

VALLEY RESEARCH GROUP PRIVATE LIMITED (VaRG)

Nepal Health Research Council

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GENERAL PROFILE



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INTRODUCTION

Valley Research Group (VaRG) is an independent, private institute established in 1986 with the objectives of conducting applied socio-economic research, including action research, and offering consultancy and training services to governmental and non-governmental organizations and international development agencies in the multi-disciplinary sectors of development. It is registered with the Government of Nepal to conduct applied research, project feasibility and evaluation studies, as well as training on different fields of development.

PLAN AND POLICY PERSPECTIVES

VaRG's fields of interest embrace a wide range of areas. It functions as a professional organization to ensure high quality, professional standard and objectivity in its work. Since its establishment VaRG has undertaken research studies/training in the following areas/fields:

- Health and Education
- Population and Development
- AIDS and STD Prevention
- Women in Development
- Rural Development
- Agriculture
- Development Oriented Training
- Marketing and Management

VaRG maintains a roster of competent and qualified experts/consultants. The roster includes economists, sociologists, anthropologists, rural development experts, demographers, health specialists, educationists, statisticians, engineers, surveyors, training specialists, geographers, geologists, and agriculturists.

MANAGEMENT

VaRG is managed by a Board of Directors. VaRG is supported by a core team of senior consultants. It has office equipment and facilities to conduct field studies. It is located at Ekantakuna, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur.

a) Government of Nepal

- Ministry of Health and Population
- Ministry of Local Development
- Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning
- Ministry of Education
- National Planning Commission

b) International and bilateral agencies

- BBC World Service Trust
- CARE Nepal
- CEDPA Nepal
- DANIDA
- Equal Access, USA
- Family Health International, USA
- GTZ
- Management Sciences for Health, USA
- Nepal Family Health Program
- PLAN International
- SCF (US)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- SNV/Nepal
- The Futures Group, USA
- The Johns Hopkins University, USA
- Population Services International (PSI)
- USAID/Nepal
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- University of Heidelberg Project
- WHO
- World Food Program
- World Neighbors

c) NGOs

- Family Planning Association of Nepal
- Nepal CRS Company
- Nepal Red Cross Society

Research and Studies

Since its establishment in 1986, VaRG has carried out a number of research studies commissioned by various clientele institutions in multi-disciplinary areas. Selected studies are:

On adolescents and young people

Endline Study on EU/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia Program in Nepal (RHIYA), 2006

This study was conducted for EU/UNFPA/RHIYA. The overall objective of the study was to collect endline information on the knowledge, attitude and behavior relating to SRH issues of young people aged 10-24 years living in the project areas and compare the indicators with that of the baseline. The study covered 46 Village Development Committees/Municipalities of 18 RHIYA project districts and 4,905 adolescents and youth aged 10-24 from 2,720 households were included in the study.

Endline Study for Building Demand for Reproductive Health among Adolescent Girls in Conflict Affected Districts of Nepal, 2006

This study is being conducted for CEDPA Nepal. The main objective of the study was to assess the level of knowledge, attitudes and behavior of the in-school girls, in particular and that of their parents, schoolteachers, out-of-school girls and the members of the RHCCs, in general. The study was conducted in the program VDC of Baglung, Mahottari and Udayapur districts. A total of 15 VDCs and 16 schools were selected from three study districts from where both the in-school and out-school girls, their parents, and local level stakeholders were included in the study.

Kailali School Based Survey, 2005

The main purpose of the survey was to assess effects and impacts of the project on students' knowledge, efficacy, and behaviors in the SC/US funded "Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health" (ASRH) project implemented in 53 public and private schools in 22 Village Development Committees (VDCs) and 2 municipalities at varying times and levels of intensity over a period of five years in Kailali district. A total of 10 schools (8 intervention and 2 non-intervention schools) was selected for the study and 1,644 students of both sexes currently enrolled in grades 9 and 10 were included in the study. Information was collected using a self-administered, structured questionnaire pertaining to the students' own and family background, their attitudes, opinions regarding sexual and reproductive health and practices, and selected behaviors. Several of the questions were designed to reflect the content of the interventions.

Baseline Study on EU/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia Program in Nepal (RHIYA), 2005

This study was conducted for EU/UNFPA/RHIYA. The objective of the study was to collect baseline information on knowledge, attitudes and behavior (KAB) towards sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth at the time of the start of the project. The study covered 46 Village Development Committees/Municipalities of 18 RHIYA project districts and

The overall objectives of the campaign evaluation were to monitor the campaign implementation to determine where, when and how the campaign content is aired, to track linkages with local programs and referrals to local programs from the campaign. In addition the study assessed the level of knowledge of young people about HIV transmission and prevention behaviors, local HIV prevention and care and support programs, attitudes toward HIV prevention behaviors and treatment seeking, attitudes reflecting less stigma toward HIV prevention and care and support. The study was conducted in three different periods in the municipal areas of Kathmandu Valley covering 1,000 young people aged 16-19 years of both sexes in each round of the survey.

Evaluation of Sexual and Reproductive Health Project of Young People in Nepal, 2003

The study was conducted for Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) on the project **Sexual and Reproductive Health Project of Young People in Nepal** implemented by the Family Planning Association of Nepal under the technical and financial support of JOICFP, UNFPA and IPPF in the urban and rural areas of Kathmandu Valley. The stipulated objective of the programs has been to improve the SRH status of young people and increase the level of knowledge on SRH by creating favorable situation to adopt safe sexual behaviors and practices, thereby increasing the young people's participation. The overall objective of this study was to examine the effectiveness of the SRH program in the project areas. The specific objectives of the study were to: assess the increase of level of knowledge on SRH; determine the impact of the utilization of SRH services; review the progress of the project implementation and performance; identify achievements, successful practices, weakness, gaps and problems/barriers with regard to project implementation and management; and identify the effectiveness of the activities undertaken to strengthen ASRH in particular with regard to community perceptions about the issues.

A total of 424 adolescents and youth aged 10-24 of the program areas were interviewed, 10 focus group discussions (FGDs) – 5 in each program areas were held for qualitative information and in-depth interviews were also done with the volunteers of the youth centers to generate information required for the study.

Evaluation of the Meena Communication Initiative, 2003

This evaluation study was conducted for UNICEF. The "Meena Communication Initiative" (MCI), implemented in collaboration with government and NGO partners through UNICEF to promote a "rights-based program". "Meena" is a 13 episode animated film series. The issues covered in the Meena series include son preference, unfair treatment to girl children, and harmful

practices such as early marriage and the dowry system. Meena, initiated in September 1998, covered 42 districts and around 874 Village Development Committees by 2003.

The overall objective of the evaluation study was to ascertain the impact of MCI on the lives of children and communities, particularly the influences on attitudinal and behavioral changes in the community in the program areas. Information was collected from 1,421 children aged 8-16 years (675 girls and 746 boys), 880 parents (440 fathers and 440 mothers) and 44 schoolteachers of the eleven districts.

Nepal Adolescents and Young Adult (NAYA) Survey, 2002

This survey was conducted for the Family Health International, USA. The main objective of this study was to examine the level of understanding of reproductive health knowledge, practice, and behavior among the Nepalese population in the 14-22 years age group.

The survey was conducted in eight hills and terai districts, and five municipalities of the country. A total of 2,824 adolescents of both sexes from urban areas and 5,153 from rural areas were selected for interview.

