

Overview

Pathfinder in West and Central Africa



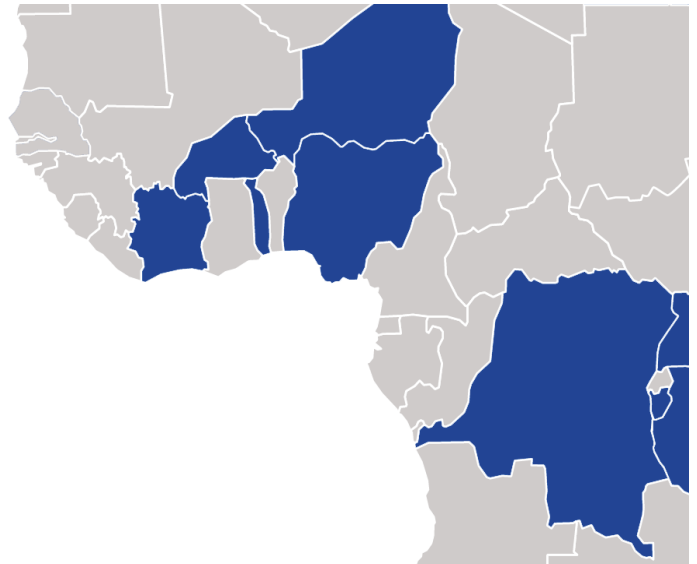
A health worker explains oral contraceptive pills to a client in Muyinga province, Burundi. Credit: Sala Lewis

Introduction

In West and Central Africa, Pathfinder works closely with governments, local partners, and communities to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our programs support women to have agency over their reproductive choices and all people to have what they need to be healthy, thrive, and live the life they choose.

Our programs include a focus on health systems strengthening, contraception, climate resilience, comprehensive abortion care, adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV and AIDS, and maternal and newborn health. By making health systems more resilient to shocks and stressors, we ensure access to quality sexual and reproductive health care and other essential services even in the most challenging environments.

Where We Work



Key Areas of Work

Contraception

Voluntary access to contraception is central to Pathfinder's work. We work with governments, local organizations, community, traditional and religious leaders to strengthen health systems and the capacity of health workers to deliver contraceptive counseling and a full range of contraceptive methods. Our work with communities shifts norms, beliefs, and behaviors that inhibit women from accessing contraceptive information and services and making autonomous reproductive decisions.



Young couple from the village of Nawaskalé, Niger. Credit: Tagaza Djibo

Comprehensive Abortion Care

Thousands of deaths occur each year due to unsafe abortions in West and Central Africa. Pathfinder strengthens health systems by training health workers and providing needed supplies and services to increase access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services. We work with communities to combat stigma and conduct advocacy work to influence laws in favor of access to comprehensive abortion care.

Adolescent & Youth Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights

In West and Central Africa, 75 percent of the population is under the 25. We empower youth to have agency over their own reproductive health through innovation, advocacy, and changing community norms related to gender, adolescent sexuality, early marriage and childbearing. We strengthen health systems to be youth-sensitive, giving young people access to sexual and reproductive health services, including a full range of contraceptive methods, without fear of stigma and social constraints.

Women-Led Climate Resilience

Climate change is having a devastating impact on the communities Pathfinder serves in West and Central Africa. Pathfinder works with local partners, including girls and women, on solutions that make communities more resilient to climate change and improve health outcomes in communities afflicted by climate shocks. We bring together women's leadership, innovation, and collaboration across diverse sectors to address the holistic needs and challenges of communities.

Integrated Programs

Pathfinder focuses on integrated programs that are contextually appropriate and responsive to the needs and priorities of the communities we serve. Our programs integrate contraceptive and other reproductive health services with services focused on HIV and AIDS, cervical cancer prevention, maternal, newborn and child health, and gender-based violence.

