

# Working with Community Health Workers and Village Health Teams to Promote Family Planning

Community Health Workers (CHWs) or Village Health Teams (VHTs) provide health education, referral and follow up on basic contraception or family planning services. They provide support and assistance to communities to promote family planning services within the health system.

## Key Outcomes of Using CHWs/VHTs

- Increased uptake of family planning methods
- Decreased myths and misconceptions in the community
- Better client engagement and direction on family planning/AYSRH services



## Steps

1

### Identify, train, equip and support CHWs/VHTs

to provide contraceptive methods and mobilize community members for contraceptive use through counseling and referrals. Ensure CHWs and VHTs are linked to health facilities.

2

### Define CHW/VHTs' roles

in order to address identified areas of support to the local health care system and define how they should obtain supplies for FP services - including communication during the implementation stages. Provide them with tools to record and track FP information.

3

### Organize monthly review meetings with CHWs & VHTs

to review the CHWs' activities for the month and plan activities for the coming month. Compile the report and submit to MoH reporting tools.

## 4

### Monitor and evaluate CHWs and VHTs activities

and provide supportive supervision to promote compliance with standards of practice. In East Africa, the standards of practice vary by country in terms of which short-term contraceptive methods can be provided by CHWs and VHTs and which methods community members must be referred to a health facility to receive.

## 5

### Use Data for Continuous Improvement

based on information from a variety of sources (e.g., routine monitoring, field visits) and address performance issues to respond to the local needs of the community.

## Useful Tips

- Recruit men as CHWs/VHTs to increase the potential of reaching men with FP services
- Engage CHWs/VHTs during mobilization for outreaches and in reaches
- Create community demand for FP services and ensure availability of commodities and supplies
- Provide branded materials to the CHWs/VHTs to make them stand out in the community



"With support from Nairobi's Governor, the county has allocated Ksh.100 million for CHWs' stipend. This is a plus to our county because data and service delivery at the community level will improve," Dr. Koyio – Nairobi County Director of Health

#### Some resources to consider:

- Stipend for CHWs and VHTs
- Consistent supply of commodities and clinical supplies
- Job aids and IEC materials

To learn more, visit TCI's online tool collection | [tciurbanhealth.org](https://tciurbanhealth.org/courses/east-africa-demand-generation/lessons/working-with-community-health-workers-to-promote-family-planning/)  
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