

COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURS FOR SKILLED HEALTH SERVICES

PRESENTED BY CARE BANGLADESH



For remote communities that lack access to health services, Community Health Entrepreneurs is a unique public-private partnership that trains local women to be both skilled healthcare providers and entrepreneurs. Communities and providers together set prices for services, ensuring a sustainable income for providers and improving health outcomes for the entire community.

THE PROBLEM

Access to Healthcare on a Global Scale

In the 1970s the World Health Organization (WHO) led a worldwide effort to bring “Health to All” by the year 2000. Yet, more than 30 years later, an estimated one billion people have no access to proper healthcare. While the need continues to grow, a vast shortage of trained and qualified staff continues to challenge the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of universal health coverage, particularly in developing countries.

BY THE NUMBERS

Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel:

Bangladesh 42.1%

vs.

United States 98.2%

The Critical Shortage of Health Workers in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is no exception to the world’s healthcare crisis. In remote districts such as Sunamganj in northeast Bangladesh, there is not only a chronic shortage of skilled health providers but also a lack of monitoring, supervision and accountability. Tremendous disparities in wealth contribute to severe inequities in accessing health services and, as a result, unskilled and unregulated private providers fill the gap with low-quality care, posing great risk and causing high out-of-pocket expenditure for the poorest communities.

THE INNOVATION

Public and Private Partnerships for Better Health

CARE is bolstering the quality of healthcare and the economic empowerment of local women by forming a unique partnership between the government, the community and a new cadre of private, community-based healthcare providers. We use a WHO/Ministry of Health accredited curriculum to train women as both skilled health providers and entrepreneurs, offering assistance developing business plans so they can market and sell their services to local communities. While they operate as private providers, the women work closely with the local health system to reach the poorest of the poor – receiving government reimbursement for serving poor and marginalized women through national and local social safety schemes.

OUR CURRENT IMPACT:

The Community

Entrepreneurs Effect:

168 new community-based, skilled private health providers

Increase in skilled attendance at birth: from 12% to 50%

Increase in Antenatal Care (ANC) visits: from 58% to 90%

Increase in Postnatal Care (PNC) visits: from 8% to 50%

POTENTIAL IMPACT:

Cambodia: 700,000 garment factory workers

Worldwide: 60-75 million factory workers



THE SCALE X FACTOR:

Provides women with:
Accredited curriculum
Social entrepreneur training

Increases:

- Community access to skilled health professionals
- Skilled attendance at birth
- Average income of female health providers (to \$77 in December 2015)
- Leads to seeking care
- Changes behaviors
- Empowers action

THE IMPACT

2020 VISION

By replicating the successful training model, the Community Health Entrepreneurs program holds great promise, with the potential to impact 2.8 million people in Bangladesh by 2018 and 10 million by 2020.

THE CHALLENGE TO SCALE

For Community Health Entrepreneurs for Skilled Health Services to scale and reach its full potential, additional funding is required for the medium-term for further evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of our model. We also need funding for documenting and packaging the model so that it can be easily adapted and replicated in new geographies. Finally, we must pursue advocacy initiatives with the government to encourage quick and widespread testing and scaling of the model. Mentors and pro bono support involving business strategy (particularly in healthcare) are also greatly needed.

Opportunities include:

Funding

Advocacy

Mentorships

Expertise in healthcare and business strategy

Join us in accelerating change for good!