



## SUCCESS STORY

### Importance of Antenatal Care

#### CHW's counseling saved Reshma's life



Sanam, a local Community Health Worker encouraged Reshma to visit the nearest hospital.

Reshma was seven month pregnant and was unwell but her mother in law did not allow her to visit any hospital. Sanam, a CHW, visited her house and convinced her husband and his family to take Reshma to hospital for treatment. After one month of treatment Reshma's health was significantly improved.

Reshma, 34, lives in village Bhirkan of District Shikarpur. Married with four daughters and a son, her husband Seengar Ali is a low-income farmer, thus they have minimal access to basic facilities. Even when Reshma was in seventh month of her pregnancy, she used to help her husband and do household chores. She subsequently fell ill.

Sanam Javed, a Community Health Worker (CHW), visited her and referred her to the nearest hospital for antenatal care; however her mother in law did not support Reshma and restrained her from visiting the hospital. CHW Sanam initiated dialogue with Reshma's husband and other family members and stressed the importance of receiving professional medical care during pregnancy.

She explained them that professional medical advice can minimize the chances of complications in her delivery. CHW's counseling convinced Reshma's family to consult professional medical care, and they visited the nearest hospital where she was examined in detail. The doctor conducted necessary laboratory tests and prescribed her medicines which improved her health.

Reshma was advised for a second checkup after a month. During her second visit, the doctor was satisfied with improvement in her condition. The doctor also educated Reshma and her husband on delivering the baby in a hospital under the supervision of a doctor explaining to them that it will ensure the safety of mother as well as the child.

Reshma and her family are now very satisfied with their decision to consult a doctor. They are also sharing their experience with other women of their village.