Report to our philanthropic donors
2021
Catalyst Fund

This is our most flexible and far-reaching fund that makes our most critical work possible. For the philanthropist who prioritizes equity, this fund puts resources directly in the hands of public health experts, giving them the trust and flexibility to allocate funds where they are most urgently needed. In addition to support for key projects and programs, this fund helped our teams continue to build partnerships and strengthen relationships with donors like you by sharing updates, hosting events, and promoting PATH’s work externally. We also recognize the importance of providing fair salaries and benefits to the teams who make this work possible.

Microarray patches (like the one pictured above) are a groundbreaking, needle-free technology PATH is advancing to increase access to lifesaving vaccines and other essential medicines.

Advancing needle-free drug delivery

Microarray patches (MAPs) could change the world with needle-free drug delivery that is painless and long-acting, and also easier to distribute and access (patches can be mailed and self-administered). PATH recently researched how these patches could revolutionize the delivery of lifesaving medicines, like HIV treatment and pre-exposure prophylaxis. Though large-scale use of MAPs is still years away, the experts at our Center of Excellence for Microarray Patch Technology are laying the groundwork now by identifying high-potential areas for MAPs products and working with partners to advance them.

Preparing the world for “superbugs”

Antimicrobial resistance renders antibiotics powerless against pathogens and creates “superbugs” that can cause severe illness and death. Right now, PATH is working to strengthen surveillance systems for antimicrobial resistant pathogens in Kenya, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. In 2021 in Tanzania, PATH worked closely with four designated hospitals to increase testing capacity for AMR.

The hospitals were able to test more than 2,000 bacterial isolates against common antibacterial agents used for clinical treatment, more than doubling their testing capacity from the same period in 2020. Through the tests, the labs discovered that of the two most common pathogens isolated (S. aureus and E. coli), about 50 percent were resistant to commonly prescribed antibiotics. This knowledge will help to inform prescription practices in the hospitals and across the health system.

India Health and Science Fund

PATH has been strengthening public health in India for more than four decades and, for the last several years we’ve had a dedicated team there improving access to medical oxygen. In 2021, PATH established this fund to channel the overwhelming international support we received to replicate that work across more states, and accelerate the scale-up of medical oxygen across India.

Procuring oxygen supplies during India’s COVID-19 crisis

During the Delta variant’s worst waves in India, COVID-19 patients desperately needed medical oxygen, but this lifesaving treatment was in short supply. PATH teams worked with governments and health centers to navigate weakened supply chains, install oxygen generators at hospitals, and strengthen oxygen infrastructure for the future. In total, PATH has helped set up more than 1,500 oxygen generators across 20 states, trained more than 6,000 health workers, and provided technical assistance to more than 700 health care facilities.

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COVID-19 Fund

This is our fund to support COVID-19 response and post-COVID-19 recovery. Philanthropic gifts to this fund have given us the freedom to respond when and where communities and countries have needed us most, and to advance promising new interventions like more affordable COVID-19 vaccine formulations.

Accelerating the creation of new COVID-19 vaccines

Access to COVID-19 vaccines has been limited by the high cost, limited production capacity, and ultra-cold chain requirements of mRNA vaccines. Advisors from PATH’s Center for Vaccine Innovation and Access lent their networks and expertise to accelerate the development of NDV–HXP-S, a novel, affordable, COVID-19 vaccine candidate that can be manufactured in flu vaccine facilities using chicken eggs. Now that early-phase clinical trials are wrapping up in Thailand, Vietnam, and Brazil, each country’s regulatory authority will decide whether to approve late-stage clinical trials and, ultimately, pursue WHO prequalification, manufacturing, and distribution.

Advancing on the COVAX Facility

As the world raced to create, manufacture, and distribute COVID-19 vaccines, PATH aided the global response by providing expertise to the design and operationalization of the COVAX Facility: a global mechanism for distributing donated COVID-19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries. More than 910 million doses were shared through COVAX in 2021.

With funding from PATH’s many philanthropic donors, as well as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, Google.org, Packard Foundation, USAID, Citi Foundation, the World Bank, and Kaiser Permanente, PATH scaled up its oxygen work from 3 to 20 states across India and installed oxygen generators like the one shown above.

Your generosity gives our scientists and public health experts the flexibility they need to respond to urgent crises like COVID-19 and strengthen the world’s health systems for the long term.

NIKOLAJ GILBERT
President and CEO

ON THE COVER: A midwife conducts general health checks for expectant mothers at the maternity clinic in Mpigi Town, Uganda. When COVID-19 arrived in the country, philanthropic donations made it possible for PATH to help the government leverage local media and disseminate safety information about the disease.

Photo: PATH/Willi Boase
Five ways philanthropic gifts powered COVID-19 response in Ethiopia and Uganda

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, extensive, complex, and urgent public health needs outweighed available resources. PATH leaders in our Africa offices fielded concerns from partner governments about the increasing need for COVID-19 response, from diagnostics and surveillance to contact tracing and strategic coordination.

"With COVID-19, we didn't have time to follow the traditional process of applying for grants and waiting for a response, especially without any guarantee of funds," says Douglas Waudo, PATH Regional Advocacy, Communications, and Media Officer for Eastern & Southern Africa. "Thankfully, PATH’s donors provide flexible funds that we are able to allocate to unexpected and urgent needs. These funds were critical to our COVID-19 response management, leadership, and governance activities."

This important resource is made possible by philanthropic supporters who trust PATH to use donations where they are needed most. Thanks to their generosity, PATH was able to support COVID-19 response in Ethiopia and Uganda in five key ways:

1. **Training health care workers**

The government of Ethiopia implemented various prevention and control efforts at the start of the pandemic, but gaps remained in the country’s COVID-19 emergency response. For instance, many health care workers were undertrained in infection prevention and control.

PATH worked with the country’s national emergency operations center and the Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau to provide the necessary training for health care workers. PATH supported efforts to integrate COVID-19 infection prevention and control content into existing health program trainings on maternal and child health, early childhood development, and immunization, among others.

2. **Preventing and controlling infections**

Many health facilities in Ethiopia lacked adequate personal protective equipment and other supplies for infection prevention and control. Additionally, many health facilities were not up to date with safety practices for infectious diseases. With support from PATH, the emergency operations center helped procure the appropriate equipment and implement safety practices. This included optimizing space for triage, ensuring compliance with isolation procedures, and strengthening and supporting health care workers.

3. **Educating and raising awareness**

Misinformation and lack of awareness were major obstacles in Ethiopia’s COVID-19 response, especially at the beginning of the pandemic. To combat misinformation and strengthen public health messaging, PATH helped create and distribute 500 posters and 3,000 brochures conveying key COVID-19 information in local languages. In addition, PATH held community orientations on COVID-19 safety at select schools in Addis Ababa.

4. **Leveraging media to enhance COVID-19 safety**

In Uganda, PATH partnered with the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), which oversees health service provision in the capital, to promote good practices around COVID-19.

As part of these efforts, local policymakers leveraged national media outlets to bring effective public health messaging directly to communities.

In June 2021, PATH and the KCCA planned media engagements at NTV and NBS—two leading Ugandan television stations—featuring two public health officials from KCCA. On local talk shows, the experts discussed COVID-19 public safety and risk information, prevention strategies, and treatment options for those infected with COVID-19.

5. **Reaching more people with social media**

Following the national talk show appearances, PATH’s media partners launched social media campaigns to continue disseminating the public health messaging. The campaigns were highly effective, reaching more than 61,000 Ugandans through Facebook alone. YouTube campaigns were shared widely—reaching more than 17,000 viewers.