

A woman with a light-colored headwrap and a black top is holding a baby. The baby is wearing a light green top and a white blanket. The woman has a serious expression. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

PATH in  
**Kenya**

Improving health and unlocking opportunity through partnership and innovation

**For more than two decades, PATH has worked with Kenya's leaders and communities to improve health and unlock opportunity for the nation's people. These efforts combine our global expertise with our experience in Kenya to stop disease and tackle the root causes of poor health.**

PATH's unique approach combines our five innovation platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—to combat HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and other threats; root out stigma and gender-based violence; ensure that mothers, newborns, and children get the care and nutrition to thrive; and improve women's, adolescent, and reproductive health.

Each year, our projects support and empower millions of Kenyans, creating a healthier and more productive future for families, communities, and the country as a whole.

## OFFICE LOCATIONS IN KENYA



## THE HEART OF INNOVATION

Working from head offices in Nairobi and Kisumu and multiple sub-offices, PATH focuses on bringing more health solutions, to more Kenyans, more quickly. Our urgency comes from the knowledge that despite progress, chronic barriers still threaten the health and potential of millions of citizens. Saving lives requires creative solutions that find new ways around old challenges.

Our longstanding partnerships are key to our success. We work closely with Kenya's leaders and communities to implement sustainable solutions that align with their needs and priorities. This includes strong relationships with the national government, government ministries, county-level leaders, and public- and private-sector organizations throughout Kenya. Our work is supported through the generous contributions of global organizations, governments, and private donors in Kenya and around the world.



## WORKING ACROSS THE HEALTH SYSTEM TO SAVE LIVES

PATH's work in Kenya includes a variety of projects and partners. Our focus is on women and children, who often bear the brunt of poverty and illness.

In our largest role, we lead the AIDS, Population and Health Integrated Assistance (APHIAplus) Western project. The project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development, focuses on western Kenya, which bears a heavy burden of infectious disease and poor health. Our activities reach into many corners of society. We work with more than 800 public and private health care facilities, local organizations and communities, governments, health workers, and volunteers to strengthen services for HIV; tuberculosis (TB); malaria; maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition (MNCHN); reproductive health; and more.

## APHIAPLUS BY THE NUMBERS

In western Kenya, PATH and our partners serve a population of 10 million people. Between 2010 and 2015, we have achieved unprecedented gains. For example:

- 95 percent of children born to HIV-positive mothers in project-supported sites now receive treatment to prevent transmission.
- More than 1,000 health workers have been trained to provide family planning services, and more than 1,250 to provide maternity care.
- More than 188,000 orphans and vulnerable children and households have received support and services.
- More than 100,000 community members have gained access to clean drinking water.



APHIA*plus* efforts add up to more than the sum of their parts. Support for health facilities and training for health workers improve care for all diseases. Community engagement programs reduce the stigma around HIV. And programs that empower women address economic and social barriers that contribute to poor health. We also link services to one another and to the larger health system to increase their impact.

Together, these activities strengthen the entire health system, addressing immediate threats while building the capacity to improve health into the future.

#### **MEETING URGENT HEALTH NEEDS**

PATH's broad reach in Kenya allows us to identify, implement, and evaluate solutions at a very large scale. Our key areas of focus are outlined below. In addition, we work closely with Kenyan leaders to respond to the country's changing needs and priorities. For instance, we are currently expanding our work to address Kenya's rising burden of heart disease, diabetes, women's cancers, and other noncommunicable diseases.

#### **Combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis**

Despite progress, HIV/AIDS and TB continue to devastate Kenyan communities. Through APHIA*plus*, we are strengthening local and country systems to respond to this challenge. We train health workers to improve HIV testing and counseling, provide people living with HIV antiretroviral treatment and care, and reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

We also work with communities to reduce stigma, improve community-based services, and give orphans and vulnerable children the support to stay well and realize their full potential. In tandem, we draw on these efforts to reduce the burden of TB-HIV coinfection through increased screening, integrated services and treatment, and improved TB care for children.

With partners, we also find creative ways to engage hard-to-reach communities, such as adolescents, sex workers, and uniformed personnel. Our magnet theater performances, for example, helped audiences candidly discuss healthy responses to sexual health scenarios.



And the *Mswala Nyeti* (Critical Issues) comic series used simple one-page comics to get military personnel and communities talking about HIV and TB.

### **Rooting out gender-based violence**

PATH was a pioneer in efforts to improve gender equity and reduce gender-based violence (GBV) in Kenya, and continues to expand these efforts. Recognizing that violence and inequity limit people's potential and increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other illness, we work with communities, individuals, and governments to prevent GBV and change the attitudes that cause it. This includes mentoring young people to increase their understanding of their bodies, responsibilities, and rights, and partnering with local and national authorities to improve care and legal aid for people who have experienced sexual assault and ensure timely prosecution and appropriate penalties for GBV.

