

At Pathfinder, we know that investing in women and girls is essential to creating a climate resilient future.

Climate change is already creating life-altering impacts on every aspect of life, including sexual and reproductive health.

Our changing climate is increasing health risks and environmental exposures, reducing access to health services, increasing food and water insecurity, worsening existing inequities, and profoundly shaping livelihoods and social systems in ways that exacerbate existing risks and generate new risks. These risks are not gender neutral: women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate threats.

At Pathfinder, we've seen firsthand how climate change is adding new pressures and stress on the marginalized communities where we work. In order to continue realizing our organizational aims and enable effective service provision, we must understand climate risks, adapt our strategies, and innovate our programming. Our climate resilience programming builds on this expertise and is a direct response to emerging needs within our programs.

Pathfinder has walked alongside women for over 65 years - and we won't stop now.

We have established a network of services for women and girls living in some of the most challenging circumstances on earth. For these women and girls, receiving our services has led to greater autonomy over their lives, greater participation in their families and communities, and greater capacity to transform their circumstances – critical elements of addressing the climate crisis.

We take a locally-led, women-centered approach to climate resilience.

In order to build the climate resilient future that we know is possible, we need everyone's participation. But right now, not everyone can participate – and ongoing efforts to develop and implement innovative climate solutions suffer. We want to change that.

We cannot achieve climate resilience without intersectional equity, and we cannot afford to leave the leadership, knowledge, and needs of women, girls, and non-binary individuals behind. At Pathfinder, we engage with these individuals as the thought leaders, innovators, and implementers they are.

We also center women in climate resilience programming because integrated investment in women generates durable improvements to key outcomes, helps ensure services and programming remain in place, and ultimately leads to communities that are more equitable, healthy, and sustainable. In our climate resilience programming, we take care to avoid shifting the burden of developing climate solutions onto women. We understand the importance of taking a gender-synchronized approach, and we know that we need men and boys as active participants in moving towards a healthier, more equitable, and climate resilient future.

Because climate threats vary, we tailor our programming to each community's distinct needs and assets. Ultimately, our climate resilience programming is about ensuring that all community members have the resources they need to develop creative solutions to build healthier, more climate resilient societies.

Our theory of change is based on our proven health expertise, our trusted relationships, a foundation of scientific evidence, and a bold vision for a climate resilient future.

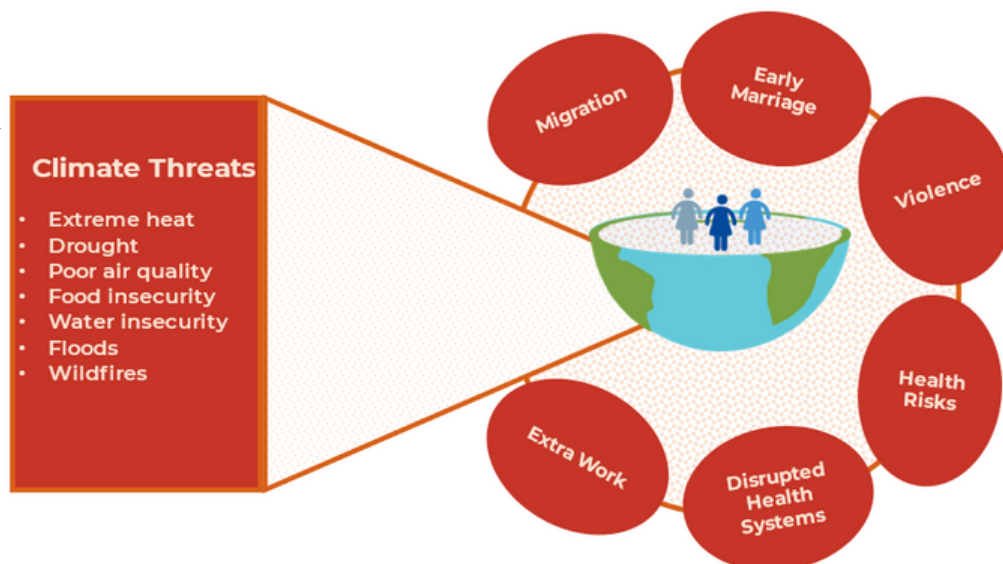
Through our holistic, transformative approach, we aim to achieve enduring climate resilience through integrated programming advancing health, equity, and local climate solutions. These change models illustrate how climate threats affect communities – and how we at Pathfinder frame our responses.

Climate threats to communities are localized, interconnected, and gendered.

While the list of climate threats in our risk model is not comprehensive, it does highlight some of the most common and urgent threats ones that we see already affecting our work around the world. Climate threats are also often interconnected: multiple extreme weather events might occur at the same time, and they might make each other worse. In the coming years, we expect the severity and frequency of these climatic events to increase.

These threats affect communities and individuals in different ways. They exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, like those around gender, sexuality, disability, race or ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. At Pathfinder, because of our longstanding work as champions of women and girls, we are especially attuned to the gendered effects of climate threats. In some cases, women and girls are more likely to die or become sick due to climate threats. They also might experience indirect effects, like a greater burden of work, migration, interrupted access to health care, or early marriage.

