

# Women's and Family Health

Advancing integrated life-course care for women and their families



## The need

Women's health and well-being are the cornerstone of family health, yet women remain chronically underserved, driven by fragmented health systems, misaligned policies, underinvestment in women-centered research, and limited access to lifesaving services and products. Women spend 25 percent more time in poor health than men—about nine years in their lifetime—amounting to a global burden of 75 million disability-adjusted life years.<sup>a</sup> Global progress in reducing newborn and child mortality has stalled since 2015, despite under-five deaths falling to 4.8 million in 2023 with nearly half occurring in the first month of life.<sup>b</sup> [Investing in women's and family health](#) and the systems that serve them leads to transformative gains—resulting in not only healthier newborns and children, but more resilient communities and economies.

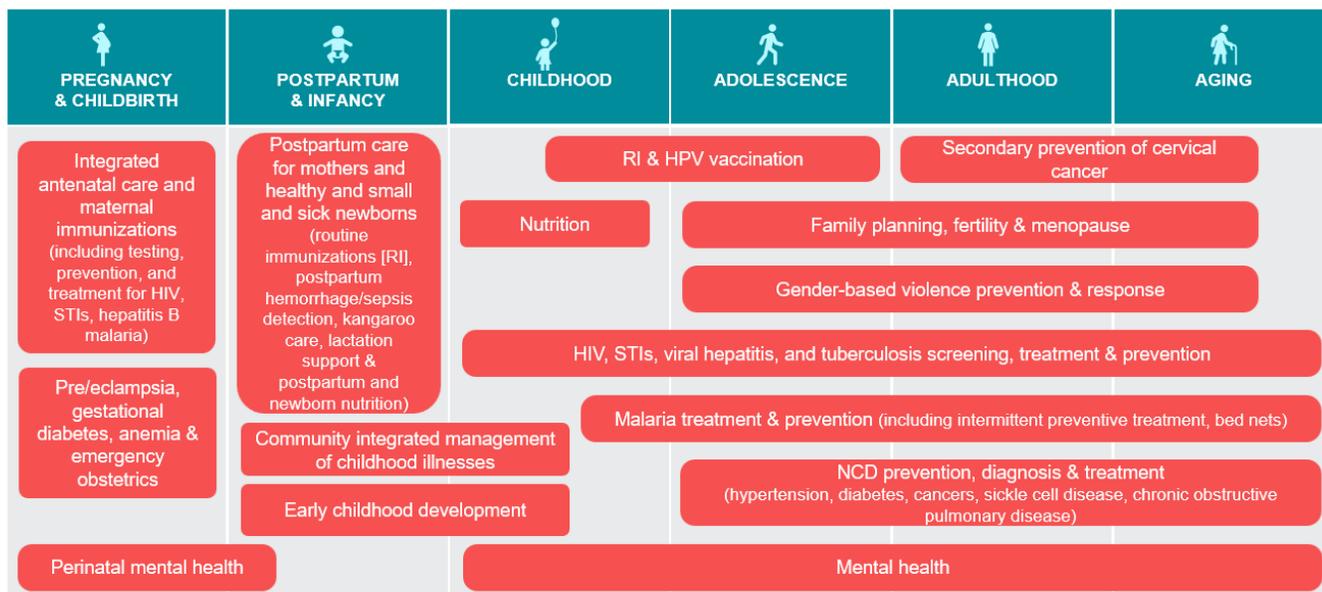
## Our approach

Women's and family health is central to advancing health equity and a pillar of our [Primary Health Care](#) (PHC) program, which accelerates access to tailored life-course-based services while strengthening the foundational systems that enable integrated care. PHC is key to early detection, prevention, and management of health conditions and health promotion.

**PATH advances health equity for women and their families** in all their diversity by increasing access to high-quality products and services that prioritize dignity, informed choice, and autonomy, while partnering with countries to advance [integrated health systems](#). We co-design and introduce user-led innovations, promote evidence-based policies, lead research to generate learnings to close critical gaps, and sustainably scale proven models and products.

**PATH applies a life-course-driven approach**, aligning care to holistically address the evolving needs of women and families from infancy through adulthood (Figure 1). We strengthen linkages across health areas to improve quality and expand opportunities for coordinated women- and family-centered care. Our initiatives provide practical tools and tailored approaches that respond to people's needs and preferences at every stage of life.

