Each of us will remember 2020 for different reasons. Too many of those memories, like the costs of COVID-19, will be tragic. But there are other reasons to feel inspired. And when I look back on what Project HOPE accomplished last year, I’m incredibly grateful for the impact we were able to have together when the world needed us most.

Project HOPE’s response to COVID-19 is unlike anything in our organization’s history — a unified response that supported health systems in more than 150 countries. But what really inspires me is that, in spite of that challenge, our other essential work continued — work that is moving the world forward by saving the lives of mothers and infants, reaching those in the wake of crisis and disaster, and ending the threat of diseases like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

COVID-19 was a throughline that touched every aspect of our work last year. Even though there was no way to know just how devastating the pandemic would be, Project HOPE team members around the world were ready. Day after day, they adapted, adjusted, scaled up, sacrificed, and delivered. That’s why when I look back on 2020, I also feel thankful: for our team’s tireless commitment, and for your generous support of their work.

The past year reaffirmed just how interconnected we all are. Even though life changed in so many profound ways, our mission to build a healthier, more equitable world did not. Thank you for supporting Project HOPE and helping to strengthen health care workers around the world.

Rabih Torbay
President and CEO
Protecting Health Care Workers

The first images from the pandemic are impossible to forget — especially those of heroic frontline health care workers who stepped up to fight the disease, often without the personal protective equipment they needed to protect their own health and safety.

Months before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, Project HOPE was already delivering PPE to frontline health care workers around the world, starting at the epicenter of the disease in Wuhan, China. As the pandemic grew, so did our response: Soon, millions of masks, gloves, and surgical gowns were on their way to China, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Malawi, and beyond. We also partnered with Business Roundtable and Healthcare Ready to deliver more than 2 million pieces of PPE to frontline health care workers in hard-hit U.S. cities like Boston, Chicago, and New York.

Additionally, we helped distribute critically needed medical equipment like ventilators, air compressors, defibrillators, patient monitors, catheters, and COVID-19 testing kits.

Thanks to your support, we delivered more than 11 million pieces of PPE in 2020, providing protection — and peace of mind — to the doctors, nurses, and frontline personnel who worked tirelessly to keep the world safe. Today, those distributions continue until the need is met.

Delivering COVID-19 Trainings Worldwide

Equipping frontline health care workers doesn’t just mean protecting them physically; it also means providing the skills and knowledge they need to treat the patients in their care. The rapid spread of COVID-19 ignited a race to understand the disease, with health systems scrambling to learn how to diagnose and treat patients exhibiting symptoms.

Project HOPE stepped into the gap, partnering with the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies at the Watson Institute of Brown University to develop a world-class COVID-19 preparedness and response curriculum for high-risk countries. The trainings utilized a live, virtual training-of-trainers approach that covered eight core modules of COVID-19 treatment.

As the trainings grew, we partnered with DisasterReady to convert the content into a free e-learning curriculum that anyone could download.

The result?

In 2020, more than 5,000 master trainers cascaded the trainings down to 83,000 health care workers and frontline responders in over 50 countries worldwide.
Going Where the Need Is Greatest

Medical volunteers have been at the heart of Project HOPE’s mission for more than 60 years. But never were they more needed than in 2020.

As health systems in the U.S. faced deadly surges of COVID-19, our volunteers answered the call: providing surge staffing in emergency rooms, supporting long-term care facilities, caring for thousands of patients in ICUs, and distributing vaccines.

Throughout 2020, we deployed volunteer medical teams to communities in the U.S. hit hard by COVID-19, including Illinois, Maryland, Texas, and the Navajo Nation. Some served multiple deployments, while others stayed in the field for weeks at a time. They are nurses and doctors, pediatricians and pharmacists. But they have one thing in common: a passion for bringing compassionate care to the front lines of today’s most urgent health challenges.

“This experience gave me something precious: respect,” says Lisa Bartleson, a nurse who spent six weeks in a critical COVID-19 ward in the Navajo Nation. “Respect not only for the virus and the havoc it can wreak, but for the patients who were so extremely sick and so immeasurably alone, and who still found the will to fight and to smile.”

“Over and over throughout my deployment, I’ve heard the same message sprinkled through my conversations: ‘I’m so appreciative to be here.’ That’s one of the things that always moves me — the chance to share this moment with professionals who want to be where they are, taking care of others. Smart, dedicated folks committed to the cause.”

