

Stories of hope from South Africa

A world where health is within reach for everyone. It isn't making headlines, but it is a vision that resonates deeply in South Africa, a country that faces extreme disparities in health and wealth.

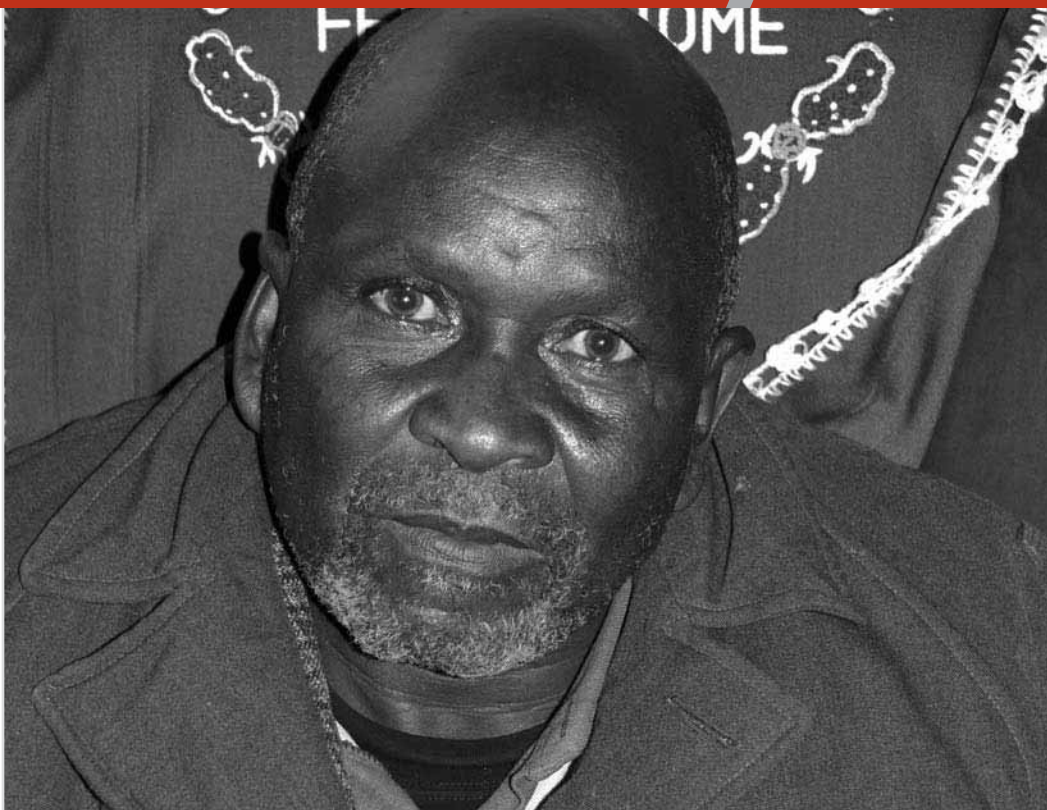
Since overcoming apartheid, South Africa has fought hard and with heart to achieve social change, reconciliation, and equity—including equal access to the basics of good health.

Right now, only a startling minority of South Africans have reliable access to health care. The still-new public health system is struggling to keep up with the huge health challenges the country faces, such as AIDS, tuberculosis, and high rates of maternal and child death. But in the midst of these challenges is hope: hope for families, hope for communities, and hope for the country and its future.

In 2006, PATH won our first major grant to expand our work in the region, thanks in part to support from people like you (see "Spotlight," page 2). Today, South Africa is home to one of our fastest-growing programs. The stories below exemplify our work in the country—and the impact of your support.

Magnet theater sets stage for HIV prevention

In the windswept, wintery community of Ngqamakwe, village chief Vukila



Wendy Stone

In his small South African village, Chief Vukila Ngamlana sees hope emerge from interactive community theater performances that help prevent the spread of HIV.

Ngamlana rushes to a nearby field just in time to watch an afternoon performance of magnet theater. This interactive and educational drama organized by PATH draws community members to its fold to explore health issues and prompt dialogue about how to prevent the spread of HIV.

Already, Chief Ngamlana has seen the benefit of the weekly performances. Young people are receiving reliable information about sexual health. Men and women living with HIV are no longer afraid of disclosing their status. And the rate of HIV in the village is decreasing.

"The youth from this community like the magnet theater, and most of them have changed their behavior," says Chief Ngamlana, who even lets the troupe rehearse in his home. "They have learned a lot."

Protecting mothers' lives

In the maternity ward of Greytown Hospital in KwaZulu Natal Province, matron-in-charge M. M. Mavundla too often has watched women die during childbirth. Though nearly 85 percent of women in South Africa give birth in a medical facility, and even more receive care during pregnancy, mothers die at alarming rates from preventable complications.

With training from PATH, midwives at Greytown now have the tools and knowledge to prevent these complications—and ensure more children have moms. Trained midwives train other hospital staff in lifesaving practices, and the cycle of knowledge continues.

"PATH made life very easy for us," Mrs. Mavundla says.

Your support has helped us grow

In 2006, PATH applied for support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) for an important program in South Africa—one that would give pregnant women and mothers with HIV the tools they need to protect their babies against infection. A critical element of our application was having a stable presence on the ground: staff to carry out the work, support systems, and good relationships with potential local partners.



PATH/Andy McIver

With \$32,000 of innovation funding, PATH hired a project lead with a strong history in the region and in HIV prevention and care. This support made it possible for us to establish an office in Eastern Cape

Province, bring in other experts to plan and manage the proposed work, and begin assessing the need and exploring other possible solutions. In 2007, we received our PEPFAR award—thanks in part to support from people like you.

