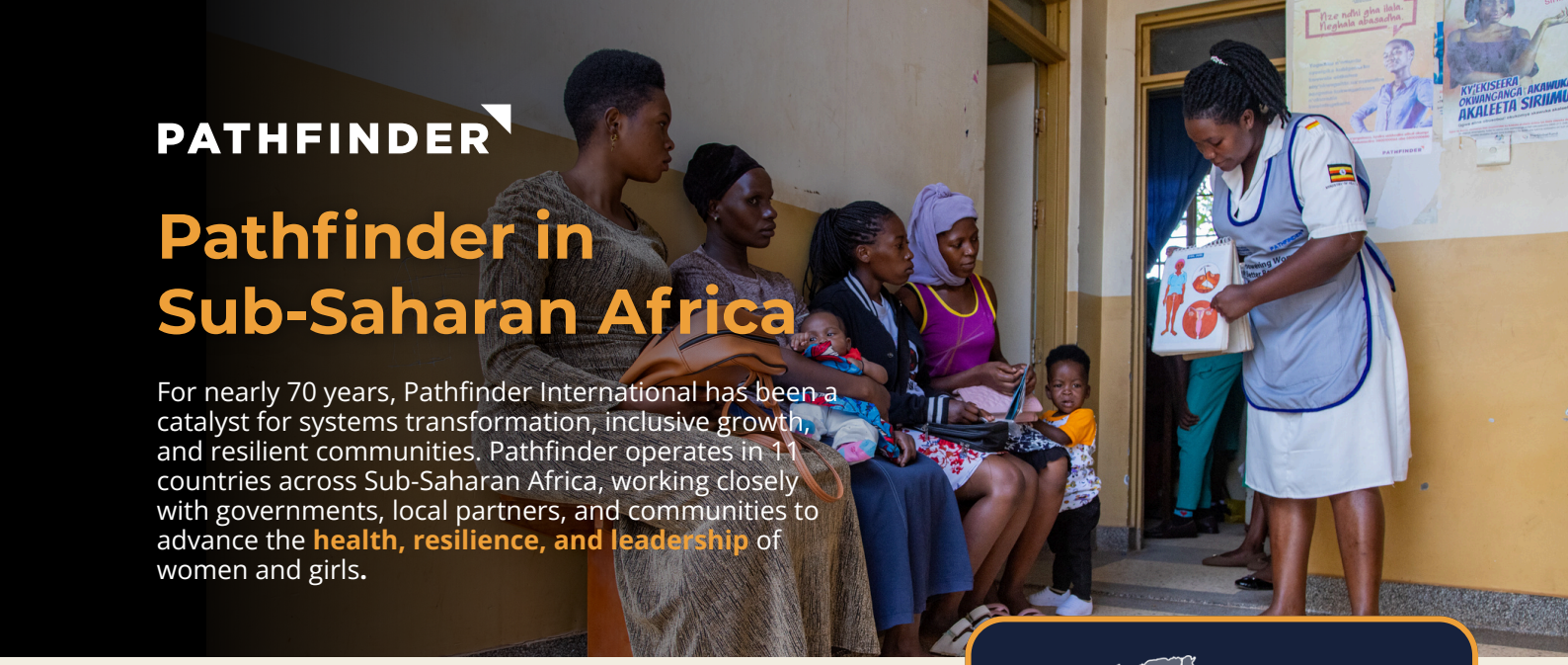
PATHFINDER

Pathfinder in Sub-Saharan Africa



For nearly 70 years, Pathfinder International has been a catalyst for systems transformation, inclusive growth, and resilient communities. Pathfinder operates in 11 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, working closely with governments, local partners, and communities to advance the **health, resilience, and leadership** of women and girls.

Key Areas of Work

Pathfinder works with local partners to improve the health and climate resilience of communities through the leadership of women and girls. Our intersectional, multisectoral approach brings together stakeholders across sectors, leveraging our power to dig deeply into interconnected systems and build sustainable, scalable solutions.

Health

We enhance women's agency to make informed decisions about their health; bring lifesaving care to women and girls; and strengthen the resilience of health systems.

- Advancing rights, agency, and choice among women, girls, and their communities.
- Ensuring universal access to responsive and quality health services.
- Bolstering health system resilience and readiness to withstand shocks and stressors.
- Creating an enabling environment in which individual-, community-, facility-, and system-level ideals can be achieved.

