CITIZEN SCIENCE

refers to the practice of active public participation, collaboration, and co-creation in all aspects of scientific research.

I-DAIR

Citizens, like you, can work with scientists, participate in research and even assist authorities in mitigating health crises, without any particular scientific background.

LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT

Depending on your level of engagement, there are different research activities you can take part in, as citizen scientist.

LEVEL 1:

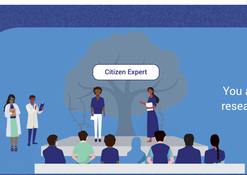
You are **consulted** by professional scientists through research questions, neighborhood meetings or public hearings.

LEVEL 2:

You **participate** in the design and execution of research studies.

LEVEL 3:

You **work** more closely with the researchers and become contributors of knowledge, expertise and experience.



LEVEL 4:

You are fully empowered to define research problems and implement solutions according to your community's needs.

STAGES OF A PANDEMIC

As citizen scientist, You can work with professional scientists and authorities to prepare and respond better against new and emerging infectious disease outbreaks.

When a pandemic is declared, mobilizing the public to swiftly and effectively respond to its various stages can save lives.

STAGE 1:
PRE-PANDEMIC PHASE

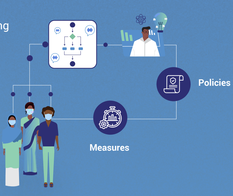
As citizen scientist, you can facilitate community engagement in the event of a local outbreak, by building trust and growing collective habits in your community. It will reduce the risk of the local episode becoming global.

STAGE 2:
THE ALERT PHASE

You can be involved at the centre of a surveillance system to identify and monitor diverse data sources across the human-animal-environment interface ('One Health approach').

STAGE 3:
THE PANDEMIC PHASE

You can participate in generating models of outbreak outcomes, and tailored visualizations and communications about the pandemic, by contributing data and vision grounded in your reality. This knowledge will inform crucial decisions in the management of the pandemic.

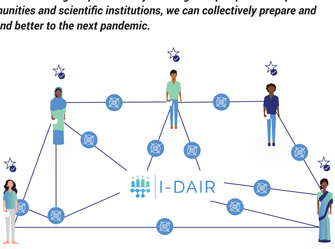


STAGE 4:
THE TRANSITION PHASE

Your observations on the long-term health effects of the infection and potential side effects of the deployed cure will help researchers develop better solutions.

PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES

I-DAIR recognizes community members as not only data providers, but important knowledge experts and by creating an equal partnership between communities and scientific institutions, we can collectively prepare and respond better to the next pandemic.



I-DAIR and partners research optimal approaches to building citizen science intelligence for efficient pandemic preparedness and response

Following their call for feasible, sustainable, and contextualized citizen science, the International Digital Health and AI Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) and its partners are now set to evaluate the awareness and readiness of local communities toward digitally-enabled participatory approaches, specifically within the context of pandemic preparedness and response.

Conducted jointly with regional civil society representatives from I-DAIR's Scientific Working Group (SWG), this project is built within the framework of I-DAIR's Global Pandemic Surveillance and Response Scheme: a global, science-based, data-driven, neutral, and trusted collective digital capacity which leverages citizen science to improve the quality of local and national responses throughout the continuum of pandemic phases.

To determine the fundamental and context-specific conditions necessary for community engagement, needs assessments are undertaken simultaneously in 9 countries (Bangladesh, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, Uganda, and Zimbabwe) by local implementation partners from the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Effective Basic Services (eBASE), Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College (Dr. RPGMC), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Indonesian Climate Institute, WACI Health, Amref, the RD Foundation, Wireless Access for Health (WAH), Makerere University Centre for Health and Population Research (MUCHAP), Zimbabwe's National Network of PLHIV+ (ZNNP+), and ZiCHIRE, respectively.

Starting this month, this first phase will identify the systemic barriers and facilitators for community buy-in toward citizen science and determine contextualized best practices for empowering communities to improve health literacy, raise awareness of public health issues, and communicate health information.

According to Harjyot Khosa, Senior Technical Advisor at the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), specialist in community engagement, member of I-DAIR's Scientific Working group, and Principal Investigator of the assessment: "Community intelligence, through citizen science, is the fundamental component to plan for pandemic preparedness and response. With our bottom-up approach, we are reaching out to indigenous and marginalized communities. Our local solutions, for local problems, are enabling us to understand a community-friendly digital response to current and future pandemics."

Up to 2800 community members, including marginalized populations, last-mile health workers, and people in rural and hard-to-reach geographies, will participate in the initial surveys and focus group discussions. For this purpose, I-DAIR has produced study materials in local languages, relevant to each context (Swahili, Lusoga, French, Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Bangla, Nepali, Ndebele, and Shona), with the first conclusions expected for the end of the year.

For more information about this project, you can contact us at contact@i-dair.org.

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[YOUR ORGANIZATION'S BOILERPLATE]

I-DAIR has been designed to better support the digital transformation of health systems and provide a framework for an end-to-end approach to the global research ecosystem for digital health and AI for health. This work ranges from creating a global research map of digital health and AI and developing a governance model for AI and data, to benchmarking digital health solutions (e.g. electronic Patient Reported Outcome Monitoring). For more information about I-DAIR, kindly visit our website and consider following our progress on Twitter and LinkedIn.

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