PUSHING BOUNDARIES
2021 ANNUAL REPORT
You can find it is possible for women to own land, to participate in household and community decision making, girls are attending school like the boys. These are the greatest and fundamental changes we needed in our patriarchal society.”

— Naishiye Long’ida, Tanzania

"NOWADAYS LIFE HAS CHANGED A LOT."
PATHFINDER’S GLOBAL IMPACT

20,087,744 MODERN CONTRACEPTION (MC) CONSULTATIONS*

555,407 HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING VISITS*

6,424,481 UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES AVERTED

1,736,679 UNSAFE ABORTIONS AVERTED

6,756 MATERNAL DEATHS AVERTED

7,585,681 ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH MODERN CONTRACEPTION CONSULTATIONS*

$413,872,812 SAVED IN DIRECT HEALTH CARE SPENDING

*Not number of individuals. 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.

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DEAR PATHFINDERS AND PARTNERS WORLDWIDE,

This last year has been one of change, adaptation, and innovation for Pathfinder. When the COVID-19 pandemic first emerged, we were in a state of rapid response. Knowing that even a short-term gap in access to sexual and reproductive health care would have severe consequences on women and girls around the world, Pathfinders across the globe acted rapidly, bolstering the infrastructure we knew needed to be in place to ensure continued access.

In Pakistan, we collaborated with imams to make announcements on mosque loudspeakers about COVID-19 prevention. In Kenya, we drove pregnant women on the backs of motorbikes to make sure they made appointments, collaborating with police so local lockdowns were not an impediment. And we held virtual mentorship sessions and trainings with staff to ensure learning, and care, didn't stop.

But as the pandemic evolved, we too, evolved. We started to look inward — as an organization, we knew we needed to take time for deeper reflection. How could we use this opportunity to create more resilient programs? How could we ensure that the care we bring doesn’t stop because of a pandemic, or a flood, or political instability? How could we continue to ensure access, but build more robust, localized programs that are sure to continue beyond their official end dates?

This reflection, this questioning, was at the heart of what Pathfinder accomplished in the last year. And, out of this reflection, came innovative programs centered by an approach to strengthen health systems, a commitment to the development of the kind of infrastructure that is needed to ensure that access to sexual and reproductive health care is a given, not a question. More than this, Pathfinder undertook a country-led strategic process, where each country office has taken the lead in building out strategic priorities for the upcoming year.

The result: A Pathfinder that continues its critical sexual and reproductive health work globally, but with a new lens, a renewed urgency, and a commitment to localized innovation and infrastructure development.

I’m so proud of what we’ve accomplished this last year, and this report illustrates the depth of that accomplishment.

Onwards, and always forward.

Yours,

Lois Quam
President & Chief Executive Officer
Nearly half of all pregnancies—111 million each year—are unintended. Pathfinder works toward a world where everyone of reproductive age can exercise their right to access quality modern contraception.

**Small Box, Big Difference**

**SHUKHI JIBON, 2018-2023**  
**BANGLADESH**  
**USAID**

Nearly half of pregnancies in Bangladesh are unintended. With more than half of Bangladeshi girls married before their 18th birthdays, many of these pregnancies occur among teen mothers.

One solution? A box full of information for newlyweds, aimed at delaying pregnancy. On the day of their wedding, newlywed couples receive a surprise box with a booklet on reproductive wellbeing, leaflets on oral contraception and condoms, and contact information for local community health workers.

**Contraception for Young Couples**

**YUVAA (YOUTH VOICES FOR AGENCY AND ACCESS), 2018-2022**  
**INDIA**  
**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**

Pathfinder’s YUVAA project pilots innovative digital technologies, trains young people on entrepreneurship, and works to increase young married couples’ and first-time parents’ access to contraceptive information and services.

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Breaking Down Barriers
INTEGRATED FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, 2016-2021
MOZAMBIQUE • USAID

Pathfinder’s Integrated Family Planning Program implemented three tailored packages of interventions—a rural package, an urban package, and a combo package—that addressed the barriers to contraception specific to these areas. Pathfinder’s Improved Family Planning Initiative will carry the success forward for the next five years.

