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# **Building a Social Movement to End Child Marriage: Plan's Programs in Asia**

**Manila, 2-4 June, 2014**

**Promoting child rights  
to end child poverty**

**Sofia Naveed  
Plan International Pakistan**

# CHILD MARRIAGE A GLOBAL PROBLEM

- **Child marriage:** a legal or customary union between two people, of whom one or both spouses is below the age of 18.
- Child marriage affects as many as **14 million girls every year.**
- Child marriage occurs in practically **every region of the world**



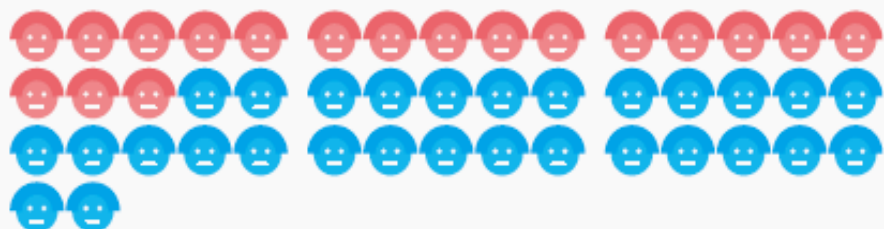
**Bangladesh** 32% / 66%



**Cambodia** 3% / 23%



**India** 18% / 47%



**Indonesia** 4% / 22%



**Nepal** 10% / 51%



**Pakistan** 7% / 24%



**Philippines** 2% / 14%




**Thailand** 3% / 20%



**Vietnam** 1% / 10%



 Women aged 20-24 who married before age 15

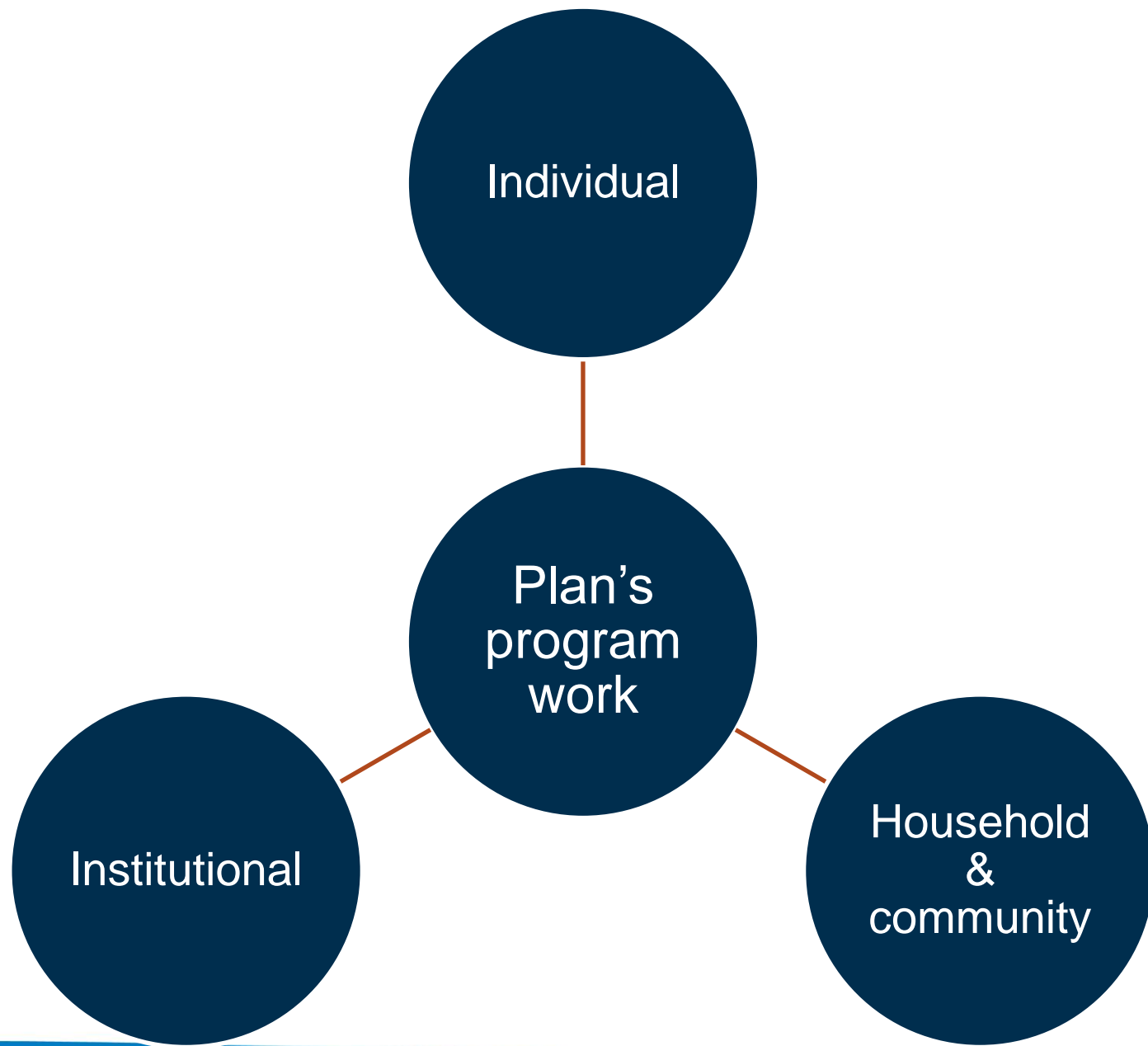
 Women aged 20-24 who married before age 18

