



Role of Female Health Worker in Global Health

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Female community health workers

- Female community health workers are essential to reaching underserved segments of the population, especially in weaker health systems low and even middle income.



- In Myanmar, women represent 75 per cent of the healthcare workers and first responders
- Community nurses
- Community Midwives
- LHV
- HA
- PHA 1 and 2
- AMW



Tasks

- Community Health Care
- Vaccination
- Maternal health care ANC , Home Deliveries and Postnatal care
- Family planning
- Nutrition education
- Epidemic outbreak and Disaster management



Role recognition

- Do not always receive the professional recognition and support they deserve
- Sometimes they are over used as multipurpose



Challenges

- Challenges facing are the lack of adequate financial compensation and absence of defined career paths
- Although they comprise a large part of the health workforce they are often unpaid and their work is perceived as secondary to their responsibilities in the domestic sphere
- Gender and cultural norms often reinforce a paradigm that devalues their contribution
- particularly in low-resource settings these positions are often offered to men because decision-makers assume that women should volunteer their efforts.



Recognition

- In weak health systems, no single actor can adequately meet the full spectrum of health needs in a community
- Female health workers form the foundation of strong health system and elevating their role should be a shared goal to strengthen the capacity of all health sectors
- Governments, donors, and other stake holders within the health system must accept and recognize the critical role of Female health workers integrate the role of all CHWs into broader health systems design and implementation.



Overview of Myanmar

- In Myanmar, women represent 60 per cent of the employee engaged in the food and accommodation services, and between 70 to 90 per cent of the street food vendors, while an estimated more than 789,000 Myanmar women are working overseas for domestic or care work.



Myanmar view

- Myanmar is classified as critical shortage of health workforce
- In responses to limited number of trained health workforce in the hard-to-reach and remote areas, the MOH trained the Community Health Worker (CHW) as health volunteers serving these communities on a pro bono basis



Female CHW

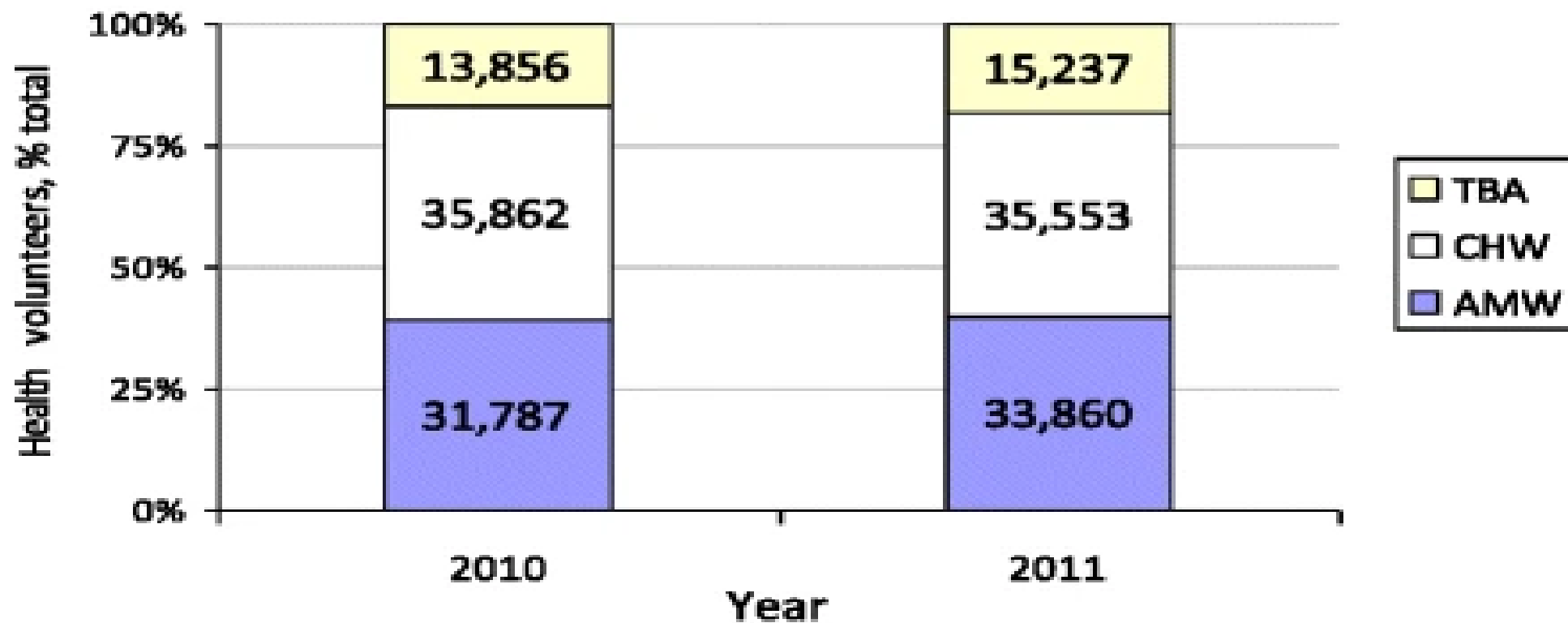
- Female CHWs were trained to support the work of midwives in the sub centers and health assistant and midwives in rural health centers (RHCs) such as community mobilization for immunization, advocates of safe water and sanitation, and general health education and health awareness for the citizens



Female CHW

- Their contributions to primary health care services were well accepted by the communities as they are geographically and culturally accessible
- However, supports from the RHC were inadequate in particular technical supervision, as well as replenishment of CHW kits and financial support for their work and transportation
- 6 % of service provided by CHWs was funded by the community and 22 % by the patients

Health volunteers in Myanmar Total 81,505 and 84,650 in 2010 and 2011



Community health worker in hard-to-reach rural areas of Myanmar: filling primary health care service gaps Angkana Sommanustweechai, Weerasak Putthasri, Mya Lay Nwe, Saw Thetlya Aung, Mya Min Theint, Viroj Tangcharoensathien & San Shway Wynn Human Resources for Health volume 14, Article number: 64 (2016)



Female Health Workers

- Female Health Workers provide significant support to the BHS and are considered the most valuable rural assets to deliver primary health care services to people normally not accessible to township hospital and doctor services and adequate health prevention and promotion

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THANK YOU!