### **Prioritizing adolescent health**

Improving health requires recognizing and responding to the unique needs of adolescents. In Kenya, PATH's expertise in this arena dates

to our earliest efforts. Over time, our projects have engaged and empowered hundreds of thousands of young Kenyans. Through the Kenya Adolescent Reproductive Health Project, we worked with partners to help parents, youth leaders, and communities reach students with education on reproductive health and provide them with youth-friendly health services. With the Kenya Scouts Association, we helped Boy and Girl Scouts throughout Kenya discuss gender and sexual health with each other and their communities, challenge negative cultural norms about how boys and men treat girls and women, and gain the confidence to make healthy choices. We have also reached out to married adolescent women, who are often isolated and disempowered, through peer support groups and reproductive health services.

The Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation, a collaboration between PATH and dozens of partners, engaged young people to access services and protect themselves from HIV. The collaboration's "G-Pange" pillars, a play on the Swahili term "be conscious," built a youth movement around HIV testing, knowledge, economic empowerment, avoiding risk, and increasing confidence. Through radio and print

## OUR INNOVATION PLATFORMS AT WORK IN KENYA



**VACCINES**



**DRUGS**



**DIAGNOSTICS**



**DEVICES**



**SYSTEM AND  
SERVICE  
INNOVATIONS**

PATH's work in Kenya combines our broad **system and service innovations** platform, exemplified by APHIA*plus* Western, with our other innovation platforms to achieve the greatest impact possible. Examples of our work in health technologies include:

- **Progress toward malaria vaccines.** Working with Kenyan scientists and health authorities, PATH's Malaria Vaccine Initiative is advancing efforts to develop safe and effective vaccines against malaria. We are also laying the foundation leaders will need to make informed choices about adoption if a vaccine becomes available.
- **An inexpensive drug to save babies' lives.** PATH is supporting the Kenyan Ministry of Health to include a special formulation of the lifesaving antiseptic drug chlorhexidine in the country's essential newborn care package. Applied to a newly cut umbilical cord, the drug can prevent infection, saving thousands of lives every year.
- **An easier-to-use HIV diagnostic.** A self-administered HIV diagnostic test could complement voluntary and provider-initiated counseling and testing by overcoming stigma, concerns about confidentiality, and other barriers to testing. PATH and our partners evaluated prototypes in several locations in Kenya to test the appeal of the device, usability, and potential markets.
- **A simple device to protect mothers.** PATH is introducing an easy-to-use device, the uterine balloon tamponade (UBT), that allows health workers to quickly stop excessive uncontrolled bleeding after birth—a leading killer of women in Kenya and around the globe. With a local partner, we are assembling UBT kits, training health workers in their safe use, and deploying them countrywide.

ads, conversations, and a popular television drama, G-Pange galvanized young Kenyans to stand up to HIV.

More recently, our innovative SWAG (Smart Wise Afya [Health] Generation) project has built on this culture of adolescent defiance to increase the prestige of behaviors that reduce HIV risk. Using social media, radio, and television, the project is inspiring young people to celebrate abstinence, condom use, and being faithful; seek health services; and shun stigmatizing behavior.

### Stamping out malaria

Malaria is a leading cause of illness and death in Kenya, and is particularly dangerous among children under five years old and pregnant women.

PATH aligns interventions to stop malaria at every turn and bring elimination within reach. Drawing on our global digital health expertise, we are helping health workers use electronic and mobile phone-based systems to improve disease surveillance and report new cases in real time. Through APHIA*plus*, our system and service innovations are strengthening malaria case management in health facilities and mobilizing communities to seek out and treat infection.

We are also advancing highly sensitive diagnostic tools to detect infection, as well as tools that can guide proper treatment. In addition, MalariaCare, a global partnership led by PATH, is strengthening health workers' ability to use appropriate diagnostic technologies to diagnose disease and determine the most appropriate treatment. It also provides

## PRECIOUS CARGO: A CREATIVE AMBULANCE SERVICE SAVES LIVES

In rural Kenya, bad roads, long distances, and the cost of transport can prevent women from traveling to health facilities to give birth with a skilled care attendant. Many give birth at home, which can be dangerous for both mother and baby.

PATH and our partners took a new approach. We recruited *boda boda* (motorcycle) taxi drivers willing to transport expectant mothers in exchange for fuel vouchers. The program, supported by APHIAplus Western, was launched in October 2012. It has since been expanded, dramatically increasing skilled deliveries at health facilities throughout the region.

Helen Sile knows the service well: It helped her reach a hospital in time to give birth to a healthy baby girl. "I was in great pain when I went into labor," says Sile, "but I felt relieved when the *boda boda* ambulance came for me. I don't think I would have made it on time if it weren't for them."



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technical assistance to help workers monitor, evaluate, and manage programs at the national and district levels.

