



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



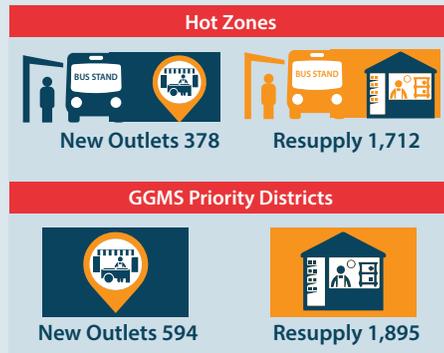
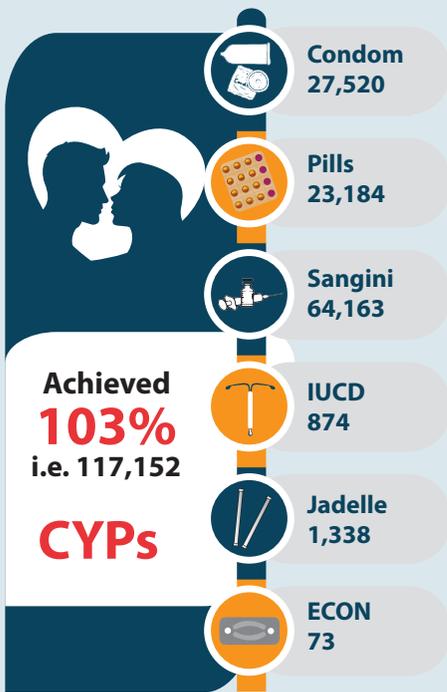
NEPAL CRS COMPANY
नेपाल सि आर एस कम्पनी

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

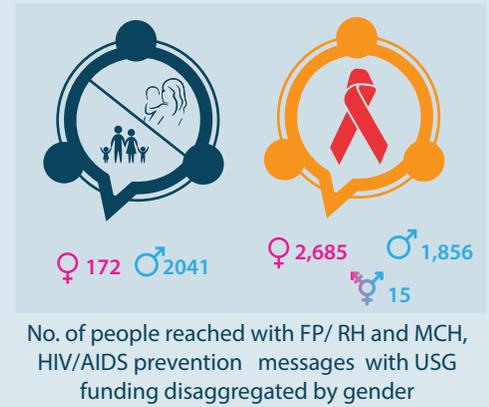
Volume 2 | November 2016 - January 2017

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

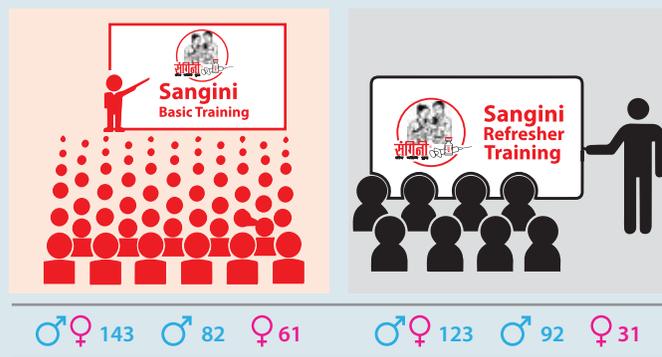
Couple Years of Protection (CYP)



No. of outlet supplied with condom in hotzone and GGMS priority districts.



SANGINI SOCIAL FRANCHISING NETWORK



SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION (SBCC) ACTIVITIES

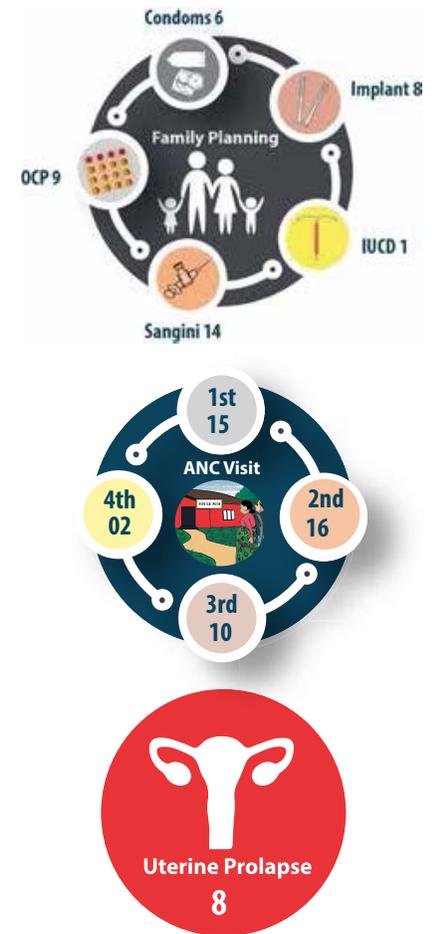
CRS's core SBCC strategy for GGMS is to effectively communicate the increasing demand for FP/RH, MCH and STI/HIV/AIDS prevention commodities and services through an evidence based and consumer oriented approach to the target population. In the hot zones, CRS's SBCC strategy is primarily focused on HIV prevention amongst the target groups. During this reporting period, CRS conducted 125 SBCC sessions to reach the target audience with HIV prevention messages.