– Steve Bronson, RN, Project HOPE volunteer

Project HOPE volunteers helped staff COVID-19 testing units across Montgomery County, Maryland, including recreational centers and drive-through testing sites. Top photo by Dr. Nancy Miller for Project HOPE, 2020. Bottom photo courtesy of Rita Henderson, 2020.
Supporting the Navajo Nation

Indigenous communities, including American Indian populations, were among the most vulnerable groups impacted by COVID-19. The Navajo Nation was no exception: More than one in every 10 people contracted the disease. Less than half of the Navajo Nation has running water and electricity, and many families live in multigenerational households, which made social distancing and other health recommendations impossible for many.

In partnership with Indian Health Services, Project HOPE supported the Navajo Nation throughout 2020 with PPE and ongoing deployments of medical volunteers to provide surge support in the reservation’s hospitals. Our volunteers served thousands of hours in the Navajo Nation, including vaccine distributions to help protect those who need it most.

“Working with the Chinle Hospital staff and the patients was an extremely positive cultural experience for me. I saw compassion and kindness — among each other and among the volunteers working in the hospital. It heightened the desire in me to see all of America striving for a more connected, respectful society.”

– Mary Sebert, Director of Global Nursing for the Mass General Center for Global Health and Project HOPE volunteer

Guarding Frontline Workers’ Mental Health

More than half a million health care workers were infected with COVID-19 in 2020. But millions more faced a burden that was harder to diagnose: an extreme toll on their mental health, compounded by the increased dangers of their job and the risks they face day after day.

With support from the Abbott Fund, Project HOPE worked with local partners in Indonesia and the Dominican Republic to pilot a new program to provide mental health and resiliency tools for health care workers. Held in person and online, the trainings covered topics like stress, grief, trauma, and how to seek help — subjects many health care workers have never had the chance to discuss openly.

Certified psychologists were also on hand so participants could schedule private dialogues, counseling, or ongoing discussions after the trainings were over. For many of them, it may have been the first time they were able to discuss their own mental health with a professional.

“Trainings like these can be a doorway to decrease stigmas and increase knowledge around mental health, which is the building block of mental health awareness and, eventually, better mental health service delivery,” says Rawan Hamadeh, Project HOPE’s associate project coordinator for mental health.
Providing Relief on the Ground in Beirut

Life changed in an instant in Beirut, Lebanon, when, with no warning, a massive explosion rocked the city on August 4, 2020. The Port of Beirut explosion left hundreds dead, thousands injured, and 300,000 people homeless — a devastating tragedy that damaged hospitals and medical facilities across the city.

Project HOPE was on the ground immediately, providing medicines, PPE, and medical and hygiene supplies to people in need. We also helped provide support for reproductive and sexual health services, gender-based violence, and psychosocial support for vulnerable women and girls.

“Project HOPE’s response to the Port of Beirut explosion reached more than 70,000 people and 24 hospitals in Lebanon. Photo by Firas Itani for Project HOPE, 2020.

“We were in need of medical supplies, medicines, and first-aid kits because the area was drastically affected,” says Gilberte Nachar, the manager of a clinic that Project HOPE assisted in Beirut. “And out of nowhere, Project HOPE delivered 13 boxes to us full of medicine, which included first-aid supplies. We are in great need of those donations, especially for the patients who take medicine for long-term illnesses, and a lot of those medicines aren’t available to us. They came right in time, and we are so grateful for them.”

Responding When Every Second Counts

In addition to the Port of Beirut explosion, we also responded to health emergencies caused by Hurricane Eta, Hurricane Iota, Hurricane Laura, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the war in Yemen, and a major earthquake in Puerto Rico. Additionally, we launched our first regional Emergency Response Hub in Indonesia, utilizing local first responders to provide immediate assistance in the wake of disaster.

Even as COVID-19 stretched health systems to the brink, Project HOPE delivered the urgent relief that saved lives. Because health crises — and the frontline workers who respond to them — don’t stop during a pandemic.

In total, our disaster response and humanitarian assistance activities reached more than 662,000 people in 2020.

We trained 73,000 health care workers to better respond to emergencies and health crises

We provided direct medical services to 160,000 people affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises

We reached 170,000 people with essential information about health, hygiene, and gender-based violence

We deployed 103 expert medical volunteers to provide frontline support during disasters and humanitarian crises

We delivered $6.1 million in essential equipment, medicines, and medical supplies related to emergency response
Ensuring Impact That Lasts

The pandemic affected every aspect of daily life in 2020, including Project HOPE’s global health programs around the world. From virtual meetings to new initiatives, our global health teams adapted, adjusted, and worked to ensure that our life-changing work didn’t stop.

