

COVID-19

RESOLVE
TO SAVE LIVES

Vital
Strategies

Training Health Care Workers in Africa to Safely Respond to COVID-19 and Maintain Essential Health Services



The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented threat to the health and well-being of people around the world. Many low- and middle-income countries, including those in Africa, have critical gaps in epidemic preparedness that put their populations at high risk for negative social, economic and health impacts of the pandemic. Regional and international support is crucial to their mounting an effective response to COVID-19, limiting death and social disruption.

Health care workers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 response, facing heightened risk of infection. To date, most training and support for health care workers has occurred at the hospital level. But 80% of COVID-19 patients will be seen at primary health care facilities. Primary health care workers must be adequately trained and equipped to protect themselves and their patients.

In addition to managing COVID-19 cases, primary health care workers must continue to provide communities with essential health services, such as treating malaria and diarrhea, providing vaccinations and maternity care, and caring for those with cancer and heart disease. In past epidemics, the strain on health systems resulted in interruptions to routine care, causing preventable deaths. Reduced access to health care services during the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak led to thousands of additional deaths across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Our approach

On-the-ground training for primary health care workers: We will train frontline health workers to identify potential cases and triage care; prevent infections of health care workers and patients seeking any kind of clinical services; maintain essential health services; and communicate to their patients and communities about the risks of COVID-19. These skills will also prepare health care workers for future epidemic threats. We will work with countries to identify how primary health facilities can be redesigned to maintain essential services and prevent infections.

Support for infection prevention and control: We will support quality assurance for infection prevention and control in through Infection Control Africa Network, which will provide ongoing training and provide supportive supervision in at least eight countries.

Online training, mentoring and technical advice: We will support at least 6,000 medical and nursing practitioners through regional training networks, with partners including the World Health Organization Africa Regional Office (14 countries) and ICAP (13 countries) using a “hub and spoke” model to disseminate information from central to peripheral levels.

Our objectives



Flatten epidemic curve to decrease morbidity and mortality from COVID-19



Preserve essential services



Advance sustained global epidemic prevention

Key partners

- Infection Control Africa Network
- World Health Organization Africa Regional Office
- ICAP

Where we work

- Angola
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cote d'Ivoire
- DRC
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Haiti
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



About Us

Vital Strategies is a global public health organization working in 70+ countries to strengthen public health systems. Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies, aims to prevent at least 100 million deaths from cardiovascular disease and epidemics. Through its Prevent Epidemics program, Resolve to Save Lives has rapidly leveraged existing networks to establish a multi-disciplinary, multi-pronged effort to support countries throughout Africa and beyond. This work is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gates Philanthropy Partners, which is funded with support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

More information at
PreventEpidemics.org
ResolveToSaveLives.org
VitalStrategies.org