
Photographer: Maren Vespia

Abertina Chissano is an activist with Pathfinder’s RARE project.

Photographer: Ricardo Franco
Dear Pathfinder Community,

This past year has been fraught with epic health challenges, economic hardships, and painful events—demonstrating the continued force of systemic racism and racial inequality. We have been called on as never before to face ourselves and work in solidarity to create a more just and equitable world.

At Pathfinder, our work to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights is grounded in equity.

This has been true since our founding 64 years ago.

Since the beginning, we have fulfilled our mission by deploying local country teams who know the communities they serve. Embedded in the cultural and religious fabric of their communities and trusted partners to their local health systems, Pathfinders adapt in real time as crises unfold. They respond to the actual needs of women, girls, and the communities around them. This model has delivered incredible value over time—and never more so than this past year when Pathfinders supported the delivery of high-impact services as COVID-19 profoundly changed every way we lived and worked.

These urgent times call for us to move with speed and intention, ensuring our future reflects the insights and opportunities the pandemic has revealed. As Pathfinders, we want to shape the way sexual and reproductive health and rights work evolves and deepens in the years ahead—supporting resilient health systems that can continue to serve women and girls during crises.

To do this, we have expanded our Management Team, which now includes a broader representation of staff. The Management Team will incorporate a racial justice lens into its examination of our processes and structure. It will also continue to explore ways in which Pathfinder offices outside the US can have an even greater voice in decisions that affect them.

Our Board has turned a hard lens on itself, committing to transform from largely US-based and international nongovernmental organization representation to greater representation from countries in South Asia and Africa. We are actively seeking new members with deeper geopolitical perspectives, and increased geographical, racial, and professional diversity. We recently welcomed two superb new members to our Board:

- **Dr. Kavita Patel** is a primary care physician and policy expert, with appointments at the Brookings Institution and the Bipartisan Policy Center. She serves as an advisor to the Department of Health and Human Services, and during the Obama
administration, played a critical role in health care reform.

- **Dr. Priya Agrawal** is an obstetrician and gynecologist and global women's health expert. She is currently Managing Director for Merck in South Africa and a Technical Advisor to the World Health Organization. Dr. Agrawal's work has been recognized by the Harvard School of Public Health, the Trent Cancer Registry in the United Kingdom, and the National Patient Safety Agency, and she was recently honored with the Forbes Impact Award in Advocacy.

Our plan is to continue to add additional Board members in the coming months as we refresh our governance and meeting practices.

2020 has been one of the most challenging years imaginable, but it has also provided significant opportunities for positive change. I am tremendously proud that as Pathfinders we are poised to meet this moment by working together to advance equity within our organization and around the world.

Sincerely,
Roslyn M. Watson
Board Chair

**NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

**Dr. Priya Agrawal** is the Managing Director for South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa at Merck. Previously at MSD, she was Executive Director for Vaccines and Women's Health in the UK (2016-2019). From 2012-2016, as lead for MSD for Mothers, she launched and led the $500 million commitment to global maternal health initiative for the company.

**Dr. Kavita Patel** is a non-resident Fellow in the Department of Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. There, Dr. Patel works on helping health care systems understand how to transform their clinical environments to become more accountable for the care they provide as well as other aspects of health reform implementation.

Bonnie A. New, MD
Ann Svensén
Judy N. Tabb, Esq.
Ralph S. Tate
Manuel Urbina, MD
Sharon W. Allison*
Deborah De Witt*

*Members who departed the Board during the July 2019 - June 2020 period
### Our Global Impact in 2020

#### Pathfinder’s Mission

We champion sexual and reproductive health and rights worldwide, mobilizing communities most in need to break through barriers and forge their own path to a healthier future.

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<tr>
<td><strong>1,381,904</strong></td>
<td><strong>91,499</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>unsafe abortions averted</td>
<td>child deaths averted</td>
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<td><strong>1,184,322</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,278</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV counseling and testing visits (not number of individuals)</td>
<td>maternal deaths averted</td>
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<td><strong>16,712,640</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,820,260</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>family planning consultations</td>
<td>unintended pregnancies averted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$287,888,467</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,536,988</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>saved in direct health care spending (USD)</td>
<td>adolescent and youth family planning consultations</td>
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Estimates for maternal deaths averted, unintended pregnancies averted, direct health care costs saved, and unsafe abortions averted are calculated with Marie Stopes International’s Impact Calculator 2 v3 using data on Pathfinder’s provision of modern contraception in 15 countries.
Access to Modern Contraception

BURKINA FASO, ETHIOPIA, BANGLADESH

Program Highlight: (re)solve

Too many women and girls around the world say they want to use contraception, but for myriad reasons, don’t use it. (re)solve responds to this challenge by developing solutions tailored to the needs and experiences of individual women and girls—allowing them to act on their intention to go to a health facility, seek counseling, and use contraception.

