

Mozambique

At A Glance - Impacto

Supporting Family Planning and Abortion Services



Activists conducting activities with secondary school grade girls. Photo: Nicole Gill

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 strengthens the delivery of and expands access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services, and fosters a supportive environment for women and girls to embrace and amplify their voices. Impacto works to ensure adolescent girls and young women (ages 10–24) have access to quality care—and specifically contraception, safe abortion, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) services. With our partner Associação de Jovens da Soalpo, the project will reach 400,000 adolescent girls and young women over six-and-a-half years.

Responding to urgent needs in Manica and Tete

Poverty, harmful gender and social norms, and a struggling health system in Mozambique threaten the health and wellbeing of Mozambicans, especially adolescent girls and young women.

Many adolescent girls and young women still cannot access SRHR services or make autonomous decisions about sex, marriage, and childbearing without being coerced or subjected to violence.

IMPACTO

Location: Mozambique's Manica and Tete provinces

Project Partner: Associação de Jovens da Soalpo (Jossoal)

Project Funder: Global Affairs Canada (Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development)

Dates: April 2018-June 2024

Quick Stats:

40% of adolescent girls and young women say that the decision to use contraception is made by their partners or others.¹

59% of adolescent girls and young women express an unmet need for contraception to delay or space pregnancies.²

45% of adolescent girls and young women (ages 15–19) are already mothers or are pregnant.³

45% of adolescent girls and young women believe that it is unsafe for a young woman who has never been pregnant to use a contraceptive method.⁴

Almost 50% of men and women say that there are times or situations when women deserve to be beaten.⁵

24% of women (ages 18–49) experienced intimate partner violence (physical, sexual, or emotional) since age 15.⁶

^{1,2,3,4,5} IMPACTO SURVEY, 2018–2019, TETE AND MANICA PROVINCES

⁶ IMASIDA SURVEY, 2015, TETE AND MANICA PROVINCES



Empowering adolescent girls and young women to make SRHR decisions

Impacto improves adolescent girls' and young women's knowledge about SRHR, negotiation skills, leadership capabilities, and agency to make decisions about their own bodies, and increases their civic engagement in SRHR issues.

Approaches:

Trains teachers to be mentors in promoting education on gender equality and healthy behaviors among young boys and girls in primary schools.

Conducts small group discussions with adolescent girls in secondary schools and facilitates interactive games with their male peers to reflect and debate on adolescent changes, goals and aspirations, bodily integrity, and gender disparity issues.

Engages activists and community leaders to identify girls and young women who drop out of school and provides them with information on contraception, healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, safe abortion, and other health services.

Builds young women's skills on civic engagement and encourages them to speak out publicly about their needs.



Improving access to rights-based, gender-sensitive SRHR services

Impacto works to strengthen the health systems in Manica and Tete to ensure availability and access to quality SRHR services.

Approaches:

Builds capacity of health providers through a comprehensive, integrated training on gender-responsive youth-friendly contraception, abortion, postabortion care, and multisectoral SGBV services and provides regular mentoring and technical support.

Expands access to services in hard-to-reach areas through activists, community health workers, and mobile brigades—bringing care to the most vulnerable girls and women.



Fostering girls' and women's bodily autonomy and integrity

Families and communities perpetuate norms and beliefs that prevent adolescent girls and young women from having autonomy over their bodies and exercising control over their sexuality and reproductive lives. Community leaders and influencers can further perpetuate these inequalities—or they can be engaged to change them. Impacto improves attitudes, practices, and norms related to gender equality and SRHR among family members and community leaders.

Approaches:

Trains activists and community leaders to counsel family members on how to be more supportive of adolescent girls' and young women's access to health care and education, and right to bodily integrity.

Facilitates dialogues with local leaders and other influential community members that analyze harmful gender norms and practices—such as child, early and forced marriage and SGBV—and their ill effects on the health and lives of girls and young women.

Holds small group sessions with men, usually fathers or partners of adolescent girls and young women, to sensitize them to the importance of using contraception, shared decision making, girls' education, preventing early pregnancy and early marriage, and combating SGBV.

Expected outcomes

10% increase in adolescent girls and young women who decide to use contraceptives alone or jointly with their husbands or partners.

50% of community decision-making structures include at least one adolescent girl or young woman as a member.

10% decrease in adolescent girls and young women who are married before they turn 18.

10% increase in adolescent girls and young women who have completed seventh grade.

Provide 30,000+ girls and women with safe, legal abortion services or post-abortion care.

Reach 17,000+ people who have experienced any form of SGBV with health care services.

Pathfinder International is driven by the conviction that all people, regardless of where they live, have the right to decide whether and when to have children, to exist free from fear and stigma, and to lead the lives they choose. As a global health organization with locally led, community-driven programs, we support women to make their own reproductive health decisions. We work with local partners to advance contraceptive services, comprehensive abortion care, and young people's sexual and reproductive rights in communities around the world—including those affected by poverty, conflict, climate change, and natural disasters. Taken together, our programs enable millions of people to choose their own paths forward.

Transform lives with us. pathfinder.org



In partnership with

Canada

PATHFINDER