



A catalyst for innovation

PATH's use of flexible funding in 2009

Individual donors are our most important source of innovation funding, the critical support that allows us to launch new initiatives and expand pilot projects, leverage major contributions from foundations and governments, and support strategic priorities that are helping us bring health within reach for everyone.

Channeled primarily through PATH's Catalyst Fund (which supports projects across the full range of health needs) and the Fund for Health Technologies (which specifically targets health technologies for low-resource settings), innovation funding makes up a small fraction of our annual budget. However, because of its flexible, unrestricted nature, it is the essential spark that has given many of our most effective programs their start.

Some 40 projects at PATH received innovation funding in 2009. Below you'll find the stories of three representative projects, followed by a table listing projects that received support through PATH's Catalyst Fund. We hope you see, in this update on our use of your investment, your impact on the health of people around the world.

Linking health and agriculture

In rural Africa, families face tough decisions every day, including choosing between *enough* food and the *right kind* of food. It can be hard to meet even basic nutritional standards, such as adequate vitamin A—especially among vulnerable groups like pregnant women and very young children.

PATH used support from the Catalyst Fund to research whether an integrated program that provides pregnant women with sweet potato seedlings through community health and antenatal care services can reverse the course of vitamin A deficiency—and support healthy growth in children while strengthening defenses against infectious disease, especially diarrhea.

There's strong evidence that orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, which are rich in vitamin A and easy to grow, can boost energy and reduce malnutrition. The impact could be highest in the poorest households—where most food is grown, not bought, and where the pressure on food supplies is great.

Using innovation funding, we compiled a base of information and began initial outreach—reaching across sectors to find partners addressing global and national agriculture needs, setting up a process for selecting pilot communities, and engaging local leaders. The results of this work played a major role in securing a five-year, \$1.2 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to use sweet potatoes to improve nutrition in Kenya.



Wendy Stone

With your help, we're finding ways to integrate health and agriculture—for example, distributing seedlings for vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes through community health care services.

Entre Amigos: friends teaching friends

Entre Amigos (“Between Friends”) is a collaboration between PATH and a Nicaraguan partner, CEPS, to encourage gender equity and healthy behaviors among boys and girls. Entre Amigos operates in Ciudad Sandino, an extremely poor community with the highest crime rate in Managua, Nicaragua. PATH and our partners are reaching young people 10 to 14 years old through their peers, to change attitudes about violence, sexuality, and gender roles by promoting respectful relations.

Each month, young leaders walk through their neighborhoods and round up other girls and boys who are part of the project. They gather in somebody’s yard and talk about important topics they won’t study in school. Is there a difference between having a relationship and having sex? What are the changes that are happening to my body? It helps pre-teens and teens change the way they think—understand their bodies better, be more aware of violence and abuse in their communities, and make healthy choices for themselves and for their relationships with others.

With support from innovation funding, the project has demonstrated that this model works—and reaffirmed the importance of working with children at this extremely vulnerable age. The Entre Amigos model is being shared with other educational projects currently active in Nicaragua, and the project’s findings are being used to help establish indicators to measure the effect of work on masculinity with men and male adolescents in Nicaragua.



Kids like Enyel (standing) are learning new ways of thinking about sex, gender equity, and growing up—and teaching their peers. This program, established in a poor urban community in Nicaragua, is funded in part with your support.

Oxytocin in Uniject®

In developed countries, prompt medical care has reduced rates of death from postpartum hemorrhage, but severe bleeding caused by childbirth is still the leading cause of maternal death worldwide. Promising interventions include the use of oxytocin in the BD Uniject device and active management of the third stage of labor (AMTSL). The objectives of this demonstration project included:

- Distributing oxytocin in Uniject among skilled birth attendants in Latin America, both in health facilities and communities, and evaluating its use.
- Increasing the availability of oxytocin in Uniject worldwide through its inclusion in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) procurement system.
- Evaluating use of AMTSL in Latin America.

Working with Tulane University, PATH conducted a clinical trial in five primary and secondary care maternity hospitals in the province of Corrientes, Argentina. The study showed that distributing ready-to-use oxytocin kits, using reminders, and training birth attendants in AMTSL increased the use of prophylactic oxytocin without an increase in maternal complications. The study also showed that birth attendants’ high acceptance and use of oxytocin in Uniject helped encourage the use of prophylactic oxytocin.



The success of this study in a resource-poor setting suggests that the strategy could be replicated in hospitals with limited infrastructure in Latin America. Positive study results will encourage further trials to assess the intervention and seek strategies to improve the implementation of oxytocin in Uniject in a variety of hospital settings.

You are the catalyst

These projects work in diverse ways to improve the health of people around the world. They share, however, a common source: you. Your support of flexible funding at PATH gives life to some of our most creative and effective programs—from idea, to innovation, to impact. Thank you for your support this past year.

Uniject is a registered trademark of BD.

Overview of Catalyst Fund allocations in 2009

PATH's Catalyst Fund channels innovation funding into projects across the spectrum of health need and in all areas of our work—from behavior change to technologies to local collaborations that strengthen health systems.