Solutions: In Bangladesh, nondescript personal stickers remind female factory workers to take their oral contraceptive pills. In Burkina Faso, La Chance, a board game, teaches adolescent girls about how to overcome barriers to contraceptive use. And in Ethiopia, a counseling sheet gives providers talking points for postpartum family counseling.

Funder: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Girls who visited a health facility in Burkina Faso for contraceptive information or services rose from 6% to 32%.

“\textbf{I thought that contraception was not a good thing}... I thought contraceptives weren’t safe to avoid getting pregnant. But after \textbf{the game that changed}.”

– Girl, 19 yrs, 10th grade, Ouagadougou

\footnote{https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/adding-it-up-investing-in-sexual-reproductive-health}
There are approximately **20 million** unsafe abortions every year.²

**Comprehensive Safe Abortion Care**

Unsafe abortion remains a leading cause of maternal death in sub-Saharan Africa. Pathfinder reduces barriers and increases access to comprehensive safe abortion care—that is, safe abortion and postabortion care services.

**MOZAMBIQUE**

**Program Highlight: Supporting Family Planning and Abortion Services (Impacto)**

The Supporting Family Planning and Abortion Services project (locally known as Impacto) seeks to boost gender equality in nine districts of Mozambique’s Manica and Tete provinces. Impacto addresses myths, beliefs, and misconceptions about abortion and contraception by building the capacity of community-based organizations to help protect women’s and young people’s rights.

**Funder:** Government of Canada

“Access to safe abortion care in Mozambique is the law, and it is every woman’s right to seek this option should she choose it. Pathfinder’s Impacto Project **works to destigmatize** this critical work—saving lives and shifting social norms in the process.”

— Riaz Mobarakaly, Country Director, Mozambique

²https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preventing-unsafe-abortion
From March 2019 through January 2020, over 13,000 girls and boys, ages 10-14, participated in over 500 mentor-led groups.

Reaching Youth and Adolescents

There are 1.8 billion young people in the world today. Pathfinder designs and implements sexual and reproductive health programs with and for young people, helping them to realize their fullest potential and make decisions about their bodies and their lives. Pathfinder has more than 20 youth programs in 15 countries.

ETHIOPIA

Program Highlight: Act With Her

Pathfinder’s Act With Her program engages adolescent girls, boys, parents/caregivers, and local leaders to forge health, education, and social pathways which adolescent girls and boys need to thrive during their transition to adulthood. With a focus on very young adolescent girls (ages 10-14), community members engage in discussions around a wide variety of subjects, including puberty and menstruation, health, nutrition, education, safety, gender, communication, and economic empowerment.

Funder: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

“Earlier my thought on my life was to marry and [care for] children only. So, I stopped my education. After I joined as a girl mentor the project awakened me and helped me to acquire confidence. Now I realized that I can do anything. I regretted discontinuing my education. I decided to return back to school for a better future.”

– Girls’ group mentor
Maria Wate is a recipient of Pathfinder’s services for patients living with HIV in Mozambique.

Photographer: Ricardo Franco
COVID-19: Adapting Sexual and Reproductive Health Care to Meet the Needs of Women and Girls

As a global pandemic unfolded, Pathfinder worked to maintain critical sexual and reproductive health care while protecting our staff, partners, and the communities in which we work from COVID-19. Pathfinder was at the forefront of the COVID-19 response in many countries.

We did this through our local teams in Africa and Asia who are from the communities they serve. COVID-19 created many challenges—from interrupting delivery of health services and contraceptive supply chains to country-wide lockdowns. Pathfinder’s local teams adapted rapidly to confront these challenges.

Our Adaptations

**Messaging**

Pathfinder incorporated COVID-19 prevention messages into family planning outreach for hard-to-reach communities through community leaders, radio and television campaigns, social media, and car-mounted announcements.

