



Safe abortion in Nepal

Abortion law liberalized in 2002 under following conditions:

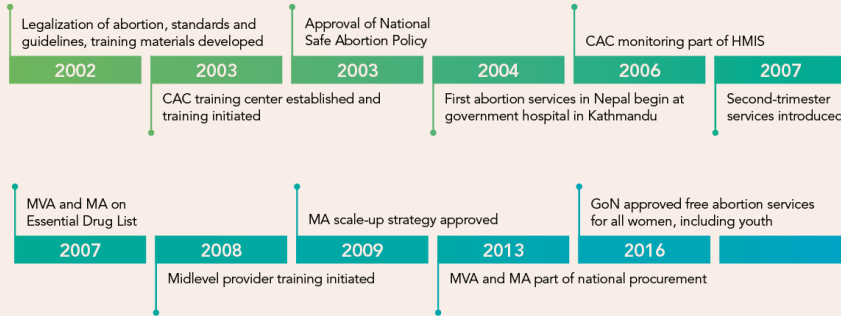
- Abortion available up to 12 weeks upon women's request.
- Within the first 18 weeks of pregnancy in cases of rape and incest.
- At any time if the pregnancy poses danger to the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant woman or the fetus is seriously deformed.

Abortion services started from 2004, followed by rapid expansion of the services throughout the country.

Ipas Nepal and its vision

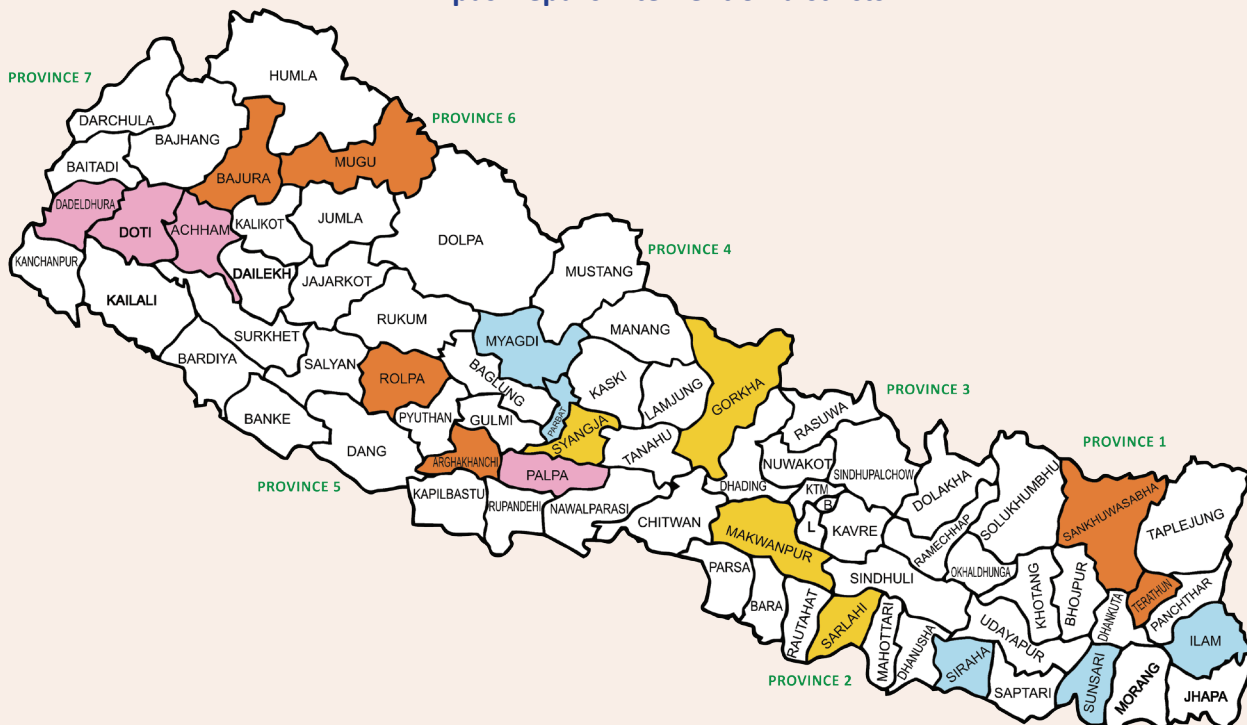
Unsafe abortions put women and girls at great risk every year. Ipas Nepal puts abortion front and center in all we do. This has been our focus since 2002 and will continue to be our passion until the number of unsafe abortions in Nepal is reduced to zero. Our broad vision is to help ensure that every woman and girl has the right and ability to determine her own sexuality and reproductive health. We work to dismantle barriers and foster the full realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are essential to the achievement of physical, mental, spiritual, political and economic well-being.

