

SPECIAL INITIATIVE

Nutrition Innovation

New approaches to combat malnutrition and improve health

Despite dramatically increased agricultural production and a rising standard of living in many low- and middle-income countries, malnutrition continues to hinder communities worldwide. Every year, poor nutrition contributes to the death of an estimated 3 million children, and an estimated 162 million children under five years of age will experience stunted growth—limiting both their physical and cognitive development.

PATH, a global leader in maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition, partners with communities, governments, and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to address this burden.

In 2015, we established a Nutrition Innovation Initiative (NII) to further align and expand our impact.

PATH'S NUTRITION EXPERTISE

PATH views better nutrition—combined with improvements in health care services and in water, sanitation, and hygiene—as a key pillar of improved maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition.

Our broad nutrition capacity includes relationships with government leaders and ministries of health worldwide and partnerships in more than 70 countries. We have a reputation as a trusted global convener, proven experience bringing sustainable solutions to scale, and expertise across the product development value chain, from testing and trials to commercialization and introduction.

Working with our partners, PATH's food innovations and behavior change communications bring better nutrition to more families and empower them to make healthier food choices. We help leaders integrate nutrition interventions into other health programs, including services for people living with HIV, care for women and children, immunization efforts, and work to combat noncommunicable diseases. Our advocates keep better nutrition on the global health agenda. We also help



PATH/Satvir Malhotra

communities build the information systems necessary to gather and use data to find, target, and evaluate solutions.

THE NUTRITION INNOVATION INITIATIVE

The NII is a specialized group within PATH's larger nutrition portfolio. It links PATH with leaders across regions, sectors, and disciplines to advance more solutions, even more quickly. Drawing on PATH's role as a global convener, the initiative is an idea "incubator": a hub to link nutrition solutions from within and outside of PATH.

Nutrition is affected by many health and environmental factors, including care and feeding practices, access to and use of health care services, food production and consumption patterns, urbanization, agricultural practices, climate change, and women's empowerment. More and more, effective solutions will need to reach across disciplines and sectors, including the private and public sectors, universities, environmental organizations, livestock specialists, the scientific community, and pharmaceutical and agricultural companies.

The initiative's integrated approach is imperative to achieving several of the United Nations' global Sustainable Development Goals, which challenge the world to expand our perspective on the relationship between health and nutrition, education, prosperity, women's empowerment, peace and justice, and the planet we share.

OUR FOCUS

The NII links PATH with leaders from across sectors to:

- **Develop and advance new tools and technologies** to measure and improve nutrition outcomes, increase income opportunities, and increase food safety and food security, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Strengthen the collection and use of data, analytics, and knowledge** about nutrition and how it intersects with other development sectors. This "nutrition intelligence" will help national and global leaders plan, implement, evaluate, and align efficient and effective policies and programs.
- **Strengthen the systems that bring food from producers to consumers so that systems are more effective, sustainable, efficient, and resilient.** This includes identifying or protecting agricultural practices or food sources that can close nutritional gaps.
- **Develop and strengthen partnerships across disciplines and sectors** so that nutrition solutions are holistic, effective, and build on the best information and expertise possible.

OUR PROJECTS

To date, key NII projects have aligned expertise to break through long-standing barriers to nutrition and help families worldwide to thrive.

Advancing vaccines, diagnostics, and devices to unlock nutrition

An affordable, easy-to-use test, developed and advanced by PATH and private-sector partners, can flag micronutrient deficiencies without a blood draw. By making it easier, safer, and less expensive to diagnose deficiencies among children and adults, it has the potential to dramatically

improve monitoring, evaluating, and targeting program interventions.

We are also advancing new tools to help health workers measure, store, and monitor children's nutritional status. The tools will help workers flag malnutrition in individual children and allow leaders to spot and address trends in regions and communities.

Protecting livestock and the people who rely on them

We are also focusing on vaccines and diagnostics to protect the livestock families rely on for food and income. For instance, we are advancing a more versatile formulation of a vaccine against Newcastle disease, which can devastate chicken flocks, ruining communities' chances to thrive.

Supporting traditional foods and practices

With communities, we are also revisiting the value of traditional foods—including fruits and vegetables, fermented foods, and animal source foods that have a low environmental footprint, such as poultry, eggs, and edible insects—to improve nutrition. For example, in Ghana, we are working with partners to help women raise protein- and nutrient-rich *akokono* (palm weevil larvae) as a source of nutrition and income.

Aligning expertise to propel our work further

PATH is working with experts from across disciplines to leverage expertise and increase our collective impact. Through a unique partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Duke University, and the International Food Policy Research Institute, for example, we are engaging researchers from across the globe to dismantle barriers between global health, development, and conservation organizations. Together, we can work to solve complex and interconnected challenges.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DISCUSS COLLABORATING WITH PATH

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www.path.org

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. Learn more at www.path.org.

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