2021 ANNUAL REPORT

A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD, TOGETHER
In 2021, Project HOPE...

### Increasing Our Commitment to Health Equity

In many ways, 2021 was another difficult year for the world’s health. It was a year of deadly COVID-19 variants, devastating hurricanes, catastrophic disasters, and tragic losses in maternal and child health that will take years to undo.

But even more alarming, it was a year in which health inequities increased, especially among vulnerable populations, communities of color, and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Health inequities are often visible, especially during humanitarian crises such as those in Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, or Ethiopia. But they can also be harder to see — like a rural community in Haiti that loses its clinic after a powerful earthquake. Or a neighborhood in Nepal whose hospital runs out of oxygen. Or even an immigrant community in Texas without the access to vaccines that many of us take for granted.

At Project HOPE, we refuse to accept these things as normal. Our teams around the world worked tirelessly in 2021 to improve access to health care, especially on the front lines of health systems hit hard by the pandemic. With your support, we were able to deliver lifesaving vaccines, PPE, medical equipment, and training to help health workers facing deadly COVID-19 waves, all while ensuring that our essential global health work continues to improve health equity among those who need it most, including mothers, children, people living with disease, and those facing the aftermath of disaster.

Access to health care should be a fundamental right for all people everywhere, regardless of gender, age, race, resident status, religion, or income. Because of your support, we were able to live up to this principle in 2021. Thank you for supporting Project HOPE and improving access to health care around the world.

Rabih Torbay  
President and CEO

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### The World Needs HOPE More Than Ever

When I stepped into my role in 2018, I knew I would be chairing the board of a highly capable, mission-driven organization. I never could have imagined the challenges we would face in 2021: a pandemic, multiple humanitarian crises, and an increasing number of devastating natural disasters around the world. I have watched with a great deal of pride as our team has risen to every challenge, while responding to each of these crises.

As we look back on our work from 2021, we are mindful that our programs in other regions of great need cannot be interrupted. Project HOPE continues to deliver maternal health services near the Colombia/Venezuela border, train health care workers in Sierra Leone, establish new Neonatal Intensive Care units in the Dominican Republic, to provide mobile health clinics after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, and more. Even in the U.S., the pandemic exposed many communities with limited health care access, and we responded to support them and ensure health equity for all. It has given us a perspective that we need to do more domestically in the future.

As you read this report, please know how important you are to our mission. We are incredibly grateful for your support — whether as a volunteer, donor, corporation or foundation partner, general supporter, or an advocate. Many of you have been on this journey with us for years. Your involvement is critical, and we could not do what we do without you.

I hope you will be gratified to see the progress and impact that Project HOPE has made. Thank you for your support.

Reynold W. Mooney  
Chair, Project HOPE Board of Directors

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**Key Figures:**

- Reached more than 3 million people through all its programs
- Trained more than 151,000 health care workers and frontline personnel
- Reached more than 145,000 women, newborns, and children younger than 5
- Reached more than 267,000 people affected by disasters and humanitarian crises
- Reached more than 115,000 people affected by HIV/AIDS
- Maintained an operational presence in 29 countries and activities in more than 100 countries
- Reached more than 1.7 million people with or at risk for noncommunicable diseases
- Distributed more than 18 million pieces of personal protective equipment
- Donated $51 million in essential equipment, medicines, and medical supplies

Cover: Carron, a health worker at San Jose Clinic in Houston, Texas, is one of many local health workers Project HOPE supported in expanding COVID-19 vaccine access in 2021.
In a year of COVID-19 variants, none was more devastating than the Delta variant, especially in India, Nepal, and Brazil. In April 2021, India became the first country to experience 400,000 new cases of COVID-19 in a single day, with daily death rates soaring into the thousands. Communities were decimated, hospitals were overwhelmed, and health care workers faced critical shortages of medicines, beds, ventilators, oxygen, and PPE.

India’s outbreak had a tragic impact on Nepal, which experienced a 4,000% increase in COVID-19 cases in a matter of weeks. Nepal faced critical shortages of medicines, beds, ventilators, oxygen, and PPE at the peak of the wave, with the border province of Lumbini especially hard hit.

Thanks to support from partners including AbbVie, AT&T, John Hancock, Latter-day Saint Charities, New York Life, and S&P Global, Project HOPE rapidly procured PPE, oxygen, and critically needed medical equipment to help India’s health care workers respond to the dramatic spread of the disease. And with support from Amgen, we were also able to provide critical medical equipment, oxygen, and support for neighboring Nepal. Even amid heartbreaking loss, Project HOPE was there to support frontline health care workers, patients, and families in the moments that mattered most.

