

Uniting Epidemic Preparedness and Response with Primary Health Care to Build More Resilient Health Systems

PATH works globally to unite the historically siloed sectors of primary health care (PHC) and epidemic preparedness and response (EPR). In doing so, we aim to partner with countries to co-create global, national, and local interventions to address infectious disease epidemics, effects from climate change, antimicrobial resistance, and other emerging barriers to health equity.

What we do

We partner with countries to prepare for and respond to emerging infectious diseases and address antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

We use a One Health approach that recognizes the link between human, animal, and environmental health, ensuring partnerships with organizations and experts across disciplines to prepare for and respond to emerging health challenges. Working closely with country partners, we update standard operating procedures, train staff, and strengthen real-time surveillance systems to detect and respond to pathogens of greatest public health concern, including antimicrobial-resistant infections and zoonotic diseases.

We support primary health care as the first line of defense against emerging infectious diseases and AMR

Robust health security networks emerge from strong PHC systems. By translating and leveraging COVID-19 responses, PATH supports countries to strengthen PHC systems so they are equipped to identify and respond to health emergencies while sustaining essential health services. It is evident that community-based surveillance, diagnostic networks, and robust vaccine coverage are critical tools in the fight against preventable diseases and AMR, and we strive to confront these challenges at the local health care level.

We champion local solutions and solve market failures

By decentralizing laboratory networks and expanding testing options, PATH partners with countries to reduce the burden on central laboratories and offer individuals and communities faster and more reliable diagnostic results, which leads to better surveillance. Through inclusive innovation and a human-centered design approach, PATH's Living Labs Initiative accelerates the pace of health innovation by co-creating with users to rapidly design, test, and scale solutions to their long-standing challenges. By addressing market inequities and inefficiencies across the value chain, PATH can increase availability, affordability, and access to useful tools, products, and other health solutions.

We use data to drive timely, community-informed policy- and decision-making

By connecting digital capabilities—including surveillance reporting, laboratory diagnostics, and immunization program data—PATH supports country partners to identify emerging health challenges and make data-driven decisions for public health action. PATH experts have developed best practices for data quality, management, and reporting at a global level to ensure that information is available and accessible for dissemination and public use.

WHO WE ARE

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ENABLE

Regional learning networks • Workforce training • Local partnerships • National and global policies
 Community engagement and mobilization • Data systems for decision-making • Local vaccine manufacturing capacity

Key PATH capabilities

PREVENT

- Infection prevention and control
- Immunization access and coverage
- High-quality, tailored services that meet individual and community need
- Country leadership, planning, and strategy

DETECT

- Integrated surveillance systems
- Decentralized laboratory networks
- Improved diagnostics
- User-initiated self-testing and self-sampling
- Multi-disease screening campaigns

RESPOND

- Resource mobilization and allocation
- Access and continuity of essential services during emergencies
- Advocacy and policy recommendations
- Emergency operating centers

Improving policies, strategies, and guidelines for health service delivery during and after pandemics

INDIA

Starting in 2020, PATH supported government officials, policymakers, and health care workers across five states to prepare response plans, policies, and road maps to fight COVID-19. PATH also assisted the government in identifying a cost-effective, sustainable, and scalable model to improve COVID-19 testing capacities and in providing tele-counseling for local communities. So far, the project has reached more than 16,494 citizens.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In 2018, PATH supported the Ministry of Health to launch the first Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to coordinate health emergencies. The EOC has served as a hub for outbreaks of Ebola virus disease, cholera, polio, and now COVID-19. Additionally, PATH worked with 93 health facilities to assess, track, and improve oxygen availability for COVID-19 treatment.

Helping health care systems detect and respond to antimicrobial resistance

TANZANIA

PATH worked alongside the Government of Tanzania to implement their National AMR Surveillance Framework and to link LabNet with the national electronic integrated disease surveillance and response (eIDSR) system. PATH currently works with four AMR sentinel sites in the country to train staff, implement AMR susceptibility testing, and report AMR surveillance data with international data sharing platforms such as the World Health Organization's WHONET.

VIETNAM

PATH supported the Vietnam Administration for Medical Services (VAMS) to expand its current AMR surveillance system and improve infection prevention and control practices among health care providers. With PATH's support, VAMS implemented a health-care-associated infection (HAI) surveillance system and transferred it onto a new platform with advanced functions for VAMS and hospitals. In 2019, the number of hospitals participating in the HAI surveillance network expanded from 6 model hospitals to 18.

Supporting primary health workers to become key players in epidemic preparedness and response and AMR

KENYA

In Kenya, PATH worked with the Ministry of Health to provide virtual training for health workers, emphasizing the importance of risk reduction and treatment adherence for people living with noncommunicable diseases and mental health issues during the pandemic.

SENEGAL

PATH supported the Senegal Ministry of Health to develop a multisectoral plan to improve disease surveillance and decentralize diagnostic testing. As part of this work, PATH worked with health districts to introduce a community-based surveillance system that makes it easier for health care workers to identify and report zoonotic pathogens—including COVID-19—in both human and animal populations.

Current and recent EPR and PHC project highlights

Enhancing Global Health Security: Expanding Efforts and Strategies to Protect and Improve Public Health (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- Myanmar, Senegal, Tanzania, and Vietnam, global

Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (US Agency for International Development)

- Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam

UK Fleming Fund Country Grants (Mott MacDonald)

- Kenya, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Zambia

Discovery & Exploration of Emerging Pathogens — Viral Zoonoses (US Agency for International Development)

- Senegal, Vietnam

Scale-Up (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

- Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala

Impact Lab (Sall Family Foundation)

- India



In Senegal, a laboratory technician uses a community-based surveillance system that identifies zoonotic pathogens. PATH supported the Ministry of Health to introduce this tool for decentralized and strengthened disease surveillance. Photo: PATH/Gabe Bienczycki

COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

- Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania, Vietnam, Zambia

Healthy Markets (US Agency for International Development)

- Vietnam



PATH is a global nonprofit dedicated to achieving health equity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multisector partnerships, and with expertise in science, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales up innovative solutions to the world's most pressing health challenges.

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