

Hidden solutions. Bright futures.

New vaccines are critical to addressing diseases that strike poor countries. Sometimes, though, the vaccines that can save children's lives already exist—but aren't getting where they're needed. PATH is working to unearth these hidden solutions and make vaccines available as fast as possible.

Prevention is the only solution

Take the striking case of Japanese encephalitis (JE). Sometimes called "brain fever," the deadly disease primarily afflicts poor children in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. Children who survive have a high chance of being left with neurological problems, ranging from paralysis to loss of speech.

"Mothers and their children, dressed in their finest clothing, waited patiently in long lines to receive the vaccine ... At times like that, it's clear to me what a difference we're making."

—DR. JOHN WECKER

With no cure for JE, the only solution is prevention through vaccination. But until PATH launched our Japanese Encephalitis Project, tens of thousands of children died or were disabled each year for lack of an accessible, affordable, and reliable vaccine. What's striking about that? Children in China were already being protected by a vaccine, but the vaccine wasn't available outside of that country.



PATH/Gabe Biencycki

In Bataiganj and other villages in India, PATH is making sure that all children receive the protection they need from diseases like measles, polio, and Japanese encephalitis.

"Because of poor diagnostic and surveillance systems, the terrible burden of the disease wasn't fully understood in the countries where it existed," explains Dr. John Wecker,

helped the manufacturer improve its facilities to meet international standards, and negotiated an affordable price for poor countries.

These multifaceted efforts have now resulted in the immunization of more than 100 million children in India, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and North Korea. Introducing the vaccine in North Korea was an especially gratifying experience, says Dr. Wecker, who was there to witness the vaccination of half a million children in just one week:

"Mothers and their children, dressed in their finest traditional Korean clothing, waited patiently in long lines to receive the vaccine. Living in fear of an outbreak of JE, these parents were highly motivated to

director of PATH's Vaccine Access and Delivery program. "People needed to be convinced that this vaccine was necessary and that it worked."

Working with international partners and ministries of health, PATH established better systems for diagnosing and tracking JE. We also supported clinical trials to demonstrate the value of the Chinese vaccine,

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get their children vaccinated. At times like that, it's clear to me what a difference we're making."

Surviving the vulnerable years

In Senegal, in West Africa, we're now carrying out a large clinical trial to determine whether another vaccine already in use in the developing world—the flu vaccine—could have an impact on pneumonia, which is the leading cause of death among children younger than 5 years. In other African countries, influenza is associated with up to one-quarter of all severe childhood pneumonia cases. The vaccine's use in Senegal has been limited, however, because of questions about need, effectiveness, and cost.

Researchers hope the study will show how the vaccine could protect children

in sub-Saharan Africa and how best to use it given limited resources.

"It's just in the last few years that [influenza is] really being looked at in terms of its contribution to childhood pneumonia deaths in the developing world," says Dr. John (Chris) Victor, who is leading the trial. "One strategy may be to vaccinate children for a few years early in their lives, when they're most vulnerable. Then maybe we'll have a big public

health impact on childhood survival by helping them to get through those vulnerable years."

Japanese encephalitis and pneumonia—these are just two of the diseases PATH is addressing through vaccines. From encouraging the development of vaccines that have the most promise to ensuring the successful and sustainable delivery of vaccines worldwide, we're helping to free millions of people from the fear of disease. ●



"South Africa will never be the same"

There's good news for babies-to-be in South Africa. The country's Ministry of Health recently announced that it will make critical changes in its infant feeding policies, changes that could save thousands of young lives. And your support helped make it possible.

Breastfeeding is one of the most successful practices parents in developing countries can adopt to ensure that their children survive the first years after birth—offering both nutritional benefits and protection against infectious diseases. Exclusive breastfeeding can actually help reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV. And yet, only an estimated 8 percent of South African mothers exclusively breastfeed their babies.

PATH and our partners have been working in South Africa on a suite of interventions to support better breastfeeding practices. Among these, two were supported directly by you through the Catalyst Fund: Feeding



Buddies, which links mothers-to-be with "buddies" who support them in breastfeeding; and work to expand the reach of human milk banks—which provide donated breast milk to infants whose mothers have died or can't breastfeed—by improving the pasteurization process for remote areas.

The evidence from projects like these—measurable decreases in child deaths—helped to bring about the dramatic

change in South Africa's public health policy. For years, the government of South Africa has given infant formula to new mothers for free, implicitly discouraging breastfeeding. In a reversal of that policy, it will instead promote exclusive breastfeeding for all mothers.

