PATHFINDER

2026–2030
Climate Resilience Strategy

Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems for a Changing World



Climate change is one of the greatest threats to health, equity, and development of our time. Across low- and middle-income countries, climate shocks are disrupting health systems, threatening food and water security, increasing disease burdens, and disproportionately affecting women, youth, and marginalized populations. As extreme weather events become more frequent and severe, communities need resilient systems that can anticipate, withstand, and adapt to these challenges while continuing to deliver essential services.



For nearly 70 years, Pathfinder International has been a catalyst for systems change, inclusive growth, and resilient communities in more than 120 countries worldwide. At the heart of Pathfinder's mission is the transformative power of locally-owned solutions:

We catalyze locally grounded sustainable solutions that strengthen communities—enabling women to navigate change, shape their own futures, and lead healthy lives.

For nearly two decades, Pathfinder has improved climate resilience through women- and youth-led climate and health projects, integrated multisectoral and multi-level programming, and dedicated climate initiatives. Through these programs, we have achieved the following results:

- **2,200** health facilities strengthened to maintain essential services during climate shocks
- **14,500** health professionals trained to prepare and respond to climate-induced emergencies
- **25,000** youth mobilized as climate advocacy leaders and champions
- **461,236** pregnant women and mothers reached with climate and health information
- **1,038** community-led climate resilience solutions that codified local knowledge and innovation

The economic case for climate and health action is strong, and investments consistently deliver high returns. Every $1 USD invested generates more than $10 USD in benefits over a decade. Health-specific investments can exceed 78% returns through reduced climate impact. Resilient health systems and climate and health co-financing can generate annual returns of 20-79% between health care savings, avoided losses, and economic gains.

The private sector is also a vital partner in achieving large-scale impact. Pathfinder strategically engages companies across health, energy, technology, agriculture, and finance sectors to align commercial interests with development outcomes. In so doing, we leverage private capital, expertise, and innovation to support resilient, climate-smart health systems.

Today, Pathfinder is advancing a bold vision through its 2026–2030 Climate Resilience Strategy. This strategy builds on our leadership in health systems strengthening and advances equitable, climate-resilient health systems that deliver responsive care for all.

Investing $65 billion USD in resilient health care infrastructure could prevent 6.5 million deaths and avoid $5.8 trillion USD in losses by 2050, **generating up to 90 times the economic benefit.**

Pathfinder's Climate Resilience Strategy 2026–2030 is aligned to one overarching goal: **to build equitable, climate-resilient health systems that ensure health services for all, with a focus on women, youth, and marginalized populations facing the greatest barriers.**

Theory of Change

IF Pathfinder strengthens health systems with climate resilience embedded at different levels, **AND** communities—particularly women, youth, and marginalized populations—lead implementation of climate-smart health solutions, **AND** environmental determinants of health are systematically addressed through multisectoral action, **AND** evidence and learning drive continuous adaptation,
THEN health systems will have the resources, governance structures, and capacity to provide equitable, continuous, quality services, adapting to and mitigating climate shocks and stresses.

Financing

Pathfinder will actively pursue multilateral climate funds, bilateral donors, private philanthropy impact investment and blended finance, national climate funds, corporate social responsibility opportunities and shared-value investment climate financing streams. Beyond traditional donor financing, we will work towards building the capital, instruments, and pipeline needed to attract impact investors to fund the 2026-2030 Climate Resilience Strategy as full financing partners. Such partnerships accelerate deployment of renewable energy, climate-smart infrastructure, digital health solutions, resilient supply chains, innovative financing mechanisms, and locally led enterprises. By extending services to underserved communities and creating market-based pathways for growth, private sector engagement helps scale proven solutions, attract additional investment, and sustain impact beyond the life of donor-funded programs.

SUPPORT CLIMATE-RESILIENT HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS	Health systems must maintain service delivery during climate shocks and stressors
ADDRESS THE HUMAN IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	Integrated approaches combining health with livelihoods, education, and voice, reduce vulnerability and build resilience.
PROMOTE NEXT GENERATION OF CLIMATE LEADERS	Women and youth leadership drives sustainable change and contributes to power shifts for lasting impact.

WHAT SETS PATHFINDER APART
Our approach is integrated, equity-driven, and locally led. We know that climate resilience requires more than environmental action. It depends on strong health systems, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and local leadership.

WOMEN & YOUTH AT THE CENTER
Women and girls face the greatest risks from climate change, from disrupted health services and food insecurity to increased violence and economic hardship. They are also among the most effective climate action leaders. We put women and youth at the center of resilience efforts, supporting them as leaders, innovators, and decision-makers.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP, LASTING IMPACT
We work with governments, civil society, women, youth, and community leaders to drive locally owned solutions. Through technical expertise and catalytic support, we empower local actors to lead adaptation efforts and create sustainable systems.

The path to resilience requires **bold partnerships, innovative thinking, and sustained investment.** Pathfinder's Climate Resilience Strategy 2026–2030 provides a roadmap for achieving all three. Together, we can build equitable, climate-resilient health systems that protect lives, strengthen communities, and create healthier, more sustainable futures for generations to come.

For nearly 70 years, Pathfinder International has been a catalyst for systems transformation, inclusive growth, and resilient communities. With a global footprint spanning Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East, we invest in women and girls by expanding access to essential health products and services, unlocking leadership pathways, and strengthening economic participation. By partnering with civil society, governments, and the private sector, we scale women-led innovations that deliver sustainable systems of support, while generating measurable impact with the goal to ensure every woman has the agency to shape her future and lead a healthy, fulfilling life.