

At A Glance

Safe & Comprehensive Abortion Care

Introduction

Unsafe abortion remains a leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths, particularly in countries where legal barriers, stigma, and poorly resourced health systems prevent women from accessing safe abortion and postabortion care services.

Globally, deaths due to unsafe abortion account for 8-11% of all maternal deaths—the majority of which occur in low-income countries. Pathfinder works to make existing abortion services safe where the law allows for it and more accessible through advocacy, education, and health systems strengthening.

Strategies

Ensuring safety and quality

Pathfinder assists health facilities to ensure they can offer safe, confidential, nonjudgmental, quality, abortion services and access to postabortion contraception of a woman's choice, including through the training and mentorship of health providers.

Sustained scale and reach

Building on global approaches and the latest innovations, Pathfinder develops context-specific strategies for expanding safe, sustainable abortion services in a variety of social and political contexts. We prioritize strong health systems by partnering with government-owned and community-driven initiatives that improve client-centered, quality comprehensive abortion care in the long term.

Self-care

Pathfinder works with public health systems to scale up access to medical abortion. This includes increasing availability of quality medical abortion drugs and increasing access to appropriate information on medical abortion.

Innovation

Pathfinder demonstrates the effectiveness of innovations such as digital technologies and options for self-care, including telehealth consultations and community-based distribution of commodities.



Above: Lina Simao Mate, an *activista* with Project MAIS, Mozambique. Photo Credit: Ricardo Franco

Pathfinder Impact in Fiscal Year 2022

128,194 women reached with safe abortion and postabortion care through Pathfinder-supported programs



Community norms and beliefs

Pathfinder works with communities, religious leaders, and influencers to open dialogues and shift norms and beliefs that inhibit women and girls from accessing safe abortion-related care and build women's and girls' agency to make their own reproductive choices.

Policy change

We use evidence and work with local partners and community leaders to achieve policy changes that reduce barriers to and provide an enabling environment for safe abortion services.

Last-mile services

We increase and expand points of service close to where clients live, with a focus on those women and girls who often don't have access. These include youth, rural populations, and populations experiencing humanitarian crises or climate shocks.

Women's Agency and Choice

Pathfinder works to create a supportive social environment where women and girls make their own sexual and reproductive choices, including access to comprehensive abortion care (CAC) without social barriers, stigma, or discrimination.

Highlight: Impacto Project, Mozambique

In 2014, the Government of Mozambique decriminalized abortion. Pathfinder's Impacto program has been working to make sure women and girls can receive safe, legal abortion care through interventions including those that:

Address myths and misconceptions about abortion, promote information on the risks of unsafe abortion, and provide information on the availability of legal, free, and safe abortion services.

Provide referrals for safe abortion services from communities to clinics.

Conduct clinical trainings with health providers on safe, quality abortion-related care.

Conduct workshops to address providers' biases and transform attitudes related to abortion rights.

Safe Abortion

Project Sauver La Vie supports Burkina Faso's Ministry of Health to strengthen primary health care services, including family planning and safe abortion care.

Highlight: Project Sauver La Vie, Burkina Faso

Over the past year, PSLV trained and supervised 498 health providers across 150 facilities on family planning, postabortion care, safe termination of pregnancy according to the law, values clarification and attitudes transformation related to abortion services, and gender-based violence response.

Since the start of the project in October 2020, 752 providers have been trained, 104,647 clients have been reached, and 4,007 clients have received CAC.

PSLV reached 5,039,644 people with messages about sexual and reproductive health over the past year through community and advocacy activities.



Dr. Dr Agnes Mlangeni is a provider at Temeke Hospital, Tanzania. Photo Credit: Maren Vespija.

Sustained Systems and Point of Care Readiness

Pathfinder supports availability of sustainable, scalable, equitable, and woman-centered CAC. This includes providing support to ministries of health to institutionalize evidence-based national training curricula for CAC, aligning national standards and clinical guidelines for CAC to existing global evidence, improving availability and quality of CAC service data to support improvement plans, and reinforcing supply chains for commodities that are essential to CAC.

Highlight: Pamoja, Tanzania

Pathfinder's Pamoja project worked with the Tanzanian government to improve the accessibility and quality of comprehensive postabortion care, with a goal of reducing the number of women dying from unsafe abortions.

From January 2020 to July 2022, Pamoja supported 66,674 women to receive comprehensive postabortion care.

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.

Transform lives with us. pathfinder.org

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