Regional Impact (2018-2022)



3.7+
MILLION
clients served



10.8+
MILLION
modern
contraception
consultations
supported

2.3+
MILLION
unintended
pregnancies
averted



783+
THOUSAND
unsafe
abortions averted



Active Projects

Amplify-PF

Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Niger, Togo

USAID

Works with governments to improve and expand access to family planning services, with a focus on poor and underserved urban populations.

Momentum Integrated Health Resilience

Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali

USAID

Improves access to and availability of high-quality, respectful, and person-centered maternal, newborn, and child health, and reproductive health and family planning services in fragile and conflict-affected settings, strengthening the resilience of individuals, families, and communities.

Projet Sauver La Vie (PSLV)

Burkina Faso

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Supports the Ministry of Health with strengthening primary health services, including family planning and safe abortion care, to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage. Operates in Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre Nord, and Nord regions.

Yam Yankré (My Choice) Phase 2

Burkina Faso

Anonymous donor

Supports the Ministry of Health to achieve universal health coverage that is inclusive of access to contraception and comprehensive abortion care. Operates in the Cascades, Boucle du Mouhoun, South-West, and Haut-Bassins regions and two districts in the Centre region.

PREPARE-BURKINA

Burkina Faso

USAID

Strengthens the delivery of quality family planning; reproductive health; maternal, newborn, and child health; nutrition; and water, hygiene and sanitation services in Centre Nord, Sahel, and East regions.

Tubiteho (Let's Take Care of Them)

Burundi

USAID

Unifies health resources and works with local partners to accelerate the delivery and uptake of family planning, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, nutrition, malaria, and gender-based violence prevention and treatment services.

Increasing Access to Reproductive Health

Côte D'Ivoire

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Integrates postpartum family planning into antenatal care visits and strengthens the capacity of midwives and physicians to offer contraception during the immediate postpartum period.

FHC Project

Côte d'Ivoire

Female Health Company

Promotes modern contraceptive methods, with particular emphasis on the female condom (FC2), to increase the decision-making power of women to decide on the desired fertility.

Integrated Health Program

Democratic Republic of the Congo

USAID

Improves the health of the Congolese population sustainably by strengthening the capacity of health centers and communities to provide quality, integrated services.

Active Projects

Multisectoral Health and Nutrition Project

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The World Bank

Assists the Ministry of Health in providing quality family planning and reproductive health services, integrated with nutrition services, in Kasai and Kwilu provinces. Uses existing community platforms to deliver services.



An auxiliary birth attendant talks with women about family planning in Karangasso Sambla, Burkina Faso. Credit: Tagaza Djibo

Empowering Youth to Lead Healthy Sexual and Reproductive Lives in Kinshasa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Works with local partners in Kinshasa to address sexual and gender-based violence against young women and uphold their sexual and reproductive rights. The project focuses on reaching young people with disabilities, who are particularly marginalized from sexual and reproductive health services.

USAID Kulawa

Niger

USAID

Improves health, family planning, and nutrition outcomes and increases gender equity in the Maradi, Zinder and Tillabéri regions of Niger through community engagement and strengthening of services provided through health facilities.

Women-Led Climate Resilience, Woodaabe Project

Niger

Consortium of private philanthropic donors

The project works directly with local women's groups and leaders to identify and implement climate-adaptive solutions that improve the health, well-being, and economic resiliency for women and girls

Staff by country

- Burkina Faso: 98
- Burundi: 42
- Côte d'Ivoire: 16
- DRC: 61
- Niger: 34
- Togo: 21

Leadership

- Lydia Saloucou Zoungrana, Country Director, Burkina Faso
- Dr. Ireneé Ndabagiye, Country Director, Burundi
- Dr. Konan Ernest Yao, Country Director, Côte d'Ivoire
- Dr. Marie-Claude Mbuyi Kabulepa, Country Director, DRC
- Dr. Sani Aliou, Country Director, Niger
- Dr. Aguima Tankoano, Regional Program Director, Togo

Pathfinder 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. Pathfinder builds lasting and trusted local partnerships to strengthen health systems, forging resilient pathways to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. Taken together, Pathfinder's programs enable millions of people to choose their own paths forward

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