

## Preventing malaria and saving lives

### A voice from Zambia

*Fighting a preventable disease is a daily challenge for Dr. Chilandu Mukuka, who has watched malaria take its toll on children throughout her country. As deputy coordinator of the National Malaria Control Center of Zambia, she is helping Zambians gain access to crucial interventions like mosquito nets, insecticide, and medication for preventing and treating malaria. The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) at PATH is playing an important part in these efforts. Driving these initiatives is the knowledge that malaria deaths in Zambia could be reduced by half in just three years if these tools were widely available.*

*In May 2007, Dr. Mukuka joined us for PATH's annual Breakfast for Global Health to describe the devastation caused by malaria and talk about her nation's hope and determination to prevent this disease. Here is an excerpt from her speech.*

### A mother and sister lost

Malaria is a part of life in Zambia, but it should not be. Malaria is endemic in our country, so there is no family that has been spared, including mine. My mother died in 1991, within hours of first showing symptoms. She was only 56 years old. She was a nurse. Then, in 1999, my 30-year-old sister died of



PATH/Paul Lihiszowski

The Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) and Zambia have already distributed nearly four million insecticide-treated mosquito nets—a simple intervention with powerful potential to decrease malaria-related deaths.

severe malaria, leaving three children. I have taken on raising the youngest, my niece, to this day.

These are vivid memories for me, and particularly painful because this disease is preventable. These two should both be here today to witness the progress Zambia has made. They should not have died.

### The growing cost to a nation

Besides the terrible personal toll, malaria also places a serious financial burden on families. An adult sick with malaria cannot earn a living, and on top of that, families spend about a quarter of their income on medicine or hospitalization for malaria.

Malaria can also devastate whole economies. Nationally, the Zambian government figures that some 40 percent of its health budget goes to

treating malaria. Even so, just three years ago, we had few bednets in people's houses, very little spraying to protect people in their homes, and nothing in the way of a national campaign to prevent this disease, only

*Continued inside*

### PATH's dual approach to fighting malaria

PATH believes malaria can be overcome, and we're working to find solutions for today *and* for the future: putting in place malaria control measures (like insecticide-treated bednets) that will save lives now and leading the development of a vaccine that will one day protect every child at risk. For more on PATH's work in malaria, visit [www.path.org](http://www.path.org).

DEAR FRIENDS,

Every year we welcome new members to our board of directors—a source of fresh inspiration and new ideas. These public health, community, and business leaders offer energy and expertise, helping PATH achieve its vision strategically and effectively. We enjoy the added benefit of their real-world perspective, since many are from the countries we serve.



Our two newest board members offer valuable new insight. Alex Chika Ezeh, PhD, MSc, is the executive director of the African Population and Health Research Center in Kenya; George Gotsadze, MD, PhD, from the Republic of Georgia, is the director of the Curatio International Foundation,

which focuses on reforming health systems in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

We also are honored to welcome Vera Cordeiro, MD, to the position of board chair. Dr. Cordeiro comes to us from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she is founder and CEO of Renascer, a nonprofit organization working with one of the city's largest public hospitals to break cycles of poverty, illness, and death by improving families' well-being and economic self-sufficiency.

We hope that those of you who joined us for the Breakfast for Global Health had the opportunity to meet these amazing champions and share in their enthusiasm. You and our board members are among the most vital contributors to our work, and we are grateful for your support.

Christopher J. Elias, MD, MPH  
President

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a silent acceptance of the illness, waiting and treating patients when—or if—they made it to hospitals....

You can see that people in my country had little chance to protect themselves from malaria. And so continued the cycle of sickness and poverty in families and communities all over the country.

### The promise found in partnership

In 2005, with PATH and many other partners, we launched an ambitious six-year plan to tackle the disease: the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa, or MACEPA... Where just a couple of years ago, we only had about 14,000 bednets in people's hands, this year, more than three million bednets will be distributed.

We are saving lives now. Our fight against malaria is making



Dr. Chilandu Mukuka spoke about new hope for her country in the fight against malaria.

Kerry Dahlen

strides but we have far to go. The government of Zambia has made a commitment to rapid and nationwide malaria control and prevention. We know the world is watching this bold effort, and we welcome the spotlight.

### Solutions within reach

PATH's support is central to our success. PATH has been working

shoulder-to-shoulder with the Ministry of Health's national malaria control program and all our other partners to ensure that our collective goals are sound, that progress is accurately measured, and that results are achieved.

