

PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL

For nearly 50 years, Pathfinder International has been a recognized leader in bringing family planning and reproductive health services to poor and underserved communities around the world. In recent years, Pathfinder pioneered the integration of HIV/AIDS prevention and care services with those of regular reproductive health.

VISION

Pathfinder International would like to see nations in which informed couples can choose the number and timing of their children, women receive quality reproductive health care, and men and women work together as equals towards more meaningful livelihoods.

MISSION

Pathfinder believes that reproductive health is a basic human right. By choosing the timing and number of their pregnancies, women can significantly improve their lives and those of their children and families, and the welfare of their communities. Pathfinder provides women, men, and adolescents throughout the developing world with access to quality family planning information and services. Further, Pathfinder works to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide care and support for people living with the virus. In the US and abroad, Pathfinder advocates for sound reproductive health and family planning policies that will advance the well-being of families everywhere.

PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL is committed to the health and development of communities over the long term. Around the world, Pathfinder is proud to hold the trust and respect of its partners and the thousands of people whose lives have been forever improved through reproductive health and family planning services as a road out of poverty.

PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL/ETHIOPIA

PO Box 12655, Off-Bole Road

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: (251-1) 61-33-30

Fax: (251-1) 61-42-09

www.pathfind.org

Email: information@pathfind.org

Pathfinder International in Ethiopia is generously supported by:



The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



Swedish International Development Agency



Pathfinder International ETHIOPIA

RESPONDING TO
GLOBAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND
LOCAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO BRING
FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH CARE TO WOMEN, MEN, AND ADOLESCENTS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES



PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL IN ETHIOPIA

The average Ethiopian woman bears 5.9 children during her reproductive years. Consequently, population growth rates are high. The imbalance between population growth and agricultural productivity has placed Ethiopia in perpetual crisis for food security and social welfare.

Pathfinder began supporting reproductive health efforts in Ethiopia in 1964 through a small grant to establish a local organization, now called FGAE. Pathfinder committed to a major effort in Ethiopia by opening an office in 1995 and helping to launch major community-based reproductive health (CBRH) services in the country. Today, that effort encompasses nearly 50 partnerships with local organizations providing quality reproductive health, family planning and – more recently – HIV/AIDS care and support services to rural communities with little access to health care.



CBRH agent educating her clients waiting for clinical services at Lante Health Center, SNNPR

Innovative Pathfinder programs bring health services to underserved rural women and men.

After almost 10 years of operation,

more than 7,000 Pathfinder-trained Community-Based Reproductive Health (CBRH) Agents are bringing counseling, family planning methods, and referrals directly into poor and hard-to-reach communities. Particular focus on postabortion care offers quality medical services to women who have resorted to illegal and unsafe abortions. CBRH Agents also refer rural women to professional care services for safe pregnancy, births and childcare. These efforts have saved the lives of thousands of women and children in the few short years that the program has been in operation.

TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S LIVES



Public wedding ceremony of couples who have denounced FGC in Kofele Town, Oromia

religious beliefs, and custom, these practices include Female Genital Cutting (FGC), early marriage, marriage by abduction, and gender based violence. Pathfinder joins with many committed organizations, religious leaders, and other professionals to enhance gender sensitivity and eradicate these practices. Though progress is slow, it does evolve with the professional involvement of local leaders who are sensitive to the beliefs and feelings of the community. Those villages where men and women have united to renounce FGC as a community are inspiring examples of the possibility of change.

COMBATING HIV/AIDS



Distributing home-based care kits to volunteers in Jimma, Oromia

trained providers and their clients dealing with sexuality and health. Today, thousands of women who might never have access to HIV/AIDS information and care are receiving these services, and people living with the illness are receiving the family planning advice they need. Pathfinder has gone farther, developing special programs to reach high-risk groups, including commercial sex workers and middle distance bus drivers, as well as hundreds of children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic.

No program can address the health needs of women in Ethiopia without addressing the harmful traditional practices that continue to endanger women's lives and cause widespread suffering. Deeply imbedded in tradition,

With the emergence of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, Pathfinder pioneered in integrating reproductive health services with HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support, drawing on the unique relationships already in place between

THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM – NEW CAPACITY

Pathfinder learned long ago that progress out of poverty and dependency comes only with the transfer of knowledge as well as resources to local organizations. Pathfinder's support to partner organizations includes training in organizational and financial management, supervision, as well as health care delivery systems for facility and community level health service providers.

Through close collaborative relationships with partners and the Health Bureaus at all levels, Pathfinder works to improve their capacity until they can operate effectively and independently. Basic training and refresher training of CBRH Agents is ongoing. Supervisors and health facility service providers learn to enhance the quality of care delivered and to involve clients in the identification and evaluation of the services offered.



Family planning clinic in Areka, SNNPR

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Through its Implementing Partner Organizations (IPOs), Pathfinder addresses the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents and young adults. By promoting youth-friendly health delivery services, Pathfinder works to ensure that the more than 50 percent of the Ethiopian population under 25 years of age will be prepared to manage their sexual and reproductive lives in healthy and responsible ways.