Leadership & Economic Empowerment

We ensure the voices and ideas of women and young people are put into action, and they have the resources they need to succeed.

- Empowering women and youth economically by increasing their participation in the formal economy.
- Ensuring women's and young people's representation on decision-making bodies.
- Elevating women in the workforce.
- Contributing to policies that support the agency and rights of women and girls.

Climate Resilience

We apply locally led solutions to climate and health resilience, helping women and their communities adapt to the climate crisis.

- Supporting climate-resilient health systems that provide continuous services, reducing climate-related health risks.
- Using integrated, human-centered approaches that give communities the tools to lead climate adaptation.
- Promoting the next generation of climate leaders and innovators by building the leadership capabilities of women and young people.



Burkina Faso
Burundi
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Kenya
Ethiopia
Mozambique
Niger
Nigeria
Tanzania
Uganda

REGIONAL IMPACT
JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026

2.45 million
clients reached with contraceptive services

3,290
maternal deaths averted

2.08 million
unintended pregnancies averted

613K
unsafe abortions averted

$170.58 millon
costs saved

Project Highlights

BURKINA FASO

Strengthening Data Use for Impact in Burkina Faso

Gates Foundation

This project strengthens data use for decision-making, increasing the quality and efficiency of primary health care services and contributing to better and more equitable health outcomes. As project lead, Pathfinder provides technical assistance to strengthen the Ministry of Health's central coordination and leadership, facilitates alignment between the Ministry of Health and partners, provides financial and project management, and integrates equity-promoting and gender-transformative approaches.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Universal Access to Modern Contraception in Côte d'Ivoire (UAMC-CI)

Gates Foundation

In 2020, following advocacy from Pathfinder and civil society partners, the Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Health approved a free family planning program pilot that included free medical consultations, contraceptives, and consumables. The pilot's success led to the official decree making family planning services free in the public sector in October 2024. Now, Pathfinder and Jhpiego are collaborating with the Ministry of Health to realize the Ivorian government's vision of universal access to modern contraception by 2030.

DRC

Projet Multisectoriel de Nutrition et de la Santé

World Bank

Led by Santé Rurale (SANRU), Pathfinder is working with the Government of the DRC and partners to expand access to quality contraceptive services for women and girls in Kasaï and Kwilu provinces. The project strengthens health systems, improves women's health, prevents and responds to gender-based violence, and reducse barriers to accessing essential health services.

DRC

Strengthening the Protective Environment for Women in Ituri Province (Pro-Femmes Ituri)

European Union via Enabel

Through a dynamic intervention model that consolidates existing partnerships with communities, government bodies, and bi- and multilateral cooperation agencies, Pro-Femmes Ituri works to eradicate gender-based violence and improve community wellbeing. In Bunia Health Zone, the project strengthens care center capacity to manage gender-based violence cases through an integrated, multi-sectoral "services center" approach. This enables survivors to access medical, psychosocial, legal, and socio-economic services at a single location.

DRC & MOZAMBIQUE

Delivering Innovation in Self-Care (DISC)

Gates Foundation

DISC is a multi-partner initiative led by Population Services International (PSI) and currently implemented across nine countries. In DRC, Pathfinder is supporting the scale-up of self-injectable DMPA-SC across the 401 health facilities in 14 health zones of Kwilu and Kassaï provinces. In Mozambique, Pathfinder is supporting scale-up across three high-population provinces: Nampula, Sofala, and Zambezia.

ETHIOPIA

Evidence to Scale (E2S)

Gates Foundation

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, regional health bureaus, zonal health departments, woreda health offices, health facilities, universities, and local research institutions, Pathfinder is implementing E2S across the Amhara, Oromia, Somali, South Ethiopia, and Gambella regions. E2S aims to generate evidence on adolescent- and youth-friendly health service delivery models and community-based approaches that can improve access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, particularly for out-of-school and underserved adolescents and youth.



MOZAMBIQUE

Futuros com Escolhas (Futures with Choice)

Irish Aid

Futures with Choice (Futuros com Escolhas), implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Provincial Health Authorities in Mozambique, seeks to transform harmful gender and social norms among adolescents and generate demand for sexual and reproductive health services. The project also strengthens the health system to ensure quality services that provide full contraceptive method choice, including access to self-injection, and gender-based violence prevention and response. The project is aligned with Mozambique's National Family Planning Strategy and works across 14 districts of Inhambane province, with intensified focus on Massinga, Zavala, Inharrime, and seven priority districts.