MILESTONES



EXPANDING THE SERVICES TO HARD-TO-REACH AND UNDERSERVED AREAS

Ipas Nepal's intervention districts



CURRENT INITIATIVES

Enhancing the ability of women to obtain comprehensive abortion care and prevent unwanted pregnancy



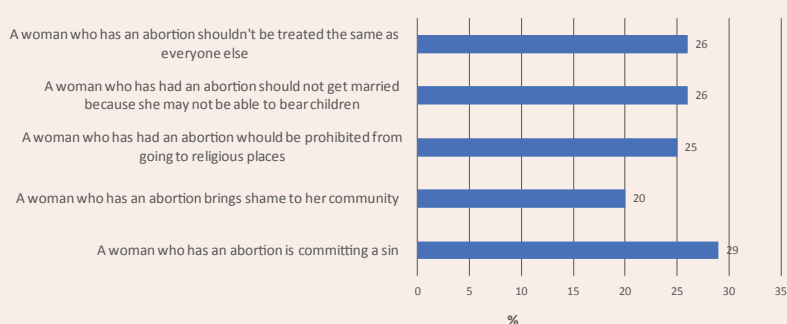
Ipas Nepal is providing support to MoHP and its relevant divisions and centers to increase access to Safe Abortion Services (SAS) and contraceptive care. As part of this support, Ipas Nepal expanded the medical abortion program to six new districts –Terhathum, Sankhuwasabha, Arghakhachi, Rolpa, Mugu and Bajura and second trimester program to four new hospitals. In these districts, with focused collaboration with D(P) HO, we worked intensively to strengthen quality of safe abortion services at the health facilities and support providers to increase their ability to offer services, including contraception. To date,

Ipas Nepal's strategy of engaging with national and local level government officials on health systems and policy efforts has been fruitful. Local governments have been responsive to women's health needs and continue to support SAS programming. To ensure youth's access to SAS and barriers to service provision are addressed, Ipas Nepal implemented activities per the national Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) strategy and guidelines.

Dismantling abortion stigma

Ipas Nepal strives to dismantle abortion stigma and create an environment where no woman feels shame or has to remain silent when exercising their reproductive rights. In this context, Ipas Nepal is conducting intensive stigma reduction activities such as community dialogue meetings, airing radio programs, street drama, sensitizing community stakeholders, health facility operation management committees in two districts, Sunsari and Dadeldhura. The lessons learned from this initiative will help us minimize stigma in our intervention districts.

Community members attitude towards abortion (n= 1801)



Promoting local ownership

Responding to the evolution and maturity of SAS programming in Nepal, Ipas Nepal is gearing its effort towards advancing the sustainability of its support and promoting the ownership of local government in SAS programming. Ipas Nepal recognizes the role local civil society organizations can play in generating demand for quality services in their community and holding governments accountable for the delivery of SAS. Beginning this year, Ipas Nepal joins hands with national level NGOs as well as local level NGOs in several districts through this initiative as well as others.

Strengthening safe and legal abortion information, support, and care

Ipas Nepal is working in Palpa to enhance knowledge of sexual and reproductive health, including safe abortion, and reduce stigma surrounding abortions targeting the unmarried women and men, community gatekeepers and influencers, families, and health providers. Different activities such as Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCATs), mass media mobilization, face to face communication are being implemented.


Building evidence base

Supplementing routine monitoring efforts, Ipas Nepal has focused its effort on designing, developing, and implementing numerous research projects to promote evidence-based decision-making. Some important research projects such as development of self-efficacy scale and stakeholder's views on increasing providers base in medical abortion service will contribute in strengthening safe abortion program.

Work in progress...


Ipas Nepal will be working in consortium with Marie Stopes International to implement a new initiative "Addressing Unmet Need for Family Planning among Excluded and Vulnerable Women in Nepal" funded by DFID. Under this initiative, Ipas Nepal will work to increase demand for contraception and improve the policy environment for contraception, including the piloting and scaling of Sayana press- a new addition in the contraception.

ACHIEVEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2017-18




Supported 276 health facilities including 20 2nd trimester hospitals to deliver SAS, out of which 88% are primary level

Trained 141 ANMs and 6 second trimester providers




Supported 418 providers out of which 92% were mid level




Conducted 324 dialogue meetings with 6 different community groups on stigma reduction

Conducted 5 interactive school based programs in Terhathum



Oriented 1038 FCHVs of new 6 districts on SAS and urine pregnancy tests (UPTs)

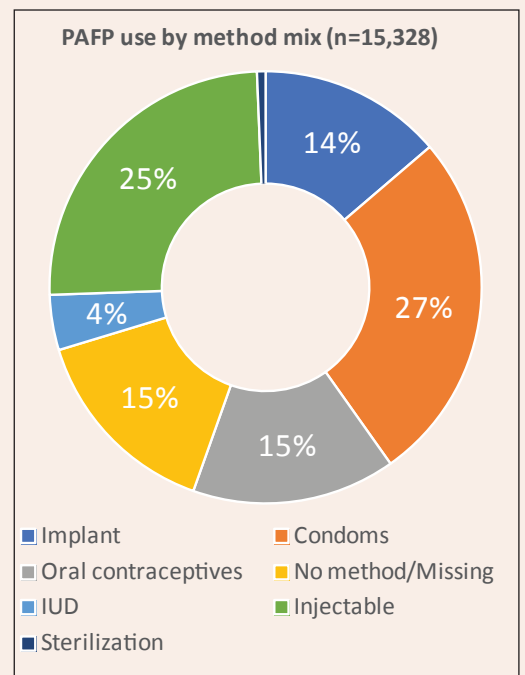
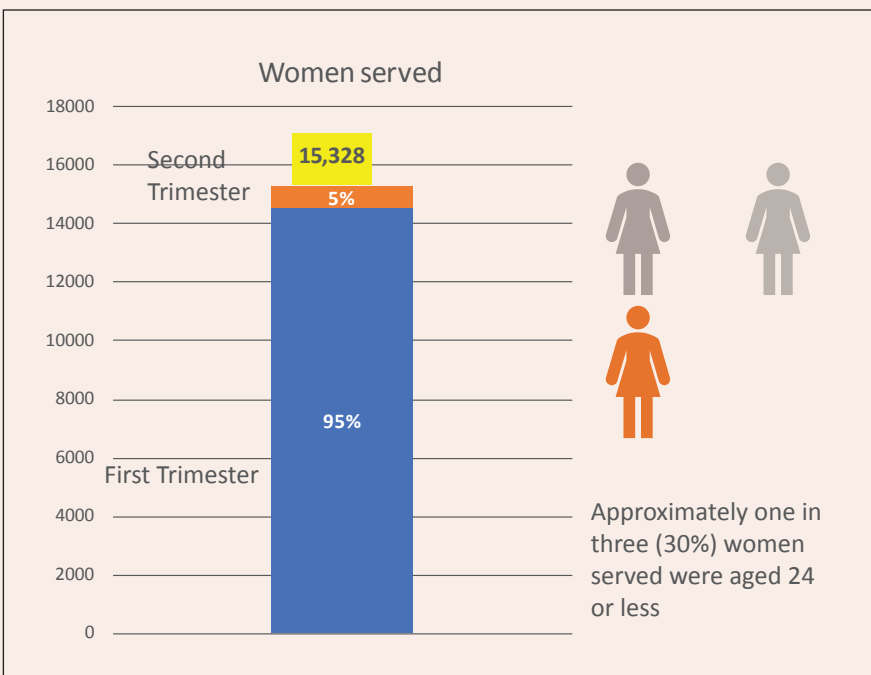


