Global COVID-19 Response Program

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented threat to the health and well-being of people around the world.

As of May 2021, more than three million people were reported to have died from COVID-19 worldwide, with estimates of the actual death toll ranging to 10 million or higher.

Even with ambitious vaccination plans underway, it is critical to slow transmission and allow health care and public health systems to continue to care for those infected with the virus.

Additional strategies to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 include improved risk communication with the public, implementing evidence-based public health and social measures, building surveillance and laboratory capacity and training the health care and public health workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed critical gaps in epidemic preparedness across low-, middle- and high-income countries resulting in devastating social, economic and health impacts.

Our Approach

We support countries to reduce COVID-19 transmission while preserving essential services and strengthening health system capacity, with a focus on global epidemic prevention. We promote equitable and efficient vaccine rollout in the United States and abroad. We provide technical and strategic policy advice and serve as honest brokers, with recommendations rooted in science and evidence. We help countries scale up their technical expertise, develop operational excellence and build political will for appropriate public health action at local, national and global levels.

Our Objectives

- Flatten epidemic curve to decrease morbidity and mortality from COVID-19
- Preserve essential services
- Accelerate sustained global epidemic preparedness
- Promote equitable and efficient vaccine rollout
- Use data and technology to inform evidence-based response

Where we work

- Prevent Epidemics & COVID-19 Response
- COVID-19 Response only
Flexible rapid response funds for countries

Many countries have systemic delays in deploying rapid response teams because of a lack of easily accessible funding. Our team has provided more than $6 million in fast, flexible funds to incident management teams to effectively identify, investigate and manage COVID-19 cases. As one example, in under 48 hours, our team mobilized funds, which allowed WHO to work with 23 African countries to develop vaccine distribution plans in just three weeks.

Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC)

Resolve initiated and leads a public-private partnership that supports evidence-based measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on African Union Member states. PERC collects social, economic, epidemiological, population movement and security data to help inform policymakers on the acceptability, impact and effectiveness of public health and social measures during the pandemic.

Guides to promote COVID-19 response strategies

We have developed more than 300 technical documents and other resources, including the COVID-19 Response Playbook, Tracking COVID-19 in the United States and Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in the Era of Vaccines, to help decision-makers manage and adapt COVID-19 responses as they move through different phases of the response.

Epidemic Intelligence Unit

A highly skilled, specialized team analyzes up-to-the-minute scientific information and provides key insights, synthesizing evidence on the context and impact of the pandemic. The unit supports the surveillance needs of ministries of health and analyzes and presents primary data at the country and city level. Its In-Depth Science Review provides a regular snapshot of the new and emerging scientific evidence related to COVID-19.

Protecting health care workers and maintaining essential health services

We established on-the-ground health care worker training focused on COVID-19 infection prevention and control that was used to train more than 40,000 staff in 8,000 facilities throughout Africa, facilitating safe screening of more than 5 million patients. We also published a report highlighting the risks health care workers face and advocating for action to protect them.

Effective risk communication

We provided funding and technical support for the risk communication in more than 20 countries and developed the COVID-19 Risk Communication Hub, with hundreds of media resources in a dozen languages.

Legal and advocacy support

We support governments to review their existing legal frameworks rapidly, fill gaps, and design effective response measures with solid legal backing.

Partnership for Healthy Cities

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with WHO and Vital Strategies, the Partnership for Healthy Cities provides 70 cities with technical and financial assistance to implement interventions to reduce noncommunicable diseases and injuries. We have supported the Partnership to leverage 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.
Additional activities

- We developed a Public Health and Social Measures Simulator, a digital tool that demonstrates how the timing of different public health and safety measures could affect the spread of COVID-19. The tool has been viewed by more than 400,000 people.

- Our cardiovascular health team directly supports practitioners in six countries and builds global guidance for the treatment and protection of chronic disease patients globally.

- We partnered with Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to support improved lab systems and to improve the use of data to inform policy and strategy through the Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19, whose products include a dashboard tracking the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Us

Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of the global health organization Vital Strategies, focuses on preventing deaths from cardiovascular disease and preventing epidemics. It is led by Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.