WiRED Responds to COVID-19

When Ebola surfaced in 2014, WiRED was among the first health educators to rush training material to West Africa. When Zika began its assault on women and children in 2015, WiRED was among the first organizations to release training material to familiarize medical professionals and the general public about the disease.

In 2020, well before COVID became a household term, WiRED issued the first of several training modules to offer details of the disease that would, in a matter of months, sweep the planet.

In 2020, WiRED actively addressed the COVID crisis by way of its Community Health Worker Training Program, where ordinary people are trained to augment the medical professional corps. Early in 2021, recognizing there would be an urgent need for people in low-income countries to administer vaccinations, WiRED developed a rigorous program to train ordinary people on how to distribute vaccines, teach communities about COVID and the importance of vaccinations and give injections. The training, based solidly on World Health Organization (WHO) training protocols, takes one week of classroom and clinical training.

This Annual Report describes some of WiRED’s recent work on community health and on its just released Vaccinator Training Program.
Our Mission

WiRED International brings vital medical and health education, free of charge, to underserved communities around the world.

WiRED:

• Teaches communities about diet and hygiene
• Communicates with populations in areas of conflict
• Launches certificate programs for health workers in low-resource countries
• Empowers community health workers and healers to address local diseases and health issues
• Provides critical training to prepare communities for life-threatening conditions such as COVID
Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Program

From its inception, WiRED has delivered evidence-based health education by way of computer technology, allowing us to reach further, faster and with more enhanced content — providing local instructors with the material they need to train community members.

In 2020, Kenya served to pilot both our CHW Training Program and our Vaccinator Training Program. By way of Internet downloads, WiRED delivers the modules to local doctors and nurses who train CHWs and vaccinators. WiRED’s CHW training programs were successfully tested in Nicaragua, Peru and India, with Armenia to follow soon.
“As I was on COVID door-to-door sensitization, I came across a homestead that was in great danger of contracting the virus. The family was not aware of the safety measures to prevent the disease.

I immediately gathered the members together and showed them how to wash their hands step by step. I also advised them on the importance of keeping social distance, wearing masks in public places and avoiding crowded places. They lacked a handwashing facility, so I improvised a leaky tin as a jerry can, so they could wash their hands frequently.”

– Juliette Omollo, CHW
Community Health Worker Training Program

“The Obunga slum is one of the informal settlements in Kisumu, Kenya, where most of the people have suffered due to the lack of basic health information and access to medical services.

The WiRED Community Health Information Center in Obunga has enabled us to reach close to 10,000 community members and 20,000 students in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions with basic health knowledge.”

--Steve Wonder, CHW
Vaccinator Training Program

At present, vaccinations offer the only real resolution to the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks and distance help keep the virus at bay, but they are not long-term solutions. Effective vaccines are now being released and, in time, they will reach underserved regions.

The missing link in the vaccination chain is enough trained people to administer the vaccinations in local communities quickly.

Without trained workers, vaccination programs grind to a halt. Large organizations and governments can provide the vaccines, but where will low-resource countries find enough trained people to vaccinate the population?
Vaccinator Training Program

In 2021, in Kenya, WiRED launched our Vaccinator Training Program. Our objective is to train people at the local level to move vaccines safely from central drop-off points to communities, to prepare the communities for vaccinations, to screen patients properly, to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and to monitor patients after injections.

This program is based on WHO’s vaccinator training curriculum. While the WHO vaccination program is designed for frontline health workers with some medical training, the WiRED program trains grassroots vaccinators to administer vaccinations in the very regions where doctors, nurses and certified community health workers are scarce.
Vaccinator Training Program

Curriculum (based on WHO guidelines):

Module 1: Introduction to COVID-19 vaccination training
Module 2: Storage, handling, delivery and waste management of COVID-19 vaccines
Module 3: Organizing COVID-19 vaccination sessions
Module 4: Vaccinating process and procedures
Module 5: Monitoring for adverse effects following injections of COVID-19 vaccines
Module 6: Recording and monitoring COVID-19 vaccination
Module 7: Communication with the community about COVID-19 vaccination

Note: WiRED’s physicians and nurses wrote Module 4, an addition to the WHO curriculum.

Supplemental training modules from WiRED’s Community Health Worker curriculum:

- Anatomy fundamentals, 2 parts
- Understanding communicable diseases, 2 parts
- Coronavirus
- Understanding vital signs and basic patient assessment
- Communication skills
WiRED’s Community Health Learning Centers

WiRED continued to add courses to our e-library of 400+ health modules, notably our Coronavirus module for general audiences. Modules are free to all for quick download onto computers, tablets and smartphones.
WiRED International

History

WiRED began serving needy communities in 1997 in the former Yugoslavia. Since its beginning, it has received grants from the U.S. National institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of State, the Medtronic Foundation, the Christopher Reeve Foundation and many others.

WiRED provided doctors in Kosovo and then Iraq with their first online access to outside medical forums. It supplied Ebola training for medical workers in West Africa and Zika training for communities and medical professionals in Latin America.

WiRED provides apps to access all its modules on mobile phones, tablets and laptops. It offers an app that allows community health workers and nurses to access training material and keep track of their required continuing medical education.

WiRED is volunteer-driven and spends 93% of its budget directly on its training programs. Most of WiRED’s funds are spent in the countries where training takes place.
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WiRED International Volunteers

WiRED’s volunteer corps of medical professionals, IT experts and educators commit thousands of hours a year to help people in the world’s poorest regions develop the knowledge that enables them to live healthier and longer lives.
All of WiRED’s programs are written by medical professionals. They are evidence-based and peer-reviewed.

WiRED's training modules can be accessed online, or they can be downloaded and shared on laptops, tablets and smart phones.

WiRED’s modules are available instantly anywhere on earth, and they can be brought to regions entirely off the grid.

We believe that community health begins with knowledge. Further, we believe that all communities everywhere have a right to accurate, reliable health information. Our mission is to provide that information. Everywhere.