



HP+

Achievements in Pakistan

January 2018

Cultivating Male Champions for Family Planning

Our Work:

In support of the Sindh Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) for Family Planning, HP+ provided technical support to the CIP Secretariat, Population Welfare Department (PWD), to establish male champions to advocate for family planning. HP+ worked closely with senior faculty of the Population Welfare Training Institute, PWD's training wing, to design a curriculum and conduct a series of trainings. The training materials, developed in Urdu and Sindhi, covered topics such as instilling leadership skills for the male mobilizers to serve as advocates for family planning, clarification of myths and misconceptions surrounding family planning, the role of religion in family planning, interpersonal communication, and behavior change communication.

With support from HP+, the Population Welfare Training Institute trained 36 men from community-based and nongovernmental organizations as well as male social mobilizers from the 10 CIP districts on advocacy and counselling for family planning through an initiative called Sukhi Ghar (Happy Home). The training focused on strengthening the capacity of selected men in the community on leadership, communication, and counselling for family planning. The sukhi ghar counselors will each conduct monthly sessions on family planning with 50 men from their union councils to increase awareness and support of family planning.

Results:

Based on the success of this training, PWD requested technical assistance from HP+ to conduct a similar training for 83 male social mobilizers and managers from all of Sindh's districts. The training equipped the male mobilizers

Programs that effectively engage men in health decision making and behavior change can contribute to improvements in health outcomes for women, men, and families, particularly in traditional, male-dominated societies like Pakistan. As the primary decision makers in most households and communities, involving men in family planning programs is important for enabling women's access to contraceptives and healthcare services. Male engagement in family planning is also needed to ensure that male-controlled and long-acting male methods are viable and accessible options for men.

Male champions within the government, as well as other key gatekeepers, such as religious leaders, civil society, and health professionals, are important actors in efforts to reduce barriers and expand access to family planning services and programs for women and men.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HP+
HEALTH POLICY PLUS

with knowledge and skills to counsel men in their catchment areas about family planning methods.

At the end of the workshops, PWD worked with participants to develop action plans to disseminate their learnings and advocate for family planning in their own districts. This initiative supported PWD and the Sindh government in making progress toward achieving its FP2020 commitments through expanding awareness about family planning at the community level, especially among men.

An expected outcome of the training is improvement in the quality and regularity of the male mobilizers' monthly counselling sessions on family planning within communities, and improvement in the capacity of the taluka population welfare officers to monitor and supervise the male mobilizers and improve the quality of family planning service delivery.

CONTACT US

Health Policy Plus
1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20004
www.healthpolicyplus.com
policyinfo@thepalladiumgroup.com

Health Policy Plus (HP+) is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-15-00051, beginning August 28, 2015. HP+ is implemented by Palladium, in collaboration with Avenir Health, Futures Group Global Outreach, Plan International USA, Population Reference Bureau, RTI International, ThinkWell, and the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood.

This publication was produced for review by the U.S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared by HP+. The information provided in this document is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government.

Photo © Khaula Jamil 2017