



# The Exemplar

May 2021

Hi Friend,

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day marked an opportunity for reflection on how the trajectory of the virus, since its discovery in 1981, compares to that of COVID-19, today.

Like in the infancy of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic were beset by uncertainty, misinformation, and fear. But unlike the case of HIV/AIDS, the world no longer awaits a COVID-19 vaccine.


The existence of a vaccine, however, is not enough to stop the spread. [Katie Bollbach](#) and her colleagues at Partners In Health explain why prioritization is among the better ways to create access to immunization.

An aggressive and robust data strategy and an ambitious all-hands-on-deck approach can also be a key differentiator in containing COVID-19, as South Africa's [Dr. Saadiq Kariem](#), Chief of Operations at Western Cape Department of Health, explains.

I'm also happy to share that The Rockefeller Foundation has awarded a \$400,000 USD grant to The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health to partner with Exemplars in Global Health to identify and showcase successful country responses to COVID-19 in Asia and Latin America, complementing the research led in Africa by Makerere University School of Public Health. This research will help us learn from one another, and in doing so, improve our global outbreak response capabilities.

I invite you to discover additional insights by using our [Data Explorer](#), which allows you to learn about the impact of prioritization and multi-sectoral collaboration to surface other positive outliers.

Best wishes,  
Niranjan Bose

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

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## PERSPECTIVES



### Katie Bollbach: Eligibility Does Not Equal Access

Available health care does not always equal accessible health care, and COVID-19 vaccinations are not an exception. Prioritizing access for those most in need is a way to ensure everyone has a chance at being safe.

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### Dr. Saadiq Kariem: Fighting Future Pandemics... Today

In South Africa, the Western Cape's response to COVID-19 has been robust and immediate. See how data, live dashboards, and real-time monitoring helped public health experts deliver solutions in testing and treatment.

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## UPDATED ANALYSES

### Digital COVID-19 Tools

As COVID-19 strained health systems around the world, many countries adopted and adapted digital health tools to detect and respond to the novel coronavirus. In 2020, Exemplars in Global Health launched a series of short- and long-term research projects to help us understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in countries and communities around the world. Learn [here](#) about Digital Health Tools used in Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

## EVENTS

#### HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (#HVAD), May 18

This day was a chance to thank the volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists working together to find a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine. The day signified how crucial it is to educate communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research.

#### World Health Assembly (#WHA74), May 24 to June 1

Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world, will be the theme for the WHA74, which is taking place virtually until June 1, 2021.

#### International Day of Action for Women's Health (#May28), May 28

For over 30 years, women's rights advocates and allies in the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) movement worldwide have commemorated May 28 as a day to stand up for sexual and reproductive rights for what they are: an indivisible and inalienable part of our human rights.

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### Exemplars in Global Health

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Learn more about Exemplars in Global Health, [here](#), or read previous editions of "The Exemplar," [here](#).

