

## A blossom in the desert...

Village Okraro Chania is located some 34 miles away from district Umerkor in Sindh where 28 years old Dhai Kumbhar, married to Ali Ahmed, had her first unfortunately failed pregnancy in 2012.

Narrating her story Dhai recalled that in the sixth month of her first pregnancy she felt an unusual pain. Her husband took her to Umerkot city to a Lady Health Visitor. Ms. Teja, the LHV, told them that the fetus was no more alive due to travelling 34 miles on rough patches. The LHV conducted Dhai's abortion in an unsafe and infectious environment after charging them Rs. 15,000. The couple returned back in despair.



When Dhai became pregnant again, she found out about maternity services at the Basic Health Unit of Okraro Chania through her mother-in-law. Dhai visited the facility for antenatal care where Nasreen Chanio, a Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) trained under USAID-RSPN Maternal and Child Health Integrated Programme (MCHIP) in Pregnancy, Childbirth, Postpartum and Newborn Care (PCPNC) and Helping Babies Breathe (HBB), examined her following set protocol and informed her about the expected delivery date (EDD). She told her about nutrition, immunization and danger signs in detail and advised her for birth preparedness plan. She asked Dhai to follow the advice and come for delivery on the due date.

Right after seven days, time came for Dhai's delivery. Her husband initially took her to a quack in their village who mishandled the case. Later SBA Nasreen was approached in emergency who arranged for delivery follow the established protocols. Nasreen, besides training on PCPNC, had also received an infection prevention kit and a setup of Baby Corner for the labour room.

In a safe and hygienic environment, Dhai delivered a baby girl through normal procedure. The baby was not breathing well due to asphyxia. Nasreen resuscitated the baby following the defined procedure by MCHIP. Resultantly the baby started breathing and crying. Her cry decanted a pleasant smile on Dhai's face. Dhai forgot all her pains when she received the baby to feed her.

Dhai is now very happy on safe delivery of her baby girl whom she named 'Uzma'. She wants Uzma to get higher education and become a teacher.

The entire credit of saving both the mother and child goes to SBA Nasreen. She always motivates the women of her village to avail quality MNCH services from BHU instead of adopting unsafe and unhygienic practices.