

Success Story: Identifying High Risk Pregnancies for Institutional Birth

“For as long as I can remember, most of the deliveries in our village were conducted at home and women never went to health facilities for ante-natal checkups during pregnancy”, says Saima, 24 years of age. Three of her 5 pregnancies have resulted in miscarriages in the fourth month, and one of her children died at 4 months of age.

Saima was born and raised in village Jaan Mohammad Umrani, on the Indus Highway, approximately 12 kilometers from Dadu city. She is married to her first cousin, Hakim Ali,

who works as a farmer. Farming and livestock are the major source of living, and there is no health facility available in the village.



During her earlier pregnancies Saima received infrequent antenatal checkups, and paid no proper attention to her health before her continuous miscarriages. She said, “When this project started in our village my husband and I attended group meetings held by the women and men CRPs, and learned of the importance of ante-natal, neo-natal and post-natal care. My in-laws were also given information by the CRP and the TBA about the risks of my pregnancy resulting from my history of miscarriages, and talked to them about the need for me have my delivery at a hospital. Thus we were well prepared this time and had made arrangements in terms of saving money, identifying a health facility and arranging transport with help from the Village Health Committee.”

As soon as Saima’s labor pains started her family contacted the women CRP who gave her a referral slip, and a rickshaw was arranged for her by the VHC members immediately; additionally she was accompanied by the TBA to the hospital. She was taken to the DHQ where she delivered her baby normally. Saima’s mother-in-law shared, “We showed the referral slip to the doctor on-duty and received immediate and proper attention and we were not even charged any money. I am happy to see my daughter-in-law and son-in-law safe and healthy, and am grateful that we took this decision.”