

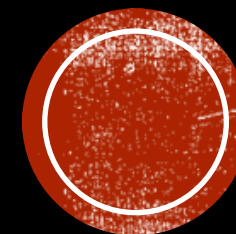
# SEX WORK & VIOLENCE

## UNDERSTANDING FACTORS FOR SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Robert Carr Memorial Lecture

21 July 2014,

International AIDS Conference, Melbourne, Australia



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

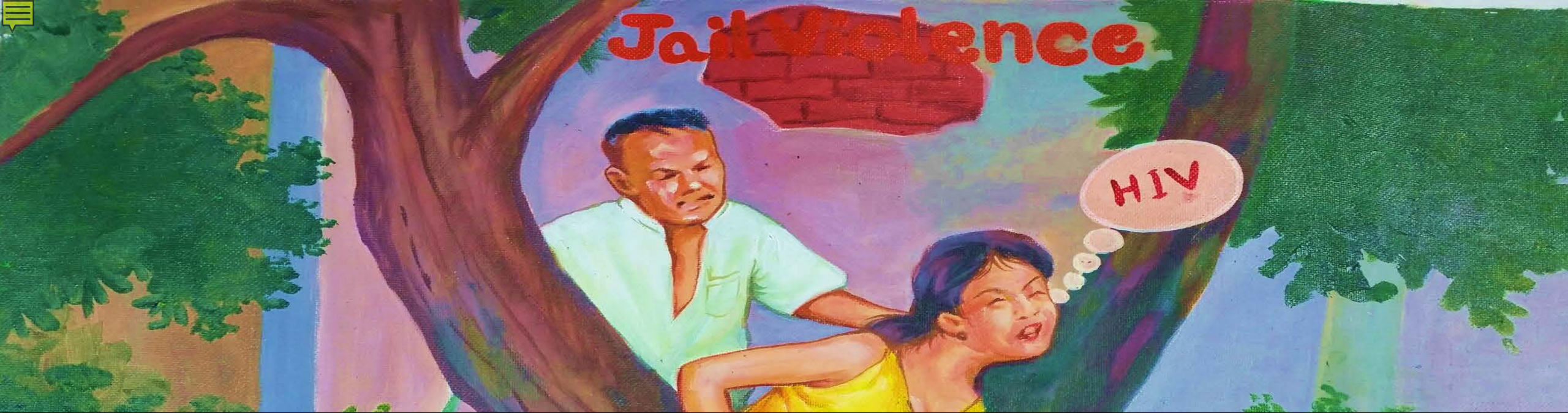


**UNAIDS**  
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR  
UNICEF  
WFP  
UNDP  
UNFPA

UNODC  
ILO  
UNESCO  
WHO  
WORLD BANK





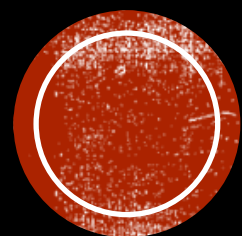
**SEX WORKERS BEAR A DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND HIV**





