

A woman wearing an orange headscarf and a matching orange garment with red and black embroidery is holding a baby. The baby is wearing a yellow and red striped headband and a yellow garment with black polka dots. They are positioned in front of a teal wall.

PATH in Ethiopia

Accelerating data-driven
innovation to improve health
and save lives



Ethiopia has experienced strong economic growth during the past decade, leading to significant reductions in poverty. It has also seen substantial improvements in health, including declines in child mortality and in sickness and deaths caused by malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

Serious health challenges remain, however. For example, more than 200,000 children less than five years old die each year, including more than 80,000 newborns.

PATH is an international nongovernmental organization creating sustainable solutions to health challenges in Ethiopia. We opened an office in Addis Ababa in 2010, and our in-country staff collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Health, regional health bureaus, community-based groups, health care providers, and others to address urgent health concerns, including malaria, tuberculosis, and maternal and child health. Together with our partners, we have reached tens of thousands of people across Ethiopia and contributed to dramatic improvements in health systems and services.

Cover photo: Tanya Axisa/Department for
International Development

PROJECT AND OFFICE LOCATIONS IN ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA PROGRAM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, 2016–2020

- **Integrated maternal, newborn, and child health**
Generate evidence and propose innovative solutions to improve utilization of services, with emphasis on increasing institutional delivery and postpartum family planning and improving newborn and child health with an integrated approach.
- **Communicable disease prevention, control, and elimination**
Promote control and then elimination of diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis and provide concerted support to government initiatives at both the governance/system level and the community level.
- **Digital health tools for system strengthening**
Support the Federal Ministry of Health to demonstrate significant gains in data use and quality.
- **Vaccines and immunization**
Promote community mobilization, advocacy, and social and behavioral change communication.
- **Integrated water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition interventions**
Conduct user research, innovate on product design, partner with the private sector, and commercialize products to increase the uptake and consistent use of products that improve the health and livelihoods of the world's poorest populations and empower women and their families.

PAVING THE WAY TOWARD MALARIA ELIMINATION

PATH has worked in Ethiopia since 2007 to reduce the burden of malaria, which causes up to 20 percent of deaths among young children. We are now supporting the government of Ethiopia's commitment to malaria elimination. Our work ranges from developmental research to national program strategy development and support, and it encompasses multiple platforms, such as drugs and diagnostic devices.

Through the Malaria Control and Elimination Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a program at PATH, we are collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Health and the Amhara Regional Health Bureau to test new strategies for creating malaria-free zones by 2020. In areas with very low malaria transmission rates, rapidly detecting cases and clearing pockets of malaria quickly are essential for eliminating the disease locally.

One strategy we are assessing is known as focal test and treat (FTAT). With this strategy, when a patient visits a health center or community health worker and tests positive for malaria, the local health authorities launch a case investigation. Members of the patient's household and neighboring households are then tested for malaria and provided treatment if infected. This strategy includes use of a mobile phone-based system for rapid reporting of malaria surveillance data.



In areas with low to moderate malaria transmission, MACEPA is also evaluating the impact of combining FTAT throughout the year with a mass testing and treatment (MTAT) campaign at the beginning of the malaria transmission season. In an MTAT campaign, everyone within a geographic area is tested, and confirmed cases are treated.

Our accomplishments so far in the Amhara region have included:

- Developing information systems for malaria rapid reporting from more than 200 villages, including use of mobile phones for data entry.
- Performing mass testing of tens of thousands of people, leading to treatment of hundreds.
- Conducting case investigation and reactive testing of several thousand people, with subsequent treatment of many people with malaria who might otherwise have been missed.

Overall, our work is paving the way for malaria elimination in defined geographic areas within Ethiopia.

