

PATH Today

A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters

Winter 2013

A great day for Asia's children

In the hot summer sun, millions of Indian children lined up outside clinics, schools, and community centers. They'd come for the lifesaving protection of a new vaccine against a deadly brain infection—Japanese encephalitis, or JE.

It was 2006, just a year after a devastating outbreak of JE in India and Nepal killed nearly 2,000 people, mostly children. The disease, which is also known as “brain fever,” left thousands more with permanent brain injuries: boys like Mahesh, who was once among the brightest in his school and now sat in the back of the classroom barely aware of his surroundings. And girls like Shekamma, who was described by her grief-stricken mother as “neither alive nor dead.”

An “audacious goal” in reach

That was the fate of tens of thousands of children—until PATH launched a project to advance an accessible and affordable vaccine. That summer, 9 million children eagerly received their JE shots. By the beginning of this year, more than 200 million children in Southeast Asia had been vaccinated.

As exciting as those achievements are, too many children remain vulnerable in countries that can't afford the vaccine.

PATH/Leifey Reed



Millions of children in India and other Southeast Asian countries will soon be protected from Japanese encephalitis, a destructive disease that has earned the nickname “brain fever.”

That's about to change. On October 9, PATH and our partners achieved a critical milestone—the World Health Organization (WHO) gave its stamp of approval for the JE vaccine that PATH has shepherded for almost a decade. The approval, known as prequalification, clears the way for international financing—meaning millions more children will soon be protected.

The day when all children are protected from Japanese encephalitis is now within reach.

“This milestone brings the world within reach of an audacious goal: the elimination of a devastating disease through expanded access to an affordable and lifesaving vaccine,” said Steve Davis, PATH president and CEO.

Hope from a hidden vaccine

For decades, the only JE vaccines used around the world were difficult to administer and extremely expensive. Then PATH discovered a safe and affordable vaccine in China that was virtually unknown outside the country due to language and cultural barriers.

PATH collaborated on clinical trials to prove the vaccine's effectiveness, negotiated a special public-sector price, and provided technical assistance to countries that forged ahead with the vaccine even before prequalification.

And we provided technical and financial support to the Chinese vaccine manufacturer to pursue the WHO prequalification that was finally awarded this year. It was a rigorous process, involving careful

Continued inside

A malaria vaccine moves closer to saving lives

As Dr. Nekoye Otsyula sat beside her two-year-old daughter's hospital bed, she felt her professional commitment to malaria research deepen into a personal passion to eliminate the disease. Her daughter had come down with fever and vomiting one night and was unresponsive the next day. Fortunately, the little girl survived.

"Seeing your child, who was previously active and playing, now unable to move... You stop looking at malaria as a researcher," she says. "You look at it now as a mom."

Dr. Otsyula is a researcher in the clinical trials of the most clinically advanced malaria vaccine candidate—called RTS,S—which is supported by the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative. The latest trial results were released, with widespread media coverage, in October. The new data show that 18 months after immunization, the vaccine reduces malaria cases by close to 50 percent in children immunized between the ages of 5 and 17 months. Although the vaccine is less effective in younger infants, this is great news



PATH/Eric Becker

After three days of high fever, Priscilla Mtonyi was brought to a hospital in Western Kenya with suspected malaria. To protect young children like Priscilla, who are most likely to die from malaria, PATH is accelerating the development of malaria vaccines.

for a disease for which no vaccine currently exists.

Given that more than 200 million people come down with malaria each year—and 660,000 lose their lives—RTS,S could have a significant impact. Final results for RTS,S are due in 2014, and the vaccine's manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline, plans to submit an application for regulatory approval the same year.

Dr. Otsyula is hopeful that a malaria vaccine will be a powerful addition to other tools like insecticide-treated bednets, accurate diagnosis, and proper treatment—all of which are part of PATH's malaria toolkit.

"If you have all those [tools] working together, it means more children can be in school every day," she says. "It means more mothers... and more fathers can be working to raise money for their families."

With your support, we look forward to the world Dr. Otsyula envisions—where malaria no longer fills hospital wards or devastates families. Where children have an equal chance to be healthy and strong—no matter where they grow up. ●

PATH/Eric Becker



Nearly losing a daughter to malaria "gives me passion and spirit and strength to work on this trial," says Dr. Nekoye Otsyula, a malaria researcher in Kenya.