Final Survey of ARSH Program in Kathmandu and Kailali Districts, 2002

It was an evaluation study of the Adolescent's Reproductive and Sexual Health Program (ARSHP) implemented in two districts (Kathmandu and Kailali) of Nepal through local partner implemented supported by SC US since 1999. The overall goal of the program was to improve the reproductive health of adolescents and youth in the community. The vision of the program was to empower adolescents and youths aged 10-21 years in making positive decisions and know essential life skills to ensure their health and well being through increased access to youth specific information and quality youth friendly services, ultimately improving quality of their life. The objectives of the study were to: a) evaluate the improvement in availability and access to quality "youth-friendly" RH services in the project area after the project, b) evaluate the change in RH knowledge, attitudes and practices of the adolescent boys and girls participating in the project, c) collect baseline information for the future programming, and d) evaluate the applicability of the ARH program in other districts of Nepal. Six hundred students (300 each from program and control schools) from Kathmandu and 800 students (400 each from program and control schools) from Kailali were selected to collect necessary information. Similarly, 400 out-of-school children (200 each from program and control area) of Kailali were selected from 10 VDCs (5 each from program and control areas). The study was done for the Save the Children US.

Baseline Survey on Reproductive Health Awareness, Attitudes and Practice of Adolescents/Youths in Five FPAN Project Districts, 2000

This study was conducted for the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). The main objective of the study was to obtain basic information regarding reproductive health knowledge, attitude, and practice of adolescents/youths of the FPAN working areas for ensuring improved reproductive health status of women, men, and adolescents/youths aged 10-24 years. Information was collected from Kavre, Dang, Kailali, Achham and Kanchanpur district. A total of 1,881 adolescents/youths from 914 households were selected for investigation purpose.

Study on Knowledge of Reproductive Health Issues among Early Adolescents in the Urban Areas of Kathmandu District, 2000

The study was conducted for the Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE). The overall objective of the study was to identify the level of knowledge of early adolescents on reproductive health and to recommend for necessary changes in school syllabus and course books of grades 5 to 9. The study was conducted in the municipal areas of Kathmandu district. Data was collected from a total of 16 (8 private and 8 public) schools by interviewing 640 students of both sexes.

A Study on Reproductive Health Awareness, Attitudes and Behavior of Adolescents in Nepal, 1999

The study was conducted for UNFPA. The main objective of the study was to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of adolescents in the field of sexual and reproductive health in addition to the examination of reproductive health status among them. This study covered 7 districts from mountain, hills and terai regions of the country.

A Study on Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Behavior: Cross Sectional Analysis, 1998

This study conducted for Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) was carried out in Kathmandu Valley. The overall objective of this study was to collect and analyze baseline information regarding sexual practices, attitudes, behavior and knowledge among male and female adolescents and the parents. Information was collected through 20 focus group discussions with male and female adolescents of 12-19 years, and the parents - 10 from urban and 10 from rural areas.

Family Planning/Reproductive Health, and Community Participation and Attitude Towards Sexuality Education in Kapilvastu and Baitadi Districts, 1998

The objectives of the study were: a) to assess the extent of contraceptive prevalence of the project districts have been raised through increased access to reproductive health care services, including FP/MCH and contraceptive services, by increasing the knowledge level of women and youths; and b) to appraise the attitudes towards and participation in human sexuality education of the local people in the project implemented by FPAN titled "Vision 2000 Fund, Challenges for Change" in two districts -- Kapilvastu and Baitadi -- with the basic objective of improving the reproductive life of women. More than 1,700 women of reproductive age group, and about 800 adolescents of both sexes were represented in the study. The study was commissioned by Family Planning Association of Nepal.

strengthened versions of existing programs). As well as implementing or strengthening existing programs such as 'iron intensification' and the 'birth preparedness package' (BPP), CB-MNC was intended to demonstrate the feasibility of a community-based approach to prevention of postpartum hemorrhage (the most important cause of maternal deaths in Nepal), introducing oral misoprostol distributed by Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs). Other novel elements included, in Kanchanpur, screening for low-birth-weight (LBW) and providing more intensive follow-up care to the cases identified (this aspect of the work was implemented under the USAID-funded ACCESS project). The program area includes rural portions of the three districts. The target populations are pregnant women and newborns. Baseline surveys were carried out in 2005 in Jhapa and Banke, and in 2006 in Kanchanpur.

The overall objective of the follow-up surveys was to collect information on knowledge, attitudes and practices of maternal and newborn care among recently delivered women (RDW) and their family in the pilot areas and compare these values with baseline survey results.

The cluster sampling design was used to select the required number of sample population from the study areas. The methodology adopted in the follow up survey was similar to that of baseline survey. The respondents in both the baseline and follow up surveys composed of RDW who had given birth in the past 12 months regardless of whether the infant is currently alive or dead including stillbirths, their husbands, and mothers-in-law (MIL). A total of 900 RDW from each of the Jhapa and Kanchanpur and 840 from Banke were included in both the baseline and follow up surveys. Likewise, about 300 husbands and MIL of the interviewed RDW were included from each district during both surveys.

Assessment of RH Training conducted for Health Workers and Volunteers under the PARHI Project (NEP/03/PO4) 2007

The Government of Nepal is implementing Population and Reproductive Health Integrated (PARHI) Project which includes Reproductive Health (RH) and Population and Development Strategy (PDS) intervention with the technical and financial support from UNFPA in six districts, namely Saptari, Mahottari, Rautahat, Kapilvastu, Dang and Daddeldhura. The PARHI project was specifically designed to improve utilization of quality RH services and address population related issues. PARHI envisaged strengthening RH service delivery in its program districts through knowledge/skills based training for service providers, provision of supplies and equipment and increasing the number of family planning service delivery points with increased family planning method mix. The RH services planned to improve through training included maternal/neonatal care, family planning services, RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS prevention and adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

The overall objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of UNFPA-supported RH and PDS related trainings conducted for the health service providers and FCHVs as well as the personnel of other implementing partner organization. A total of 66 health facilities (6 primary health care centers, 12 health posts and 48 subhealth posts) functioning at district level and below were selected from six program districts. The respondents at the district consisted of 4 D/PHO, 22 trainers (ToT), 195 health service providers and 198 FCHVs. Similarly, 648 clients who visited the sampled health facility at the time of survey were also intercepted. A total of 160 clients who had received RH services on the survey day were observed by the trained staff to record the quality of services provided by the health providers. Likewise, 85 participants who had received PDS trainings were interviewed from six program districts. In addition, RH service facility inventory of each of the sampled health facilities was also taken.

Assessment of Pull System in Health Logistic Management 2007

The MoHP introduced *Logistic System Improvement Plan* (LSIP) in 1994 with the objective of strengthening and rationalizing existing logistic management system. In 2002/03 KfW, in coordination with DoHS/LMD and NFHP/JSI Nepal started funding to construct the district storerooms, and this strengthened the capacity of district to implement Pull System. As a tool for an effective and efficient logistic management, *Pull System* was introduced in 2003 with an ultimate the objectives of ensuring the year-round availability of essential drugs at community level, minimizing the wastage and expiry of drugs, and ensuring rational use of drugs. Pull system is a distribution system in which each lower level health facility decides how much to order (pull) not exceeding maximum stock level of essential health commodities from the upper level (district store) on the quarterly basis using LMIS form.

This study was conducted for the Nepal Family Health Program (NFHP). The overall objective of the assessment was to assess compliance as well as measure improvements in the logistic management after introducing pull system. The study was conducted using both the qualitative as well as quantitative methods. In addition, record or data on logistics maintained by the district offices and health facilities were also collected. The study was conducted in three program (Siraha, Rautahat and Bara) and one non-program (Saptari) districts. A total of 40 health facilities from program and 20 from non-program districts were selected randomly to collect necessary information.

Assessment of the Support for the FCHVs 2007

This study was conducted for the Ministry of Health and Population and UNICEF. The female community health volunteers (FCHV) program was initiated in 1988 by the Ministry of Health and Population. The FCHV program is considered as one of the successful community based health programs of Nepal, which aims to enhance the primary health care network at the grassroots level. Presently, over 48,500 FCHVs are engaged in educating local mothers and community members for the promotion of safe motherhood, child health, family planning and other community based health activities. At least one FCHV is working in each of the nine wards of the 3,914 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of the 75 districts of the country.

