Our Mission

Save lives and improve health by increasing access to quality health care for the most underserved communities.
VillageReach programs currently reach over 16 million people across multiple countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Executive Summary

VillageReach’s commitment to partnership was a key driver of our work in 2016. Successful collaboration with governments, the private sector, and our global teams led to the continued scale up of sustainable health innovation, increasing access to health care in many communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Highlights from 2016 include:

Next-Generation Supply Chains: Progress on next-generation supply chains entered a new phase with work beginning in the Democratic Republic of Congo. New approaches, such as the Transport Services Solution, explore how the private sector can contribute to public health supply chains. A new report, Lessons Learned in Reaching the Final 20, summarizes the evidence gathered from more than a decade of work improving immunization supply chains in Mozambique.

Chipatala Cha Pa Foni (“Health Center by Phone”): A new partnership with Airtel in Malawi provides critical support for Chipatala Cha Pa Foni, leveraging the private sector to make this health hotline scalable and sustainable. This partnership is central to the growth of the hotline as VillageReach works with the Ministry of Health to reach national scale in 2017. In addition, CCPF for Adolescents was launched, strengthening the existing hotline service to provide youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and referrals to facility-based services.

Pharmacy Assistant Training Program: The second cohort of pharmacy assistants graduated from Malawi’s Pharmacy Assistant Training Program, adding an additional 85 trained health workers who will improve medicines management and pharmaceutical practice in rural pharmacies throughout Malawi.

OpenLMIS: The release of the OpenLMIS 3.0 Beta was an exciting evolution of the OpenLMIS platform that will help meet the current and future needs of counties to better manage health supply chains.

New Innovations: VillageReach contributed to leading research on the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS, UAVs, or drones) for last mile health, collaborating with governments, donors, NGO partners manufacturers, local universities and technologists.

The momentum of the past 12 months has positioned VillageReach to continue its growth and success in 2017. As our programs scale through partnerships with ministries of health and other organizations, it is important to continually evaluate how and where our work can have the greatest impact. We look forward to continuing this work in 2017.
VillageReach develops innovative approaches to improve health supply chains, ensuring more efficient and effective delivery of vaccines and essential medicines to the last mile. With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other key partners, VillageReach is contributing to the global transition toward next-generation immunization supply chains through system design, implementation, evidence-generation, and advocacy at national and sub-national levels. In 2016, VillageReach introduced and supported supply chain improvements in multiple countries.

**In the Democratic Republic of Congo**, VillageReach is collaborating with the Ministry of Health to use a system design approach to strengthen the public health supply chain in Equateur province. From April to August 2016, VillageReach worked with stakeholders and partners to build political will for change and to collect data for use in a modelling exercise. Computer-based modelling was used to develop a number of improvement scenarios, which were presented to stakeholders in November. These scenarios are being used to inform an implementation plan for supply chain improvements in the province.

**Reaching the Final 20**: VillageReach released a report, *Lessons Learned in Reaching the Final 20: Building a Next-Generation Immunization Supply Chain in Mozambique*, summarizing the key lessons from working with the Ministry of Health in Mozambique. The report offers new tools, approaches, and evidence for countries and stakeholders to consider for holistic supply chain improvement.

**Transport Services Solution**: In Tete province, Mozambique, VillageReach supported the Transport Service Solution (TSS), a public-private partnership which uses a third-party logistics provider to distribute vaccines, antiretrovirals, and other essential medicines to health facilities. This work will help generate evidence around efficiency and effectiveness of such a partnership and help develop a new model for last mile distribution.
Chipatala Cha Pa Foni (CCPF) “Health center by phone”

Chipatala Cha Pa Foni (CCPF) is a toll-free health hotline in Malawi staffed by trained health workers who provide health information and referrals over the phone. Through CCPF, women and caregivers can also sign up to receive personal text or voice reminders on maternal and child health topics specific to their month of pregnancy or their child’s age.

CCPF made significant strides in 2016. Airtel, Malawi’s leading mobile telecommunications provider, and VillageReach announced the official launch of Airtel Chipatala Cha Pa Foni, a partnership that, together with the support of the Ministry of Health and other partners represents a significant expansion of the service in both scope and scale. Through these partnerships, CCPF now covers a broader range of health topics beyond maternal and child health including nutrition, cancer, HIV, and common health concerns. In 2016, CPPF expanded to three additional districts in Malawi, with the potential to reach an additional 400,000 people, and ensuring that mothers like Patuma have access to health information, advice and care, no matter where they live. Airtel remains central to this growth as VillageReach works with the Malawi Ministry of Health towards a goal to complete national scale-up by the end of 2017.

New ventures, like CCPF for Adolescents, continue to enhance the quality of the service and expand its potential to reach more people at the last mile. This new program, announced in October 2016, will offer a private, confidential option for youth seeking sexual and reproductive health information while also helping facilitate their access to facility-based services when needed. Hotline workers will be trained in adolescent development and health, youth-friendly customer care, and adolescent-focused health information.
The Pharmacy Assistant Training Program is a two-year certificate-level program focused on developing a new cadre of health workers to improve medicines management and pharmaceutical practice at the health center level. In collaboration with partners, VillageReach launched this two-year program at the Malawi College of Health Sciences with a strong emphasis on supply chain management and hands-on, experiential learning including two five-month practicums.