Mexico

Through the Young Health Program, Project HOPE is working with AstraZeneca to empower young people in Mexico with the knowledge and skills they need to live healthier lives. The lessons — many of which went virtual in 2020 — focus on tackling four of the biggest risk factors for noncommunicable diseases: unhealthy diets, lack of exercise, tobacco, and alcohol abuse. “The Young Health Program has helped me to raise my voice,” says Emiliano, 20. “You believed in me and encouraged me to be my best self. Now I believe in myself too.”

“We are facing an epidemiological emergency for obesity and diabetes. There’s a lack of nutritious food in the community, and young people are bombarded by marketing for alcoholic beverages, sweetened beverages, and junk food.

“I want young people’s voices to be heard. I’m passionate about improving people’s quality of life, and the health sector has given me the opportunity to create a positive impact for many people.”

– Yarishdy Mora, Senior Program Manager, Project HOPE Mexico

Namibia

HIV disproportionately impacts young women in Namibia, with their incidence rates being several times higher than those for men. Project HOPE’s DREAMS program is helping to change that narrative, empowering young women to become more educated about the virus and teaching job skills that promote economic independence. When COVID-19 spread, girls in the DREAMS program saw the pandemic as an opportunity, launching their own tailoring business and selling masks to the local community. “I think it’s important for the community to know how to protect themselves from the coronavirus,” says Dorin, 18. “And wearing a face mask is one of the many ways we can protect ourselves.”

Dominican Republic

Even amid the pandemic, Project HOPE’s Saving the Newborn program continued to make a lifesaving difference for newborns in the Dominican Republic. Against the backdrop of pandemic restrictions and curfews, our team worked around-the-clock to adapt programming and ensure that progress continued. Together, they were able to improve health workers’ knowledge and skills in neonatal and obstetric care, upgrade critical NICU equipment, and strengthen data collection and reporting systems — work that is lowering the country’s neonatal mortality rates and giving more babies the chance for a healthy life.
Health Affairs

In 2020, Health Affairs stepped up to provide critically important and time-sensitive evidence for policymakers addressing the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. Health Affairs, published monthly by Project HOPE, is the leading peer-reviewed journal at the intersection of health, health care, and policy.

With the emergence of COVID-19, the journal developed a fast-track review and publication process, releasing early and important findings on measures such as mask wearing, social distancing, and vaccines and treatments. In addition, the Health Affairs Blog published 336 posts offering insights and analyses from leaders in the field regarding the fast-moving pandemic. All of this content was brought together in our accessible and well-utilized COVID-19 Resource Center.

Health Affairs Equity Initiative

In 2020, Health Affairs started building the foundation of a health equity initiative by appointing an equity project director, Vabren Watts, Ph.D. The goal of the initiative, launched in early 2021, was “to build a foundation for health services and health policy scholarly publishing that represents the perspectives of all cultures,” he says.

Other Accomplishments

In 2020, manuscript submissions to the journal and blog increased dramatically. There were four themed issues of the journal: “The Affordable Care Act Turns 10” (March); “Integrating Social Services And Health” (April); “Children’s Health” (October); and “Climate & Health” (December), Health Affairs’ first-ever issue on the topic. Additionally, Health Affairs published two clusters of articles in the “Culture of Health” series in February and July. The “Culture of Health” framework embraces the interconnected nature of health and social issues.

As a well-recognized nonpartisan convener, Health Affairs’ events during 2020 went virtual. Our eight events drew hundreds of online attendees from around the world.

Health Affairs also launched two new podcasts, “A Health Podyssey” and “Health Affairs This Week,” and published six Health Policy Briefs focusing on aspects of the “Culture of Health.”

Health Affairs’ efforts resulted in an impact factor of 5.331 among comparable peer-reviewed publications and more than 7.7 million new visitors to the website in 2020.
A Strategy to Guide the Next Five Years

Project HOPE published a five-year strategic plan to guide the organization through 2025. The plan will help the organization continue to improve and refine our core programs; engage new areas of opportunity like mental health and the Global Health Security Agenda; and recommit to a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion that values all voices.