The overall objective of this study was to examine types of support being received by FCHVs from various sectors including the Mothers' Group and to recommend measures to improve the

FCHV support system that in turn would lead to the enhanced performance of the FCHVs and thereby make the FCHV program more effective. The study was conducted in six districts, namely Terhathum, Sarlahi, Chitwan, Kapilvastu, Salyan and Bajhang. Information was collected from different stakeholders at the central, district and the community level. Altogether, 403 in-depth interviews with community level and 33 with district level stakeholders, and 35 focus group discussions with Mothers' Groups were conducted in the study districts.

A Survey of Coverage and Compliance of Zinc in Diarrhea in Rautahat and Parbat Districts 2007

This study was conducted for Child Health Division, Department of Health Services, MoHP and Nepal Family Health Program. MoHP decided to add zinc as a prescribed treatment of diarrhea – a new yet effective treatment that reduces the duration and severity of diarrhea episodes. The use of zinc also helps children to develop immunity and additionally helps in reduction of pneumonia. Realizing the importance of zinc in diarrhea treatment Child Health Division of Department of Health Services with the support of Nepal Family Health Program initiated zinc program in Rautahat and Parbat, a terai and hill district respectively, in late 2006 with a plan for implementing in another 23 districts with the support of UNICEF, PSI and other partners.

The main objective of this survey was to assess the coverage and compliance of zinc in diarrhea program in Rautahat and Parbat districts. The cluster sampling design was used to select the required number of sample population from the study districts. Thirty clusters were selected from each district. The respondents in the study were the mother of under five children, FCHVs and other health staff of the sampled areas. A total of 571 mothers whose children were reported to have been suffered from diarrhea in one month prior to the survey date were included in the study. Six hundred children (300 from each district) from these 571 mothers had diarrhea within the reference period of one month. Likewise, 59 health workers (30 in Rautahat and 29 in Parbat) and 120 FCHVs (60 from each district) from the sampled clusters were included in the study.

Assessing the Effects of the PLA/RLG on Contraceptive Use among Members of Marginalized Populations in Nepal, 2006

This study was conducted for Save the Children US. The *Sadbyawahar Swastha Pariwar* (Valued Behaviors for Healthy Families) was implemented in 58 VDCs of Sunsari, Dhanusha, Siraha, and Banke districts. The overall goal of the project was to expand family planning use and reproductive health practices among the poor and marginalized populations (married women and men of reproductive age) including *Dalits* and Muslims mainly by increasing knowledge, access and quality of services. The project incorporated the Nepal Family Health Program (NFHP) radio drama serial *Gyan Nai Shakti Ho* (Knowledge is Power) into Participatory Literacy Appraisal (PLA) classes. The participants of these classes met six times a week over a period of seven months. One or two sessions each week, they functioned as a Radio Listeners Group (RLG) and the remaining sessions were devoted to literacy instruction for the participants.

The overall objective of the study was to assess the effects of the PLA RLG activities for promoting contraceptive use among the people of marginalized groups of Nepal, mainly *Dalits* and Muslims. The study aimed to assess whether participants of the PLA RLGs were more likely to use a modern contraceptive method than those who did not participate and to what extent the program messages were diffused from the PLA RLGs to other members of the community.

The study collected retrospective data from a matched sample of intervention and comparison in the four project districts. A total of 59 intervention and 20 comparison wards were randomly selected. Respondents of the study were PLA RLG members of the program areas, non-members of the same areas and other selected women from non-program areas. All of the respondents were currently married women aged 15-49. A total of 1,679 respondents including 839 PLA RLG members of Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 and 420 each of non-PLA RLG members from program wards and control areas were included in the study.

A Study on Radio Listeners' Group, 2006

The Radio Health Programs (RHP) of Nepal Family Health Program (NFHP) were designed, written and produced with technical support and management of the Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Team of NFHP in close coordination with National Health Education Information and Communication Center (NHEICC), Family Health Division (FHD) and National Health Training Center (NHTC) and other partner organizations. Both programs were launched in March 2004 and, since then, have been broadcast nationally on Radio Nepal as MOHP programs.

This study was conducted for NFHP. The overall objective of the study was to assess the added-value of the radio listeners' groups to the Radio Health Program (RHP). The study was conducted in 3 districts namely Siraha, Dhanusha and Mahottari using a 30-cluster sampling design technique. Structured interviews and focus group discussion techniques were used to collect information from the Radio Listeners Group (RLG) members, non-RLG members and the respondents of control areas. A total of 1,367 currently married women aged 15-49 years were included in the study. Of which 467 were the RLG members, 450 non-members from the RLG wards and 450 residents of non-RLG wards. In addition, 12 focus group discussions (6 among RLG members, 3 each among non-members residing RLG wards and women of non-RLG wards) were conducted.

Baseline Survey for CB-MNC Program in Kanchanpur District, 2006

This study was conducted for Nepal Family Health Program (NFHP). The overall objective of the baseline survey was to establish benchmarks for selected indicators of knowledge and practices of maternal and newborn care among recently delivered women (RDW) and their family in Kanchanpur district that will be used to evaluate the Community-Based Maternal and Neonatal Care Program (CB-MNC).

Information required for the purpose of the study was collected using quantitative techniques. The respondents in the survey composed of recently delivered women (RDW) who had given birth in the past 12 months regardless of whether the infant is currently alive or dead including stillbirths, their husbands, mothers-in-law (MIL) and fathers-in-law (FIL). About 1,750 of RDW and their family members (husbands, mothers-in-law and fathers-in-law) were included in the study.

A study on the FCHV Endowment Fund, 2006

This study was conducted for the Family Health Division, Ministry of Health and Population and Nepal Family Health Program. The overall objective of the study was to find out contribution of the Endowment Fund to the FCHV program. Information was collected using qualitative techniques such as focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and case studies. The study was conducted in 6 districts (3 each from the hills and terai) covering all five-development regions of the country where FCHV Endowment Fund Program is being implemented.

Information required for the purpose of the study was collected from different stakeholders at the center, district and at the VDC levels. Altogether 307 in-depth interviews with key persons at the district and VDC/municipality level, and 24 focus group discussions among FCHVs from the sampled VDCs were conducted. In addition, case studies on the success and failures cases of the Endowment Fund Schemes were done in order to find out the factors behind the success and failure.

Baseline Survey for CB-MNC Program in Jhapa and Banke Districts, 2005

This study was conducted for Nepal Family Health Program (NFHP). The overall objective of the baseline survey was to establish benchmarks for selected indicators of knowledge and practices of maternal and newborn care among recently delivered women (RDW) and their family in Jhapa and Banke districts that will be used to evaluate the Community-Based Maternal and Neonatal Care Program (CB-MNC).

The study was carried out in the rural areas of Jhapa and Banke districts. Information required for the purpose of the study was collected using quantitative techniques. The respondents in the survey composed of recently delivered women (RDW) who had given birth in the past 12 months regardless of whether the infant is currently alive or dead including stillbirths, their husbands, mothers-in-law (MIL) and fathers-in-law (FIL). Approximately 1800 each of RDW and their family members (husbands, mothers-in-law and fathers-in-law) were included from two study districts.

Nepal Family Health Program Mid-Term Survey, 2005

This study was conducted for Nepal Family Health Program (NFHP). The overall objective of the mid-term survey was to assess the progress made by Nepal Family Health Program in its program districts in obtaining its goals and objectives and to get recommendations for further improvement of the program activities. This study was conducted in all 17-core program districts of NFHP. A total of 2,144 currently married women of reproductive age (15-49 years old) were included in the study from 2,046 households.

