

COVID-19 Response in the African Region and

India is a project funded by Vital Strategies and led by the IUHPE in collaboration with partners in the African region and the Voluntary Association of Health of India (VHAI). This multi-country initiative concerns the implementation of community-based health promotion approaches, based on effective health communication and community empowerment strategies, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic at a community level in selected African countries and districts in India. Working with the most disadvantaged communities, country partners and networks were mobilized in implementing a range of community-based strategies, empowering local communities in taking effective action. This work is being led by Dr Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo (Kenya), Professor Hans Onya (South Africa), Professor Davison Munodawafa (Zimbabwe), Professor Oliver Mweemba (Zambia), Dr Bhavna Mukhopadhyay and Dr Nancepreet Kaur (India). Professor Margaret Barry, in her role as Global President of IUHPE, chaired the Project Management Group for this project. Further project details may be found at:

<https://www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/health-promotion-systems/covid-19-response-for-the-african-region>

In 2021, the final report for Phase 1 was published in collaboration with our African partners, and Phase 2 was rolled out, based on a South-South collaboration with the Voluntary Health Association of India. A report on the Phase 2 findings was produced in 2022 and were also presented in a symposium at the 24th IUHPE Health Promotion World Conference, 15-19th May 2022.

Cases from the project were discussed in a recent article published in the journal *Health Promotion International* on community engagement as a strategy to mitigate the impact of emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dissemination

IUHPE Phase 2 Project Report to Vital Strategies (2021). *Phase 2 of Project to support the COVID-19 response in the African region and India: Enabling healthy and resilient communities*. Montréal, Canada: IUHPE

Kaur, N., Munodawafa, D., Mukhopadhyay, B., Mweemba, O. Amuyunzu-Nyamongo, M., Onya, H., Comeau, L., Barry, M.M. (2022). Symposium on 'Supporting the COVID-19 response from a health promotion perspective in African and Indian communities'. Symposium presentation (online) at the 24th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion, Montréal, Canada. 16 May, 2022.

Corbin, J.H., Oyene, U.E., Manoncourt, E., Onya, H., Kwamboka, M., Amuyunzu-Nyamongo, M., Sørensen, K., Mweemba, O., Barry, M. M., Munodawafa, D., Bayugo, Y. V., Huda, Q., Moran, T., Omoleke, S. A., Spencer-Walters, D., Van den Broucke, S. (2021). A health promotion approach to emergency management: effective community engagement strategies from five cases. *Health Promotion International*, 36(S1): i24-i38, <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daab152>