This plan focuses Project HOPE on growing the organization’s impact while redoubling our commitment to our core values: that everyone deserves access to the health care needed to reach life’s full potential; that health care workers are the linchpin of everything we do; that aid should be localized; that the vulnerable deserve a voice; and that no one should be marginalized for their gender, race, ethnicity, beliefs, or level of ability.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Project HOPE strives to be a global workplace that is diverse, inclusive, and where people feel valued for their humanity — regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, gender expression, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, or other identities.

We desire that all employees, regardless of where they work in the world, will be able to do so in a safe environment — one that is inclusive, addresses prejudices and implicit biases openly, engages discrimination head on, and mitigates all forms of systemic racism.

In 2020, Project HOPE established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council to help guide our organization and integrate these principles in all our work. The council’s full recommendations will be published in 2021. But Project HOPE is already taking steps to commit to becoming a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization:

- We will address discrimination and take action to mitigate all forms of systemic racism at Project HOPE, as well as any forms of inequity, prejudice, or implicit bias.
- We commit to providing all members of the Project HOPE workforce around the world with a safe, supportive space to discuss and ask questions about issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- We will provide all members of the Project HOPE workforce with the tools to learn about systemic racism, discrimination, implicit bias, and other topics related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- We will create accountability for the implementation of our diversity and inclusivity goals.
- We will promote and celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion in all forms.

We value all voices on our team, from every corner of the world, and are committed to putting these principles into action in order to become a better, more equitable organization.
Financial Summary

For the 12 months ending December 31, 2020 (in thousands)

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Individual giving  $12,834
Foundations and corporations 23,770
Corporate gifts-in-kind 55,247
Governments 27,004
Subscription 2,451
Donated services 1,856
Other revenue 838
Total revenue and support 124,000

EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Program services
Health education and assistance programs 98,126
Health policy programs 8,393
Total program services 106,519

Supporting services
Fundraising and communication 11,351
Management and general 4,134
Total supporting services 15,485

Total expenses 122,004

Changes in net assets from operations 1,996
Non-operating changes in net assets:
Net investment gain (loss) on investments 836
Foreign currency gain (loss) (5)
Pension liability adjustment (2,413)
Total expenses (1,220,004)

Net assets, beginning of fiscal year 14,621
Net assets, end of fiscal year $15,035

Project HOPE’s complete audited financial statements with an unqualified opinion by RSM US LLP are online at projecthope.org.

Officer Compensation

Karin K. Bader  $395,000
Rabih Torbay 445,000

Board of Directors

Charles A. Sanders, M.D.
Chair Emeritus
Retired Chairman & CEO
GlaxoSmithKline

Ralph Torbay
President & CEO
Project HOPE

Chris Skocpol
Executive Vice President, Global Health

Cirina Baldi
Vice President, Chief Development and Communications Officer

Sergey Nikolaev, M.B.A., M.S.
Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Julia Soyers, Esq.
Vice President, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer

Alan Weil
Vice President and Editor-in-Chief, Health Affairs

Thomas Kenyon, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair Health Affairs

Fiscal year 2019 Financial Summary

Revenue and Support

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Institutional Donors

Every year, Project HOPE receives financial support from corporations, foundations, organizations, bilateral donors, and governments. This support is essential to its work around the world, and Project HOPE is proud to publicly recognize those that contributed $10,000 or more or created a cause marketing alliance in fiscal year 2020.

Individual Donors

Generous donors act as a source of hope every day with financial backing that supports our lifesaving programs. Project HOPE publicly recognizes support from individuals totaling $5,000 or more in fiscal year 2020. For more information on how you can support Project HOPE’s global health programming, visit projecthope.org or call +1-800-544-4673.
We are honored to recognize the generosity and leadership of our Legacy of HOPE Society members, who are committed to providing hope for many years to come. The individuals listed below share the common bond of providing people around the globe with better health, reflected in their decision to remember Project HOPE in their estate plans. For more information about legacy giving options, visit ProjectHOPE.org or call our Planned Giving Office at +1-800-544-4673, ext. 960, or via email to giftplanning@projecthope.org.
Charity Navigator recognizes Project HOPE for its transparency and accountability.

Project HOPE meets the 20 comprehensive charity accountability standards of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

87% of our expended resources supports programs

13% supports administration and fundraising

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For information on our journal Health Affairs, please reach out to Sue Ducat, senior director of communications, at +1 (301) 841-9962 or sducat@projecthope.org.