

#END CHILD MARRIAGE  
#END VAWG

# **CREATING SPACES TO TAKE ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE PHILIPPINES:**

## **INTEGRATED IMPACT EVALUATION REPORT**

## **Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls in the Philippines: Integrated Impact Evaluation Report**

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# Background

Violence against women and girls is a global silent pandemic. During the past two decades the Government of the Philippines has taken national action to legislate against violence against women and girls. Local government plays an important role in delivering on these legal protections, providing gender-responsive services to women and girl victims and survivors. Despite these laws and policies, there remains a high prevalence of violence against women and girls in the country. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has served only to increase the incidence of violence against women and girls.

Political devolution in the Philippines reflects the country's diverse social and cultural make up, none more so than in the Muslim Mindanao region. After years of civil conflict and peace negotiations, in 2019 the Government of the Philippines recognized the politically devolved Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). During the subsequent political and economic transition period, however, the region continues to feel the effects of ongoing armed conflict, compounded by natural disasters and the national crackdown on COVID-19.

Violence against women and girls is prevalent in the Muslim Mindanao region, although it is not unique to this region nor to the practices of people with religious faith.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, Oxfam recognizes that violence against women and girls is not solely an issue within the region nor within Muslim majority communities.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, while this region has a largely Muslim population, it is also socioculturally and religiously diverse.<sup>3</sup>

Women in the Muslim Mindanao region are typically reluctant to seek help or tell anyone about experiencing violence. This non-reporting is driven by stigma and a culture of shame. Gender-based violence is seen as an acceptable form of behaviour for a significant minority of women; a third of women in the region, for instance, perceived wife beating to be justifiable in certain circumstances. Underpinning these attitudes and behaviours are high levels of poverty,<sup>4</sup> patriarchal social norms, low education among men, economic dependence among women and a lack of community support for survivors.<sup>5</sup>

Child marriage is a specific form of violence against girls, which has damaging consequences. Girls who become child brides are more likely to drop out of school, suffer health shocks and experience other forms of violence. The sociocultural drivers of child, early and forced marriage are varied and complex, covering the economic exchange value of girls, cultural concerns over control over sexuality, custom and tradition, and the need to ensure security and a better future for daughters in situations of acute poverty.<sup>6</sup>

'In Maranao, the belief is when you have your period or reach puberty at the age of 13 or 14, they should get married. This is more [about] avoiding sin.'

— Creating Spaces project partner

'In 2017, one in four Filipino women age 15-49 experienced physical, emotional or sexual violence by their husband or partner, with 2% of these women experiencing sexual violence.'

— Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2017



Child, early and forced marriage is a social norm across all six countries involved in Oxfam's multi-country Creating Spaces project, including in the Philippines,<sup>7</sup> where in 2017, one in six young women had been married before they were 18. Child, early and forced marriage is also evident in the Muslim Mindanao region, where economic instability, fear of violence, and a felt need to maintain 'family honour' has pushed the incidence of child, early and forced marriage to high levels.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, marriage under the age of 18 is permissible under the devolved BARMM government's Code of Muslim Personal Laws, which is recognized by the national constitution of the Philippines.



Hanod Ebrahim is a youth leader who is changing lives in her community by using her voice to end child marriage in the town of Mamasapano, Maguindanao. Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas



# The Creating Spaces project

The Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls (or 'Creating Spaces') project was a five-year multi-country initiative (2016–2021) aimed at reducing violence against women and girls and the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage. Creating Spaces was led by Oxfam country teams in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines. Across these six countries, the project shared an integrated approach and ambition to shift behavioural and social norms around violence against women and girls.

Oxfam Philippines focused their Creating Spaces project on tackling social norm change in the Muslim Mindanao region of the country. The project's theory of change described an integrated approach that worked at local up to national levels to achieve the critical mass required for social change (Figure 1). At the local level, Creating Spaces sought to build awareness and voice among women and girls, while also working with women leaders and community influencers to shift local behaviours and norms.<sup>9</sup> It combined online social media outreach with offline outreach

to community spaces and schools. The project also focused locally on strengthening support services and outreach for women and girl survivors of violence. At the same time, it worked at higher levels to lobby for national and provincial legislative and policy change, driven by its support to group and social network advocacy.

Oxfam Philippines worked closely with four key partners to achieve the project's objectives in the Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao provinces of Muslim Mindanao. The Al-Mujadilah Women's Association (AMWA) in Lanao del Sur and the United Youth of the Philippines – Women (UnYPhil) in Maguindanao delivered awareness raising and capacity building sessions with mothers and youth in their respective areas. The Philippine Business for Social Progress Foundation (PBSP) supported economic empowerment for women and girl survivors of violence through skills training and capital support; and the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) lobbied at the national level for legislative change on child, early and forced marriage.



Mia, an 18-year-old former student, is one of 70 young people who was mentored by United Youth of the Philippines Women (UnYPhil) to be a youth leader. Even after leaving school, Mia continues to participate in Creating Spaces activities so she can help others.

