

PATHFINDER

AT A GLANCE

Women's Economic and Social Empowerment



Participants at a Pathfinder-hosted workshop on women-led climate change resilience in Pakistan.

Pathfinder opens doors for women and girls to forge their own path ahead, live the lives they choose, and build the healthy, prosperous futures they deserve. We adopt a do no-harm, comprehensive approach combining social and economic empowerment, ensuring women have both access to economic opportunities and power to make informed decisions about their futures.

2020–2024

OUR IMPACT ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



3,500 Women and girls participated in village savings and loan associations.



12,394 Women and girls gained access to their own financial accounts.



175 Women and girls participated in entrepreneurship trainings.



23,000 Women and girls enrolled in programs to increase economic resources.

INVESTING IN WOMEN-LED INNOVATION

Pathfinder places women at the forefront. We make sure their voices are represented, their ideas are put into action, and that they have the resources needed to succeed. By investing in women, we invest in a healthier and more equitable future for all.

- **We strengthen career pathways for women across diverse sectors**, elevating them to leadership positions where they can drive economic and social agendas.
- **We generate women's demand for financial services and digital inclusion**, encourage women's participation in the workforce, and promote market-based solutions for women's economic empowerment.
- **We advocate for laws and policies that advance gender equity**, workplace rights, access to health care, and women's full participation in social and economic life.
- **We strengthen gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response**, creating safe environments where women have access to essential services and can make informed choices.
- **We engage men and communities as allies** and build connections with the private sector to foster shared responsibility and inclusive change.



Masai women's microfinance group in Tanzania.

Our Projects

EGYPT

Women's Economic and Social Empowerment Program (WESEP)

Donor: USAID

With women representing only 18% of the labor force, WESEP (2022–2025, \$27 million) provided 200,000 women with employment opportunities and digital financial services. WESEP partnered with private sector firms to hire, retain, and promote women, expanded access to digital financial services, and build financial literacy. The project also promoted gender equity, strengthened GBV prevention and response, and engaged communities to create supportive environments for women. Grounded in Pathfinder's Gender Equity Seal and UN Women's Empowerment Principles, WESEP opened doors for women to access economic and social supports in safe, equitable environments.

KENYA

Darwin Initiative: Pairing Community Conservation Areas with Sustainable Aquaculture in Lake Victoria

Donor: FCDO (prime: Conservation International)

The Darwin Initiative (2021–2024) cultivated a new model for responsible aquaculture that safeguards native species while supporting women as entrepreneurs and leaders in the fishing industry. The project distributed boats to women's groups, enabling them to generate income, employ men, and benefit fully from fish harvests. The project also strengthened women's leadership within local beach management units, positioning them to shape governance structures and create a fishing industry that better supports women.

NIGER

Women-led Climate Resilience (Tangamo)

Donor: Philip Stoddard and Adele Smith Brown Foundation

Tangamo (2021–2022), meaning "Resistance" in Zarma, supported women and girls to build resilience to climate change by combining community health with income-generation opportunities. The project provided training on climate-resilient agricultural and animal husbandry techniques to rural women whose partners had migrated to nearby population centers, with the goal of boosting farm yields and reducing their economic dependence on partners. The project also worked with urban migrant women to form solidarity groups to advocate for migrant women's rights and connect them to services and resources.

BANGLADESH & PAKISTAN

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

Donor: Takeda Pharmaceuticals

Pathfinder leads efforts in Bangladesh and Pakistan to build community resilience to climate shocks and emergencies through women-led preparation, response, and recovery activities (2021–2025, \$9.8 million). Foundationally, the project shifts harmful gender norms that hold women back. By connecting women and girls to health services, climate-adaptation planning, and green livelihoods, the program helps communities withstand and recover from recurring climate shocks. In Bangladesh, 4,000 women earned income through agricultural trades and sewing. In Pakistan, nearly 1,000 women climate champions have spread awareness about climate resilience and promoted women's decision-making with male allies.

MOZAMBIQUE

Preventing Child Marriage in Cabo Delgado

Donor: USAID

Known locally as "Uholo - Raparigas e Jovens" (2020–2024, \$5 million) in Cabo Delgado, Uholo reached more than 100,000 adolescent girls and young women with social, educational, and economic opportunities to reduce early marriage. In a province where 61% of girls marry before 18 and adolescent pregnancy is widespread, Uholo engaged girls, women, families, men, and community leaders in dialogues that promote girls' choices and rights. Uholo provided economic opportunities for young women through savings and credit groups, vocational training, and support for women-led enterprises.

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