

Stronger together

Supporting the most vulnerable with the UBS
Optimus Foundation **COVID-19 Response Fund**

December 2020

Source: The Citizens Foundation (TCF)



Your support is helping those
most affected by COVID-19.

Thank you.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, we knew we needed a collaborative effort to protect the most vulnerable globally. That's why we mounted a comprehensive response across UBS, and across the world - supporting small businesses to access emergency funds so they could stay afloat; providing emergency grants to local grassroots organizations to address food insecurity, poverty, and isolation in communities in which we have a business presence; and launching the UBS Optimus Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund to mobilize funding for trusted partners working in the world's most challenging contexts.

Though COVID-19 has affected everyone worldwide, it hasn't done so equally. In higher-income countries with advanced healthcare, sanitation, and social support systems, economic and racial disparities exacerbated the virus's impacts. Low- and middle-income countries lacking this infrastructure and support faced significant struggles with the inability to socially distance or work or learn remotely. The challenges faced in these countries not only threaten immediate health, they threaten to undo decades of hard-won progress in healthcare, education and protection.

But there is a way to tackle the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. And we have taken one step closer with your support to the UBS Optimus Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund. You acted fast. And we matched your contributions. Thanks to your generous help our partners on the ground around the globe in both high- and low-income countries were able to respond swiftly and effectively to support the most vulnerable.

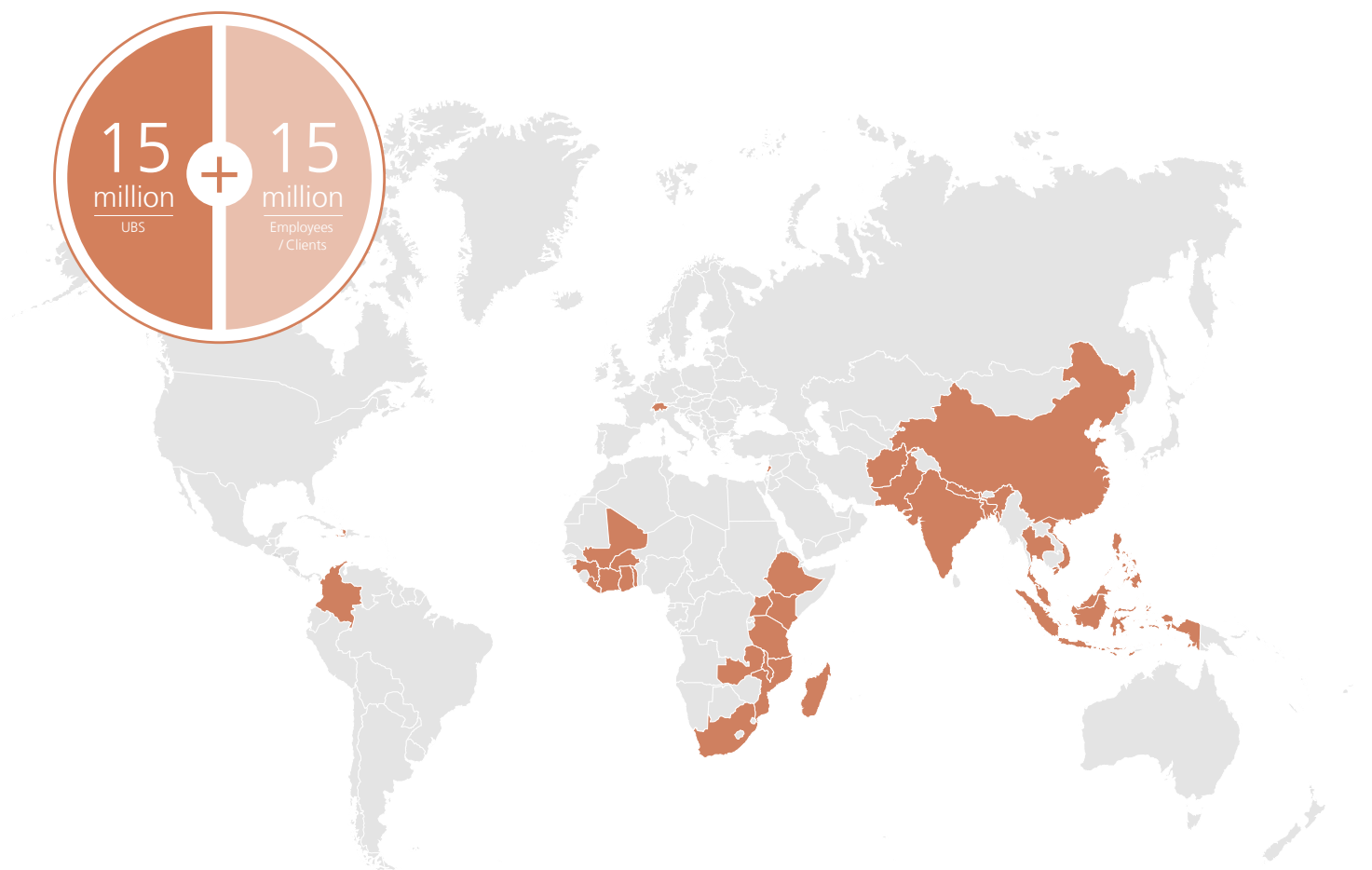
Our efforts with experienced partners are helping to avoid catastrophic outcomes and saving thousands of lives. We want to share with you in this report just some of the positive impact your contribution is having.

