



The Exemplar

January 2022

Dear Friend,

It seems to be a universal feeling: that our perception of time has become slightly warped since the onset of COVID-19. So, I'll take advantage of that sentiment to share with you both my hope for the new year, and my high expectations for what January 2023 might look like. Yes, 2023.

We are entering year three of the pandemic, and I expect many of us didn't imagine we'd be here when we first learned about SARS-CoV-2. Many of us are tired, and our motivation – at times – feeling like it's only being driven by a punishing stick. But even as our pandemic fatigue can be arresting, we are still uncovering reasons to be optimistic. That's the carrot that, we hope, lies ahead.


COVID-19 has taught us countless lessons. Among them, we must strengthen our health systems so they can withstand our next global crisis. This was reiterated by our colleagues and partners at India COVID SOS, who have shown how the "power of the people," of extreme collaboration between India's private and public sectors, volunteers, and stewards, has delivered bright spots in the pandemic response.

But they're not just India's lessons. Research from our partners at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, the Thai National Health Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Makerere University School of Public Health, presented at the [Prince Mahidol Award Conference](#), shows that Thailand, Costa Rica, and Uganda are just some of the countries that have overcome the challenges of COVID-19, while maintaining essential health services during the pandemic.

It's a [lesson we've also learned from Senegal](#). It has gone from notebooks to smartphones, harnessing its unyielding use of digital data to effectively contain malaria during the pandemic – no small feat for a country of 16 million that has fewer than 1,200 health posts, centers, or hospitals.

So, as we start the new year, one that still has lots of *sticks*, let's work on finding more *carrots*. That way, by next January, our hard-earned lessons will have coalesced into actionable change that transforms our global health systems for the better.

Best,
Niranjan Bose

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

Global health in 2022: What feels like a stick, and what feels like a carrot?

[TELL US HERE!](#)

FEATURED STORIES & ANALYSIS



Under-Five Mortality: Cross-Country Synthesis

Over five million children under five die every year, and most of these deaths are from preventable causes. Learn about countries that have shown exceptional progress at reducing under-5 mortality – many of them against the odds, reducing child mortality faster than their rate of economic development would suggest is likely.



Liberia's Community Health Workers

Liberia, a country plagued by recent civil war and extreme poverty, started its community health worker program in 2016. Learn how the country has expanded its reach since then, and today covers roughly 70 percent of its one million rural residents.

We Need to Understand Not Only 'What Works, but What it Takes to Work': Chris Elias

The President of the Global Development Division at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and member of the Exemplars in Global Health Senior Advisory Board reflects on what it takes to mitigate the biggest global health challenges of our time, and why it's essential to not be tied to any one hypothesis.

Machine Learning Tool Slowed the Spread of COVID-19 in Greece

Greece's algorithm-informed testing system for international travelers helped the country keep its borders open, while protecting public health, despite scarce testing resources.

The Power of the 'Double Dividend' – Advancing Gender Equality to Fight Malaria

A growing body of research indicates that adopting a gender lens may accelerate our progress toward ending malaria.

EVENTS

Dubai Expo | The Next Wave: Preventing and Preparing to Beat Future Pandemics (#expo2020) January 31, 2022

Explore the nexus of human, animal, and environmental health, with a forward-looking take on how to prevent, mitigate, and respond to future health and zoonotic disease pandemics.

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (#Act2EndFGM) February 6, 2022

To promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities and focus on human rights, gender equality, sexual education, and attention to the needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences.

World Day of Social Justice (#SocialJusticeDay) February 20, 2022

Expansion in broadband connectivity, cloud computing, and data have led to the proliferation of digital platforms, and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to remote working arrangements and allowed for the continuation of many business activities, further reinforcing the growth and impact of the digital economy. Join a dialogue on actions needed to overcome the digital divide, provide decent work opportunities, and protect labor rights in the modern era of digital technologies.

Follow us on Twitter [@ExemplarsHealth](#) for additional updates, resources, and research, and join the conversation with [#Exemplars](#)

[FOLLOW](#)

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.