In India, Project HOPE:
- Reached more than 850,000 people in 6,652 communities
- Distributed more than 35,000 pieces of medical equipment, including 2,900 ventilators
- Trained more than 5,000 health care workers

In Nepal, Project HOPE:
- Distributed more than 1.7 million pieces of PPE and medical equipment
- Delivered PPE and medical equipment to 13 hospitals and 6 health care centers in Lumbini Province
- Trained more than 4,500 health care workers
In Houston and McAllen, Texas, critical gaps in vaccine access affect families in underserved, uninsured, and marginalized communities. Project HOPE worked with free and charitable clinics in Harris and Hidalgo counties to improve access to COVID-19 vaccines, combat misinformation, and vaccinate thousands of people.

“We are really happy here,” says Kalil, a refugee from Afghanistan whose family was vaccinated by San Jose Clinic in Houston. “The kids are in school, so when we heard the vaccine was available for kids and it was safe for them to have it, we wanted them to be safe. Since we were able to get it here in our home, it was very convenient.”

“Through the United Airlines Miles on a Mission campaign, United MileagePlus members were able to donate unused airline miles for Project HOPE to deploy volunteers across the country. At the height of the pandemic, that support allowed us to send medical volunteers to hard-hit areas as soon as the need was apparent. “Partners like United are an essential part of our mission. We couldn’t support the health care needs and capacity of vulnerable populations without their support,” said Harley Jones, Project HOPE’s Senior Manager of Domestic Emergency Response.”

Project HOPE’s support for free and charitable clinics helped vaccinate 2,000 people across Texas, many of whom are uninsured, undocumented, or unable to access vaccines where they live.

“Project HOPE’s COVID-19 response in Texas
Vaccinated more than 2,000 people in the greater Houston area and the Rio Grande Valley
Engaged 86 partners across East Texas
Reached more than 23,000 people with COVID-19 outreach and education materials

Medical volunteers continued to play a critical role in Project HOPE’s work in 2021, including emergency deployments and virtual support for our Saving the Newborn program in Sierra Leone. Fifty-seven medical volunteers engaged with Project HOPE in 2021, including emergency deployments to respond to Hurricane Ida in Louisiana and to provide COVID-19 surge support in Illinois, Maryland, Texas, and the Navajo Nation. In total, Project HOPE volunteers spent more than 6,000 hours supporting our mission around the world.

“I’m here to help the public understand the importance of science and give them education. I’ve seen how hard scientists work. I’ve seen how hard doctors work, and we’re not in it for the money, because there’s no money for us. We’re here because we want to help.”

– Aftab Ali, community health worker, Ibn Sina Clinic, Houston, Texas

Through the United Airlines Miles on a Mission campaign, United MileagePlus members were able to donate unused airline miles for Project HOPE to deploy volunteers across the country.
Hurricane Ida was a devastating blow to southern Louisiana, making landfall as a powerful Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 150 miles per hour and leaving more than 1 million residents without power. Multiple hospitals and medical facilities were damaged, and thousands of evacuees were forced to flee to shelters.

Project HOPE immediately deployed an emergency response team to deliver medical care in Louisiana, working side by side with local authorities to triage evacuees, provide medical care in shelters, conduct mobile health assessments, and visit a 200-unit apartment complex to provide health and wellness checks. Project HOPE also provided medical services to the United Houma Nation tribal community members at the Houma Nation Community Center in Houma, Louisiana, as well as recovery support for at-risk youth at Covenant House New Orleans.

With additional support from USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, Project HOPE’s initial earthquake response in Haiti expanded into 2022 with support such as mobile clinics, clean water filters, and donations of medical supplies to equip doctors and nurses on the ground.

The 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck southern Haiti in August 2021 brought an immense amount of devastation and need. More than 2,000 people were killed and 12,000 injured, many of whom lived in communities still struggling to recover from the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew.

Thanks to support from Latter-day Saint Charities and The Stabler Foundation, Project HOPE’s emergency response team was able to deploy immediately and was soon on the ground in the most affected areas, delivering critical medicines and medical supplies such as bandages, sutures, and antibiotics to health facilities in Les Cayes and the surrounding areas.

