



# The Exemplar

October 2022

Hi Friend,

Greetings from Brussels, where – along with Exemplars in Global Health (EGH) colleagues and partners – I've been attending the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting (GCAM), a gathering to explore ideas for global health innovation.

Amid the sharing of science and tech proposals that address the world's biggest challenges, EGH hosted a panel on an issue that affects every single one of us: climate, and how it intersects with health.

We discussed success stories minimizing the impacts of climate on health, and heard innovators' perspectives on implementing best practices, while our co-hosts launched **two RFPs** to galvanize accelerated learning and innovation. With our Earth's weather and atmosphere continuing to change, one question persisted: what's climate got to do with it?

In advance of our session, our team spoke to panelists Dr. Suresh Kumar Tiwari and Mr. Bishnu Bhatta from Nepal's Partnership for Sustainable Development. I am pleased to share this excerpt from their answers, which may not surprise you – but will likely inspire you, when you read the full interview [here](#).

**What is the link between climate and health and why is there a need to focus on this?**

**Dr. Tiwari:** When we talk about climate and health, we can start with a recent surge of dengue fever in Nepal. More than 52 people died of this fever, and more than 50,000 people were infected. Dengue mosquitoes basically survive in the plainland, not land with high altitude. So, we must ask: how this mosquito is flying to the Himalayan region? We are seeing evidence that climate change and global warming are surviving factors of the mosquito. But we can also speak about agriculture, which has an enormous impact on world health. Because of climate change, the productivity of the soil has been degraded significantly. In Nepal, we've seen avalanches killing people, glaciers melting, and rivers flooding. Countries' policies can affect the climate of neighboring countries. So yes, we need to discuss climate and health, in terms of protecting ourselves from future pandemics and mitigating future crises.

**What is the work you are doing in Nepal to ensure a better health for your mountains – and your people?**

**Mr. Bhatta:** What we are doing in Nepal is engaging the communities. In plastics, we have a scheme that gives one rupee for one bottle. If anybody brings a PET bottle, they get one rupee in exchange. So, we are circulating the economy within the village, while we clean up the mountain. Because before our intervention, they would throw all plastics waste in the river, which pollutes water sources, or burn it, which affects air quality. More importantly, we are helping to develop a culture that promotes and sustains waste management practices in the Himalayas. This helps mitigate the effects of climate change on health.

**Why is this grassroots approach effective, and what is a mistake that we make in addressing these issues globally?**


**Dr. Tiwari:** There is research that says if you invest a dollar at an early age, you'll get 17 times return. I think the mistake we have not made is that we have gone to the people. We listen. And we understand and recognize the problems being faced by the local people, in their own language. And then we try to understand the solutions they are prescribing.

**What is the call to action for world leaders? How do we ensure there is buy in to this problem?**

**Mr. Bhatta:** Nature does not discriminate, so we have to join hands together so that we can achieve progress, prevent catastrophes, and avoid natural disasters. If we don't work together, we cannot overcome this problem. Like in COVID, you can't think that because it started in one place, we didn't need to think about it in another. And if we don't act now, it may be too late. Talent is equally distributed around the world but not opportunity. So, we should provide opportunities for communities to innovate to fight our biggest challenges.

What's climate got to do with it? Everything.

Best,  
Niranjan Bose

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

FEATURED CONTENT

STATISTIC OF THE MONTH

Primary Health Care can meet up to 90% of a person's health care needs over their lifetime.



While PHC can meet up to 90% of a person's health care needs over their lifetime, nearly **50% of the world's population still lacks access** to it.

Estimates suggest that scaling up access to PHC interventions across low- and middle-income countries could **avert as many as 60 million deaths by 2030**.

Learn why Exemplars is researching the effectiveness and efficiency of PHC systems to see how some countries achieve stronger levels of PHC performance relative to their level of total spending on health.

[LEARN MORE](#)

EXEMPLARS STORIES

**The world's first malaria vaccine: one year since the WHO recommended its widespread use**

Dr. Mary Hamel, WHO Lead for Malaria Vaccines, speaks with Exemplars News about the historic rollout of the world's first malaria vaccine and what might be coming next.

**'Second chances': Lessons from Jamaica's remarkably successful Programme for Adolescent Mothers**

To mark International Day of the Girl Child, Exemplars News spoke with Zoe Simpson of the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation and researcher Joshua Amo-Adjei about the program that has kept young mothers in school over the past 40 years.

**Increasing COVID vaccination rates in Africa**

Experts share best practices and key takeaways for turning vaccines into vaccinations across the continent.

EVENTS

**American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) 2022 Annual Meeting (#TropMed22) October 30 – November 3, 2022**

A five-day international forum, the ASTMH Annual Meeting draws tropical medicine and global health professionals representing academia, foundations, government, not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, military, and private practice to exchange scientific advances in tropical medicine, hygiene, and global health.

**Seventh Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (#HSR2022 #HealthSystems) October 31 – November 4, 2022**

EGH is proud to be attending this symposium, organized by Health Systems Global, that every two years brings together experts in health systems and policy research. This year's agenda includes seminars on researching and acting on illicit and hidden practices in health systems; advancing equity in health system strengthening; climate change mitigation and adaptation in public health supply chains; and youth-friendly tools and approaches to strengthen accountability for inclusive SRHR.

**International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) (#ICFP2022 #FPforAll) November 14 – 17, 2022**

EGH is proud to be hosting a session at ICFP titled "Identifying and Learning from Exemplar Countries in Family Planning to Achieve Universal Health Coverage" at this international conference on family planning. Convening the global development community – advocates, researchers, scientists, community and government leaders, health practitioners, economists, conveners, civil society, and youth – ICFP promotes a shared vision of universal access to family planning, and a belief that everyone deserves access to family planning services and products, no matter what.

Follow us on LinkedIn for additional updates, resources, and research.

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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.