Phyllis Costanza
Head UBS in Society
CEO UBS Optimus Foundation



Phyllis K. Costanza

Together we've raised...
USD **30 million** supporting **48 partners**
working in **35 countries**



We've helped our partners to achieve...



Health

- Nearly 60,000 health workers trained
- 175 health facilities with improved quality of care
- Over 13 million units of personal protective equipment (PPE) procured and distributed to frontline health workers



Education

- Over 10 million children reached with remote learning models
- Over 13,000 education professionals trained or supported



Protection

- 7,195 families with children supported with resources
- Over 5,500 children living in institutions kept safe and protected
- Over 70,000 individuals vulnerable to human trafficking supported



Source: GoodWeave International

COVID-19 impacts health first and foremost. But for the world's most vulnerable, it threatens so much more.

The immediate health crisis

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been over 60 million confirmed cases and well over a million deaths. In the six months from April through October approximately 5,000 people died daily from the disease worldwide.

In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) populations are typically younger, so with good access to healthcare the mortality rates from infections should be lower. But the most vulnerable populations are in rural locations where healthcare is already strained or absent. And illness and death from COVID-19 aren't the only health worries. Researchers have also warned about the increase in maternal and under-5 mortality in LMICs caused indirectly by the pandemic due to disruptions in care, including fear of accessing care.¹

COVID-19

- Illness and death
- Lockdowns
- Job loss
- Economic recession

Skipped vaccinations and prenatal care

Education disruptions and dropouts

Increased vulnerability to trafficking and family separation

The devastating impact beyond the virus

Schools closed. Jobs lost. Poverty worsened. All around the world we're seeing the impacts of COVID-19 beyond health. Nowhere are these secondary impacts more dire than in LMICs. The domino effect of the pandemic threatens devastating consequences for years to come, not to mention an undoing of progress made in recent decades. From missed vaccines to more girls out of school to an increase in human trafficking – interventions are needed not only for the immediate health impact of COVID-19 but for its secondary effects.

¹ Robertson et al., Early estimates of the indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal and child mortality in low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling study, Lancet, July 1, 2020. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30229-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30229-1)

Provide emergency relief. Adapt and protect progress. Fill gaps and strengthen.

From all angles

When the pandemic started, we knew we needed to address the immediate crisis while also helping our existing partners maintain their progress in improving health, education and protection. So we're funding programs based on a three-pronged strategy.

01

First and foremost, we're providing **acute emergency relief** for the most vulnerable. That's why we're supporting global organizations with emergency response capacity and experience to intervene based on identified on-the-ground needs.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – aka Doctors Without Borders – has been a partner of ours for years. We partnered with them in combatting the 2014 Ebola outbreak. In the last several months MSF has been making sure that medical teams in over 70 countries are able to provide lifesaving care and safely manage potential COVID-19 patients. Their much-needed work takes pressure off overstretched health facilities and helps care for vulnerable populations.

02

Second, we're offering **support for our partners** who are implementing impactful programs at a local level throughout the world. Grants to these partners are allowing them to adapt and implement COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Plus, it's helping them safeguard the progress they've made in recent years.

The Citizens Foundation (TCF) is the largest network of independently operated low-cost schools in Pakistan. TCF hires only female teachers so that parents will send girls to school. And TCF faculty has experience with community outreach to make sure communities understand the value of an education. In response to COVID-19, TCF is protecting continuity of learning through teleschool (on TV and YouTube), activity books and learning packs, and community outreach.

03

Third, we're helping to **fill gaps** for low-cost prevention and treatment solutions. Support for organizations providing critical equipment and training is creating capacity for COVID-19 response and building stronger health systems for the future.

Lifebox is a pioneer in creating innovative cross-sector partnerships for safe surgery. Lifebox brings technology, design, manufacturing, distribution and local providers together for effective end-user adapted results. In response to COVID-19, Lifebox is rapidly procuring low-cost pulse oximeters to be deployed to hotspots and leveraging its distribution network to put the devices in the hands of healthcare workers managing acute respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

Protect. Train. Support.
So healthcare workers
can provide.





Health highlights

UBS Optimus Foundation and partners contributed to:

- Over 13 million units of personal protective equipment (PPE) procured and distributed to frontline health workers
- Nearly 60,000 health workers trained
- 175 health facilities with improved quality of care

A dual health threat

Recorded COVID-19 cases worldwide have surpassed tens of millions and well over 1 million have died. But it isn't only illness and death caused directly from COVID-19 that we're worried about.

Disruptions to routine and essential care can also cause unnecessary deaths. We saw this during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, when deaths from other diseases eclipsed those from Ebola, primarily due to people not accessing care out of fear. We're seeing this play out again during this pandemic. Researchers estimate that disruptions to routine care and decreased access to food could result in a 44 percent increase in child deaths and 38 percent increase in maternal deaths per month – erasing decades of progress in improving child health outcomes.²

² Ibid.

Safety, knowledge and assistance

Through the UBS Optimus Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, we're supporting our partners to engage in three key health activities: protection, training and support.

