





# Violence against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific: A Regional Overview

Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Programme Manager, Ending Violence against Women, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific 23 September 2014, Dhaka, Bangladesh



## 1 in 3 women and girls will suffer violence in their lifetime



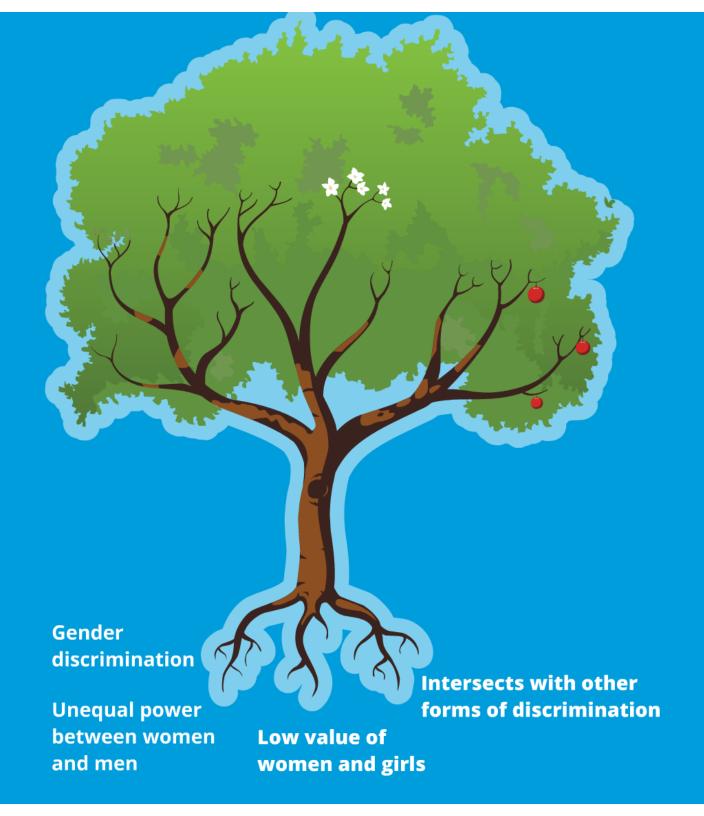




"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women









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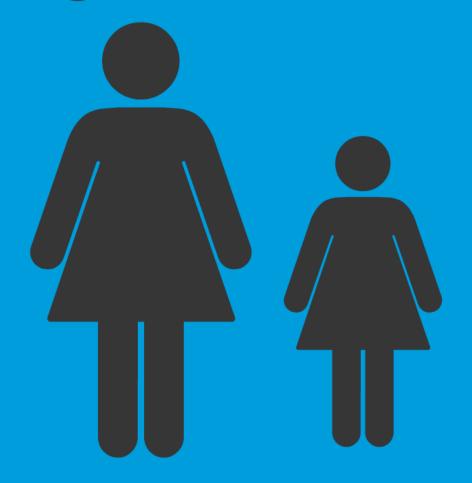




- States have an obligation by international law to exercise due diligence to prevent, protect and punish VAW/G (CEDAW General Recommendation No 19, 1992)
  - States to 'refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations' (Beijing Platform for Action 1995)



