

# CREATING SPACES TO TAKE ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Photo: Kieran Doherty / Oxfam / Nepal

The Creating Spaces to take Action on Violence Against Women project seeks to reduce violence against women and girls and reduce the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Nepal.

## Creating Spaces for what?

**For Prevention** — so that key community stakeholders can identify, take responsibility for and nurture positive gender equitable attitudes and norms

**For Response** — so that women and girl survivors have access to safe spaces in relation to support services and empowering economic opportunities

**For Sustainability** — so that civil society organizations, especially women's rights organizations, other institutions and networks can connect, reflect, share, learn and adapt their approaches to reducing violence and the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, based on new knowledge and innovation, including mobilizing promising information and communication technologies



Photo: Tom Pietrasik / Bangladesh

## Creating Spaces has three Strategic Pillars that work together to address violence against women and girls:

### PILLAR 1:

#### Engaging key community actors to support and promote positive gender norms

Creating Spaces will do this through:

- Raising awareness of positive gender attitudes and behaviours
- Training women on leadership
- Conducting media, edutainment (entertainment that educates) and public awareness campaigns
- Providing knowledge and skills training on laws and monitoring the implementation of laws
- Engaging and influencing decision-makers

### PILLAR 2:

#### Supporting women and girls who have experienced violence

Creating Spaces will do this through:

- Connecting those who experience violence with quality social and legal services

- Building the leadership skills of women and girls who have experienced violence
- Providing opportunities for these women and girls to make a living
- Strengthening services like shelters, counselling/psycho-social support, and legal aid to ensure quality

### PILLAR 3:

#### Building knowledge and capacity of institutions and alliances to influence change

- Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations, especially women's rights organizations
- Conducting research, and sharing knowledge and learning using digital platforms
- Using information and communication technologies to monitor social services and policy implementation
- Convening and facilitating linkages and alliances between civil society organizations and a range of stakeholders

## Support Organizations Working on Violence Against Women and Girls

Creating Spaces will support organizations working on violence against women and girls to build their capacity. The project uses methodology reflecting best practice from Oxfam Canada's successful organizational capacity assessment tool and the International Center for Research on Women's organizational capacity assessment tool.

The methodology guides project partners in a self-assessment of current capacity across a range of dimensions, such as social support services, legal aid, advocacy, and media/communications, and identifies areas for capacity improvement. The process will be undertaken annually, providing recommendations for follow up actions, and will track progress over the life of the project.

