

In India,

ASHA workers in Mumbai demonstrated the power and responsibility of collective action through a historic 45-day strike. While taking a firm stand against exploitative conditions, they also ensured that essential and emergency health services continued by maintaining a minimum workforce. Many workers went the extra mile—working overtime to balance their duty to the public with their right to protest. Despite financial hardship and pressure, they remained united and resolute. Their struggle resulted in significant victories, including maternity leave rights and wage increases, showing how organised, worker-led action can win justice.



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS: ORGANISING AND WINNING

In Pakistan,

CHWs have built a powerful example of collective organising. Through strong unionising and sustained struggle, the Lady Health Workers secured formal recognition and the right to a minimum wage in 2012 following a landmark Supreme Court decision. This marked a major victory in their fight for dignity and labour rights. Their other struggles for decent working conditions continue.

Building on provincial unions, in November 2024, over 20,000 women CHWs—including polio workers and midwives—formed the Pakistan Community Health Workers Federation (PCHWF). It is the country's first national union for the sector. While challenges remain, especially around timely payments, CHWs continue to organise collectively for fair wages, recognition, and improved working conditions.

In Nepal,

CHWs in Bansgadi Municipality secured a historic breakthrough by winning inclusion in the national social security scheme after years of campaigning, protests, and negotiations. Their persistence—through rallies, demand letters, and direct engagement with authorities—resulted in access to healthcare, maternity protection, and financial security benefits. This victory highlights how sustained organising and collective pressure can turn long-standing demands into real policy change, setting an important precedent for CHWs across the region.



Scan the QR code to learn more about PSI's CHW campaign and support the fight for their rights.