

# PATH Today

A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters

Spring 2013

## Can we eliminate malaria? Yes.

It happened in just one night. Three-year-old Rael called out the names of her sisters in her sleep and couldn't be woken. By morning, she was unconscious. When she finally woke up after more than two weeks in the hospital, the once-active little girl couldn't walk, talk, or feed herself. The culprit: cerebral malaria.

Malaria is the biggest threat to health for children in western Kenya, where Rael lives. It kills an estimated 34,000 Kenyan children under age 5 each year—that's enough to fill 75 of the country's public primary schools. With the support of our partners and donors, PATH has set an ambitious goal—to make malaria history in Kenya and all of sub-Saharan Africa.

### Tracking a killer

Just 70 years ago, malaria plagued a huge swath of the United States. It took a massive, concerted effort to rid this country of the disease. We believe we can do the same in Africa by tackling it from all sides.

In western Kenya, our education and prevention campaign promotes proven tools, such as insecticide-treated bednets and better diagnostics. In countries where this approach has been rapidly expanded nationwide, malaria rates have dropped dramatically. Zambia cut the number of children

PATH / Eric Becker



Since Rael was disabled by malaria three years ago, her family carries her everywhere. "We love her and don't want her to miss any company," says her father, Joseph.

*"I can hear relief and joy replacing tears and anguish... on the day an effective malaria vaccine is deployed for our children."*

— JOHN TANKO BAWA  
PROJECT MANAGER, MALARIA VACCINE TRIAL

infected with malaria in half in just a few years.

Now we're working with the government of Zambia to pioneer the next step toward elimination: creating malaria-free zones by locating hotspots of malaria transmission and stamping out the malaria parasite. "Test and treat" teams are fanning out across Zambia, carrying lab supplies and medicines over dirt paths

and across rivers to places where malaria rates are high. They treat everyone who tests positive for the malaria parasite, including people without symptoms.

The goal is to halt the cycle of transmission from human to mosquito to human again. The strategy requires staying vigilant and squashing potential outbreaks before they start. Ethiopia and Senegal are now following Zambia's lead.

### More reliable drugs now, a vaccine in the future

We're also bringing our drug and vaccine development expertise to the endeavor. We recently launched a new form of artemisinin—the key ingredient in malaria treatment (see page 2). And we're driving the

Continued inside

## Can we eliminate malaria? continued from front page

development of a number of vaccine candidates. Final results from a large Phase 3 trial of the most clinically advanced vaccine in our pipeline—RTS,S—will be ready in 2014.

The RTS,S trial currently spans seven African countries. For John Tanko Bawa, a project manager in Ghana, the work is personal: as a child, he watched three of his siblings die from malaria.

“Everyone in my village has a personal story to tell about the devastating impact of malaria,” John says. “Heartbreaking deaths, loss of work, limited cash going for remedies at the expense of food or school fees, and lifelong impairments. I can hear relief and joy replacing tears and anguish in homes across Africa on the day an effective malaria vaccine is deployed for our children.”

### Malaria-free Africa

In Kenya, Joseph remains optimistic for Rael. “What we are hoping and praying is that she will walk again,” he says.

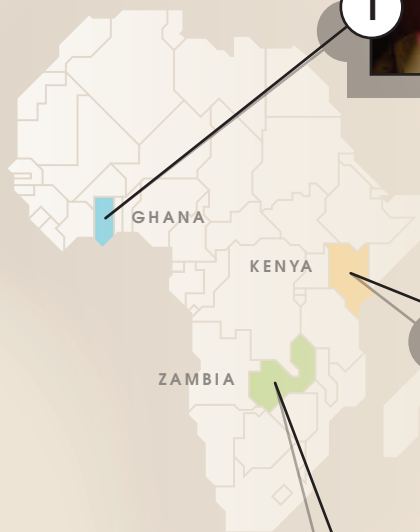
At PATH, we hope for the day when parents in Africa are free from the fear of malaria—just like parents in the United States. It’s an ambitious goal, but with support from you and our partners in Africa, yes, we can eliminate malaria. ●

### Getting malaria off the map

1. Clinical trials in Ghana and other African countries hold hope for the world’s first malaria vaccine.



PATH / Eric Becker



PATH / Eric Becker

2. Thousands of health workers in Kenya are sharing lifesaving information with their communities and making sure every home has a bednet.

3. “Track and treat” teams in Zambia treat every person infected with the malaria parasite.



PATH / Laura Newman

## Gold-standard malaria treatment will reach millions more

PATH’s new drug development program is discovering, creating, and expanding access to desperately needed medicines for neglected diseases. One of these is artemisinin, a key ingredient in the most effective treatment for malaria.