Project title	Brief description
Addressing intersections of reproductive health and chronic disease	The project explored the potential for expanding PATH's reproductive health work into a new area: developing solutions for people of reproductive age worldwide who are affected by chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease.
aids2031 Science and Technology Working Group	Innovation funding helped cover costs for PATH to co-convene the aids2031 Science and Technology Working Group. The working group will uncover new ideas in science and technology for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and diagnosis.
Challenges and opportunities to increasing access to antiretroviral therapy monitoring	The barriers that hinder the monitoring of antiretroviral therapy, including HIV viral load, may affect the outcome of treatment for people with HIV. This project looked at the challenges of implementing testing in an effort to identify areas in which PATH might address this complex issue.
Child immunization in Madhya Pradesh	PATH used innovation funding to meet a co-funding requirement from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, winning a grant of almost \$3 million and launching a project to improve immunization systems in Madhya Pradesh, India.
Clinton Global Initiative collaboration on enhanced newborn care kit	The project's goal was to establish support to sustain PATH's ongoing collaboration with the newly formed Alliance for Newborn Health. The project sought to position PATH to receive funding from corporations and individuals participating in the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting by launching the Enhanced Newborn Care Kit concept and announcing a shared commitment to improve newborn health.
Decision-making frameworks for health innovations	The project aimed to increase understanding of how national governments adopt innovations in health. Understanding how and why national governments make decisions can help ensure that people in low-income countries gain timely access to advances in technology.
Developing health and agriculture linkage project for Kenya (orange-fleshed sweet potatoes)	The project's goal was to demonstrate the ability of integrated agriculture and public health interventions to enhance and sustain improved health. The project assisted with the introduction of an HIV/AIDS service delivery project in western Kenya.
Developing strategic partnerships on diagnostics in India	The project worked to accelerate the development and introduction of innovations in diagnostics developed in India while at the same time addressing public health needs in the country.
Entre Amigos in Nicaragua	Working with girls and boys ages 10 to 14 years in Ciudad Sandino, Managua, the project tested an educational model that teaches knowledge, skills, and the ability to recognize gender inequity and its implications for sexual and reproductive health and violence.
Feeding buddies: a strategy to promote safe infant feeding for HIV-positive mothers	This project tests the acceptability and feasibility of having HIV-positive mothers choose a "feeding buddy" to help them safely feed their babies. Feeding buddies support mothers in their homes as they practice safe infant feeding so that the baby's health is more likely to be good.
Grand Challenges: point-of-care diagnostics	Innovation funding was used to support development of a diagnostic platform for the accurate diagnosis of disease—familiarily called the DxBox. Innovation funding supported molecular studies to help researchers understand alternate causes of illness in patients with symptoms similar to those of malaria and dengue fever. Findings are informing the next generation of diagnostic tests.

Project title	Brief description
Infant and young child feeding capacity building	This project's goal was to improve infant and young child survival by strengthening health care services and support for mothers that promoted optimal feeding, such as exclusive breastfeeding during a baby's first six months.
Infant and young child feeding capacity building in Nyanza Province	Support from the Catalyst Fund helped PATH implement its strategy for infant and young child feeding in the Nyanza Province of Kenya.
Integrating gender across PATH	Evidence suggests that reinforcing equity, addressing harmful gender norms, and improving women's access to health services are some of the most potent ways to strengthen health outcomes for everyone, male or female. This project is aimed at helping PATH integrate gender as a key component of programmatic planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.
Job aids for crisis settings	Job aids are tools, such as step-by-step instructions, that help people perform a specific task accurately and efficiently. This project developed job aids to help ensure the correct use of reproductive health technologies, ultimately resulting in improved health care for people affected by natural disasters or conflict.
Mobile device-based project management in a TB project in Tanzania	Mobile, handheld devices may provide an efficient way of collecting and managing data for health workers based in the field. This project created, tested, and evaluated a mobile device system that allowed for data collection and reporting in real time.
New vaccine introduction in Cambodia	With help from the Catalyst Fund, PATH supported Cambodia's plans to introduce the combination diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus-hepatitis B- <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B vaccine. Nationwide introduction of the vaccine is planned for 2010.
Oral rehydration therapy corners	The project focused on establishing oral rehydration corners in Kenyan health care settings, specifically designated areas in health clinics where children with diarrhea get water mixed with vital salts and minerals to help them recover.
Oxytocin in Uniject device: moving into the field	Promising interventions for severe bleeding caused by childbirth include the use of the drug oxytocin in the Uniject device. This demonstration project included distribution of oxytocin in Uniject to birth attendants in Latin America and work toward increasing the availability of the device, prefilled with oxytocin, worldwide.
Strengthening health systems through health services model innovation	Once health services are in place, delivering services to those who need them often can be a significant challenge. This project aimed to incorporate innovations in health service delivery into our broader work to strengthen health systems.
Washington Global Health Alliance internship	A small grant from the Catalyst Fund enabled the Washington Global Health Alliance, which is housed at PATH, to hire a part-time intern. The Alliance works to enhance and expand Washington's global health impact and showcase our region's role as a leading center for global health activities.



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PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH's work improves global health and well-being.