Baseline Study on Perception of Health Services, 2005

This study was conducted for the GTZ Health Sector Support Program. The objective of the study was to establish the benchmark estimates on the perceived quality of health services in the program districts. The study was carried out in the health facilities (district hospitals, primary health care centers, health posts and subhealth posts) of Achham, Surkhet, Jumla, Doti, Dandeldhura, Bardiya

and Dhading districts. A total of 62 health facilities (7 district hospitals, 4 PHCC, 17 HP and 34 SHP) were selected for the study purposes. Information was collected by interviewing the health facility management committee members and clients or users of the health facilities.

Evaluation/KAP Study on Health in Dolakha and Ramechhap Districts, 2005

This study was commissioned by the Rural Health Development Project (RHDP), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The study was carried out in Dolakha and Ramechhap districts, the project areas of RHDP. The main purpose of this study was to verify and measure the *purpose and output* level indicators included in the *log frame* of the Project Document. Basically the study assessed the changes in accessibility of different strata of population to health services, and health-seeking behavior of the people related to health, hygiene, sanitation and diarrheal diseases. A total of 1,080 households from 14 sampled Village Development Committees of two-program districts were interviewed.

Baseline Survey in Baitadi, Darchula and Salyan Districts for the Mother and Child Health Care Activity, 2004

This study conducted for World Food Program, and the overall objective of the study was to collect baseline information and establish benchmark estimates of various indicators on health and nutritional status of mothers and children in order to be able to assess changes over time. The study was done in the selected Village Development Committees of Baitadi, Darchula and Salyan districts.

Pre-testing of Printed IEC Materials, 2003

This study was conducted for PSI/Nepal and the objective of the study was to pre-test the IEC materials on Sun Quality Health Network, family planning brochure and spacing family planning methods (oral pills, condoms and Sangini) developed by PSI/Nepal. The outcome of the pre-test was expected to serve inputs in refining the IEC materials before their actual use. The study also examined participants' level of message comprehensiveness, attractiveness and appropriateness of the materials. Six types of IEC materials were pre-tested using Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guidelines in the small towns or semi-urban areas of Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Dhading and Rautahat districts.

Pre-testing of Number One Condom TV Spots, 2003

The study was also conducted for PSI/Nepal. The overall objective of the pre-test was to find out the understandability, appropriateness and effectiveness of the *Number One Condom* TV spots developed by PSI/Nepal. The *Number One Condom* TV spots were pre-tested in the semi-urban areas of Kathmandu Valley among the adolescents and youth of both sexes.

Pre-testing of Number One Condom Radio Spots, 2003

This study was conducted for Population Services (PSI) Nepal with the objective to pre-test the radio spots of the *Number One Condom* developed by Population Services International (PSI) aiming to provide inputs for improving radio spots before putting them into actual use.

Information was collected using Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide. The study also examined participants' level of message comprehension, opinion regarding attractiveness, and appropriateness of radio spots and their suggestions for each of the spots. A total of three different radio spots were pre-tested in semi-urban areas of Kathmandu Valley.

Final Evaluation Survey for Trachoma Awareness Study in Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts, 2003

The study was commissioned by the BBC World Service Trust, UK. The overall objective of the study was to monitor and evaluate the trachoma campaign of the BBC World Service Trust and Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh implemented in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. The study was based on the primary sources of information. As in the baseline survey, the study was conducted in 6 VDCs of Kailali and 4 VDCs of Kanchanpur district. A total of 1,501 households were identified - 915 from Kailali and 586 from Kanchanpur district. From these households, 894 fathers and 1445 mothers having children below 10 years of age, and 785 adolescents (384 boys and 401 girls) aged 10-16 years of age were included in the final survey.

Final Survey for the Maternal and Neonatal Health Program in Two Districts of Nepal, 2003

The study conducted for the Ministry of Health and Johns Hopkins University/ Center for Communication Program, Baltimore, USA. The overall objective of the study was to measure the impact of the SUMATA campaign in Nepal - SUMATA is a Nepali acronym that translates into "Care, Share and Prepare". The SUMATA campaign is based on the Safe Motherhood IEC/BCC strategy and the specific activities under the SUMATA campaign include: a) Radio spots and jingles, b) Print materials - posters, danglers, c) Street Theater, d) TV drama, e) Job Aid for MCHWs, and f) Jeevan Suraksha (Birth Preparedness Package). This study was conducted in Lalitpur and Baglung districts.

The information were collected from 1,798 population including: a) currently pregnant women, their husbands, mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, b) maternal and child health workers, c) village health workers, d) assistant health workers, e) female community health volunteers, f) traditional birth assistants, and g) community leaders.

National Family Health Program (NFHP) BCC Formative Research and Evaluation Study, 2003

The overall objective of the study was to collect the baseline information from the program areas of Nepal Family Health Program (NFHP) core districts in order to provide inputs for BCC strategy development.

The survey was conducted in five districts of the 17 districts covered by NFHP namely Siraha, Bara, Nawalparasi, Banke and Kailali. The sample design utilized a stratified multi-stage probability sampling. All the women of reproductive age (WRA 15-49 years) living in the sampled households were considered as eligible respondents to acquire information. Similarly, about 25% of the total households selected for the interview of WRA were sub-sampled to interview male respondents who were the husbands of the interviewed WRA. Same percentage of mothers-in-law (MIL) of the interviewed women were also selected for interview. Thus, a total of

2,191 WRA, 585 husbands and 577 MIL were interviewed from 2,191 sampled households. Similarly, 292 female community health volunteers and 62 supervisors were also included in the study.

Evaluation Study on Reproductive Health Awareness, Attitudes and Practice of Women in the World Neighbors Supported Project Areas of Mahottari District, Nepal and Jagatpur Village, Bihar, India, 2003

This study was conducted in the project areas supported by World Neighbors (Belgachhi Village Development Committee of Mahottari district and Jagatpur Village, Bihar, India) with the overall objective to assess changes on the level of knowledge, attitudes and practice of women on reproductive health after the program intervention. A total of 1,954 (844 from Nepal and 1,010 from India) currently married women of reproductive age (15-49 years old) were interviewed to generate necessary information. The survey focused on women's reproductive health issues such as fertility, preference for children, family planning knowledge and its use including maternal and neonatal health. Information on the involvement of local people in women's group, utilization of household resources for reproductive health problems and women's role in decision-making was also collected. The survey results have provided a basis for evaluating the program activities and the achievements made in two years period.

Equal Access to New Information and Communication Technology (NICT) for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Nepal, 2003

UNDP Asia-Pacific in partnership with Equal Access, USA, a non-governmental organization has designed a regional project to pilot an innovative use of new digital satellite-based technology as a means to deliver development information to information-poor communities. The project aims at bringing positive changes in the lives of communities, in particular women, adolescent girls and young people by enhancing their access to information at their doorsteps through digital satellite based radio communication.

The in-country monitoring team of Valley Research Group (VaRG) has been collaborating with Equal Access; San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention, University of California; and the University of Texas at El Paso project monitoring and impact assessment. One of the main tasks consisted of conducting a representative baseline survey of the pilot districts.

The overall objective of the baseline survey was to obtain information on the present level of knowledge, attitude and practice on STIs, HIV/AIDS, and women empowerment in the six pilot districts, findings of which was to serve inputs in developing appropriate messages to address the stipulated issues, and in establishing the benchmark information that could be compared with the final assessment for establishing the impact of project interventions.

This study covered six districts namely, Morang, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Parsa, Makawanpur and Chitwan. These districts were selected on the basis of the number of listening groups formed by the partner NGOs in the six program districts. Five listening groups were selected at random from each study district. A total of 30 listening groups were identified and 887 listener group members comprising adolescents, and adult males and females were interviewed. In order to gain qualitative insights for complementing the quantitative data collected from baseline survey, qualitative information was also collected by organizing and facilitating 19 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

A Study on Assessing the Effectiveness of the Adolescent Sexual Health Education Program, 2003

The overall objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of adolescent sexual health education program implemented by the National Health Education, Information and Communication Center (NHEICC) of Ministry of Health (MOH). NHEICC has implemented Adolescent Sexual Health Education Program (ASHEP) with technical assistance from UNFPA in 55 districts of the country since 1998. The main purpose of this program was to provide knowledge on adolescent reproductive health to the students directly by health care providers. Under this program, health service providers of PHCC/HP/SHP and high school students intended to interact each other on the adolescent reproductive health issues using different IEC materials developed by NHEICC/MOH.