With additional support from Medtronic Foundation has helped Project HOPE respond to multiple disasters in recent years, including Hurricane Ida in 2021. Medtronic Foundation was the first corporate partner to support Project HOPE’s Emergency Response and Preparedness Fund, which allows our emergency response team to deploy immediately when disaster strikes.

“My house is completely destroyed and I feel overwhelmed by the situation. Getting these free medicines is a great relief because my son is sick.”

– Kerlande, earthquake survivor, Duchity, Haiti

Project HOPE volunteer Ed Hendrickson speaks with a resident at the Guste Apartments in New Orleans after Hurricane Ida in August 2021.
Supporting Health Workers’ Mental Health

Health care workers are among the people most vulnerable to the mental health effects of the pandemic. More than half of those responding to COVID-19 have experienced mental health issues, with nurses and doctors reporting high rates of anxiety, depression, suicide, insomnia, and distress. This crisis is made more difficult because of the stigma that surrounds mental health care, especially among health workers.

To address this growing crisis, Project HOPE continued to implement mental health and resilience trainings for health care workers across the globe. The trainings were based on NYC Health + Hospitals’ HERO-NY series and included sessions on stress, trauma, resiliency, personal wellness, and how to seek help. Thanks to support from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, this work has now expanded to reach 50,000 health care workers across five continents.

“COVID-19 has put the mental well-being of the entire world at risk. Health care workers have been experiencing extended high levels of stress like never before,” said Rawan Hamadeh, Project HOPE’s program officer overseeing mental health programming. “It's important that we acknowledge the exponential need for mental health support for health care workers — and particularly health care mothers — who are juggling both their professional duties and their parenting responsibilities. The mental health and resilience training provides a safe space for doctors, nurses, and other frontline workers to share their struggles and to feel that they are not alone in this, free from any stigmatization or judgment.”

Equipping a Global Health Workforce

Training health care workers remains a core part of Project HOPE’s work around the world. Thanks to our work, more than 150,000 health workers and frontline personnel received critical trainings on topics ranging from COVID-19 vaccines to maternal health to treating noncommunicable diseases.

With support from Johnson & Johnson and Give2Asia, Project HOPE’s Saving Lives at Birth program trained doctors, nurses, midwives, nutritionists, and community health workers in Indonesia to improve maternal care, including during maternal and neonatal emergencies. Thanks to Project HOPE, more than 19,000 mothers were assisted by a skilled birth attendee in 2021, including more than 3,000 high-risk pregnant women who were able to receive care.

In Colombia, Project HOPE and its university partners, Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud and Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga, designed and launched new diploma courses in maternal health care and noncommunicable diseases. The diploma courses are particularly critical for doctors and nurses providing care to Venezuelan migrants in the departments of Norte de Santander, Santander, Arauca, and La Guajira. The program also included one-on-one mentorships for faculty members to discuss curriculum, course development, goals, and challenges.

And in Sierra Leone, Project HOPE helped strengthen the neonatal and maternal health workforce through faculty clinical mentorships with neonatal physicians and nurse practitioners who have experience in special care of premature, small, and sick neonates. Faculty members met with their mentors each week in clinical settings such as maternity wards and kangaroo mother care units and made home visits to families with small and sick newborns.

“Health care workers responding to COVID-19 have experienced extended high levels of stress like never before.”

— Rawan Hamadeh, Project HOPE program officer
Closing the Gaps to Care

Project HOPE reached millions of people around the world in 2021. But health equity is more than numbers — it means bridging the gaps that prevent people from accessing care.

Health equity has many faces: it can look like a clean water well in the Dominican Republic or a box of medicine in Kosovo. It can be as small as an N95 mask or as large as a mobile health and nutrition team. But in 2021, it was more important than ever.

**Mexico**

Through the AstraZeneca Young Health Programme, Project HOPE launched a National Committee of Youth for the Prevention of COVID-19 in Mexico. Dozens of youth leaders gained expertise in the prevention of COVID-19 and went on to reach thousands of community members with public health information to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The leadership opportunity is especially powerful for young women, who have been able to use it as a platform to raise their voices for change in their communities.

**Balkan Region**

In Kosovo and North Macedonia, the cost of some of the most basic and essential medicines required by hospitals can be too expensive, resulting in medicine shortages and stress on an already overburdened health system. Through the Strategic Medical Resupply Program, Project HOPE and Merck & Co. have partnered to ship essential donated medicines, medical equipment, and supplies to hospitals in Kosovo and North Macedonia, allowing medical institutions to apply limited financial resources to improve patient care.