Photo: April Abello-Bulanadi/Oxfam Pilipinas

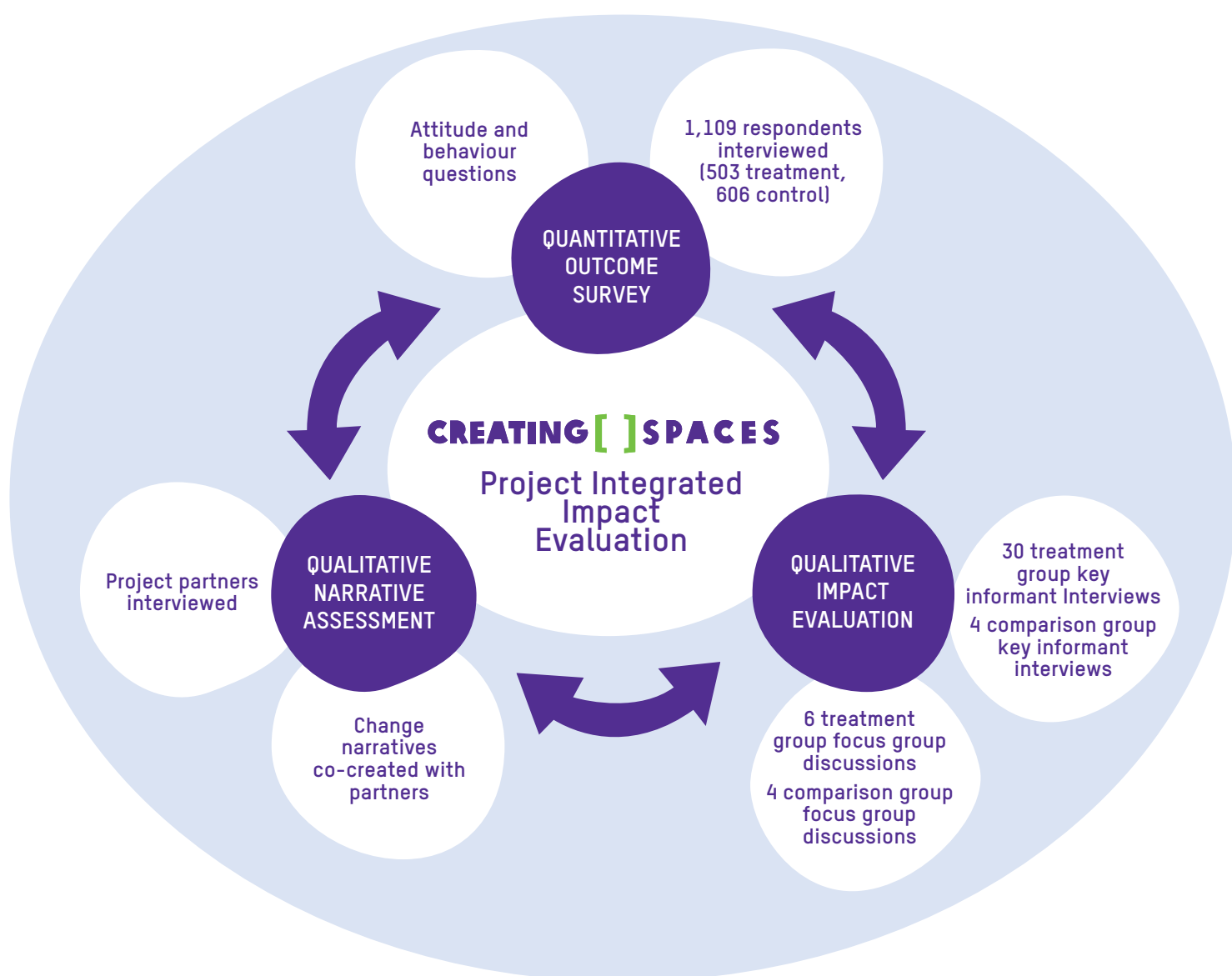
FIGURE 1. OXFAM PHILIPPINES CREATING SPACES PROJECT THEORY OF CHANGE



# The Creating Spaces project integrated impact evaluation

This report integrates the findings and analysis of three key evaluative studies. These studies combined a mix of methods and generated quantitative and qualitative data to describe the project's contribution to reducing violence against women and girls in the Muslim Mindanao region (Figure 2).

**FIGURE 2. THE INTEGRATED IMPACT EVALUATION DATA COLLECTION PROCESS**







CS partners meet with Senator Riza Hontiveros to discuss the CEFM bill, Philippines. Photo: Patricia Miranda/Oxfam Pilipinas

A Year-6 **OUTCOME SURVEY** was conducted at the end of 2021. Using a quantitative approach, the survey was administered to a random sample of 1,109 respondents, comprising both women and girls and community influencers. It used a 'with and without' sampling method to allow for comparison of a treatment group (503 respondents) and a comparison group (606 respondents). The survey comprised a range of questions inviting respondents to score their attitudes and behaviours towards violence against women and girls, and child, early and forced marriage.<sup>10</sup>

This quantitative survey was sequenced with a follow-up qualitative evaluative study, implemented in 2022 to elicit explanatory depth as part of an integrated methodological approach to impact evaluation. The **QUALITATIVE IMPACT EVALUATION**'s primary purpose was to examine the contribution of the project's advocacy work to shift policies relating to violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage at different levels.

The study used a 'process tracing' approach to understanding cause and effect and providing evidence of the project's contribution to change. It drew on an inception phase of desk-based secondary data review and a main fieldwork phase of primary data collection conducted in sampled project and comparison group *barangays*<sup>11</sup> (neighbouring *barangays*, similar in profile, that were not included in the project) across the six project municipalities. The primary data collection involved:

- thirty key informant interviews with women leaders, local and national policy makers, religious leaders, local service providers and youth influencers. An additional four key informant interviews were conducted in neighbouring comparison *barangays*.
- six focus group discussions with women leaders, youth champions, male community members and service providers engaged by the project through its partners. Participants in each group were drawn from the six project municipalities. Two additional focus group discussions were held with community members from comparison *barangays*.
- follow-up in-depth interviews with selected focus group participants to explore their experience and perspectives on violence in their lives and/or in their communities sensitively and in greater depth.

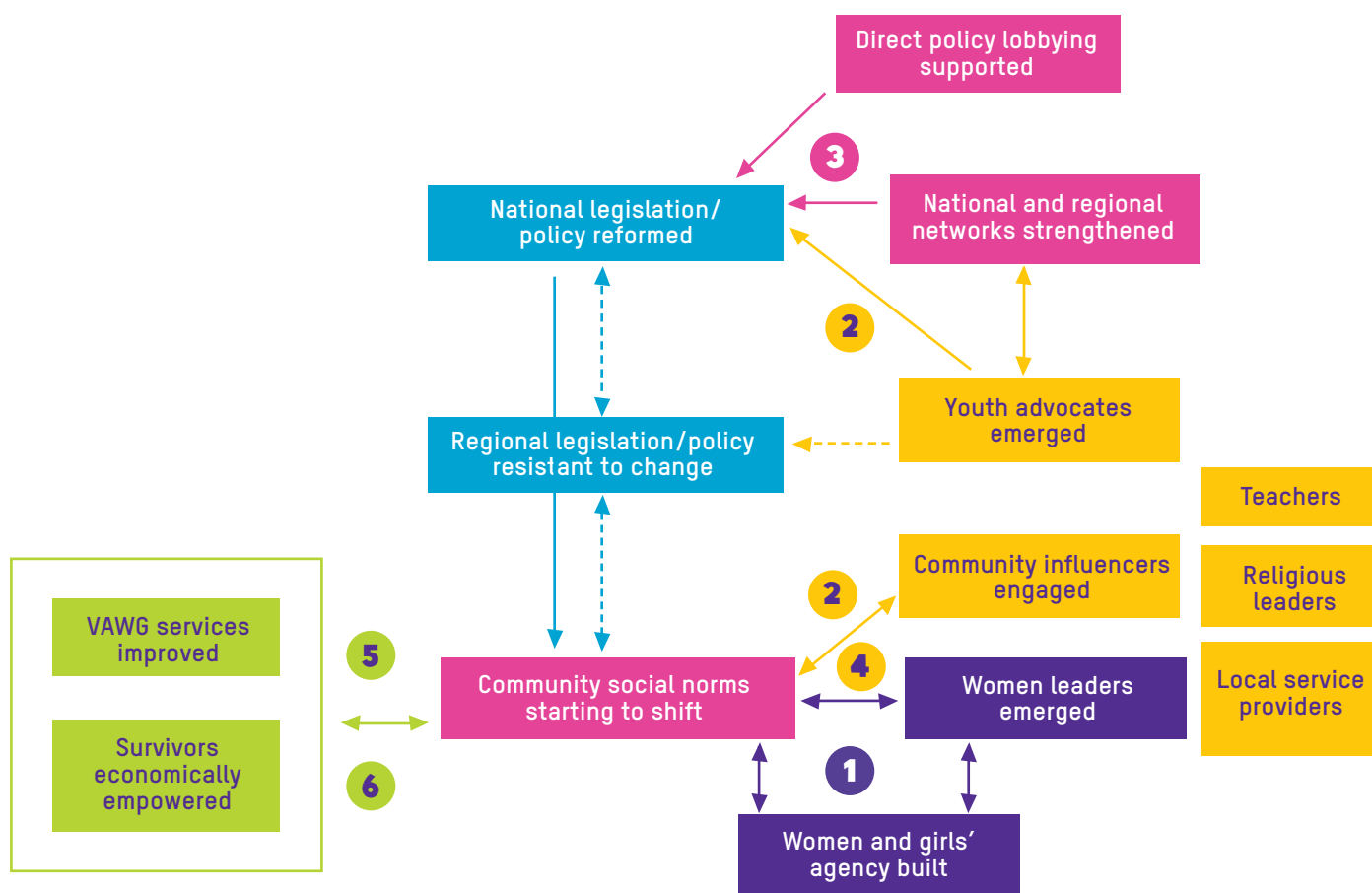
In a third follow-up phase, the impact evaluation team facilitated sense-making sessions with local partners and key Oxfam staff to develop a shared understanding of the project's contribution to change.

A distinct study conducted as part of the Impact Evaluation was a qualitative **NARRATIVE ASSESSMENT**. This described and assessed the project's policy influencing strategies. The evaluation team interviewed Creating Spaces partners on the process and outputs of their policy influencing strategies. The Narrative Assessment was annexed to the main Qualitative Impact Evaluation report.

# Evaluation findings, analysis and recommendations

The integrated impact evaluation highlighted evidence of six areas where the Creating Spaces project contributed towards its goal of reducing violence against women and girls and the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage. These contributions are numbered and mapped in Figure 3, and discussed in turn below.

