

COVID-19's rapid spread has had a major global impact. The crisis could yet deepen, especially in regions where health infrastructure is weak and there aren't enough resources to mount an effective response. Without concerted efforts to eliminate COVID-19 in these regions, a future global resurgence is almost guaranteed.

Safe and reliable patient identification is essential for fighting pandemics

To stop a disease spreading, you need to diagnose people rapidly and accurately, and track others who they've contacted. This is difficult in low-resource settings, especially if testing facilities are distant or inaccessible.



Enrolment



Screening / testing



Case management

In high-income countries, reliable government IDs underpin disease surveillance. However, more than **1 billion people worldwide**, the majority in low-income countries, lack formal identification. These people are less likely to be able to access health services, less likely to know their disease status, and, ultimately, more likely to pass the disease to others.

We can rapidly launch a free contactless biometric ID solution to fight COVID-19

Simprints is a nonprofit tech company which has been supported by USAID, Grand Challenges Canada, DFID, and Gavi to deploy biometric digital ID for some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable. To date, we have reached >387,000 beneficiaries across 12 countries in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with essential healthcare, finance, and education services using our existing contact-based fingerprint system. In the fight against diseases like COVID that spread through surface contact, however, a different kind of system is needed.

We are developing a scalable, safe, and secure contactless biometric identification system to help tackle COVID-19 in low-income countries. Unlike existing tools that are hampered by significant racial, ethnic, and gender biases—e.g., misidentifying non-white females up to [100x more frequently](#) than white males—and are unable to run offline or on low-cost phones used in last mile settings, Simprints has already prototyped and tested multiple models.

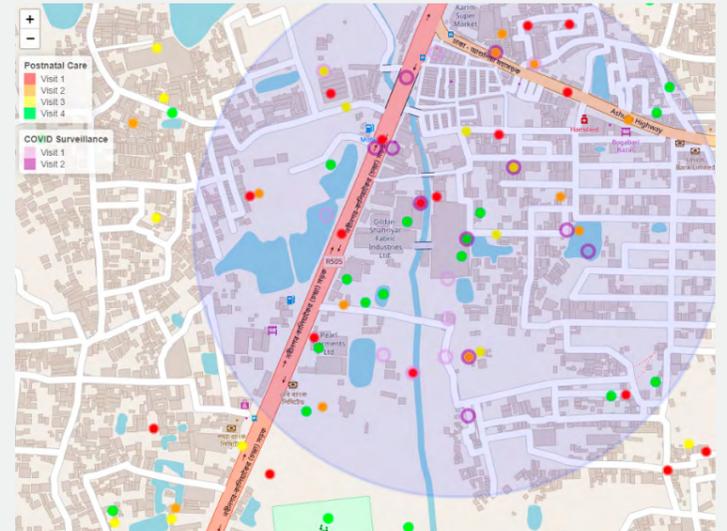
When completed, our contactless system will offer:

Robust technology designed specifically for health workers operating in offline, remote, and harsh environments;

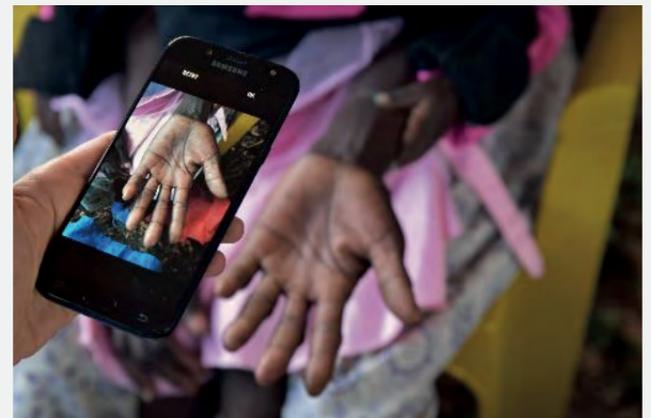
Rapid deployment with pre-made integrations into leading digital platforms like CommCare, OpenSRP, and SurveyCTO;

Open standards that guarantee systems interoperability, prevent vendor lock-in, and ensure data can plug into current and future systems; and

Privacy-first design ensuring the highest standards of patient privacy rights and data security.



Simprints' contactless system can enable real-time, accurate tracking of patients in pandemic response



Simprints' team has tested (1) accuracy of capture and (2) community acceptance across multiple sites

One of the reasons that COVID-19 has had such a severe impact is that global systems have not learned from previous outbreaks. After the 2015 Ebola crisis, the World Bank recognised [biometric digital identity as a game-changer](#) for fighting epidemics, but they have not been widely implemented. With support, we can redirect all company resources to accelerate the launch of our contactless biometric digital identity system and provide it for free to help our partners fighting COVID-19 across the globe.