



## THE EXEMPLAR

MARCH 2024

Hi friend,

Each year we recognize International Women's Day alongside the global health community. This year's theme, "Invest in women: Accelerate progress" focuses on the urgent need to achieve gender equality worldwide, make progress toward ending poverty, and ensure a healthy planet for future generations — all critical to improving [women's health and wellbeing](#) across the life course.

Progress is occurring. For most women across the globe, health outcomes are improving. For example, maternal mortality decreased from 339 to 223 deaths per 100,000 live births between 2000 and 2020 internationally. Adolescent fertility rates are historically low, access to health care services and innovations is on the rise worldwide, and more girls are attending school than ever before.

But we also know that challenges persist across many aspects of women's health and wellbeing. About 15 million more women worldwide live on less than US\$1.90 a day compared to men. Women are also more likely to experience food insecurity. The global pay gap in the health sector and beyond holds women back from both an individual and societal perspective. As a result, women as individuals are less likely to realize their full potential, and these stressors have a substantial effect on a society's long-term health, wealth, and that of future generations.

Investing in women is inherently the right thing to do, but it also has the great knock-on effect of accelerating broader progress. In a recent [Exemplars News](#) article, Dr. Kehinde Ajayi from the Center for Global Development noted the shift, "What's really exciting now is how low- and middle-income countries are broadening their investments in adolescent girls beyond keeping them in school. They are thinking more intentionally about the things that improve women's health and wellbeing."

As we close out the month, we recognize the significant investments required to improve women's health and wellbeing. We also look forward to the results: healthier, more productive, and better educated societies.

Best,  
**Niranjan Bose, PhD**  
Managing Director, Health and Life Sciences



Investing in women's health and wellbeing can improve health outcomes and financial opportunities for all. Discover how Exemplars in Global Health has approached this research topic.

[Learn more →](#)

### STORIES AND RESEARCH

#### **Understanding Success: Multi-country implementation research in U5M reduction**

Research partners Agnes Binagwaho and Lisa Hirschhorn explore how six countries - Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, and Senegal - have been successful in decreasing child mortality. [Explore the research here.](#)

#### **Ensuring fair compensation for female health workers 'starts with political commitment': Dr. Roopa Dhatt**

The executive director of Women in Global Health discusses how global health institutions can improve equity in leadership and close the gender pay gap for health workers. [Read the full story here.](#)

#### **'We need to put the S back into sexual and reproductive health': HRP and WHO SRHR Director**

Dr. Pascale Allotey shares her journey from midwife to global advocate for universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health. [Read the full story here.](#)

#### **To support gender equality, we must adopt a broader understanding of women's health and wellbeing: Dr. Kehinde Ajayi**

The director of the Gender Equality and Inclusion Program at the Center for Global Development discusses how a more comprehensive understanding of women's health and wellbeing can accelerate progress. [Read the full story here.](#)

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