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Community Response to Addressing Child Marriage

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July 2015



Project: Protecting Human Rights

Goal: To reduce domestic violence and other gender-based violence through an integrated, grassroots and multi-faceted approach.

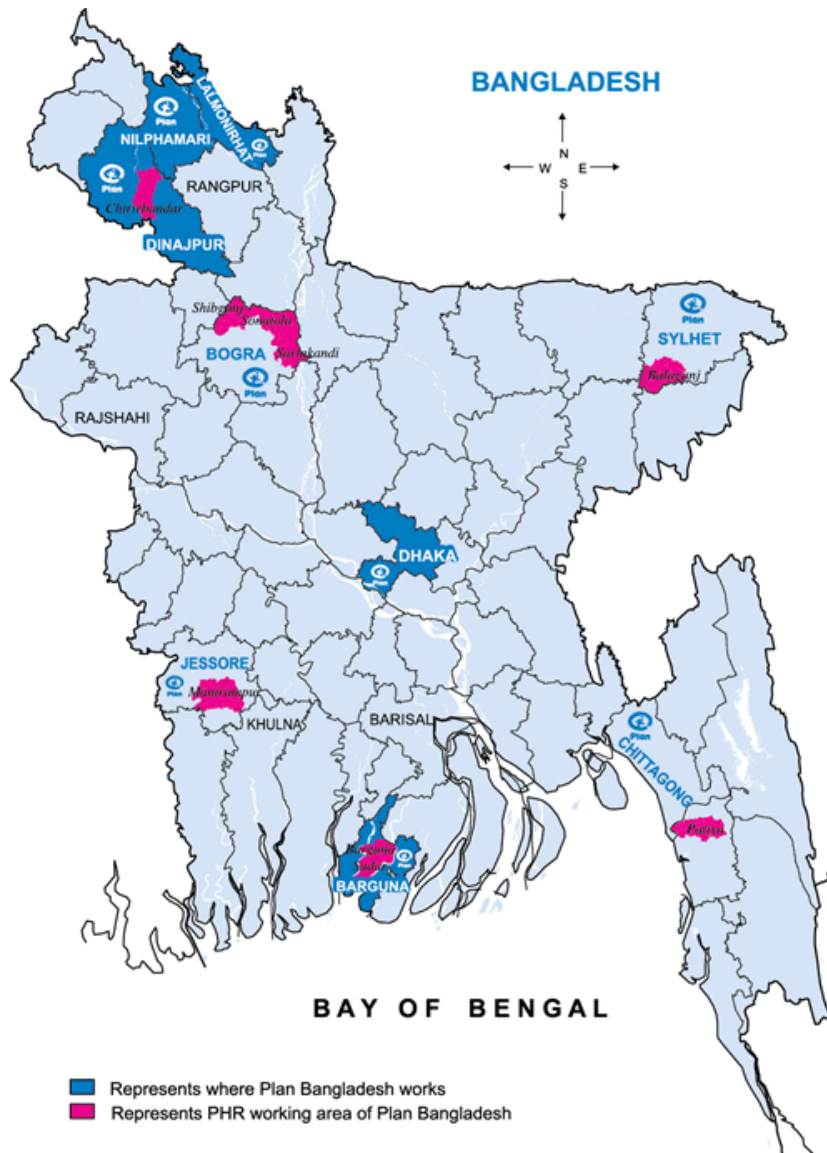
Duration: March 2011 - March 2016

Funded by: USAID Bangladesh (\$12.7 million)

Implemented by: Plan International Bangladesh; one international, one national and local NGO partners



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Geographic Coverage

- **6 Districts:** Barguna, Bogra, Chittagong, Dinajpur, Jessore & Sylhet
- **8 Upazilas:** Barguna Sadar, Sariakandi, Sonatala, Shibgonj, Patiya, Chirirbandar, Manirampur & Balagonj
- **102 Unions**



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Health Consequences of Child Marriage

Reproductive Health Issues

- Pregnancy Complications
- Health of unborn or new born children
- Increased maternal and child mortality rate
- High Morbidity
- Lack of awareness pregnancy, sexual intercourse and contraception
- Can be victim of unwanted and unplanned pregnancy
- Increased risk of STI/STD

Mental health concerns

- Adolescent girls are traumatized by entering into new households and having multiple adult roles imposed on them
- Marital rape
- Non-consensual sex
- Emotional abuse and discrimination
- Isolation from family and friends

General overall health and hygiene



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Implementing PHR



PHR trains and builds the capacity of all actors. The network of social workers, legal counselors, SPGs, UHRAFs, police, judges, panel lawyers and civil servants help PHR to combat VAW at the village, union, upazila, district, division and national levels.



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Stopping Child Marriage: What are we Doing?



- Formed and activated community based Social Protection Groups. In the last two years PHR has stopped 898 child marriages.
- Training Social Workers with counselling skills to help support the mental health of survivors.
- Training of medical professionals and others.
- Public Awareness and IEC materials
- Youth clubs and school program
- Champions & declaration of child free marriage zones
- Working with the government to strengthen the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929



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Thank you.

Questions?