**ETHIOPIA**

Program: Transform (USAID)

Transform developed rapid response public awareness campaigns using audio-mounted vehicles, reaching more than 3 million people in one month. Transform also distributed critical personal protective equipment to the Regional Health Bureau in Amhara, including blankets, gloves, and scrub suits.

**Collaboration**

Pathfinder worked with ministries of health to help coordinate national and subnational response plans.

**BURKINA FASO**

In Burkina Faso, Pathfinder’s Country Director is one of five people on a national COVID-19 response team, representing civil society organizations. In this role, she helped mobilize resources for the Ministry of Health to provide personal protective equipment for health care workers, enable a local women’s organization to produce cloth face masks for communities, and ensure the inclusion of essential sexual and reproductive health care within national and subnational response plans.
Gender & Gender-Based Violence Integration

Pathfinder provided guidance, virtual training, and job aids to all frontline health workers, enhancing their capacity to respond to survivors of gender-based violence and make appropriate referrals.

PAKISTAN

Program: Naya Qadam (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

As COVID-19 swept through communities across Pakistan, Naya Qadam worked with the local government to embed gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health content in public health messages disseminated through television, radio, local loudspeaker announcements in mosques, and digitally through mobile phones as part of the pandemic response.

Advocacy

Pathfinder worked in coalitions with numerous local and global organizations and leaders to advocate for policies that ensure the continuation of essential sexual and reproductive health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDIA

In India, Pathfinder led a coalition of more than 25 organizations to successfully advocate to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Prime Minister’s Office to resume family planning and reproductive health, including safe abortion services, at public health centers across the country—services initially suspended during COVID-19 response.

In Kilifi, Kenya, Pathfinder’s Afya Pwani project trained expectant mothers from the Bomani health center on needlework to create masks. “We make 150 masks daily,” said Hellen Mose, the group’s chairwoman. The benefits reached beyond preventing the spread of COVID-19. “I can now afford to feed my family without much worry. I feel appreciated and acknowledged in my family.”
Digital Platforms

Pathfinder used digital platforms (like SMS and WhatsApp) to mentor and support health workers, disseminate messages on COVID-19 and essential sexual and reproductive health care, and enable health workers to engage in remote consultations on sexual and reproductive health.

MOZAMBIQUE

Program: Impacto (Canadian Government) and Integrated Family Planning Program (USAID)

In Mozambique, Pathfinder adapted an existing mobile platform to share information with Mozambicans about how to protect themselves and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Anyone in Mozambique can send an SMS message containing the key word (COVID) to automatically subscribe to the platform, immediately receive answers to frequently asked questions about COVID-19, and conduct a self-screening for symptoms.
Impacts on Women and Girls

Evidence from the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic indicated that the secondary effects of COVID-19—from lockdowns to diverted health resources to the role of women as caregivers—would disproportionately impact women and girls.³

Why?

- Reports of intimate partner violence increased by 30-60 percent⁴ over the span of weeks in most countries with active COVID-19 outbreaks.
- Women provide 3x the amount of unpaid home labor as men.
- Women represent 70 percent of the health and social sector workforce globally.

Family planning, pregnancy termination, menstrual hygiene, and other essential health services were already harder to come by due to strain from the pandemic response.⁵

So what did Pathfinder do?

- Advocated for countries to declare sexual and reproductive health care essential, and kept services open during the pandemic.
- Helped to reorganize services to adhere to social distancing guidelines and supported remote service delivery where possible.
- Got the message out—about how women and girls could continue to access sexual and reproductive health care while preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Engaged women and girls in response planning.
- Proactively planned for supply disruptions of key commodities including contraception.
- Made sure health workers, police workforce, and community-based organizations knew the risks of disclosing information about women who reported intimate partner violence, and advocated for gender-based violence services to remain open.
- Advocated for and compiled sex- and age-disaggregated data to inform COVID-19 response.

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³www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30526-2/fulltext
Conversation with first-time parents in Nigeria with Pathfinder’s E2A Project.

Photographer: Seun Asala
E2A: Driving the Next Generation of Global Family Planning Programs

For nine years, across 17 countries, Pathfinder has led the Evidence to Action (E2A) Project, USAID’s global flagship for strengthening family planning and reproductive health service delivery. E2A has promoted gender equality and healthy family planning behaviors, built evidence, and systematically scaled up solutions that work.

