TOGETHER

against diarrhea

Chapter One

"HELLO, ARE WE TOGETHER?"

– Dr. Alfred Ochola

Photo: PATH/Tony Karumba

^Top

Alfred

Jane

Yeksim

Teresa

Schoolkids

Evan

In a swampy field in Western Kenya, an energetic Alfred Ochola surveys the crowd. All eyes are on him as he rolls up his pants, wades into a muddy stream, and fills a bucket with dirty water.

“Diarrhea,” he says, pointing to the floating bits of grass and mud. Women from the nearby village stand by with their jerry cans. Some sheepish smiles. They know, but what can they do?

"Ni maisha."

A few weeks after Alfred’s visit, bricks and concrete arrive. The villagers build a small dam to protect the spring. Soon diarrhea cases drop dramatically.

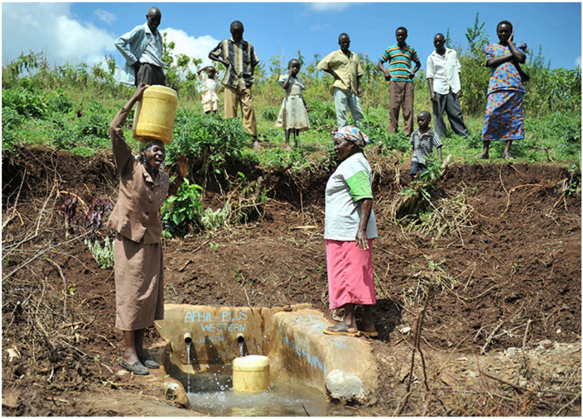


Photo: PATH/Tony Karumba

Oral rehydration solution (ORS) has saved millions of lives and costs just pennies.

In a cramped clinic one village over, a mother holding a tiny baby tips a plastic cup to the child’s mouth.

Water mixed with sugar and salt. "That’s all it takes," says Alfred, standing nearby, "to bring a baby back to life."

Surely one man, armed with a bit of concrete, salt, and sugar, can’t defeat one of Kenya’s most insidious child killers.

Or can he?

Help Alfred defeat diarrhea by sharing his story.

DID YOU KNOW?

2 in 3: Number of Kenyans without access to improved sanitation (flush toilet, ventilated improved pit [VIP] latrine, pit latrine with slab, and/or composting toilet).[1]

A Cup, a Corner, a Community: Kenyans Worki
0:00 / 6:26
YouTube

Alfred has helped to establish more than 200 ORS corners in Western Kenya.

UNICEF. Kenya: Statistics. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/kenya_statistics.html#115. Accessed September 12, 2014.

Chapter Two

"YOUR CHILD IS CURSED."

That's what village women told Jane Wamalwa in Western Kenya when her first child died from the dehydration brought on by severe diarrhea. He was five years old.

Her second child died at 18 months. Her husband and in-laws blamed her.

Then there was a third. Three small mounds in a cornfield near her house. Three small lives lost to diarrhea that she believed she was helpless to save.

† † †

Fifteen years later, so much has changed.

Photo: PATH/Gabe Bienczycki

Jane knows things she didn't then—about hygiene, clean water, rehydration, zinc, vaccines. She knows now that diarrhea is not a curse. It is something to be prevented, treated, and cured.

We have the tools today to defeat deadly diarrhea.

Today, Jane walks from house to house on the outskirts of her village, at times with her teenage daughter, who is healthy and happy. She looks in on the mothers and smiles, offering advice and inspiring hope.

"You know me. I lost my children to diarrhea," she says. "Now I am informed."

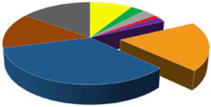
Jane knows that with the power of education, she and other mothers can make real change. Together.

Help Jane as she helps other mothers by sharing her story.

DID YOU KNOW?

Join Jane as a powerful advocate to defeat diarrheal disease. Use our Advocacy Toolkit to access key messages, sample tweets, and more.

See the Advocacy Toolkit >



Diarrhea is a leading cause of child death in Kenya, as it is in most African countries.[2]

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[2] The Partnership for Newborn & Child Health. Maternal and Child Health: Kenya. Available at: http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/membernews/2011/20121216_kenyaparliament.pdf. Accessed August 12, 2014

Chapter Three

"IF PARENTS KNEW THE SIGNS, CHILDREN WOULD NOT HAVE TO DIE."

Photo: PATH/Heng Chivoan

In Duan Tom village, they gather on woven mats, children cradled in arms and on laps. They come in the dry season and during the monsoon. They come to learn how to heal their children.

With a flip book full of illustrations, Yeksim—this Cambodian village's vice chief—solves mysteries that have haunted some for years.

Photo: PATH/Heng Chivoan

Photo: PATH/Heng Chivoan

Why the child is sick with diarrhea and fever.

Why the skin gets dry and pale.

Why in the worst moments the child doesn't make a sound.

Most important, she shows the mothers what they can do:

Wash your hands.

Breastfeed your baby.

Use oral rehydration, and a new treatment that has just arrived—zinc.

Photo: PATH/Heng Chivoan

Zinc reduces diarrhea severity, prevents future episodes, and saves lives.

But now there is help. A recent project has brought medicine— including small white pills called zinc—as well as education, training, and good news. Cases of diarrhea are in decline.

Together this village is fighting back against diarrheal disease.

And together they are winning.

Show your support for Yeksim's village by sharing its success.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cambodia's government launched a new policy to combat childhood diarrhea and pneumonia. The success of the project in Yeksim's village motivated the government to expand its reach to 1.6 million children.[3]

Learn about Cambodia's project, along with other countries' success stories >

The next generation of defeatDD advocates. Aren't they cute?

