

PATHFINDER

Onward

Charting a Course through USAID Terminations: Impact, Adaptation, and the Road Ahead

In February 2025, Pathfinder International received termination notices for all its USAID awards.

These sudden terminations halted 15 Pathfinder projects, including 6 of the organization's largest across Africa and South Asia.

Valued at US\$221.6 million, these six projects delivered family planning, maternal and child health, and women's economic empowerment services at national scale. They supported more than 3,500 health facilities in Egypt, Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Mozambique.

We projected that award terminations would result in:



571,000 family planning clients losing access to services



713,000 unintended pregnancies



287,000 unsafe abortions no longer averted



1.1 million children missing routine vaccinations and treatment for common childhood illnesses



450,000 women and young people losing access to life skills, economic literacy, and reproductive health education

Adaptation Amid Chaos

USAID terminations affected services deeply rooted within national health systems and community networks, which had immediate impact on women and families. In response, Pathfinder focused on maintaining continuity of essential services, protecting core systems, and working closely with local ministries of health and partner organizations to transition services to prevent collapse.

[Read on to see how Pathfinder projects in Pakistan and Mozambique worked to sustain services and reduce harm during this tumultuous period.](#)

Pakistan

Since 2022, Pathfinder Pakistan had been leading the USAID-funded **Building Healthy Families (BHF)** project. The project:

- Supported 2.9 million women and children to access family planning and maternal and child health services
- Helped 1.9 million children receive nutrition support
- Enabled 36,600 survivors of gender-based violence to access support services

After termination, Pathfinder worked with federal and provincial authorities and local partners to advocate for domestic funding for critical services. Government counterparts then committed to sustaining investments in health systems strengthening, service delivery, and provider capacity to protect long-term progress.

Mozambique

Pathfinder had been implementing the USAID-funded **Improved Family Planning Initiative (IFPI)** project since 2021. The project:

- Facilitated access to contraceptive services for more than 2.5 million women
- Reached nearly 3 million individuals across 41 districts
- Strengthened data management practices and significantly reduced contraception stock-out rates
- Demonstrated scalable models for adolescent-friendly services

After termination, Pathfinder worked with local partners to retain skills, tools, and community relationships. The Ministry of Health also adopted two tools introduced by the project: the National Family Planning Dashboard and the Management Standard Compliance Tool.



A Directional Shift for Pathfinder

Before the foreign aid freeze, Pathfinder was already in the midst of a strategic evolution. The loss of USAID funding did not trigger this shift, but it did accelerate it. In September 2025, Pathfinder launched **Women&Co**, a new strategy and innovation platform that builds on our six decades of strengthening health systems and partnering with governments and local organizations. The innovation system is designed to bring together women from multidisciplinary backgrounds to pioneer transformative solutions and create new opportunities for their communities. .

Women&Co reflects our updated mission to catalyze locally grounded, women-driven approaches across health, climate resilience, economic empowerment, and leadership. The strategy is rooted in Pathfinder's belief that durable impact depends on women having the power, resources, and authority to shape solutions in their own lives and communities.

Pathfinder has operationalized Women&Co through **FemVive**, a social enterprise business, in Kenya. FemVive enables women to earn an income by selling health and wellness products within their social networks. Women are supported with tools, training, and an online platform.

Femvive's inaugural cohort of 50 women was trained and equipped with essential skills in mid-November 2025. The network is designed to grow steadily as demand expands, linking women's health, confidence, and livelihoods through a sustainable business model.

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Looking Ahead

In the wake of USAID's termination, Pathfinder has become a leaner—but more focused, diversified, and resilient—organization. During this period of recalibration, we moved away from relying on a narrow set of large awards and toward a broader portfolio grounded women-led, locally driven solutions. Today, we are better positioned to deliver impact in a changed global health landscape.