Artemisinin is derived from the sweet wormwood plant, which is grown in

just a few countries. Supply is often tight and prices fluctuate drastically. To solve this challenge, the team partnered with research labs and a pharmaceutical company to create a semisynthetic version, which doesn’t depend on a botanical source and is quicker to produce.

We’re thrilled to have launched

industrial-scale production of semisynthetic artemisinin in April. This means a more dependable supply of lifesaving antimalarial treatment will soon be available to the patients who need it most.

Learn more about our drug development program at <http://sites.path.org/drugdevelopment/>. ●



## Thanks to you

- We're celebrating another revolution in cervical cancer screening. A new test for cervical cancer—*careHPV™*, developed jointly by PATH and QIAGEN—was recently launched in China, with other countries to follow soon. This DNA test is more sensitive than Pap smears at detecting potential cancer cases. Even better for the countries where we work, it's designed to be used in clinics without lab facilities. With rapid screening, millions of women could be treated *before* cancer develops.
- In Cambodia, PATH's innovative and successful approach to treating diarrhea—profiled in the Fall 2012 issue of *PATH Today*—is now being expanded to new provinces. The project's future wasn't fully assured until last December, when PATH contributors generously gave us the support needed to carry the work forward. Thank you!

## Your chance to support women and girls

Join the crowd  
at [catapult.org](http://catapult.org)

**Catapult**

This month's "don't miss" opportunity is the chance to improve the health of women and girls by contributing to potential PATH projects. We've posted two ideas to the rapidly growing crowdfunding site, Catapult ([www.catapult.org](http://www.catapult.org)). Both projects have to meet their fundraising goals by May 31 or lose everything raised so far.

Make a gift to bring health services to young migrant women in Thailand, whose vulnerability to sexual violence can have terrible repercussions on health. Or throw your support behind community education to help prevent and treat tuberculosis in Vietnam. Once the money is raised, we'll get to work. Visit [www.catapult.org/search/content/path/](http://www.catapult.org/search/content/path/) to track our projects and others featured on Catapult—and invite your friends and families to do the same.



Nguyen Ba Quang

## 2013 Breakfast for Global Health sponsors

On May 21, hundreds of PATH supporters are gathering in Seattle for our annual fundraiser, the Breakfast for Global Health. This year, we're sharing an exciting initiative to tackle one of the leading killers of children. We'd like to extend a special thank-you to our sponsors for their support. For information about sponsoring PATH's Breakfast for Global Health or other events, please contact Catherine Endicott at [cendicott@path.org](mailto:cendicott@path.org) or 206.302.4564.



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

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### Sign up for email from PATH

To receive regular email updates on PATH's projects, the impact of your support, and the latest and best ideas in global health, send an email request to [development@path.org](mailto:development@path.org) or sign up online at [www.path.org](http://www.path.org).

### Contact us

For information about upcoming events, contact [events@path.org](mailto:events@path.org). For questions about giving opportunities or to give feedback, contact Catherine Endicott, Development officer, at [cendicott@path.org](mailto:cendicott@path.org) or 206.302.4564.

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## Making a Difference

### A fantastic opportunity

What does construction have to do with PATH? Durability, according to Dean Allen, CEO of McKinstry, a construction and engineering firm based in Seattle. Under Dean's leadership, McKinstry has helped to build some of the region's most recognizable structures and become a leader in energy and sustainability.

Nguyen Ba Quang



At a school in Vietnam, Dean Allen (right) witnessed an "elegantly simple strategy."

Dean is also one of PATH's strongest supporters. He's the treasurer of our board of directors, and he's made PATH a focus of philanthropy for McKinstry's charitable foundation. His commitment comes from "the joy of seeing the uniquely powerful way PATH works in the field and how it's making a durable impact."

For example, on a trip with PATH to Vietnam, Dean and his wife, Vicki, went to an immunization day where they saw how excited parents were to be there with their babies. "We also saw everything PATH had done on vaccine technologies," he remembers, "such as the vaccine vial monitors and single-use syringes that PATH designed to make vaccines safe."

Then, at a middle school, they witnessed the "powerful and elegantly simple strategy" PATH had devised to encourage parents to immunize

their children. PATH educated middle school students about the lifesaving benefits of vaccines, and then the students educated the parents of newborns. The students even provided parents with immunization cards and reminded them about immunization days.

"It was very poignant to see how PATH works the two ends of the spectrum," Dean says. "PATH reaches out and touches people, offering them vaccines or treatment for disease, increasing opportunities for children, and it creates durable, high-impact solutions that can have an impact for generations to come."

He adds, "Being able to contribute to PATH and know that the organization is having that reach around the globe has been a fantastic opportunity." ●

**INSIDE**  
Crowdfunding  
for women  
and girls