COVID-19 Pandemic Response
Tailoring Strategies to Address an Emerging Health Crisis

Funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), RISE assists countries to build sustainable responses to the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics, providing technical assistance, service delivery, and health system support to address pandemic priorities. The global project supports COVID-19 efforts in 16 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. Utilizing system-focused strategies that are responsive, holistic and flexible in the face of each country’s specific circumstances, RISE provides contextually appropriate technical assistance to address gaps identified through consultations with Ministries of Health (MoH), USAID missions, and other national and sub-national stakeholders.

RISE Technical Areas are Pieces of a Whole Solution

Health Systems Strengthening
- Hub and spoke facilities and referral networks
- Prehospital and intrahospital support
- Home-based care support
- Bolstering triage, stabilization, early recognition and referral for emergency patients
- Capacity modeling to optimize patient flow
- Supportive policy environment

Prevention & Preparedness
- Vaccinations (initial and booster doses)
- Laboratory strengthening and surveillance
- State-level preparedness assessments, forecasting, procurement, and data management
- Incident command planning and emergency response operations support

Facility Level Interventions
- Clinical Case Management of patients with hypoxia and acute infectious illness
- Oxygen conservation, rationalization and respiratory care
- Oxygen delivery expansion and support
- Intensive Care / High Dependency Unit Capacity
- Service Delivery Infrastructure

RISE builds upon partners’ HIV expertise with hard-to-reach populations, community-based care facilities, and demand generation to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on country populations and healthcare systems, while pivoting to protect global investments by the Global Fund and PEPFAR. Increasing vaccination rates, building capacity to care for COVID-19 patients, and ensuring a sustainable national supply of oxygen are at the center of RISE COVID-19 pandemic planning.

Vaccines
RISE began planning for COVID-19 immunization long before a vaccine was ready, adapting WHO templates, and collaborating with government programs on readiness assessments that informed national vaccination plans. RISE’s support varies from combating misinformation and increasing acceptance, to preparing mobile vaccine brigades to reach the farthest terrains and vaccinate people often left out of national healthcare plans. In all cases, RISE utilizes its depth of experience in reaching

COVID-19 Mitigation Highlights
- 16,726,022 COVID-19 vaccines administered
- 4369 facilities supported with COVID-19 case management TA
- 14 RISE-supported PSA plants for oxygen generation
- 63,630 trained on COVID-19 case management
- 29 national policies, protocols, and guidelines developed or adapted with USG and RISE support
vulnerable adult and adolescent populations to inform vaccination strategies. Past logistics support for
front-line care led to successful vaccine distribution plans.
- Establishing new vaccination sites for adults, with well-trained frontline workers in some cases
  pivoting from HIV prevention services
- Mapping of populations for micro-planning at national and sub-national levels
- Supportive supervision on effective vaccine handling and distribution, and on adverse events
  following immunization

Clinical Case Management and Basic Emergency Care
RISE is ready to ameliorate deficits identified through skills assessments, like the lack of case
management or basic emergency care proficiency seen in COVID-19 wards. In partnership with the
Johns Hopkins University Center for Global Emergency Care and academic leaders around the world,
RISE strengthens country clinical care, infectious disease surveillance, and optimizes emergency
operations.
- Early support includes modification of standard operating procedures, protocols, and clinical algorithms for triage and
  stabilization to meet the sudden demands of COVID-19 cases, and optimize patient flow
- Building on two decades of HIV pandemic support, RISE is
  piloting a test-to-treat approach for early detection and treatment of COVID-19 to halt disease spread
- RISE works with national governments to leverage new and
  existing data to predict hotspots in need of immediate resources

Oxygen
RISE technical assistance (TA) seeks to grow the capacity of partner countries to meet immediate
demands while leaving new infrastructure in place that strengthens local health systems. As COVID-19
spread, demand for and availability of medical oxygen reached crisis levels. USAID stepped in to
alleviate this need with a variety of oxygen equipment donations and called on RISE to support with TA.
- Oxygen interventions focus on best practices in clinical care, and maintenance of oxygen devices
  for maximum production. Medical providers are trained to manage hypoxia and to apply safe
titration for optimum oxygen therapy
- RISE partners with MOHs and other
  stakeholders to conduct national needs assessments that strategically grow the local oxygen ecosystem, then develop policies,
  procedures, and job aids to institutionalize learning
- Biomedical engineers and technicians are
  introduced to the latest, evidence-based manuals to maintain or repair oxygen resources like
  pressure swing adsorption (PSA) or liquid oxygen (LOX) plants and patient respiratory devices like
  BiPAP, CPAP and HFNC
- RISE supports hospital administrators to
  build and employ oxygen dashboards for system-wide planning and forecasting

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