

COVID-19



COVID-19 Response: Resolve to Save Lives and Vital Strategies

The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented threat to the health and well-being of people around the world. As of May 2020, more than 3 million cases had been identified worldwide, and almost all countries had reported confirmed cases.

Until a vaccine or proven treatment for COVID-19 becomes available, it is critical for countries to quickly implement other strategies to slow transmission and allow health care and public health systems to build capacity to care for those infected with the virus. These include effective communication with the public; implementing evidence-based public health and social measures, such as closing schools, markets and churches; building surveillance and laboratory capacity; and training the health care and public health workforce.

In today's interconnected world, an epidemic anywhere is an epidemic everywhere. The United States and Europe have been hard hit by COVID-19, and countries with limited resources must be supported to minimize gaps in their preparedness and maintain essential health services. Local, regional and international support is needed to mount an effective response to COVID-19, limiting death and social disruption.

Our objectives



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



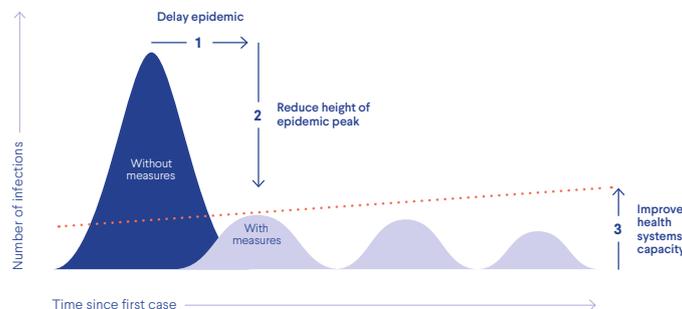
Box in the virus to protect health care workers and society



Preserve essential services



Advance sustained global epidemic prevention



Our approach

We support countries with a range of interventions to reduce COVID-19 transmission while preserving essential services and building health system capacity, with a focus on sustained global epidemic prevention efforts. We provide expert technical and strategic policy advice and serve as honest brokers, with recommendations rooted in science and evidence. We mobilize resources, resolve operational bottlenecks, and work to generate political will for appropriate public health action at local, national and global levels.

Our funders

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Gates Philanthropy Partners (with support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative)
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Stavros Niarchos Foundation
- CDC Foundation

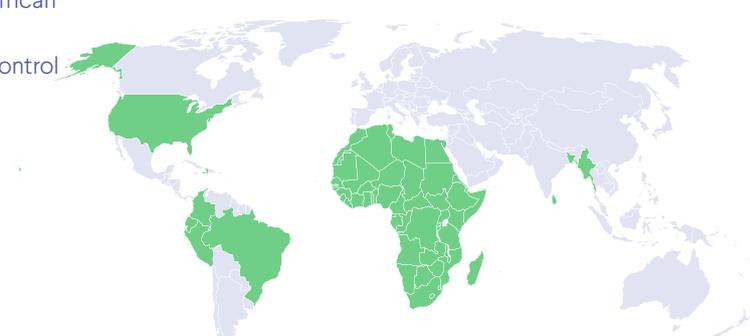
Key partners

- Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN)
- World Health Organization African Regional Office
- Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
- World Economic Forum
- Ipsos
- AFENET
- ICAP

Where we work

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Algeria | Chad | Equatorial Guinea | Malawi | Sao Tome and Principe | Tanzania |
| Angola | Colombia | Eritrea | Mali | Togo | Togo |
| Bangladesh | Comoros | Gabon | Mauritania | Tunisia | Tunisia |
| Benin | Congo | Ghana | Mauritius | Uganda | Uganda |
| Botswana | Cote d'Ivoire | Guinea | Morocco | Zambia | Zambia |
| Brazil | Democratic Republic of Congo | Guinea-Bissau | Mozambique | Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe |
| Burkina Faso | Egypt | Haiti | Myanmar | USA | USA |
| Burundi | Ethiopia | Kenya | Namibia | | |
| Cabo Verde | | Lesotho | Niger | | |
| Cameroon | | Liberia | Nigeria | | |
| Central African Republic | | Libya | Peru | | |
| | | Madagascar | Rwanda | | |
| | | | | | |