OVER THE FIVE YEARS OF THE USAID INTEGRATED FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM:

- 4,968,455 couples were provided protection against pregnancy.
- 1,440,063 unintended pregnancies were averted.
- 4,912 health providers were trained on modern forms of contraception.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Traditional birth attendants and nurses who work at the Centro de Saúde (health center) de Mutua in Dondo, Mozambique.
Photo: Kendra Hebert

Sandhika Gupta, Sapna Kumar, and Shruti Sharma at a YUVAA conference.
Photo: Anumegha Bhatnagar

After Sonia, 21, received reproductive health information from Pathfinder’s outreach program in Bangladesh, she decided that delaying pregnancy was the best plan for her.
Photo: Ridwanul Mosrur

At a “Mama & Binti Kwa” group graduation led by Pathfinder’s Afya Pwani program in Kenya. The women attended monthly group sessions for 13 months and underwent economic empowerment and skills building.
Photo: Alfred Amayo
When Charisma, a 16-year-old living in Maputo City, first learned that she was pregnant, she didn’t know what to do. MAIS staff helped connect Charisma with a doctor who could manage her care, as well as educate her about her options for contraception moving forward.

“For the other girls who have the opportunity to listen,” said Charisma,* “I will tell you my experience about what I went through (having) an abortion. I would tell them not to refuse to use family planning, like I did. It’s far better to protect ourselves by using family planning to avoid this choice.”

As of 2019, 92% of reproductive-age women in sub-Saharan Africa lived in 43 countries that either prohibit abortion altogether or restrict it to cases where a woman’s life or health are threatened.

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

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*Charisma’s name is a pseudonym.
Comprehensive Postabortion Care

Pathfinder’s Pamoja project—or, “together” in Swahili—reduces maternal deaths caused by unsafe abortion. Pamoja supported the Tanzanian Ministry of Health to revise and update national standards and guidelines for comprehensive postabortion care (cPAC). This included getting Misoprostol on the national list of authorized drugs for postabortion care, when formerly, only surgical methods were recommended.

**IN THE FIRST YEAR OF PAMOJA:**

92 health facilities in Dar es Salaam were supported to provide cPAC services to 8,142 women of reproductive age.

93% of cPAC clients received voluntary postabortion modern contraceptive methods of their choice.

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**Strengthening Primary Health Services**

**PROJET SAUVER LA VIE (PSLV), 2020-2025**

*BURKINA FASO* 

THE NETHERLANDS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Project Sauver La Vie supports the Ministry of Health in Burkina Faso to strengthen primary health services, including family planning and safe abortion care.

**ABOVE, LEFT**

Souleyman Savadogo, a community health worker, counsels women on reproductive health and contraceptive methods while they wait for services at the Zagtouli Health Center in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Photo: Linda Suttenfeld

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**IN THE FIRST YEAR OF PSLV:**

789 group talks were held on safe abortion care, including sexual and reproductive rights, reaching 23,124 people, 8,229 under age 25.

566 community health workers (119 women and 247 men) received training on counseling and referral of clients, values clarification, and dissemination of information on legal access to abortion.

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**Comprehensive Postabortion Care**

**PAMOJA, 2020-2022**

*TANZANIA @ ANONYMOUS*

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**IN THE FIRST YEAR OF PAMOJA:**

Dr. Agnes Mlangeni provides comprehensive postabortion care at the Temekte Hospital in Tanzania.

Photo: Maren Vespia
There are 1.8 billion young people in the world today, 600 million who live in countries where Pathfinder works. Pathfinder ensures young people have the necessary knowledge, skills, and agency to make healthy decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

“If you don’t meet youth in family planning, you meet them in labor.”

— Nurse participant in Beyond Bias prototyping, Tanzania
Youth Lead the Way
FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITY (FPA), 2020-2025
UGANDA  USAID

Through FPA’s ‘youth champion’ model, the Activity engages young people to mentor their peers and share information about reproductive health. The Activity trains each champion, who then educates and refers other young people to nearby health centers for reproductive health services.

“I never knew how to use contraceptives. I thought that family planning was only meant for married couples. I also feared that I would not give birth if I used family planning at an early age.”

— Sharon Ayebale, age 17, Kyenjojo District, western Uganda

IN THE LAST YEAR, UGANDA FPA:

HOSTED 200,000+ participants in education programs and community events.

COACHED 692 young people to become peer educators and, ultimately, agents of change in their communities.

TRAINED 937 community health workers to administer short-term family planning options.

Empowering Young People
EMPOWERING YOUTH TO LEAD HEALTHY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE LIVES IN KINSHASA, 2019-2022
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)
PACKARD FOUNDATION

27% of adolescent women in DRC have given birth by age 19,\(^a\) and only 13% of unmarried, sexually active youth use long-acting reversible contraception.\(^b\) Pathfinder works to address this challenge by helping youth in Kinshasa to live healthy sexual and reproductive lives.