**Dominican Republic**

Women and children in the Dominican Republic face some of the highest mortality rates in the region, especially in rural communities. With support from The Elsa and Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundation, Project HOPE is improving access to health care services for vulnerable women and children in Los Rieles and surrounding communities. In 2021, Project HOPE converted the La Sabaneta Primary Healthcare Unit to a Specialized Primary Health Level Center focused on reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health so families in La Vega can access care close to home.

**Ethiopia**

In Ethiopia, Project HOPE deployed mobile health and nutrition teams to areas affected by conflict in the Amhara region and distributed thousands of emergency health kits to people affected by the emergency. Our teams also helped provide multiple polio immunization sessions, distributed thousands of HIV test kits, conducted malnutrition screenings, and linked people with severe and moderate acute malnutrition to nutritional support services. We also developed radio spots to provide COVID-19 and maternal health information in the Amharic, Somali, and Afar languages.

**Namibia**

HIV disproportionately impacts young women in Namibia, leading to incidence rates several times higher than those for men. With support from USAID, Project HOPE’s DREAMS program is empowering young women to protect themselves and pursue a future free of HIV/AIDS, while also teaching job skills that promote economic independence. DREAMS has helped tens of thousands of girls and young women launch their own businesses, protect their communities from COVID-19, and graduate as DREAMS ambassadors to mentor other girls across the country.

“I am a proud resident of Puebla State, and I was honored to be chosen to represent my state,” said Veronica, a member of the National Committee of Youth for the Prevention of COVID-19. “I envision a future where women believe in their strength, where they stop allowing someone to make them feel inferior. A future where they feel proud to belong.”

“Being a DREAMS girl, I have been surrounded with a lot of positivity,” said Adelaide, who launched her own bakery through the program. “I look forward to the future because of the big dreams I have of who I can become.”

“This project is crucial for the rural communities of my province of Cañar since it allows us to carry a clear message in our native language,” she said.
Hope Can Come From Anywhere

TJ Kim, 18, was on his way to earning his private pilot’s license when COVID-19 threatened to keep him grounded. In response, Kim launched Operation SOS: a plan to stay in the air by flying PPE to rural hospitals across the United States. In total, Kim delivered more than 100,000 pieces of PPE to health care workers in need. For his efforts, he won the Prudential Spirit of Community Award as one of the top youth volunteers in America, and chose to donate the money to Project HOPE.

“I never would have thought it would have been possible to participate in something like this, but with all the support I’ve been receiving from the community around me, it’s made it really easy,” he said. “You’re never too young to make a difference.”

When COVID-19 began overwhelming health systems across America, Julia Maddalina, 26, decided to use her paintbrush to bring health workers’ sacrifices to life. Maddalina’s series, “Portraits of the Frontline,” features more than 100 portraits of health workers who have endured the challenge of COVID-19 around the world. A print featuring the portraits went on sale last year, with proceeds going to Project HOPE.

“I learned what Project HOPE had been able to do to help health workers on the front lines. It inspired me and assured me that more good could come from the paintings I had created,” she said. “These paintings have brought joy to these 100 individuals, but now they can also support more health workers through Project HOPE’s work.”

Online streamers were a powerful force for hope in 2021, using their platforms to raise support for Project HOPE’s mission throughout the year. Using the interactive livestreaming platform Twitch, hundreds of streamers went live to raise money for our COVID-19 response, mental health work, and emergency responses such as Hurricane Ida.

“Project HOPE makes you feel like you’re a part of something bigger,” said Nick, who streams as itsnippy on Twitch and raised thousands of dollars of support for Project HOPE throughout the year. “Using my platform, doing what I love to help people all around the world was really a no-brainer. The transparency and communication with the Project HOPE team is amazing. They save lives and provide hope around the world, no matter what the issue is, and that has solidified my support and belief in them.”

Partnerships That Make a Difference

Bank of America

When India’s health care workers faced a devastating wave of COVID-19, Bank of America engaged their employees to support Project HOPE’s response. Not only did Bank of America make a corporate donation, they went on to match nearly $50,000 in donations from their employees, totaling $200,000 in donations toward our COVID-19 response in India. They also donated badly needed masks for rural villages, helping provide the support that India’s health workers needed when it mattered most.

For more information about employee giving, visit projecthope.org/partnerships.

