

## AREA OF FOCUS

# Reducing the burden of disease

**PATH provides tools and expertise to address global health threats**

Emerging and epidemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria have a devastating effect on many people in low-income countries. Poverty, weak health systems, and lack of up-to-date information complicate the fight against these diseases, which kill millions and make life harder for millions more.

PATH reduces the spread of HIV and helps those living with HIV/AIDS by enhancing prevention for at-risk groups, limiting mother-to-child transmission, strengthening care and treatment, and integrating related services. We improve TB control by providing extensive technical assistance and support. To reduce the burden of malaria, we are collaborating to help African countries sustain control efforts while preparing long-term strategies for elimination, and we are developing vaccines to prevent disease. Through OneWorld Health, PATH's drug development program, we are working to improve access to effective malaria treatments.

## ADVANCING TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT

Health technologies play a vital role in PATH's work to prevent and control the spread of emerging and epidemic diseases.

**Rapid, point-of-care diagnostic tests:** Low-cost, easy-to-use tools allow faster diagnosis and treatment of infections.

**Safe injection supplies:** Autodisable syringes, needle removers, and containers for safely managing needles and other medical waste reduce the risk of HIV infection.

**Woman-initiated prevention methods:** A condom for women and an improved diaphragm are becoming commercially available to increase women's options for methods to reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

**Vaccines:** PATH accelerates the development and use of vaccines to prevent malaria, influenza, and other diseases affecting the developing world.

## STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS

Working with in-country and international partners, PATH strengthens the capacity of health workers and systems. We develop resources and tools to improve providers' skills. We also help to integrate services to better meet health needs and provide data to support country decision-making on health issues.

**Addressing HIV and TB co-infection:** With the support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), PATH and our partners are ensuring that

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Preventing malaria and saving lives

The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, has helped to increase coverage of proven interventions, such as bednets, that have saved the lives of 750,000 children in Africa over a decade.



David Jacobs

The PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative has collaborated with companies, research groups, and African governments to test vaccine candidates. Initial results from a phase 3 clinical trial of the RTS,S vaccine candidate suggest that it substantially reduces malaria risk among children aged 5 to 17 months.

OneWorld Health, PATH's drug development program, has partnered with others to use synthetic biology techniques to produce artemisinin, a key ingredient in malaria treatments. A reliable, affordable supply of semisynthetic artemisinin will increase access to treatment.

Tanzanians who have HIV or TB receive integrated counseling and testing for both infections—services now provided in more than 800 health care facilities that serve tens of thousands of people.

**Strengthening services for HIV/AIDS:** In Ethiopia, PATH has strengthened civil-society groups to provide high-quality interventions that reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS. In South Africa, we have empowered midwives to improve support for HIV-positive mothers.

**Improving TB control:** Through USAID-funded work in Cambodia, PATH has increased the number of TB cases diagnosed by partnering with pharmacies to identify people with TB symptoms and refer them for evaluation.

**Building capacity for influenza control:** In cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, PATH is working collaboratively in Vietnam to build capacity for producing high-quality influenza vaccines, which will enhance global response to a pandemic. We are also evaluating influenza vaccine effectiveness and disease burden in Senegal and strengthening influenza surveillance in Ukraine.

**Enhancing malaria reporting:** Through the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, we are helping countries pioneer the use of rapid reporting systems to ensure timely and accurate reporting of malaria cases and deaths.

**Integrating services:** In Kenya, PATH is leading East Africa's largest integrated health project, designed to improve services for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and maternal and child health for 10 million people.

## ENCOURAGING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

PATH helps individuals and communities confront beliefs and fears that contribute to risky behavior and poor health.

**Addressing gender inequity to improve health:** In China and Kenya, PATH has provided educational programs for students, workers, and Scouts to address gender norms that raise the risk of HIV infection as well as gender-based violence.

**Counseling youth through pharmacies:** In Vietnam, the Republic of Georgia, and other countries, PATH has trained pharmacy staff to counsel vulnerable populations on HIV and other health services.

**Communicating to change behavior:** In Kenya, PATH's work to reduce HIV risk through behavior change has included radio programs, community theater, dialogue groups, comic books, and murals.

## MOBILIZING AND SUPPORTING PARTNERS

At the global, regional, and national levels, PATH works on advocacy efforts with other nonprofit organizations, the private sector, governments, and international agencies to change perceptions and secure resources for disease control.

**Stop TB Partnership:** As a vital member of the Stop TB Partnership, PATH collaborates with global, national, and local groups on policies and programs that support effective TB programs and strengthen comprehensive services.

**Roll Back Malaria Partnership:** PATH collaborates with the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and other groups to develop evidence for guidelines and to mobilize donors and partners to ensure long-term support for control and elimination.

## New tools for TB control

In collaboration with the World Health Organization and other partners and with USAID funding, PATH developed and distributed an innovative tool for assessing control of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) at the country level and for planning effective strategies for universal access to diagnosis and treatment. The tool has been successfully used in a number of countries. We also worked with partners to produce a toolkit to help countries strengthen activities to address MDR-TB.



PATH/Wendy Stone

## HIV testing and counseling

In Kenya, PATH led a project that provided HIV testing and counseling to nearly 1.5 million people over four years. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, PATH and our partners have reached hundreds of thousands in targeted communities with HIV prevention messages and HIV counseling and testing services.



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.

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
PO Box 900922  
Seattle, WA 98109 USA

**STREET ADDRESS**  
2201 Westlake Avenue, Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98121 USA

info@path.org

www.path.org