"This major achievement is a demonstration of how PATH is a catalyst for global health," said Catherine Brokenshire-Scott, leader of PATH's South Africa program. She added that our part in this historic change could not have happened without people like you, whose gifts were a catalyst for the campaign. "We had uphill battles at times, but with the use of flexible funding from PATH donors, we persevered."

"When the decision was made it was a very emotional moment," said Jecinter Oketch, PATH's former nutrition advisor for South Africa. "South Africa will never be the same." ●

PATH supporters challenge you— with a match through Dec. 31

An infant receives a lifesaving vaccine, a young mother decides to breastfeed—and a new future opens: doctor, teacher, artist, leader. It's your support that helps those futures unfold.



Renew your gift to PATH by December 31, and your impact will double through a challenge from other donors like you (see “Partnering with PATH,” back page). All gifts to PATH’s Catalyst Fund will be matched until midnight on December 31, up to a total of \$150,000.

DONATE NOW Make your gift online at www.path.org/challenge2011/. Options for tribute giving and to make a gift by mail are also available.

An end to malaria?

Dramatic results from a decade-long effort to bring malaria under control add confidence that the disease could actually be eliminated. Thanks to increased global attention—including the distribution of millions of insecticide-treated bednets—deaths from malaria have dropped 38 percent. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, these measures have saved the lives of more than 1.1 million children. Those are numbers we’re proud to be part of.

Meanwhile, a vaccine for malaria—the first in history—is closer than ever before. First results from a large-scale trial showed that the vaccine candidate, dubbed RTS,S, reduced the risk of malaria by half in children 5 to 17 months old.

“Elimination is the only acceptable end to the fight against malaria,” says Dr. Kent Campbell, director of the Malaria Control Program at PATH. With continued support from our partners, the global community, and you, we’re determined to reach that goal.

Meningitis vaccinations begin in three new countries

This month, 22 million people are receiving the gift of life without meningitis A. Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria have launched their first vaccination campaigns with MenAfriVac™, just one year after the groundbreaking vaccine debuted in Africa. Developed by PATH and the World Health Organization, MenAfriVac™ protects against a disease that kills one in ten people it afflicts and leaves one-quarter of survivors deaf or severely disabled. Our goal: to reach more than 300 million people in the “meningitis belt” to eliminate this threat.

PATH blog launches

With work in more than 70 countries, we’ve got plenty to talk about. That’s why we’ve launched the PATH blog, with a lively look at what we’re up to and regular updates on what’s happening in the world of global health. From our latest work to prevent HIV to a report from a health clinic in Sudan—read all about it (and share your thoughts) at www.path.org/blog/.



PATH has Charity Navigator’s highest rating—four stars! When you support PATH, you can be confident that your donation will be used efficiently.

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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Contact us

For information about upcoming events, contact events@path.org.

For questions about giving opportunities or to give feedback, contact Catherine Endicott, Donor Relations officer, at cendicott@path.org or 206.302.4564.

Partnering with PATH for healthy children

Lora Kaiser's son is lucky, she says. Four-year-old Davis drinks clean water and eats three healthy meals—and a few snacks—each day. He sleeps in a warm bed every night. He gets regular vaccinations. When he's sick, he gets good medical care.

Courtesy of Lora Kaiser



Lora Kaiser and her son, Davis.

It's his good fortune that prompted Lora to find a way to help children who don't have these same simple luxuries.

Without access to clean water, vaccines, or adequate health care, millions of kids in the developing world die each year from illnesses that are preventable. Lora, who lives with her family in Folsom, California, supports PATH because we're reaching many of these children with solutions.

While Lora believes it's important to show Davis how to effect change in their own community, she says it's equally important to think about women and children on the other side of the world who they likely will never meet. And that's why she chooses to give to PATH.

"I can't be there to feed those children, shelter them, or help them the way I can with my son and in my community.

Gifts matched until
December 31 through
a challenge from
PATH's supporters

Visit www.path.org to
donate today.

PATH is my partner in global health. They reach people, families, children, who I can't reach myself."

Lora is acting on her commitment by challenging others to support the work that inspires her. Along with more than a hundred other donors, she's matching gifts made to PATH through the end of the year. With Lora's support—and yours—children in the world's poorest communities have a chance for fortunate futures, too. ●

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