**FIGURE 3. EVALUATION FINDINGS MAPPED**



## Finding 1.

### The Creating Spaces project increased awareness and confidence among women and girls, while women leaders emerged as influencers within their communities

A key strategy of Creating Spaces was to empower women and girls by raising their awareness of violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage, and building their confidence to speak out to their families and communities.

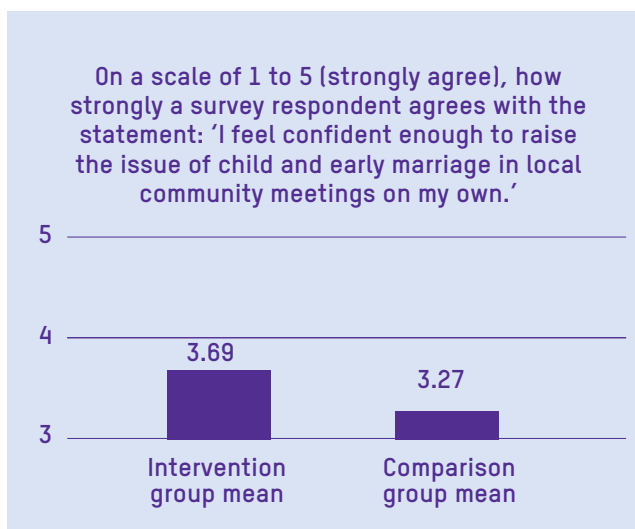
#### FINDINGS

Through its awareness-building activities, Creating Spaces progressively shifted perceptions among women and girls towards violence against women and girls. This was evident in the survey findings on community influencer attitudes towards rape. When asked if a raped married woman or girl had committed adultery, almost two-thirds (63%) responded 'no'. Furthermore, 84% of community influencers did not believe that it was a girl's fault if she was raped (Outcome Survey, pp.14–15)

Women and girls in project communities were also significantly more confident than those in comparison communities to raise the issue of violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage – individually or with other women – in community meetings or directly with the families concerned. Women in project communities were also more confident about speaking out with the backing of other women or community members.

Significantly, the Creating Spaces project's contribution went beyond changing awareness and confidence among women and girls. Through its outreach with implementing partners, women in project communities became leaders and influencers in their own right, empowered to take action and discuss issues of child, early and

forced marriage and violence against women and girls with their fellow community members. As a result, there was an increase in such cases being reported to the police and to local authorities (Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.43; pp. 58–59).



'A woman leader mentioned that 'the situation here before, women lacked the courage to stand up for themselves and their rights, or to seek help especially if they don't understand what they are experiencing ... if it is violence against women and girls or not.'

– Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.51

'What I can really say is that the community learned and started reporting cases of child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls; I saw that change.'

– Woman influencer, Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.52

Community influencers also took direct action with authorities to increase protection for women and girl survivors of violence. Project managers received reports, for instance, of women leaders representing community members displaced by armed conflict and staying in temporary evacuation centres. These women leaders took the initiative to seek an audience with village or *barangay* leaders to discuss security issues for girls and women within the evacuation centres.

## ANALYSIS

Creating Spaces worked effectively to change mindsets among a key target group – community women and young mothers that had experienced violence against women and girls or child, early and forced marriage. The project strategically identified the influencing power of mothers towards their children and families. Through its partner, AMWA, the project designed and delivered a series of five-day capacity building sessions with both mothers and fathers within project communities.

The project's 'agency' strategy of raising awareness and confidence among this key set of influencers as a springboard to community outreach proved highly effective, contributing to a reported raising of awareness within project communities on violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage (Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.19).

Additional mixed-method analysis revealed that group-based approaches worked particularly well to trigger outreach and attitude changes. Women participating in the capacity building sessions expressed greater confidence and willingness to play an influencing role in their families and in community meetings when supported by other women than when acting alone.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these findings and analysis of the contribution of Creating Spaces, this evaluation recommends that future programming invests further in building the influencing capacity of mothers who have experienced violence, as well as with the families of these women by extending outreach to their siblings and parents. It should also design group-based awareness raising and influencer activity more deliberately into project strategies.

These investments should be closely tied to ongoing strategic efforts for strengthening accountability mechanisms in service provision (a project outcome statement). These should build and sustain citizen monitoring of services for women and girl survivors of violence, and engage local decision makers and service providers to improve such programmes and services (see Finding 5).

## Finding 2. The Creating Spaces project contributed to local engagement by community influencers on violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage, while youth emerged as key advocates for change at both community and national levels

In addition to its focus on women leaders, Creating Spaces also targeted a second tier of community influencers. These included both established community leaders – such as religious elders, teachers and local service providers – but also notably the next generation of emerging youth leaders and advocates.



### FINDINGS

There was clearly some lingering uncertainty among influencers about their potential to bring about change: the survey found that a majority of influencers (54%) were not yet involved in policy advocacy and that a significant minority (37%) did not believe they had the authority or the skills to advocate (Outcome Survey, pp.16–17).

Despite some hesitancy, however, the project's second-tier influencer strategy was highly effective in contributing to specific outcomes. Through project outreach, local service providers, teachers (including through some curriculum integration) and other leaders increased their awareness of the child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls. This led directly to an increase in dialogue on these issues at the community level and in schools during flag-raising ceremonies (Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.55).

Significantly, a reported reduction in cases of violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage in the project communities was further evidenced by a decline in school dropouts alongside a reduction in social media postings and community mother narratives<sup>12</sup> on the issues (Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.52; p.59).

Beyond their local influencing and behaviour change role, this evaluation also confirmed the emergence of youth advocates in the higher-level policy lobbying process (see Finding 3).

### ANALYSIS

The influencer contribution is not a 'numbers game', but needs to be part of an intelligent strategy. Creating Spaces demonstrated its strategic approach by targeting women leaders, 'progressive' religious leaders and young people in and out of school.

In reaching out to young people, project partners focused effectively on school-based activity, backed up by mobile community awareness sessions (with UnYPhil) reporting reaching more

than 1,000 young people through quarterly mobile outreach sessions). Youth leaders emerged as advocates for change within local government, line ministries and national legislation (see Finding 3).

This was allied with a successful strategic decision to sidestep debates over religious interpretations of child marriage by reframing child, early and forced marriage messaging to place greater emphasis on the damaging effects of child marriage on women's physical health, mental well-being and their life opportunities (Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.62).

Significantly, this local advocacy strategy was reinforced and amplified by a concerted online social media campaign.<sup>13</sup> Project partners built an online presence through social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to stimulate virtual discussions around violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage. Partners linked this local social media activity to the national #GirlDefenders alliance online campaign for national legislative change on child, early and forced marriage, centred on lobbying for the passage of the Girls Not Brides bill.

**'In the beginning, people and the community didn't see the disadvantages of child, early and forced marriage. [Through the Creating Spaces project] we have seen its negative effects on women and community.'**

— Project youth participant

In marked contrast to many externally-driven, 'projectized' approaches to social movement building, the project's strategy of supporting indigenous grassroots advocacy movements and accountable governance campaigns, notably the youth movement, proved to be a highly sustainable approach to institution building and social change. Significantly this project investment in youth advocacy was emergent and thus a powerful example of the project's overall adaptive management approach.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Creating Spaces successfully integrated community-level influencing with community-led advocacy for policy change on violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage. At the community level, future interventions should build on the impact created through schools by scaling up and formalising the curriculum integration of violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage, as well as in classroom discussions and school activities.

Meanwhile, future programming support to social change processes should seek to maximize the sustainability of project-triggered social movements. This should include working to institutionalize municipal-level coalitions that involve staff of local government units and departments, and representatives of women’s groups, admittedly a challenge due to administrative turnover following election cycles. Furthermore, Creating Spaces has demonstrated that there is a strong case for investing further in engaging educators and religious leaders as a central element of future programming.