Conducted 350 Quality improvement meetings in HPs, PHCCs and Hospitals



Held 93 interaction meetings with local stakeholders

Oriented 136 youths on SAS and ASRH

IMPACT OF OUR WORK

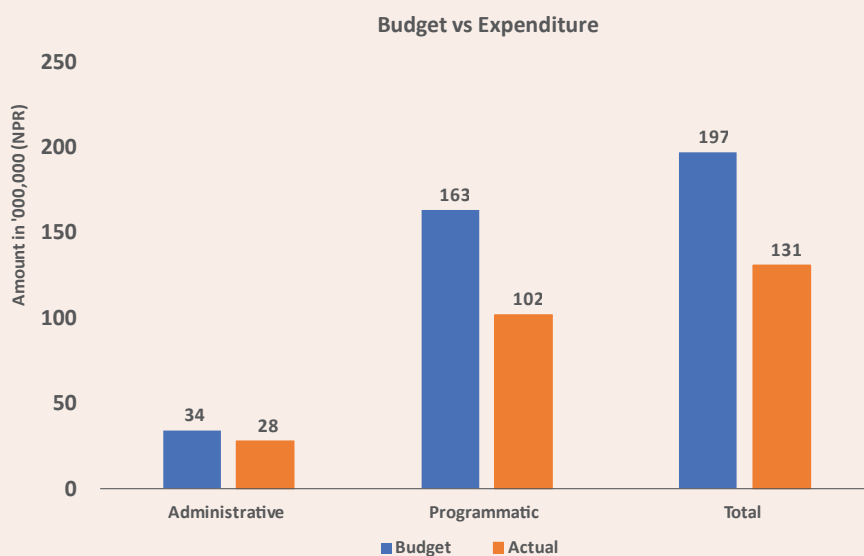
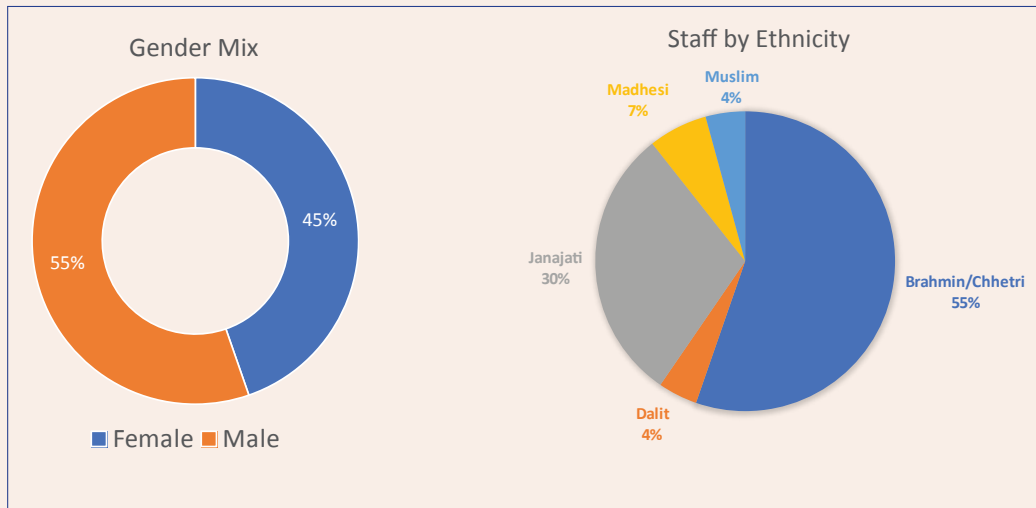
10,287 unsafe abortions averted
22 maternal deaths averted

1,280 DALYs averted
(mortality and morbidity)

3,757 Unintended pregnancy averted

Status of human resources at Ipas Nepal

Total 47 staff including 14 district-based staff



Advisory Board

Dr. Laxmi Raj Pathak
Public Health Expert

Dr. Chanda Karki
Senior Gynecologist, Trainer

Dr. Aruna Uprey
Women's Rights Activist

Mr. Dil Bhusan Pathak
Media, Senior Journalist

Dr. Dina Mani Pokhrel
Senior Advocate

Ms. Sugarika K.C.
Media, Miss Nepal 2005

Challenges

- Abortion continues to be a part of chapter of homicide.
- Abortion stigma is still prevalent at all levels.
- There is uncertainty/lack of clarity regarding the authority at central, province, district and local levels.
- Integration of safe abortion with other health programs is not prioritized.
- 58% abortions are still 'unsafe'.
- More than half of the women of reproductive age (59% as per DHS 2016) did not know abortion is legal in Nepal.
- Out of total health facilities, only half offer normal vaginal delivery services and among these facilities.

Announcing our new website nepal.ipas.org



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"FY 2017-18 has been a year of satisfaction for Ipas Nepal since we were able to protect tens of thousands of women and girls from unsafe abortions which, otherwise, could have taken their lives or put them into the trap of long-term health consequences. Given the limited knowledge of women about various social and legal aspects of safe abortion, Ipas Nepal is pleased to share that it has also started working with NGOs both at the local and national levels beginning this year to fill that gap. Although there were lots of achievements, we also encountered some challenges most of which were related to the confusion created by the new structure in the role clarity at various levels. Nevertheless, we were able to manage them through support from the national and local governments, donors, collaborators, relevant stakeholders and partner NGOs. I thus would like to this opportunity to extend my special gratitude to all of them for their continued support to Ipas Nepal."

-Dr. Shibesh Chandra Regmi, Country Director, Ipas Nepal