

Patricia S. Coffey, PhD, MPH
Social Scientist and Senior Program Officer, PATH

Patricia Coffey is a senior program officer for field research and evaluation and leader of the newborn/maternal cluster in the Health Innovation Portfolio within the Technology Solutions Global Program. She is responsible for the implementation of social science and operations research of newborn maternal and reproductive health technologies. Specifically, Dr. Coffey designs, implements, conducts monitoring and evaluation, and interprets research results relating to novel product designs/approaches. She coordinates activities of multiple partners in field studies evaluating and introducing innovative maternal child health-related uses of the Uniject(TM) prefill injection device, chlorhexidine products for umbilical cord care, neonatal resuscitators, and rapid screening tests, among others. In addition, she is responsible for implementing field research that incorporates the user perspective into the development of new barrier contraceptive methods. She also leads intervention research focusing on behavior change communication, particularly related to increasing access to dual protection methods. Prior to joining PATH, Dr. Coffey directed an applied research project at Snohomish Health District that focused on the cost-effective and efficient implementation of a community mobilization approach to solving local public health issues. She has extensive experience in the design, implementation, and evaluation of applied public health programs in both international and domestic settings. Dr. Coffey has lived and worked in Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Togo, Ukraine, and Zambia; she speaks Portuguese, French, and Spanish. She holds a PhD in applied population research from the Institute for Population Studies at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, and an MPH in population and family health and behavioral sciences and health education from the University of California, Los Angeles.