## ALAIRA’S STORY

Alaira was a student in one of the schools in Maguindanao. She was not familiar with child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls prior to her engagement with Creating Spaces. In one of the flag-raising events at her school, a youth advocate from Maguindanao Alliance of Youth Advocates (MAYA) discussed child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls. This youth advocate explained what these two concepts were and how they can affect women and girls. From then on, Alaira realized her rights and what she can do as a young girl when it comes to addressing child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls. She became one of the youth advocates of MAYA. Until the time came, Alaira’s parents wanted her to marry at a young age. She refused to get married early because as an advocate, she is aware of the consequences and negative effects of marrying at a young age. Alaira asserted her rights and refused to follow her parents’ decision. She even convinced her parents to attend one of their advocacy sessions. After attending a series of sessions, Alaira’s parents became aware of their child’s rights when it comes to making decisions related to early marriage.

Source: Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.54



Farhana Gany, a MAYA youth leader, teaches young people in her community about the impacts of child, early and forced marriage in Guindulungan, Maguindanao. Photo: Princess Taroza/Oxfam Pilipinas

## Finding 3.

### The Creating Spaces project successfully integrated direct policy lobbying with indirect support for policy advocacy to shift national legislative and policy change on child, early and forced marriage

Creating Spaces adopted a distinct and innovative strategy of linking direct support for higher-level policy lobbying with indirect bottom-up support for community-led advocacy for policy change.

#### FINDINGS

Creating Spaces contributed directly to successful lobbying at the national level for child, early and forced marriage legislation to prohibit child marriage through its support to partner PLCPD (Narrative Assessment, p. 16). This was a significant step in reducing cases of child, early and forced marriage in Muslim Mindanao (Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p. 59).

This was complemented by investing in partners AMWA (in Lanao del Sur) and UnYPhil's (in Maguindanao) support to youth advocates (the 'voice of the next generation') and in its 'critical mass' strategy for wider public opinion shifting and social media campaigning.

Despite this major legislative breakthrough at the national level, there was far less convincing evidence of legislative or policy shifts at the key middle level of local and regional governance.

#### ANALYSIS

Creating Spaces worked effectively to link horizontal community-level behaviour change advocacy with higher-level policy lobbying, backed by high-impact public mobilization events. Reframing the advocacy message from

rights-based absolutism to a child health and development message was a key strategic decision that enabled the lobbying campaign to bypass followers of the region's Code of Muslim Personal Laws.

The project's strategy to support partner PLCPD's multi-pronged advocacy approach proved highly effective. PLCPD brought government and civil society together in a dialogue on child, early and forced marriage between 13 young girls, youth advocates, and legislators. In this way PLCPD expanded their strategy from a focus on mothers who experienced child, early and forced marriage at a younger age to include young people and girls as the new focus and face of the campaign. As a result, the strategy effectively and directly mobilized young people for the campaign, a sector that was largely left untapped before in advocacy work around gender-based violence. Previously, children and young people were widely seen as 'collateral victims' of domestic abuse and violence that have a greater impact on adult women and mothers. This also highlighted the more preventive nature of the Philippine campaign, in addition to strengthening support services for survivors.

**'No similar policy action to end child marriage in the Philippines has been recorded. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Law is unprecedented and has put the Philippines on the right side of history in terms of ending VAWG and CEFM.'**

— Project briefing note on campaigning and advocacy

On the back of this dialogue, Creating Spaces then supported PLCPD to launch a government-citizen alliance (#GirlDefenders) which is now a nationwide movement to end child marriage.<sup>14</sup> #GirlDefenders campaigned for two years (moving online during the pandemic) for the passage of the Girls Not Brides bill.

The decision of PLCPD and partners to change the focus of policy advocacy from amending the code of Muslim personal conduct to proposing a national law was also a significant strategy shift. This shift recognized that issues around child, early and forced marriage are not confined to BARMM or Muslim communities, but can also be observed in other areas and among other groups (including indigenous non-Muslim and Christian groups). This was an example of 'adaptive learning' that was influenced by consultations with national legislators and 'champions' soon after the project's start up and baseline.

While Creating Spaces achieved great success at the national level of policy lobbying, gains were less evident at the middle level of regional and local governance. It struggled to gain traction in policy dialogue in a context of revolving regional administrations and against a background of higher priority tasks consuming the time of the transitioning, devolved government.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Creating Spaces successfully implemented a multi-pronged policy lobbying strategy that integrated citizen-led advocacy, popular campaigns and direct policy discussions. This mixing of 'invited' policy dialogue and wider social movements represents a successful template for future lobbying efforts at the national level. It is an approach that moves beyond an unhelpful binary distinction between consensus-based and adversarial approaches to advocacy.

Clearly, Creating Spaces was less successful at the sub-national level of legislation and policy making. In a governance context where devolved administrations gain considerable authority, future programming should work with embedded partners and networks at the regional level over a longer time period to advocate for progressive changes in policy direction and budget allocations.

### Finding 4.

**At the community level, the Creating Spaces project progressively shifted attitudes on rape, but attitudes on forced sex (rape) in marriage did not shift significantly**

**'What I can say is that communities learned how to report VAWG or even those who were victims of child, early and forced marriage, that's one observable change.'**

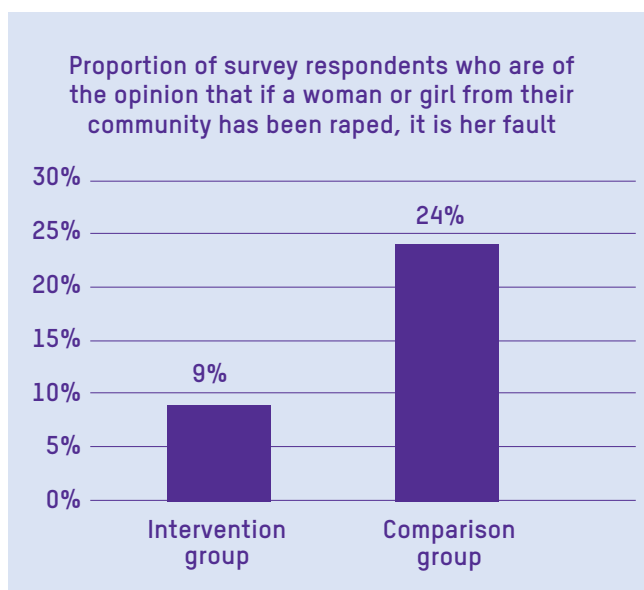
— Qualitative Impact Evaluation interviewee, p.57

Creating Spaces attempted to increase the visibility and discussion of these taboo behaviours through its support to awareness raising, voice and influencers, backed up by a concerted social media campaign.

### FINDINGS

The project interventions at the community level were effective in progressively shifting attitudes and behaviour towards rape. The outcome survey found, for instance, that significantly<sup>15</sup> fewer people (by 15 percentage points) in the project communities thought that forced intercourse was a woman's fault, compared with those surveyed in the comparison communities (Outcome Survey, Q31).





The issue of rape in marriage, however, appeared to be deeply taboo and resistant to the project's attempts to prompt surfacing and discussion. Significantly, some 95% of women and girls stated that they would remain quiet or talk only to their mothers if forced to have sex in marriage.

These findings must be caveated in that the survey sampled only women and girls and thus the evaluation could not elicit any potential shifts in attitudes towards rape within project communities among men, boys and non-binary individuals.

## ANALYSIS

Creating Spaces was successful in prompting an incremental shift in attitudes and behaviour around rape. The project strategy took a 'systems-wide' approach to changing social norms, combining a community-level awareness and influencing approach with direct action taken by project partners to put out messaging. In one notable instance, a project partner took action against a local official accused of rape and took the case to court (as reported in internal project reflections).

The issue of forced sex in marriage proved to be resistant to surfacing and therefore to change, as a particularly taboo area of discussion in the wider context of a 'silence/shame culture' underpinning violence against women and girls. Despite this, the evaluation did find that in some instances women would talk to their mothers about their experience of forced sex in marriage. Mothers emerged as key confidants and an entry point for starting a wider conversation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the taboo nature of rape – and particularly rape in marriage – Creating Spaces has made an impressive contribution to 'moving the dial' on this issue. Its systems-wide approach – combining influencer-led informal conversations with formal sanctions – should be a model for future interventions.

