

Living Goods COVID-19 Response Update & Opportunity for Support

Updated June 2021

Overview of Living Goods' COVID-19 Response

Initial Emergency Response - \$6M (fully funded)

In March 2020, Living Goods began responding to the COVID-19 pandemic alongside government and NGO partners in Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, and Sierra Leone. During 2020:

- a) Living Goods-supported community health workers (CHWs) **maintained essential health services to over eight million people and saved nearly 20,000 lives.**
- b) In Living Goods' areas of operation, our review of government data revealed declines of up to 35% in the number of people who sought facility-based care for common childhood diseases in 2020, while **CHW treatments for those illnesses more than doubled from the previous year.**

Ongoing Emergency Response + Systems Strengthening and Vaccine Uptake - \$4.7M (currently fundraising)

In 2021, Living Goods is building on our existing COVID-19 response **including our continued focus on maintaining essential services**, and adding in the below elements:

- a) Working to strengthen health systems as the COVID-19 pandemic has moved from an acute to a prolonged emergency. We are emphasizing ongoing protection and support for CHWs, thus allowing them to care for themselves while they continue to maintain essential health service delivery to communities.
- b) Encouraging early uptake of vaccination among frontline health workers and other high-risk populations.
- c) Supporting governments to prepare for the successful and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines when they become much more widely available in the countries in which we work (tentatively projected for Q1 2022).
- d) Remaining innovative and responsive, recognizing opportunities to leverage existing competencies for flexible approaches as needs arrive (i.e. adapting CHW training & digital app workflows originally developed for two-dose childhood immunization tracking to serve COVID-19 vaccination rollout).

Ongoing Response + Delivering Vaccines for All - \$TBD

Though the COVID-19 context continues to shift rapidly, we project that widespread access to COVID-19 vaccines in the countries where we work will take place beginning ~Q1 2022. At that time, while we will continue to focus on maintaining essential services and health systems strengthening, we will also layer on the following activities:

- a) Combatting vaccine hesitancy and ensuring high levels of uptake, particularly as health systems race to utilize procured doses before expiration dates.
- b) Supporting government operations for widespread vaccine rollout to the individuals in the rural communities we serve.

Deep Dive on Systems Strengthening and Vaccine Uptake

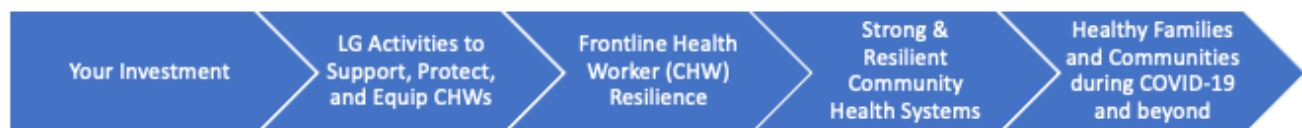
The Current Problem: In Sub-Saharan Africa, the pandemic has pushed health system capacity to the brink, not only posing a direct threat as relates to treating COVID-19 but also increasing risk from long-standing diseases such as malaria and pneumonia. In addition, because of the protracted nature of the COVID-19 crisis, many frontline health workers are at risk of burnout. It is vital to recognize the support needed for frontline health workers to ensure both their continued success, and the resilience of entire health systems now and into the future. Finally, though small numbers of vaccines have begun arriving in many countries, distribution remains inequitable and vaccine hesitancy further threatens the potential for widespread immunity in countries where Living Goods works.