- Protecting frontline workers with PPE so they can continue delivering essential care, adapting services where possible to be 'no-touch' and providing surge capacity to overstretched facilities
- Training healthcare workers in COVID-19 symptoms, modes of transmission and prevention measures, including how to use and repair key treatment equipment (pulse oximeters, oxygen, ventilators) and conduct surveillance and contact tracing
- Supporting governments on development of response plans, including continued service by community health workers (CHWs) and procurement of essential supplies and equipment

These partners have been instrumental in ensuring sustained access to care by quickly procuring PPE and other essential supplies, conducting facility readiness assessments, and communicating directly and regularly with the community to disseminate timely and accurate health information. Integrate Health for instance was able to minimize disruptions to routine primary healthcare while implementing pandemic response measures. Thanks to these efforts, Integrate Health actually exceeded their targets for primary healthcare in the April-June quarter, including facility-based delivery, prenatal consultation and contraceptive coverage.

The long view

Luckily, death rates are not as high in many LMICs as projected. African countries took swift action, buoyed by experiences from and systems set up during Ebola outbreaks. With the understanding that COVID-19 is likely here to stay for quite some time, our partners now are approaching the pandemic as more of a marathon than a sprint and working to address ongoing needs like PPE and hunger.

For example, in Africa we've seen high numbers of COVID-19 infections among healthcare workers. If a million CHWs in Africa stop work because they don't have PPE, 400 million people lose access to essential healthcare services. That's why a number of UBS Optimus Foundation partners – Integrate Health, Last Mile Health, Living Goods, Muso and VillageReach – came together along with over 25 others to launch the COVID-19 Action Fund for Africa. The goal of the COVID-19 Action Fund for Africa is to ensure that CHWs across 24 African countries are safe to serve, whether for COVID-19 case management or providing essential health services for malaria, tuberculosis or maternal health. UBS Optimus Foundation's support was key in helping VillageReach quantify PPE needs across the 24 countries.

In Africa and elsewhere, our partners are also focused on ongoing health needs related to hunger and malnutrition as a consequence of the economic impacts of COVID-19, including loss of livelihoods and disruptions to food supply chains. Action Against Hunger is supporting health in Kenya and Uganda by improving access to nutritious food and safe water.

What's as important as high-quality medical technology?

User-focused training.

Technology and, importantly, training

Gradian Health Systems works in LMICs to deliver needed medical technology with tailored training to improve care for critically ill patients. Gradian's model is to make concurrent investments in equipment and training through a replicable and customizable approach. Gradian's strong local presence in over 30 countries brings together distributors, biomedical engineers and technicians, and clinical trainers, who together help Gradian to support their equipment and its users for the long term.

Gradian's comprehensive care ventilator (CCV) is a portable mechanical ventilator that is built to work in a variety of settings, including those with unreliable access to oxygen or electricity. Gradian is working with several African governments and private organizations to increase much-needed ventilation capacity for critical care and emergency transport in light of COVID-19. UBS Optimus Foundation, in partnership with ELMA Philanthropies and Grand Challenges Canada, supported Gradian to pair distribution of the Gradian CCV with training and mentorship in Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

More patients, better served

In only a few short months these trainings have exponentially expanded critical care capacity and improved quality of care in these countries. Here are some highlights:

Kenya

- 45 CCVs installed in 8 hospitals across 7 counties with 158 providers and 6 biomedical technicians trained
- For nearly three-fourths of the hospitals, the CCVs are the first and only mechanical ventilators
- 67 percent of provider trainees reported it was the "first time they have been introduced to most of the clinical topics" covered during the training
- Introduction of mechanical ventilation is operationalizing ICUs in nearly 90 percent of the hospitals

Sierra Leone

- 14 CCVs installed across 5 treatment centers with 79 providers trained across all regions
- Two primary COVID-19 response centers went from having no ventilators in the ICU to treating an average of 15 patients per week
- Providers demonstrated significantly improved knowledge and increased confidence – an average increase of 20 percent – in using mechanical ventilation to treat COVID-19 patients
- Over 90 percent of respondents indicated they agreed or strongly agreed that their confidence to safely manage a COVID-19 patient using the CCV improved

Uganda

- 54 CCVs installed in 4 regional referral hospitals with 193 providers trained virtually and 114 trained on site
- CCVs now make up 97 percent of all functioning ventilators at the facilities
- An average increase in participant knowledge of 53 percent reflecting a significant improvement
- 400 percent total increase in ventilator availability

Adapting education for the pandemic. Remote. But within reach.

Education highlights

UBS Optimus Foundation and partners contributed to:

- Over 10 million children reached with remote learning models
- Over 13,000 education professionals trained or supported

The risk of increasing disparities

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, one in six children and youths – 258 million – were out of school. The pandemic has created the largest education disruption in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion students in more than 190 countries. Closures of educational institutions have impacted 94 percent of the world's student population – up to 99 percent in LMICs. Economic impact of the epidemic threatens to push over 23 million additional children out of school.³

The crisis is exacerbating preexisting education disparities:

- Over 130 million girls were already out of school and 11 million more may not return⁴
- Half the world's refugee children were already out of school and the pandemic threatens an even greater disruption, especially for girls⁵
- Poverty exacerbated by the pandemic may make it difficult for parents to afford to send their children back to school and risk pushing them into child labor⁶

Using evidence to keep kids learning

Through the COVID-19 Response Fund we're helping our partners with policy-guiding research, education continuity and support for education professionals.

Our partners Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and the Center for Global Development (CGD) are helping governments bring evidence to COVID-19 policy responses. IPA's RECOVER webinar series is sharing research findings and policy perspectives to inform response strategies across education, small-scale enterprise and social protection. We're supporting IPA for its RECOVER work in five countries: Burkina Faso, Colombia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and the Philippines.