There is also an opportunity to target additional awareness raising and capacity building with mothers – allied with a broadened awareness-raising campaign – to name and tackle sexual violence in marriage, defined unequivocally as rape. This might be backed by a deepening of discussions among Oxfam and partners on the use of terminology in their gender-based violence programming.

Finally, the project's somewhat limited ambition in monitoring attitude and behaviour changes towards rape should be remedied in future interventions by a more complete monitoring sampling frame that includes men, boys and non-binary individuals.

## Finding 5.

**The Creating Spaces project increased community-level access to services for women and girl survivors of violence, while strengthening oversight and social accountability among local service providers**

At the local level, Creating Spaces linked its drive towards community attitude and behaviour changes with a focus on supporting the strengthening of policy delivery through more accessible and higher-quality local government support services for women and girl survivors of violence.

### FINDINGS

Creating Spaces successfully increased awareness about local services for women and girl survivors of violence among women and girls in project communities. Almost 50% of outcome survey respondents confirmed that they had learned about local services through their participation in

## MISHA'S STORY

Misha was one of the local service providers in Maguindanao. She was very much involved in the development and improvement of gender and development-related programmes and services. Misha mentioned that the issues and cases of child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls were always part of their regular meetings. Together with their local chief executive, they brainstormed how to better resolve child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls in the community. They saw that poverty and limited access to education are the main causes of both issues. Therefore, they developed regular programmes to provide scholarships to the most-in-need children in the community as part of the prevention programme of the local government's Gender and Development unit. With this, young people were given opportunities to access education and not resort to early marriage.

Source: Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.58



Public hearing on child early and forced marriage, January 2020, Philippines. Oxfam and partners invited to attend as resource persons by the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality. Photo: Rina Fulo/Oxfam Pilipinas

project training (Outcome Survey, p.53). This was in marked contrast to an almost complete absence of awareness among women and girls in comparison communities of the existence of local government desks addressing violence against women, and the services that they offered.

On the supply side, the project was effective in supporting local service providers to improve the quality and accessibility of their services for women and girl survivors of violence. Local service providers who were partners reported improved service provision, integrated with enhanced awareness outreach on violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage, for example in a local government-funded scholarship programme and through its integration in disaster risk reduction outreach services (Qualitative Impact Evaluation, p.58)

### ANALYSIS

Creating Spaces worked strategically on both the demand side and supply side of violence against women and girls. Through a combination of community-led and local service provider-led awareness raising, project communities became aware of the services offered and became willing to report violence cases. In the case of local service provider-led outreach, the project strategy to mainstream awareness raising of violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage into regular local government service provision was reportedly successful.

In respect of service quality and accessibility, Creating Spaces directly supported local service providers to streamline their processing of cases of violence against women and girls, making referral pathways more efficient and less traumatic for survivors, while improve the accessibility of their services for women and girl survivors of violence. At the same time, project partner PBSP had not mapped government and local civil society organizations' programme and service provision – scope, quality and accessibility – as the basis for

a sustained and effective advocacy strategy. This study was being planned at the mid-term point of the project, but was not followed through.

Latterly, Creating Spaces introduced a citizen monitoring and immediate responder approach in the shape of gender-based violence watch groups, initiated by project partner UnYPhil with women and girl leaders in project communities. These groups were conceived to combine the important roles of monitoring the incidence of violence against women and girls and providing peer support for survivors to help them access support services. They also engaged in social accountability monitoring of local service providers' case handling (using citizen score cards), while continuing to sustain awareness within communities. There was, however, no follow-up to monitor how the citizen score card tool was being applied in partners' and women leaders' work.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the Creating Spaces project's success in improving service outreach and accessibility for women and girl survivors of violence, future initiatives should consider reinforcing and expanding the project-supported institutional innovations with local government and local service providers. The increased advocacy on these services should be more strategic and built on a systematic scoping study that maps current provision, identifying gaps and opportunities.

Future programming should also consider building on the promising (but late) introduction of citizen-led watch groups into the project process by first conducting a status assessment of existing or available services, and then boosting support to this type of institutional innovation and linking them more deliberately to the services of local providers. This support would usefully extend to formalising accountability mechanisms within local service providers in the form of provider/user score card monitoring and joint reflection.

## Finding 6.

### Through training and accompanying support, the Creating Spaces project increased access to income-generating activities and enhanced economic independence among women and girl survivors of violence and child, early and forced marriage

Recognising that economic dependence is key to reproducing norms around violence against women and girls, Creating Spaces adopted a highly innovative cross-sectoral approach that sought to economically empower survivors by combining awareness raising of violence against women and girls with training and accompanying support to undertake independent economic activities.

## FINDINGS

Creating Spaces contributed to the capacity of women and girls affected by violence to engage in independent economic activities. Among the project participants in the economic training sessions, almost two-fifths (39%) of women and girls felt that their knowledge and skills to participate in economic activities had increased (Outcome Survey, p.63).

Significantly, the majority of participants (84%) subsequently contributed financially to their households. Their families were very supportive of their shift into income earning; for example, reducing their burden of household work so as to give them time for their economic activities (Outcome Survey, p.63).

## ANALYSIS

As with Finding 5 on service accessibility, the project partner – in this case PBSP – implemented a highly effective two-pronged strategy. This involved working both on the supply side to improve local government and local service providers' outreach and accessibility, and on the demand side to increase economic empowerment and raise awareness of services.

After a lack of partner collaboration was flagged up in the project's mid-term review, PBSP worked collaboratively with fellow project partner UnYPhil to piggyback this demand-side training onto UnYPhil's awareness-raising sessions on violence against women and girls. PBSP then provided accompanying support in the shape of capital outlays and market linkages.

In this way, the economic empowerment strategy built on the core agency-building elements of Creating Spaces (see Finding 1) by strengthening economic independence and thus reducing vulnerability among victims and survivors. This was particularly important given that the gendered impacts of the recent national policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic have had a disproportionate impact on women's income-earning opportunities.

In the same way that women leaders and influencers emerged more confidently through group-based approaches to awareness raising, so too a collective approach to economic support proved particularly effective with women and girl survivors of violence and child, early and forced marriage.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this innovative integration of project strands, future interventions should make explicit in their design the mutually reinforcing relationship between gender sensitization and economic empowerment.



Interventions adopting this integrated strategy should also look to work on 'both sides of the fence' by capacity building with women and girl survivors of violence, while reaching out to local service providers and private sector partners to strengthen outreach and accessibility for financial services.

Critically, successful economic empowerment processes will require project support to work closely with both the government and private sector, strengthening market access and supply chain linkages, including partnering with ongoing government initiatives.

There is a strong case for economic empowerment services to be institutionalized within local government responses to violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage, moving beyond social support to a more comprehensive, sustainable and transformative policy response.



Amaliah conducts classroom discussions on gender-based violence and child, early and forced marriage among schoolmates in the Philippines. Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas

# Conclusions

The Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls project was a five-year initiative aimed at reducing violence against women and girls and the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage in the project location of Muslim Mindanao.

In tackling violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage, Creating Spaces took on an extremely resistant social norm, one structurally embedded and widely unspoken. To unsettle this social norm, it designed and implemented a multi-pronged approach to social change that drew on a range of strategies. These centred on: provoking new conversations through media and public awareness campaigns; targeting women and girl survivors to building their awareness and empower them to stand up and speak out; sensitising local leaders and influencers to challenge received wisdom; supporting the emergence of youth advocacy movements; lobbying legislators to shift entitlements and protections; and partnering with local governments and service providers to strengthen the design and delivery of policies.

Creating Spaces combined strategies effectively at the community level to begin to shift local behaviours. It also linked local change processes vertically to higher-level advocacy for progressive legislative and policy change at the national and regional levels.

