

Jordan

The Act With Her Project

BACKGROUND

Jordan's exceptional solidarity with the large refugee population that it hosts has also tested the country's resilience over time. Regardless of nationality, young people living in Jordan – especially adolescent girls – face multiple challenges and barriers to accessing key health, education, economic, and social services that will set them on the pathway to a happy, healthy, productive adulthood. Their voice, agency, and choices are often more limited compared to boys due to restrictive gender and social norms.

Pathfinder International's Act With Her project takes a panoramic approach to partnering with adolescent girls in laying the foundations that they need to thrive through the transition to adulthood. We are expanding this flagship project from Ethiopia in sub-Saharan Africa to Jordan in the Middle East.

Leveraging the original investment in and support for this program in Ethiopia from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Elsa & Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundation (EPSCF) has provided Pathfinder with a matching grant to adapt the Act With Her model to meet the specific needs of Jordanian and refugee adolescents living in Amman and five governorates of Jordan. The 2-year project will be delivered in close partnership with the Institute for Family Health (IFH).

THE PROGRAM APPROACH

Our upstream philosophy provides girls with support during one of the most crucial life stages, reaching them before or during some of the most common disruptors of their future well-being (such as forced marriage, teenage pregnancy, or school dropout). Although it's a girl-centered program, we also directly include adolescent boys and connect with parents/caregivers and local communities, to ensure that adolescent girls have support now and in the future from their peers, partners, families, and influential allies.

We connect adolescent girls and boys ages 10-14 with trained young adult mentors who host a series of regular group meetings to provide them with the diverse range of knowledge, life skills, and peer networks that they need to thrive. We also aim to catalyze positive shifts in gender and social norms related to adolescent girls through engaging parents/caregivers, local communities, and key stakeholders in similarly transformative group discussions and activities.

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.