

Protecting child health for a promising future

PATH's innovative programs help children survive and thrive across the globe

PATH has a proud history of advancing new and innovative solutions to improve children's health worldwide. PATH's public-private partnerships have developed effective, low-cost measures that successfully address the world's most threatening childhood diseases including pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria. In 2011 alone, more than 8 million children and adolescents benefited from PATH's work across the globe.

At PATH, we develop new and innovative vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, and devices to tackle specific causes of childhood illness and death. We also pioneer cross-cutting approaches that lead to healthy behaviors and lasting system improvements for these and other health challenges.

Recognizing the complexity of early childhood health and development, PATH takes a multifaceted approach in support of global health efforts to help decrease annual preventable childhood deaths to two million by 2035. With support from the US government and other donors, we partner with governments, donors, companies, and nonprofit organizations across the globe to create culturally relevant, affordable health services that save lives and give every child a chance to secure a prosperous future.

DEVELOPING NEW VACCINES FOR PNEUMONIA

PATH is developing a portfolio of vaccines to protect against the greatest cause of death among children less than five years old: pneumonia. Each year, more than 1.2 million children die from the disease, primarily in the developing world.

Although vaccines for pneumonia exist, they do not provide protection against the types of pneumococcus—the bacterium that causes the majority of severe pneumonia cases—that are most common in the developing world. PATH is working to fill that gap by developing vaccines that provide focused protection against the most common types of pneumococcus in developing countries. We are also working to develop a vaccine that, by itself, could provide protection against a broad range of pneumococcus types.



Gabe Blenczycki

PATH is leading the development of new technologies, such as vaccines, that prevent pneumonia, especially among children in Africa and Asia, where 95 percent of all pneumococcal deaths occur.

Together with our public- and private-sector partners, PATH is making strides to reach our goal of developing a vaccine that is safe, effective, and affordable, and that prevents the most common types of pneumococcal diseases affecting children in the developing world.

DEFEATING DIARRHEAL DISEASE FROM ALL ANGLES

Recognizing the multitude of factors that contribute to diarrheal diseases—which kill more than 750,000 children each year—PATH takes a multipronged approach to protecting children from these deadly diseases. We work with the US and UK governments, nongovernmental organizations, private companies, as well as national and local community leaders to expand access to clean water, latrines, and vaccines, as well as to promote proper hand washing and breastfeeding as ways to prevent the causes of diarrheal disease.

We also support the expansion of treatment approaches, such as making oral rehydration solution and zinc more available in low-resource settings. For example, PATH is working in Kenya to re-establish oral rehydration therapy corners: clusters of chairs tucked in the corners of health clinics, where mothers can safely administer oral rehydration solution—clean water mixed with salts and sugars—recommended by the World Health Organization as an essential tool for treating life-threatening dehydration.

caused by severe diarrhea. At the corner, nurses educate mothers about preventing and treating diarrhea at home.

While we scale up what works, we also research and develop new technologies, such as new forms of oral rehydration solution and new vaccines that will protect against the most common causes of severe diarrhea.

Today, two commercial vaccines that protect against rotavirus—the most common cause of severe childhood diarrhea—exist, but they are not widely available in or affordable for low-resource countries. We are working to address these gaps by helping countries in Africa and Asia prepare to use the current rotavirus vaccine in a sustainable way, and by accelerating the development of more affordable vaccines.

STRENGTHENING MALARIA CONTROL, STRIVING FOR ELIMINATION

Malaria is both preventable and treatable, yet it kills more than 650,000 people each year, most of them young children in sub-Saharan Africa. PATH takes a three-pronged approach to tackling malaria. First, we are working with national and global partners to develop strategies to eliminate malaria. We are also bringing together public- and private-sector partners to manufacture and deliver low-cost treatment, and to develop malaria vaccines, including the world's most clinically advanced candidate, RTS,S.

A leader in the fight against malaria, PATH works with national governments and other partners to develop country-led strategies and action plans to control—and ultimately eliminate—malaria. Control strategies focus on delivery of insecticide-treated bednets, insecticides, new diagnostics, and effective medicines. Countries using this approach, such as Zambia, have significantly decreased malaria illnesses and deaths within three years. To fill gaps in malaria treatment programs, PATH is manufacturing effective, low-cost drugs, which we will begin delivering in 2012.

Although effective tools are already available, a vaccine would further boost efforts to control malaria. Looking even further into the future, PATH's Malaria Vaccine Initiative is collaborating with academic, industry, and government experts to identify and develop the next generation of vaccines that could one day help eradicate the disease.

BUILDING A PLATFORM OF CROSS-CUTTING SOLUTIONS

PATH's holistic approach to child health includes a foundation from which we can prevent and treat multiple diseases at once. PATH bundles health interventions that improve water, sanitation, and hygiene in order to combat pneumonia and diarrheal diseases. We also encourage proper nutrition for children and mothers—whose health is inextricably linked to their children's—as well as exclusive breastfeeding to keep children strong and prevent diseases.



PATH/Gena Morgan

Zambia is pioneering advanced surveillance methods to find remaining malaria cases by testing adults and children, such as this girl in Lusaka.

PATH helps build and strengthen health systems so that vaccines, oral rehydration solution, and zinc, are within reach of the families who need them, and we fill gaps by developing new and innovative vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics that are cost efficient and culturally relevant.

CREATING A CYCLE OF GLOBAL PROSPERITY

To ensure that all children can one day raise healthy families of their own and build thriving communities, PATH continues to advance and expand access to a package of lifesaving tools and services that includes vaccines, medicines, clean water, and nutrition.

Yet, the vision of success must go beyond helping children survive to helping them thrive. Working with partners across all sectors to accelerate the development of new health tools and expand access to proven solutions, PATH will continue to save lives and establish a cycle of health and prosperity that lifts individuals, communities, and nations around the world.



PATH is an international nonprofit organization that transforms global health through innovation. We take an entrepreneurial approach to developing and delivering high-impact, low-cost solutions, from lifesaving vaccines and devices to collaborative programs with communities. Through our work in more than 70 countries, PATH and our partners empower people to achieve their full potential.

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