**STOP MARGINALIZATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST  
SEX WORKERS**

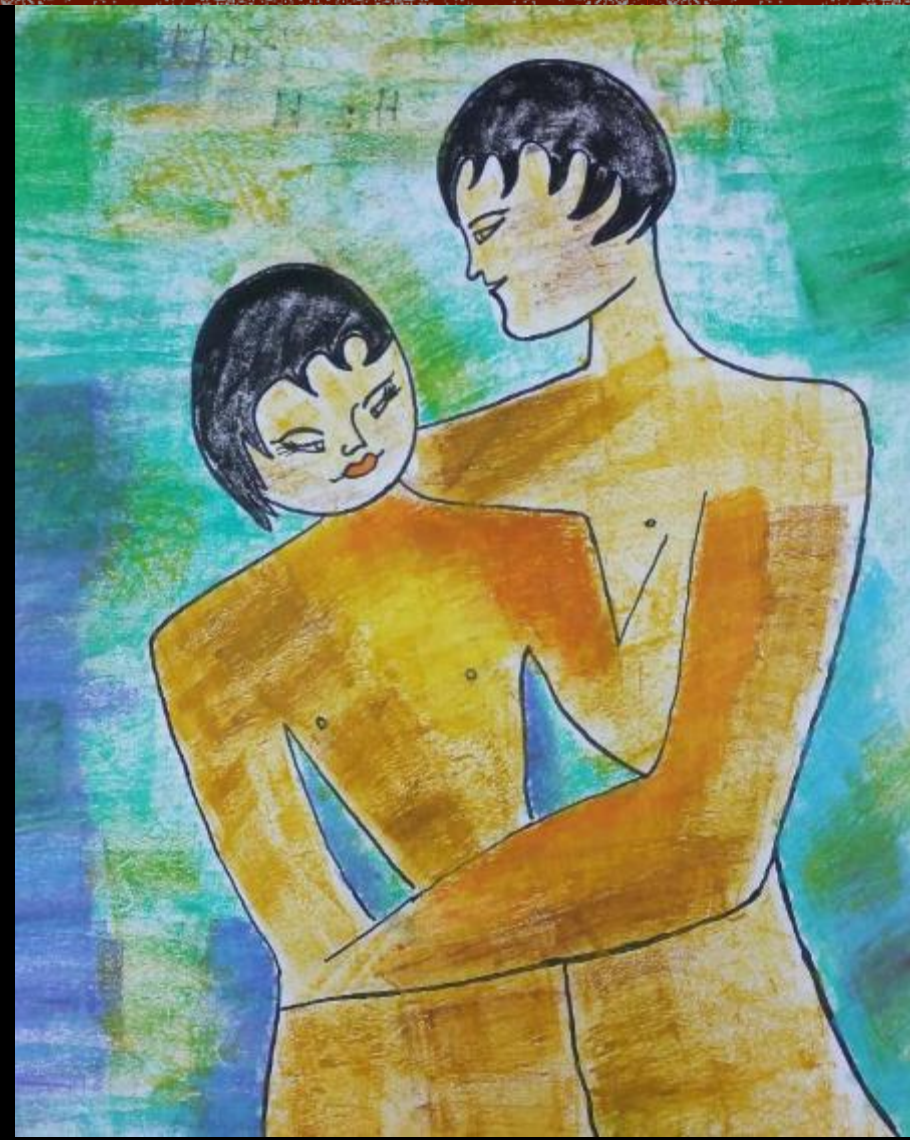




# THE ISSUE

Sex Workers are largely stigmatized and face all sorts of violence

# WHO ARE WE?



# WE FACE VIOLENCE

## PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL

### Sexual, Psychological, Physical

*“They knocked on the door and abused us saying ‘randi bhalu’ (‘whore’). Then they took us to the toilet and made us naked... The clients had already run away. We thought that they would not catch us because the clients were not there. They kicked us with their boots and beat and hit us with sticks. I sprained my leg. They also took Rs.4000(42 USD).”*

*– a disco based female respondent in Nepal.*

### Economic

*“When I asked for my fee from the client, he showed me a gun and a police officer’s ID card.” – female respondent from Indonesia*