INDEX

REMOTE AREA INITIATIVE (RAI)

Target Vs Achievement (November 2016 - January 2017)

Number of women referred to various health facilities

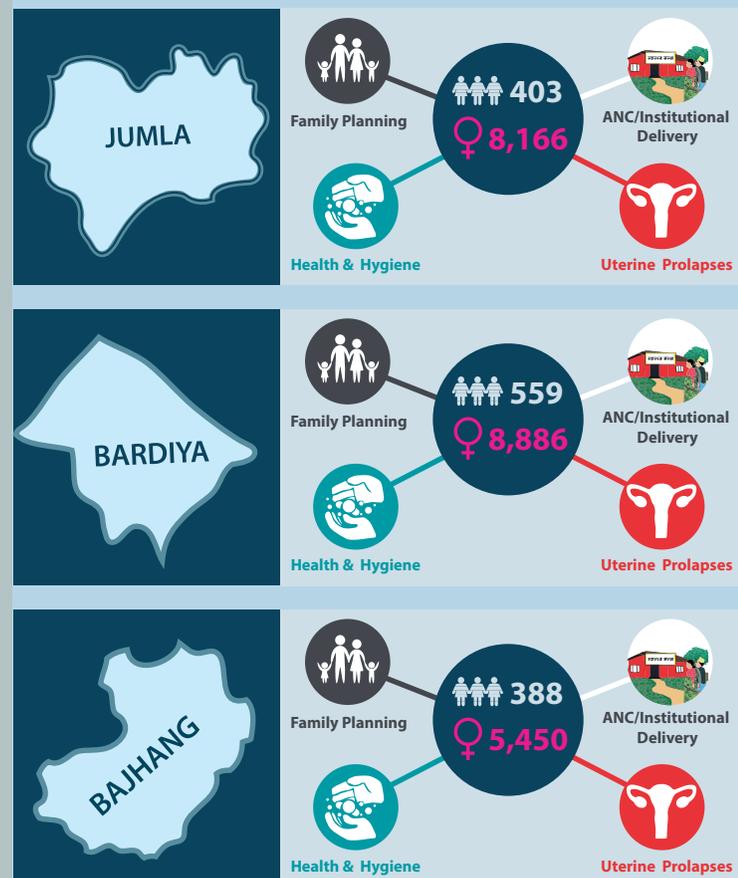


During this quarter, the GGMS-supported RAI project expanded significantly to six additional VDCs in Bardiya district, eight VDCs in Bajhang and six VDCs in Jumla; reaching 22,502 women in total with targeted messages on four key components - family planning, antenatal care, uterine prolapse and sanitation and hygiene. As of today, the RAI project covers 88 VDCs in total, representing 80% coverage of the total VDCs in three districts, since its inception in 2014.

In these additional 20 VDCs, RAI recruited sixteen additional community change agents (CCAs) who are responsible for disseminating information on four components. Apart from the women's group meetings, CRS also conducted other SBCC interventions in the RAI districts, including condom infotainment games, school orientation programs and orientations for retailers of non-traditional outlets.

In November 2016, the Sustaining Health Outcomes through Private Sector (SHOPS) Plus project, technical assistance to CRS, conducted a preliminary assessment of the RAI program. This will be followed by a mid-line survey in April-May, 2017 and recommendations from these assessments will help shape the next phase of the RAI program with a greater focus on sustainability and impact.

Women's Group Meetings



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SHOPS Plus provided technical assistance to CRS reviewing its existing quality assurance (QA) processes and mechanisms. Ms. Christine Hunter, a consultant from the American College of Nurse Midwives, observed CRS's QA processes including technical support visits conducted by CRS's QA officers at various Sangini outlets at Nuwakot, Dhulikhel and Kathmandu valley. She also observed the Sangini basic training held at Kathmandu. Subsequent to her visit, Ms. Hunter submitted her findings and recommendations to CRS, which are being reviewed by CRS management and incorporated as appropriate.

SOCIAL MARKETING OF CYCLEBEADS (CB)

During this quarter, CRS signed a contract with Institute of Reproductive Health to move ahead with the Fertility Awareness for Community Transformation (FACT) project. This project is focused on social marketing of CB in pilot districts, Banke and Bardiya.

