



The Exemplar

October 2020

Hi Friend,

When the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the World Food Programme earlier this month, hunger, nutrition, and food security once again took center stage. In recognition of the pivotal role nutrition plays in many global health indicators and a host of development outcomes, Exemplars in Global Health is delighted to dedicate this edition of The Exemplar newsletter to the issue of nutrition.


We feature a special supplement published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* by the Exemplars in Global Health Nutrition Team and its partners on how countries can use Exemplars research findings to help reduce stunting. We also feature two Perspectives by members of our community, including one by Shawn Baker, the Chief Nutritionist at USAID. He writes about how our thinking on the relative importance of nutrition-sensitive versus nutrition-specific interventions is changing. In fact, Exemplars research is prompting us to reframe this dichotomy altogether. We feature another Perspective by Dr. Luis Huicho, Director, Center for Research in Maternal and Child Health in Peru, on the role of cash transfers in reducing stunting in Peru and the Kyrgyz Republic.

We're also very pleased to welcome our new Senior Advisory Board (below), which includes some of the leading and most innovative voices in global health today. We're looking forward to working with them to improve health outcomes globally.

Finally, a reminder that Exemplars is more than just a research platform, we also offer global health decision-makers access to a variety of [decision-support services](#). As part of this, our research partners and our [community of experts](#) aim to support adaptation of best practices from one context to another.

Thank you for reading and, as always, please feel free to get in touch to see how we can help.

Best wishes,
Niranjan Bose

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

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FEATURE



How Can Countries Reduce Stunting? Evidence from a Global Review and Country Examples of Progress

Written by the Exemplars in Stunting Partnership

In this 9-part series on stunting, we examine the key drivers of stunting reduction in five Exemplar countries: Peru, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Senegal, and Ethiopia. Our analysis is aimed at highlighting critical lessons applicable to other low- and middle-income countries to accelerate progress on stunting reduction. This body of work is especially important as the COVID-19 pandemic is predicted to worsen malnutrition globally.

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PERSPECTIVES



How Should Policy-makers Think About Whether to Invest in Nutrition-Sensitive or Nutrition-Specific Interventions?

Written by Shawn Baker

One of the challenging things about addressing stunting is the complex web of factors that contribute to the condition. There is no silver-bullet solution because there is no single cause of chronic undernutrition. In the past, we believed that about two thirds of the key interventions to reduce stunting happened inside the health sector and about one third happened outside of it. There are indications in the countries where the Exemplars research was carried out that the split may be closer to 50/50.

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What Was the Role of Cash Transfers in Reducing Stunting in Exemplar Countries?

Written by Dr Luis Huicho

The author's research demonstrates that Peru's conditional cash transfer program, *Juntos*, reduced poverty, increased women's empowerment, and improved access to family planning – thereby enabling the reduction of stunting in some of the poorest communities in Peru. Exemplars' research also found that the Kyrgyz Republic's modest cash transfer program also helped the poorest families improve nutritional outcomes for their children.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcoming the Exemplars in Global Health Senior Advisory Board:

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|  Dr. Margaret Chan, Inaugural Dean of Tsinghua School of Public Health, Tsinghua University, China's Executive Director General of World Health Organization |  Dr. Julio Frenk, President, University of Miami |  Dr. Minna Murchu, Vice President for Human Development, World Bank |
|  Dr. Chris Elias, President, Global Development Divisions, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation |  Dr. Donald Kabonkya, Chairman and Managing Partner, Southbridge, Executive President, African Development Bank |  Pr. Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine |
|  Dr. Senait Fisseha, Director of Global Programs, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, Chief Advisor to the Director General of the World Health Organization |  | |

Please Welcome our Senior Advisory Board

The Exemplars program is pleased to welcome our new Senior Advisory Board. This distinguished group will guide our efforts to achieve impact and reach global health decision-makers.

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ABOUT

Exemplars in Global Health

Exemplars in Global Health is more than just a research platform. We also offer governments, researchers, NGOs, and funders a variety of support services. Our services include conducting desk research, organizing study tours and workshops, and longer-term collaborations to support the design or implementation of evidence-based programming and strategies.

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