

Immunization Matters

News from PATH on vaccine uptake and access



A shot of hope: How the malaria vaccine is helping to change lives in Kenya

In Homabay County, Kenya, the government's work against malaria [has become a game changer](#) in the nation's fight against the disease. With support from PATH and other partners, Kenya has rolled out several interventions against malaria, including bed nets, indoor residual spraying, preventive medicine for expecting mothers, and the malaria vaccine. The Kenyan government teamed up with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, PATH, and other partners to introduce the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine in 2019 as part of a pilot program. Homabay County Immunization Services Coordinator, Christine Ong'ete, reports that in five years, overall malaria infection rates in the county dropped from 27 percent to 3.6 percent. Of the county's 1.2 million residents, this means more than 32,000 fewer cases of severe malaria requiring hospitalization, less financial strain on families, and a boost in productivity. Today, two malaria vaccines, RTS,S and R21/Matrix-M, are available for countries across sub-Saharan Africa. As of May 2025, 20 countries, including Kenya, were providing malaria vaccines through their routine immunization systems.

Kenya introduces typhoid conjugate vaccine

Also in Kenya, the government [introduced typhoid conjugate vaccine](#) (TCV) into its routine immunization program in early July, starting with a 10-day integrated campaign that aimed to vaccinate more than 21 million children aged 9 months to 15 years. The TCV campaign also provided measles-rubella vaccine to eligible children 9 months to 5 years old as part of Kenya's Big Catch-up strategy to reach children who missed this routine vaccination following the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the campaign, TCV will be available for all children at their routine 9-month vaccination visit. Kenya is the seventh country to introduce TCV, joining Burkina Faso, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe in taking this key step forward to protect children from typhoid.

PATH, as part of the [Typhoid Vaccine Acceleration Consortium](#), partnered with Kenya's Expanded Programme on Immunization, WHO, and other partners throughout Kenya's TCV decision-making and introduction process. [PATH supported](#) Kenya's decision-making process and assisted with the application for Gavi support. PATH continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Health and other partners to support TCV planning for the campaign, particularly with advocacy, communications, and social mobilization activities.

WHO's first position paper on RSV offers key recommendations for protecting infants

PATH commends WHO's first-ever [position paper on respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#), [recently published](#) in the *Weekly Epidemiological Record*. It outlines WHO's global recommendations for preventing the number one cause of severe respiratory illness and hospitalizations among infants and young children worldwide. Recommended tools for preventing RSV disease in infants include a [WHO prequalified](#) maternal vaccine (RSVpreF) or a long-acting monoclonal antibody (mAb; nirsevimab). WHO recommends maternal RSV vaccination during the third trimester of pregnancy, as defined in the local context (≥ 28 weeks gestation in most settings). A single dose of the mAb is recommended to be given to an infant at birth or at the earliest opportunity thereafter for year-round approaches, or shortly before the infant's first RSV season for seasonal approaches. Overall, the recommendations are an important step toward expanding access to RSV disease prevention, keeping infants out of hospitals, saving lives, and freeing limited resources for other health priorities.

Learn more about RSV disease prevention via the [RSV Roadshow Communications Toolkit](#) developed by WHO, PATH, and other experts, as well as a recent [webinar series](#) hosted by WHO, PATH, and ReSViNET Foundation.

The global impact of rotavirus vaccines

In April, PATH's Defeat Diarrheal Disease ([DefeatDD](#)) Initiative published a [new resource](#) on the impact of rotavirus vaccines at the global and national level. The report collates the available data on rotavirus vaccines into one resource and breaks down the effects of vaccine introduction, from averting thousands of deaths to lowering hospitalization rates and saving millions of dollars in treatment costs. DefeatDD also published [a blog](#) summarizing the takeaways from the report.

Before rotavirus vaccines became available, the disease claimed half a million lives each year, and nearly every child had been infected before their fifth birthday. In 2009, WHO recommended that rotavirus vaccines be included in all national immunization programs—and in the decades since, they have saved well over 100,000 lives.

PATH project to strengthen global HPV vaccine access ends on a high note

PATH's [HPV Vaccine Safety, Immunogenicity, and Health Economics \(HPV SIHE\) project](#), designed to increase global human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine availability and help overcome the most common barriers to access that low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face, has come to a close after five years. It leaves behind a long list of successes—including [data supporting bivalent HPV vaccine Cecolin[®]'s use](#) in LMICs and in flexible dosing schedules, WHO [endorsement of the vaccine for single-dose use](#), and a robust [portfolio of health economic analyses and tools](#) that can help country leaders make decisions about vaccination programs and vaccine products.

HPV causes more than 95 percent of cervical cancer cases worldwide, with the overwhelming majority of related deaths occurring in LMICs. HPV vaccines are highly effective at preventing infection and have been available on the global market since 2006; nevertheless, global HPV vaccine introduction has historically been slow worldwide due to affordability challenges, competing health priorities, global supply constraints, uncertain

programmatic feasibility, and more. The WHO has called on countries to accelerate HPV vaccine uptake and, by the year 2030, fully vaccinate 90 percent of girls against HPV by age 15. Efforts like PATH's HPV SIHE project are crucial to making that goal a reality.

Study launched to assess single-dose performance of a newly licensed nine-valent HPV vaccine

In late May, Cecolin[®]9, the first vaccine produced in China that protects against nine types of HPV, received licensure. PATH supported Xiamen Innovax Biotech Co. Ltd., the manufacturer of Cecolin 9, to strengthen processes, systems, and facility design prior to licensure. PATH previously provided [manufacturing support](#) to Innovax for their [bivalent HPV vaccine, Cecolin](#), which received WHO prequalification in 2021. PATH also generated clinical data supporting the use of Cecolin on a single-dose schedule, which received a [recommendation from WHO in 2024](#).

PATH is sponsoring a [Phase 3 study](#) to assess safety and immunogenicity of Cecolin 9 on a single-dose schedule, compared to GARDASIL[®]9. GARDASIL 9 is currently the only WHO-prequalified HPV vaccine that protects against nine types of HPV associated with cancer or with genital warts, and data from this study will inform the use of Cecolin 9 as another nine-valent product option available for use with a single-dose schedule. The study completed enrollment at sites in the Philippines (in January) and Ghana (in June).

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

New and updated resources

[A deadly disease for infants has no vaccine—we're changing that](#) web article

[Evidence to inform decision-making on single-dose HPV vaccination](#) brief

[GBS vaccine clinical trial tracker](#)

[GBS vaccine snapshot](#)

[Humanly possible: The people making vaccine introductions a reality](#) web article

[Presentations on single dose HPV vaccination](#) slide decks

[RSV clinical trial tracker](#)

[RSV vaccine and mAb snapshot](#)

[Surprising research results drive progress in malaria prevention](#) web article

[Typhoid vaccine: A game changer for Kenya's children](#) web article

[The vaccine champion fighting typhoid and HPV](#) web article

CVIA at upcoming events

[International Rotavirus Symposium](#)

September 30 to October 2

Cape Town, South Africa

[International Papillomavirus Conference](#)

October 23 to 26

Bangkok, Thailand

[American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene's Annual Meeting](#)

November 9 to 13

Toronto, Canada

CVIA job opportunities

[Senior Research and Development Officer Vaccine and Drug Formulation](#) (USA)

PATH's [Center for Vaccine Innovation and Access](#) brings together our expertise across every stage of the long and complex process of vaccine research, development, and delivery to make lifesaving vaccines widely available to children and communities across the world.

SUBSCRIBE

[***Immunization Matters***](#)

provides updates on vaccine uptake and access.

[***Moving the Needle***](#) provides

updates on vaccine development.

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