



## The Exemplar

October 2021

Dear Friend,

As I write this, thousands of leaders from 100+ countries are wrapping up discussions at the [World Health Summit](#) in Berlin.

Unsurprisingly, COVID-19 has been a top story in Germany. Though we may be pandemic-fatigued, COVID-19 remains a reality, with no end date on our collective schedule. But COVID-19 is also a metaphor, as the disease – and how it's managed – symbolizes much of what we must improve to achieve our global health goals.


Getting the world vaccinated, for example, is a top priority. And yes, access is a major hindrance. But leaders from the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team and Africa's CDC say that all the vaccine supply in the world [is not enough](#) if your community is not ready to accept it.

Countries like [Zambia](#) know this well. It has maintained consistently high coverage in DTP1 since the early 2000s, but between 2000 and 2017, its improvement of DTP3 coverage exceeded that of its peers. By involving communities and creating diverse stakeholders, Zambia drove demand. Today, the country has 91 percent coverage for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. What's the lesson for COVID-19?

[Testing and surveillance](#) are also essential to managing and controlling most disease and any epidemic. Our research with Makerere University, in partnership with the University of Kinshasa, the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, and the University of Ibadan have shown us that across Uganda, the DRC, Senegal, and Nigeria, a national-level coordination across sectors and stakeholders has increased testing and surveillance capacity. What's the lesson for others?

Access, collaboration, and close coordination are essential. They can help us fight COVID-19. And they can help us win many of other global health fights. But because some of our biggest lessons often present themselves over and over, until they are fully understood, there's never been a better time to learn them.

Best wishes,  
Niranjana Bose

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

What's the biggest global health lesson COVID-19 has taught you?

[TELL US HERE!](#)

### FEATURED STORIES & ANALYSIS



#### Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR): Using Big Data to Achieve Pre-COVID-19 Routine Immunization Rates

Rwanda, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Zambia have successfully leveraged Electronic Immunization Registries (EIRs) to simultaneously monitor populations in real time, identify drops in immunizations, and locate the populations most impacted. In some countries, this has resulted in a 40 percent increase in vaccinations over the baseline, one year after the first lockdown.



#### How Have Leaders Leveraged Windows of Opportunity to Strengthen Health Systems?

Reforming a health system requires a lot of hard work – and often some good timing. See three examples of how health leaders took advantage of windows of opportunity to generate political will and transform health outcomes.

#### Protecting Afghanistan's Recent Gains in Health Outcomes

Over the past 20 years, Afghanistan has made noteworthy gains in health outcomes: maternal mortality has been cut by 75 percent, under-5 mortality has dropped by half, and stunting, by one third. Dr. Nadia Akseer, Scientist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Scientific Advisor for Exemplars in Global Health, discusses strategies for protecting Afghanistan's progress.

#### Essential Health Services: South-South Research Delivers

Beyond causing direct morbidity and mortality, public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic also disrupt essential health services (EHS). This can undermine the strength of existing health systems, hinder their performance, and block progress toward health goals. In this South-South research collaboration, see how four sub-Saharan countries worked to maintain EHS, including vaccination and comprehensive maternal and newborn care.

### EVENTS

#### Bright Spots in COVID-19 Management in India: Successful Vaccination Stories **October 29, 2021**

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO, and Sh. CK Mishra, Retd. IAS, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, chair the first in a series of webinars informed by the partnership between India COVID SOS (ICSOS) and Exemplars in Global Health.

#### Making Better Decisions for Nutrition: Understanding Positive Outliers to Reduce Stunting ([#NutritionYearofAction](#)) **November 2, 2021**

This event will discuss a 10-step framework for reducing stunting at scale in order to increase and inform N4G commitments as published in the Lancet series. This 10-step framework will be illustrated through positive outliers like Pakistan and Uganda, that have made outsized progress on stunting reduction relative to their peers.

#### Maintaining Essential MNCH Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons From 19 Countries **November 2, 2021**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, a World Health Organization initiative has helped countries mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on essential MNCH services. In this webinar, 19 countries will share lessons learned during implementation, including establishing structures and systems to coordinate the response, proactive use of data to inform decision-making, and adaptation of service delivery and innovation.

#### 2021 International Conference on Family Planning ([#PowerofFP](#)) **November 8-11, 2021**

Every other year since 2009, the International Conference on Family Planning – the world's largest scientific conference on the topic – has brought together the family planning community to share best practices, celebrate successes, and chart a course forward.

#### World Children's Day **November 20, 2021**

First established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day, World Children's Day was and is now celebrated on November 20 every year, to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

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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. [Learn more.](#)

