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PAKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Bringing Services to the Doorstep

A family planning success story in the rural areas of Sindh



Farzana (27), a resident of village Ganghi District Ghotki, with her mother-in-law and two children

Village Ganghi of Union Council Ali Bagh, Taluka Mirpur Mathelo of District Ghotki, is a non-LHW covered area, deprived of basic health facilities. Under Health Communication Component of USAID's MCH Program, Mother and Child Health Week was celebrated at the community level for community mobilization and demand creation for MNCH and FP services. Farzana, an attendee of the health session received information about importance of family planning and adopted the method of Oral Contraceptive Pills for birth spacing.

Farzana (27) is wife of Hakim Ali (28) and is a resident of village Ganghi, Union Council Ali Bagh, Taluka Mirpur Mathelo of District Ghotki. They have been married for 3 years and have two children of age 2 and 1. Village Ganghi does not have any health facility in the village and the nearest Basic Health Unit, Jahanpur Sharif, is at a distance of at least 6 kilometers.

During the Mother and Child Health Week (November 23 to 28, 2015) celebrated by Lady Health Worker (LHW) Programme, Health Communication Component (HCC) of USAID's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program organized health sessions in the community as community mobilization events for demand generation of FP/MNCH services. The health sessions were organized in all 10 intervention districts at the LHW and Community Health Workers' Village Health Committees level where LHW Programme took lead of the event.

The health sessions focused on importance of maternal, neonatal, child health (MNCH), healthy birth spacing, available birth spacing methods, information on nearby health facilities with the available services, and the provision of FP services.

Farzana was invited to attend one of the health sessions where she got to know about the importance of MNCH and FP services and specifically about the importance of healthy birth spacing between two pregnancies. She said, "I see women in the neighborhood who have back to back children and not only the mother but also the children suffer health wise. The children also suffer due to lack of attention and care they receive from the family. I have two children with no space in between. I myself realize that I could not give satisfactory attention and care to my second child. And this is the first time that I received the information about the healthy birth spacing and the available contraceptive options. I chose the oral contraceptive pills, as suggested by the LHW, for now I think my family is complete. I will choose some longer period method after consultation with my husband."

Ms. Hamida Bano, District Project Officer Ghotki, shared, "Community mobilization events are helping to bring services at the doorstep to women who otherwise have no knowledge and access to health facilities."