



PATH in  
**Tanzania**

Using innovation, integration  
of services, and better data  
systems to improve health  
and save lives



**With economic growth and improvements in health services, Tanzania has dramatically reduced maternal and child mortality and the burden of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. Much more remains to be done, however, to maximize health and well-being for all Tanzanians.**

For more than 15 years, PATH has collaborated with the government of Tanzania and other partners to improve health and save lives. Today, much of PATH's work in Tanzania focuses on improving the diagnosis and treatment of malaria and tuberculosis; enhancing child health, especially through better immunization data systems and advocacy to improve policies; and helping to strengthen disease surveillance. Key themes of our work are integrating services for greater impact, using data in new ways to improve health systems and service delivery, and building community capacity to address health challenges.

## PROJECT AND OFFICE LOCATIONS IN TANZANIA



## OTHER PROJECTS IN TANZANIA

Much of PATH's work in Tanzania now focuses on malaria, tuberculosis, immunization data systems, disease surveillance, and advocacy for child health. Other PATH work in Tanzania has included:

- Leading several projects to increase access to clean water and improve sanitation and hygiene. For example, we have conducted end-user research on household water treatment and storage devices; increased access to clean water and sanitation in coffee-growing communities; and designed an innovative outdoor hand-washing station to help reduce the spread of disease.
- Working to prevent and control cervical cancer by helping to develop national guidelines, training health workers on low-cost screening approaches and cryotherapy, and purchasing needed equipment.
- Improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health by providing life-planning skills education for youth and engaging parents, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

## MALARIA: BETTER TESTING, FASTER TREATMENT

Despite progress in controlling the disease, malaria remains a major cause of illness in Tanzania and kills 60,000 to 80,000 people each year. To further improve detection and treatment, PATH has helped Tanzania roll out use of rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), which are now the most commonly used method to detect the disease. Using a spot of blood from a finger prick, RDTs give results in minutes, and a related quality assurance system ensures that the results provide reliable guidance for treatment decisions.

Better testing is only part of PATH's work to fight malaria in Tanzania. Through the PATH-led, multicountry MalariaCare partnership, we also provide training and supervision to local providers on national guidelines to improve case management and treatment as well as diagnosis. Our MalariaCare work now covers eight regions in Tanzania, building capacity at hundreds of facilities with hundreds of doctors, pharmacists, and nurses. We work closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) and private organizations to improve care at multiple levels of the health system.

PATH is also working to build supply chains for malaria services across challenging geography and developing a tablet-based tool to provide real-time feedback on the supply challenges experienced by front-line staff. In addition, we are supporting a government study on resistance to artemisinin-based combination therapy. Together, these efforts are strengthening the system from the MOHSW all the way to individual health facilities.

## TARGETING TUBERCULOSIS

Tanzania has one of world's highest burdens of tuberculosis (TB). PATH's decade of TB work in Tanzania has given us a detailed understanding of the best ways to address the disease, and our innovations have contributed to great strides in diagnosis and treatment. Our work has included:

- Mobilizing communities to actively identify TB cases, improve case notification rates, improve treatment adherence, and integrate HIV and TB programming.
- Implementing a targeted behavior change and communication strategy for increasing awareness of TB and demand for services in the general population, as well as among high-risk populations, such as people who inject drugs, prisoners, and mine workers.



**“MalariaCare helps me save people’s lives. The training and supportive supervision [provided by PATH] increased my confidence treating malaria.”**

Anthony Mlangwa  
Clinician  
Busega district



- Developing an innovative model to integrate TB and HIV care and then training and mentoring health care workers and supervisors to manage co-infection.
- Supporting the development and implementation of national pediatric TB guidelines.
- Partnering with the central TB laboratory to increase TB surveillance and introduce higher-quality, easier-to-use tests.
- Enhancing the central Tanzanian program for managing drug-resistant TB while simultaneously supporting decentralization of care to the district level.

#### **IMPROVING IMMUNIZATION SYSTEMS THROUGH BETTER DATA**

Getting lifesaving vaccines to every child requires reliable, accessible, and usable data. Through the Better Immunization Data Initiative, PATH and our partners are working to improve immunization rates in Tanzania. Our goal is to reach a true tipping point, where Tanzania can access, analyze, and act upon accurate immunization data anytime, anywhere. In consultation with the MOHSW and health care providers at all levels, we have developed a scalable approach to evidence-based decision-making that focuses on information system products, data management policies, and the day-to-day practices of health workers.

#### **INTRODUCING USE OF BARCODES**

Barcodes have been used to automate transactions in many industries. In Tanzania, PATH has helped health care providers introduce the use of barcodes to track when and where vaccines are used, improving the management of vaccine supplies. Barcodes on children’s health records will also make checkups and immunizations easier to track.

One key component of our work is helping to build a national electronic immunization registry for all children. The system can record births on a computer, from paper records, or via SMS and then automatically generate an immunization schedule.

PATH has also partnered with the MOHSW to identify critical data-related obstacles to increasing immunization rates. Together, we are working to enable collection, reporting, and use of data all the way from front-line health workers to national program managers. To improve data reporting and accuracy, we are also setting data standards and building a data-use culture. Eventually, the data systems will improve health service delivery far beyond immunizations.



### STRENGTHENING DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

In collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other partners, PATH is working to improve global health security by strengthening surveillance systems. The goal is to help the government detect events of significance for public health, animal health, and health security while improving communication and collaboration across sectors and levels of authority. We are also enhancing country and regional capacity to analyze and link data from strengthened, real-time surveillance systems, including interoperable, interconnected electronic reporting systems.

### ADVOCATING FOR POLICIES TO REDUCE CHILD DEATHS

Although Tanzania has dramatically cut childhood mortality, nearly 10 percent of children in the poorest households still die before reaching five years of age. To further reduce mortality, PATH has worked to strengthen policies associated with the prevention and treatment of diarrheal disease and pneumonia, the leading causes of death.

By interviewing a range of experts, we have developed recommendations for the government and other stakeholders to improve care for diarrheal disease and pneumonia. These recommendations include increasing use of zinc in tandem with oral rehydration solution, identifying amoxicillin dispersible tablets as a first-line pneumonia treatment, increasing use of village health workers to improve child

health, and targeting funds for diarrhea and pneumonia commodities and programs.

### LOOKING FORWARD

For 15 years, PATH has collaborated with the government of Tanzania and other stakeholders to improve health and save lives. Through innovation, integration of health services, better use of data to guide decision-making, community-based approaches, and advocacy for needed policy changes, we have contributed to striking improvements in health outcomes. We look forward to playing an even larger role as Tanzania strives to reach new targets for health and well-being that have been identified in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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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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