In June 2016, the second cohort of pharmacy assistants graduated, adding 85 new pharmacy assistants to the health workforce in Malawi. These pharmacy assistants allow other frontline health workers to spend more time with patients, ensure medicines are managed more effectively, and improve the quality of care in rural health centers.

VillageReach has transitioned from a leading implementer to technical advisor as the Malawi government, donors, and partners have made strong commitments to manage and fund the program at scale.

OpenLMIS is an enterprise-class, open source electronic logistics information management system purpose-built to manage health commodity supply chains. The OpenLMIS initiative incorporates a community-focused approach to develop an LMIS system for low-resource settings. VillageReach is a leading contributor to OpenLMIS, including software development and community support. The OpenLMIS 3.0 Beta was released in November 2016, the first major milestone in the rearchitecture of the OpenLMIS software. Version 3 of OpenLMIS will better support customizations and extensions, enabling multiple OpenLMIS implementations in different countries while still sharing a single global source codebase.
Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) have significant potential to improve the availability of health products and services at the last mile. VillageReach is working to understand the use of drones for product delivery in low-resource environments, collaborating with stakeholders including governments, donor, NGO partners, UAS manufacturers, and local universities and technologists. VillageReach contributed to costing studies, including a pilot project in Malawi in partnership with UNICEF and private sector partner, Matternet.

In 2016, VillageReach and partners developed the UAV for Payload Delivery Working Group (UPDWG) to serve as an informal knowledge and resource-sharing mechanism for the development, advancement and application of UAS in public health and supply chain improvement. VillageReach coordinates the group’s activities – hosting quarterly webinars on trends and challenges from this growing field.
Our Team

2016 Leadership

In 2016, VillageReach saw a leadership transition with the retirement of VillageReach President Allen Wilcox. Evan Simpson joined as President in July 2016.

Allen Wilcox, President (through June 2016)
Evan Simpson, President (July 2016)
Emily Bancroft, Vice President
John Beale, Director & Group Lead, Private Sector Engagement
Ruth Bechtel, Mozambique Country Director
Carla Blauvelt, Malawi Country Director
Jessica Crawford, Senior Manager & Group Lead, Health Systems Group
Matt DeGoooyer, Director of Development
Nancy Geiger, Director, Finance and Operations
Jake Watson, Director & Group Lead, Information Systems Group
Melissa West, Director & Group Lead, Advocacy & Communications

2016 Board of Directors

Richard Fant, VillageReach Board Chair, Vice President, AVG Technologies
Valerie Nkamgang Bemo, M.D., MPH, Senior Program Officer, Global Development Initiatives, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Alexandra Brookshire Esq., Partner, Perkins Coie (Retired)
John Dew, Director of Global Ocean Service Provider Management, Expeditors International
Michael Free, OBE, PhD, Senior Advisor Emeritus, PATH
Karen Glover, Global Integration Partner, K&L Gates LLP (retired)
Margaret Griffiths, Chief Financial Officer, Qualis Health
Laura Herman, Managing Director, FSG Social Impact Advisors
Will Poole, Social Technologist
Paul Suzman, Founder and President, OfficeLease
Allen Wilcox, President/Advisor, VillageReach
Graça Machel, Chair, FDC; VillageReach Honorary Board Chair
Financial Reports

VillageReach provides its financial reporting online for convenient access. Copies of our Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Proof of 501 (c)(3), and archived financial reports can be found here.

The following financial reports are also available online:
- FY 2016 Tax Returns
- FY 2016 Audited Financial Statement

Partners

VillageReach funding and implementation partners make our work possible:

- Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP)
- Airtel
- Baobab Health Trust
- Barr Foundation
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
- Concern Worldwide Malawi
- David Weekley Family Foundation
- Foundation for Community Development (FDC)
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- GIZ
- GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
- Global Good
- Health Alliance International (HAI)
- Intellectual Ventures
- I-TECH
- John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
- Johnson & Johnson Corporate Contributions
- The Miami Foundation
- The Mulago Foundation
- Management Sciences for Health
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- Nexleaf
- The Oasis Fund
- Oxfam
- PATH
- Poverty Action
- Project Concern International
- Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
- Seattle Foundation
- Seattle International Foundation
- Skoll Foundation
- Touch Foundation
- USAID
- USAID|DELIVER Project
- UNICEF
- United Nations Foundation
- United Nations Commission on Life Saving Commodities
- University of Washington Global Medicines Program
- Vitol Foundation
- Vodacom
- William Davidson Institute
THANK YOU

VillageReach is an NGO that develops solutions to critical health system challenges in low-resource environments, with an emphasis on strengthening the “last mile” of health care delivery. VillageReach combines expertise across public health, technology and business to bring life-saving innovation to scale and sustainability in the world’s most underserved communities.

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