

Clean Delivery Kit: A Timeline of PATH's Involvement

- 1992–1994** PATH worked with Save the Children to develop the **Woman and Child Initiative in Egypt**. In 1993, PATH staff traveled to Egypt to work with the local staff to develop a detailed project work plan for introducing delivery kits in the region. The project was developed as an income-generating activity for the female community health promoters in Save the Children's project area in Minya. During the project, PATH continued to provide technical assistance with work plan and materials development.
- 1992–1994** In **Bangladesh**, with funding from the Ford Foundation, PATH provided technical assistance to **Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)**, a local nongovernmental agency in Dhaka, to develop a simple delivery kit to be socially marketed for home use. Prototype kits were developed, field-tested, and successfully test marketed. PATH assisted in the kit design and development of social marketing strategies. Local collaborators included the Ministry of Health (MOH) and UNICEF.
- 1992–1995** **The Clean Home Delivery Kit (CHDK)** was developed with the support of the Save the Children Alliance (SCF/US, SCF/UK, and Redd Barna); technical support from PATH's USAID-supported HealthTech Program, as well as assistance from UNICEF and UNFPA. Initially, an 18-month social marketing research project was conducted, including needs assessment, development, and field testing of a prototype, single-use kit especially used in rural community settings. The CHDK was designed to be culturally appropriate and feasible as a commercially viable product that would not require continued financial support from donors.
- 1994** **Maternal and Child Health Products Pvt., Ltd. (MCHP)** was founded to assemble and distribute the CHDK for commercial use. The founders of MCHP were previously Save the Children staff who had been responsible for early research, design, and development of the original kit from 1992 to 1994. To bolster MCHP's business experience, USAID provided funds to assist in company start-up activities, Save the Children Alliance provided funds for product promotion, and PATH provided technical assistance with funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 1994** PATH sponsored the first **international delivery kit conference in Chandigarh, India**. Representatives from UNFPA, PATH, and NGOs in South Asia, including Nepal, India, and Bangladesh, gave presentations on their projects and discussed the design of their unique delivery kits. The agencies also shared lessons learned and discussed major issues such as sterile razors versus clean razors, sales of kits by traditional birth attendants (TBAs), and community involvement in the assembly of kits.
- 1998** PATH and Save the Children conducted a **quantitative evaluation** to determine the immediate impact of the CHDK on preventing simple cord infection in Nepal. Overall, in all three research districts, the kit provided mild protection against cord infection. When the data was controlled for confounding variables, the findings showed that in two districts kit use reduced the risk of



infection by about 50 percent for those with trained attendants and by about 30 percent for those with untrained birth attendants. In addition, it was found that kit users had significantly higher rates of hand washing than non-kit users; 96 percent of kit users said they would use the kit again; and trained TBAs were the main source of advice to buy the kit (47 percent). The study concluded that in some situations local kits can contribute to a reduction in infection, but not in isolation; while many of the components of the kit are necessary to reduce cord infection, none are sufficient in themselves.

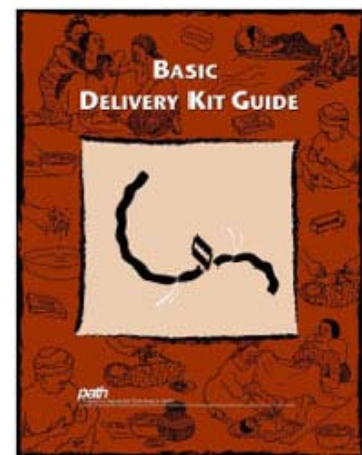
1999 PATH sponsored a **delivery kit conference in Nairobi, Kenya**, in March 1999 to discuss delivery kit development and determine the need for technical assistance in the design of commercial kits. Three colleagues from Save the Children and MCHP in Nepal attended the workshop to share their experiences.

1999–2001 PATH staff made **presentations** on delivery kits at:

- CORE Maternal and Child Health conference, Washington, DC (1999).
- Global Health Council Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (June 2000).
- NGO Network Maternal and Neonatal Health conference, Nairobi, Kenya (June 2000).
- Plan/ADRA Lessons Learned: Maternal and Neonatal Health conference (August 2000).
- WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Initiative for Elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus TAG meetings, New York City (June and December 2000).
- NGO Networks Safe Motherhood conference, Chiang Mai, Thailand (November 2000).
- Saving Newborn Lives Clean Delivery Practices, Washington, DC (December 2001).

2001 PATH conducted a **qualitative evaluation of the CHDK** in Nepal funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The qualitative study investigated users' and nonusers' opinions about accessibility and availability of the kit; correct use of the kit; and location, price, and understanding of the kit pictorial insert. The results indicate that among the attendants who used the kit, the kit was perceived as hygienic, convenient, and culturally acceptable. Despite its perceived usefulness, awareness and use of the kit appear to be low, and the kit's influence on general hygienic practices is limited. The research report authors recommend that promotional efforts be retargeted to individuals who hold decision-making power regarding use of the kit. In addition, the kit promoters should emphasize hand washing and single use of the kit.

2001 PATH published the **Basic Delivery Kit Guide**, a step-by-step manual for developing delivery kit programs. Designed for program managers who wish to develop a basic delivery kit as part of their integrated maternal and child health programs, the guide provides comprehensive and practical information on the design, development, distribution, and promotion of single-use, disposable delivery kits. This guide was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



- 2002** Under a HealthTech subagreement, PATH provided technical assistance to the MOH and the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) to conduct a combined **quantitative/qualitative evaluation** of the UNFPA single-use delivery kit in Mwanza, Tanzania. The study was conducted among 3,262 women and their newborns in conjunction with a local CARE health project and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The purpose of the study was to determine the immediate impact of delivery kits on reducing cord infection and puerperal sepsis. Infants of mothers who did not use the clean delivery kit were about 13 times more likely to develop cord infection than an infant whose mother used the kit. After adjusting for whether a woman had a bath before delivery, where delivery took place, and duration of labor, a woman who did not use the delivery kit for delivery is about 3 times more likely to develop puerperal sepsis than one who did. The final study report is posted on the PATH website.
- 2003** PATH published an **article** entitled “Acceptability and use of clean home delivery kits in Nepal: A qualitative study” in the *Journal of Health, Population, and Nutrition* in December 2003. The article summarizes findings of 51 qualitative interviews with women who delivered alone and birth attendants in two regions of Nepal to gather their opinions of the kit.
- 2005** **MCHP produced and sold over 1 million CHDKs** through March 2005. While the majority of sales originated through orders from UNICEF and UNFPA’s support of the MOH’s and NGO’s TBA training programs, a significant number were sold through retail outlets.
- 2005** PATH presented “Evaluating the impact of clean delivery kits in Tanzania” at the **Global Health Council** 32nd Annual Conference, May 31–June 3, 2005, in Washington, DC. The presentation generated discussion about factors related to clean birth and the contribution of simple delivery kits to the reduction of infection among neonates and their mothers.
- 2006** PATH published “**Clean-Delivery Kits: Guidelines for their use in programmatic settings.**” This two-page “fact sheet” offers guidelines for the use of simple delivery kits in international health settings, including recommended kit contents, a review of recent evidence base on the impact of kits, instructions for how to order prepackaged kits, and considerations for producing kits locally.
- 2007** PATH’s **article** entitled “Use of a clean delivery kit and factors associated with cord infection and puerperal sepsis in Mwanza, Tanzania” has been published in the *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*. The article summarizes the methods and outcomes of recent research on impact of kit use on maternal and neonatal infection (see full description of research above, 2002).