Information was collected from health facilities (primary health care centers, health posts and subhealth posts) personnel involved in ARH program, adolescent students and teachers of the sampled health facilities and schools of 10 districts representing both ecological and development regions. Forty-eight health facilities, 60 program schools and 60 non-program schools were selected for information collection. A total of 48 health personnel, 57 teachers involved in ASHEP, and 600 students from each of the program and control schools were included in the study. Besides, concerned officials at District Health Offices/District Public Health Offices were also included to obtain feedback on IEC materials and program itself. This study was conducted for UNFPA.

Assessment of 'Strengthening Drug Management at District Level (SDMD) Program', 2002

This assessment study was conducted for Management Sciences for Health (MSH), USA and the main objectives of the study were to assess the achievement of the SDMD program particularly on the extent of application of SDMD training exposure in health workers' day-to-day work; prescribing, dispensing, quantification, storekeeping, and drug use practices; and providing recommendations for further strengthening the SDMD training program. A total of 48 health facilities from four districts (2 program and 2 control districts) were selected for information collection and the information was generated through observation, interviews with health service providers, trainees and trainers, clients visiting health facility and through review of the service data.

Evaluation Study of the Effectiveness of Communication Action Groups to Enable Women to Communicate on Reproductive Health Issues, 2002

This evaluation study was conducted for CEDPA Nepal with the objective of evaluating the effectiveness of the Communication Action Groups (CAGs) in enabling women's communication on reproductive health with each other and with their spouses in the three REWARD project districts namely, Udayapur, Doti, and Kailali. A total of 949 respondents from different categories (CAG leader, CAG member, community leaders and husbands of CAG leaders and members) from of 36 CAGs from the three districts furnished information for the study.

of Nepal which has developed IEC materials and messages to bring awareness about its prevalence. These messages were disseminated through radio spots and radio drama from the Radio Nepal. Likewise, other printed IEC materials such as posters, flip chart, board game and wall chart were also introduced in different parts of Kailali and Kanchanpur. The objectives of the study were to find out the level of knowledge of the people about different stages of trachoma and its causes; attitudes and practices regarding prevention and cure of the disease; and to get an understanding of the people's exposure to IEC materials/media in the community. It covered 400 households including head of the household, the mothers, the fathers and the adolescents between 10-16 years of age of both sexes from the two program districts (240 from Kailali and 160 from Kanchanpur). The study was done for the BBC World Service Trust, UK

Baseline Survey for Trachoma Awareness Study in Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts, 2002

The overall objective of the study was to obtain baseline information on the present level of knowledge, attitude and practice of trachoma among the population of Kailali and Kanchanpur. The BBC World Service Trust implemented blindness prevention program in collaboration with Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. The Trust has aimed to develop appropriate IEC materials and messages in order to make the target population aware of trachoma

and its prevalence. The study was based on the primary sources of information covering 1,501 respondents - mothers, fathers and adolescents of 6 VDCs of Kailali and 4 VDCs of Kanchanpur district. Observation checklist was also used to see the hygienic condition of the under 10 children of the sampled households. The study was commissioned by the BBC World Service Trust, UK.

Final Survey of Integrated Community Based Family Health Program in Siraha District, 2002

The overall objective of the final survey was to assess the progress of the project in obtaining its goals and objectives and to get additional input for further implementation and management of the project "Integrated Community Based Family Health (CBFH)" in Siraha district covering 106 Village Development Committees and two municipalities. The overall goal of the CBFH program was to improve the awareness and quality of, as well as access to, reproductive health, family planning and child health service delivery in Siraha district. It has also intended to increase knowledge of STIs, HIV/AIDS and utilization of available health services implemented by SC US with the financial support of USAID. The sample size was 1,917 currently married women and 642 men of 52 wards from 26 Village Development Committees and four urban wards. This study was conducted for the Save the Children US (SC US).

A Baseline Survey for the Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH) Program in Three Districts of Nepal, 2002

The objective of the study was to collect baseline information on knowledge, attitude and practice regarding the maternal and neonatal health issues in Lalitpur, Kailali and Baglung districts - the MNH program districts. The survey utilized quantitative techniques. Information was collected from 2,272 population comprising: a) currently pregnant women, their husbands, mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, b) maternal and child health workers, c) village health workers, d) assistant health workers, e) female community health volunteers, f) traditional birth assistants, and g) community leaders. The study was commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Johns Hopkins University/ Center for Communication Program, Baltimore, USA

Baseline Survey on Reproductive Health Awareness, Attitudes and Practice of Women in the World Neighbors Supported Project Areas of Mahottari District, Nepal and Jagatpur Village, Bihar, India 2001

This study was conducted in the project areas supported by World Neighbors (Belgachhi Village Development Committee of Mahottari district, Nepal and Jagatpur Village, Bihar, India) in-order to collect baseline information on the level of knowledge, attitudes and practice of women on reproductive health. One thousand nine hundred and seventy four (960 from Nepal and 1,014 from India) women of reproductive age (15-49 years old) were interviewed. It covered areas such as fertility, preference for children, family planning knowledge and use including maternal and neonatal health. Attempts were also made to collect information on the involvement of local people in women's group, utilization of household resources for reproductive health problems and in decision-making.

Radio Communication Program: An Impact Study in Phulbari Site of Chitwan District, 2001

The Johns Hopkins University in collaboration with National Health Education, Information and Communication Center, Ministry of Health has implemented a community based intervention

program in Phulbari Village Development Committee of Chitwan district since April 2000 to maximize the reach of the drama serial of Radio Communication Program (RCP -4) within the community. For this purpose, radio listening groups were formed in each ward of the VDC with cooperation of the VDC chairperson, subhealth post staff and community people.

The overall objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of the Radio Communication Program implemented in Phulbari VDC using radio listening groups. This particular VDC was taken as a pilot site for the program implementation. For the purpose of the study, a nearby VDC named Parbatipur was selected as a control site, which has very similar socio-economic and cultural characteristics as those found in Phulbari. A total of 408 respondents (204 radio listeners group members in Phulbari and another 204 non-members in Parbatipur) were included in this study.

Family Planning Communication Impact Survey, 2001

This study was conducted for National Health Education, Information and Communication Center/Ministry of Health (NHEICC/MOH) and Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS), Baltimore, USA. The specific objective of the impact study was to assess the exposure and effects of all Radio Communication Program (RCP) interventions on the public and their perceptions of the role of clients themselves in obtaining quality reproductive health information and services in four districts, namely Dhankuta, Kailali, Kapilvastu and Bardiya. The clients' knowledge, attitudes, skills, intentions, and practices (including unmet need) related to family planning were also enquired upon. The total sample size for the survey was 2,950 currently married women aged 15-49 and 625 men (the husband of every fifth woman interviewed).

Rapid Assessment Study of Cross-Border Migration, the Dynamics of HIV and STD Transmission and Service Provision along Indo-Nepal Border in the Districts of Kanchanpur, Kailali and Bardiya, 2001

The overall objective of this study was to refine SC US plan and strategy to design and implement an effective cross border initiative targeting Nepali migrant workers from the project implementation areas of Kanchanpur, Kailali, and Bardiya which was to be conducted through Indian and Nepali PNGOs, and thereby reduce cross-border spread of HIV and STIs and unify prevention efforts on both sides of the Indo-Nepal border. The study used a mix of both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection at the place of the migrant workers origin as well as at transit points. A purposive sampling method was employed for the selection of VDCs. Thirteen VDCs with high migrant communities were selected from three study districts. A total of 980 migrant workers returnees to their village within the last 60 days prior to the survey date were selected for interview. Similarly, 716 migrant workers were intercepted and interviewed from 6 selected transit points of the Mid and Far-Western Development Regions. Similarly, 38 key informants, and 34 officials from selected government and non-government organizations were also interviewed from the above three districts. Twelve FGDs (6 among migrant workers and 6 with their wives) were conducted in the three study districts to collect qualitative information. The study was conducted for Save the Children US.

