

## Women Health Promoters – Preventing Maternal Death in Than Gaon, India



CFHI is happy to announce the expansion of its Health Promoter project in the Than Gaon area of Northern India to include training on safe delivery and safe motherhood. In this part of India, where women are traditionally the healthcare providers within families, the health of the entire household is often the women's responsibility.

In 2004, CFHI began a program to identify and train local women in the nine villages surrounding Than Gaon to provide basic health education and services to the communities where they live. This year, the promoters have identified safe motherhood and safe delivery as critical skills they would like to attain in order to better serve their communities.

With a maternal mortality rate of 540 in every 100,000 live births, women in India have a 1 in 48 chance of dying during childbirth ([www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)). These statistics are often much worse in rural areas where women have little access to healthcare services. Well-trained, local healthcare workers like these community health promoters can significantly reduce the chance of maternal death by learning to recognize danger signs and symptoms of complicated births; practicing and encouraging antiseptic home delivery procedures; and maintaining close coordination with the existing healthcare system.

In the coming year, our partners in Than Gaon plan to hold a series of trainings for these healthcare promoters, providing them with the knowledge, skills and empowerment to prevent maternal mortality and improve the infant survival rate in their communities.

CFHI is proud to be a part of this community-driven initiative and invites you to participate by [donating now](#).

Thank you,  
CFHI Team