

# ADVOCACY ON SRHR ISSUES IN REMOVING BARRIERS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHT OF WOMEN IN NEPAL



## BACKGROUND



Total population: 31 million, women consist of 51.5%

Indicators	2006	2011	2016
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	281	-	239
Modern CPR	44 %	43 %	43 %
Knowledge on Contraceptives among women (at least one method)	99.8 %	99.9 %	99.9 %
Unintended pregnancy	-	25 %	19 %
Unmet need of Family planning	24 %	27 %	24 %
Incidence of Unsafe abortion	-	-	58 %

Source: Nepal Demographic Health Survey  
 1 Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012.  
 National Population and Housing Census 2011 (National Report). National Planning Commission Secretariat, Central Bureau of Statistics. Kathmandu, Nepal.



## APPROACH

Building awareness in the communities through CHES

- Sensitization of the media on Reproductive Health Right bill
- Dialogue and interaction with different authorities and stakeholders
- Lobby and advocacy by engaging actively in the Reproductive Health Right Working Group (RHRWG)
- Support in filing case in the Supreme Court on challenging discriminatory policies of National Family Planning Policy, 2068 and demanding access to full range of contraception for all women

## RESULTS

- The House of Representatives approved Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Bills on August 15, 2018.
- The Supreme Court issued an order of mandamus on 8th August, 2017 in favor of case filed against Discriminatory policies of National Family Planning Policy.
- Indicator on Reproductive Rights awareness included in SDG-5.6 national indicator.
- Increased awareness on abortion stigma.
- The Supreme Court also issued an order to manage necessary human resource, budget, program and laws/ policies and its effective implementation in order to establish accessibility of full range of contraceptives.

## PROBLEM

- ⚖️ Lack of comprehensive reproductive health rights act (RHR)
- 👤 High prevalence of abortion stigma<sup>2</sup>
- ⊕ Exclusion of Safe Abortion Service in the basic health service package
- ➡️ Discriminatory policies of National Family Planning Policy, 2068

<sup>2</sup> Beyond Beijing Committee. Abortion Stigma and its Effect on Women in Nepal. Buddhanagar, Kathmandu, Nepal. June 2016

## SOLUTION

- 💰 Passing reproductive health right bill
- 🗣️ De-stigmatization of abortion through education
- 🤝 Advocacy for inclusion of SAS in basic health services package
- 📄 Filing case against discriminatory policy

## LESSONS LEARNED

- ➡️ Timely, united and proactive advocacy in unison is key to success
- ➡️ Awareness building at all levels is pre-requisite for gaining public support
- ➡️ Working with public, parliamentarians and technocrats simultaneously are essential for successful advocacy
- ➡️ Evidence based advocacy is imperative for change

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- ⚖️ Advocacy for enactment of Act and execution of the Supreme Court's order and inclusion of Safe abortion service in the basic health service package
- ⚠️ Develop Information Education Communication materials
- ➡️ Link with Sustainable Development Goal 5.6
- 👤 Conduct educational sessions