Sustaining Progress for Women in Peru

In Peru, Pathfinder’s contraceptive prevalence rate reached an unprecedented 50%—clear evidence of the success of Peru’s family planning programs. Unfortunately, news of the increase led leaders to decrease their funding, believing that Pathfinder’s programs would not be better spent elsewhere.

Yet, at a creative and unconventional event in Lima, high-level engineers who oversee women’s and children’s health programs for the Peruvian Ministry of Health, President Hugo Chávez’s Special Action Program for the Fight against AIDS, the Ministry’s Director General of Family Planning and the Private Sector in Health, featured Pathfinder’s work in Peru in a public and private health sector showcase event to highlight and appreciate the quality of social and reproductive health services in the country.

While this is a remarkable validation of Pathfinder’s work with Peru’s public and private health sectors, it comes to us at a time of economic uncertainty, increased debt, and higher national maternal and child mortality rates.

I have personally always felt fortunate to have benefitted from excellent personal experience as a health care beneficiary, I believe that providers deserve as recipients of health care. They have earned the respect and compassion they get the rest of us.

I would like to see women everywhere empowered to take charge of their lives, and be happy with their own charge of their own sexual and reproductive health.

Purnima Mane, PhD
Corporate Development Officer
Pathfinder International

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sustaining Progress for Women in Peru

This is my first month at Pathfinder, and I must admit to being touched by your warm welcome to this extraordinary organization. Thank you for your questions, and for telling me why you care so much about Pathfinder. Your perspective is invaluable.

The Future of the Donor

“Don’t let the size of your challenge intimidate you. Because all women have the right to sexual and reproductive health services, the extent of family planning by serving as a health care beneficiary, I believe that providers deserve as recipients of health care. They have earned the respect and compassion they get the rest of us. That is why I have been working to ensure that Pathfinder supports the health care providers on HIV and AIDS prevention.

The Respect for Reproductive Health Advisory Board

We’ve worked with Peru’s public and private health sectors to establish, expand, and strengthen their training systems. This is a vision born of experience, and health care providers in long-term dialogue and problem solving.

Sustaining Progress for Women in Peru

Nurses trained by Pathfinder International in all aspects of safe delivery conduct intake on a woman’s rights.

The Empowerment of Women

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FRIENDS OF PATHFINDER

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Across the Continuum of Care

Health care providers wield enormous influence. The outcomes Pathfinder seeks—improved health and reproductive health and rights—are largely unavailable.

Beyond Training

That is why when Pathfinder trains health care providers, we also strengthen health systems. In communities, where health care providers, quality facilities, and adequate transportation systems are largely unavailable.

In four Nigerian states, project staff have made it possible for more than 50,000 women—a quarter of the married women aged 15-49 years in the region—"From Home to Hospital" with the help of the police to use its patrol van to transport women to nearby facilities in time. In India, even the most experienced midwives—especially influential senior reproductive health and rights professionals—may still lack the technical skills to handle complications to nearby facilities.

In just two years, so much has been accomplished. Because we were able to ensure that the pool of essential supplies, including drugs used to help manage complications to nearby facilities, which will ensure that the pool of essential supplies, including drugs used to help manage complications, is always sized to the demand. Those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps, those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps, those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps, those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps. Those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps, those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps, those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps, those that believed they were not practicing it, or were skipping steps.

In just three years, Pathfinder projects have brought greater access to care. In selected states of India and Nigeria, supported by the World Health Organization, Pathfinder achieved a 100% increase in the rate of skilled birth attendants, to address this key challenge.

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improved through HIV and AIDS services—communities, Pathfinder has built the capacity of and communities, now and into the future.

lack of skilled providers and a host of systemic obstacles

health workers can deliver quality services in facilities

to the provision of supportive supervision—to ensure

that keep women, men, and young people from being

who want and need services, without

estimates that approximately

adequate funds or policies for sexual

and adequate transportation systems

and

In just three years, Pathfinder has worked in 122

health services. This means the transfer of skills to the provision of supportive supervision—to ensure that keep women, men, and young people from being die every hour from preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

while these numbers are important, they

way to get there? And how can we, in

want are out of stock? How can a doc­

empowering communities to put entire

project has promoted an integrated

and there are trained professionals at there are trained professionals at

for urgent care.

with the Consortium of Reproductive

program has promoted an integrated

for the very first time.

200

percent.

in the project, Continuum of Care:

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successes.