Pathfinder collaborated with civil society groups, including the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning, which works with marginalized youth, including those that are homeless and living with disabilities.

参加了在金沙萨的一个培训，他们学习使用Pathfinder开发的数字应用程序来倡导青年友好政策和服务。

Photo: Isaac Bintodi

DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF THE DRC PROJECT:

31,050 young people (19-24 years, 17,906 female and 13,144 male) visited the project’s “youth corners” for sexual and reproductive needs.

75 peer educators (42 female and 33 male) were trained and supported on youth-friendly services, leadership, advocacy, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.


\(^{b}\)“DRC Round 6: Snapshot of Indicators (SOIs)”. At: www.pmadata.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/PMA2020-DRC-Kinshasa-RE-FP-SOIs-EN.pdf
HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

For more than 60 years, Pathfinder has worked to build strong health systems, understanding that when health systems are strong, we achieve the best outcomes for sexual and reproductive health.

For Pathfinder, this means training and supporting a strong health workforce, building up health infrastructure, integrating new and existing technologies, and advocating for robust funding and evidence-based policies.

Sexual and reproductive health is a critical component of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)—which will be reached when all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. To achieve UHC, we first need to strengthen primary health care systems, a suite of services across health facilities and linked to communities for physical, mental, and social well-being.

Removing Barriers to Health

Health systems strengthening can’t take place without knowing what challenges people face to attain good health—and then removing them.

TRANSFORM, 2016-2022

ETHIOPIA  USAID

Reaching more than half of the Ethiopian population, the USAID Transform Primary Health Care program strengthens Ethiopia’s national health system.

DURING THE FIFTH YEAR OF TRANSFORM:

- **1,180** health workers were trained on insertion and removal of Implanon, a modern contraception option.
- **40** sessions were held to build awareness around community-based health insurance, reaching 1,721 users.
- **14,375,434** modern contraception consultations were held.
- **10,901,000** individuals were reached with COVID-19 and other health messages by using audio-mounted vehicles and printed materials.
- **62,791** pregnant mothers were admitted to maternity waiting homes.

Engaging the Community

**HEALTH POST OPEN HOUSE EVENTS** enable health workers and community members to share ideas, identify barriers to use of health services, promote health services at health post level, reinforce mutual responsibility, and develop action plans to address health care challenges.

**COMMUNITY SCORECARDS** enable community members to monitor and evaluate the kind of services they receive from health providers. Transform provides community feedback directly to health facilities, increasing accountability and transparency between health providers and clients.

**MALE ENGAGEMENT** increases the knowledge and involvement of men in reproductive and maternal health, since they often hold decision-making power and control financial resources, influencing women’s access to life-saving care.

**COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE** provides vulnerable populations, especially women and children, access to modern health services that would otherwise be paid for out-of-pocket.

*LEFT*

Sirawdink Worku, 25, at a maternity ward in Kidamaja Health Center, Banja woreda, Agew Awi zone, Amhara region, Ethiopia.

Photo: Genaye Eshetu
INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

HIV/AIDS
Pathfinder is striving for a world free from stigma, discrimination, and HIV-related morbidity and mortality. Pathfinder’s programs advance the integration of HIV care into the primary health care system through health systems strengthening and community-based interventions.

AFYA PWANI, 2016-2021
KENYA | USAID
Many aspects of a person’s health are tied to their sexual and reproductive health, including their ability to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections. Pathfinder’s Afya Pwani project integrated care and prevention for those living with HIV.

“I feel good, I’m properly complying with the medication. I like activists and supervisors because they actually visit me and advise me.”
— Rogério Salomão Mondlane

Maternal and Newborn Health
Pathfinder envisions a world where preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths are eliminated, and all women and children have a positive experience during and after pregnancy, childbirth, with outcomes that allow them to reach their full potential for health and wellbeing.

TUBITEHO, 2019-2024
BURUNDI | USAID
Tubiteho accelerates the delivery and uptake of family planning; maternal; newborn; child and adolescent health; nutrition; malaria; and gender-based violence prevention (GBV) and treatment services across six provinces in Burundi.

OVER THE FIVE YEARS OF THE AFYA PWANI PROJECT:

- 2,452,376 people were offered HIV testing services.
- 60,012 people living with HIV were provided with care and support services, 3,574 of those were under 15 years old.
- 13,494 people in key populations (sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender people) were served comprehensive HIV prevention services.

