



PATHFINDER

AT A GLANCE

Pathfinder in Kenya

Doris Jumwa and her husband, Peter, with their two-month-old daughter, Esther, whom she had after a c-section thanks to Pathfinder's interventions. Photo Credit: Maren Vespia

Introduction

For more than 60 years, Pathfinder has partnered with the Government of Kenya and local organizations to strengthen health systems. Our support has established high-quality, client-centered family planning services; sexual and reproductive health care; and HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services.

We have provided substantial guidance, training, and technical support to 250 local partners, including the Ministry of Health, and civil society, faith-based, and community-based organizations.

Pathfinder has made substantial contributions to advancing adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our initiatives have also improved maternal and newborn care and health and climate resilience in communities most impacted by climate shocks.

Our projects, which spanned 37 counties across Kenya, have been anchored in existing systems and structures, enhancing community ownership, long-term sustainability, and potential for scale, while contributing to high-quality, evidence-based, rights-centered, youth-responsive, and gender-transformative health care.

Areas of Expertise

- Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Contraception and reproductive health
- Maternal, newborn and child health
- HIV and AIDS
- Gender equity and women's empowerment
- Advocacy
- Climate and health
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Capacity strengthening of public-sector health systems and community-based organizations

Key Results from Fiscal Year 2024



Demarcated and **protected 1,137 hectares of critical fish breeding areas** in Lake Victoria; restocked these areas with 75,000 fingerlings of native fish species.



Trained 175 women in entrepreneurship and alternative livelihoods.



Donated boats to women's groups and **strengthened women's agency in the fish trade**, significantly reducing reliance on exploitative transactional "sex for fish" practices.



Doubled women's representation in leadership roles within Beach Management Units.

Project Highlights

Female Condom Education and Promotion Project

Female Health Company

This partnership between Pathfinder and the Female Health Company helps bridge knowledge gaps and break down barriers to correct and consistent use of the female condom, FC2. The female condom provides dual protection against sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancy.

Results

- Trained over 400 peer educators at three universities (University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, and Pwani University) as FC2 champions.
- Supported the Ministry of Health's development of the National Condom Strategy (2019–2023).

Darwin Initiative: Pairing Community Conservation Areas with Sustainable Aquaculture in Lake Victoria (2022–24)

UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Darwin Initiative Program

The Darwin Initiative aims to develop and demonstrate a new model for responsible aquaculture and inland fisheries that conserves native species and produces long-term benefits for people. The project uses community-based incentives to create sustainably financed lake-based community conservation areas. To achieve this, Pathfinder works to enhance gender mainstreaming and participatory planning where voices of men, women, and young people are heard in decisions that promote responsible stewardship of natural assets.

Results

- Increased women's representation in Roo and Ukuka Beach Management Units; women make up one-third of each unit.
- Trained 120 women on entrepreneurship and alternative livelihoods to improve resilience to economic shocks and reduce pressure on the lake.
- Demarcated two community conservation areas as breeding zones for fish.

Uzazi Salama (2021–23)

Mpesa Foundation

Uzazi Salama, led by Amref Health Africa in partnership with Pathfinder, Pharm Access Foundation, and Action Aid Kenya, increased access to and use of quality reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, adolescent health, family planning, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The project supported three health facilities in Ndhiwa Sub-County of Homabay County.

Results

- Trained 336 community members to increase community awareness and promote behavior change.
- Reached 69,090 community members with reproductive health information, resulting in increased use of health services.
- Reached 1,921 women with antenatal care and supported 1,983 women to deliver their babies in a health facility assisted by a skilled birth attendant.
- Supported 8,111 children to receive Vitamin A supplementation and 1,021 to receive scheduled vaccines.

Comprehensive Assistance, Support and Empowerment of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CASE-OVC) (2017–22)

USAID

Implemented in 18 counties of the Central, Eastern, and Rift Valley regions of Kenya, CASE-OVC supported children and adolescents affected by HIV and AIDS to ensure they were thriving within their households and communities. The project improved the health and social status of OVC and their families; enhanced the economic status, economic resilience, caregiving, and protection capacity of OVC households and caregivers; and strengthened formal and informal protection systems so that are responsive, inclusive, and accountable to the needs of OVC.

Results

- Reached 203,399 OVC with diverse services based of specific needs of OVC and households.
- Graduated 50,248 OVC from project support by increasing the stability of their lives.