Evaluation of Radio Communication Project, 2000

The study was conducted for the Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) and National Health Education, Information and Communication Center/Ministry of Health (NHEICC/MOH). The objectives of the study were to: a) obtain baseline information on media and family planning from the women and men of the project districts, and b) identify the changes on knowledge, attitude and practice brought about by the DS first phase, DS and DE second phase, and DS and DE third phase programs that can be attributed to the Radio Communication Project interventions. This study was done in Dhankuta, Kapilvastu, Bardiya and Kailali and a total of 2,850 women and 600 men were selected for furnishing the information for the study.

Evaluation of Street Drama Program in Doti and Udayapur Districts, 2000

The objectives of the study was to assess the impact of street drama performance in changing attitudes of local community in relation to delaying marriage and delaying first birth in the program areas of Nepal Red Cross Society. Nepal Red Cross Society with support from CEDPA implemented street drama program implemented in various parts of Doti and Udayapur districts to disseminate messages about delaying marriage and delaying first birth. This study was conducted in collaboration with Nepal Red Cross Society for CEDPA Nepal

Mid-term Survey of Integrated Community Based Family Health Program in Siraha District, 2000

The survey was conducted for the Save the Children US (SC US). The objective of the study was to assess the progress of the project in obtaining its goals and objectives and to get recommendations for further implementation and management of the program under the project “**Integrated Community Based Family Health (CBFH)**” funded jointly SC US and USAID in Siraha district covering 106 Village Development Committees and two municipalities which focused on improving access to family planning commodities, quality of FP/RH services and promote method mix of FP services and also to increase knowledge of STIs, HIV/AIDS and utilization of available health services. This study covered 52 wards from 26 Village Development Committees. A total of 1,862 currently married women and 626 men were included from 1,838 households.

Assessment of Attitude and Satisfaction of Clients toward the Integrated FP and STD Services at Static and Outreach Clinics of FPAN in Kaski and Banke Districts, 2000

The overall objective of the study was to assess the attitude/perception and satisfaction of the clients, and knowledge and use of integrated FP/STI services at static and outreach clinics of Family Planning Association of Nepal in Banke and Kaski districts. Two hundred and thirty-eight male and female clients aged 15-45 years were included in the study. The study was conducted for the University of Heidelberg Project and Ministry of Health, Nepal.

Reproductive Health Clinical Protocols and Policy Operational Guidelines for Health Service Providers, 1999

In collaboration with Ministry of Health and UNFPA/KIT different sets of clinical protocols and

policy operational guidelines to be used by health service providers at district level and below was prepared. The purpose of these RH operational/management guidelines and clinical protocols were to: a) strengthen and decentralize managerial capacity to implement an efficient and effective RH program at all levels, b) clearly define a standard quality routine RH services, IEC, counseling and referral to be provided at all levels, and c) guide service providers in a minimum selection of life-saving skills, which will lead to a reduction in maternal and perinatal mortality.

Social Network Follow-up Survey, 1999

The Social Network Follow-up Survey was conducted in the selected VDCs of Dang District with the objective of assessing changes in health behavior attributable to a combination of community organization activity and Radio Communication Project (RCP). The specific objectives of the follow-up survey were to: a) assess exposure to health messages, b) describe the patterns of interpersonal communication within each community's social networks, and c) assess changes in health attitudes, intentions, and behaviors attributable to RCP exposure and participation in the social network. The study was conducted for Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services.

Final Survey of HIV/AIDS Prevention Program of NGO Projects, 1999

The main objective of this study was to identify the achievements made in the last three years in prevention of HIV/AIDS by SC/US supported NGOs. This study covered a total of 7 districts, with the sample size of 2,291 sexually active males and females belonging to different target populations, where SC/US supported 12 NGOs were working. The study was commissioned by SC/US.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Radio Communication Project (Phase II) 1999

This study was conducted for the Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) and National Health Education, Information and Communication Center/Ministry of Health (NHEICC/MOH). The purpose of the study was to monitor and evaluate overtime, the exposure to and impact of Radio Communication Project. Periodic client exit interviews were carried out to track public exposure to Radio Communication Projects including program clarity and popularity, acceptability of program language and presentation style, degree of exposure, level of understanding, degree of acquired knowledge and positive attitudes towards family planning and family planning services, and perception of client-provider interaction. The study covered five health facilities (primary health care center and health post) in Sunsari and Chitwan districts.

A Study on Males Attitudes on Reproductive and Sexual Health, 1999

The overall objective of the study was to identify cost-effective and male-friendly health and IEC programs addressing male's attitudes towards reproductive and sexual health. A total of 2,000 currently married males from seven districts were included in this study. The study was conducted for UNFPA.

Social Network Baseline Survey in Dang District, 1997

This study was carried out in Dang District with the general objective of providing baseline information about the effectiveness of community organizations in promoting the adoption of

This study was conducted for CARE/Nepal. A total of 1,271 currently married women of reproductive age group from three study districts - Bajura, Mahottari and Solukhumbu, were represented in this study. The overall objective of the study was to evaluate project achievements primarily in the area of family planning, and maternal and child health, by using mainly those indicators that were utilized during the 1995 baseline survey.

An Evaluation of Norplant Program in Nepal, 1997

Norplant service introduced in Nepal in 1988 was made available in 44 districts of the country. The overall objective of this evaluation study was to assess the National Norplant Program in Nepal and make recommendations to ensure a high quality service with appropriate follow-up and feasibility of expansion in the country. The study covered a total of seven districts representing both ecological and development regions of the country.

Family Planning Communication Impact Survey (Phase I), 1997

This impact study was conducted for the Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) and National Health Education, Information and Communication Center/Ministry of Health (NHEICC/MOH). The JHU/PCS Nepal and NHEICC is implementing a FP/MCH communication project in four districts of Nepal. The project has aimed at increasing the level of functional knowledge of modern family planning methods among men and women. This study intended to assess effects of the Radio Communication Project interventions on public perceptions of health services and providers; on knowledge, attitudes, intentions, and practices (including unmet need) related to family planning; and on perceptions of the role of clients themselves in obtaining quality reproductive health information and services. The study was conducted in four districts namely, Dhankuta, Sunsari, Chitwan and Dang.

Assessment of Female Community Health Volunteer Program: Nepal, 1997

This assessment study was conducted for the Family Health Division, Department of Health Services, and Ministry of Health with financial support from UNFPA, UNICEF and USAID. The

overall objective of this study was to assess the programming, implementation procedures, effectiveness and achievements of the FCHV program on that basis of which the future direction of the program could be determined. It covered a total of 15 districts representing five development regions of the country.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Radio Communication and Interpersonal Communication/ Counseling Project (Phase I) 1996

This study was conducted for the Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) and National Health Education, Information and Communication Center/Ministry of Health (NHEICC/MOH) implementing a FP/MCH communication project in four districts of Nepal. The purpose of this study was to monitor and evaluate the exposure to and impact of Radio Soap Opera and Distance Education Series in Dang and Sunsari districts. This study covered 6 health facilities (primary health care center and health post) in Dang and Sunsari. Periodic client exit interviews were carried out to track public exposure to Radio Communication Projects including program clarity and popularity, acceptability of program language, presentation style, changes in client family planning knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behavior overtime, nature of client interaction with health workers, perception of health workers interaction skills, and participation in and satisfaction with client-provider interactions over time.

