

# Maximizing the impact of our work

PATH's Impact Initiatives drive innovation and improve health outcomes through targeted investments

PATH has launched a set of bold initiatives to maximize our impact on global health. The initiatives build on our nearly four decades of leadership in driving transformative innovation to save lives.

Through the Impact Initiatives, cross-program teams identify high-priority areas for improvement, set institutional goals, and then mobilize resources to achieve them. The initiatives strategically leverage and integrate PATH's existing programs, projects, interventions, and staff expertise to enhance impact and value for money.

This effort is a critical part of our new One PATH Strategy. The overarching aim of the strategy is to increase the use of innovation to prevent and treat the primary causes of illness and death among women, newborns, and children.

## KEY FEATURES, ACTIVITIES, AND HEALTH AREAS

All of the Impact Initiatives share the following features:

- **Focus.** Each initiative focuses on specific interventions, countries, and approaches that are carefully selected to give the best results.
- **Integration.** The initiatives systematically coordinate and integrate PATH's work at the levels of people, processes, and programs.
- **Involvement to scale.** Our initiatives leverage institutional expertise and enhance coordination with external groups to drive innovation from idea to large-scale use.
- **Learning.** The initiatives capture lessons learned and insights and use measurement and modeling to increase future impact.

For each initiative, PATH convenes experts from across the organization. Based on a thorough assessment of the global landscape and related health data, the group develops a strategic plan with goals, objectives, and indicators. The plan considers interventions at various points along the continuum of care (from prevention through treatment) and at various stages in the development process. Subsequent activities include:

- Identifying the most critical interventions and the competencies needed to carry them out.
- Mapping existing PATH projects to leverage this work and address gaps.
- Developing country-specific strategies and identifying potential partners.
- Securing funding to support country-specific strategies.
- Evaluating the outcomes of investments.



## Five platforms

PATH's programmatic work ranges from upstream research and development to downstream, community-focused interventions. We employ five primary platforms to improve health:

- Vaccines.
- Devices.
- Diagnostics.
- Drugs.
- Targeted system and service innovations (such as public- and private-sector capacity improvements, health management information systems, advocacy and policy initiatives, and integrated service delivery).

The Impact Initiatives integrate these platforms for maximum impact.

Our first Impact Initiatives cover three health areas:

- Maternal and newborn health.
- Diarrheal disease and pneumonia.
- Malaria.

These areas were selected because they represent a high burden of disease in developing countries, there is broad global and national support for addressing related conditions, proven interventions are available, and PATH has significant expertise and capacity in these areas.

## MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

Every hour, more than 30 women die from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth and more than 300 newborns die from problems such as breathing difficulties and severe infections. Simple, low-cost technologies and other interventions can help to prevent many of these deaths.

The goal of PATH's Maternal and Newborn Health Technologies Impact Initiative is to increase, by 2018, the use of technologies that prevent or manage infection, preeclampsia/eclampsia (conditions associated with dangerously high blood pressure during pregnancy), and postpartum hemorrhage (severe bleeding after childbirth) to reduce maternal and newborn illness and deaths. Objectives range from building a more robust pipeline of needed technologies to strengthening the policy environment to support introduction. Examples of interventions that PATH will advance include use of chlorhexidine (an antiseptic) and injectable antibiotics for infection; magnesium sulfate, blood pressure monitoring, and antihypertensive drugs for preeclampsia/eclampsia; and anemia screening, oxytocin, and other methods to prevent or manage postpartum hemorrhage. The initiative will initially focus on India, Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria.

## DIARRHEAL DISEASE AND PNEUMONIA

Severe diarrheal disease and pneumonia are major causes of death among young children around the world. An estimated 600,000 young children die each year from diarrheal disease and more than 1 million from pneumonia despite the availability of simple and effective prevention and treatment methods.

The goal of PATH's Diarrheal Disease and Pneumonia Impact Initiative is to increase, by 2018, sustainable, community-based use of coordinated interventions to reduce sickness and death among children under five years old. Objectives range from improving the evidence base for interventions to improving the quality of related health services. Examples of key interventions include exclusive breastfeeding for very young children, improvements in hygiene and sanitation, use of oral rehydration solution and zinc for diarrhea, rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines, and antibiotics for respiratory infections. The initial focus countries are Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, and Nigeria.

## MALARIA AND OTHER HEALTH AREAS

Our Malaria Impact Initiative is now ramping up. A group of PATH experts is assessing how PATH can best contribute to eliminating malaria in key regions, building on our previous successes.

PATH has just begun work on an Impact Initiative on family planning. Future initiatives may include HIV/AIDS and other critical health concerns.

## Previous success in maternal and newborn health

PATH has a strong record of innovation to improve maternal and newborn health. This work has included interventions to prevent malaria during pregnancy, increase use of magnesium sulfate for preeclampsia/eclampsia, better manage postpartum hemorrhage, and curb newborn infections.



PATH/ Gabe Blenczycki

## Earlier work to help children

PATH has successfully advanced many interventions to reduce diarrheal disease and pneumonia among children. For example, we have developed and scaled up use of needed vaccines, developed markets for household water treatment and storage products, and improved nutrition through innovative approaches and technologies.



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, drugs, diagnostics, 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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