

Overview

Pathfinder in South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa



Introduction

Pathfinder works across the South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa regions to support women, young people, and their communities with access to sexual and reproductive health services, opening opportunities for them to thrive. We strengthen services and entire systems that allow women and all individuals to prosper—economically, educationally, and civically.

Our trusted networks of government and civil society partners and community- and country-led programs contribute to more resilient health systems capable of offering sustained sexual and reproductive health care and other essential services, even in the most difficult environments.

Regional Programs Budget: \$180 million



Active Projects

Bangladesh

Shukhi Jibon (Accelerating Universal Access to Family Planning)

USAID

In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, strengthens health systems and reaches underserved districts and divisions with family planning services.

Advancing the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Rohingya in Camps and Host Communities of Cox's Bazar

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Strengthens the health system's capacity in Teknaf upazila to provide comprehensive, gender-responsive SRHR services to refugees in Camp 22 through our local partner, RTMI.

Bangladesh, Pakistan

Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls Towards Better Health and Climate Change Resilience

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

Builds the resilience of communities to withstand climate shocks through women-led preparation, response, and recovery using an integrated approach that strengthens health systems, and supports improved nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

India

Yuva: Youth Voices for Agency and Access

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Combines social entrepreneurship and innovative communication approaches to improve access to contraceptive choices and shift gender and social norms among young couples in 10 districts of Bihar and Maharashtra.

Jordan

Act With Her

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Applies a multisectoral approach in partnering with adolescent girls to lay the health, education, economic, and social foundations they need to thrive during the transition to adulthood.



Caption: Participants use virtual reality headsets with Pathfinder's Yuva project in India. Photo: Pathfinder India

Egypt

Women's Economic and Social Empowerment Program

USAID

Partners with community members and public and private sectors to encourage women's workforce participation; generate demand for financial services; promote tailored, market-based solutions to women's economic empowerment; and strengthen gender-based violence prevention and response.

Ma'an (Together)

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp

Strengthens the capacity of local service providers to respond to the family planning and reproductive health needs of young married women and first-time parents in four districts of Egypt's Sohag governorate. Currently adapting approach to improve the climate resilience of health systems and surrounding communities.

OSRA

USAID

Improves family health outcomes by reinforcing the national family planning and reproductive health program in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Population.

Pakistan, India

Frontier Health Markets

USAID

Improves the functioning of local health markets and engages the private sector to advance health outcomes in areas including family planning; maternal, newborn, and child health; malaria; HIV and AIDS; and tuberculosis.

Active Projects (cont.)

Pakistan

Strengthening Health Systems to Increase Access to Post-Pregnancy Family Planning

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Improves women's and girls' access to family planning services, particularly post-pregnancy family planning services through health systems strengthening.

Increasing Access to Quality Family Planning Services

Punjab Population Innovation Fund

Scales up innovative approaches to family planning among Lady Health Workers in rural areas.

Multisectoral Leadership for GBV Response

UNFPA

Strengthens capacity of public sector and civil society partners to advance gender equity and prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

Support to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

UNHCR

Supports gender-based and child violence prevention services among refugees and asylum seekers by strengthening service-delivery systems.



Caption: A Lady Health Worker visits community members. Photo: Pathfinder Pakistan

I am Resilient, I am Change

Individual, private donations

Strengthens climate and disaster resilience in farming communities of Tharparkar district through the leadership and engagement of women and girls.

Building Healthy Families Activity

USAID

Expands access to and utilization of essential health care in Pakistan, including quality family planning and maternal, newborn, and child health services.

Regional Impact

July 2017-June 2022


10.6+
MILLION
Clients served


3.4+
MILLION
Modern
contraception
consultations
supported


5.6+
MILLION
Unintended
pregnancies
averted


1.97+
MILLION
Unsafe abortions
averted

Key Areas of Work

Each area of work at Pathfinder is aligned to four overarching, interconnected dimensions that we see as integral to success: women's agency and choice, access to and diversity of points of care, health-system readiness, and enabling environments.

Contraception

Pathfinder envisions a world where everyone of reproductive age can exercise their right to quality modern contraception and engage freely and fully in their communities.

Comprehensive Abortion Care

Pathfinder envisions a world where no woman suffers harm or dies from complications due to unsafe abortion.

Adolescent & Youth Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights

Pathfinder envisions a world where all young people fulfill their aspirations, realize their rights, and make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives.

Integrated Programming

Pathfinder has integrated, person-centered programming, and our strategic growth areas include:

- Maternal, newborn, and child health
- Gender-based violence
- Cervical cancer prevention
- HIV and AIDS
- Women-led climate resilience



Caption: In Sindh, Pakistan, a woman pulls water from a well. Photo: Muzamil Bhatti

Women-Led Climate Resilience

Across South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, climate change is having broad impacts on health. Pathfinder elevates women and girls as changemakers in their communities, engaging them to lead resilient, local, and rights-based solutions to climate adaptation. Our commitment to women's leadership of climate adaptation, our conviction in the power of local community-based solutions, and our passion for innovation and partnership across sectors drive our women-led climate resilience programs.

Looking Ahead

Pathfinder is working to increase the scale and sustainability of the organization's work across South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa with a strong lens on localization. Over the next five years, Pathfinder will increase our regional impact by strengthening locally led programs and the decision-making authorities of our local teams. We will focus on solidifying partnerships with donors, governments, and local partners, garnering more funding that drives greater mission impact. Finally, we will serve as the key organization in the region implementing complex, locally led programs on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Staff by country

- Pakistan: 35
- Bangladesh: 109
- India: 19
- Egypt: 28
- Jordan: 3

Leadership

- Tabinda Sarosh, President, South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa
- Mahbub Alam, Director, Bangladesh Country office and Shukhi Jibon
- Manish Mitra, Director, India Country office and YUVAA Project
- Mohamed Abou Nar, Senior Country Director, Egypt
- Wejdan Abu Lail, Program Director, Act with Her, Jordan

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.

PATHFINDER

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