An Evaluation of UNFPA-Funded FP/MCH, IEC, Training and Reproductive Health Under the Ministry of Health, 1996

The evaluation study conducted for UNFPA. The study was carried out to assess and evaluate the four UNFPA-funded projects in Nepal in support of Family Planning and MCH Services, namely *Strengthening FP/MCH Service Delivery (NEP/93/PO2)*, *IEC Program in Support of FP/MCH Service Delivery (NEP/93/P10)*, *Strengthening Public Health Training System with Emphasis on FP/MCH (NEP/93/PO7)*, and *Strengthening of Reproductive Health Research in Nepal (NEP/93/PO2)*. The evaluation task focused on: adequacy of project design, appropriateness and effectiveness of project strategies, objectives, activities, monitoring scheme, implementation status and bottlenecks.

Nepal Cost-Sharing in Pharmaceutical Distribution Study, 1996

This study was conducted for UNICEF and Management Sciences for Health, USA. The purpose of conducting this study were: a) to document the resources currently available in the public and private sectors for supporting drug cost-recovery activities, and b) to propose the best options for program design and implementation. This study covered a total of 56 health centers and 60 drug stores from 12 districts.

Management Needs Assessment for Population and Family Planning Programs: Nepal 1996

This study was conducted for International Council on Management of Population Program (ICOMP), Malaysia. The objective of the study was to help population and family planning managers to understand the management improvement needs by reviewing the current practices and to think about the alternative approaches to adopt management system that can contribute to the optimum achievements in the population and family planning program targets. The study was carried out at five districts from three development regions covering about thirty health facilities at various levels.

Family Planning Communication Survey (Findings of FGDs), 1996

This study was conducted for JHU/PCS and NHEICC, Ministry of Health. The major objectives of this study was to generate necessary information in a district of Nepal (Dang) in order to: a) improve available knowledge about contraceptives among discontinuers and potential spacers and limiters; b) identify and examine reasons for unmet needs for contraception; and c) develop message strategies and concepts suitable for promoting the adoption of appropriate contraceptive methods by specific subgroups of potential limiters and spacers. A total of 20 focus group discussion sessions in seven VDCs in Dang district - 10 for males and 10 for females- were organized to generate necessary information.

CARE/Nepal Family Planning Survey in Bajura, Mahottari and Solukhumbu, 1995

This study was conducted for CARE/Nepal. One of the objectives of the CARE Nepal was to provide family planning and primary health care services to the target population of its project areas. CARE/Nepal has planned to provide temporary as well as permanent family planning services in those areas. For this purpose, this study was conducted to obtain baseline information on the present level of knowledge and use of family planning methods by the eligible women (15-44 years old) of the three districts - Solukhumbu, Bajura and Mahottari.

Family Planning Communication Survey, 1995

This was a baseline study conducted for the Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) and National Health Education, Information and Communication Center/Ministry of Health (NHEICC/MOH), which were implementing a FP/MCH communication project in four districts of Nepal aiming at increasing the level of functional knowledge of modern family planning methods among men and women. This study intended to obtain baseline information in selected four districts namely, Dhankuta, Sunsari, Chitwan and Dang. The objectives of the study were to: a) obtain contraceptive prevalence rate, and knowledge and attitude toward family planning; b) identify media behavior and preferences relating to family planning; c) collect opinions pertaining to health workers; and d) measure communication network pattern.

Health Status and Health Care Delivery Indicators Survey, 1995

The main objectives of this study were to: a) identify the differences in the level of selected health and socio-economic indicators, and health status, and b) assess the impact on health care service delivery at the community level. This study covered 20 districts of the hills and terai. This study was also conducted for the Ministry of Health, and WHO, Nepal.

health workers, female community health volunteers and local voluntary mot couples with unmet family planning needs.

Rapid Assessment of Sex Industry in Nepal Terai, 1994

It was a rapid assessment study conducted with the financial and technical support from AIDSCAP Regional Office Bangkok of Family Health International, USA. The study attempted to identify the existing situations of sex industry in the urban centers of southern terai of Nepal in order to design interventions for the prevention of STIs and HIV/AIDS in the areas. Five municipalities - Biratnagar, Birgunj, Bhairahawa, Dhangadhi and Kanchanpur - were selected to collect information.

Commercial Sex Workers in Kathmandu Valley, 1994

The purpose of this study was to examine the socio-economic profile of sex workers, their sexual behavior and knowledge and attitude towards the STIs and HIV/AIDS, and the extent of adoption of safe sexual practices, including condom use. A total of 373 sex workers of Kathmandu Valley were selected for this purpose. It was conducted for Family Health International, USA.

The Socio-Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS in Nepal, 1993

The study conducted for conducted for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Nepal. The study aimed at: identification of the socio-economic factors contributing to the potential spread of HIV/AIDS in Nepal, assessment of the present and future spread of the virus, the estimation of the current and potential cost of disease management, and the evaluation of economic impact of the virus to the economy. It covered four districts with high-risk groups. In addition, information was also collected from the governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in HIV/AIDS prevention programs, located in the central and other selected district levels.

Nepal Fertility, Family Planning and Health Survey, 1993

This study was a national sample survey covering all the 75 districts, with a focus on fertility, family planning and health aiming to provide policy makers and planners and program managers, information on existing situation of contraceptive knowledge and use, fertility, infant and child mortality, and basic indicators on maternal child health. The sample size was 25,384 currently married women of 24,745 households. The study was jointly conducted with the New ERA and IIDS for UNFPA/Nepal, FP/MCH Division of Ministry of Health.

Assessment of Technical Assistance in Health Sector, 1993

Conducted for the United Nations Development Program/National Planning Commission, Nepal, the principal objectives of this study were: a) to assess the effectiveness of technical assistance in terms of its objectives in the last twenty years; and b) to recommend future guidelines for the effective delivery of technical assistance to Nepal.

Evaluation of FP/MCH Service Delivery Support Project, 1992

The FP/MCH Division of Ministry of Health, with the financial assistance from the UNFPA, has been implementing FP/MCH service delivery support program in order to: increase the number of contraception service providers; strengthen the delivery of family planning services; and strengthen

the institutional capacity in district hospitals. Various activities have been carried out to fulfill the objectives of the project. The study hence was conducted with the objective of assessing the program and providing suggestions for improvements of program activities in future. It was conducted for UNFPA/Nepal.

Comparative Study of Acceptability and Actual Use Breakage Rates of Two Latex Condoms, 1991

The overall objective of this study was to compare the acceptability and actual use breakage rates of two sizes of latex condoms (52 mm and 49-mm lay flat width), in order to provide information to judge their suitability for the procurement and distribution in the Asian region. It was conducted in the five health post areas of the Kathmandu Valley. A total of 150 sexually active male participants of 18 years and above who had used condoms in the past were selected for this purpose. The study was conducted for Family Health International, USA.

Operation Research on Strengthening Health Network with Community Participation for MCH/FP, 1991

The Ministry of Health, with the financial assistance of UNFPA, has introduced a project to strengthen the health network with organized participation of women in their communities for MCH/FP. The project has carried out various activities related to MCH/FP and health service delivery system in 28 districts of the country since fiscal year 1988/89. The major objective of this study was to identify factors that facilitate or hamper women's involvement in health education and service related to MCH/FP and to suggest types of supports needed from the government sector for promoting such activities in rural areas in future. It was also conducted for UNFPA/Nepal.

A Follow-up Study on Depo Provera Acceptors, 1991

The purpose of this study was to identify the reasons for discontinuation of the use of Depo-Provera (three monthly injectable contraceptive), and estimation of its continuation rates. This study was conducted in 14 districts of the hills and terai. It was conducted for UNFPA/Nepal.