Halima (left) and Hassan (right) are members of the Youth Advisory Council in Kilifi and champions of contraception. PHOTO: Sharon Atieno

Afy Pwani (2016–21)

USAID

Afy Pwani strengthened Kenya's health system, improving the accessibility of quality health services in coastal counties: Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu, Kwale, and Taita Taveta. The project specifically increased access to and use of services focused on prevention and treatment of HIV; maternal, newborn, and child health; family planning; and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Results

- Enrolled 11,169 women in antenatal care groups, enhancing peer support and women's knowledge about pregnancy, delivery, and reproductive health, and encouraging self-care.
- Among women participating in the antenatal care groups, 97% delivered their babies at a health facility with a skilled provider, and 96% of their children under one year were fully immunized; 86% began a method of family planning following their deliveries.
- Reached 2,452,376 people with HIV testing services, and identified 53,598 HIV-positive cases, referring them for treatment.
- Started 41,669 people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy through improved counseling, patient escorts, and careful case management.
- Served 12,792 female sex workers, 4,974 men who have sex with men, and 714 transgender people from Mombasa and Kilifi countries with comprehensive HIV prevention services.
- Served 9,591 people who injected drugs with medically assisted therapy.

Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) (2018–21)

USAID

DREAMS addressed the challenges that make adolescent girls and young women susceptible to HIV. The participation of adolescent girls and young women in project activities reduced their vulnerability to HIV infection by providing alternative sources of livelihood and empowering them to respond to their sexual and reproductive health and social needs.

Results

- 9,680 adolescent girls and young women in Mombasa County enrolled, supported, and engaged in socioeconomic activities, like vocational training and education, business start-ups, and voluntary savings, and loan associations.
- 47 mentors trained in financial capability and entrepreneurship, who later became role models and program advocates and followed up with the girls they mentored.
- 350 adolescent girls and young women trained on gender, mentorship, and how to protect and support their peers who experience sexual and gender-based violence. This group later became mentors and program advocates.

The Evidence to Action Project (E2A) at Kenyatta University (2015–18)

USAID

Pathfinder led E2A, USAID's global flagship project for reproductive health and family planning, from 2011–2019. Through the project, Pathfinder worked with Kenyatta University to assess sexual and reproductive health services for students provided at the university. The study offered fresh insights on how to strengthen the existing program, which was established more than 30 years before.

Results

- Allocated an annual KSh 100,000 to the Kenyatta University Student Association to support activities of peer counselors, which tripled the number of peer counselors on campus and resulted in a resource room for peer counseling services at the Directorate of University Health Services.
- Allocated an office at Kenyatta University's Student Business Center for youth-friendly services and monthly in-reaches on campus, where students can receive sexual and reproductive health information and services.

Health of the People in the Lake Victoria Basin (HOPE-LVB) (2011–19)

Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Barr Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USAID

Pathfinder partnered with several environmental and health sector partners in Kenya and Uganda to implement HoPE-LVB, an integrated population, health, and environment program that promoted couples counseling on family planning and health; environmental conservation; and water, sanitation, and hygiene. The project took place in island, lakeshore, and inland sites of the Lake Victoria Basin, seeking to prevent maternal and child deaths, improve environmental conservation, and foster environmentally sustainable livelihoods for broader economic development.

Results (Kenya and Uganda)

- Supported 118,000+ visits for contraception from 2012–2017.
- Contributed to a 214% increase in deliveries in project-supported health facilities between 2013–2015.
- Protected 204 fish breeding zones.
- Supported the planting 856,000+ trees.
- Supported the construction of 25,000+ energy-efficient stoves, with communities earning USD\$98,000 from their sale.
- Worked with communities to support the passage of 60 by-laws to enhance environmental protection and conservation.

Roselida and Evans Odongo lead community outreach in Bondo, Kenya, in the Lake Victoria Basin through the HOPE-LVB project. PHOTO: David Cooper



Pathfinder expands access to sexual and reproductive health services, opening the door to opportunities for women and all individuals to thrive—economically, educationally, and civically. Driven by our country-led leadership and local community partners, Pathfinder brings together a suite of services and programs that enable millions of people to choose their own paths forward.

Community-Facility Linked Continuous Quality Improvement Project in Homa Bay County (2016–18)

UK Department for International Development County Innovation Challenge Fund

The project established Continuous Quality Improvement Teams in select health facilities directly linked with communities in Homabay County. The teams applied best practices to improve the accessibility of quality care.

Results

- Pregnant women who completed all antenatal care visits increased from 40% to 60%.
- Increased proportion of effective referrals for antenatal care from 25% to 78% (8,279 referrals in total).
- Increased number of skilled, facility-based deliveries from 62% to 73% of all deliveries in Homa Bay County.
- Increased the proportion of health facilities offering basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care 24 hours a day, seven days a week from 35% (5) of health facilities to 90% (31) of health facilities.

AIDS, Population and Health Integrated Assistance plus Nairobi-Coast (2011–16)

USAID

APHIAplus Nairobi-Coast strengthened health systems and institutions to expand access to an integrated package of essential health services: HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment; contraception; maternal, neonatal, and child health; and services to prevent and treat malaria and tuberculosis.

Results

- Reached over 2.7 million people with HIV testing and counseling services.
- Delivered 1.5 million couple years of protection through contraceptive methods.
- Supported 487,300 deliveries by skilled birth attendants.
- Supported 41,500 gender-based violence services.