# AND ALL SORTS OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

In Health Care Settings

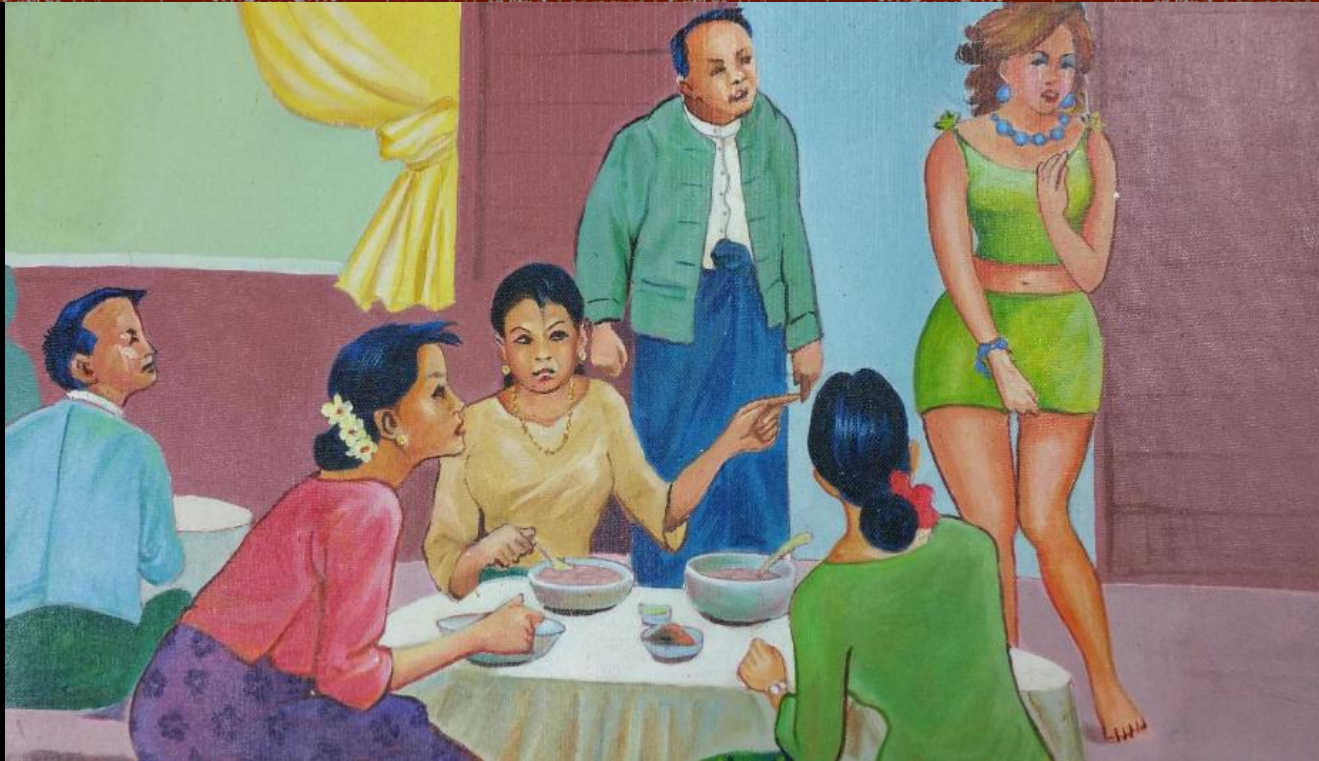


“*When I went to hospital (after being raped) the medical personnel did not respond properly. Blood was coming out of my anus. It needed stitching but the staff did not take it seriously. They asked why I was doing anal sex, being a boy... But one woman said that (the staff) had to behave in a good manner. Then they put in the stitches.*”  
– male respondent from Nepal?