A great day for Asia's children continued from front page

inspections to ensure that high international standards of quality, safety, and efficacy are met. We even helped design and finance a new manufacturing facility.

A leap forward

With the WHO prequalification, progress against JE can accelerate.

The decision allows United Nations agencies to purchase the vaccine and the GAVI Alliance to include it in the portfolio of vaccines it finances for low-income countries.

Further, as Steve Davis said, "Our groundbreaking collaboration with our Chinese partners helped lay the foundation for reshaping

global vaccine supply, pricing, and accessibility by increasing competition."

Thanks to an innovative model, a powerful collaboration, and generous donors, the day when all children are protected from JE is now within reach. With your help, PATH has once again redefined what is possible in global health. ●

Your gift matched through Dec. 31

It's time to double your impact. A generous donor will match every dollar PATH receives toward our goal to raise \$275,000 between now and December 31.

**DOUBLE YOUR
IMPACT**

That means your gift will go twice as far in support of PATH's lifesaving projects—from helping more babies survive childbirth in Mozambique to giving kids in Cambodia and Brazil the nutrients they need to learn and grow up healthy.

Make your gift online today at www.path.org/donate/ or use the enclosed giving envelope. Consider making a gift in honor of someone special—we'll send a card to tell them you care.

Ten ways to save lives now

We're impatient to end the deaths of mothers and babies from complications due to pregnancy and childbirth. Ten low-cost health innovations could do just that—if they could get into the hands of health care workers.



PATH/Evelyn Hockstein

PATH leaders were at the United Nations General Assembly in September to advocate for these lifesaving innovations. The same week, we released a special print and web feature—*Breakthrough innovations that can save women and children now*—that introduces the ten tools, from a low-cost antiseptic that can prevent infections in newborns to a neoprene suit

that helps control bleeding in childbirth. If a majority of these innovations are brought to scale in low-resource countries, they could save the lives of 1.2 million mothers and children by the end of 2015.

Learn about the ten innovations at www.path.org/innovations2015/.

Celebrating our visionary supporters

“There is no question that the ability to save, change, and improve millions of lives is at our fingertips—and each of you plays a vital role,” Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan told the nearly 250 PATH supporters who attended PATH's inaugural celebration of philanthropy in Seattle. The advocate for maternal, newborn, and child health was one of many who thanked our donors and partners for their generosity. Steve Davis, PATH's president and CEO, announced our new lifetime giving program, and PATH staff rose to extend their gratitude—a moment shared by Steve on his new Twitter feed (@SteveDavisPATH).



PATH/Patrick McKern



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When you support PATH, you can be confident that your donation will be used efficiently.

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Making a Difference

So everyone thrives

“Every baby should have its toes kissed,” says psychologist and PATH donor Valerie Tarico. “The question is, how do you create the conditions so that when children come into the world, their parents are ready to kiss their toes and celebrate them?”

Valerie and her husband, Brian Arbogast, know how challenging it

is for families living in poverty to provide the best care for their children. They’ve seen it in their travels to India and Africa, including a visit to a PATH project in South Africa.

From those experiences, Valerie became passionate about giving women access to family planning “so they can take care of the children they have rather than having another baby when they don’t feel ready.” Brian focused on the health impacts of unclean water and sanitation. These passions now infuse their work—Valerie advocates for family planning; Brian is the director of the Water, Sanitation & Hygiene program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. And the same ideas influence the couple’s philanthropy.

“One of the themes in our approach to giving,” says Valerie, “is supporting solutions that let people take care of themselves and their families.”

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PATH’s targeted solutions fit that criterion—from developing easier-to-use contraceptives to preventing diarrheal disease.

The couple is also attracted to PATH’s unique approach. “The way PATH drives innovation and partners to get that innovation to market—that’s one of the things that’s always jumped out at me,” says Brian.

Ultimately, what underlies all their philanthropy is a deep belief that, as Valerie says, “in order for any of us to thrive, we need to *all* be thriving.” She adds, “Until that’s happening, there’s work to be done.”

Courtesy of Valerie Tarico



Through PATH, Brian Arbogast and Valerie Tarico (and daughters Brynn and Marley) are helping families thrive.