

Golden truth from the silver screen

MORE THAN 700 VILLAGERS CROWD around an old television propped up in the back of a truck parked in the middle of the road. The farming families of Prey Veng Province, Cambodia, have gathered to watch *No Home Too Far*. PATH produced this professional, feature-length film with flexible funds from individual donors as a way to inform potential migrants and their families about the risks they face when they travel the region in search of work.

The film is one way PATH helps prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS in Cambodia and Thailand. HIV rates are high in these countries, in part due to the movement of migrant workers within Asia, which is second only to Africa in number of reported HIV cases. PATH's pioneering approach encourages healthy behaviors in the migrant communities in Thailand as well as in the Cambodian villages that send loved ones across the border.

Reflections on reality

"Watch! It's true! It was just like that! I won't go back again," one Cambodian villager exclaims to the audience. In the movie, a young man's family sells their pigs to pay for his passage to Thailand. They hope he finds work there—and can earn enough money to improve the family's lot.



David Hipgrave

Many Cambodians leave their families behind and migrate to Thailand in search of higher wages. PATH produced a feature-length film about the risks they face.

Chet endures the journey to a fishing village in Thailand, where he encounters dangerous working conditions, discrimination, homesickness, illness, and new temptations, such as drinking and prostitution. Left behind in Cambodia, Chet's wife copes with her first pregnancy alone.

As the villager's comments suggest, the movie reflects real life. In some cases, it supplies the only information available to potential migrants, apart from what they receive from paid agents who help them cross the border and who may not have their best interest at heart.

The movie isn't meant to stop people from migrating, but to give them the information they need to protect themselves and make good decisions. One man said that, although he paid

his agent and planned to leave in the morning, the movie helped him decide not to go. Others choose to go, and they travel with a new awareness of the risks they face.

Connections across borders

For communities of Cambodians already in Thailand the film dispels myths about HIV and clearly demonstrates the effects of choices they make every day. It also reminds migrant workers of home and the loved ones awaiting their return. That's important, says Pawana Wienrawee, PATH's technical director in Thailand, because "the more cut off migrants are from their home village, the more likely they are to fall into bad habits." Many of the migrants are young, away from home for the first time, and very susceptible to peer pressure in the absence of family or social support.

DEAR FRIENDS,

One of the main challenges facing the field of global health is making sure science benefits people the world over. Scientific breakthroughs have led to longer lives and better quality of life for industrialized nations—while HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria epidemics have decreased life expectancies in many poor countries.

Limited purchasing power and weak health systems create a barrier between the developing world and the benefits of scientific advancement. Breaking through this barrier takes innovation, political will, carefully allocated resources, sensitivity to culture, and local participation.

With your help, PATH pulls together the pieces and spurs effective action. We broker ideas and resources across the boundaries of traditionally separate spheres—between for-profit and nonprofit organizations, between rich and poor countries, and between the discovery and delivery of health technologies. We appreciate your continued support for this work.



Christopher J. Elias, MD, MPH
President

We heartily congratulate former PATH president Dr. Gordon Perkin on receiving the 2004 Canadian Society for International Health's Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor is much-deserved recognition for his commitment to global health and genius for innovative thinking.



Flexible funds, which typically come from individual donors, made production of *No Home Too Far* possible.

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To help migrants maintain connections to home, PATH set up a system for exchanging postcards between the Cambodia and Thailand communities, which are separated not just by distance, but by the lack of reliable mail delivery and the transience of the migrants.

Project staff in Cambodia help families write greetings on postcards that depict rural Cambodia and the message "Miss you very much; send news back!" The postcards that workers send back from Thailand show fishing boats and piers, with the message "Working for our family." Migrant workers use the postcards to assure their families that they are safe.

Entertainment that educates

The postcards and *No Home Too Far* are powerful, culturally appropriate ways of helping migrants and their families avert risk. The postcards help families stay in touch and mindful of the life they are trying to build. The movie entertains as it educates, provoking lively discussions at both ends of the migration route about the pros and cons of migration and ways people can protect themselves from HIV and AIDS.