We're also supporting critical evidence-based interventions for education continuity. Our partner Room to Read is offering remote mentorship to girls in Asia and East Africa, helping them stay engaged and avoid dropping out. Also in East Africa, our partner Educate! is shifting its skilling curriculum online to prepare youth to attain further education, overcome gender inequities, start businesses, get jobs and drive development. The Citizens Foundation (TCF) in Pakistan has similarly shifted teaching medium, taking school to TV and YouTube. And on the next page you can read about how Rising Academies has taken its curriculum on the air to reach millions.

Behind all these changes, no one has had to pivot more than teachers. That's why several of our partners – like Global School Leaders in Malaysia and STiR Education in Indonesia – are supporting school leaders and education professionals during this time.

Making digital gains permanent

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to leave education for vulnerable children in a worse state. But with these interventions it might not only be possible to safeguard progress but also to emerge stronger.

Educate! is using the experience to pivot from an on-the-ground staffing model to one that uses more virtual support, less travel and fewer group gatherings. There's a silver lining to these changes: reduced staff needs. Educate! is finding that the changes being made will help them achieve their longer-term sustainability strategy while continuing to make measurable impact (160,000 youth and counting) in improving the lives of young Africans.

³ United Nations, Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond, August 2020. https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg_policy_brief_covid-19_and_education_august_2020.pdf

⁴ UNESCO, Keeping girls in the picture. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/girlseducation>

⁵ UNHCR, Coronavirus a dire threat to refugee education, September 3, 2020. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2020/9/5f508f5b4/coronavirus-dire-threat-refugee-education.html>

⁶ ILO and UNICEF, COVID-19 and Child Labour: A time of crisis, a time to act, June 2020. <https://uni.cf/3e6edXf>

How do you reach children who don't have access to the internet? On the radio.



Source: Rising Academies, children learning by radio in Margibi County, Liberia

Quality for every student

We've been partnering with Rising Academies since they started in Sierra Leone in 2014 where, early on, they had the opportunity to provide emergency education to children kept out of school by the Ebola epidemic. Through engaging curriculum, intensive teacher coaching and actionable data, Rising Academies helps teachers and school leaders bring quality to every classroom. Innovating through low-cost private schools they own and operate, Rising Academies then takes those learnings to governments and other partners to improve the quality of their schools at scale. They have grown to serve 50,000 students across more than 160 schools in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana.

Scaling over the air

When schools closed across Liberia in March, radio emerged as the only platform that could bring lessons to students at scale. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, only one out of eight individuals has access to the internet. So online learning is impossible. But radio reaches about 70 percent of the population. We quickly offered support to help them launch their distance-learning solution.

Rising on Air redesigned their proven curriculum for delivery via radio and SMS. The content is shared freely under a Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial license (CC BY-NC 4.0). Rising on Air offers a free 20-week program of lessons in English, French and Arabic. Prerecorded audio and scripts can be adapted, modified, translated or recorded in appropriate accents by partners on the ground. Safety messages regarding COVID-19 are woven into the lessons. Plus, wraparound content is delivered via SMS and phone. The scale of that reach creates opportunities to continue adapting both the curriculum content and its delivery to students in some of the most remote parts of the world. Here are some highlights of the initiative:

Rising on Air

- Over 10 million children already reached
- 35 organizations partnering
- 25 countries reached
- Five national ministries of education participating (Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone)

Those in need of protection still need it. Now more than ever.

Protection highlights

UBS Optimus Foundation and partners contributed to:

- 7,195 families with children supported with resources
- Over 5,500 children living in institutions kept safe and protected
- Over 70,000 individuals vulnerable to human trafficking supported

A hazard point for exploitation

The COVID-19 pandemic creates profound concerns for those already suffering from financial and social vulnerabilities. Children in institutions or at risk of being placed in institutions, and those trafficked or at risk of being trafficked, face incredible challenges during this public health crisis.

For communities already suffering extreme poverty and exploitation, the fallout from the crisis has been devastating. Lockdowns have left huge number of people – especially migrant workers, women and children – even more vulnerable to exploitation. Safe and effective reintegration of separated children during the pandemic has become an urgent priority, as separated children are even more vulnerable now. And susceptibility to trafficking is rising in source communities where dependence on high interest loans to cover medical bills or other basic needs has risen dramatically.

Protecting children and young people at risk

Through the COVID-19 Response Fund we're helping partners support children separated or at risk of separation from their families and individuals trafficked or at risk of trafficking.

For the past several years we've been working with program partners around the world toward the goal of ending child institutionalization. To protect the gains made by our partners and prevent further separation, vulnerable families need support at this time.

That's why we're helping organizations like Miracle in India. About 10,000 children in Maharashtra and 2,000 children in Gujarat were sent back home from child care institutions. Miracle has quickly implemented remote training to increase capacity of child protection functions and expanded family strengthening efforts aimed at prevention and deinstitutionalization.

In addition to helping organizations that protect families in crisis and foster systems that keep children in families, we're also supporting program partners who are addressing the problem of human trafficking. With the pandemic and ensuing lockdowns, migrant workers are particularly at risk right now.



Our partner Baan Dek Foundation implemented immediate measures to ensure the well-being of migrant families living in construction site camps in Thailand. These included actions such as negotiations with companies on work permit extensions and facilitation of applications to the Social Security Board. About 1,300 children were directly supported with specialized case management, community relief and development activities, including assistance to successfully enroll in public schools.