## More than half of victims of sexual assault are girls under the age of 16





## In Asia, nearly 4 in 10 women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18



#### Violence against the girl child

Sexual exploitation

Sexual Se

trafficking
Harmful practices
- Early marriage
- Son preference
- FGM/C

# Sexual harassment .

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## rence

## Sexual abuse



# trafficking

practices



# trafficking

### Harmful practices

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Sexual abu



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Sexual abuse



# Violence against women and girls in Asia-Pacific





#### Areas of achievement

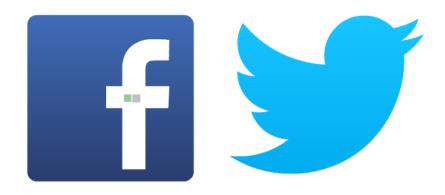


**Legal & policy reform** 

#### **Data & evidence**



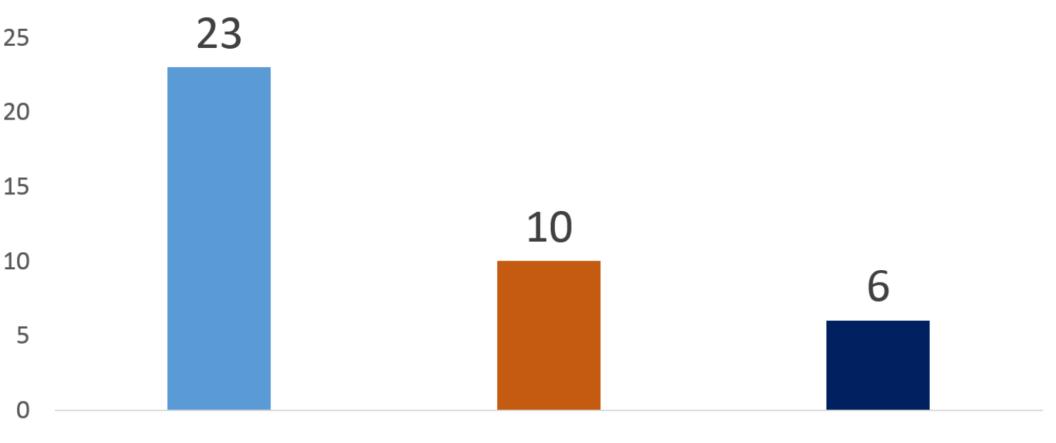
#### **Campaigns & awareness-raising**







## Violence against Women Laws & Policies





VAW/DV laws

35

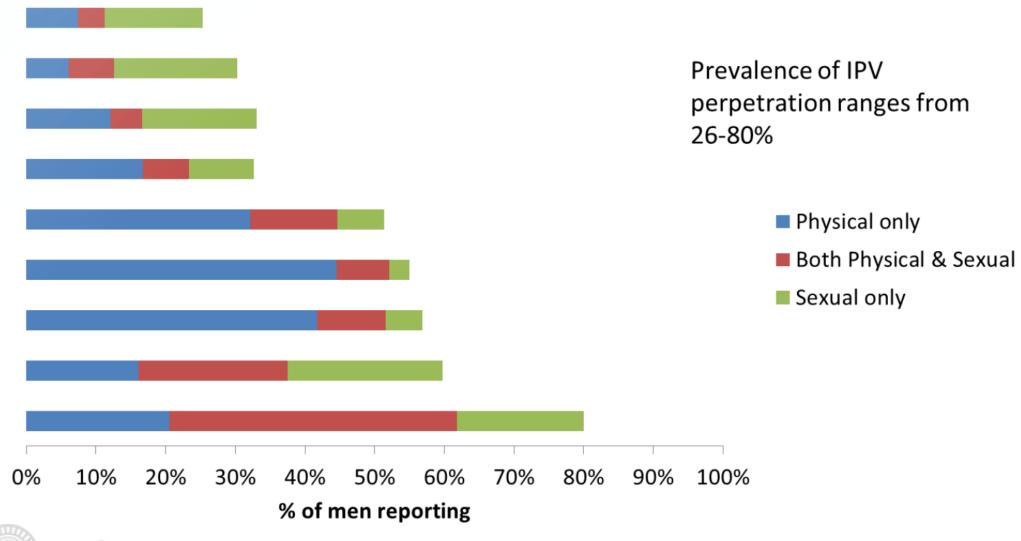
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Marital rape criminalized