So far, the movie has reached nearly 60,000 people through 180 showings in villages and worker communities. "Mothers, fathers, and grandparents, wives, husbands, and children—they all watch and talk about the movie," says PATH's Cambodia project officer Samith Hou. "It moves so many people." ●



Staying connected to family and community back home by exchanging postcards can help migrant workers make healthy choices.

“Adoption” strategy increases immunization in Senegal

It takes a village to immunize infants, and in Dagana, Senegal, even children in secondary school are doing their part. PATH helped the community initiate an innovative, school-based approach to increasing vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, and hepatitis B.



Jacques Daniel Ly

Secondary students are monitoring the number of vaccinations received by infants assigned to them—those they have “adopted.”

Students are monitoring the number of vaccinations received by infants assigned to them—those they have “adopted.” The students remind parents when their infants are due for vaccinations. Through this approach, students learn the importance of immunization, and lasting connections are forged between families in the community.

So far, 298 children are monitoring 1,510 infants to great effect: Dagana has the highest immunization coverage rate in Senegal. Using this innovative strategy and others, PATH helped increase vaccine coverage in northern Senegal from 51 to 91 percent for DPT3 (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus). ●

Women’s stories, women’s lives

“These people saved my life. They have not only saved the woman but they have saved the mother of a small child,” says Pratibha, a woman in India who shares her experience in *Women’s Stories, Women’s Lives*. This collection of stories, produced by PATH and our partners in the Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention (ACCP), is based on interviews with women who participated in ACCP programs. The stories highlight the importance and challenges of preventing cervical cancer in developing countries, where few women have regular access to health care and cervical cancer rates are high. Contact us for a hard copy of the publication (while supplies last), or access the electronic version from the publications area of www.path.org.



PATH began its work in cervical cancer prevention in the early 1990s by investing a small amount of flexible funds to study the burden of this disease. ●

Opportunities to engage

PATH has begun a series of lectures and seminars for PATH Associates—individuals and families who annually provide \$1,000 or more in support of PATH’s vital work.

The series, which is designed to raise awareness and foster discussion about global health issues, includes President’s Lectures featuring internationally renowned experts in the global health field as well as seminars conducted by members of PATH’s staff on a variety of global health topics. All programs take place at PATH’s Seattle headquarters and are available on DVDs or VHS videotapes to Associates who are unable to attend.

For more information, please contact Jan Jacobs at 206.788.2475 or jajacobs@path.org. ●

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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Leverage your year-end giving with a gift to PATH

We welcome your participation in PATH's mission through a year-end contribution to the Catalyst Fund, a source of essential flexible funds that are pooled to advance PATH's work. The Catalyst Fund underwrites preliminary research, development of prototypes for new technologies, pilot projects, and cost-sharing requirements needed to leverage major grants from foundations and government sources.

Three ways to give

- Send a check in the enclosed donation envelope.
- Contribute securely online at www.path.org.

- Make a donation of stock by contacting us.

Your contribution will help PATH continue to create sustainable, culturally relevant solutions that enable communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health.

Double your impact

If you are able to make a gift of \$1,000 or more by December 31, you can double your impact! The Fisher Fund of the Tides Foundation has offered a \$50,000 challenge grant to build our PATH Associates membership. PATH Associates are individuals and families who contribute \$1,000 or more. We recognize these donors

for their exceptional generosity and commitment to our mission of improving health around the world.

Through the challenge grant, new and increased gifts from individuals at the \$1,000 and above level will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Renewing PATH Associates who increase their gifts can also leverage additional funds for PATH. For example, a donor who gave \$1,000 in 2003 and gives \$1,500 before December 31, will leverage an additional \$500 contribution from the The Fisher Fund challenge.

Your gift of any size is truly appreciated and needed to advance PATH's work. For more information about year-end giving, please contact development director Jan Jacobs: 206.788.2475 or jajacobs@path.org.

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