

Table 1 Characteristics of CHW programmes and participants

CHW title	Raedat Rifiat (or CHW) Egypt	Lady health workers Pakistan	CHWs Afghanistan
Year founded	1964	1994	2003
Programme run by	Various government ministries and NGOs	Government	29 NGOs and some governmental involvement (11)
Programme goals	Initially family planning and population development. Now community education and promoting women's participation in community (7)	Provide primary health and to decrease unmet need for healthcare in rural and urban slum areas (9)	Part of postwar redevelopment effort. Founded to provide basic healthcare services with equitable access, especially in underserved areas (10)
Recruitment	Volunteers interviewed. Community leaders may motivate candidates to volunteer (8)	Posts advertise openings and applicants interviewed by a committee (13)	Volunteer basis and chosen by consultation between community elders and NGO staff (14)
CHW requirements (not always enforced)	Resident of community. Higher than community average education level. < 3 children. Husband's consent if married (8)	Resident of community. ≥ 8 years of education. 18–50 years old. Community approval (13)	Resident of community. ≥ 18 years old. Community approval. For women, permission by head of household (14)
Sex	Female	Female	Female (36%) and male (64%) (11)
Average age (yr)	29.9 (8)	32.4 (13)	35 (11, 15)
Married	77% (8, 12)	66% (13)	87% (11)
Education level	59% have intermediate education or above (8)	9.94 years on average (14)	7 years on average, 20% illiterate (11)
% who ever used family planning methods personally	70% (7)	71% (13)	No data

CHW = community health worker; NGO = nongovernmental organization.