Active National Action Plan

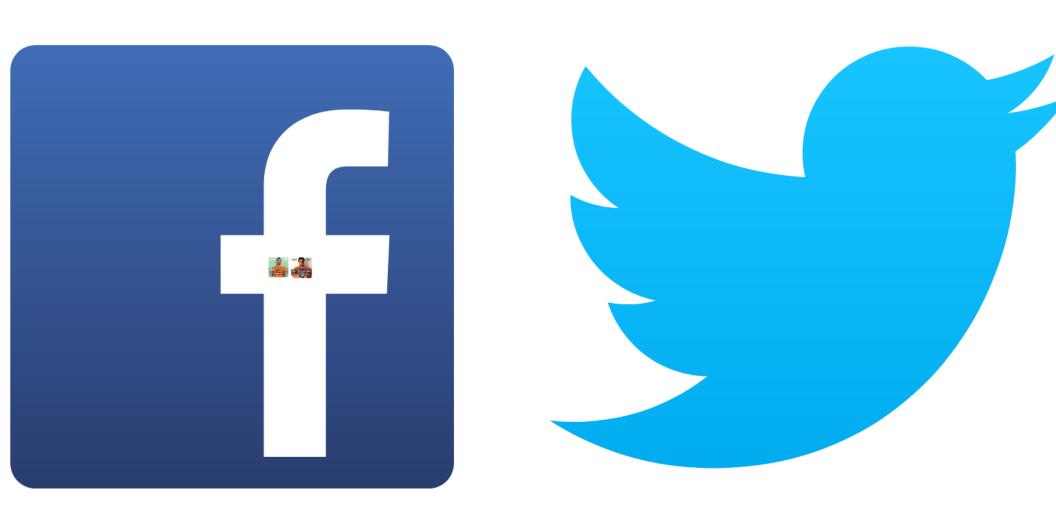


#### Prevalence high but varies across sites





## aigns &awareness-raisii











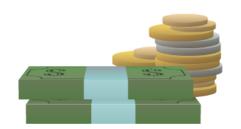


## Remaining gaps

#### **Service provision**



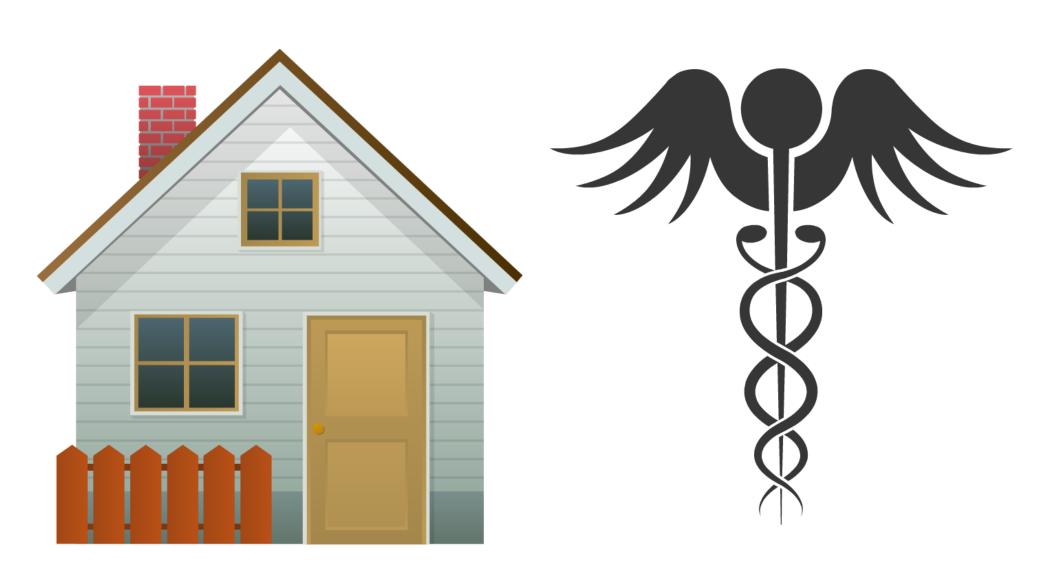
#### **Budgets**



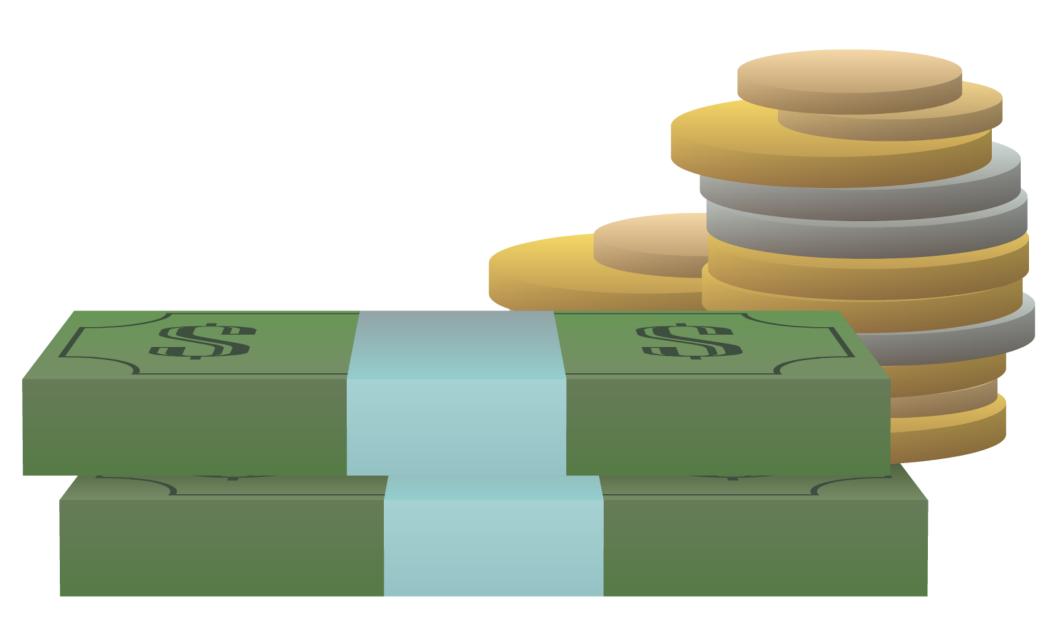
#### **Justice**



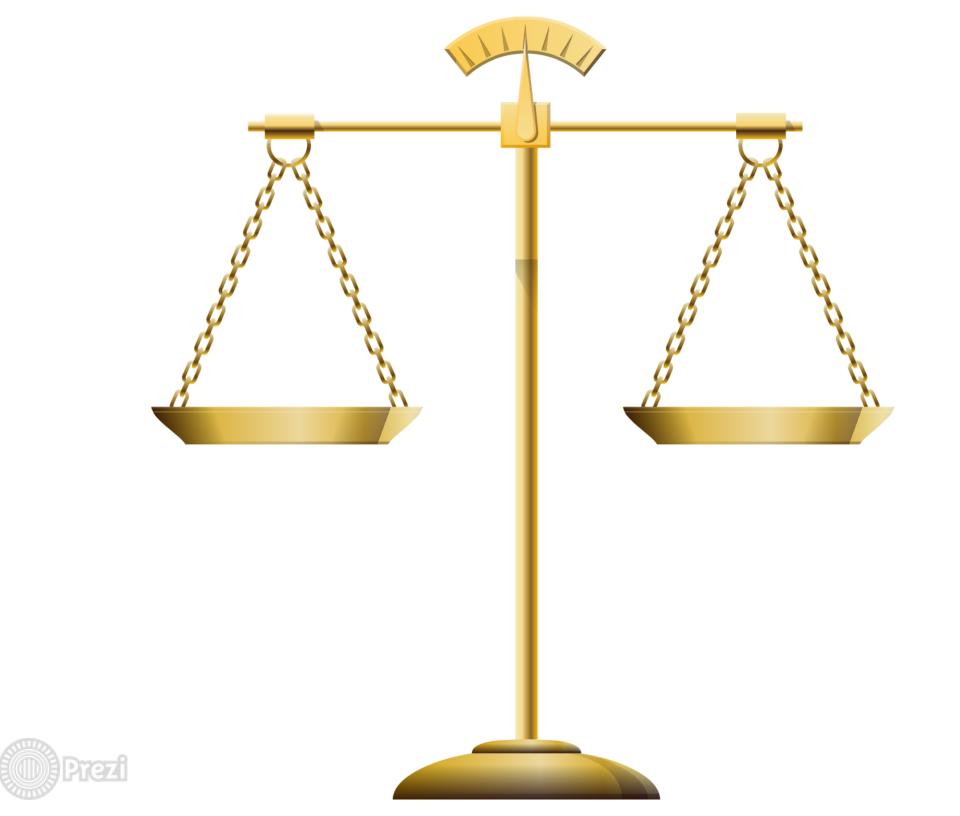
















### Priorities for Action

#### 1. Prevent violence against men and girls before it occurs



Address root causes and promote gender equitable norms

Prevent child abuse and promote violence-free homes and schools

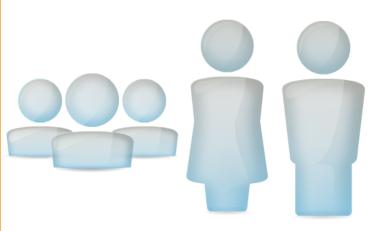
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The Role of the State in

Support coordina

## 1. Prevent violence against women and girls before it occurs



Address root causes and promote gender equitable norms

Prevent child abuse and promote violence-free homes and schools

#### Promote non-violent and healthy ways of being a man

Focus on young men and women to break the cycle of violence and create equitable gender relations for future generations

- School-, sports- or peer-based education to promote knowledge and life skills





## 2. Respond to VAW/G after it happens

Adopt, implement and enforce laws that criminalize VAW Prosecute perpetrators and ensure victims have access to justice

#### Ensure coordinated multisectoral services for victims/ survivors

- Shelters, hotlines, legal aid, healthcare, counseling, employment, sexual and reproductive health...



"A systematic and holistic approach..."



# The Role of the State in enhancing accountability

Monitor and evaluate the implementation - and impact - of



Ensure a strong and transformative stan alone gender equality in the post 2015 agen

Create an 'enabling and environment' to transform norms

Education, family policies, media campaigns...





Collect data on the prevalence, causes and consequences of VAW/G





**Monitor and** evaluate the implementation and impact - of policies and programmes





## Allocate and track budgets and resources





# Support coordination across all sectors



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