Throughout, Creating Spaces partnered with local and national NGOs with complementary skill sets, and through this partnership approach tried to leave behind a sustainable process of strengthened institutions and processes. At the same time, it worked in a dynamic and adaptive way, reflecting and adapting its strategies during implementation as contexts changed and new opportunities emerged, and in response to successes and failures.

The process of achieving a critical mass of changed behaviours around violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage that will ultimately transform underpinning social norms remains a huge challenge in the Philippines and in the Muslim Mindanao region. During the past six years, Creating Spaces has successfully started to move the dial and has proved that change is possible with concerted, strategic and sustained effort. This evaluation has provided a number of key recommendations which can help guide future interventions to build on these successes and create the basis for future social transformation around violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage.

# ANNEX A: Outcome Survey methodological overview

The Outcome Survey was administered electronically using SurveyCTO, with in-person interviews undertaken by an external consulting team. ‘Women and girl community members’ and ‘influencers’ were selected for the intervention group using purposive random sampling and for the comparison group following a random walk protocol. The resulting data were used to estimate what the situation would have been without the project (i.e., the counterfactual). We follow the common practice of estimating the counterfactual by comparing those who were part of the project (intervention group) to those who were not (comparison group). We do this using a quasi-experimental approach with propensity score matching (PSM).

During analysis, people in the intervention group are compared with those in the comparison group who have similar baseline characteristics. The baseline data needed for PSM are unavailable, so survey interviewees responded to straightforward questions about their situation in 2016 (the year the project began), thereby creating recall data.<sup>16</sup> While recall data may not be wholly accurate, we assume these data do not bias the evaluation results because systematic variation between how interviewees remember information in the intervention and comparison groups is unlikely. Using recall data to recreate a baseline is not the ideal methodological approach; we opted to use it here as a pragmatic second-best option because the required information was not available.

The matching process starts with characteristics listed in the pre-analysis plan – information about the interviewee, household demographics, income sources and participation in groups, politics, and events – adjusting (minimally) to achieve a good statistical match. Rosenbaum and Rubin demonstrate that a ‘propensity score’ can summarize all this information in one single variable.<sup>17</sup> Propensity scores are calculated using a statistical probability model (e.g., probit or logit) to estimate the probability of participating in the project based on a set of background characteristics. Following Caliendo and Kopeinig,<sup>18</sup> only variables that influence the participation decision, but which are not affected by participation in the project, have been included in the matching model. In this evaluation, we used the following matching characteristics:

- Interviewee age
- Interviewee education
- Interviewee marital status
- Whether the interviewee got married as a child
- Interviewee type (whether they are considered an influencer in their community)
- Whether the interviewee lived in the community at baseline
- Number of household members
- Number of household members under 15 years old
- Interviewee membership in groups
- Interviewee membership in political bodies

Table A1 provides details of the final intervention and comparison groups after matching.

**TABLE A1. DETAILS OF THE INTERVENTION AND COMPARISON GROUPS**

GROUP	BARANGAYS	WOMEN AND GIRLS	WOMEN INFLUENCERS	MEN INFLUENCERS	TOTAL SAMPLE (N)
Intervention	6	69	313	120	502
Comparison	12	477	61	52	590
TOTAL	18	374	546	172	1092

Table A2 shows summary statistics for the intervention and comparison before PSM. The difference column indicates several significant differences between the intervention and comparison group before matching. PSM is used to balance these differences during analysis.

**TABLE A2. SELECTED BALANCE VARIABLES BEFORE MATCHING**

	AVERAGE IN PROJECT GROUP	AVERAGE IN COMPARISON GROUP	DIFFERENCE	STANDARD ERROR
Interviewee age (years)	37.71	38.77	-1.06	0.83
Interviewee, proportion completed primary school	0.26	0.22	0.04	0.03
Interviewee, proportion completed secondary school	0.59	0.57	0.02	0.03
Interviewee, proportion completed tertiary school	0.89	0.83	0.07**	0.02
Interviewee, proportion completed monastic school	0.04	0.06	-0.01	0.01
Interviewee, proportion married	0.69	0.76	-0.06*	0.03
Interviewee, proportion married as a child (<18 years old)	0.20	0.24	-0.04	0.02
Interviewee type, proportion 'influencer'	0.86	0.18	0.68***	0.02
Number of household members in 2016	8.44	7.44	1.01***	0.29
Number of household members <15 years old in 2016	3.03	2.61	0.42*	0.16
Interviewee, proportion that lived in the community in 2016	0.91	0.89	0.02	0.02
Interviewee, proportion member of at least one group in 2016	0.24	0.05	0.18***	0.02
Interviewee, proportion member of multiple groups in 2016	0.16	0.03	0.14***	0.02
Interviewee, proportion member of multiple political bodies in 2016	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
OBSERVATIONS	1117			

Notes: Variables dated 2016 are estimates, based on recall data. \* p < 0.1, \*\* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01.

Table A3 shows the variables used to estimate the propensity score in this report, alongside marginal effects at the mean, standard errors, and p-values. In Table A3, the dependent variable corresponds to whether the household received the intervention (i.e., it is equal to 1 if the household participated in the project, and 0 otherwise). The coefficients correspond to the marginal effects, which are the change in the probability of receiving the intervention if the independent variable is increased by 1.



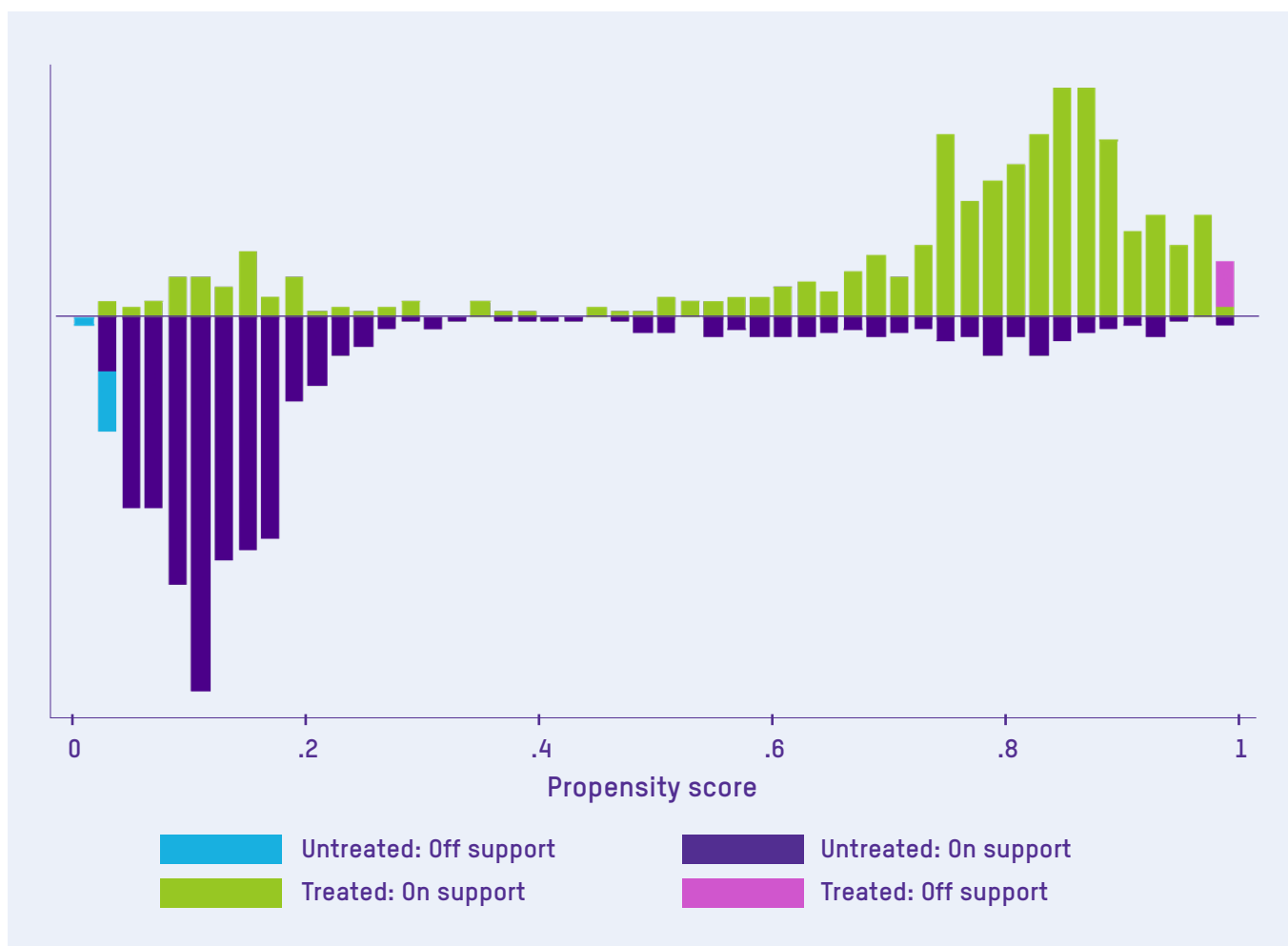
**TABLE A3. VARIABLES USED FOR PSM WITH MARGINAL EFFECTS, STANDARD ERRORS, AND P-VALUES**

