

Our work and capabilities in Uganda

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 UGANDA

Operating in Uganda since 2002, PATH works with a variety of partners to improve and support vaccine introductions as well as strengthen the immunization supply chain at all levels. We have closely collaborated with the Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunization (UNEPI) since 2007, and now serve as a key member of the National Coordination Committee for immunization as well as the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, which provides overall technical oversight for immunization in Uganda. We also have a proven track record in evaluating and introducing health technologies and interventions, and ensuring that these solutions are locally relevant and sustainable.

EVALUATION OF EQUIPMENT AND INTERVENTIONS

In collaboration with UNEPI, we leveraged PATH's Cold Chain Equipment Inventory tool to assess available data and



Photo: PATH

help local governments to plan for new vaccine introductions. These efforts both supported systems strengthening in Uganda and helped advance the development and optimization of the tool for use in other countries.

PATH is additionally working with UNEPI, National Medical Stores, District Vaccine Stores, and health facilities to improve supply chain effectiveness. PATH conducted a study to uncover the primary causes of refrigerator and other cold chain equipment failures, suggesting action that stakeholders, including manufacturers, could take to ensure a functional, long-lasting cold chain in Uganda and other countries.

We also conducted total cost analyses of remote temperature monitoring equipment to help UNEPI develop and build its evidence base for decision-making about equipment purchases. This work continues to provide data useful to the broader global community working to strengthen immunization supply chains. Cost effectiveness studies have been conducted by PATH to inform the introduction of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and more recently rotavirus vaccine.

As part of project Optimize, a five-year collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), we further conducted studies that monitored product exposure to ambient temperatures during school-based HPV vaccine

outreach sessions—collecting important data that have informed global work on controlled temperature chain (CTC) use of vaccines and supported the feasibility of a 40°C temperature threshold for CTC-labeled vaccines.

ADVOCACY

Our team in Uganda is leading country-level advocacy efforts to secure the political and financial commitments of key stakeholders, helping accelerate the adoption of global standards and emerging technology solutions that strengthen the vaccine supply chain. Work is also under way to analyze the current supply chain policy landscape, and identify additional policy pathways forward in the country.

PARTNERS

Collaborations across all sectors have proven integral to our strategy for demonstrating impact and taking innovations to scale. Key partners in Uganda have included the Uganda Ministry of Health; the Uganda Health Marketing Group; the United Nations Children’s Fund; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Sabin Vaccine Institute; the Clinton Health Access Initiative; NexLeaf Analytics; WHO; UNEPI; and National Medical Stores.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on our work and staff capabilities in supply systems and equipment in Uganda, please contact:

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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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