**Funder:** USAID

**BURKINA FASO, CÔTE D’IVOIRE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, KENYA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, TOGO, UGANDA**

**Roadmap for Lasting Change**

E2A’s most powerful approach—from the dedication of our country partners—is systematically scaling up what works. Across Africa, governments and local organizations have adopted our proven innovations and will carry them forward to benefit more people.

**BURKINA FASO, NIGERIA, TANZANIA**

**The Power to Impact Three Generations**

E2A has drawn global attention to the specific health needs and related gender issues of first-time parents—young mothers and fathers—and developed groundbreaking programs to reach them with health care and the support they need to use it. These approaches reach beyond one couple—they have the power to impact the first-time parents, their children, and the first-time parents’ parents, touching three generations through one intervention.

In Nigeria’s Cross River State, voluntary use of modern contraceptive methods increased significantly over the course of E2A’s program for first-time parents—from 26% to 79% among non-pregnant first-time mothers, and from 44% to 81% among male partners.
Youth Lead the Way

Young activists use E2A’s “Not Without Us” digital tool to advocate for improved adolescent and youth reproductive health plans and policies. Through a series of steps, they learned about the plans and policies in their own communities, districts, and countries, and how to suggest evidence-based improvements to policy and decision-makers in their government.

“What makes a program youth-responsive? Through my experience with E2A, I’ve learned that it’s not enough to simply consult young people about their family planning needs. Effective programs must be built for youth and (more importantly) by youth.”

– Nadine Yasmine Some, youth leader, Burkina Faso
Building Resilience in the Face of Climate Change

Climate change is the most powerful and all-encompassing challenge we have before us. It threatens every aspect of people’s lives: from their access to nutritious food and clean water to a woman’s ability to earn an income and a girl’s chance of staying in school. It threatens the very foundation of their lives—their ability to maintain a home and survive.

At Pathfinder, we invest in making women, girls, their communities, and our entire planet more resilient to climate change through Women-Led Climate Resilience. At the heart of this multi-sectoral approach are programs that marry health and conservation interventions, empower women and girls, and support the viability of communities.

Women-Led Climate Resilience empowers women and girls as leaders and changemakers in their communities and families, specifically by improving their:

- Agency to make decisions about their own bodies, including whether and when they have children.
- Access to quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and maternal, newborn, and child health services.
- Access to water, hygiene, and sanitation in households, schools, and health facilities.
- Livelihood opportunities.
- Chance of completing a formal education and gaining critical skills through informal or vocational training.
- Participation and power in the governance and management of natural resources.
Tuungane & Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania

When we arrived on the shores of Tanzania’s Lake Tanganyika ten years ago, we met communities in crisis. They suffered from isolation, poverty, and a rapidly growing population reliant on poorly managed natural resources.

We worked with The Nature Conservancy to launch the Tuungane program, reaching communities near the lake with transformational support. Over the past decade, Tuungane has reforested deteriorated landscapes, strengthened natural resource management, and made food supplies and livelihoods more sustainable. More girls have been able to stay in school, women have started their own environmentally friendly businesses, mothers deliver their babies safely, and women and men have more contraceptive options.

The result? Communities are more resilient and likely to thrive in the face of climate change.

Pathfinder is taking evidence from the Tuungane pilot approach and applying it elsewhere to build resilience in the face of climate change and other crises—including in Tanzania itself through Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT). LCWT is a partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute that builds on lessons learned from Tuungane, scaling up integrated programming to new areas of Tanzania.

9,124 farmers trained on climate-smart agriculture, increasing crop yields and money earned from selling produce, improving nutrition, and reducing sediment run-off into the lake and pressure for additional agricultural land.

7,031 people (6,764 women and 267 men) received a voluntary family planning method through mobile outreach events.

Funder: Philip Stoddard and Adele Smith Brown Foundation & USAID

Iddi Hamishi Msakaa and his wife Siwema Ramadhani are farmers who have been with the Tuungane program for three years.

Photo by Roshni Lodhia
Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings

In the last 40 years, more and more people have been forced to migrate from their homes. There are more than 80 million people displaced worldwide, with 20 million of them displaced each year by climate-related disasters. Pathfinder supports quality, far-reaching reproductive health care for those who have been displaced and their host communities. We strengthen health services so that they are better than they ever were before the crisis hit.