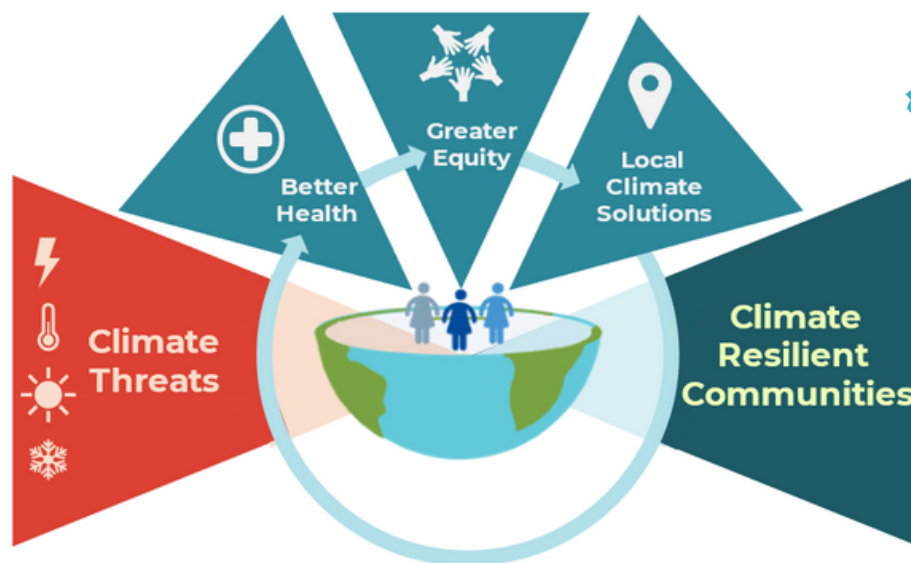
These effects threaten the progress we've made to date on improving health and gender equity. They affect the ability of Pathfinders around the world to continue carrying out their important work. Most importantly, they keep women and girls from being able to fully participate in their communities, especially when it comes to building a more climate resilient future.



Climate change threatens communities where we work. Our mission strengthens local climate resilience by first ensuring autonomy of the individuals we serve.

We're generating climate resilience through a locally-led, integrated approach.

At Pathfinder, we're responding to climate threats with programming that addresses health, equity, and local climate solutions through a rights-based approach. Our programming counters barriers to climate innovation, enabling communities to implement more effective, inclusive solutions.



Better health.

Pathfinder's longstanding work on sexual and reproductive health and rights is at the heart of our health work. Reproductive health is a foundation that allow people to not just survive but thrive in all aspects of life – from education and economic advancement to civic participation. But reproductive health services alone are not enough to ensure health of women, girls, and communities in a changing climate. That's why our programming also includes a range of innovative approaches to making communities and health systems more climate resilient, such as increasing accessibility of health services to migrating women, developing solar-powered green clinics, and building health sector capacity for providing climate-informed care.

Greater equity.

When women and girls have access to the health services they need and desire, they're better able to thrive and fully participate in their communities. For example, in our programs, we've seen how access to contraception is critical to bodily autonomy, and bodily autonomy is foundational to gender equity. We know that for any climate resilience solution to be effective, we have to pay attention to many intersectional identities, of which gender is just one. Our work advances the role of women, girls, and people outside the gender binary in their communities and brings along men and boys as partners – laying the groundwork for equitable contribution to households and communities.

Local climate solutions.

Our work on local climate solutions builds on our health and equity programming, supporting innovation and adaptation based on specific community needs and goals. We value every community member's voice in developing and implementing local climate solutions. Because climate threats look different everywhere, climate solutions will too. However, with a coordinated approach, we can accelerate learning across programs and regions to strengthen our impact.

Our mission strengthens local climate resilience by first ensuring autonomy of the individuals we serve.

We're investing in generating climate resilient communities.

No two projects will look alike, because no two communities look alike. However, this framework highlights the core elements that we at Pathfinder see as integral to advancing climate resilient communities, enabling us to increase our impact, learn more rapidly, and better serve the communities we work with.

This model highlights our areas of focus as we build locally-led climate resilience – that is, communities' ability to survive, adapt, and thrive even in the face of climate threats. Though better health, greater equity, and local climate solutions are depicted as distinct areas of work in the model, we recognize that they are deeply connected. Each is critical to creating climate resilient communities, because building a climate resilient future requires addressing existing inequities across sectors, including around knowledge, skills, tools, and access to resources.

New demands, expanded response.

We recognize that we need an expanded response to meet the new challenges presented by climate change. The trust we have developed and the network we have built provides a platform to add to our reproductive services and provide new services that allow communities to become more resilient to climate change. In our climate resilience programming, we're building on our experience – and innovating new strategies to meet new challenge:

1. **Autonomy first:** Voluntary family planning is never about population control or environmental pressures, but rather about autonomy, self-determination, and human rights.
2. **Comprehensive service offerings:** We forward a full suite of sexual and reproductive health services alongside our voluntary contraceptive services, including maternal and newborn care, prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, and a range of services for sexual health and well-being.
3. **Holistic well-being:** We strive to ensure that our sexual and reproductive health and rights work is accompanied by expanded activities to holistically prepare women and girls for the challenges they face.
4. **Participatory processes:** We work in a participatory, collaborative, and locally-led manner. It is critical to take the time to listen and understand different needs and dynamics in different communities. Collaboration at multiple levels, from individuals in rural communities to leaders in the national government, is at the heart of integrated, impactful, transformative work.
5. **Cross-sectoral work:** Effectively addressing climate threats means breaking out of sectoral silos. To amplify the impact of our programmatic activities, we deepen partnerships so we can co-locate services for clients and integrate, rather than replicate, expertise.
6. **Active learning:** Given the urgency of climate threats, we have to learn from and adjust our solutions faster. That's why we're building tools and frameworks to synchronize monitoring and evaluation and prioritize active learning. We need to know what doesn't work, so we can pivot our programming, and what does work, so we can scale our impact.
7. **Global scale:** Our network of locally-grounded but globally-aligned programs enables us to scale effective approaches, share our knowledge broadly, and accelerate impact.