IN TUBITEHO’S SECOND YEAR:

- 1,900 people were reached through theater groups to increase community awareness on malaria.
- 5 six-day training sessions were conducted on emergency obstetric and neonatal care for 76 health providers.
- 2,410 community health workers were trained on properly completing and using the vaccination follow-up register.
- 200 community health workers were trained on the provision of DMPA-SC (Sayana Press) at the community level.

Though HIV is one of Mozambique’s most serious health threats, only 60% of those eligible are receiving antiretroviral therapy. From 2018 to 2020, Pathfinder implemented the community-based Reinforcement of Adherence & Retention of Patients in Antiretroviral Therapy & Screening for TB (RARE) project in Mozambique.

Photo: Ricardo Franco
Two years ago, Pathfinder started an intentional journey of self-examination on gender, how we understand and communicate it, and how we reflect and advance gender diversity and equality in our programs and organizational culture. Our new definition of gender is a result of this journey:

“Gender refers to the roles, responsibilities, characteristics, and behaviors that a given society associates with our identities as women, girls, men, boys, or non-binary people. Gender is socially and culturally constructed, so our understandings of gender differ across contexts and over time. Gender influences what is expected of each of us, the power we have in society, how we relate to others, and the norms to which we are expected to conform. Gender is a distinct concept and not the same as sex classification, which is typically assigned at birth.”
Gender-Transformative Work
At Pathfinder, we work to ensure that people, regardless of gender identity, can equitably access and utilize sexual and reproductive health services unimpeded by sociocultural barriers.

**NAYA QADAM, 2017-2021**
**PAKISTAN**
**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**
A communications campaign from Naya Qadam engaged influencers, community outreach workers, religious leaders, mobile vehicles, and used SMS (short message service) to promote post-pregnancy contraceptive services and health-seeking behaviors in six districts of Pakistan. Naya Qadam integrated gender-sensitive messages, putting together a full virtual gender-based violence training manual, delivered over WhatsApp, with a full Q&A portion.

The project also introduced gender and adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health training modules for providers, gender-transformative approaches in community engagement, and gender and youth considerations in all policy work.

**SINCE THE START OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, NAYA QADAM:**
- **REACHED 3 MILLION+** people through cable TV announcements.
- **REACHED 2.4 MILLION+** people through community announcements.
- **REACHED 120,900** people through mosque announcements.

Pathfinder’s Naya Qadam program continued to bring critical reproductive health education during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photos: Ali Ashgar
Male Engagement
IMPACTO, 2018-2024
MOZAMBIQUE
GLOBAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA

Pathfinder’s Impacto project works to decrease harmful practices, sociocultural norms, and beliefs that limit adolescent girls’ and women’s decision making and control over their reproductive health, sexuality, and bodily integrity. The project does this through interventions involving community leaders and influencers to generate a meaningful transformation in favor of rights and gender equality.

“When the project started, many people in Chiomio thought, ‘here’s one more project to disturb our peace.’ But they soon came to realize that Impacto was different: we are serious about our work, and we instill a sense of local ownership from the very beginning.

Our interventions prioritize the engagement of men and young boys across each life stage, starting from primary school. Men and boys are often left out of sexual reproductive health messaging campaigns and lack knowledge about contraceptive methods, which can negatively impact their partner’s health. To ameliorate the situation, we are enhancing boys’ and men’s sexual and reproductive knowledge.”

— Valgy Bernardo, Community Officer, Impacto project
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Heat and drought affect food security, water access, sanitation, and air quality, severely compromising maternal and newborn health.

Women walking longer distances to secure water are more vulnerable to sexual violence.

Girls drop out of school to take on additional responsibilities following disasters.

Distressed families may marry off young girls to secure wealth.

WHAT WE DO:

Meet unmet needs for contraception and sexual and reproductive health care, essential to women’s and girls’ agency.

Invest in girls’ agency, education, and literacy, including climate awareness.

Support women’s engagement and leadership in local resilience planning.

Strengthen the capacity of health systems to prepare for and effectively manage health risks due to climate change.

“Working with community partners and women themselves, we will foster resilience against the droughts that plague their everyday lives.”

— Dr. Tabinda Sarosh, Country Director, Pakistan
GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Pathfinder advocates locally, nationally, and globally for robust donor funding and domestic resources as well as strong policies to improve access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health care for women and youth.

