



Photo by: Maggie Farrand

*A girl in front of her home in Jessore, Bangladesh*

## Women & Climate: What We Do

Everywhere we work, women's health and the environment are growing more deeply connected, with climate-based displacement and resource insecurity impacting health outcomes and service delivery in troubling ways. But Pathfinder communities around the globe are standing up to the climate crisis by helping women and girls position themselves as leading agents of resilience and adaptation. It's in this arena that the gravest threat to our planet today is being met by our greatest hope for sustainable progress: **where women lead, a healthier world follows.**

### 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. And the daily inequities that women and girls already face exacerbate it all.



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



Girls drop out of school to take on additional responsibilities following disasters, where women often lead rebuilding efforts.



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



Distressed families may even marry off young girls to secure wealth.



Women's group discussions in Zinder, Niger

## Envisioning Progress

To overcome the deadliest injustices of the climate crisis, sexual and reproductive health and rights must be centered in the global response. Across communities, this means improving access to health care for women and girls and protecting their right to education. Across nations, this means positioning women as decision-makers who can push for gender equity in climate policies. Across the globe, this means positioning women to lead the dialogue uniting climate justice with sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## Our Plan of Action

After a decade of working at the nexus of health and the environment, **we know that investing in women and girls is an effective path to climate resilience.** Here and now, building women-centered capacity to respond to immediate and long-term climate threats involves three main tactics:

**Meeting unmet needs for contraception and sexual and reproductive health care, a key source of underlying vulnerability**

**Investing in girls' agency, education, and literacy, including curricula linking climate with sexual and reproductive health**

**Facilitating women's engagement with climate planning information and activities**

## The Pathfinder Presence

Since 1957, we've worked tirelessly to strengthen community health programs and facilities, provide modern contraception, save the lives of mothers and newborns, foster gender equality, and improve the well-being of vulnerable people in more than 70 countries—including those affected by conflict, climate change, and natural disasters.

Our programs in several countries have cleaned up the environment while fostering gender equality and resilience—preparing communities to withstand shocks and stressors from climate change through the leadership of women and girls. Our work is driven by the needs of the communities we serve, and run by teams who live and grow in those very communities. **Pathfinder's approach today remains rooted in human rights, local knowhow, and the mutual sustainability of people and planet.**