

# GiveWell

Welcome to our  
**Research Event**

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July 8, 2020

# What we'll cover

- Organizational update
  - CEO Elie Hassenfeld
- COVID-19's impact on GiveWell's recommendations
  - Senior Research Manager Natalie Crispin
- Grants to address COVID-19
  - Senior Research Analyst James Snowden
- New research avenue
  - Senior Fellow Teryn Mattox

We really appreciate your continued,  
generous support of GiveWell during  
these challenging times

# Top Charities and COVID-19

# Our top charities are adapting

- Our lifesaving charities are following the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation to **continue their programs**
- Safety modifications
  - Retraining staff
  - Protective equipment and sanitizer

# Example of training materials

## Portion of Malaria Consortium's 12-step protocol for safe distribution

**JOB  
AID**

### STEPS for using Infection Prevention and Control to Deliver SMC during COVID-19 Pandemic

malaria  
consortium  
disease control, better health

# 1

#### At START of EACH SMC distribution day

##### AT HOME:

1. **Do not leave home** if you had contact with someone infected with **COVID-19**.
2. **Do not leave home** except to get medical care if you are **feeling sick** with fever, cough, body aches, sore throat or difficulty breathing. Do not visit public areas.
3. Ensure SMC **shirt, hijab or vest is clean**—do not wear the same clothes from previous day without washing.
4. **Wash hands** with soap and water for 30 seconds before leaving home.

##### AT HEALTH FACILITY:

1. **Take temperature.** Notify supervisor if temperature is  $>37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  orally,  $>37^{\circ}\text{C}$  axillary or forehead,  $>38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  by ear.
2. Wear gloves and use disinfecting solution to **disinfect** all SPAQ blister packs, laminated Job Aid, pen, mobile phone and equipment used for SMC delivery. Do not allow anyone to touch disinfected materials during the day and do not place on dirty



# 2

#### TRIAGE child and caregivers for COVID-19

1. **Do not deliver SMC** in the community **if you are feeling sick** with fever, cough, body aches, sore throat or difficulty breathing.
2. **Put on face mask** before entering compound or household and leave on for the entire day.
3. **Wash hands** with soap and water for 30 seconds as soon as you enter the compound or household.
4. **Avoid touching mouth, nose, eyes and face** with hands.
5. Greet household members and gather caregiver and children in area with good ventilation.
6. **Limit to 8** children and 2 caregivers at a time.
7. Practice **safe distance of 2 metres** with caregivers and children at all times.
8. Determine what the caregiver knows about COVID-19 and explain why you are wearing a mask and why physical distance of 2 metres must be maintained.



# COVID-19 disruptions

- Surveys to check on distributions will likely be skipped this year
- Our deworming charities are following WHO's recommendation to **pause deworming rounds**
  - Retaining staff and top charity status to resume programming when it's safe

# Current funding gaps

- Most pressing funding gaps we see now are **Against Malaria Foundation** or **Helen Keller International's vitamin A supplementation program**
- Top recommendation: "Grants to recommended charities at GiveWell's discretion"





# COVID-19 Grantmaking

## Our approach to COVID-19 grants

- **Look** for opportunities that might be more cost-effective than our recommended charities
- **Identify** areas that other funders might not be focusing on
- **Act** quickly and investigate more shallowly than our core recommendations

# Our COVID-19 grantmaking

- Four grants totaling \$1.1 million
  - IDinsight, Development Media International, and Yale economics professor Mushfiq Mobarak
- Most recently, \$650,000 to IDinsight for three projects
  - Prioritizing COVID-19 test supplies (India and Zimbabwe)
  - Delivering essential health services during pandemic (Uttarakhand, India)
  - COVID-19 patient follow-up (Delhi, India)

# Data management of positive COVID-19 tests

- 80,000 confirmed COVID-19 infections in Delhi
- ~35% of patients with positive tests uncontactable
- Delhi government requested IDinsight support for project
- Aiming to reduce uncontactable positive tests by 50%

# New Research Avenue: Technical Assistance

# GiveWell's traditional approach: direct delivery

- Donor funds support all aspects of the program
- For Malaria Consortium,
  - Buying medicine
  - Hiring and training staff
  - Delivering medication
  - Surveying to ensure medication was distributed



# Technical assistance as a new area

- Donor funds go toward supporting and **improving existing government service** infrastructure and staff
- Could be more cost-effective than our traditional approach, **less clear line of sight** between action and impact
- Programs we've looked at focus on:
  - Seasonal fluctuations in malnutrition
  - Umbilical cord care

# Syphilis in pregnancy

- Around **1 million** pregnant people have active syphilis each year, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia
- Untreated syphilis in pregnancy can cause stillbirth, neonatal death, or disability for the child
- Syphilis is treatable with a 16-cent dose of penicillin
- Treatment is recommended by WHO but has limited implementation



# Syphilis screening and treatment

- Opportunity to work with Evidence Action to help the government of Liberia switch from HIV tests to **dual HIV/syphilis tests**
- Exploratory grant for GiveWell
  - Could be cost-effective, but also could be too difficult to evaluate



**Thanks so much  
for supporting  
GiveWell!**



# Q & A