

# Engaging Volunteer Community Health Workers, A low-cost model to increase Family Planning services

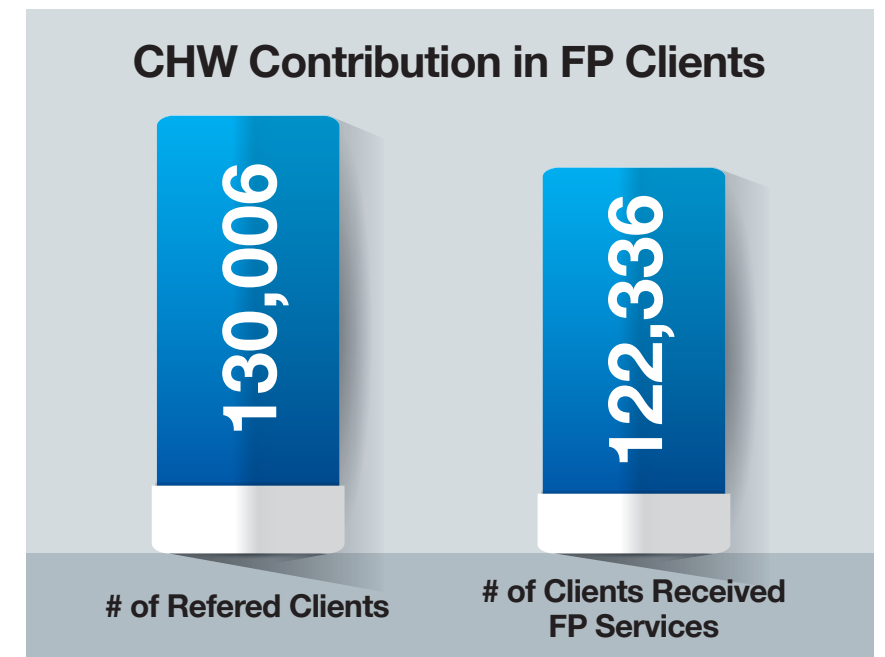
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## Introduction

The Challenge Initiative (TCI) is a global platform that supports governments in scaling up High Impact Family Planning Interventions in urban areas. The initiative aims to assist the Government of Sindh in implementing the Urban Plan on Family Planning for Sindh (Karachi & Hyderabad). TCI introduced a team of volunteers as Community Health Workers (CHWs) as high-impact interventions (HIs) in eight underserved districts of Sindh. The TCI model has engaged 210 volunteer CHWs in eight districts from January 2023, to support both the Population Welfare Department (PWD) and the Department of Health (DoH) for demand generation, conducting community awareness sessions, and referring clients to health facilities of PWD and DoH for Family Health Days, satellite camps, and health facilities. It is evident that CHWs are improving the FP services and have effectively improved health outcomes in eight districts of Sindh.



## Objectives

To evaluate the impact of CHW's contribution for the uptake of FP services in eight intervention districts of Sindh.

