

PATH and the World Health Organization

Joining forces to achieve global health impact

For more than three decades, PATH and the World Health Organization (WHO) have collaborated to improve global health. Together, we have advanced lifesaving products, shaped health policies and programs, defined standards for health technologies, and strengthened health systems. Our partnership has led to innovative solutions with a lasting impact on the health of countries, communities, and individuals.

HARNESSING COMPLEMENTARY STRENGTHS

PATH and WHO combine strengths to tackle complex health challenges in low-resource settings. PATH's technical expertise and on-the-ground experience in more than 70 countries complement WHO's policymaking authority and relationships across the globe, especially in Africa.

As a leading international nonprofit organization that drives transformative innovation in global health, PATH is adept at facilitating public-private partnerships, advancing health technologies, and assessing health interventions in collaboration with developing-country stakeholders. As the lead authority for health within the United Nations system, WHO provides leadership on global health matters, shapes the health research agenda, sets technical standards, articulates evidence-based policies, provides technical support to countries, and monitors and assesses health trends.

A SAMPLING OF HIGH-IMPACT EFFORTS

Vaccine development and introduction

The Meningitis Vaccine Project—a collaboration between PATH and WHO—made global health history by developing and introducing a revolutionary, low-cost vaccine with the power to end epidemics of meningococcal A meningitis in sub-Saharan Africa. Since MenAfriVac® was introduced in Burkina Faso in late 2010, more than 100 million people across ten African countries have received the vaccine, which will eventually reach many



PATH/Amy MacIver

More than 100 million people have already received MenAfriVac®, a low-cost vaccine developed by PATH and WHO to end meningitis epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa.

millions more. Estimates predict that widespread use of the vaccine will prevent 1 million cases of meningitis and 150,000 deaths by 2020. In recognition of the project's achievements, PATH and WHO received the 2012 Vaccine Industry Excellence Award for best partnership.

Through project Optimize, PATH and WHO jointly identified, developed, and tested solutions to help countries upgrade their supply chains to ensure that an increasingly large and costly portfolio of vaccines can reach all who need them. The project facilitated global commitment to optimal logistics and vaccine-related technologies, creating momentum that continues beyond the life of the project.

PATH has participated in WHO-led advisory groups related to vaccines, including the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee, the Vaccine Presentation and Packaging Advisory Group, and WHO prequalification working groups focused on specific technology categories. PATH has provided expertise in the development of

vaccines, delivery devices, and cold chain technologies as well as expertise in vaccine introduction to inform WHO policies, guidelines, and product specifications.

Innovative health technologies

During the 1980s, PATH worked with WHO to adapt, introduce, and expand access to the vaccine vial monitor (VVM)—a critical tool for ensuring vaccine effectiveness. VVMs are small stickers that adhere to vaccine vials and darken with exposure to heat over time, letting health workers know whether to use or discard the vaccine.

Supported primarily by funding from the US Agency for International Development, PATH collaborated with Temptime Corporation to adapt a technology originally developed for the food industry. PATH and WHO then worked with ministries of health in developing countries to test the VVMs, and WHO tested performance in qualified laboratories. WHO subsequently developed policies recommending adoption of VVMs for all vaccines and encouraged donors and procurement agencies to require them. Since 1996, more than 4 billion VVMs have been used, saving the global health community an estimated \$14 million annually.

Evidence-based global policies

PATH and WHO have teamed up to ensure that global policies are based on current scientific evidence and guidelines. For example, PATH used its expertise in advocacy and policy to help WHO safeguard access to vaccines containing the preservative thimerosal under a new global treaty on mercury use. PATH supported WHO to educate United Nations Environment Program delegates on the importance and safety of the mercury-containing preservative.

PATH also collaborated closely with WHO to develop the Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhea. Launched in April 2013, the plan aims to enhance national policies and services by helping countries implement integrated pneumonia and diarrheal disease programming. PATH continues to engage with WHO on critical policies and frameworks, including efforts to improve financing and coordination of research and product development for neglected diseases.

Reproductive health

Since 1988, PATH has served as a WHO Collaborating Center for Reproductive Health. Through the center, PATH has engaged a wide range of organizations to support WHO's reproductive health programs.

Through the Quality of Reproductive Health Medicines project, PATH has collaborated with WHO to raise the profile of reproductive health medicines within the Essential Medicines Program. PATH has also supported implementation of the WHO Prequalification Program for Essential Reproductive Health Medicines through the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition.

For decades, PATH has worked alongside WHO on the introduction of new reproductive health technologies, such as Sayana® Press and the Woman's Condom. Additionally, PATH and WHO have collaborated on cervical cancer prevention, including co-leading the working group that developed recommendations on the application and introduction process for the human papillomavirus vaccine.

Regulatory capacity-building

PATH collaborated with WHO to develop the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF). Currently based at WHO's Regional Office for Africa, AVAREF strengthens and harmonizes regulatory processes for the approval of clinical trials and marketing authorization applications to speed the development and introduction of new vaccines in Africa. PATH has provided core support for AVAREF's operations and regulatory review processes. PATH and WHO also regularly collaborate with other global regulatory stakeholders, such as the US Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency, to increase regulatory capacity and ensure access to safe and effective health tools worldwide.



PATH/Amy MacIver

Widespread use of the new meningitis vaccine in Africa will prevent an estimated 1 million cases of meningitis and 150,000 deaths by 2020.



PATH is an international nonprofit organization that transforms global health through innovation. We take an entrepreneurial approach to developing and delivering high-impact, low-cost solutions, from lifesaving vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and devices to collaborative programs with communities. Through our work in more than 70 countries, PATH and our partners empower people to achieve their full potential.

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