Better Health for Women and Children: Training Curriculum and Program in Population Issues, 1990

The study commissioned by the Maternal Child Health and Family Planning (MCH/FP) Unit of Nepal Women Organization under the financial assistance from UNFPA/Nepal. The objective of this projective was to prepare the curriculum package and develop training program to promote family planning and maternal child health services at the grass-roots level through the effective mobilization of community level workers.

Evaluation of Family Health Training Performance, 1988

The Family Health Project (FHP) under the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Tribhuvan University was established in 1980 with an objective of providing family health-related training to the high as well as middle level health workers produced by the IOM with the assistance from UNFPA. The objectives of this study were to assess and evaluate the performance of FHP by examining the

training capability and performance of teachers, and to document the status of existing resources available at the campuses of IOM. It was conducted for the Family Health Project/UNFPA.

CRS Contraceptives: Availability and Usage in Nepal, 1987

The objective of the study was to estimate the current availability of the CRS contraceptives and their usage. It covered a number of towns and villages of ten different districts of the hills and terai regions. It was conducted for the USAID/Nepal.

On Socio-economic and rural development

Women Ending Poverty: Achievements and Ways Forward in Pact's WEP Program, Nepal 2007

This study was conducted for Pact Inc, USA. Pact's Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) was initiated in 1995 with focused on three dimensions of empowerment: women's literacy, an improved legal environment for women, and strengthening women's participation in economic development. The second phase of the program ran from 1998 to 2001, and sought to integrate the program inputs among a more focused population of women in 21 districts, 19 of which lie in the Terai. The first phase of the program was implemented by eight partners and the second phase by two partners. In both phases Pact was involved.

The overall objective of the study was to assess the impact of the program on the broad spectrum of WEP groups. A total of 450 WEP groups were selected from seven program districts. In addition, 45 replicated groups (using WEP model) were purposively sampled to provide indication of their experiences. Similarly, interview with 153 each of the "former WEP members" and "low economic status women non-group members" was carried out to collect necessary information. Likewise, members of the 158 dissolved WEP groups were also contacted and interviewed.

Assessment of Key Modalities Used to Implement Community Action Process with an Emphasis on Training, 2004

This study was conducted for UNICEF. The overall objective of the study was to investigate the effectiveness of the DPCP/DACAW frontline workers in improving the situation of children and women through Community Action Process (CAP). The study was conducted in 8 districts representing both the hills and terai districts of the country.

A Study on the Nepal Hand Washing with Soap Initiative, 2003

The study was conducted for UNICEF. The Nepal Hand Washing with Soap Initiative aimed to contribute in the reduction of diarrhea incidences in Nepal for which UNICEF, in collaboration with the World Bank, USAID, government agencies, other public and private partners are drawing on the models and lessons learned from hand washing initiatives in several other countries to develop a Public Private Sector Partnership (PPP) that will leverage the funds and resources made available by the public sector. The overall objective of the initiative has been to

rehabilitation of the school buildings, to examine the deviations, if any, in the actual construction of new or rehabilitated classrooms from planned designs and assess the extent of community participation in the project sites. The study covered a total of 166 schools from the 10 districts representing both the ecological as well as development regions.

A Baseline Study in Three Districts of Nepal, 1994

This study conducted for PLAN International, Nepal. The basic objective of the study was to furnish baseline information on the status of human development in three districts namely, Banke, Salyan and Jajarkot of Mid-western Nepal.

Effectiveness Study of the Primary School Textbook Distribution System, 1993

The main objective of this study was to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the new mechanism of free textbook distribution of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Social Welfare in school year 1993. The study was conducted for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Nepal.

Preparation of District Profile of Kalikot District, 1990

The study commissioned by the Netherlands Development Organizations (SNV-Nepal). The objective of the study was to collect and compile information on the socio-economic and demographic aspects together with the status of existing resources and ongoing developmental activities, and to assess the future prospects and potentials of the district based on available resources, skills and cultural heritage.

Formulation of District Center Physical Plan of Diktel Bazaar, Khotang District, 1990

The study conducted for the Earthquake Affected Areas Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project, Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning. The overall objective of this study was to provide an overview of the existing infrastructure and socio-economic conditions of the people so as to provide a basis for developing a physical plan of Diktel Bazaar, Khotang of the Eastern Development Region.

Identification of the Marketing Opportunities for Small Scale Income Generating Activities of Rural Women, 1989

The purpose of the study was to identify site-specific production potential and to explore the ways, means, and methods for marketing goods produced by the existing and/or new economic activities for rural women in four districts - Dandeldhura, Achham, Doti and Bajura - of the Far-Western Development Regions. The study also sought to establish marketing channels for both inputs and outputs in the district and among the districts in the Far West and other neighboring districts. It was carried out for the Women Development Section of the Ministry of Local Development with the assistance from SNV-Nepal.

A Study of the Livestock Genetic Improvement Program in the K-BIRD Project Area, 1989

The study was commissioned by K-BIRD Project. The overall objective of the study was to assess the performance of improved animal distribution program of the project including their survival rates, breeding management practices, their productivity, and feeding resources and practices, and management.

Rasuwa-Nuwakot Integrated Rural Development Project: A Profile of Selected Village Development Committees, 1989

The objective of the study was to prepare the profiles the 25 village development committees (18 of Rasuwa and 7 of Nuwakot districts) including socio-economic aspects and the demographic characteristics and the status of existing resources and ongoing developmental activities of the RNIRDP Project areas. The study was conducted for the Rasuwa-Nuwakot Rural Development Project, which was funded by the World Bank.

Evaluation and Impact of the Rasuwa-Nuwakot Integrated Rural Development Project (NRNIRD - Second Phase, 1989)

The main purpose of this study was to undertake an evaluation of RNIRD Second Phase development programs and to assess the impact of the development schemes - agriculture, horticulture, livestock, forest, soil and water catchment area conservation, drinking water, irrigation, suspension bridges, mule tracks and motorable roads- on the life of the people of the Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts. The study was conducted for the Rasuwa-Nuwakot Integrated Rural Development Project.

Evaluation of Rural Service Centers of Surkhet, Dailekh and Jumla Districts, 1988

Evaluation of the activities of the rural service centers supported by the K-BIRD Project under the funding of the Government of Canada was the main objective of the study. The rural service centers established in different parts of Surkhet, Dailekh and Jumla districts were meant to provide technical assistance and support at the grassroots level in the areas of agriculture, livestock, health and family planning, and family welfare.

A Socio-Economic Baseline Survey of Kalikot, Mugu and Jumla Districts, 1988

The study commissioned by the Trail Bridge Building Program of the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV-Nepal). This study was focused on facilitating planning, programming and implementation of the bridge construction projects. A total of 20 sites were selected from the three districts to obtain the baseline information on socio-economic aspects of the project areas. The survey work covered around 1,000 households. In addition, the survey also covered key informants at the institutional and community level.

A Study on the Effectiveness of Media Publicity in Banking, 1988

The study was aimed at identifying the most effective media publicity for various target population to create awareness among the people about the importance of banking activities, especially in the remote areas of the country under the aegis of the Banking Promotion Board of Nepal Rastra Bank. Ten districts representing both geographic as well as development regions were covered in this study.

The K-BIRD's Local Development Projects: An Effectiveness Study, 1988

The main objective of this study was to examine the effectiveness of the local development activities such as irrigation, drinking water supply, improved trails and suspension bridges in Surkhet, Dailekh and Jumla districts of Mid-Western Nepal. It was conducted for the Karnali-Bheri Integrated Rural Development (K-BIRD) Project.

Study on Nepal-China Border Trade, 1986

The objectives of this study were to investigate the existing situation, and to estimate future prospects of Nepal-China border trade with special reference to the northern part of Darchula district of the Far-Western Nepal. It was done for the Remote Area Development Board, Ministry of Local Development, HMG/Nepal.