# AND ALL SORTS OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

By society and family



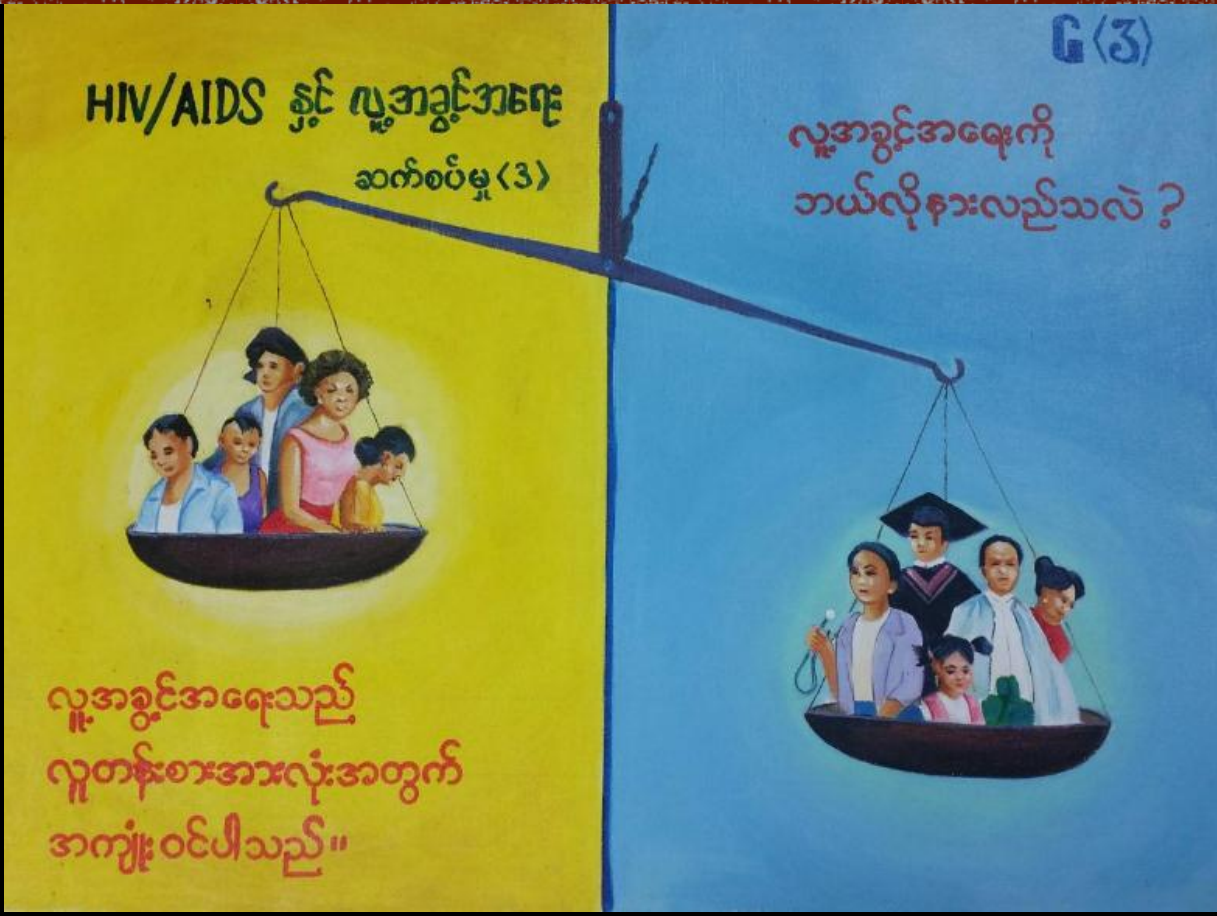
*“I was helping at a funeral. People are preparing to cook (a special dish). I was trying to help in cutting onions. One lady stopped me and told me to wear gloves. She is an old lady and she can tell me my hands are not clean but didn’t ask me to wash with soap and water. But she asked me to wear gloves. I wore gloves and cut onions. When I look at other people, none of them wore gloves.” – transgender respondent from Myanmar*





# AND ALL SORTS OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

Because of being HIV +



*“When I told the doctor I was HIV positive, immediately he... put on a mask and gloves and chased me from there, saying that HIV positive people were not treated there.” - female respondent*



# AND ALL SORTS OF DISCRIMINATION

Being judged for who we are or what we do

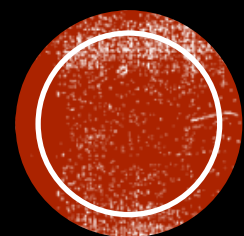


*“Four police opened my clothes asking ‘are you boy or girl?’ and beat me with a long bamboo stick... Some of them slapped my face with their hand. Then they called me (abusive names).— transgender respondent from Nepal*



# WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS?





**“NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US”**

It's what this project is about

# STRONG COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION



*“This research format is good because it engages the community. You are asking the community to be the participant and also facilitate information gathering. They are the best in understanding sex work and violence “*

**[Mona, TG peer researcher,  
Indonesia]**



# EMPOWERMENT



*“I learnt how to face difficult situations while interviewing, reading the body language of the interviewee. The role play helped a lot.”*

