

Our work and capabilities in Senegal

OVERVIEW

PATH envisions a world in which all countries have supply chains that connect people with the practices and information they need so that lifesaving drugs, vaccines, and commodities are available on time, in sufficient quantity, and at a reasonable cost to everyone who needs them. For more than 35 years, we have collaborated with a variety of international and in-country public- and private-sector stakeholders to:

- Deploy information and communication technology solutions that make it easier to assess and use data in decision-making.
- Advance novel cold chain equipment to safely and cost effectively store and transport temperature-sensitive products—even in remote areas lacking consistent access to electricity.
- Improve product presentations and packaging to decrease volumes for transport and disposal, bundle essential product components, and reduce product loss.
- Provide technical assistance to help ministries of health identify and test appropriate solutions, set policies, and bring their voice to global health discussions.

PATH IN SENEGAL

Operating in Senegal since 2001, with 20 staff members located in offices throughout the country, PATH builds on strong relationships and project work with partners to develop, introduce, and scale up technology and system innovations that reduce the burden of infectious and neglected tropical diseases; improve reproductive, maternal, and child health and nutrition; expand access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene; strengthen health systems; and empower communities.

We also have a proven track record in mobilizing stakeholders and supporting the Senegal Ministry of Health in their efforts at all levels to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's medical supply system.



Photo: Fatou Kandé

SUPPLY SYSTEM DESIGN

From 2009 to 2013, our collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) under project Optimize resulted in a centralized and integrated supply chain for vaccines, drugs, and other health supplies. It also helped demonstrate a moving warehouse¹ distribution model that has since improved the availability of these products in district health facilities. Following these successes, the moving warehouse concept was transferred to Pharmacie Nationale d'Approvisionnement (PNA), which recently extended the model to the regional level.

EVALUATION OF EQUIPMENT AND INTERVENTIONS

From 2013 to 2015, we deployed and evaluated the Arktek™ long-term passive cold box developed and optimized by Global Good for use at the health post level in low-resource settings. As a novel passive vaccine storage device, it can maintain required cold chain temperatures for more than a month using only one set of ice packs.

Our first study evaluated its durability and temperature performance in the Saint-Louis region. Then we compared device performance in static- and mobile-use cases in the Saint-Louis and Kaolack regions. Our third study expanded the static-use case to an additional district in the Kaolack region. Data from all three studies contributed to successful WHO prequalification of the device in January 2015.

¹ Specially equipped trucks known collectively as the *moving warehouse* carry supervisors to each facility to check inventory and replenish stock.

The PATH team in Senegal continues to conduct field evaluations of cold chain equipment, many as part of the WHO prequalification process. In 2015, our evaluations centered on solar refrigerators and long-term passive cooling devices.

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

As a subgrantee of Abt Associates on the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Senegal Health System Strengthening project, PATH is helping to improve the performance of the decentralized public health system of Senegal. Our efforts are informing effective and efficient program policies, planning, and budgeting at the central level of the Ministry of Health. PATH's particular role centers on strengthening the procurement system at all levels, including the development and establishment of an improved procurement and stock management information system. In close collaboration with the PNA, we are specifically working to improve stock management through the deployment of an enhanced information system known as Sage Software. PATH also worked with the PNA to develop their 2014–2018 strategic plan, which is now being implemented.

In addition, we are also optimizing the availability of essential medicines and technologies through our No Empty Shelves project funded by Novo Nordisk. The overall system assessment took place in five regions: Dakar, Kaolack, Saint-Louis, Tambacounda, and Ziguinchor. Information on the prices and availability of essential diabetes medicines and technologies was collected by direct observation of these products in identified public- and private-sector retail outlets/facilities.

This project aims to gather evidence and mobilize the non-communicable disease (NCD) and broader global health programs to improve the availability of essential medicines and technologies for NCDs in low-resource settings. The outcomes of this project will inform global efforts to address a key target of the WHO Global Action Plan: to achieve 80 percent availability of affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics, required to treat major NCDs in both public and private facilities.

ADVOCACY

PATH staff in Senegal are contributing to advocacy efforts that encourage countries to make meaningful time and resource investments that improve their immunization supply chain systems. The project is working at global and regional levels to create a stronger enabling environment for supply chain strengthening and optimization.

To better understand the policy environment in Senegal and define key ways in which PATH can help strengthen political commitments for supply chain improvements, we are conducting a thorough landscape of current policy as well as the funding needs and constraints related to supply chain issues in the country. Lessons learned from the landscape analysis will be used to define a specific scope of work in Senegal where advocacy can be used to achieve greater political commitment for supply chain goals.

SUPPORTERS

Collaborations across all sectors are integral to our strategy for demonstrating impact and taking innovations to scale. Key project supporters in Senegal have included the Senegal Ministry of Health, Direction de la Prévention Médicale, Direction de la Pharmacie et du Médicament, the PNA, WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund, and Abt Associates.

PATH's work in Senegal has been supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Canadian International Development Agency, USAID, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.path.org

PATH is the leader in global health innovation. An international nonprofit organization, we save lives and improve health, especially among women and children. We accelerate innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, we take innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. Together, we deliver measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health. Learn more at www.path.org.

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