



ANEMIA AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

ABOUT EXEMPLARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

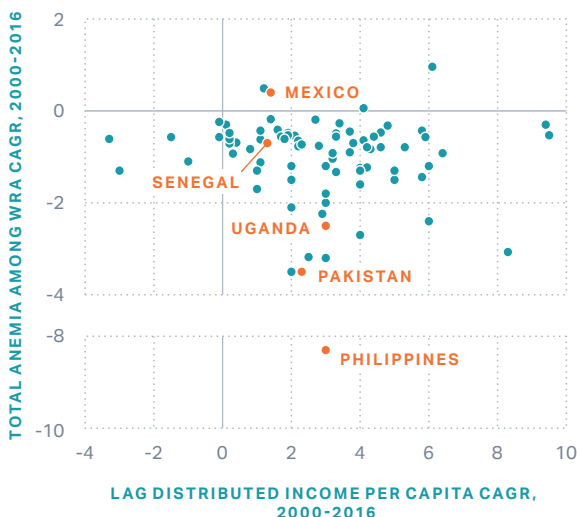
The Exemplars in Global Health (EGH) program is a global coalition of partners including researchers, academics, experts, funders, country stakeholders, and implementers. Our mission is to identify positive global health outliers, analyze what makes countries successful, and disseminate core lessons so they can be adapted in comparable settings. We aim to help country-level decision makers, global partners, and funders make strategic decisions, allocate resources, and craft evidence-based policies. A small, core team supporting EGH is based at Gates Ventures, the private office of Bill Gates, and closely collaborates with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

COUNTRY SELECTION PROCESS

We identified outliers by assessing reductions in anemia rates among all women of reproductive age at the national level relative to economic growth. From these outliers, we selected Exemplars by considering etiological and regional diversity, data availability, and the potential transferability of the findings. We are also studying an additional country, Mexico, to understand its progress and identify opportunities for impact based on our research.



Other Study Countries



TOPIC OVERVIEW

Anemia, a condition in which a person's blood cannot carry enough oxygen to the body's tissues, can result in both physical and neurocognitive impairment. In pregnant women, it increases both the risk of maternal mortality and jeopardizes fetal development.

Women are at a higher risk of anemia partly due to biological reasons. Menstruation and pregnancy both sharply increase the potential of developing anemia. Globally, more than 500 million women of reproductive age are anemic, more than half of them concentrated in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Women in low-income countries where nutrition, sanitation, and health services tend to be less accessible are especially susceptible. In some countries, anemia afflicts as much as 50% of women of reproductive age, compared to 27% globally.

Overall rates of anemia have been stagnant since 2010, with moderate or severe cases still accounting for almost half of overall cases. Targeted investments across family planning, health care (including antenatal care and malaria prevention), education, household environment (including water, sanitation, and hygiene), and nutrition and food security can help reduce the risk of anemia.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Research for every Exemplars in Global Health topic is guided by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), consisting of a diverse range of topic-specific experts.

Dr. Wafaie Fawzi (Professor of Nutrition, Epidemiology, and Global Health and the Chair of the Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard University), **Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta** (Co-director of the Center for Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)), **Dr. Francesco Branca** (Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, World Health Organization (WHO)), **Dr. Parul Christian** (Director, Human Nutrition Program, Johns Hopkins University), **Dr. Susan Fairweather-Tait** (Professor, Human Nutrition, University of East Anglia), **Dr. Rasa Izadnegahdar** (Director of MNCH, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), **Dr. Nicholas Kassebaum** (Adjunct Associate Professor in Health Metric Sciences and Global Health, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)), **Dr. Lynnette Neufeld** (Director, Food and Nutrition Division, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)), **Dr. Vilma Tyler** (Senior Nutrition Advisor, UNICEF), **Dr. Emorn Udomkesmalee** (Senior Advisor, Mahidol University)

RESEARCH PARTNERS

Our consortium of research partners is led by The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). It includes researchers from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Makerere University, The Aga Khan University, Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, and Institut de Technologie Alimentaire.

