

Strengthening advocacy for lifesaving medicines and technologies



Even the most effective medicines and technologies cannot save lives or improve health if they do not reach the people who need them. Despite progress, too many women, newborns, children, and adolescents living in low-resource settings die from preventable and treatable conditions because they do not have reliable access to lifesaving medicines and health technologies. For example, it is estimated that scaling-up access to and use of 13 priority health commodities—like amoxicillin to treat childhood pneumonia and oxytocin to treat excessive bleeding after childbirth—could save an estimated six million women and children by 2017.

PATH ADVOCACY: BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Ensuring the right medicines and technologies are available when and where they are needed, at affordable prices—a concept known as commodity security—will

facilitate better outcomes for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health.

PATH's advocacy work builds on and continues global efforts to expand access to simple, essential, and affordable medicines, medical devices, and other health supplies to prevent deaths of women and children worldwide. In the new Strengthening Advocacy for Health Commodities project, PATH will focus on increasing country-level advocacy capacity for these critical health commodities and maintaining global attention on the vital role health commodities play in achieving positive health outcomes, as well as their contribution to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

Project activities include:

- Conducting qualitative research to identify effective, replicable tools and advocacy approaches for advancing commodity security in low-resource settings.



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- Building the advocacy capacity of diverse stakeholders through training and technical assistance to build and support new champions who can help to ensure that commodities are prioritized in countries with high burdens of maternal and child deaths.
- Sharing evidence and generating broad support among health and development experts, government leaders, and decision-makers to ensure that health commodities remain prioritized in global health policies and agendas.

Through interviews with global, national, and subnational experts, PATH will identify the tools and approaches that are most valued and used at the country level to improve commodity security and facilitate related policy advancements. PATH will disseminate these effective tools and approaches through workshops in key countries to equip local stakeholders with the capacity to advocate for improved health systems, policies, and financing to increase commodity security.

The facts are clear: essential health commodities save lives. Join this effort and work with us so more women, children, newborns, and adolescents can survive and thrive, no matter where they live.

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53 million unintended pregnancies could be avoided, 90,000 women's lives saved, and 590,000 newborn deaths averted annually if contraceptives were available to all women who want to use them.¹



1 in 6 newborn deaths could be averted if chlorhexidine was available for cleansing of the umbilical cord stump after birth.²



US \$1.50 or less per person could cover the cost of providing maternal health services and supplies in countries with the highest burden of maternal mortality.³



70% of childhood deaths from pneumonia could be reduced with improved availability of amoxicillin dispersible tablets.³

References

- 1 UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities website. Available at: <http://www.lifesavingcommodities.org/topics/family-planning/>.
- 2 Hodgins, S. et al. Chlorhexidine For Umbilical Cord Care: Game-Changer For Newborn Survival? *Global Health: Science and Practice* 1.1 (2013): 5-10. Available at: <http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/1/1/5.full>.
- 3 UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities. *Scaling Up Life-Saving Commodities for Women, Children, and Newborns An Advocacy Toolkit*. Washington, DC: PATH; 2015. Available at: https://www.path.org/publications/files/APP_advocacy_toolkit.pdf



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PATH is the leader in global health innovation. An international nonprofit organization, we save lives and improve health, especially among women and children. We accelerate innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, we take innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. Together, we deliver measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health. Learn more at www.path.org.

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