

Meeting the Needs of

Women



Photo courtesy of JHU/CCP Photoshare

Men

and Their Communities

PATH's Approach to Reproductive Health

PATH's Reproductive Health Strategic Program encompasses projects that address key reproductive health needs in low-resource settings: couples' unmet need for effective, acceptable contraceptive methods; access to emergency contraception; men's reproductive health services; access to health services for sexually transmitted infections; and strategies for meeting the reproductive health needs of women in their middle years and beyond.

Our reproductive health program builds on the sentiments of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (the "Cairo Conference"), which promoted reproductive health as a basic human right, and highlighted the importance of addressing reproductive health problems and solutions within the framework of women's social and cultural circumstances. The Cairo Conference also emphasized the importance of offering high-quality, client-centered care—a hallmark of PATH's reproductive health work—and the need to reach certain special groups (including adolescents, men, and refugees) to improve reproductive health worldwide.

Our Capabilities

The primary technical skills and staff capabilities that PATH's Reproductive Health Strategic Program can offer to projects, interventions, and partnerships include strategies and systems to:

- ▶ Strengthen capacities of local organizations to implement reproductive health programs.
- ▶ Improve the quality of reproductive health services by providing increased technical and client-provider interaction skills.
- ▶ Effectively implement field research, balancing methodological rigor with field realities.
- ▶ Advocate for evidence-based policy and program change.
- ▶ Assess the safety, efficacy, and acceptability of reproductive health technologies.
- ▶ Prepare and broadly disseminate reproductive health technical information.
- ▶ Establish effective logistics management and procurement systems for reproductive health products.

PATH's Methodology

PATH's commitment to improving reproductive health is complemented by our commitment to ensuring that our projects are sensitive to the sociocultural and economic realities of the countries where we work—primarily in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Our projects are implemented as part of a process that begins by assessing needs and ends with advocating for change based on project evaluations or research findings.

Throughout all phases of a project, we involve stakeholders (from policymakers to community members), strengthen local capacity to provide and sustain effective interventions (which could be a technology, provider-client communication approach, or service delivery model), and regularly monitor and adapt interventions as needed to ensure maximum effectiveness and quality. All of these steps are key to ensuring project success, and ultimately to maximizing the long-term impact of our projects.

Project Implementation Process





Photo by A. Bishop



Photo by G. Perkin



Photo by S. Wood

Reproductive Health Strategic Program *in action*

The following are just a few examples of our current reproductive health projects:

Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention

Cervical cancer, the leading cause of death from cancer in the developing world, can be readily prevented through basic screening and treatment techniques. Yet women in the developing world generally do not have access to these services. As a member of the Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention, PATH is working to provide screening and treatment capacity, improve service delivery, and increase awareness about cervical cancer prevention among women and health care providers in developing countries. The project is supported by a five-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Integrated Family Health – Benin

In Benin, PATH is improving health status, knowledge, and behaviors related to reproductive health and the health of children, families, and communities. The mission of this USAID-funded project is to increase the use of family health services and prevention measures within a supportive policy environment.

Education of Pharmacists About Emergency Contraception – Cambodia, Nicaragua, Kenya

This project is working to develop a replicable model that strengthens the capacity of pharmacies and drugstore personnel to provide reproductive health services to young adults (aged 13 to 24). This includes emergency contraception for pregnancy prevention; sexually transmitted infection prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment; and contraceptive care and counseling.

Screening Technologies to Advance Rapid Testing (START) Project

PATH is developing rapid biochemical tests to improve the accuracy, acceptability, and affordability of cervical cancer prevention through screening in low-resource settings. Through our START project, we are leading a collaborative effort among industry partners in the United States and Germany and field sites in India (through the International Agency for Research on Cancer) and China (through the Chinese Cancer Institute/Chinese Academy of Medical Science).

Partnerships and Alliances

PATH is highly regarded for its ability to build and maintain effective partnerships to leverage scarce resources, expand pilot programs, and pool talent and expertise. We work collaboratively with communities, nongovernmental organizations, ministries of health, the private sector, and international organizations, and believe that PATH's partnerships are the foundation for our success. The following are a few of our current partnerships:

Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention (www.alliance-cxca.org)

PRIME II: Primary Providers' Performance Improvement in Reproductive Health

The Supply Initiative: Meeting the Need for Reproductive Health Supplies

PATH has also been designated a World Health Organization Collaborating Center on Research in Reproductive Health.

Reproductive Health Resources

Because of our long history and experience in reproductive health, PATH is able to provide relevant information to others in the field. Examples of some of our resources include:

Outlook

This quarterly publication provides concise descriptions of reproductive health topics in a readable, accessible format. *Outlook* reaches about 100,000 individuals worldwide and is available in seven languages (Chinese, English, French, Indonesian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish).

Reproductive Health Outlook (www.rho.org)

This reproductive health website provides concise and accurate summaries of research findings, profiles of program experiences around the world, extensive annotated bibliographies and links, and analyses of policy and program implications. It is also available on CD-ROM.

PATH-University of Washington (UW) Partnership in Reproductive Health Research

This partnership is aimed at improving the likelihood that reproductive health projects in developing countries will yield research findings that are high quality, useful, and applicable. This three-year partnership is funded in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of a broader program to foster closer links between universities and international health organizations such as PATH. It includes an internship program available to UW students.

For additional information about PATH and the Reproductive Health Strategic Program please contact us at:

**PATH
1455 NW Leary Way
Seattle, WA 98107
USA**

**Phone: 206-285-3500
Fax: 206-285-6619
Email: info@path.org**