



Gates Archive

The Exemplar

May 2023

Hi Friend,

Two weeks ago, members of the Exemplars in Global Health team joined more than 1,000 global stakeholders in Cape Town for the International Maternal Newborn Health Conference (IMNHC) 2023. Among them were hundreds of colleagues and partners who are doubling down on efforts to accelerate progress in maternal and newborn health, ensuring mothers and their babies “not only survive but thrive.”

In Cape Town, all eyes were on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 3.1 and 3.2, which call for reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and reducing neonatal mortality to at least 12 per 1,000 live births by 2030.


With fewer than 10 years to go, these goals can appear unattainable. But time and again at IMNHC, we discussed the progress being achieved by outliers who are showing there is a pathway to meeting our mark.

Bangladesh is a prime example. By expanding access to family planning, promoting antenatal care, and reducing barriers to facility-based delivery, the country has – over the last three decades – reduced both maternal and neonatal mortality by 5% or more per year, and is on track to hit this SDG.

Lessons from Bangladesh are clear. The country is working together with skilled birth attendants, community health workers, donors, ministries, NGOs, and local health care planners who are unified in this essential mission and undeterred by the size of the task at hand.

It was fitting that the theme of IMNHC 2023 was “align, accelerate, and save lives together,” because if we are to reach the SDGs, we must continue working together.

Best,
Niranjan Bose

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

Learn more about maternal and newborn health or share your questions with our experts

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EXEMPLARS STORIES

Creating a health system that cares for everyone: Malawi and respectful maternal care

Malawi has succeeded in providing nearly all women in the country access to a skilled birth attendant, regardless of income or location. How did this progress happen? The country invested heavily in nursery and midwifery training institutes over the past decade.

A story with a beautiful ending: India's path to promoting respectful maternal care

India's commitment to respectful maternal care delivery has contributed to a rise in facility-based deliveries, saving the lives of women and newborns across the country. The percentage of Indian women who give birth in a health facility has increased from 41% in 2000 to about 89% today.

Midwives can provide 80% of all the care women need

Sally Pairman of the International Confederation of Midwives spoke with Exemplars News about how midwives can improve health outcomes for women and newborns, especially in low-resource settings.

How to leverage the superpowers of diagnostics

COVID-19 has revolutionized access to diagnostics. Exemplars News spoke with Dr. Emma Hannay of FIND about how global health leaders can leverage this momentum to improve access to diagnostic testing and treatment.

EVENTS

World Bank Health Systems Flagship Webinar on Women's Health May 31, 2023

In partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children and the Public Health Foundation of India, Exemplars will present a proposed framework to measure women's health and wellbeing.

33rd International Confederation of Midwives Triennial Congress (#ICM2023) June 11 – 14, 2023

ICM2023 is an opportunity for midwives to come together, build relationships, and forge pathways for progress.

Women Deliver 2023 Conference (#WD2023) July 17 – 20, 2023

Experts will convene at Women Deliver 2023 to discuss evidenced-based solutions that champion gender equality.

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ABOUT

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Join a passionate and dedicated community of global health leaders working on the biggest challenges of our times. Explore critical learning from countries around the world as you tackle similar problems at home. Informed by your knowledge and voice, our robust and growing set of resources are designed to ensure the positive and most equitable global health outcomes.