NEW INITIATIVES

LINKING CRS DATA IN NATIONAL HMIS

CRS undertook a new initiative to integrate the sales data from the Sangini providers to the national Health Management Information System (HMIS). Six districts were selected as a pilot district (one in each area office), and coordination meeting were conducted with District Public Health Offices of these six districts. CRS is also collaborating with the HMIS Division at the central level for identifying suitable mechanisms to incorporate its CPR contribution in HMIS at the national level. In these six pilot districts, CRS will work closely with the Sangini providers to ensure that they report their data through the national HMIS.

NGO PARTNER'S MEETING

On February 2, 2016, CRS conducted NGO partner's meeting in coordination with DPHO Bardiya at CRS's RAI office in Baridya. In this meeting, which was led by Mr. Mahendra Dhoj Adhikari, the Chief DPHO, CRS reported on its on-going activities, and also provided an update on its RAI activities in Bardiya. This forum is one of the best platforms for partners to share and coordinate their activities.

USAID TEAM VISIT TO HARD-TO-REACH AREA

From 14-20 November, 2016, CRS, USAID and SHOPS Plus conducted a joint site visit to the western region of Nepal. As part of this visit, the team visited four Sangini outlets, one government health post and 12 NTOs in five districts - Kaski, Parbat, Mustang, Baglung and Myagdi. They also observed the supply chain mechanism for CRS products.



Photo: USAID/ CRS team interacting with Sangini service providers

During this visit, the team interacted with distributors, wholesalers, and retailers and Sangini providers, and gathered information about CRS's distribution strategy, the market scenario for socially marketed condom vis-à-vis the commercially marketed condoms. This visit helped the team better understand the margin structure, market credit policies and CRS's wide reach in the hard to reach areas.

KfW VISIT



Photo: CRS and KfW team at a meeting at CRS Head Office

In November 2016, a team from KfW: Project Manager, Ms. Stefanie Peters; Health Sector Specialist, Dr. Patric Rodolph and Mr. Shanker Raj Pandey, KfW's Local Representative and Head of Office, visited CRS's head office. The team met with the CRS's senior management and department heads who briefed the team about CRS and its role in FP, HIV/AIDS and MCH sectors in Nepal.

EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATION IN THE HEALTH COMMUNICATION CAPACITY COLLABORATIVE (HC3) MELA

On December 10, 2016, CRS participated in Smart Jeevan Mela at Lahan organized by HC3, a USAID funded program. The program was inaugurated by the Honorable Health Minister, Mr. Gagan Thapa. At this high profile event, CRS had a stall with its different products on display, and also conducted condom infotainment games and Visibility, Accessibility and Touch (VAT) activities to increase the awareness on correct and consistent use of condoms. More than ten thousand people visited the carnival.

Ms. Shanda Steimer, Director of Health and Education and Mr. Netra P Bhatta from USAID/Nepal, and Mr. Ron Hes, the Chief of Party from the HC3 project also visited CRS stall and observed the activities. USAID appreciated CRS's presence at the Mela.



Photo: USAID representatives with CRS Staff at HC3 event at Lahan.



Photo: Wholesalers and Retailers participating at Remote Area Trade Meeting at Gulmi.

REMOTE AREA TRADE MEETING

During this period under review, CRS initiated a new approach to understand the rural market of each region and gather feedbacks and suggestions from wholesalers and retailers on product availability and competitor activities, by conducting trade meetings. On 19 and 26 January, 2016, CRS organized the 'Remote Area Trade Meeting' in Surkhet and Gulmi districts respectively. The aim of these meetings was to familiarize the wholesalers and retailers with CRS activities, and help them expand their market share in these districts. Altogether 43 wholesalers and retailers (41 males and 2 females) participated in these meetings.

WORLD AIDS DAY

On December 1, 2016, CRS participated in the 29th World AIDS Day (WAD) 2016 event at Kathmandu. The theme of WAD for this year was "Hands-up for #HIVprevention". During this event, CRS showcased its SBCC materials and also used an electric circuit game to attract visitors and convey the message of HIV/ AIDS prevention with correct and consistent use of condoms.



Photo: World AIDS Day celebration at Rastriya Sabha Griha, Kathmandu

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- In this quarter, CRS initiated the process of linking CRS' achievements into the national HMIS system. In the third quarter, CRS will work to explore the most feasible and user friendly mechanism for capturing CRS's contribution to CPR.
- Increase CRS's product availability through HC3's private networks in their project-areas. CRS will explore the possibilities of conducting a small survey in HC3 project area to collect information about product availability.
- With support of USAID supported FACT project, CRS will roll out social marketing of CB and engage in initial startup activities by procuring the required training materials and hiring the required staff.

For Further Information :



Tokha Road, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 01-4362097
Email: info@crs.org.np

www.crs.org.np