Over the past few months, Blue Dragon Children's Foundation in Vietnam has seen an influx of trafficking victims and a high number of complex cases from China. The team has begun developing its network of support and operations in southern Vietnam to cater to the larger number of survivors undergoing reintegration there.

Read about other anti-trafficking work in India and Ethiopia by our partner Freedom Fund on the next page.

For the long haul

COVID-19 isn't going away anytime soon. Even when the virus is under control, the economic impacts of this pandemic will last years. It's imperative to help our partners keep up their efforts in protecting vulnerable children, families and workers. Sustained engagement for community-driven change is important, as the pandemic has proven that investment in local structures is the most effective way to create lasting resilience. Strengthening support for families in crisis is key. As is education. The more vulnerable communities know about the risks of child institutions and the warning signs of human trafficking, the more individuals are empowered to stay safe.

How do you prevent human trafficking at this time?

With local frontline partners.

Putting a stop to traffic

The Freedom Fund is a leader in the global movement to end modern slavery, targeting high-concentration or 'hotspot' regions. Partnering with frontline organizations, communities and governments, Freedom Fund tackles the systems that allow slavery to thrive. We've partnered with Freedom Fund for many years now to implement sustainable eradication of modern slavery. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undo gains made by Freedom Fund and put additional vulnerable populations at risk of trafficking.

Responding to COVID-19

In the countries where Freedom Fund operates, children and adults in forced or bonded labor are facing hunger, disease, abuse and inability to move to safe places. That's why Freedom Fund moved quickly to set up an emergency response to help mitigate some of the worst effects of the crisis.

By early August Freedom Fund had dispersed over USD 1.4 million in 144 small, flexible grants to frontline civil-society partners and community groups working with vulnerable communities in Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand. The grants have been used to provide small cash payments and relief supplies. And they're supporting NGO staff to advocate on behalf of marginalized communities.



With over 73,000 vulnerable individuals – including over 33,000 women and 22,000 children – benefitting from Freedom Fund's program, here are some impact highlights:



Source: Freedom Fund

India

- Mobilized the Bihar government to track and protect trafficked child laborers returning from Rajasthan
- The Tamil Nadu Alliance, a network of civil society organizations, worked in collaboration with other local NGOs to help stranded interstate migrant workers return home and appealed to the government to provide food rations for the 134,000 stranded migrant textile workers

Ethiopia

- Emergency shelters were established for migrant returnees from the Middle East offering critical care and emergency shelter while they located family members and transitioned back to life in their home country

Spend only on what works. Results-based funding has never been more critical.

Now, more than ever

As the world responds to COVID-19 with extra scrutiny on development budgets, funders will need to rigorously assess programs to see what works, what doesn't and why. Resources need to be put to work efficiently, effectively and with accountability. Results-based funding programs such as development impact bonds (DIBs) meet these needs. DIBs create the opportunity to more widely apply learnings that have been tested, proven and scaled. And, importantly, they are exhibiting the resilience and flexibility demanded by the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Improving learning, for now at home

The Quality Education India Development Impact Bond (QEI DIB) aims to improve literacy and numeracy skills for approximately 200,000 children from low-income families by scaling proven interventions, driving development focus toward outcomes, and transforming funding and delivery of education in India. The QEI DIB supports four results-oriented NGO service providers in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

Despite the COVID-19 lockdown orders affecting all schools, independent evaluation of 20,000 students shows that overall students in the DIB program surpassed Year 2 learning targets, learning twice as fast as their peers in comparable schools. All service providers except Gyan Shala had already evaluated their programs. Given Gyan Shala's progress on Year 1 and metrics from Year 2, they likely would have overachieved on total learning outcomes had examinations been held. Considering an average student is at least two years behind, the results show that these programs are helping to close this learning gap.

With schools closed, the service providers are currently actively engaging students remotely and in small groups:

- **Pratham InfoTech Foundation-Educational Initiatives (PIF-EI)** is driving usage of its Mindspark program for students with smartphones and developing learning material for students without smartphones (possibly using content delivered by phone with toll-free numbers)
- **Society for All Round Development (SARD)** is sharing e-resources with teachers and launching interactive e-content for primary Hindi and Math classes, available for free at India's National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) portal
- **Kaivalya** is creating customized curriculum for grades 3-5 in Mumbai, building on the Ahmedabad curriculum, while both their locations continue to engage fellows and provide virtual support to teachers
- **Gyan Shala** conducted summer teacher training remotely and is continuing to collect parent phone numbers, sharing government broadcast information and exploring distribution of printed material

Altogether the QEI DIB service providers have responded well to challenges in implementation. They've adapted over time to keep pushing the envelope on child learning achievement in anticipation of school opening in the coming months – continuing progress on this very successful results-based program.

Flexible. Right when it needs to be.

Pivoting to protect maternal healthcare

The Utkrisht Development Impact Bond (Utkrisht DIB) is financing efforts to improve quality of healthcare for pregnant women and newborns within private small healthcare organizations (SHCOs), where quality care lags behind the public sector. By increasing the number of quality SHCOs in Rajasthan, the program will validate a cost-effective way to channel government funding to quality private maternal care facilities. By tying payments to outcomes, SHCOs are incentivized to achieve and sustain a high quality standard. This is good news for mothers and babies.