	MARGINAL EFFECT	STANDARD ERROR	P-VALUE
<b>INTERVENTION</b>			
Interviewee age (years)	-0.00**	0.00	0.01
Interviewee, proportion completed primary school	0.10	0.05	0.05
Interviewee, proportion completed secondary school	0.17***	0.05	0.00
Interviewee, proportion completed tertiary school	-0.14	0.08	0.09
Interviewee, proportion completed monastic school	-0.17*	0.09	0.05
Interviewee, proportion married	-0.08	0.04	0.08
Interviewee, proportion married as a child (<18 years old)	0.00	0.05	0.99
Interviewee type, proportion 'influencer'	0.68***	0.02	0.00
Number of household members in 2016	0.01	0.01	0.07
Number of household members <15 years old in 2016	-0.00	0.01	0.92
Interviewee, proportion that lived in the community in 2016	0.04	0.06	0.56
Interviewee, proportion member of at least one group in 2016	0.20***	0.06	0.00
Interviewee, proportion member of multiple groups in 2016	0.25***	0.07	0.00
Interviewee, proportion member of multiple political bodies in 2016	-0.25*	0.10	0.01
<b>OBSERVATIONS</b>	1117		

Notes: Variables dated 2016 are estimates, based on recall data. Dependent variable is binary, taking 1 for project participants, and 0 otherwise. \*  $p < 0.1$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

Visible in Figure A1, the area of common support is the region where the propensity score distributions of the intervention and comparison groups overlap. The common support assumption ensures that each '[intervention] observation has a comparison observation 'nearby' in the propensity score distribution'.<sup>19</sup> Although the distributions of propensity scores are clearly different between the intervention and comparison groups, there is a good area of overlap between the groups. In constructing the PSM model, only 3% of the intervention group lacks a suitable match.

**FIGURE A1. COMMON SUPPORT HISTOGRAM OF PROPENSITY SCORES FOR INTERVENTION ('TREATED') AND COMPARISON ('UNTREATED') INTERVIEWEES**



We also identified the best matching algorithm between kernel, Caliper, and Nearest Neighbour and the related bandwidth and Caliper values. Following Rosenbaum and Rubin,<sup>20</sup> interviewees were matched based on propensity scores using a kernel matching algorithm. Kernel matching assigns more weight to the closest comparison group observations that are found within a selected 'bandwidth'. Thus 'good' matches are given greater weight than 'poor' matches. The *psmatch2* module in Stata<sup>21</sup> was used with a bandwidth of 0.06 and the analysis was restricted to the area of common support. When using PSM, standard errors of the estimates were bootstrapped using 1,000 repetitions to account for the additional variation caused by the estimation of the propensity scores.<sup>22</sup> To check the validity of the results, robustness checks include alternative matching algorithms and multivariate regressions.

For PSM to be valid, the intervention group and the matched comparison group need to be balanced (i.e., they need to be similar in terms of their observed characteristics). The balance of each of the matching variables after kernel matching is shown in Table A4. No significant differences remain. For all the variables, the p-values for the difference in means tests are fairly large, with the lowest value being 0.17 and most being more than 0.50. It can therefore be concluded in each case that a satisfactory match has been found for the intervention group in the sample, according to this set of matching variables.

**TABLE A4. VARIABLE BALANCE CHECK AFTER PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING**

	INTERVENTION GROUP MEAN	COMPARISON GROUP MEAN	P-VALUE
Interviewee age (years)	37.77	38.36	0.65
Interviewee, proportion completed primary school	0.26	0.24	0.60
Interviewee, proportion completed secondary school	0.59	0.60	0.84
Interviewee, proportion completed tertiary school	0.89	0.90	0.67
Interviewee, proportion completed monastic school	0.04	0.06	0.32
Interviewee, proportion married	0.70	0.72	0.66
Interviewee, proportion married as a child (<18 years old)	0.19	0.16	0.42
Interviewee type, proportion 'influencer'	0.85	0.86	0.68
Number of household members in 2016	8.28	7.75	0.29
Number of household members <15 years old in 2016	2.94	2.67	0.32
Interviewee, proportion that lived in the community in 2016	0.91	0.89	0.57
Interviewee, proportion member of at least one group in 2016	0.22	0.23	0.87
Interviewee, proportion member of multiple groups in 2016	0.15	0.16	0.75
Interviewee, proportion member of multiple political bodies in 2016	0.01	0.02	0.39
OBSERVATIONS	1092		

Notes: Variables dated 2016 are estimates, based on recall data. \*  $p < 0.1$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

Based on the final PSM model, a total of 29 impact estimates are shown in Tables A5 to A8. Relevant details on the estimates are provided below the tables. Please see the main report for discussion and interpretation of the results.

**TABLE A5. IMPACT ESTIMATES FOR KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD, EARLY, AND FORCED MARRIAGE**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Intervention group mean	0.95	0.96	0.81	0.76	2.51	2.61	2.63	-0.40	7.28
Comparison group mean	0.96	0.95	0.85	0.80	2.36	2.62	2.64	-0.28	7.37
Difference	-0.01	0.01	-0.04	-0.04	0.21*	0.02	0.01	-0.13**	0.01
Standard error	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.11)	(0.17)	(0.17)	(0.07)	(0.46)
Observations (intervention)	502	502	475	474	71	70	72	68	65
OBSERVATIONS (TOTAL)	1092	1092	1042	1041	530	542	540	528	503

Notes: PSM estimates are bootstrapped with 1,000 repetitions. \*  $p < 0.1$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

1. At what age do you think girls/women are legally able to get married? (1 if correct response of 18 years old, 0 otherwise)
2. At what age do you think boys/men are legally able to get married? (1 if correct response of 18 years old, 0 otherwise)
3. Do you think it is a crime to force a girl to get married? (1 if yes, 0 if no)
4. Do you think it is a crime to force a boy to get married? (1 if yes, 0 if no)
5. Please choose one of the following statements which you feel is most acceptable about marriage practices in your community (three options, with 1 being most in line with social norms of child, early and forced marriage and 3 being most in line with social norms against child, early and forced marriage)
6. If a young girl was not married by the time she was 18, this would reflect badly on her family? (1 if agree, 2 if somewhat agree, 3 if disagree)
7. If a young boy was not married by the time he was 18, this would reflect badly on his family? (1 if agree, 2 if somewhat agree, 3 if disagree)
8. A girl/boy who is below the age of 18 is getting married. If others disapprove of girls/boys marrying before age 18, do you think that the girl/boy should still go ahead and marry before the age of 18? (-1 if yes, 0 if no)
9. Composite score on perceptions of child, early and forced marriage (sum of scores for 5-8 above)

