

# COVID-19



## Epidemic Intelligence Unit



The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented threat to the health and wellbeing 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.

### Our objectives



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



Preserve essential services



Advance sustained global epidemic prevention

### Our approach

The Epidemic Intelligence Unit (EIU) compiles, reviews, analyzes and shares information to help leaders and responders in cities and countries make science-based decisions. Our technical specialists are focused on the context and impact of the COVID-19 response around the world and are connecting and providing support to all of the Resolve to Save Lives/Vital Strategies programs and partners, as well as to media. The team is also helping select ministries of health and health departments develop locally appropriate strategies for compiling, analyzing and using data for decision-making during the COVID-19 response.

### Our Epidemiological Intelligence Unit consists of two teams:

#### Situational Awareness:

- + Staffed by dedicated scientists in the fields of social and behavioral science, political and economic analysis, information management, and epidemiology, the situational awareness team uses primary and secondary data to regularly produce maps, data visualizations, reports and syntheses of literature on the impact of and response to COVID-19. The situational awareness team contributes analysis to the **Partnership for Evidence-Based Response** to COVID-19, a public-private partnership including Africa Centres for Disease Control And Prevention and the World Health Organization that collects social, economic, and impact data from African Union Member States to help determine the acceptability and effectiveness of public health and social measures.
- + The team develops and manages open-source, interactive, **web-based tools** to share information.

#### Science Team

- + The Science team reviews the latest scientific evidence about COVID-19 and produces a regular weekly science review, which includes data insights, FAQs, in-depth analyses and article summaries.
- + The team also links the latest science to develop strategic briefs and maintain an up-to-date **COVID-19 Playbook**. This playbook is a comprehensive resource that helps decision-makers manage and adapt COVID-19 responses from early preparedness all the way through recovery. The tool features a user guide, glossary, essential checklist, and an interactive adaptive response graphic that links to key principles and high-yield tools tailored to different phases of the epidemic curve.

### 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 info at

[PreventEpidemics.org](https://PreventEpidemics.org)  
[ResolveToSaveLives.org](https://ResolveToSaveLives.org)  
[VitalStrategies.org](https://VitalStrategies.org)