Access79

Project HOPE partnered with luxury, try-before-you-buy fine jewelry service Access79 to celebrate humankind’s resilience in the face of COVID-19 and trust in science.

The S-C-I-E-N-C-E Necklace was designed by a group of female physician-scientists, and for every necklace purchased, Access79 donates a portion of proceeds to Project HOPE. The campaign has raised nearly $22,000 for Project HOPE’s mission.

“Project HOPE does some of the hardest, most meaningful work around the world,” said Priyanka Murthy, Access79 CEO and cofounder. “Then when COVID came to us stateside, Project HOPE mobilized and helped manage the crisis with competency and compassion. We are proud to do our part in supporting their mission through what we do best — create jewelry and build communities.”

For more information about how you can partner with Project HOPE, visit projecthope.org/cause-marketing.

Donor Spotlight

Christine Hansen’s mom was a health care worker, so when it came time for her to choose an organization to support, she wanted to make sure that it was one that invested in long-term solutions for local communities. “Project HOPE’s mission of investing in local communities spoke to me,” Hansen said. “Access to health care can have such a long-lasting effect on the trajectory of someone’s life. I wanted to support an organization that looks to local and long-term solutions to health care challenges and does not leave a vacuum when they leave.”

Thanks to support from donors like her, Project HOPE is improving access to health care in the face of the world’s greatest health challenges.

For more information on how you can make a leadership gift to Project HOPE, email or call Erin Harkins-Medina at EHMedina@projecthope.org or 202-769-4164.
Health Affairs focused on timely topics in health policy and built on its strategic plan goals throughout 2021. The peer-reviewed journal, published monthly by Project HOPE, published on such topics as COVID-19, health equity, and perinatal mental health. To increase audience engagement and knowledge, Health Affairs built on its strategic plan goals, including with a major expansion of its events and podcast program, as well as a rebranding of its blog to Health Affairs Forefront, reflecting its role at the leading edge of health policy.

Health Affairs also published two theme issues: one with a focus on the health of border communities and immigrants in July and one with a cluster of articles on perinatal mental health in October, which explored health conditions affecting the well-being of birthing people, families, and communities.

**Vital Directions for the New Biden-Harris Administration**

The day after Inauguration Day, Health Affairs partnered with the National Academy of Medicine to publish Vital Directions for Health and Health Care — six commentaries setting priorities for the new Biden-Harris administration. A few weeks later, a virtual event followed that drew nearly 700 attendees. Speakers included Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL), co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus and a former official at the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Health Affairs Equity Program**

Also in 2021 Health Affairs publicly announced its Health Equity Program. Some of the year’s accomplishments included naming and convening an advisory committee, launching a Health Equity Fellowship for Trainees program, analyzing health equity content, and beginning routine collection of author and reviewer demographic education. During the year, the journal celebrated and elevated voices published in Health Affairs from several historically marginalized communities.

**Other 2021 Health Affairs Accomplishments**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, Health Affairs provided critically important and time-sensitive evidence for policy makers as well as the public. As a result, the journal achieved its highest impact factor ever in 2021, at 6.301, which was a full point jump from 2020.

As a well-recognized nonpartisan convener, Health Affairs introduced four new series of virtual events designed to showcase leading policy makers, drill deeper into journal content, and hone the skills of a new generation of researchers.

Health Affairs podcasts nearly doubled their output in 2021. The two main podcasts, “A Health Podyssey” and “Health Affairs This Week,” achieved 51,433 and 28,724 episode downloads, respectively, joining the must-listen list for a growing number of health policy followers, including C-SPAN program producers, who invited Health Affairs senior editor Leslie Erdelack and senior content marketing manager Jeff Byers to appear on its “Washington Journal” program after listening to one of her discussions on “Health Affairs This Week.”

Health Affairs generated 2,171 media citations in 2021. A study finding that women physicians earn an estimated $2 million less than their male counterparts during their careers was covered by media across the country, including The New York Times and, in a Health Affairs first, Saturday Night Live’s Weekend Update.
Financial Summary

For the 12 months ending December 31, 2021 (in thousands)

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Corporate & Foundation Partners

Every year, Project HOPE receives financial support from corporations, and this support is essential to its work around the world. Project HOPE is proud to recognize those institutions that contributed $10,000 or more or created a cause marketing alliance in fiscal year 2021.

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For more information on how you can support Project HOPE’s global health programming, visit projecthope.org.
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A More Equitable World, Together 2021 Project HOPE Annual Report

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