Every year, millions of people around the world die of diseases that are preventable, treatable, and even curable because healthcare providers in their communities don’t have the knowledge and expertise needed to address their conditions.

Amid COVID-19, the problem has worsened. During the pandemic, decades of progress in improving global health and well-being have been reversed.

Project ECHO offers a low-cost, scalable solution that increases the capacity of health workers in underserved communities to provide best-practice care to their patients. It connects hundreds of partners worldwide—governments, academic medical centers, NGOs, centers of excellence—and enables them to train and telementor hundreds of thousands of healthcare providers in virtual communities of practice where all teach and all learn.

Doctors nurses, and community health workers get the knowledge, mentorship, and support they need to treat diseases from tuberculosis and HIV to cancer and COVID-19. In the process, we amplify the voices of local experts and drive collaborative solutions for local health priorities.

Today, ECHO partners in 40 countries operate more than 860 ECHO networks.

In Punjab, India, the state government used ECHO to train local healthcare workers to provide free hepatitis C treatment to all residents. A hub team based at a national teaching hospital in Punjab’s capital of Chandigarh trained primary care providers, pharmacists, and other personnel at 22 district hospitals and three university hospitals. Over two years, the number of hepatitis C patients completing treatment went from 1,500 to 88,000, with a 91.6% cure rate. This success led India’s national government to use ECHO to implement its National Viral Hepatitis Programme. This is the power of Project ECHO.
How ECHO Works:

Teams of experts (at the “hub”) participate in virtual case-based learning sessions with providers (the “spokes”), helping them build self-efficacy to treat patients in their communities. Hub and spokes learn from one another, as expert knowledge is refined and tested by local experience. This democratizes knowledge and ensures relevance to cultural contexts.

Demand for ECHO in both India and Africa is high. In Africa, 33 hub partners in 14 countries operate ECHO programs in areas such as HIV, epi-surveillance, and laboratory strengthening. In 2019, these partners trained over 50,000 program participants. In India, through our branch office in Delhi, 47 hub partners operate programs with state and national partner institutions. They have trained more than 250,000 participants, including for COVID-19 response, helping millions of patients. In 2019, seven Indian states and the Indian national government signed MOUs with Project ECHO, mandating use of the ECHO model across their healthcare systems.

Now is the time to scale ECHO’s capacity to meet this demand. Here’s what we want to do:

- Support partners for rapid response to the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19, prepare a global vaccine workforce, and foster pandemic resilience and recovery.
- Expand our partner networks to provide better essential health services, eradicate common killers like tuberculosis and hepatitis C, and respond to future pandemics.
- Sustain our partners long-term by building evidence for ECHO’s impact in Africa and India and engaging advocates and policymakers to catalyze governments’ support of their ECHO programs.

To do this, we will establish regional teams for virtual and in-country training and technical assistance throughout Africa and India and build out our digital platform so that isolated providers can easily participate in ECHO programs.

In the short term, our plan will create a self-sustaining partner network and empower three million healthcare providers to bring best-practice care to 300 million people across the African continent and India.

In the longer term, it will establish an infrastructure for stronger and more resilient health systems and advance our overarching goal of eliminating healthcare disparities around the world.

Leveraging Philanthropic Partnerships for Sustainable Impact

In every lower- and middle-income country where we have trained and supported ECHO partners through initial philanthropic partnerships, governments have assumed support for those programs, ensuring their long-term sustainability.

**INVESTMENT OPTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1M</td>
<td>$1 million of support will train 30,000 healthcare workers in India or in one country in Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5M</td>
<td>$5 million of support will train 150,000 healthcare workers in India, increasing access to lifesaving care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5M</td>
<td>$5 million of support will train 150,000 healthcare workers in Africa on vaccine delivery and lifesaving care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10M</td>
<td>$10 million of support will train 300,000 healthcare workers in Africa and India and support health systems strengthening.</td>
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