MOZAMBIQUE

Impacto II: Supporting Family Planning Services in Mozambique

Global Affairs Canada

In 11 districts of Manica and Tete provinces, Impacto II seeks to ensure that adolescent girls and young women exercise their rights to autonomy and self-determination over their sexual and reproductive health. The project builds youth capacity to advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, trains providers to offer safe and legal contraceptive and abortion services, and facilitates community dialogues with men of all ages to increase their engagement and responsibility in taking action against gender-based violence.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mais Escolhas (More Choices)

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mais Escolhas addresses barriers and shifts norms that limit adolescent girls' and young women's rights and decision-making power in Cabo Delgado Province, Maputo City, and Maputo Province. The project supports sustainable, government-led efforts to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes, enhance the quality of life of women and girls, and strengthen financial resource management through greater accountability and stakeholder involvement.

NIGER

Jagorantin Matassa (J-Matassa)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Jagorantin Matassa, better known as J-Matassa (meaning "youth leadership"), is a sexual and reproductive health and rights initiative targeting young people in Niger, particularly women. J-Matassa seeks to reduce early marriage, unwanted pregnancies, and maternal mortality; provide opportunities for personal and professional development; and strengthen the financial autonomy of women and young people to enable them to choose their own paths forward.

NIGERIA

SMART Advocacy Strategy in Action (SASA)

Gates Foundation

Led by Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO) Uganda, SASA advances policy reforms, actualizes commitments, and mobilizes domestic resources for stronger health systems. In Nigeria's Kano, Kaduna, and Lagos states, Pathfinder strengthened capacity of local partners, civil society organizations, and non-traditional champions to design evidence-based advocacy strategies to hold decision-makers accountable for family planning and maternal, newborn, and child health commitments.

NIGERIA

Task-Shifting/Sharing to Strengthen PHC Services in Kaduna and Kano

Gates Foundation

Nigeria's health system faces a critical shortage of skilled health workers, particularly at the primary health care level. To address these shortages and improve service delivery, Nigeria adopted the Task Shifting and Task Sharing (TSTS) policy in 2014, with revisions in 2018 and 2022. The policy expands the roles of lower-cadre health workers to provide essential health care services. In collaboration with Impact Catalysts and State Ministries of Health, Pathfinder is operationalizing the TSTS policy in Kano and Kaduna states through costed, state-owned implementation frameworks with defined supervision structures and financing pathways.

TANZANIA

Boma Imara Project

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies

Pathfinder implements the Boma Imara project in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, local governments, and communities. The Boma Imara project strengthens the resilience of households, communities, and health systems to climate change by increasing the adoption of climate-smart practices at the community and health system levels, which fosters long-term environmental sustainability and livelihood security. Furthermore, the project works to improve health outcomes by expanding access to primary health care services, including sexual and reproductive health and immunization.

TANZANIA

Health, Empowerment, and Rights (HER) Future

Royal Norwegian Embassy

HER Future aims to address persistent gaps in access to sexual and reproductive health and rights that contribute to high rates of teenage pregnancy, unintended pregnancies, maternal mortality, and gender-based violence in Tanzania. Implemented in four districts of Morogoro and two districts of Arusha, the project combines health system strengthening, community engagement, youth empowerment, and policy advocacy.

WOMEN & CO
BY PATHFINDER

Women&Co is our innovation platform for women to co-design and lead sustainable solutions and businesses. We bring together women innovators, entrepreneurs, impact investors, and government leaders to focus on what they need to unlock opportunities across three integrated pathways—**health, climate resilience, economic power, and agency.** In Sub-Saharan Africa, we've launched Women&Co in Nigeria and Kenya.

In Kenya, Femvive, our first social enterprise created through Women&Co, is a women-centered economic empowerment initiative offering digital tools, training, and wellness products that women can share and promote with no upfront costs.





Our Vision for the Future

Across the African continent, we seek to work closely with our partners to realize a future where country priorities, stronger regional capabilities, and accountable international cooperation lead to meaningful improvements in women's health.

This is only possible when women are leading the solutions meant for them, governments are stepping up to finance women's health comprehensively, the private sector is investing in locally led innovation and manufacturing capacities, and visionary social impact partnerships are creating rich networks of support that enable women to unlock equal opportunities for growth and enduring prosperity.

LEARN MORE
pathfinder.org

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