Today South Africa is home to one of our fastest-growing programs. We facilitate better care for kids who have lost their parents to AIDS (a group that includes more than 2 million children). We provide technologies that help babies take their first breaths and protect mothers against postpartum hemorrhage, a leading cause of death during labor. We offer education and services that help women with HIV protect their newborn babies against the infection. And we provide an array of other programs that make our work in South Africa as diverse as the population. ●

Continued from front page

For babies, a healthy future

Nurse Nontandazo Tukani knows that when an HIV-positive woman gives birth, her baby has a chance at HIV-free survival. Once frustrated by the virus, the nurse now sees a way to help mothers safeguard their children from HIV and watch them thrive.

At Tutura Clinic in southeastern South Africa, Nurse Tukani and her staff counsel expectant mothers about drug therapy to prevent HIV transmission during pregnancy and about feeding options to keep their infants protected during the critical first months of life. With PATH's support, hospital staff have learned how to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, and women with HIV are seeing a long and healthy life ahead for their babies.

"Now, instead of giving birth to unhealthy babies," Nurse Tukani notes, "they have healthy babies that are going to be professionals, are going to be the future." ●



Wendy Stone

Nurse Nontandazo Tukani and her staff help HIV-positive women protect their babies from HIV.

Meeting the need in South Africa

PATH provides a range of innovative solutions to address critical health needs in South Africa and the region. Your support helps us continue to expand our reach and bridge the gap in health inequality.

Need	PATH's response
More than 2 million children in South Africa have lost one or both parents to AIDS.	Training for new caregivers on how to take care of orphaned kids—especially orphaned kids with HIV.
Postpartum hemorrhage, though preventable, is responsible for one in six deaths during labor.	A device that safely delivers drugs that can prevent hemorrhage with minimal preparation and waste.
One of every three newborn deaths is caused by asphyxia (suffocation) within minutes after birth.	A neonatal resuscitator that works like a scuba mask to get air into tiny lungs.
One in three pregnant women is HIV positive.	Training for providers, support for communities, testing for infants, and integration of HIV services in reproductive health care.
Maternal mortality rates increased by 20 percent between 2005 and 2007 as AIDS eclipsed services for pregnant women and new moms.	An alliance of midwives that's turning mothers' closest source of help into an effective tool against HIV.
South Africa's neighbor, Swaziland, has the highest rate of new tuberculosis cases in the world.	Better infection control practices in health facilities; help with choosing the right equipment and services.

Canada honors PATH co-founder

Dr. Gordon Perkin, one of PATH's co-founders, has been appointed an Officer in the Order of Canada for his lifetime of outstanding achievement in global health. The award—the country's highest civilian honor—recognizes Perkin's "contributions to improving the health of citizens in the developing world."

Perkin began his career as a family doctor in Canada. In 1977, he and two colleagues founded PATH to bridge public health agencies and private industry and make contraception available to couples around the world. Perkin served as PATH's president until 1999, when he became the first director of global health at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Our congratulations to Dr. Perkin! Visit www.path.org/birth-of-path.php for more about PATH's early days.

2010 Breakfast for Global Health sponsors

Each year, PATH welcomes our supporters to the Breakfast for Global Health, a fundraising event for the Catalyst Fund, which fuels our most innovative work. We thank these sponsors for their generosity and support for this year's event, which will be held May 25. For more information, please contact Jenny Adrian, events coordinator, at events@path.org or 206.285.3500.

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McKinstry: supporting global health

Ensuring the good health of citizens around the world is of special concern to McKinstry, a 50-year-old construction, energy, and facility services firm headquartered in Seattle. As a sponsor of this year's Breakfast for Global Health, McKinstry understands the role that healthy bodies and minds play in building strong communities.

Through the McKinstry Charitable Foundation, the firm's employee giving program, McKinstry leadership and staff are empowered to contribute to important causes that resonate with their deeply held values, such as youth, education, and global health. McKinstry supports PATH in our critical mission to bring good health within reach for people around the world. ●

PATH'S MISSION

*is to improve
the health of people
around the world by
advancing technologies,
strengthening systems,
and encouraging
healthy behaviors.*



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For questions about giving opportunities or other feedback, contact Jan Jacobs, director of Donor Relations, at jajacobs@path.org or 206.302.4565.

Olympic games with a purpose

A uniform is no protection against AIDS. And in Kenya's uniformed services, wearing a badge can actually increase risk, separating officers from their families and making them feel invulnerable—even immune to infection. Female officers are

particularly vulnerable, working in a setting where male counterparts may pull rank to force sexual contact.

So how do you get a country's toughest citizens to accept protection from a piece of latex?

The Condom Olympics (Condolym-pics), sponsored by PATH as part of our HIV prevention work in

Kenya, are designed to help Kenya's uniformed officers gain confidence and familiarity with male and female condoms—and thus overcome obstacles to an essential HIV prevention strategy.

Read more about PATH's work in HIV prevention at www.path.org/hiv-and-aids.php. ●

All photos this page: PATH/Daniel Oluoch Madiang



It's easy to see how strong a condom is—when it's holding five liters of water! Officers partner to see who can fill the condoms the fullest, simultaneously learning to collaborate with each other and to trust the condoms' durability.



Many officers have never seen or held female condoms. The Condolympics give these officers hands-on experience, demystifying a valuable tool for HIV prevention.



A Kenya wildlife ranger competes with a civilian colleague in a condom-blowing contest. Some officers fear touching condoms, doubt their elasticity, and hate their "smell." This game helps them overcome their concerns.

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