COVID-19 hit roughly midway through the program with 167 private SHCOs accredited. Because clinics were shut down in March and there were concerns about Utkrisht team members acting as vectors for virus spread, Round 4 verification was cancelled. Since then implementation activities have successfully shifted online and the clinics are being engaged remotely through online training and monitoring. More than 4,000 online trainings have been conducted by service providers, with oversight by Palladium. UBS Optimus Foundation also supported a telecounseling project for maternal and child health services that is being offered to mothers who are afraid or unable to visit their area clinics.

Verification is also now remote, combining a review of records with calls and video inspection. The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) Board has endorsed the new remote assessment of its Manyata standard and the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) has also endorsed remote assessment. The Utkrisht Steering Committee authorized remote verification for the Round 5 assessment in October 2020 and the final assessment will likely also be conducted remotely. While we continue to review the impact of the move to remote assessment, we are very excited about how this innovation has been able to ensure that the Utkrisht program stays on track. The results-based nature of the Utkrisht DIB has enabled all stakeholders to make this shift, benefitting women and newborns in Rajasthan.

Benchmarks for development funding

The Utkrisht and QEI DIBs serve as benchmarks for what is possible with results-based funding. These DIBs show that the right program selection coupled with strong partners can provide lasting impact. With adverse events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, DIBs have the proper flexibility built into their structures that allow partners to respond to major challenges. While DIBs are not the solution for all types of challenges, they can be instrumental when the conditions are right. Our DIBs provide important points of reference for investors interested in results-based funding, proving the merits of the approach and establishing track records for future programs.

Health programs you're supporting

Action Against Hunger

Action Against Hunger continues to fight against hunger and malnutrition during the pandemic, supporting health in Kenya and Uganda by improving access to nutritious food and safe water.

Americares

Skilled in helping communities respond to disasters, AmeriCares is providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and other essential supplies to health centers in COVID-19 hotspots in the United States and worldwide, with over 10 million infection prevention supplies provided already. AmeriCares clinics quickly pivoted from in-person appointments to telephone where needed, ensuring continuity of care for patients who rely on their clinics. AmeriCares is training health workers for preparedness, psychosocial support, infection prevention and hygiene.

Assist International

Assist is working in Ethiopia to help hospital and healthcare facility teams be prepared to provide life-saving oxygen therapy and clinical trainings for patients in dire need. Assist is working to maximize oxygen production, provide essential oxygen therapy supplies, mobilize previously trained teams to fix broken equipment, and deliver training on COVID-19 response through the Project ECHO platform.

Beijing United Charity Foundation (BUCF)

BUCF is leveraging its long-standing relationships with NGOs and hospitals in Wuhan to help facilitate the timely procurement, transfer and delivery of quality protective equipment and other essential supplies to fill temporary gaps and prevent transmission of the virus. BUCF is also providing psychosocial support for local children in Wuhan.

Development Media International (DMI)

DMI is creating COVID-19 mass media campaigns using their proven methodology and radio, TV and mobile video channels in nine countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, following Africa CDC and WHO guidance.

doctorSHARE

Leveraging its experience providing medical services in remote locations in Indonesia for the past ten years with a network of 200 hospitals and 1,000 healthcare workers, doctorSHARE is procuring PPE for healthcare workers in hospitals outside of Jakarta, distributing ventilators for hospitals in Jakarta and its outskirts, and deploying floating hospitals and volunteer doctors to regions with the greatest need, with 6,500 patients already served.

Food Bank Singapore

The Food Bank Singapore is pioneering an innovative food distribution solution using vending machines that addresses pandemic-heightened food waste and food security issues for migrant workers and low-income families.

GiveIndia

GiveIndia's India Relief Fund is supporting their NGO partners in COVID-19 response through hygiene awareness efforts, providing essential healthcare supplies like PPE kits and ventilators, supporting the poor with food and shelter, and direct cash transfers for those outside the caste system (who won't get support from government programs), especially in rural areas.

Gradian Health Systems

Gradian is working in Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda to make sure critical care equipment and supplies needed for treating COVID-19 are available to healthcare workforces in resource-limited settings. Read more about Gradian's work on page 13.

Hewatele

The mission of Hewatele ('plentiful air' in Swahili) has never been more pressing – to make sure oxygen is available and affordable for all needy patients. In response to COVID-19, where oxygen is the first-line treatment, Hewatele is rapidly scaling up to meet increased demand for oxygen in Kenya, as well as training healthcare workers on its delivery.

Integrate Health

Integrate Health is continuing its work saving lives in Togo's most neglected communities by integrating professional community health workers (CHWs) with improved care in public clinics. Integrate Health is taking aggressive and proactive action to minimize the spread of the virus, keep healthcare workers safe, ensure continuity of primary healthcare and demonstrate its commitment as partners to the Ministry of Health in Togo.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC has conducted an analysis of the most critical and vulnerable health systems around the world, developing plans to ensure that health centers and hospitals can detect, prevent and control the spread of the virus. This includes helping hospitals to expand their capacity for COVID-19 while maintaining support for existing health needs. ICRC is adopting a long-term perspective that takes into account the pandemic's effect on the resilience of communities and systems.

Jacaranda Health

Jacaranda is working to fill Kenya's urgent gaps in maternal and infant healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic by accelerating their PROMPTS digital health platform nationally, supporting providers with COVID-19-specific maternal and newborn care guidance, and improving decision-making with real-time data and insights. Jacaranda is already reaching over 130,000 mothers, 1,000 frontline nurses and 200 health facilities across five of the biggest county governments, showing impressive results in increasing antenatal care, uptake of post-partum family planning and completion of referrals.