Living Goods' 2 Pillar Solution for Ongoing Emergency Response + Systems Strengthening and Vaccine Uptake:

- 1. Systems Strengthening for Frontline Health Worker Resilience & Continuity of Care in Communities:** Living Goods is continuing to protect and support CHWs so they can maintain their critical role in health systems resilience, including access to personal protective equipment, training on COVID prevention and diagnosis, and targeted incentives to compensate them for the additional burden they are taking on. Going forward CHWs will continue to be called upon to serve their communities to:
 - a. Ensure continuity of primary care for children and families
 - b. Interrupt COVID-19 transmission
 - c. Educate their clients and communities on the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and government response, as well as begin education and community mobilization efforts to combat vaccine hesitancy

Your Role in Ensuring Frontline Health Worker Resilience & Continuity of Community Based Care during COVID-19



- 2. Creating Enabling Conditions for Equitable Vaccine Distribution:** To date, richer countries like the United States have moved steadily towards majority population immunity, while most countries in sub-Saharan Africa have less access to COVID-19 vaccine dosages, and Kenya and Uganda hover at vaccination rates of ~2% (as of mid-May 2021). While pooled procurement initiatives like COVAX have begun to reduce this inequity at a country level, there is a need to ensure that once larger numbers of vaccines are available in these countries, the community health systems are strengthened to ensure distribution rapidly and equitably reaches populations living in poverty and in rural locations.

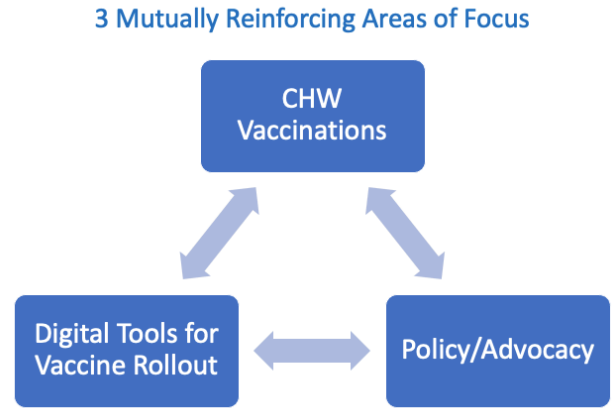
Living Goods has already seen strong success supporting CHWs to increase immunization access and uptake in their communities, for standard child immunizations. For example, in the communities where our immunization sensitization and referral program has rolled out in Uganda, we have seen the percentage of children who are

under-vaccinated decrease by 40% over the past two years. Building on this experience, we have identified three activities we will undertake in this year that will help establish enabling conditions for a swifter, more equitable rollout when COVID-19 vaccines become more widely available in the communities we serve (likely Q1 2022):

a. **CHW Vaccination: Drive and support CHW vaccine access and uptake.** CHWs can best serve their communities once they themselves are protected, and once vaccinated they serve as role models for immunization. We are reducing CHWs' barriers to accessing the vaccine by providing transportation allowances and incentives for vaccination, and driving higher uptake by carrying out educational activities among CHWs and staff.

b. **Policy & Advocacy: Support governments to access vaccine supplies and to leverage community health for COVID-19 vaccination in ways that are effective and sustainable.** We are supporting several countries in East Africa (including Uganda and Kenya) to quantify their vaccine demand and submit the necessary applications to procure vaccines; this has already contributed to the release of millions of doses to these countries but millions more are needed. We are also working with these countries to ensure community health is integrated into their vaccine distribution funding strategies and systems.

c. **Digital Tools to Equip CHWs for Vaccine Rollout to Communities: Put in place the necessary digital tools, communications, and processes for CHWs to succeed in mobilizing the population for vaccination.** Building on our track record of success in using immunization workflows to ensure adherence for childhood vaccines, we will add new COVID-19 vaccine functionality to the SmartHealth app and train CHWs on its use, allowing CHWs to track the immunization status of community members and send automated updates when a vaccine appointment is coming up.



The Opportunity

By supporting our \$4.7M funding need for Living Goods' Ongoing Emergency Response + Systems Strengthening, you will directly contribute to frontline health worker and community health systems resilience, which is necessary to minimize lives lost this year and in the future. By supporting our Vaccine Uptake Work, you will help ensure that nationality, geography, and economic status do not continue to serve as barriers to care. Together, we can ensure that as many people as possible maintain access to healthcare and gain access to the COVID-19 vaccine. **No one is safe until everyone is safe!**



If you are interested in learning more or in investing in Living Goods' COVID-19 Response, please contact:

NAME
TITLE
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