At the same time, PATH's Malaria Vaccine Initiative is advancing breakthrough efforts to develop safe and effective vaccines against malaria (see inset box, previous page).

### Improving women's and children's health

We are also targeting the threats that keep rates of illness and death stubbornly high among Kenya's women and children. This includes strengthening systems and mobilizing communities to improve and integrate services for family planning, reproductive health, and MNCHN; supporting leaders and health workers to reach more children with lifesaving immunizations; and more.

A key focus of this work is ensuring that Kenya's pregnant women, infants, and children have access to the nutrition they need. We support health facilities and workers to improve nutrition programs, monitor children's growth, and start interventions if they spot a delay. We find new ways to involve families in care, such as using peer educators to engage fathers and grandmothers—who often influence food and household decisions—to make sure women

and children get adequate nutrition. And we champion exclusive breastfeeding for Kenyan babies, a proven intervention that provides critical nutrients and immune support.

To help babies whose mothers have died or cannot breastfeed, we are working with leaders to lay the foundation for an integrated human milk banking system that not only provides safe donor human milk to vulnerable infants but also promotes breastfeeding as a key intervention to save lives. In addition, we mobilize community support groups throughout Kenya to help health workers and parents adopt gold-standard feeding practices for infants and young children, and make sure that all expectant and breastfeeding mothers get the best nutrition possible.

The SUSTAIN (Scaling Up Sweetpotato Through Agriculture and Nutrition) project helps families and communities grow their own nutrition. It combines nutrition education and community-based approaches with support to grow orange-fleshed sweetpotatoes, a good source of crucial vitamin A.

We also address diarrheal disease, a top threat to children in Kenya and worldwide. This includes advancing new vaccines against rotavirus and other causes of severe diarrhea; helping

## IDEA TO IMPACT



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PATH's health technologies improve lives. For example, our MSR SE200™ Community Chlorine Maker, developed with partners, is giving more people access to clean water. The device requires only salt, water, and a source of electricity to provide enough chlorine to treat 55 gallons (200 liters) of water.

For entrepreneurs like Patrick Mailu, a PATH pilot project to test and refine the device created an opportunity to build a small business selling treated water.

"I am proud of this business," Patrick says, "because it supports my family, and also I am able to provide affordable, safe drinking water."

caregivers access and use simple, lifesaving treatment; and improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). For example, we support "oral rehydration corners," in hospitals and communities, where parents can treat sick babies and receive information on prevention and care. To improve WASH, we also help schools, families, and communities adopt hand-washing and other healthy habits, and advance water filters and other technologies that provide access to safe water.

Together, these efforts support and empower mothers and their children—and with them, their communities—throughout Kenya.

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Worldwide, PATH works with decision-makers to encourage investments and policies that bring health within reach for women, infants, and children. In Kenya, we are collaborating with partners to advance key policy priorities.

These include national guidelines to treat childhood pneumonia with an effective and globally recommended drug called amoxicillin; a child health policy and national strategy to ensure that the right products and services reach children who need them; a strategy to prevent deadly malaria during pregnancy by expanding access to recommended treatment; and first-of-its-kind legislation that calls for more equitable access to MNCHN tools and approaches. As Kenya shifts responsibility for public health decisions to county-level leaders, we are also working to ensure that these leaders adequately fund MNCHN and act on their commitments.

We are also helping to strengthen health research and development in Kenya to support health solutions developed by Kenyans—for Kenya, the region, and potentially the world. As part of this effort, PATH and stakeholders formed the first Kenya health research and development coalition. In addition, we continuously work to build the capacity of Kenya's own advocates, training and supporting local organizations and positioning them to inform and influence sound policy change.

## THE CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION AND LEARNING

PATH's Center for Health Innovation and Learning brings together program implementers, researchers, health workers, and other experts from around the world to improve the quality and effectiveness of health service delivery in Kenya and in other low-resource settings. Based in the Kisumu office, with online connections to this virtual team, the center draws on our reach in Kenya to achieve three goals. First, we use data, evidence, and lessons learned to identify the bottlenecks that prevent interventions from achieving their full potential. Second, we identify approaches that improve the quality and effectiveness of health service delivery. Third, we test these approaches, gather data to link them with positive outcomes, and share our findings. Over time, this effort can strengthen the efficiency and impact of health interventions in Kenya and worldwide, helping public health efforts save more lives.



## A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR ALL KENYANS

In all our work, PATH is dedicated to sustainable solutions that amplify Kenya's growing human and material resources, burgeoning culture of innovation, and the expertise and commitment of its communities. We will continue to work closely with leaders to support national health priorities, achieve the ambitious health targets for 2030 identified in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and respond to emerging needs.

Together, we will work across systems, platforms, and sectors to improve health and health equity for all Kenyans, today and for generations to come.

## Funders

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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.

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