**Rohingya Refugees in Cox’s Bazar**

Over 1 million Rohingya refugees live in Cox’s Bazar refugee camp in southeastern Bangladesh. Pathfinder supports our local partner, Research Training and Management International, to provide critical sexual and reproductive health services to Rohingya refugees in Camp 22 of Cox’s Bazar.

*Funder:* David and Lucile Packard Foundation

**Transform: Primary Health Care**

Pathfinder’s Transform: Primary Health Care program supports Ethiopia’s health system to offer high-quality reproductive health care to Ethiopians, including those in crises, specifically by supporting effective risk reduction, disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Internally displaced people receive integrated reproductive health care and other basic health services.

*Funder:* USAID

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6 https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/
7 https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/forced-home-climate-fuelled-displacement
Advocating for Change

Pathfinder advocates locally, nationally, and globally for robust funding and strong policies to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care for women and youth.

CÔTE D’IVOIRE

Supporting Adolescents and Youth

Project: Advocacy for the authorization of experimentation with free postpartum and immediate postabortion family planning in three health districts (PAI project)

The PAI project uses data from the three districts where Pathfinder implements family planning interventions to demonstrate to national and local governments the importance of providing women with free contraceptive products, especially in the immediate postpartum and postabortion period.

Advocacy Win:
Issuance of a circular note by the Côte d’Ivoire Ministry of Health, guaranteeing free family planning services for women infected with HIV and for all women ages 15-24.

Funder: Johns Hopkins University Opportunity Fund through PAI

“In addition to working at the community level with frontline health workers, advocacy is a critical component of our work. It’s where we create structural changes that can impact the lives of many—leading to better maternal and newborn health outcomes across the country.”

— Dr. Amina Dorayi, Country Director, Pathfinder Nigeria

NIGERIA

Improving Access

Project: Advance Family Planning

Advance Family Planning (Advance FP) aims to increase financial investments and political commitments in quality, voluntary family planning. Advance FP engages and mobilizes local partners in evidence-based advocacy to increase domestic resources for health.

Advocacy Win:
DMPA-SC (Sayana Press)—a self-administered injectable contraceptive—added to Nigeria’s Essential Medicines List. Pathfinder is now working to make Sayana Press more widely available in the country.

Funder: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Pathfinder’s Endangered Ecosystems of Northern Tanzania project partners with The Nature Conservancy to build resilience in communities, and teach about the links between population, health and the environment.

Photographer: Roshni Lodhia
Dear Pathfinders and partners worldwide,

When we began this year, we never could have imagined where it would end. A global pandemic has transformed how we live and work and challenged us in immeasurable ways. While we mourn the losses that so many around the world continue to endure, we keep working toward a more promising future.

At Pathfinder, the COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed for us—time and again—that our work is mission critical. Advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, including ready access to modern contraception, empowers women and girls and makes communities more resilient. Our entire planet depends on empowered women and girls to drive health, a cleaner environment, peace, stability, and growth. We must not let this pandemic limit their potential and progress.

After all, the power of women's leadership has never been more evident. Women leaders have played a formidable role in containing COVID-19—Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's Prime Minister, may be the most famous—but Rosa Marlene Cuco, Mozambique’s National Director of Public Health, and Léonie Claudine Lougué, Burkina Faso's Minister of Health, are great examples too. Women comprise 70 percent of the frontline health workforce and most of the caregivers in their communities—a testament to their contributions and a resounding call to invest in women and girls.

We know women can't lead without sexual and reproductive health care that allows them to make key decisions throughout their lives. That’s why—in the midst of a global pandemic that has pivoted public health resources to stemming the control of COVID-19—we’ve made sure women and girls can still access critical services by integrating evidence-based public health measures into our work.

We’ve accomplished this by exercising one of our core values—courage—going where the need is greatest to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights. This courage is exhibited by Pathfinders like Godbless Mtega. For the past several months, Godbless has met clients at health facilities in Shinyanga, Tanzania, delivering critical information on sexual and reproductive health care, while moderating the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Godbless is one of more than 1,000 Pathfinders in Africa and South Asia who have worked closely with their communities and our government partners in innovating new ways to sustain sexual and reproductive health care during the pandemic.

In multiple countries, Pathfinders have helped to conduct remote trainings for health workers, made sure women can deliver their babies at health clinics during lockdowns, kept gender-based violence services running, reorganized services to make them safe, supported community health workers to conduct distanced consultations, and got the word out about sexual and reproductive health care and COVID-19. Through all of this, health systems are becoming more resilient to present and future crises.