School girls from Knosk School in Kuje Area Council of Nigeria share their experiences about learning to use digital technology for advocacy on International Day of the Girl Child. The girls received an orientation on how to use the Advance Family Planning SMART approach to advocate for change.

Photo: Rain Vedutti
Global Gag Rule

For decades, the Global Gag Rule, also known as the Mexico City Policy, has blocked health care access, stifled local advocacy efforts, and undermined reproductive health and rights worldwide. The Global HER Act, a bill introduced in Congress in 2021, would end the Global Gag Rule for good, by allowing organizations receiving US assistance to provide safe abortion care using their own funds, in keeping with current US laws and those of their respective countries.

Local Advocacy

Pathfinder collaborates directly with local leadership in the countries where we work, providing them with support as they advocate to their local, regional, and national governments to strengthen and improve primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health services.

**ADVANCE FAMILY PLANNING (AFP), 2014-2021**

NIGERIA  BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Reliable, and Time-bound) advocacy focuses on near-term advocacy wins that contribute toward an overall goal.

Pathfinder facilitated AFP SMART trainings for young people from five AFP states (Ogun, Nasarawa, Niger, Gombe and Kebbi state) to lead advocacy efforts for adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health in their states. As a result, the Nasarawa state government, for the first time, created a budget line for Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (AYSRH) and earmarked the sum of $5 million naira specifically for AYSRH.

“I have been able to understand the link between government financing for health and robust policies to young people’s health, and that there are many policies not working well. This training is timely for young people like me to help us develop data-driven tools that can help with our advocacy.”

— Chidera Onyeaghala, participant in SMART advocacy training

Pathfinder’s Uganda FPA program is building connections throughout communities and generations, reaching “gatekeepers” like cultural, religious, and local leaders, who help develop action plans to address social and cultural norms that may be harmful to reproductive health.

Photo: Lovington Kumbugu

SMART advocacy trainings empower young people to set clear objectives that will contribute to the overall goal of increasing budgets and developing better policies for reproductive health at the local, state, and national levels.

Photo: Bayo Ewuola
DEAR PATHFINDER COMMUNITY,

As the chair of Pathfinder’s board of directors for the past two years, I’ve been proud to help lead an organization that has a compelling mission, a clear vision, and a reputation for building effective programs everywhere we go. Our work to increase women’s agency and strengthen health systems is well known—and often the standard that others look up to.

But as I reflect on a dozen years of service, what might excite me most are the ways in which we’ve sought to fundamentally reshape Pathfinder in order to help local leaders empower their communities, on their own terms, within the global arena of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In Pathfinder shorthand, this is our Country-Led Strategy. It’s a series of organizational changes designed to upend the traditional international NGO hierarchy by transferring more authority and resources into the hands of the people doing the work on the ground, and it’s made a few big strides this year. An expanded executive leadership delegation now incorporates more in-country representation. Existing funding streams are being redirected to country offices, where more decisions about funding allocations will also live. And country teams have increased autonomy to give direction about program strategy and implementation that’s solidly grounded in their local knowledge, experiences, and perspectives.

Though I conclude my term with the Pathfinder Board of Directors in November 2021, this is momentous work that will only expand under the leadership of Collin Mothupi, the board’s newly elected chair. Collin will lead the most diversely representative board in Pathfinder’s history—a group that has chosen to take on these changes knowing full well how complicated and deeply scrutinized they’ll be. I trust you’ll give them all the same support that I’ve been so grateful to receive throughout my time here. Our faith in the hard work of pathfinding has perhaps never been so important.

Warmly,
Roslyn Watson
Chair, Pathfinder Board of Directors (May 2019-November 2021)
REVENUE & EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

REVENUE
Grants and contracts $121,937,476
Contributions $20,115,635
Other $620,097
Total $142,673,208

EXPENSES
Program services $109,860,372
Management and general $14,184,317
Fundraising $4,206,765
Total $128,251,454

Operating surplus $14,421,754
Non-operating gain $4,296,353
Change in net assets for the year $18,712,304
Net assets at beginning of year $29,915,815
Net assets at end of year $48,628,119

The information presented above is drawn from Pathfinder International’s financial statements, audited by RSM US LLP. They are available upon request or at pathfinder.org/financials.

Mama & Binti Kwa Binti groups graduation at Dzikunze dispensary, Afya Pwani program, Kenya.
Photo: Alfred Ameyo