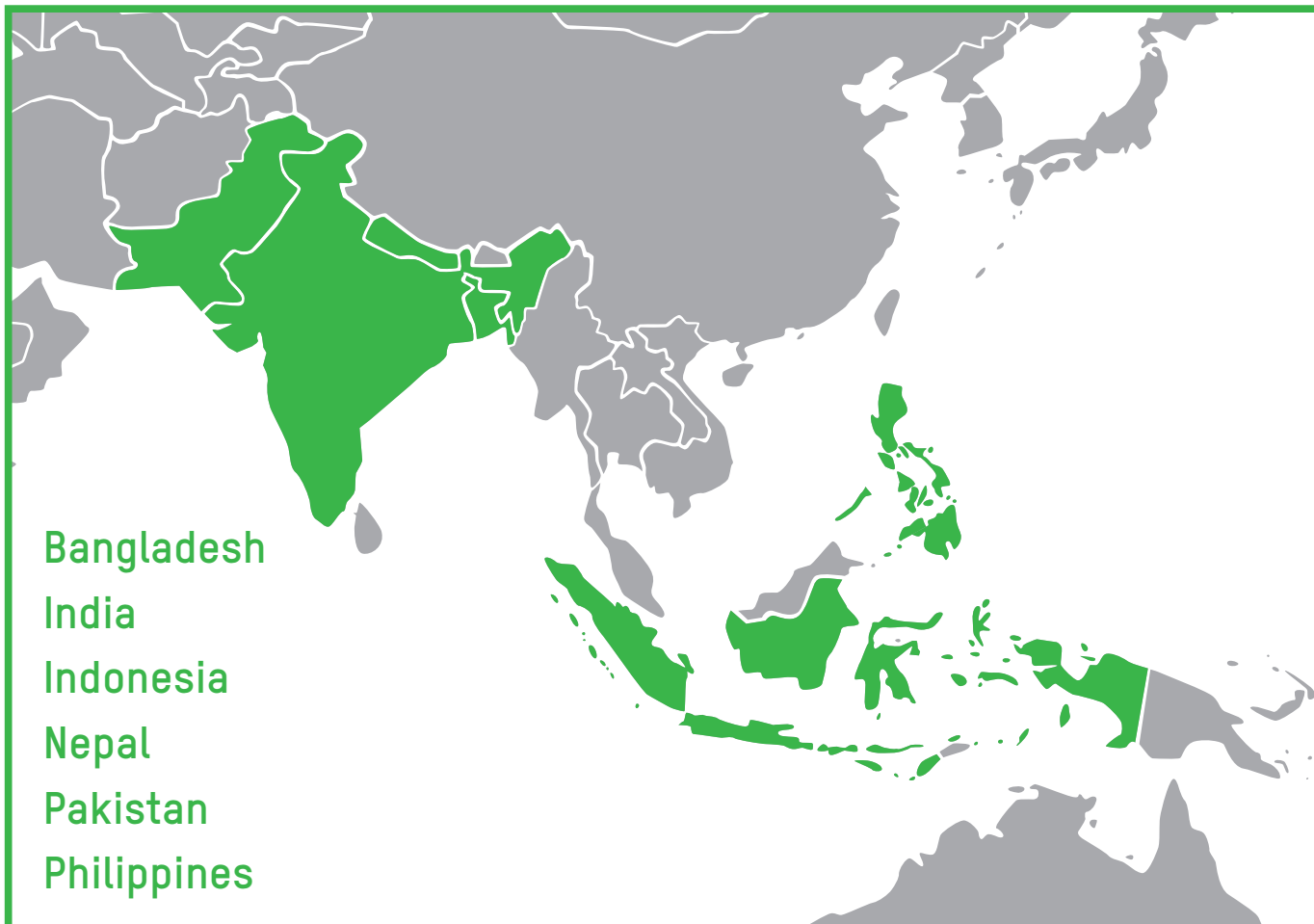
## Oxfam Best Practice on Gender

Creating Spaces will build on the experience of Oxfam Canada's Engendering Change project, which ended in 2014. Engendering Change was implemented in Central America and Cuba, Horn and East Africa, and Southern Africa and worked with 36 civil society partners to become stronger agents of change and implement more effective gender equality programs and advocacy.

Creating Spaces will leverage best practice and evidence from this project, as well as from the Oxfam Knowledge Hub on Gender Based Violence, a network of 350+ colleagues working in over 50 countries on violence against women and girls. The Knowledge Hub, which is hosted by Oxfam Canada, supports programming, influencing, fundraising, communications and monitoring, evaluation and learning.



Photo: Oxfam / Indonesia



**For more information, please contact:**  
Matthew Stenson, Program Coordinator,  
at [matthew.stenson@oxfam.org](mailto:matthew.stenson@oxfam.org)

**Please also visit:**  
[www.oxfam.ca](http://www.oxfam.ca)

**Twitter:**  
[twitter.com/OxfamCanada](https://twitter.com/OxfamCanada)

**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/OxfamCanada](https://www.facebook.com/OxfamCanada)

**Oxfam International:**  
[www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)



**BUDGET**  
C\$ 21 Million



**DURATION**  
2016-2021



**FUNDING SOURCES**  
Global Affairs Canada,  
Oxfam

Canada



Project undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada, provided through Global Affairs Canada.