

# Delivering health solutions to those in need

Our work in malaria control, child nutrition, and HIV prevention builds healthier communities

Zambia's health indicators show encouraging signs of progress in efforts to improve the health of women, children, and families. Yet serious challenges remain, with continuing high rates of malaria, stunting in children, maternal and infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and HIV. Since 2005, PATH has worked with government and community partners in Zambia to address urgent health priorities and strengthen health systems.

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. With work in more than 70 countries, PATH and our partners empower people to achieve their full potential.

Our work with numerous partners in Zambia is notable for its impact on malaria. We also deliver innovative solutions to improve nutrition for children, avert HIV infection, and strengthen information systems, as well as advocate for women-controlled prevention of HIV infection and family health.

## SUPPORTING DATA-DRIVEN MALARIA CONTROL MEASURES

Malaria accounted for more than one-third of all hospitalizations and outpatient visits in Zambia in 2005. That year, the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), housed at PATH, joined with the government of Zambia, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and others to launch a national plan for tackling the disease through a comprehensive malaria prevention program, helping Zambia make significant progress toward achieving the goal of a malaria-free country. In addition to supporting planning and implementation of key interventions, MACEPA uses its expertise in data gathering, analysis, and dissemination to help Zambia make data-driven decisions on effective and efficient use of resources and interventions and to measure the impact of its efforts.



PATH/David Jacobs

Examples of PATH's support for Zambia's malaria control efforts include:

- The malaria indicator survey, in which trained teams fan out to every corner of the country, recording household data and malaria information on handheld computers and testing children for the disease. More than 5,000 households are reached during the intense six-week survey, and the results allow the National Malaria Control Program and its partners to tailor their response to specific regions. By analyzing the data, the National Malaria Control Program has identified five zones with the potential to be malaria-free by 2015, requiring new approaches in areas with low malaria prevalence.
- The rapid reporting system, which records specific malaria data elements on a weekly basis and sends the data to a server by mobile phone. Data on the 17 indicators, including cases, blood tests, treatment dispensed, and drug supply, become instantly available to program managers at the district, provincial, and national levels.

## IMPROVING CHILD HEALTH AND SURVIVAL THROUGH BETTER NUTRITION

Nearly half of Zambian children under the age of five are at risk of lifelong physical and cognitive disabilities due to chronic malnutrition. Through our Infant and Young Child Nutrition Project, we have helped Zambia to improve nutrition from pregnancy through 23 months of age and to promote HIV-free survival through safe breastfeeding and early-childhood feeding practices.

Together with our partners, we have instructed national trainers and local volunteers in how to provide sound nutrition counseling. Our behavior change communication work has included strategies such as radio programs and individual counseling to address behavioral barriers. We have helped strengthen policies, programs, and health systems to support mothers in adopting better feeding habits and improving nutrition. In addition, we created a nutrient-dense food supplement using locally available ingredients.

## EMPOWERING ZAMBIANS TO PREVENT HIV INFECTION

HIV infection rates are particularly high in Zambia's Copperbelt mining region. PATH's ARISE Project: Enhancing HIV Prevention Programs for At-Risk Populations is supporting the Zambia-Emory HIV Research Project to empower people to avert new HIV infections. Through expanded HIV counseling and testing for couples, referrals of HIV-positive clients to antiretroviral clinics, and intensified counseling, couples can reduce their risks and prevent transmission.

We also advocate for the development of technologies designed to help women protect themselves from HIV, with or without the active consent of their partners. Through the Global Campaign for Microbicides, we collaborate with policymakers and host forums to accelerate the development of and access to new HIV prevention options, such as vaginal microbicides and oral pre-exposure prophylaxis. Our community engagement and workshops inform potential clients and community leaders and engage women and their partners in providing valuable feedback that helps inform future technology development and implementation.



PATH/David Jacobs

## CREATING BETTER INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Health management information systems help countries answer critical questions about population health: How many people need treatments and services? What quantities of medical supplies are needed? When will critical shipments of medical supplies arrive?

Our health management information system experts are working with Zambian health officials and partners to document user requirements and define technology investment needs for a scalable, sustainable, and affordable system to manage national logistics information. Health workers and government officials will be able to respond efficiently to today's health care needs and plan for the future.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE FAMILY HEALTH

PATH is bringing our extensive experience in advocacy and policy development to bear in Zambia to ensure a healthier future for communities and families. Priority areas for expanded support include child health program scale-up, nutrition, information services, vaccine introduction, reproductive health and family planning, and safe water supply and sanitation.



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