VIEW SLIDESHOW

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[3] Reed L. Cambodia Tackles Pneumonia and Diarrhea [blog post]. PATH. January 8, 2013. Available at: http://www.path.org/blog/2013/01/diarrhea-and-pneumonia/. Accessed August 12, 2014.

Chapter Four

"HE WAS NEAR DEATH."

Photo: PATH/Gareth Bentley

A television. A toilet. A sofa. Conveniences many mothers in Zambia don't have. Teresa knows she is lucky.

Yet these small luxuries couldn't protect her child. A few years ago, she rushed her firstborn to the hospital, too many times to count.

Severe diarrhea, again and again. She knew so little then—about hand-washing, ORS, and zinc.

Sometimes she wonders: Was it my fault he almost died?

This time around, things are different. In a small clinic, she cradles her second child, a one-month old named Vusi. Nearby, a nurse uncaps a small vial filled with a few drops of rotavirus vaccine.

Vusi cries as the nurse puts the liquid into his mouth. But Teresa smiles.

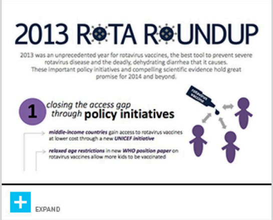
Photo: PATH/Gareth Bentley

"Diarrhea is one of the major problems we face," she says.

"It's time for us to help our children."

Help mothers like Teresa prevent diarrhea by sharing her story.

DID YOU KNOW?



2013 ROTA ROUNDUP

2013 was an unprecedented year for rotavirus vaccines, the best tool to prevent severe rotavirus disease and the deadly, dehydrating diarrhea that it causes. These important policy initiatives and compelling scientific evidence hold great promise for 2014 and beyond.

1 *closing the access gap through* **policy initiatives**

- ***middle-income countries*** gain access to rotavirus vaccines at lower cost through a new ***UNICEF initiative***
- ***relaxed age restrictions*** in new ***WHO position paper*** on rotavirus vaccines allow more kids to be vaccinated

Rotavirus vaccines have recently been introduced in Zambia and several other countries across the world.

Browse more data and resources on rotavirus >

Integration in Action: 5 ways to defeat diarrhe...
0:00 / 5:15
YouTube

Zambia is leading the charge to defeat diarrhea, setting the standard for integrating policies, education, safe drinking water, rotavirus vaccines, ORS and zinc.

Chapter Five

“TOGETHER, WE SHALL FIGHT DIARRHEA!”

- Zambian schoolkids

Photo: PATH/Gareth Bentley

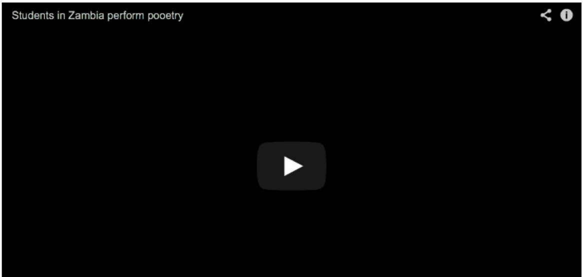
In Zambia’s Mazabuka Province, kids freestyle outside the schoolhouse.

The scene is universal. But the rhymes are all their own.

For a few minutes, shared responsibility replaces teenage insecurity. Is it cool to rap about diarrhea? When the stakes are this high, it just might be.

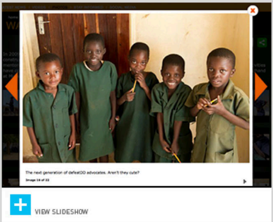
Besides, there’s plenty of swagger. Name-check the enemy, the power of direct address.

The fight continues, but this battle is won. “Together, we shall fight diarrhea!”



Keep the rhyme alive by sharing the message of these kids.

DID YOU KNOW?



The next generation of defeatDD advocates. Aren't they cute?

Students as Teachers
0:00 / 2:27
YouTube

A WASH in Schools program is turning students into powerful teachers, bringing lessons on safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene to their peers, families, and communities.

Chapter Six

"TOGETHER ... WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN."

Photo: PATH/Patrick McKern

Thousands of miles and many times zones away, Evan Simpson watches his son field a ball in Seattle, Washington. He wonders about his son's future, and reflects on his own path.

Evan didn't set out to make a career out of diarrhea. But once he understood the desperate need and how many solutions existed, it just became obvious.

Photo: PATH/Molly Mort

Photo: PATH/Hope Randall

Evan knows that eliminating deaths from diarrhea will require all the tools at hand:

Simple technologies to clean dirty water.
Better education—on hygiene, sanitation, breastfeeding, and nutrition.
Vaccines Medicines—like ORS and zinc, and research on new drugs

Even more than that, though, he knows it will take all of us working together:

Community advocates, like Alfred and Jane. Mothers, like Teresa. Leaders, like Yeksim. A new generation of teachers, like the Zambian schoolkids.

And you.

Are we together to defeat diarrhea? Share your support and your story on Facebook and Twitter, using #defeatDD.

DID YOU KNOW?

Defeat diarrheal disease? Together, we've got i
0:00 / 1:56
YouTube

If there were a way to save half a million children's lives every year, wouldn't you help? Get looped in to the global movement.

Imagine
0:00 / 3:57
YouTube

PATH is rethinking solutions for diarrheal disease, a preventable and treatable condition that claims the lives of 2,000 kids each day.

Unattributed photo credits: "Alfred" thumbnail by PATH; "Jane" thumbnail by PATH/Gabe Bienczycki; "Oral rehydration solution…" thumbnail by PATH/Tony Karumba; "We have the tools…" thumbnail by PATH/Tony Karumba; "Zinc reduces diarrhea severity…" thumbnail by PATH/Tony Karumba.

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