Last Mile Health

Last Mile Health saves lives in the world's most remote communities by working with governments to recruit, train and pay professional CHWs. In response to COVID-19, Last Mile Health is advising government partners in Liberia, Ethiopia and Malawi on evidence-based public health strategies and training CHWs on preventing, detecting and responding to cases, disseminating content globally via the Community Health Academy platform.

Lifebox

Lifebox has successfully distributed 18,000 pulse oximeters with safe anesthesia training in over 100 countries through a distribution model that works with local and regional professional societies to identify and meet needs. In response to COVID-19 Lifebox is rapidly procuring low-cost pulse oximeters, which are essential to triaging patients, to put in the hands of healthcare workers managing acute respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.



Living Goods

Living Goods is working with the Ministries of Health in Kenya and Uganda to mitigate COVID-19's impact and invest in the safety and training of over 10,000 CHWs who are integral to ensuring successful preventive, diagnostic and management services for COVID-19. Living Goods is focused on protecting CHWs and interrupting disease transmission, maintaining and expanding essential health services, and supporting system-wide response efforts.

Médecins sans Frontières (MSF)

MSF is activating relief efforts in countries around the globe, deploying mobile medical teams to provide vulnerable populations with healthcare and mental health services, and working to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in communities. MSF is also training healthcare workers on the frontlines in many countries.

Muso

Muso is protecting and furthering its community-led, proactive healthcare model in Mali by training CHWs to respond to COVID-19 in line with WHO recommendations. These trainings are enabling CHWs to support community-level understanding of COVID-19 and drive uptake of key prevention practices across the communities they serve.

One to One Children's Fund

One to One Children's Fund continues its work in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province to reduce under-5 mortality and morbidity rates. In the face of COVID-19, One to One's team of mentor mothers, CHWs and nurses are supporting communities to stay as safe as possible. One to One also set up a text message triage service for the much wider community and are distributing leaflets in Xhosa, the local language, as widely as possible across the Eastern Cape.

Palladium

In support of the Utkrisht Development Impact Bond for maternal and newborn health in Rajasthan, India, Palladium is implementing a telemedicine initiative to address barriers to accessing essential maternal, newborn and child health information and services.

Project HOPE

Building off their existing work in Indonesia and the Philippines in strengthening healthcare services and systems, Project HOPE is protecting frontline healthcare workers by procuring PPE and medical equipment and strengthening infection prevention controls through training on COVID-19 response, in partnership with the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies at the Watson Institute of Brown University.



Source: Bloomberg

Swiss Red Cross

The Swiss Red Cross COVID-19 response is focused on providing support to hospital staff by carrying out COVID-19 tests, setting up a testing center in Bern, and providing shopping services for high-risk individuals (over 65 years) in cooperation with Coop at 20 locations in Switzerland.

VillageReach

VillageReach aims to increase the availability of quality primary healthcare across sub-Saharan Africa by making products and services more accessible, convenient and user-focused. In response to COVID-19 Village Reach is helping support Ministry of Health partners in DRC, Liberia, Malawi and Mozambique with urgent and specific requests such as using Malawi's Chipatala cha pa Foni (health center by phone) to distribute information about COVID-19, providing mobile training and support to healthcare workers, and forecasting PPE needs for CHWs.

Vision for a Nation

Continuing its mission to deliver access to eye care in Ghana, Vision for a Nation is procuring and distributing PPE to frontline health workers in Vision for a Nation catchment areas, in coordination with the Ghana Health Service.

Education programs you're supporting

AWWA

AWWA is ensuring the continuity of high quality, in-person or home-based development and learning support for children with mild developmental delays in Singapore during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond Social Services

Beyond Social Services continues its work in Singapore helping children and youth from less privileged backgrounds foster a culture of online learning to address issues of equity as blended learning becomes the new norm.

Center for Global Development (CGD)

CGD is working with experts in education and public health to assist policymakers in LMICs during the pandemic, working alongside existing collaborators (UNESCO's taskforce on COVID-19) as well as networks of government advisers (ODI Fellows, Institute for Global Change advisers) and in-country development partners (DFID, UNICEF, World Bank).

Educate!

Educate! is shifting its skilling curriculum online to prepare youth in Uganda to attain further education, overcome gender inequities, start businesses, get jobs and drive development. Educate! is digitizing its proven flagship program model using radio for content delivery and using remote mentorship to guide youth on starting appropriate projects and businesses. These strategies may enable Educate! to reach even more youth than they were reaching before the pandemic.

Global School Leaders (GSL)

GSL is working to strengthen leadership among school leaders serving students from marginalized communities in Malaysia. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, GSL is delivering online training relevant to school leaders' immediate needs and meant to prepare them to lead strong schools over the next two years.

Gyan Shala (Quality Education India)

As one of our implementing partners for the Quality Education India Development Impact Bond (QEI DIB), Gyan Shala is supporting the continued education of children and reopening of schools with sanitation and COVID-19 prevention efforts.

