

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

“COVID-19 HAS EXPOSED THE GLARING GAPS IN OUR HEALTH SYSTEM. ONE OF THE GREATEST LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED AS A COUNTRY IS THE NEED TO HAVE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH. FOR A LONG TIME, INFECTIOUS DISEASES HAVE BEEN LOOKED AT AS BEING SEPARATE ENTITIES FROM NCDs. WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND NOT DISEASE-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.”

—**Dr. Bernard Gitura**, Cardiologist and President of the Kenya Cardiac Society.

Today, people living with NCDs—cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes—are at increased risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. This unprecedented pandemic is highlighting the critical need for strong, resilient health systems that are ready to address emerging health crises as well as ongoing population health needs like NCDs, which affect millions worldwide and disproportionately impact people in low- and middle-income countries.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD STRONG & RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

A June 2020 World Health Organization survey found prevention and treatment services for NCDs have been severely disrupted since the pandemic began with impacts

most acutely felt in low-income countries.

“WE MUST EMBRACE NEW AND DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO GLOBAL HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE.”

While there is still much to learn about COVID-19, one thing is clear: *we must embrace new and different approaches*

to global health and healthcare. We must invest in and build a resilient health system capable of rapidly screening people, delivering medicines and providing high quality care—both for immediate COVID-19 response and to address chronic health needs.

We have a small window of opportunity to prepare, learn and change health systems for the better. Over the last four years, Access Accelerated has been working with the public and private sectors to address systematic barriers and foster innovative ways of work together. Now, more than ever, we need to continue our work, sharing what we have learned and use it to address the challenge of COVID-19.

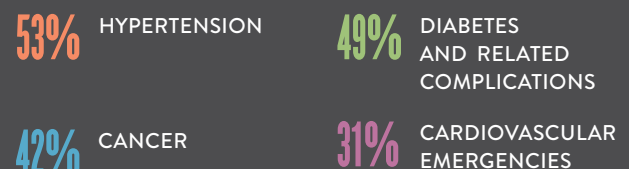
THE LINK BETWEEN COVID-19 & NCDs

THE WHO CONSOLIDATED EVIDENCE THAT NCDs AND THEIR RISK FACTORS ARE INCREASING SUSCEPTIBILITY TO COVID-19 INFECTION AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF WORSE OUTCOMES, INCLUDING IN YOUNGER PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDES:

- People with underlying metabolic conditions due to obesity, hypertension, diabetes, kidney disease etc.
- People with compromised immune systems due to cancer treatment, COPD, diabetes etc.

KEY FINDINGS OF JUNE 2020 WHO SURVEY

COUNTRIES THAT REPORTED DISRUPTION OF SERVICES DUE TO COVID REPORTED PARTIALLY OR COMPLETELY DISRUPTED TREATMENT FOR:



ACCESS ACCELERATED—A PURPOSE-BUILT MODEL

The Access Accelerated model is proven in its ability to inform local and global health policies, accelerate investment in health systems and advance strong partnerships. We know what it takes to advance innovative solutions and drive more effective collaboration.

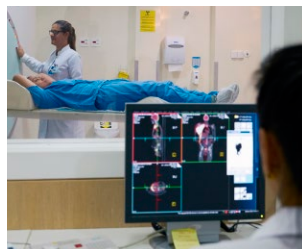
STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

As we face this latest health threat, it's clear we should be building on existing structures. We need to avoid program fragmentation and speed up the creation and delivery of new models of care—reaching more patients, faster. If we truly strive to leave no one behind and achieve health equity in the wake of COVID-19, we must focus our efforts in areas that are critical to both NCDs and the COVID-19 global response: supply chain, digital health and primary care.



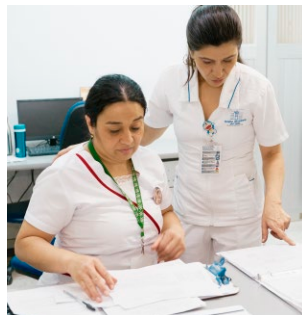
WE'RE LEVERAGING REAL-TIME DATA TO GUIDE COVID-19 RESPONSE.

In 2018, Access Accelerated and **PATH** developed the NCD Navigator, a dynamic mapping of NCD programs which shows, for the first time, the scale of real-time activities across a country. Today, Kenya's Ministry of Health has adopted the NCD Navigator and is using it to inform planning and provide visibility on vulnerable areas that can be prioritized for COVID-19 emergency response.



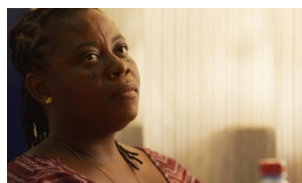
THE PANDEMIC HAS INCREASED THE UPTAKE OF DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY.

The **World Bank** has provided \$160B in financing to 100 developing countries, tailored to the health, economic and social shocks countries are facing in the wake of COVID-19. This funding will be used to scale up health technologies, such as telehealth, allowing for safer patient examinations and reducing patient loads so clinics can reserve face-to-face care for those with COVID-19 and other urgent conditions.



EVEN AS PANDEMICS RAGE, CHRONIC CARE MUST CONTINUE.

Our partner, **City Cancer Challenge** is working with experts from around the world to assess the impact of the pandemic and opportunities to leverage scarce resources, and are sharing innovative approaches to cancer care and patient support during the current crisis. These learnings will have clear implications for how we build in greater resiliency into health systems for cancer and other chronic conditions. Similarly, the **World Heart Federation** launched a global prospective cohort study to better understand the impact that COVID-19 is having on people living with cardiovascular disease.



PATIENTS' VOICES MUST BE HEARD.

The **NCD Alliance** launched the Solidarity Fund on NCDs and COVID-19 to support the network of national and regional NCD Alliance members as they ensure the views and voices of people living with NCDs are heard.



SUPPLY CHAINS WILL BE VITAL IN THE DELIVERY OF VACCINES AND TREATMENTS.

Our ongoing work with **PATH** and a dedicated group of member company partners has been focused on how to ensure the consistent supply of NCD medicines and products for people living with NCDs. This includes a cold chain process to maintain medication like insulin—with a high likelihood that any coronavirus vaccine being temperature sensitive, this work is vital.