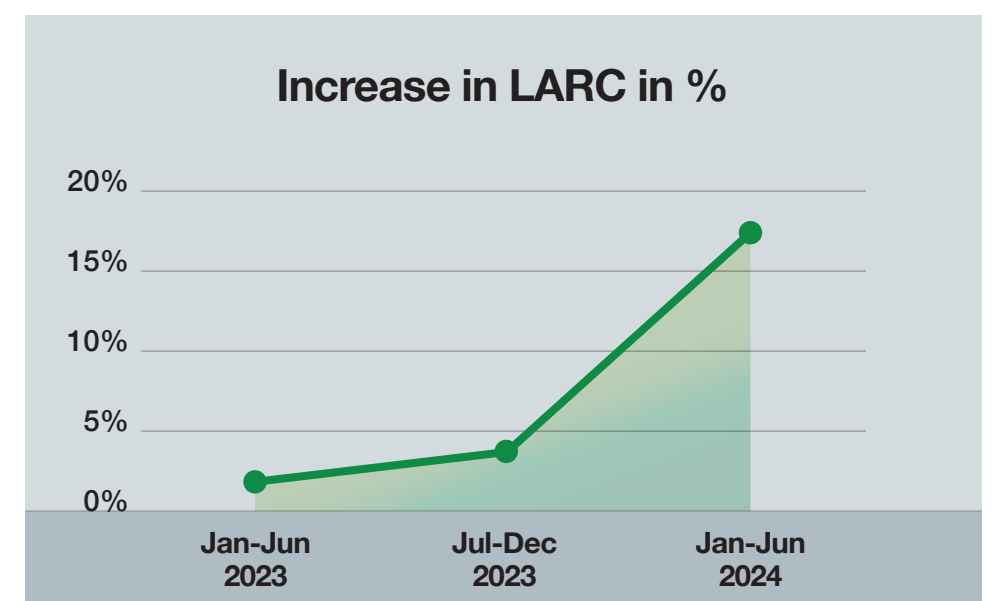
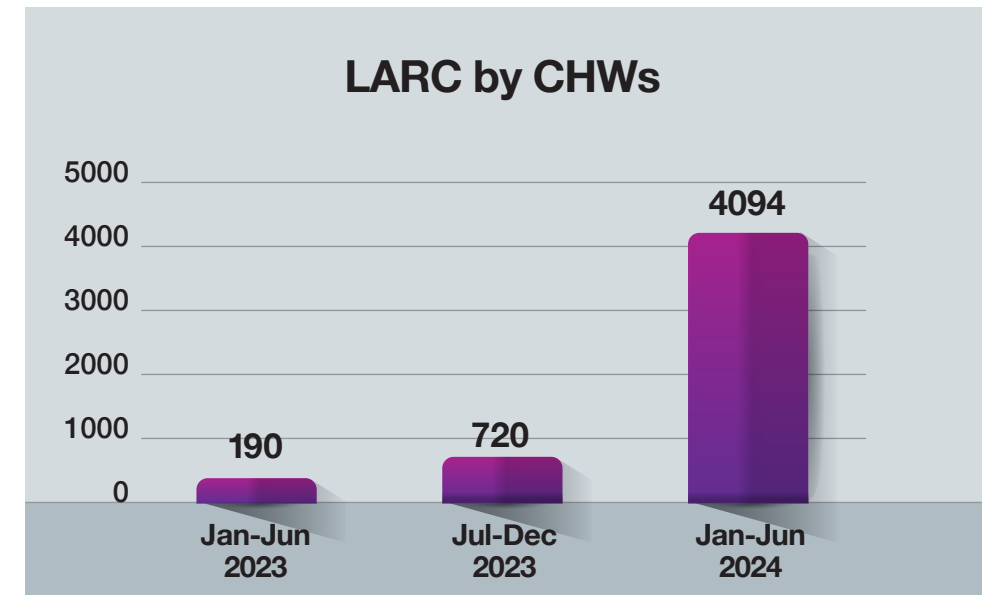
## Methodology

A quantitative approach (July-September 2024) was used to analyze the data from multiple sources including CHW registers, Facility-based data, Contraceptive Logistic Management Information System (cLMIS), and TCI Sindh CHWs reports (TCI dashboard).

## Results

A total of 210 female CHWs had been recruited into the program as of July 2024. The mean age of the CHWs was 36 years old. 48% (n= 87) CHWs had completed their secondary education, 42% (n= 77) had completed their high school education, 7% (n= 13) had attained an undergraduate degree, and three percent (n= 5) had attained a master's degree.

The study's results showed that CHWs total referred 130,066 clients in FHDS, Satellite camps/ MSU, and at facilities, from which 122,336 clients received FP services. Relating CHWs data with cLMIS data, CHWs have consistently contributed to demand generation and community awareness, resulting increase in LARC method by 2% during Jan- June 2023, while 4% increase in July to Dec 2023, meanwhile upright increase in LARC methods up to 17% during Jan 2024 to June 2024 in eight TCI intervention districts. cLMIS data also indicated that 36.5% FP consumption has been increased in 2023-24 per month compared to Jan 2022 to Dec 2022.



## Conclusion

The CHW strategy was successful in generating demand and connecting communities to family planning services. Engaging volunteer CHWs as a low-cost model to support the Department of Health and the Population Welfare Department will expand access to family planning services in underserved areas.

## Glimpses of CHW activities:

