

AT A GLANCE

Pathfinder in Nigeria



Beneficiaries engaged through Empowered Choices Acquisition Training in Abuja.

Introduction

Since its inception, Pathfinder Nigeria has made significant strides in enhancing the quality of life for Nigerian communities, particularly for women, adolescents, and underserved populations.

By leveraging evidence-based interventions, strong partnerships, and community-centered approaches, Pathfinder has become a leader in advancing health and development outcomes.

Pathfinder has worked with the government, community-based organizations, the private sector, faith-based institutions, and communities themselves to strengthen health systems and delivery of sexual and reproductive health care.

Pathfinder Nigeria programs aim to address health system challenges that affect sustained access to quality sexual and reproductive health care; ensure women can receive quality, respectful maternal care at their home and at health facilities; ensure the availability of a full range of contraceptive methods; and address social norms that affect women and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services.

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
- Digital health
- Advocacy
- Health systems strengthening
- Social and behavior change



IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

In 2024, Pathfinder Nigeria supported **2,006,465 HIV tests.**



Project Highlights

Geospatial Data/Tools/Tech for RMNCH Microplanning and Decision Support Program (GeoST4R)

Gates Foundation

Kano state

GeoST4R, implemented with GRID3, Natview Foundation for Technology Innovation, and Data Science Nigeria, uses geospatial data, tools, and technology to improve the identification, coverage, and uptake of reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition (RMNCHN) services. The project incorporates successful strategies and best practices used for polio eradication, routine immunization, and COVID-19 prevention and treatment. GeoST4R seeks to address ongoing challenges, including lagging investments in RMNCHN and poorly functioning health care facilities, by ensuring the availability of quality data to inform health care decisions. This includes a centralized database where stakeholders can access the same information in real time.

HPV Vaccine Champions and Advocacy Engagement

Gates Foundation

Ogun and Nasarawa states

The project aims to increase the uptake of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among young girls in Nigeria, where cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women ages 15-44. Despite the successful introduction of the HPV vaccine in 37 states, challenges persist, including vaccine hesitancy, inadequate funding, and slow integration into routine immunization programs.

Pathfinder, in partnership with Family Health Initiative Ogun (FAHIO) and Community Link for Health and Family Planning Advocacy (CLHFPA), in Ogun and Nasarawa states, respectively, through targeted advocacy addresses these challenges through policy enhancement and community engagement. The goal is to ensure widespread acceptance and integration of the HPV vaccine into routine immunization programs, ultimately reducing the burden of cervical cancer in Nigeria.

Strengthening Multi-Level Partnerships for Advancing Women's Health in Nigeria Project

New Venture Fund

Kano and Lagos states

Implemented by Pathfinder in collaboration with the Center for Communication and Social Impact (CCSI), Public Health Sustainable Advocacy Initiative (PHSAI, Lagos) and Kano State Led Advocacy Initiative (KanSLAM), the project provides technical assistance to Kano and Lagos States to enhance women's health.


The goal of the project is to implement favorable policies and sustainable financing for women's health, with a focus on maternal and newborn health (MNH) and family planning (FP). Through the establishment of a robust system to support women's health across all aspects of reproductive health, the project seeks to promote ownership and accountability for women's health among sub-national stakeholders. The project uses the SMART approach to engage new and existing advocacy and accountability platforms and voices, build capacity for evidence-based advocacy, and shape the advocacy agenda.

Enhancing Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Awareness and Uptake in Nigeria

Gates Foundation

Kano, Lagos and Kaduna states

Implemented in partnership with the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, the Nigeria Cancer Society, and government agencies, this project supports advocacy, community outreach, and communications campaigns related to cervical cancer prevention. The campaign seeks to increase uptake of the HPV vaccine, awareness about cervical cancer, and use of self-care practices. The project supports vaccination of in-school and out-of-school adolescent girls, increasing trust of the vaccine among communities to ensure eligible adolescent girls receive vaccinations.



Pathfinder partnered with GAMIVAL, a carnival of games in Abuja, to promote FC2 Female Condom to a large audience of young people through games, music performances, and other interactive activities.

FC2 Education and Promotion Project, Africa

Female Health Company
Multi-Country

The FC2 Education and Promotion Project, Africa, implemented by Pathfinder Nigeria for eight years, aims to expand the availability and distribution of female condoms in Nigeria. The project focuses on advocacy, awareness-creation, and demand generation in communities with high HIV prevalence, unplanned pregnancies, and low contraceptive use.

The project empowers stakeholders, communities, and people to promote female condoms through training, supportive supervision, and mentorship. Activities include participating in Technical Working Groups, providing training and mentorship, and conducting sensitization sessions among key populations and vulnerable groups. The project also employs novel tactics such as sports, carnivals, and social media channels to educate the general public about the benefits of female condoms and promote their availability. The purpose is to promote reproductive health and wellbeing, especially among adolescents, youth, and vulnerable populations.

Task-Shifting/Sharing to Strengthen PHC Services

Gates Foundation
Kano and Kaduna States

The Task-Shifting/Sharing to Strengthen Primary Health Care Services in Kaduna and Kano initiative, which is being conducted in collaboration with state governments, seeks to improve health workforce distribution and service quality in rural and underserved areas. The initiative takes a holistic strategy to supporting current health systems and personnel, providing high-quality, sustainable, and gender-responsive healthcare for all. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) and Junior Community Health Extension Workers (JCHEWs) to deliver integrated Primary Health Care (PHC) services, improve service access and quality, and provide evidence for scalability and policy changes to strengthen Nigeria's health workforce.

Empowering Futures: Empowering Community Systems for Adolescent Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health

Organon

Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

The Empowering Futures Project, which is being implemented in Gwarimpa village, an urban slum of the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja, promotes adolescents' and young people's sexual and reproductive health (SRH). This initiative, which builds on the successful Act With Her and Empowered Choices projects, will deliver comprehensive SRH education and skills to close knowledge gaps and reduce unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, STIs, and other preventable health conditions.

The project aims to reach vulnerable populations in underserved areas and work in collaboration with the Federal Capital Territory Primary Health Care Board to improve health outcomes for young people, particularly young women and girls, by providing them with SRH life skills that will allow them to make informed health decisions. This will ultimately improve the quality of life for young people in urban slums and help them make a healthy transition to adulthood.

Accelerating the Expanded Adoption of RMNCH Innovation and Health Reforms

TACConnect

Borno state

The Accelerating the Expanded Adoption of RMNCH Innovation and Health Reforms project aims to improve maternal and newborn health (MNH) outcomes by implementing innovative solutions across the care continuum. The project's goals are to promote the use of high-impact treatments, improve care quality, and develop cooperation with state and local stakeholders. Pathfinder's efforts on this invention will hasten maternal and child mortality decreases and have a significant influence on maternal and child health indicators.

The initiative trains health care workers in essential maternal and newborn health practices, engagement of community influencers to promote high-impact practices, and ensuring consistent availability to critical supplies and equipment.

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Modeling to Support Decision-Making for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening (Quantium)

Grand Challenges

Nation-wide

Led by Quantum Health and implemented in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam and the National Cancer Registry at the National Institute of Communicable Disease, the project aims to use existing public sector data to inform cervical cancer prevention and treatment strategies. The project aims to identify the most effective strategies and interventions for reducing cervical cancer by building and adapting Human Papillomavirus (HPV) models.

The initiative employs data visualization, modeling, and forecasting to identify targeted intervention areas and inform programming decisions. This includes examining existing data sources, such as DHIS, to predict current cervical cancer trends and the effectiveness of interventions. The research also makes use of the HPVsim model, an agent-based model that predicts the impact of various preventative interventions based on country-specific needs, including high-level costing.

The project's purpose is to help countries optimize their HPV vaccine and screen-and-treat programs, which will lead to more effective cervical cancer prevention and control efforts. Working with partners to deliver data-driven insights and open-source information, this endeavor will guide policy decisions and ensure that programs are tailored to each country's specific needs.

Advocacy and Implementation of MNCNH Innovations in Nigeria

Gates Foundation

Phase 1: Kano, Kaduna, Lagos, Bauchi, Gombe, Yobe, Adamawa, Jigawa, Ebonyi, and Akwa Ibom states

Phase 2: Niger, Nasarawa, Sokoto, Borno, Delta, and Rivers states

This project is a collaborative effort led by the Africa Center for Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Pathfinder, the Center for Communications and Social Impact (CCSI), and Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN). The project's primary goal is to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes in Nigeria by strengthening the policy environment, accelerating the adoption of innovative solutions, and improving the management of essential commodities.

To achieve this goal, the consortium will collaborate closely with state health ministries, primary health care boards, and other key stakeholders to implement evidence-based innovations in primary and secondary health institutions. The initiative will also focus on increasing access to high-quality postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) care by updating state trainer capacity, promoting competency-based training, and providing ongoing assistance to health facilities. In addition, the consortium will endeavor to enhance the supply chain so that necessary commodities are available and accessible to health facilities.

Pathfinder, as a member of the consortium, will lead the project's advocacy efforts, promoting the acceptance and implementation of evidence-based MNCH interventions and innovations, with the goal of reducing preventable maternal deaths in Nigeria.

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.