

WOMEN-LED CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Dishari: Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls Towards Better Health and Climate Change Resilience



Image: Pathfinder Bangladesh, community volunteer Lovely Akter is leading a courtyard session in Balijuri Union, Tahirpur, Sunamganj, to raise awareness.

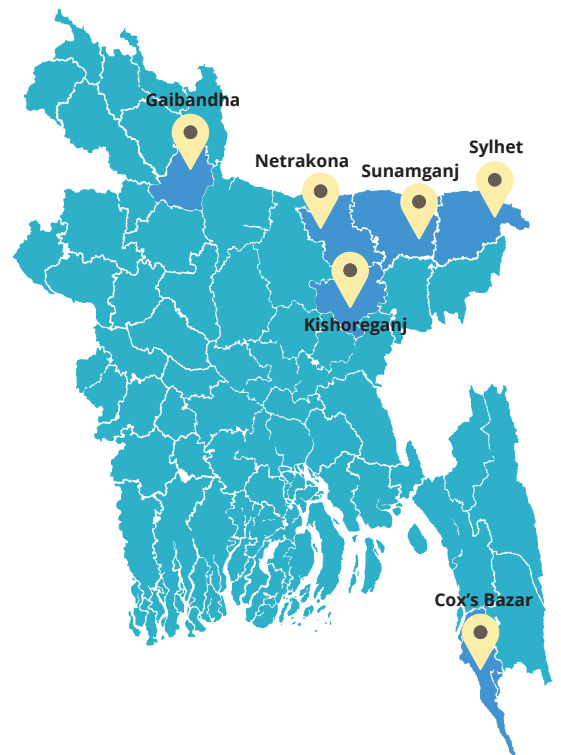
BACKGROUND

The effects of climate change have exacerbated the already fragile state of women’s health in low-resource settings. Poverty, limited health systems and infrastructure, and high risk from natural disasters place a disproportionate burden on women to manage their everyday health while preparing for evolving challenges.

Nearly every year, Bangladesh is exposed to extreme natural disasters—such as cyclones, tidal surges, floods, and riverbank erosion—that displace hundreds of thousands of people in the densely populated low-lying basins, flood-plain areas of Bangladesh’s major rivers and coastal areas. At the center of this worsening situation, one population is disproportionately affected by climate and disaster related risks: women and girls.

Our program, Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls Towards Better Health and Climate Change Resilience, centers women as change agents in low-resource communities to develop the tools, knowledge, networks, and resources they need to ensure reliable access to quality health services, build foundations for economic growth, and to strengthen their communities and health systems so they are resilient to future shocks.

The activity includes strengthening health systems, supporting improved sexual and reproductive health, building livelihood options and opportunities, and improving nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene access.



- **Funder:** Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited Global CSR Program
- **Project Timeline:** Jan 2022 - Dec 2025
- **Bangladesh Districts:** Sylhet, Sunamganj, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Cox's Bazar & Gaibandha

OUR APPROACH

Single-sector health models lack the agility to respond quickly and achieve the broad coverage and efficiency necessary to meet the needs of communities and the women, youth, and other marginalized and vulnerable groups during disasters. In addition, these vulnerable groups often face sexual abuse, physical violence and mental health abuse, on the top of the shortage of contraceptives and unavailability of family planning and reproductive health services during and after disasters.

To address these challenges, the project will support building strong collaboration among local agencies and entities towards making facilities adaptive to climate change, as well as engaging and empowering communities towards ownership, responsiveness, and social accountability.



Image - Pathfinder Bangladesh, Tasnim Ahmed Jebin, A member of the Lopjan Chowdhury Girls High School's Student Council, Sunamganj

PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL

Pathfinder works in more than twenty countries, alongside a wide range of stakeholders including national and local governments, the private sector, NGOs, CBOs, and community actors to strengthen access to and use of quality sexual and reproductive health services. Pathfinder Bangladesh has been working since 1978, alongside the Government of Bangladesh and local organizations, to create sustainable improvements including:

Making sure every woman has access to the information and health care they need to safely deliver her baby and care for herself and her children—from her home to the health facility.

Strengthening health systems including health centers, satellite clinics, and community health workers to improve contraceptive access and uptake.

Building the capacity of local organizations to provide quality services for poor and underserved populations.

Focusing on the unique sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents—the largest generation of young people in history—as they come of age.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Women's and Girls' Agency



Our program will support women and girls in low-resource communities to gain the tools, knowledge, networks, and resources to survive and build resilience to future crises.

Resilient Health Systems



Build resilient, adaptable, quality health systems able to meet the primary health needs of low-resource communities and withstand emergency shocks.

Evidence Generation and Learning



Our program will develop an integrated collaboration, learning, and adaptation framework, supporting implementation and evidence for decision making, advocacy, and social good.

4 Year Project Reach



4,75,600 Women



47,040 Adolescent



1,652 Community Health Workers



530 Health Facilities



7,00,000 Direct Beneficiaries



500 Resilience Volunteer



40 School

Pathfinder International is driven by the conviction that all people, regardless of where they live, have the right to decide whether and when to have children, to exist free from fear and stigma, and to lead the lives they choose. As a global health organization with locally led, community-driven programs, we support women to make their own reproductive health decisions. We work with local partners to advance contraceptive services, comprehensive abortion care, and young people's sexual and reproductive rights in communities around the world—including those affected by poverty, conflict, climate change, and natural disasters. Taken together, our programs enable millions of people to choose their own paths forward.

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