Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan

Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls Towards Better Health and Climate Change Resilience

Background
The effects of climate change have exacerbated the already fragile state of women’s health in low-resource settings. Poverty, limited health systems and infrastructure, and high risk from natural disasters place a disproportionate burden on women to manage their everyday health while preparing for evolving challenges.

Climate Change: Impacts on Women and Girls
Communities most vulnerable to the climate crisis often face the highest barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights. In humanitarian situations, they grow higher still, with even the most basic care upended. Pathfinder elevates women and girls as changemakers in their communities, engaging them to lead resilient, local, and rights-based solutions to climate adaptation by:

- Meeting unmet needs for contraception and sexual and reproductive health care, essential to women’s and girls’ agency.
- Investing in girls’ agency, education, and literacy, including climate awareness.
- Supporting women’s engagement and leadership in local resilience planning.
- Strengthening the capacity of health systems to prepare for and effectively manage health risks due to climate change.

Program Goal: Our program, Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls Towards Better Health and Climate Change Resilience, works alongside women and girls in low-resource communities to develop the tools, knowledge, networks, and resources they need to ensure reliable access to quality health services, build foundations for economic growth, and to strengthen their communities and health systems so they are resilient to future shocks.

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Countries: Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan

Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan are each significantly affected by climate change. Gender inequalities and gender-based violence further reduce women’s capacity to survive, thrive, and transform communities. Our program will work with communities and health systems affected by rising temperatures, flooding, storms, drought, and other climate change-related events to improve their health and climate change resilience.

Pathfinder’s approach centers women as change agents, strengthening their knowledge and access to equitable, quality health services while building community resilience to future shocks and enhancing economic opportunities.
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