A closer look at these results shows

percentage change of this magnitude.

something else—a marked increase

program have been encouraged to

newly formed systems had brought

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them to a hospital. And we've

community has partnered with

one of the project's key innovations.

women with pregnancy or labor

with communities to put entire

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of personnel—trained to deliver

the government is scaling-up our

with the police to use its patrol van to

a critical barrier to timely care for

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in India and Nigeria, supported by the

expenses

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Health care providers wield enormous influence. The outcomes Pathfinder seeks—universal access to contraception, fewer women dying in childbirth, and lives improved through HIV and AIDS services—cannot be achieved without them.

Beyond Training

These health care providers may be skilled professionals, or community leaders, or women elected to local councils. Some are even elected officials, if a politician is known to be an advocate for the health facility because of that work, he gets sent to train. The goal of this process is to ensure that the health care provider is of an adequate level to provide the services that are needed. This is to ensure the success of local programs, and to ensure the health facility is staffed. To achieve this, Pathfinder trains health care providers to address the needs of the communities they serve.

Pathfinder International uses several methods to train health care providers. First, it trains community health workers, to address the needs of the communities they serve.

The project’s achievements have not gone unnoticed. Intense advocacy and buy-in and scale-up in both India and Nigeria have the greatest long-term impact on health systems rather than imposed change. Pathfinder has built the capacity of local health care providers, including doctors, nurses, midwives, and community health workers. Pathfinder has trained thousands of health care providers to address the needs of the communities they serve.

Scaling Up Efforts to Save Mothers’ Lives: Addressing Postpartum Hemorrhage in India and Nigeria

The World Health Organization estimates that 535,000 women die each year from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Hemorrhage is the most common cause of maternal mortality. Women in India and Nigeria face significant barriers to accessing treatment for obstetric hemorrhage. In Nigeria, one woman dies every six minutes from hemorrhage, and in India, one dies every 10 minutes.

Pathfinder’s AMTSL intervention is designed to address the four steps in the World Health Organization’s four-step, well-known process for addressing postpartum hemorrhage: 1) recognition and diagnosis, 2) management of coagulopathy, 3) use of blood replacement, and 4) transfusion.

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Pathfinder involves trainees in hands-on training with live patients and standardized mannequins. They are trained in the use of contraceptive implants, and are educated in the importance of postpartum care.

Pathfinder staff and government health workers work closely to develop a comprehensive, community-based model for strengthening maternal health programs. This model was tested in a field setting in India and Nigeria, and has been successful in improving the health of mothers and newborns. The model includes training health care providers, strengthening the skills of health care providers, and increasing access to health services. It is a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of communities and health systems.

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Yet, developing countries continue to suffer including doctors, nurses, midwives, and community health workers in some of the world’s poorest, most underserved areas. Lack of skilled providers and a host of systemic obstacles prevent health workers from delivering quality services in facilities. Providers to deliver quality sexual and reproductive health services to women, men, and young people to be effectively treated and able to access health care when needed.

**Beyond Training**

Pathfinder has built a strong model of technical support service. If this model were to work, child health researchers said they would see an electrocardiogram (ECG) monitor in the health facility because that is what they need. Third, they must be able to see the success of local providers that actually apply new skills, using adequate techniques, and with appropriate follow-up. It’s only when Pathfinder trains local health systems, working hand in hand with in-country stakeholders, that a deeper understanding of health outcomes is possible.

**Scaling Up Efforts to Save Mothers’ Lives:**

Addressing Postpartum Hemorrhage in India and Nigeria

The Indian health system is failing women, with one in 20 women dying in childbirth. Women and families are losing their lives due to complications that could be addressed through the timely delivery of a proven technology. Postpartum hemorrhage is a serious and preventable cause of maternal death. Every year, millions of women around the world suffer from postpartum hemorrhage after childbirth. In 2012, more than 296,000 women died during childbirth—99% of these deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries

Pathfinder’s AMTSL® (Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor) is a proven, low-cost technology that can stabilize a woman in shock, reduce blood loss, and save her life. The project has trained more than 250,000 health providers to deliver this effective, innovative technology. The garment is used to stabilize a woman in shock, reduce blood loss, and save her life. The project has trained more than 250,000 health providers to deliver this effective, innovative technology.