**TABLE A6. IMPACT ESTIMATES FOR KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF FORCED INTERCOURSE**

	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Intervention group mean	4.79	0.01	1.11	0.28	0.28	0.09
Comparison group mean	4.78	0.02	0.96	0.20	0.20	0.24
Difference	0.01	-0.01	0.15	0.08	0.08	-0.15**
Standard error	(0.85)	(0.02)	(0.15)	(0.08)	(0.06)	(0.08)
Observations (intervention)	445	445	436	436	441	460
Observations (total)	991	991	964	964	990	1015

Notes: PSM estimates are bootstrapped with 1,000 repetitions. \*  $p < 0.1$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

In your opinion, when is a wife justified in refusing to have sex with her husband in any of the following circumstances? (number of circumstances)

10. In your opinion, when is a wife justified in refusing to have sex with her husband in any of the following circumstances? (1 if not justified to refuse selected, 0 otherwise)
11. What can a woman do if she is being forced to have sex with her husband against her will? (number of options)
12. What can a woman do if she is being forced to have sex with her husband against her will? (1 if keep quiet/do nothing, 0 otherwise)
13. In your opinion, if a married woman or girl from your community has been raped, do you think she has committed adultery? (1 for yes, 0 for no)
14. In your opinion, if a woman or girl from your community has been raped, is it her fault? (1 for yes, 0 for no)



**TABLE A7. IMPACT ESTIMATES FOR AGENCY**

	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)
Intervention group mean	3.48	3.65	3.59	3.62	3.48	3.56	3.63	3.69	3.58	32.32
Comparison group mean	3.23	3.32	3.15	3.23	3.27	3.21	3.26	3.27	3.24	29.19
Difference	0.25	0.31*	0.40**	0.36**	0.2	0.35*	0.36*	0.39*	0.40*	3.02*
Standard error	(0.17)	(0.18)	(0.19)	(0.18)	(0.20)	(0.19)	(0.19)	(0.21)	(0.21)	(1.61)
Observations (intervention)	67	68	68	68	66	64	65	64	64	62
Observations (total)	539	541	540	540	540	535	536	535	535	529

Notes: PSM estimates are bootstrapped with 1,000 repetitions. \* p < 0.1, \*\* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01.

Statements on agency have been rated as follows: 1 if strongly disagree, 2 if disagree, 3 if neither disagree nor agree, 4 if agree, 5 if strongly agree.

16. I feel I have enough information on what to do if someone I know has experienced violence.

17. I feel I have enough information on where to report cases of violence in my community.

18. I feel confident enough to raise the issue of violence against women in local community meetings on my own.

19. I feel confident enough only if other women/community members help me to raise the issue of violence against women in local community meetings.

20. I feel I have enough information on what to do if a girl is being forced to marry.

21. I feel confident enough to approach a girl's family on my own if she is being forced to marry.

22. I feel confident only if other women/community members help me to approach a girl's family if she is being forced to marry.

23. I feel confident enough to raise the issue of child and early marriage in local community meetings on my own.

24. I feel confident only if other women/community members help me to speak out against child and early marriage in local community meetings.

25. Composite score on agency (sum of scores for 16-24 above)

**TABLE A8. IMPACT ESTIMATES FOR ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES AND EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE**

	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)
Intervention group mean	1.58	0.1	0.38	0.37
Comparison group mean	1.62	0.13	0.34	0.26
Difference	-0.07	-0.02	0.04	0.1
Standard error	(0.36)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Observations (intervention)	71	71	413	413
Observations (total)	540	540	938	938

Notes: PSM estimates are bootstrapped with 1,000 repetitions. \* p < 0.1, \*\* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01.

26. In your community or village, what type of services are available for women and girls who have experienced violence? (number of services)
27. In your community or village, what type of services are available for women and girls who have experienced violence? (number of services)
28. Since the pandemic (COVID-19) started, do you think violence against women and girls has increased, stayed the same or decreased? (1 if increased, 0 otherwise)
29. Since the pandemic (COVID-19) started, do you think violence against women and girls has increased, stayed the same or decreased? (1 if decreased, 0 otherwise)



Launch of the youth-led, multisectoral alliance of #GirlDefenders. Philippines. Photo: Patricia Miranda/Oxfam Pilipinas

## Notes

- 1 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and ICF (2018). *Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2017*. Quezon City and Rockville, MD: PSA and ICF. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from [https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PHILIPPINE%20NATIONAL%20DEMOGRAPHIC%20AND%20HEALTH%20SURVEY%202017\\_new.pdf](https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PHILIPPINE%20NATIONAL%20DEMOGRAPHIC%20AND%20HEALTH%20SURVEY%202017_new.pdf)
- 2 It is worth noting that the Al-Mujadilah Women’s Association, which worked with Oxfam and partners to end violence against women and girls in the region, is a Muslim faith-based organization.
- 3 For more insight into the region’s diversity, see the quotes from a broad range of citizens in: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2020). *Gender and Inclusion Assessment of COVID-19 Pandemic on Vulnerable Women and Girls in the Philippines*. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from [https://philippines.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/silayan\\_gia\\_report.pdf](https://philippines.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/silayan_gia_report.pdf)
- 4 PSA. (2020). *2018 Full-Year Poverty Statistics among Women in BARMM*. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from <http://rsoarmm.psa.gov.ph/release/content/special/55527>
- 5 Philippine Commission on Women. (2022). *Violence Against Women*. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from <https://pcw.gov.ph/violence-against-women>
- 6 UNFPA. (2020). *#GirlsNotBrides: Ending Child Marriage in the Philippines*. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from [https://philippines.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_Child\\_Marriage\\_%282020-01-24%29%20%282%29\\_0.pdf](https://philippines.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_Policy_Brief_Child_Marriage_%282020-01-24%29%20%282%29_0.pdf)
- 7 See the discussion examining social norms on violence against women and girls and child, early and forced marriage across the six Creating Spaces countries in: Oxfam. (2020). *Uprooting our Beliefs: Examining Social Norms Contributing to Violence Against Women and Girls, Including Child Marriage*. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/uprooting-our-beliefs-examining-social-norms-contributing-to-violence-against-w-621153>
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 It is worth noting that the concept of community influencers was inconsistently applied across the multi-country project: in some countries the concept was limited to women and girls only.
- 10 Annex A outlines the method used to analyse the survey data, including means of causal inference and tests for statistical significance.
- 11 A *barangay* is the smallest administrative district in the Philippines.
- 12 Community mothers shared stories about how women members of the community no longer marry their children as they now know the negative implications of child, early and forced marriage.
- 13 See P.B. Miranda. (2021). *Leveraging Digital Technologies to Support Feminist Organizing Around Ending Child, Early, and Forced Marriages: Lessons from the #GirlDefenders Alliance in the Philippines*, unpublished report.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Annex A outlines the test for statistical significance used in this analysis.
- 16 F. Nicola and X. Giné. (2013). *How Accurate Are Recall Data? Evidence from Coastal India*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 6009. Washington DC: The World Bank. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from <https://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/epdf/10.1596/1813-9450-6009>; S. Godlonton, M. Hernandez and M. Murphy. (2018). *Anchoring Bias in Recall Data: Evidence from Central America*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 100(2), 479–501.
- 17 P. Rosenbaum and D. Rubin. (1983). *The Central Role of the Propensity Score in Observational Studies for Causal Effects*, *Biometrika*, 70, 41–55.
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- 20 P. Rosenbaum and D. Rubin. (1983). *The Central Role of the Propensity Score*.
- 21 E. Leuven and B. Sianesi. (2003). *PSMATCH2: Stata Module to Perform Full Mahalanobis and Propensity Score Matching, Common Support Graphing, and Covariate Imbalance Testing*. Retrieved 16 August 2022, from <https://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s432001.html#download>
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