



# Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE) COVID-19 Vaccination Preparedness and Response

## RISE Project Overview

May 2021

RISE, a 5-year global project funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), works with countries to achieve a shared vision of attaining and maintaining epidemic control, with stronger local partners capable of managing and achieving results through sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient health systems by 2024.

## Key Award Information - RISE

- RISE is positioned to provide service delivery, technical assistance, and health system support to respond to the COVID-19 epidemic (through both PEPFAR and non-PEPFAR funded support)
- RISE partners are present in 46 countries
- RISE has directly supported COVID-19 emergency response programs in **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Nigeria**
- RISE has HIV programs in Burundi, Cameroon, eSwatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Ukraine
- RISE has built collaborative networks with academic institutions worldwide to support delivery of high-quality case management technical assistance

Jhpiego and the RISE project's life course approaches and broad technical portfolio enable us to quickly reach adult populations with vaccine solutions while ensuring safety and efficacy. We are able to build on decades of experience in mobilizing and training diverse cadres of frontline healthcare workers in HIV, reproductive health, and malaria, as well as support for vaccine introductions outside of classic EPI setting (such as HPV), to ensure the safety and health of the healthcare workers themselves. Jhpiego and RISE use approaches tailored to workplace learning and considers the whole training ecosystem in our support for COVID-19 vaccine deployment.

**Global Experience:** With 50 years of experience in health workforce development and 18 years in PEPFAR implementation, Jhpiego harnesses extensive global expertise and networks to rapidly introduce and scale up COVID-19 vaccination. With presence on both the *WHO SAGE Working Group on COVID-19 Vaccines* and the *Sabin-Aspen Vaccine Science and Policy Group*, Jhpiego works hand-in-hand with ministries of health (MOHs), multilateral and bilateral donors, our Johns Hopkins University colleagues, and key implementing partners in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to coordinate a quick and impactful response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jhpiego provides coordinated prevention, detection, and response activities, including emerging COVID-19 vaccine readiness, introduction, and scale-up efforts in **Afghanistan, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa**, and the **United States**. Jhpiego has also led vaccination introduction and scale-up efforts as a key component of large global projects such as the USAID-funded MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership (MCGL; 2019-2024), Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP; 2014-2019), and the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (2008-2014). Through MCGL, Jhpiego has provided technical support to the WHO Immunization, Vaccines, and Biologicals department on a range of areas including the *Immunization 2030 Agenda* and pulse surveys around COVID-19 disruptions, as well as advocacy and communication. MCSP developed content on immunization for newborns in the 2017 WHO manual, *Managing complications in pregnancy and childbirth: a guide for midwives and doctors – 2nd ed.*



## RISE COVID 19 Vaccines Highlights

In collaboration with Ministries of Health and informed by needs assessments, RISE provides contextually appropriate COVID-19 technical assistance across the globe, strengthening provider capacity to provide quality vaccination services and to care for the mild to critically ill COVID-19 patient. Adapting nimbly to identified needs, RISE has adjusted implementation approaches within its PEPFAR-funded programs to continue service delivery and technical assistance for HIV and TB services, as well as to initiate new COVID-19 interventions using these existing platforms and networks. Successful strategies have included: shifting provider trainings, demand generation and other activities online; offering differentiated service delivery approaches including home and community-based HIV viral load testing and ART refills; re-deploying VMMC providers and mobilizers to support COVID-19 and HIV treatment services during VMMC suspensions; providing infection and prevention and control communications materials and COVID-19 mitigation messaging to HIV service delivery clients; and with recent availability, supporting COVID-19 vaccination efforts. RISE is currently supporting **Lesotho** in the planning and rollout of national COVID-19 vaccination plan and to ensure that healthcare workers are appropriately prepared to implement and monitor this plan. Activities to date have included a national kick-off campaign, training of vaccinators, and development of data management tools. RISE also works with the **Ghana** MOH and Ghana Health Service (GHS) to support the planning and rollout of the national COVID-19 vaccination plan and to ensure that healthcare workers are appropriately prepared to implement and monitor this plan, including development of microplans, to ensure GHS readiness when COVAX vaccine deliveries resume.

### Illustrative COVID-19 Vaccine Support

- Support to national vaccine implementation planning processes and protocol development
- Microplanning and development of contextually, geographically appropriate approaches from community to facility level distribution
- Promotion of vaccine acceptance with targeted and contextually appropriate messaging
- Risk communications related to COVID-19 appropriate behaviours post vaccines and social media campaign to counter rumours, critical to supporting vaccine uptake and adherence to multiple dose vaccine
- Development of locally relevant and globally compliant readiness assessments, using the Vaccine Introduction and Readiness Assessment Tool
- Rapid mapping of vaccination sites
- Support set up and training at new vaccine sites, including prevention of super spreader events
- Training and supportive supervision of providers in safe vaccination practices
- Development of data management tools and data management systems
- Monitoring of adverse events following immunization (AEFI)

**Leading the Charge for COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness, Introduction, and Scale-Up:** Emerging as a key implementing partner to ensure vaccine readiness, introduction, and scale-up, under a Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) contract, [Technical Assistance for COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Preparation and Readiness \(2021-2022\)](#), Jhpiego supports MOHs in a number of countries, including **Nigeria, Pakistan** and **Liberia** to introduce the COVID-19 vaccine. Jhpiego supported the Government of **Afghanistan** to plan systems for pharmacovigilance and monitoring of adverse events following immunization (AEFI). Under USAID's Momentum Private Health Delivery project, in partnership with WHO, Jhpiego has published a call to action and policy brief for engagement of the Private Sector in COVID-19 Vaccination efforts. (<https://hsgovcollab.org/en/blog/looking-private-sector-accelerate-covid-19-vaccine-roll-out-all-hands-deck-equitable-delivery>). Jhpiego continues organizational investment to augment the Government of **South Africa's** health workforce training to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. In **eight countries** across Asia and Africa (Indonesia, Nigeria, Kenya, Afghanistan, India, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Pakistan), Jhpiego has partnered with a Kenya based tech social enterprise to **promote vaccine acceptance** using artificial intelligence methods to tap social media insights for sentiment analysis. And in partnership with a social enterprise 3A-Analytics, Jhpiego collaborates with the WHO for real-time AEFI to deploy digital platforms for collecting, collating and analyzing AEFI data.

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