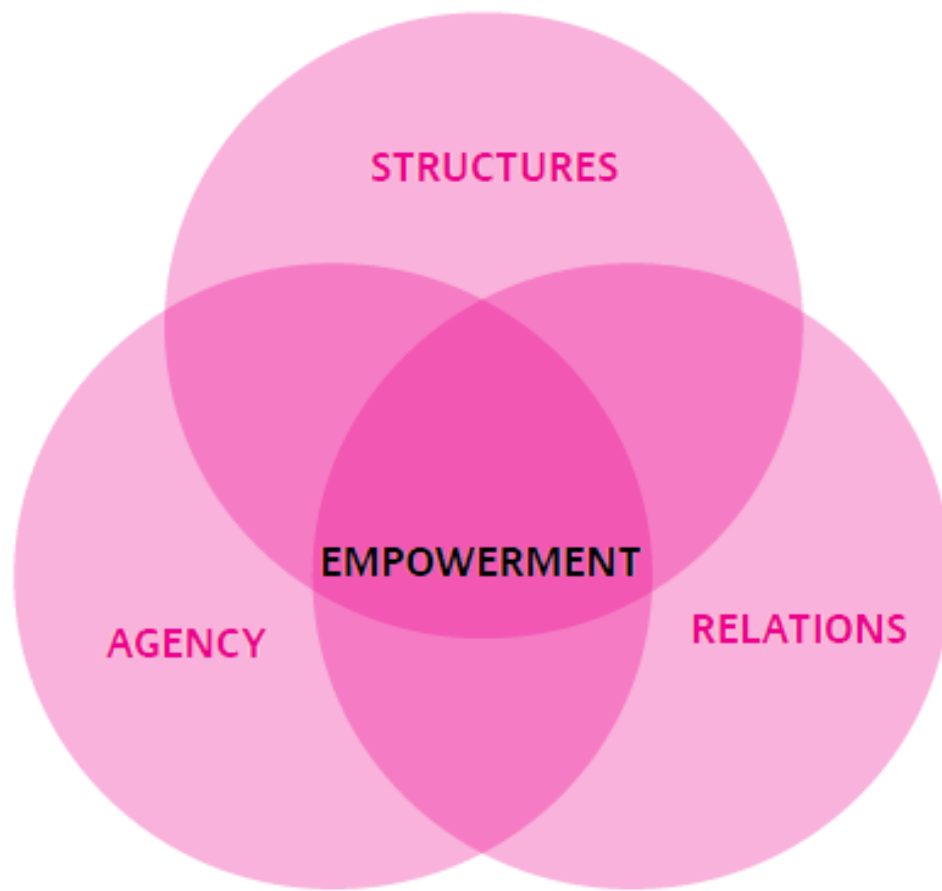
# KEY DRIVERS OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN ASIA

- Poverty
- Low educational attainment
- Social systems, cultural and religious beliefs and practices
- Gender inequality, low perceived value of girls
- Challenges in legislation and enforcement
- Instability and insecurity, such as conflict or disasters
- Lack of information on/exposure to alternatives
- Early sexual debut
- Need to look at pathways to marriage and marriage market in specific settings

# PLAN RESPONSE - AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE INITIATIVE (ACMI)







Changes here are easily reversed and/or have unintended consequences.



Changes are stronger but incomplete.



Changes here are most likely to lead to durable empowerment

# LESSONS & RECOMMENDATIONS (I)

## Child Participation

- Need to strengthen children/youth voice and participation to create a social movement



## Community mobilization

- Need to create aspirations amongst girls and their parents by strengthening alternative to child marriage





# LESSONS & RECOMMENDATIONS (II)

## Institution level

- Create evidence- research is important!
- Advocate for legislative and policy reform and its implementation
- Promote, establish and strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to child marriage
- Engage with regional forums (SAIEVAC, ASEAN), as they are developing regional action plans to eliminate child marriage and are working closely with states government to harmonize laws with international treaties

***“I have understood that I should not get married now. I have got some ideas about my rights. I have knowledge about what I can do and what I cannot. In this way what we have learnt from the children organization has become effective for us. I now know it myself and have also informed others”***

(Children's organization member, Nilpamar)



## **VIDEO: Oli, 12, making a difference to stop forced marriages in Bangladesh**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvMQ90sCOGg>**



**Thank you!**  
**Any questions?**

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