**Figure 1: PATH's life-course driven approach to women's and family health.**



## Our offer

**PATH is a total-service partner to governments, with end-to-end expertise** in co-designing, bringing to market, delivering, and scaling affordable, effective, and locally contextualized health products and service innovations for women and their families. We work to **strengthen policies and financing to improve women's health**, operating at the nexus of technical and political decision-making while providing demand-driven, context-specific insights for policy development, implementation planning, and expansion. PATH also **drives evidence generation and dissemination**, leading research on product and service innovations to equip public health stakeholders with key evidence to make informed decisions.

<sup>a</sup> [Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \\$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies, 2024. McKinsey Health Institute](#)

<sup>b</sup> [Improving maternal and newborn health and survival and reducing stillbirth: progress report 2023. World Health Organization](#)

## Our portfolio

Our portfolio demonstrates PATH's expertise across the life course and sectors:

**Ante- and postnatal care (ANC/PNC):** Through [SAFEStart+](#), PATH is leading programming across 19 countries to accelerate integrated delivery via ANC/PNC to eliminate vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B, Chagas disease, and mpox. Our [Integrated ANC project](#) in Ghana bundled screening and treatment for multiple health conditions—including sexually transmitted infections (STIs), bacterial infection, anemia and pre-eclampsia—into ANC platforms, enhancing provider capacity, increasing community engagement, and strengthening inter-facility linkages to enhance care. Our [maternal immunization](#) work also streamlines delivery of maternal vaccines through an optimized ANC platform.



A nurse at a mother-baby care point in Uganda delivers a hepatitis B birth dose vaccination Credit: PATH/Khalid Alli.

**Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH):** PATH and partners developed the [uterine balloon tamponade](#), a low-cost, rapidly deployable medical device designed to treat postpartum hemorrhage. Costing only US Dollars \$7, the device is now registered in more than 25 countries with more than 40,000 units in use. Our work also includes the development of heat stable, needle-free, [sublingual oxytocin](#) to treat PPH, reducing barriers to life-saving care.

**Maternal lactation and newborn nutrition:** PATH developed, tested, and refined the [Mother-Baby Friendly Initiative Plus \(MBFI+\)](#) as a holistic model for providing optimal maternal lactation, newborn feeding, maternal mental health, and enhanced follow-up care for mothers and their small, vulnerable newborns. With ministries of health and partners, we are establishing regional learning platforms to expand MBFI+ as an optimized post-delivery care model to transform newborn care.

**Early childhood development (ECD):** PATH has advanced ECD across Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Zambia, training more than 3,300 health care workers with accompanying policy initiatives. We have developed guidance with WHO to strengthen the enabling environment for nurturing care and serve as the host of the global [Early Childhood Development Action Network \(ECDAN\)](#).

**Contraception:** PATH has provided technical assistance to more than 45 countries to introduce and scale DMPA-SC contraception—including for self-injection. PATH developed DMPA-SC's injection system (Uniject™), drives commercialization, generates evidence for policy change to enable self-injection, and documented more than 3 million visits for self-injection in 2025.

**Cancer screening, prevention, and treatment:** PATH has expanded the human papillomavirus (HPV) prevention landscape—advancing clinical trials, assisting vaccine manufacturers with licensures and World Health Organization (WHO) prequalification, leading cost-effectiveness assessments, and using planning tools like the [HPV vaccine product choice calculator](#). PATH has introduced innovative facility and community-based cervical cancer screening and treatment across multiple countries, while also strengthening [breast cancer services](#) across Ghana, Peru, Rwanda, and Ukraine.

**Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and aging:** Through PHC integrated NCD initiatives across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, PATH is reaching more than 3 million women vulnerable to and living with cardiometabolic diseases through early screening, prevention, and treatment programs delivered close to home and through both health workers and non-traditional community providers.

**Integrating digital innovations:** PATH is fast-tracking research and implementation science to integrate digital health innovations—such as [portable point-of-care ultrasound and heart rate monitors](#)—into maternal obstetric care, gynecology, and breast cancer services, offering the potential to significantly improve access to timely care and treatment for women.

**Data for action:** PATH's [Asset Tracker](#) analyzed barriers and enablers and tracked scale-up status of 22 proven maternal, newborn, and child health interventions. PATH's support to the Demographic and Health Surveys Program promoted innovative biomarker data collection to identify gaps, guide investment, and monitor global progress toward better health. We also evaluated methods for conventional hemoglobin measurement and innovative non-invasive hemoglobin monitors to support high quality anemia data collection.



PATH is a global nonprofit dedicated to achieving health equity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multisector partnerships, and with expertise in science, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales up innovative solutions to the world's most pressing health challenges.

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