

At A Glance Climate Resilience

Introduction

Elevating women and girls as changemakers in their communities enables them to lead resilient, local, and rights-based solutions to climate adaptation.

Climate hazards like storms and extreme heat threaten health directly, and a changing climate also shifts how people live and interact with the world around them. This can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and inequities among marginalized groups, including women and girls.

At Pathfinder, we're responding to the climate crisis with integrated programs that advance health, equity, and local climate solutions. Applying a rights-based approach, our programs support climate resilience, with a focus on improving the health and agency of women and girls. Elevating women and girls as changemakers in their communities enables them to lead resilient, local, and rights-based solutions to climate adaptation. At Pathfinder, we engage with these individuals as the thought leaders, innovators, and implementers they are.

Strategies

Pathfinder takes a locally led, gender-transformative approach to climate resilience.

Help to meet unmet demand for contraception and sexual and reproductive health care, essential to women's and girls' agency in communities affected by the climate crisis.

Strengthen the capacity of health systems to prepare for and manage health risks due to climate change.

Tailor programming to each community's distinct needs and assets.

Support women's engagement and leadership in local resilience planning and implementation.



Above: Through Pathfinder's Dharti Ammar project, we're supporting young girls living in communities negatively affected by climate change to improve their knowledge and skills related to their sexual reproductive health and rights. Photo Credit: Pathfinder Pakistan

Climate Change: Impacts on Women and Girls



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



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



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



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



Above: Shahjadi Mahbuba and Tasnim Ahmed Jebin, Lopjan Choudhury girls' high school students. Both stayed in an emergency shelter with few resources for women due to flooding in Bangladesh in 2022. Photo Credit: Pathfinder Bangladesh

Highlight: Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls Towards Better Health and Climate Change Resilience, Bangladesh and Pakistan

The program builds the resilience of communities in Bangladesh and Pakistan to withstand climate shocks and emergencies through women-led preparation, response, and recovery. Our integrated approach includes strengthening health systems, and supporting improved nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene. The program positions women and girls as change agents in strengthening access to equitable health services and building community resilience to climate shocks—ultimately helping women forge their own paths to a healthier future.

Builds quality health systems that meet the needs of low-resource communities and withstand emergency shocks.

Supports women and girls with the tools, knowledge, networks, and resources they need to advocate for equitable health services.

Supports community champions, hosts gender-transformative trainings, and engages local community-based organizations to combat harmful social norms, including gender-based violence.

Contributes to the global body of knowledge on health and climate resilience to ensure greater sustainability and future social good.

Highlight: I am Resilient, I am Change Pakistan

I am Resilient, I am Change strengthens climate and disaster resilience in farming communities of Tharparkar district, Pakistan, through the leadership and engagement of women and girls. The project advances gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights by transforming harmful gender norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women. In addition to women and girls, the project engages men and boys, community-based organizations, policymakers, and university students to enhance collaboration between climate change, health, and women's rights advocacy groups.

Builds the resilience and adaptive capacity of farming communities to disaster- and climate-related shocks and stresses through the engagement and leadership of women and girls.

Engages educational institutions and university students to advocate for and influence climate change and SRHR policies.

Ensures community-based service providers and health workers provide quality SRHR services, including nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Sensitizes policymakers to the linkages between climate change and SRHR to ensure climate plans are developed with a gender lens.

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.

