



## Fact Sheet: National Female Community Health Volunteer Program

With support from USAID and other donors, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) launched the Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) program in Nepal. Designed to improve access to quality health services in the community, the program works through a network of local women volunteers. Currently, there are 52,000 FCHVs, who represent every ward of the country.



Since its inception, USAID has provided critical funding and technical assistance for the development, strengthening and expansion of the program. USAID's support has included:

- Assistance with the formulation and periodic review of policies and guidelines for the FCHV program.
- Funding for the creation of small-scale FCHV incentive funds in each village.
- Financial and technical support for training materials, as well as for basic and refresher trainings.
- Training to allow FCHVs to provide additional services such as adequate care for newborns, the treatment of childhood pneumonia, and the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage.
- Enhancing the credibility and image of FCHVs through media and other means.

The objectives of the FCHV program are to empower local women with basic knowledge of primary health care, to promote a sense of community ownership and participation in health services, to raise community awareness of public health issues, and to educate communities about healthy behaviors.

The role of the FCHVs is mainly focused on motivating and educating mothers and community members for the promotion of safe motherhood practices, mother and child care, family planning and community health. FCHVs are responsible for distributing pills, condom, and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) packets; conducting bi-annual vitamin A distribution campaigns; and encouraging community members to get polio vaccinations. FCHVs are also trained to detect and treat several of the leading causes of child deaths, such as pneumonia and diarrhea.

In 2014, in addition to its ongoing financial and technical support for the FCHV program, USAID will lead a comprehensive, national survey of FCHVs in order to better understand the changing dynamics of the program and its volunteers.