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

IPA brings together researchers, policymakers, practitioners and funders to create and share evidence, equipping decision-makers to use it to reduce poverty. Through RECOVER (Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses) IPA is providing data, evidence and analysis to support decision-makers in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and the Philippines in their efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission rates; improve social-safety-net responses; support businesses and employment opportunities; keep children safe, healthy and learning; improve women's health, safety and economic empowerment; build resilience and protect the financial health of families and individuals; promote peace and safety; and improve humanitarian response.



Rising Academies

Rising is offering their proven curriculum for delivery via radio and SMS. Rising On Air is a distance learning solution from Rising Academies that aims to provide quality teaching and learning to millions of children being kept out of school by the COVID-19 pandemic in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone. Read more about Rising on Air on page 15.

Room to Read

Room to Read continues to provide individual mentoring to girls over the phone while further assessing the ability to provide group mentoring sessions via smartphones (where girls have connectivity). The goal of individual mentoring is to emotionally support girls through these difficult times, provide encouragement for continuing regular academic study at home and refer them to official sources of information for staying safe.

SARD (Quality Education India)

As one of our implementing partners for the Quality Education India Development Impact Bond (QEI DIB), SARD is supporting the continued education of children with remote education plans.

STiR Education

STiR is expanding its operations to Indonesia, supporting education systems to reignite intrinsic motivation in every teacher and school official, and to role model the foundations of lifelong learning for every child. Through an approach based on peer networks, action and feedback, and reflection, district officials are introduced to evidence-based classroom practices and are supported to lead training sessions for school leaders and their respective teachers to enable higher quality interactions with children.

The Citizens Foundation (TCF)

Pakistan's largest network of independently operated low-cost schools is protecting continuity of learning during the pandemic through teleschool (on TV and YouTube), activity books and learning packs, and community outreach. TCF is also reaching out to parents whose children have a high risk of dropping out or not returning to school, especially girls.

Protection programs you're supporting

Baan Dek Foundation

Baan Dek Foundation is supporting vulnerable migrant children and their families in slums and construction site camps in Thailand. The children are Thai, members of hilltribes, and migrants from Myanmar and Cambodia. Baan Dek is continuing case management activities, donating food and cleaning supplies, and implementing health awareness campaigns, while monitoring evolving community needs.

Beyond Social Services

Beyond Social Services continues its work in Singapore helping children and youth from less privileged backgrounds break away from the poverty, providing assistance to low-income families and students during the pandemic.

Blue Dragon Children's Foundation

Blue Dragon is supporting survivors of trafficking in Vietnam suffering delayed rescues due to the pandemic with emergency and long-term assistance so they are not trafficked again. Blue Dragon is delivering intensive post-rescue care and practical support for at least 80 survivors in the form of food, housing, psychosocial assistance and education.

Child's i Foundation

Child's i continues its work in Uganda demonstrating that there are alternative care strategies that keep children in families, breaking the cycle of orphanage reliance. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Child's i is supporting and strengthening frontline emergency responders, coordinating a national public health and social protection response, and covering loss of income for key staff on the ground.

Cure Violence

Cure Violence is working in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean to prevent the increased risk of domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic by helping frontline workers take measures to prevent violence and protect children in high-risk households. Cure Violence is moving its training online and disseminating COVID-19-related public education campaign materials focused on protecting and preventing violence against children.

Family for Every Child

Family for Every Child is a global alliance of 40 local civil society organizations working toward a common vision of a world where every child can grow up in a permanent, safe and caring family. Family for Every Child created a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to help their members that require short-term funding, support local services to children and vulnerable families, and test innovative community responses.

Freedom Fund

In its fight against global trafficking, the Freedom Fund is supporting its global network of NGOs with emergency relief for affected groups, surge capacity for NGO advocacy and microgrants to community structures to provide credit and help absorb financial shocks. Read more about Freedom Fund's pandemic response on page 18.

GoodWeave

Continuing its work to stop child labor in global supply chains, GoodWeave's emergency response fund is supporting beneficiaries in India and Nepal, responding to conditions to prevent an uptick in child labor due to COVID-19 and seeing that significant business revenue losses for the organization do not diminish GoodWeave's child protection programming in South Asia.



Hope and Homes for Children (HHC)

Continuing its work for the deinstitutionalization of children worldwide, in response to COVID-19 HHC is supporting vulnerable families (post-placement and prevention cases) with food, help obtaining distress grants and monitoring through mobile phones supplied with airtime. HHC is increasing training, mentoring and support to social workers working with emergency foster carers and temporary safety parents so children can stay in families.

Karuna Nepal

In support of its mission to develop disability-inclusive societies and prevent incidence of congenital disabilities, Karuna is supporting communities and local health facilities in Nepal's Province No. 1 with personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplying food to the families of people with disabilities as well as pregnant mothers and infants who are food insecure. Karuna was also able to organize food support at a holding center in Kathmandu reaching almost 12,000 migrant returnees. Karuna is developing e-learning for community-based rehabilitation facilitators so they can continue their training during the pandemic.

Lumos

Lumos continues to fight for every child's right to a family, working in Eastern Europe, Haiti and Colombia to protect the immediate safety of children, prevent family separation, and work alongside governments to support children in orphanages and vulnerable children in families through enhanced monitoring and technical assistance.

Miracle Foundation

In the Indian states of Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, Miracle is supporting families of 400 children hastily removed from 14 institutions with cash transfers, distributing food and hygiene packages to 250 families in remote areas of Gujarat, and meeting the hygiene and sanitary needs for 561 children who remain in institutions, including masks, gloves and soap.

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