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



COVID-19



COVID-19 Response: Resolve to Save Lives and Vital Strategies Program Components



Building public health capacity

Supporting core public health programs to scale their ability to test, track and isolate cases is a critical component of reopening economies and managing COVID-19 cases. We will work with countries around the world, including the United States, to expand their capacity to manage ongoing and high-intensity work, including for the “Box It In” strategy of testing, isolation, contact tracing, and quarantine.



Provide rapid response funding for timely detection and control

Many countries have delays in deploying rapid response teams because of a lack of easily accessible funding. Through local partners in 12 countries, we are providing fast, flexible funds to help mobilize response teams and procure necessary supplies. Funds are easily accessible by ministries of health and support timely outbreak investigations.



Adapting public health and social measures (PHSM)¹

PHSM encourage physical distancing, including closures of schools, markets and religious institutions and cancellation of mass gatherings, specific to local contexts. In collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, World Economic Forum, World Health Organization and market research firm Ipsos, our team will provide real-time feedback and guidance to governments in Africa about the impact of PHSM on key social and economic indicators.



Effective communications in a crisis

The COVID-19 Communications Center provides effective risk communication and strategy, a core pillar of the overall response. Social media monitoring, rumor management and the effective prevention and management of misinformation all support disease control. This activity will support governments in clearly and consistently communicating risk and action.



Data for Action

To ensure COVID-19 response is driven by evidence and data, our multidisciplinary team has been providing real-time data analysis, science reviews, simplified guidance, support for surveillance and legal analysis. This support will be expanded and include decision-making support for governments in Africa and South America to balance the public health and socio-economic impacts of PHSMs and to support emergency operations centers.



Protecting health care workers and maintaining essential health services

In low- and middle-income countries with limited hospital capacity, primary health care facilities are the frontlines of COVID-19 response. Primary health care workers must be adequately trained, equipped to protect themselves and their patients, and able to identify potential cases, manage initial treatment, safely take lab samples, and effectively communicate about the virus with patients. In partnership with the Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) and through regional training networks, including WHO AFRO, we have trained hundreds of frontline health care workers. We will maintain quality assurance and ongoing support as well as offer training on new treatments and preparedness for large-scale vaccination as new discoveries come online.



Partnership for Healthy Cities

The Partnership for Healthy Cities—supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with WHO and Vital Strategies—provides 70 cities with technical and financial assistance to implement interventions to reduce noncommunicable diseases and injuries. We are now leveraging relationships with participating cities to connect to their response operations; provide information, tools and guidance; facilitate direct technical assistance and intercity exchanges; and offer mini-grants for specified response activities.



Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)

The CRVS team will leverage their engagement with the health sector of governments initially in six countries—Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Senegal, Peru and Rwanda—to accelerate the detection and reporting of all COVID-19 deaths by age, sex and location from a network of sentinel sites. This will serve as a model of Rapid Mortality Surveillance – a new approach to jump-start improvements in mortality data globally.



Legal and advocacy

Most countries in Africa have limited legislation in place to support detection, prevention and response to infectious diseases. The legal and advocacy program will equip cities and countries to review their existing legal framework rapidly, fill gaps, and mitigate social and economic impacts of public health measures.



Cardiovascular health and chronic diseases

Those with underlying health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, are at increased risk for serious illness and death from COVID-19. The cardiovascular health team directly supports practitioners in six countries and provides global guidance for the treatment and protection of chronic disease patients globally.



Additional activities

Vital Strategies is supporting Africa CDC to build lab capacity in 6 countries and provide staff and technical support to global agencies including WHO, the Global Fund, and the World Bank.

¹Also known as non-pharmaceutical interventions.

More information at

PreventEpidemics.org
ResolveToSaveLives.org
VitalStrategies.org

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 effort to support countries throughout Africa and beyond.