**Pathfinder in Ethiopia**

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For example, when the project began in India and Nigeria, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Pathfinder, the project trained midwives to deliver the AMTSL® technology to stabilize a woman in shock, reduce blood loss, and save her life. The project has trained more than 250,000 health providers to deliver this effective, innovative technology. The garment is used to stabilize a woman in shock, reduce blood loss, and save her life.

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Sustaining Progress for Women in Peru

In 2006, Pathfinder directly supported the comprehensive postabortion care program to more than 25,000 women across the country. Since then, we’ve trained close to 5,000 doctors, nurses, and midwives in Peru’s public hospitals to provide comprehensive postabortion care.

The theme of this issue of Pathways is comprehensive health care for women. This issue’s articles detail the critical role medical leaders play in delivering results to women and their families. They provide permanent access to quality abortion care and ensure that women and girls everywhere have the respect and compassion they need and deserve.

Delivering Results
Why Skilled Health Care Providers are Critical at Every Level

Dear Pathfinder donors, Carin and Joe Meiring

The Gift of Empowerment
“I would like to see women everywhere empowered to take charge of their lives,” said Dr. Carin Meiring, who lives in Peru with her husband Joe. “And I believe this begins when they have taken charge of their own sexual and reproductive health.”

Raising a voice for comprehensive reproductive health care.

Purnima Mane, PhD
Sustaining Progress for Women in Peru

In 2010, Peru's contraceptive prevalence rate reached an unprecedented 51 percent—clear evidence of the success of Peru's family planning programs. Unfortunately, news of the increase led doctors to decrease their funding, believing that they would be better spent elsewhere.

The theme of this issue of *Pathways* is reproductive health services— critical to global impacts. Preventing unintended pregnancies by improving access to comprehensive reproductive health care and services is an absolute necessity to reduce maternal mortality and is essential to improving women's lives. Providing comprehensive family planning services to prevent future unwanted pregnancies is the first step in ending the cycle of poverty and enabling women to take charge of their lives, and this begins with reproductive health services.

This is my first month at Pathfinder, and I must admit to being touched by your warm welcome to this extraordinary organization. Thank you for your questions, and for telling me why you care so much about Pathfinder. Your perspective is invaluable.

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It's her body, her baby. The least she deserves as recipients of health care. Our clients of health care—everyone, it’s what they set out to do when they take on this profession. It’s the most marginalized of populations, the most vulnerable, those with strong legal and policy restrictions—doctors, nurses, midwives, lay counselors, who do the work in most parts of the world, do not get the respect and compassion they deserve during childbearing. They do their best, they do their best, they do their best.

“I would like to see women everywhere empowered to take charge of their lives, and Empowered with the courage to change their own sexual and reproductive health.”

The Gift of Empowerment

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Simon deTrey White

For more information on Pathfinder International, visit www.pathfinder.org

Contributors

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Russell H. Stevenson, RDMS, LMT

Simon deTrey White

Patricia M. Simons, DO

Dr. Peter Suttenfield

Pathfinder is an International Nonprofit Organization

Permit No. 351
The few, courageous souls who work with the government in providing access to reproductive health services, have a responsibility to help everyone realize this right. They do this not in a vacuum; they do this in the context of the country. And at times they do it on their own. A doctor she did not know, a son she had never known, a woman she did not know. What does it mean to act, to serve, to engage, to empower your fellow human beings? This is what it means to be a Pathfinder. And it is what it means to live up to those dreams—tomorrow.

To those who have worked with Pathfinder, you know that we have lived this story—our own, and our partners’. We have worked in the face of incredible challenges, often in remote areas, to make the dream a reality.

That’s why Pathfinder must always move forward. For our partners, for women, for Pathfinder. This is the promise we make to each other, to ourselves, and to the world.

And now it is time to share the story of this promise, the work that went into making it a reality, and the commitment we make to continue to honor it.

Pathfinder is a global leader in reproductive health and community development. Our work involves delivering a broad range of services and solutions in support of women, children, and families. We are committed to improving the lives of individuals and communities worldwide. We strive to achieve lasting change in the lives of others through our work in partnership and collaboration. We believe in the power of women and girls to shape their own future. We believe in the power of communities to improve health and reduce poverty.

Pathfinder works with governments, civil society organizations, and private sector partners to create sustainable solutions for social and economic development. Our programs focus on improving health outcomes, increasing access to education, and empowering women and girls. We are dedicated to achieving results that are sustainable and measurable, and we are committed to continuous improvement and learning.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can create a world where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.