We are determined that accepting malaria as a way of life—and death—in Zambia must change. And it is within our power to make that change. Together we can make a difference—and bring health within reach of everyone, no matter where they happen to live. ●

## PATH's magnet theater efforts recognized in Africa

In the last issue, we told you about magnet theater—interactive street theater that engages audiences and encourages dialogue to help prevent HIV. PATH recently received an award for this pioneering intervention from the African Network for Strategic Communication in Health and Development (AfriComNet). At a ceremony to celebrate excellence in HIV and AIDS communication in Africa, the group highlighted initiatives to adapt magnet theater for use in countries outside of Kenya, where it was first developed by PATH. ●



Wendy Stone



## PATH Journeys takes flight

Ever wanted to watch the world change—in person? Join us January 12 through 24, 2008, for the first PATH Journeys tour, a rare opportunity to witness the real hope of a healthier world. The inaugural trip will take you to areas in Thailand and Cambodia few tourists ever see. You'll have the opportunity to explore the local culture and meet the people who are affected by the work you support—in the expert company of PATH's president and others. You'll also tour the famous street markets of Bangkok and the extravagant temples of Angkor Wat. For more information about registration and upcoming tours, please visit [www.path.org/path\\_journeys.php](http://www.path.org/path_journeys.php).



Gordon Perkin

## Global Impact: a unique option for workplace giving

PATH's membership in Global Impact allows you to support our work through your fall workplace-giving campaign. Global Impact is one of the most successful and trusted organizations in international philanthropy, providing a reliable, convenient, and effective way to support PATH through payroll deductions.

## Historic protection for Asia's children



PATH/Julie Jacobson

Last year, 11 million Indian children lined the halls of village clinics, schools, and community centers, waiting for a shot that would protect them against Japanese encephalitis, or "brain fever." This summer, the vaccination campaign reached another 20 million children—that's more than 30 million protected since PATH began working to bring Japanese encephalitis into the international spotlight.

Please join us in celebrating this success! Flexible funding, which comes from individuals like you, helped us uncover the extent of Japanese encephalitis in Asia and the Pacific. Visit our website to learn more and view a slideshow of inspiring photography from these campaigns.

## Breakfast for Global Health helps raise \$760,000

Thank you to everyone who attended our Breakfast for Global Health in Seattle in May. The Breakfast for Global Health gathers support for PATH's Catalyst Fund—our source of "innovation capital," the seed money that allows us to explore new solutions to global health problems. A record amount—more than \$760,000—was committed to the Fund at this year's event. We're grateful for this stunning commitment to our work, which also allowed us to meet a \$225,000 challenge from PATH's Leadership Council and other friends of the organization. ●

## PATH'S MISSION

*is to improve  
the health of people  
around the world by  
advancing technologies,  
strengthening systems,  
and encouraging  
healthy behaviors.*



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### Making history with a simple, significant act

PATH donor Erick Rabins believes that we live in one of the defining moments for which a generation is remembered—a moment when efforts are coming together to dramatically improve global health. “I want everyone to realize their potential to affect the future—how actions today have immense impact on how we’ll be remembered tomorrow,” says Rabins. He and his wife, Marta, are doing their part through a bequest to PATH.

### A personal gift with worldwide impact

“Imagine the great things that could happen with the windfall of your life’s efforts,” he notes when asked why he and Marta included a bequest to PATH in their wills. Rabins was inspired to give to PATH by his family. “I love my children just as much as a parent in

Africa whose child is suffering from malaria does,” he says. “The pain and grief that a parent in the developing world would feel if they lost a child is the same grief I would feel. Those families deserve the opportunity for good health.”

One might think 40-something Rabins is too young to think about his will—but this vice president with Allied Minds, Inc., is determined to see today’s advancements in science reach the broadest number of people. “The great products being developed today aren’t going to make it to developing countries unless places like PATH are around to make sure that happens.”

### Tomorrow comes sooner than you expect

By supporting PATH Futures, a circle of individuals making a commitment to global health equity through bequests to PATH’s endowment fund,



“My hope is that 50 years from now, we are the generation remembered for the cure for malaria—not a ringtone or a wrinkle cream,” says PATH donor Erick Rabins, pictured here with his wife, Marta, and their children, Nina and Lucas.

Rabins is making sure his generation leaves a mark on history. “My hope is that 50 years from now, we are the generation remembered for the cure for malaria—not a ringtone or a wrinkle cream.”

To learn more about PATH Futures, contact Jan Jacobs at 206.788.2492. ●

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