



Last Mile Health

Skoll Awardee Profile

Organization Overview

Key Info

Social Entrepreneur	Raj Panjabi
Year Awarded	2017
Issue Area Addressed	Health
Sub Issue Area Addressed	Health Delivery, Youth Job Skills
Countries Served	Liberia
Website	http://www.lastmilehealth.org
Twitter handle	lastmilehealth
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/lastmilehealth
Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp1JLuq1uFkzqXqXnxIXC9Q

About the Organization

In developing countries, people who live more than an hour's walk from the nearest health

clinic are at increased risk of dying from preventable or treatable diseases. Health ministries often try to serve these populations by mobilizing community health workers (CHWs), but are unable to support them with adequate pay, training, diagnostic tools, medicines, and supplies.

Last Mile Health partners with government to deploy and manage networks of community health professionals integrated into the public health system. With training in maternal and child health, family planning, treatment adherence, and surveillance of epidemics, together with mentorship from nurse supervisors, these CHWs deliver high quality healthcare to remote communities.

Newborn mortality has decreased, and the percentage of children receiving treatment for diarrhea, malaria, and pneumonia has increased. As a result of this success, Last Mile Health now supports the Liberian Ministry of Health to implement the approach nationwide, preparing policy documents, training curricula and impact measurement tools, and coordinating with NGO partners.

Impact

- To date has reached 52,000 people in 308 remote communities, in nine Liberian health districts.
- Government adoption of Last Mile Health model will reach all 1.2M remote people of Liberia by 2019
- Studies have documented reductions in infant mortality, tenfold increase in the percentage of children receiving treatment for diarrhea and pneumonia, and doubling the percentage of children receiving treatment for malaria.

Path to Scale

Partnerships and independent replication

Achieve global adoption by demonstrating the ability to achieve national coverage in Liberia, documenting the business case for the model, and providing technical assistance to partners.

Social Entrepreneur

Dr. Raj Panjabi is an Associate Physician at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, as well as Co-Founder and CEO of Last Mile Health, which he founded with help from seed money collected at his wedding reception. At age nine, Raj escaped a civil war in his home country of Liberia. He returned in 2005 to find a devastated health care system where 51 doctors served a population of 4 million. He worked with the Ministry of Health, serving as adviser to the deputy minister and as a clinician in rural government health facilities where he discovered that medical resources were disproportionately accessible. In 2007, he founded Last Mile Health which expanded its vision and reach during the 2014 Ebola crisis, pushing the

Liberian government to commit to a model of community health workers accessing even the most remote communities. Raj wants to see a world where healthcare is available to each of the billion or so living in the most inaccessible parts of the developing world. He has been named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People, a TED Prize winner, and Fortune Magazine's 50 Greatest Leaders.

Ambition for Change

Throughout the developing world, governments, NGOs and development finance institutions work in partnership to mobilize professionalized community health teams to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare in all remote communities, and prevent pandemic outbreaks.