

## Improving Maternal and Child Health

PATH applies effective, innovative approaches in order to broaden access to and use of key maternal and child health interventions that address the most pressing causes of maternal and child deaths, poor health, and poor nutritional status. We test, evaluate, and provide technical assistance and support to introduce and scale up innovative solutions in developing countries. We disseminate evidence on the viability, acceptability, and impact of these solutions as potential models for broadening access to these same or similar interventions elsewhere.

### Our approach

PATH's contributions to the field of maternal and child health and nutrition have historically been broad and wide reaching. Our projects and staff expertise reflect the diversity of our portfolio. PATH's work in maternal and child health and nutrition focuses on the following key areas:

- Maternal and neonatal health.
- Child survival.
- Nutrition.
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and care of affected families.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

For example, PATH leads the Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative (POPHI), a global USAID-supported effort to expand the use of an effective, evidence-based intervention—active management of the third stage of labor—in facilities and communities. PATH has developed and implemented comprehensive maternal and newborn care programming and system strengthening throughout the world.

We are also responsible for the neonatal component of USAID's large flagship project on child survival, Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival (BASICS). PATH strengthens the delivery of comprehensive PMTCT services and provides additional support to strengthen specific components, such as infant feeding, nutrition care for HIV-positive persons and affected family members, peer support, and community outreach.

Within each of our key areas, PATH applies our core competencies of:

### Communication for social change

PATH's communication for social change approach is geared towards increasing access to and the quality of key maternal, child, and neonatal health and nutrition care—from health services, from community resources, and from the family at home. Some of our major innovations in this area are in:

- Birth preparedness and complication readiness planning.
- Improving maternal and child care-seeking behaviors.
- Reducing delays in treating newborn and obstetric emergencies.
- Improving household home care practices such as clean deliveries and early and exclusive breastfeeding.

PATH's active support to White Ribbon Alliances in India, Indonesia, and Vietnam has helped strengthen community action and capacity to address maternal mortality. By mobilizing influential community members, organizations, and decision-makers, we catalyze community action and investment in activities that lead to large-scale progress and sustained impact.



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**PATH improves  
the health of people  
around the world by  
advancing technologies,  
strengthening systems,  
and encouraging  
healthy behaviors.**

## **Health technology development, commercialization, and introduction**

PATH has developed, tested, commercialized, introduced, and scaled up the use of numerous appropriate and effective health technologies in resource-poor settings, including oxytocin, gentamicin, or tetanus toxoid in the Uniject™ Prefill Injection Device; birth preparedness and complication readiness plans; the Ultra Rice® technology; BIRTHweigh™ scale; single-use clean delivery kits; RBP/EIA diagnostic for vitamin A; vaccine safety devices; oral rehydration salts; diagnostic strips for detecting protein in the urine of pregnant women; and single infant-dose packaging of nevirapine. PATH builds commercial and public-private partnerships to develop effective and sustainable supplies of these technologies. We work closely with international agencies, governments, and other local stakeholders to strengthen and nurture political support and to create supportive legal, regulatory, and service delivery environments to improve access to these life-saving technologies.

## **Integration of innovative technology and behavioral interventions to support the strengthening of health systems**

PATH's technical approach is to strengthen and improve linkages among three mutually reinforcing and complementary areas:

- The community—to enhance access.
- Health services and providers—to improve quality and use of services.
- Foundations—to create and sustain an enabling environment.

PATH has extensive experience in:

- Improving provider practice and counseling skills.
- Improving the quality of antenatal, delivery, and postpartum care at facilities and home births.
- Improving health information systems.
- Improving referral and communications systems between different levels of the health system and the home (especially for obstetric and neonatal emergencies).
- Improving foundations for basic midwifery and neonatal care systems.
- Mobilizing community support and resources for action.

PATH has a strong reputation in health information systems that strengthen local management. Our community-level capacity building helps to improve communities' and individuals' knowledge, trust, and use of health services. By mobilizing social and political support at all levels, we help create and sustain an enabling environment for the delivery of key interventions.

## **Forging effective collaborations with the private sector**

PATH works through alliances, networks, and partnerships with private and public organizations to achieve sustainable results. We have established and maintained productive and complex alliances with commercial entities, peer nongovernmental organizations, professional associations, pharmacists, host-country governments, donors, and international health organizations. PATH serves as a member of several alliances and networks to improve maternal and child health, including the Steering Committee of the Partnership for Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health, the Healthy Newborn Partnership, the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, Malaria in Pregnancy Working Group of Roll Back Malaria, and the Child Survival Collaborations and Resources Group.

## **About PATH**

PATH is an international, nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH's work improves global health and well-being.

For more information, please visit [www.path.org](http://www.path.org).

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