At this uncertain time, our persistence and innovation equal more hope and opportunity for women and girls everywhere—a groundswell of hope and opportunity that will have ripple effects across communities and around the world.

I invite you to join us in courage and solidarity.

Lois Quam
President & Chief Executive Officer
Financials
For the year ending June 30, 2020

**Revenue**
- Grants and contracts $113,389,740
- Contributions $4,176,520
- Other $589,249
- **Total** $118,155,509

**Expenses**
- Program services $105,145,751
- Management and general $12,975,656
- Fundraising $2,812,675
- **Total** $120,934,082

**Operating deficit** $ (2,778,573)
**Non-operating gain** $ 1,316,838

**Change in net assets for the year** $ (1,461,735)
**Net assets at beginning of year** $ 31,377,550
**Net assets at end of year** $ 29,915,815

*Pathfinder’s financial position is strong and we are not currently running a deficit. The financials you see here are a snapshot in time and operating deficit reflects a $2.7M Payment Protection Program loan we received as part of the US Government response to COVID-19. We anticipate the loan being forgiven in its entirety at which point the money will be recorded as revenue.*

The information presented above is drawn from Pathfinder International’s financial statements, audited by CBIZ, Inc. and Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C. They are available upon request or at [pathfinder.org/financials](http://pathfinder.org/financials).

Pathfinder International receives Charity Navigator’s highest rating for accountability and transparency.
Revenue

- 11% Foreign governments & multilaterals
- 31% Foundations, corporations, individuals & other
- 58% US government

Expenses

- 2% Fundraising
- 11% Management & general
- 87% Program services

Program Expenses by Region

- 1% Latin America
- 12% Near East & Asia
- 87% Africa

Program Expenses by Area

- 19% HIV & AIDS
- 16% Maternal & newborn health
- 4.5% Comprehensive abortion care
- 3% Population, health, & environment
- >0.5% Cervical cancer prevention
- 58% Contraception

Photo by Maren Vespia
Thank you

The Tomchin Family Charitable Trust provides funding to nonprofits that recognize the interdependence of health, education, economics, and the environment. The foundation has been supporting Pathfinder’s work for 14 years.

Today, it’s a multi-generational affair. Rose Delles, the Foundation’s Manager and Board Member works alongside her aunt, Cheryl Tomchin, who has been an active supporter of Pathfinder for more than a decade.

Why Pathfinder?

Cheryl: I’m pleased that 87% of contributions to Pathfinder goes toward their programming and that they are doing such critical work to promote sexual and reproductive health.

Rose: Pathfinder completely encompasses our mission. Education and access to health services made possible by Pathfinder have been remarkably successful in empowering women and families around the world.

Do you think being able to access your sexual and reproductive health and rights has made your life—or the lives of those around you—different?

Rose: I am extremely fortunate to have been born into a family, community, culture, and country which values my health, my right to choose, and my independence. It is more important than ever to protect these rights and assist those without access to family planning or reproductive health care.

Is there something specific about Pathfinder—a story, a program—that particularly resonates with you?

Cheryl: At the time the foundation got involved with Pathfinder, I had not found another NGO that was doing this type work in Africa and India. Early on in our support, I was encouraged that Pathfinder reported in Mozambique a significant and noticeable change in attitude toward abortion and that providers increased their comprehensive safe abortion care services and to patient rights and access.

I recall in Ghana and Tanzania, Pathfinder engaged in community conversations that worked to build trust by engaging a coalition of professional groups (lawyers, nurses, and community health workers) to increase knowledge and identify potential advocacy champions to pursue less restrictive sexual and reproductive health policies.

In March, COVID-19 effectively shut down operations and movement in many of the countries where Pathfinder works. What impact do you think that might have had on women and girls in particular?

Rose: Women’s health care and contraceptive rights already face an uphill battle, and I cannot fathom the additional stress of COVID-19 for clinics and health care workers. Being considered the caretakers, women are put at additional risk.

What would you love to see Pathfinder accomplish in the future?

Cheryl: I’d love to see Pathfinder continue to focus on more education for women and girls—giving them more autonomy and power over their choices.

Rose: Just continue the amazing work helping mothers and families! Pathfinder’s work ripples out and impacts not just the individuals they support, but communities as well.
Young married adolescent girls in Niger’s Dosso region, village of Tchangala.

Photo by Adama Ali Zourkaleini