

National Female Community Health Volunteers Survey

June 2014—March 2015



A national comprehensive survey to understand the perception of FCHVs

Project Summary

Project Objectives:

- To discern perceptions of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), health workers, community people and other stakeholders in order to provide information to Government of Nepal (GoN) to inform on-going revisions as part of the effort to improve the FCHV programme.

Team Members:

Dr. Sushil Chandra Baral	Study Lead
Mr. Bishnu Prasad Dulal	Data Analyst
Ms. Rekha Khatri	Senior Qualitative Research Officer
Mr. Radheshyam Bhattarai	Data Management Officer
Mr. Santosh Giri	Assistant Research Officer
Mr. Sharad Malla	IT Officer
Ms. Amrita Ghimire	Communications Officer

FCHVs play an important role in contributing to a variety of key public health interventions, including family planning, maternal and child health care, vitamin A supplementation/deworming, and immunisation. They are the foundation of Nepal's community-based primary health care system and the key referral link between the health services and communities. They are the local women voluntarily helping Nepal to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) dropped considerably between 2001 and 2006, from 43 to 33 per 1,000. Furthermore, to reach the MDG, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) must continue to decline, but only half as rapidly as it did after 1990, when it declined almost two-thirds in 15 years. A major contributing factor to this outcome is the exceptional performance of FCHVs, especially in maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) interventions. In this context, it is crucial to undertake a national FCHV survey and understand their perspectives in terms of service provision, strengthening national FCHV program and identify any barriers at the community level. This survey contributes to ensuring nationally representative and district specific picture of the FCHV programme.

Study Design: This survey is national perception survey conducted among 4313 FCHVs in all 75 districts. This survey has two components covered under Quantitative Study and Qualitative Study. 56 field researchers were mobilised for the entire study with 50 field researchers for quantitative study and 6 field researchers for qualitative study. While the quantitative study covered all 75 districts, the qualitative study covered 14 districts.

Training: An 8-day training programme was conducted for 55 field researchers from August 4 to 12, 2014. There were combined sessions on the introduction of the study, survey design, ethical considerations, team management and coordination and communication during the field period. There were separate training sessions on data collection methods and mock interview/discussion trials

for quantitative and qualitative team. All tools were pre-tested and finalised accordingly. The facilitators of the training were the senior government officials from MoH and various divisions of DoHS, technical experts from USAID, JSI, APC, FHI 360, Save the Children and HERD. The training period also included field trial for 2 days.

Phase-Wise Implementation: Since, this was a national coverage survey covering all 75 districts, phase-wise implementation was planned for quantitative survey with 31 districts covered in Phase I, 32 districts in Phase II and 12 in Phase III. For the qualitative study, the data collection were planned in two phases: 6 districts in Phase I and 8 districts in Phase II. Overall data collection period was from second week of August, 2014 to February, 2015.

Data Collection through Tablet PCs: The quantitative study was entirely based on electronic data collection through tablet PCs. The field researchers recorded the responses of the respondents in the electronic questionnaire programmed in the tablet PC. The completed questionnaires were then sent electronically to the central server by the field researchers. IT Officer based at HERD office checked the collected data at the server on a daily basis and troubleshoots if any technical problem was seen.



Ms. Binjwala Shrestha of FHI 360 facilitating a group discussion with Urban Health Volunteers of Bhaktapur

