research expected on a range of topics from family planning and women's health and wellbeing to digital health and maternal and infant nutrition and growth. As always, thank you for your partnership and for supporting solutions in global health.

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

Want to learn how our topic and country experts can support your work in global health?

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EXEMPLARS STORIES

WHO Foundation chief becomes a global health 'matchmaker'
Anil Soni, the CEO of the WHO Foundation, reflects on the organization's origins, its unique relationship with WHO, and the critical role it plays in addressing global health challenges, including working with philanthropies, the private sector, and the public. Read the full Q&A here.

Kenya's eCHIS: revolutionizing community health with digital innovation
Kenya has trained and equipped its newly professionalized CHWs with a digital tool that is expanding access to health care, improving the quality of the health care provided, and delivering the data health leaders need for effective decision-making. Read the full article here.

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EXEMPLARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH