Pathfinder International is striving for a world where no woman or girl suffers harm or dies from unsafe abortion.

At least 23,000 women and girls die and 7 million are treated for complications each year because they cannot obtain safe abortion care, and instead, undergo unsafe—and sometimes fatal—abortion procedures. Almost all abortion-related deaths occur in countries with restrictive abortion laws, where safe abortion care and contraception are not readily available.

At Pathfinder International, we work with governments and civil society partners to honor women’s and girls’ right to access comprehensive abortion care (CAC)—which includes safe abortion, postabortion care, and postabortion contraceptive services.

**STRATEGIES**

**Delivering sustained scale & reach.** Building on global approaches and the latest innovations, Pathfinder country teams develop context-specific strategies for expanding safe, sustainable abortion services in a variety of social and political contexts. We prioritize strong health systems by partnering with government-owned and community-driven initiatives that improve client-centered, quality comprehensive abortion care in the long-term.

**Ensuring safety & quality.** Assist health facilities to ensure they can offer safe, confidential, nonjudgmental, quality, abortion services and access to postabortion contraception of a woman’s choice, including through the training and mentorship of health providers.

**Self-care.** Scale up access to medical abortion. This includes increasing availability of quality medical abortion drugs and increasing access to appropriate information on medical abortion.

**Innovation.** Demonstrate the effectiveness of innovations such as digital technologies and options for self-care, including telehealth consultations and community-based distribution of commodities.

**Transforming community norms & beliefs.** Work with communities, religious leaders, and influencers to open dialogues and shift norms and beliefs that inhibit women and girls from accessing safe abortion-related care and build women’s and girls’ agency to make their own reproductive choices.

**Shifting policy & reducing barriers.** Use evidence and work with local partners and community leaders to achieve policy changes that reduce barriers to and provide an enabling environment for safe abortion services.

**Last-mile services.** Increase and expand points of service close to where clients live, with a focus on those women and girls who often don’t have access. These include youth, rural populations, and populations experiencing humanitarian crises or climate shocks.

**PATHFINDER IMPACT IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 (JULY 2019-JULY 2020)**

1,381,904 unsafe abortions averted

20,278 maternal deaths averted
WOMEN’S AGENCY AND CHOICE

Pathfinder works to create a supportive social environment where women and girls make their own sexual and reproductive choices, including access to CAC without social barriers, stigma, or discrimination.

Highlight: Impacto, Mozambique
In 2014, the Government of Mozambique decriminalized abortion. Pathfinder’s Impacto program has been working to make sure women and girls can receive safe, legal abortion care through interventions including those that:

- Address myths and misconceptions about abortion, promote information on the risks of unsafe abortion, and the availability of legal, free, and safe abortion services.
- Provide referrals for safe abortion services from communities to clinics.
- Conduct clinical trainings with health providers on safe, quality abortion-related care.
- Conduct workshops to address providers’ biases and transform attitudes related to abortion rights.

ADVOCACY

Pathfinder works to create an enabling environment for sustained access to CAC and to remove barriers to choice.

Highlight: RESOnance, DRC, Burkina Faso, & Côte d’Ivoire
Pathfinder implemented the AmplifyChange-funded (2018-2021), multi-country RESOnance Project that focused on creating coalitions for abortion advocacy to influence national policy and advocacy to further legalization and access to safe abortion in the three project countries, as well as at the regional and global level. RESOnance contributed to the reduction of the consequences of unsafe abortion and promoted women’s sexual and reproductive health rights.

In Côte d’Ivoire, the coalition Action contre les Grossesses non Désirées et à Risque (AGnDR - Action against Unintended and Risky Pregnancies) was given a mandate to lead the advocacy work on preventing unintended pregnancies, and developed an advocacy plan. Advocacy is carried out with traditional and religious leaders, alongside political authorities.

In Burkina Faso, Pathfinder worked to strengthen and amplify the Communauté d’Action pour la Promotion et la protection de la Santé Sexuelle et Reproductive au Burkina Faso (CAPSSR) coalition, which focuses on abortion advocacy.

In DRC, Pathfinder piloted a harm reduction approach to create evidence of the impact of safe abortion services on maternal health and mortality as well as an option for legally avoiding unsafe abortion.

Pathfinder developed a tool entitled “Abortion Policy Scan for Advocacy” to map and track legislation and practices related to abortion across the countries.

SUSTAINED SYSTEMS AND POINT OF CARE READINESS

Pathfinder supports increasing availability of sustainable, scalable, equitable, and woman-centered CAC. This includes providing support to ministries of health to institutionalize evidence-based national training curricula for CAC, aligning national standards and clinical guidelines for CAC to existing global evidence, improving availability and quality of CAC service data to support improvement plans, and reinforcing supply chains for abortion essential commodities.

Highlight: Pamoja, Tanzania
In Tanzania, Pathfinder supported the Ministry of Health to revise and update the national standard and technical guidelines for comprehensive post-abortion care (cPAC). Accomplishments include:

- Inclusion of misoprostol in the national list of authorized drugs for uterine evacuation procedures, when formerly, only surgical methods were recommended/allowed.
- Partnered with 92 health facilities to provide quality cPAC services in Dar es Salaam.
- Rolled out new cPAC health management information systems and tools to cover 690 new health facilities in seven regions of the Tanzania mainland.