



The Exemplar

November 2022

Hi Friend,

Ask anyone on the Exemplars in Global Health (EGH) team – or our partners – what makes their work so rewarding, and they'll likely tell you it's researching the "why" behind stories of tremendous success in global health. They might also tell you that, while the progress they research can feel remarkable or outstanding, it's never the result of a miracle.

Last week, members of EGH's Women's Health team joined our partners at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2022), an event centered around the "belief that everyone deserves access to family planning services and products, no matter what."

Prior to the meeting, we spoke with Dr. Fannie Kachale, Malawi's deputy director of reproductive health at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, who herself had a "miraculous" story to tell: women in Malawi have roughly double the rate of modern contraceptive use, when compared with women across the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

So how did a country that had only two family planning clinics in 1983 ensure that today, 85 percent of the population – including those in rural areas – have access to family planning?

This was Dr. Kachale's answer:

"First, the Malawi government committed to increasing access to modern family planning. Second, we engaged in task shifting to ensure that contraceptives were available through a larger number and greater variety of health providers. Third, the government recognized the key role that supply chains play in family planning. So, it established a steering committee, with representatives from all our partners, to cooperatively manage product procurement and discuss product pipeline and manage stock status. Fourth, we rolled out access to self-injection nationally. And fifth, we developed youth friendly health services."

You can read more about what Dr. Kachale had to say, [here](#).

And when you do, you will see why a story like Malawi's, which may seem miraculous, is anything but the product of a miracle – it results from commitment to action. The good news for the rest of us is that we can seek to replicate Malawi's learnings elsewhere and have a non-miracle of our own.

Best,
Niranjan Bose


Niranjan Bose, PhD
Managing Director, Health & Life Sciences

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NUMBER OF THE MONTH

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US\$1

Every additional US\$1 that health systems spend on contraceptive services saves US\$3 they would have spent on maternal, newborn, and abortion care.

[Read about family planning](#), and how it ensures that people who wish to avoid pregnancy can do so voluntarily, safely, and effectively.

EXEMPLARS STORIES

What will it take to stop the next pandemic and meet our global health goals?

At the 18th annual Grand Challenges meeting, leaders and experts outlined the research, innovation, and investment needed to accelerate progress.

Fighting "the deadliest animal on Earth" with a tiny bacteria

Scott O'Neill of the World Mosquito Program speaks about the Wolbachia method to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

How to improve nutrition and health outcomes for adolescent mothers

Global experts discuss how to improve both mother and child nutrition when the first 1,000 days of a child's life occur during their mother's adolescence.

EVENTS

Galien Forum (#GalienAfrique) December 6-9, 2022

Our partners are thrilled to be participating in the fifth edition of this forum, taking place in Dakar, Senegal. The Forum, organized around a central theme "Accelerating Africa's move toward Universal Health Coverage," brings together Nobel laureates, policymakers, experts, researchers, students, doctors, socio-anthropologists, biologists, innovators, investors, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen research and sustainable development by sharing experiences in the face of major public health issues.

IUNS-ICN 22nd International Congress of Nutrition in Tokyo, Japan (#ICN22) December 6-11, 2022

Held every four years, this meeting of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) discusses issues pertaining to nutrition, including food shortages, malnutrition, population growth, over-nutrition, diversification of dietary habits, threats to food safety, and the aging of society. Centered around a theme of "The Power of Nutrition; For the Smiles of 10 Billion People," the conference invites participants to reaffirm or rediscover their mission for health and happiness for future generations.

International Universal Health Coverage Day (#HealthForAll) December 12, 2022

Centered around the 2022 theme of: "Build the World we Want: A Healthy Future for All," this is the annual rallying point for advocates to raise their voices and share the stories of the millions of people still waiting for health. The day calls on leaders to make smarter investments in health and remind the world about the imperative of universal health coverage (UHC).

Conference on Public Health in Africa 2022 (#CPHIA2022) December 13-15, 2022

The three-day, in-person conference provides a platform for African researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to share perspectives and research findings in public health, while strengthening scientific collaboration and innovation across the continent, building more resilient health systems that allow African countries to better prepare for and manage emerging health threats, and address long-standing infectious diseases.

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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.