IMPROVING TUBERCULOSIS SERVICES

Ethiopia has one of the world's highest burdens of morbidity and mortality related to tuberculosis (TB). For the TB REACH project, PATH has collaborated with the Bale Zone Health Department in the Oromia region to implement novel TB interventions that have been modified for pastoral and semipastoral communities to improve case finding and early detection of disease. A unique feature is the use of health extension workers to collect sputum samples for testing. This project is also improving clinical and laboratory capacity to diagnose TB in both community settings and health care facilities. Our work has improved diagnosis of drug-resistant TB in nearly 6,000 communities.

"The TB REACH project has...resulted in impressive health gains in TB detection and treatment....The TB case detection rate improved from 48% to 61% in our zone in one year."

Regasa Dechasa, head of Bale Zone Health Department

Through the Help Ethiopia Address Low TB Performance (HEAL TB) project, PATH, Management Sciences for Health, and other partners are improving and expanding TB services in targeted regions.

The project's main objective is to increase case detection and treatment success in the Amhara and Oromia regions. PATH's focus is supporting implementation of community-based TB care, which requires close collaboration between the health sector and community and aligns with globally recommended Stop TB strategies. The project has provided both technical and material support to help the government and service providers improve care, with remarkable results. Over three years, for example, the number of health posts providing directly observed treatment rose from 516 to 2,995.

EXPANDING IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMS

PATH has worked on behalf of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to engage with partners and strengthen technical communications and advocacy in support of Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to improve immunization outcomes. Work at the national level has included:

- Conducting an immunization landscape analysis.
- Facilitating introduction of rotavirus and meningitis vaccines.
- Providing technical assistance in the preparation of communication and advocacy materials and training.

Regional support has included initiating and coordinating immunization communications and interventions with Islamic leaders and mosques in the Afar region.

NEWBORNS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Although community-based health posts now offer free treatment services that could prevent many newborn and child deaths in Ethiopia, these services have not been widely used. Through a project called Optimizing the Health Extension Program (OHEP), PATH is collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Health and regional health bureaus to increase uptake of community-based services to improve newborn and child health in the Amhara and Oromia regions.

The essence of OHEP is to understand the causes of low utilization of high-impact curative services and then design and implement

interventions that are tailored to each community. The three-year project builds on an existing program called Integrated Community Case Management of Childhood Illness, which has been adapted to include community-based newborn care.

The project is being implemented between July 2015 and June 2018 in three phases: an initial evaluation phase, a second validation and implementation phase, and a final accelerated scale-up phase. Evidence from the project will feed into a national demand-creation strategy for child health services.

Another PATH project aims to improve health and reduce deaths among infants who are unable to breastfeed. PATH collaborated with experts at Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington School of Dentistry to create the NIFTY™ cup, a low-cost, safe, and easy-to-use feeding cup with a design that mimics breastfeeding. The cup is intended for use with premature infants, infants with a cleft palate, or those whose mothers die after giving birth. In Ethiopia, the project is validating use of the cup through a hospital-based study, which is providing evidence that will influence future use of this innovative product across sub-Saharan Africa.

of Health officials, regional health bureaus, health care providers, community-based groups, and others to strengthen Ethiopia's health system at every level while addressing urgent health priorities. Through these partnerships, we mobilize resources and reach the most vulnerable members of communities.

Through all of our work, PATH applies both novel strategies and proven solutions to improve the health and well-being of Ethiopians. By accelerating innovation, we aim to make a substantial contribution toward Ethiopia's ambitious efforts to reach health targets for 2030 that have been identified in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Funders

Key funders supporting PATH's work in Ethiopia include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; government of Canada; United Nations Office for Project Services; and US Agency for International Development.



PATH is the leader in global health innovation. An international nonprofit organization, we save lives and improve health, especially among women and children. We accelerate innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, we take innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. Together, we deliver measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health.

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THE ROAD AHEAD: ACCELERATING INNOVATION TO ACHIEVE LONG-TERM HEALTH GOALS

PATH takes an integrated, data-driven approach to improving health in Ethiopia, and partnerships are essential to our strategy. We work side by side with Federal Ministry