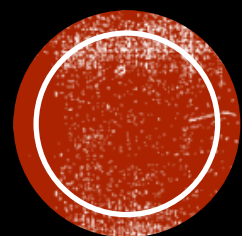
**[Eric, MSW Peer researcher, Indonesia]**



# WORKING TOGETHER

Learning from different people and different perspectives





# WAY FORWARD

Our vision



# USE THE EVIDENCE

TO increase everyone's awareness of the violence we face, which affects our daily lives and our basic rights as human beings

TO create alliances and work in partnership to protect our rights



**ONLY RIGHTS CAN  
STOP THE WRONGS**

*“Human rights are rights that cannot be forced by anybody or rights that cannot be bought by anything because they are obtained by human beings at the time they're born, without considering their gender, ethnic group or race. ... As a good citizen, we all possess all rights given by the Government, although we are sex workers“*  
*Transgender respondent from Indonesia*



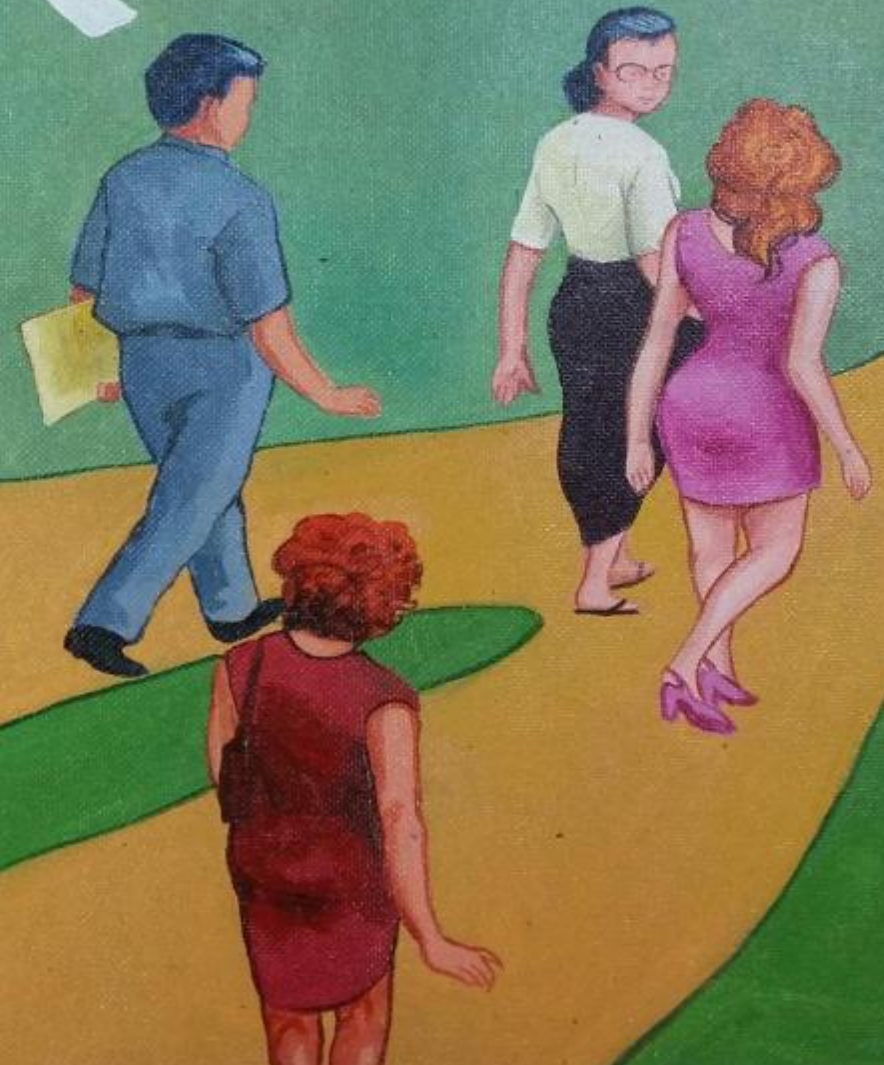
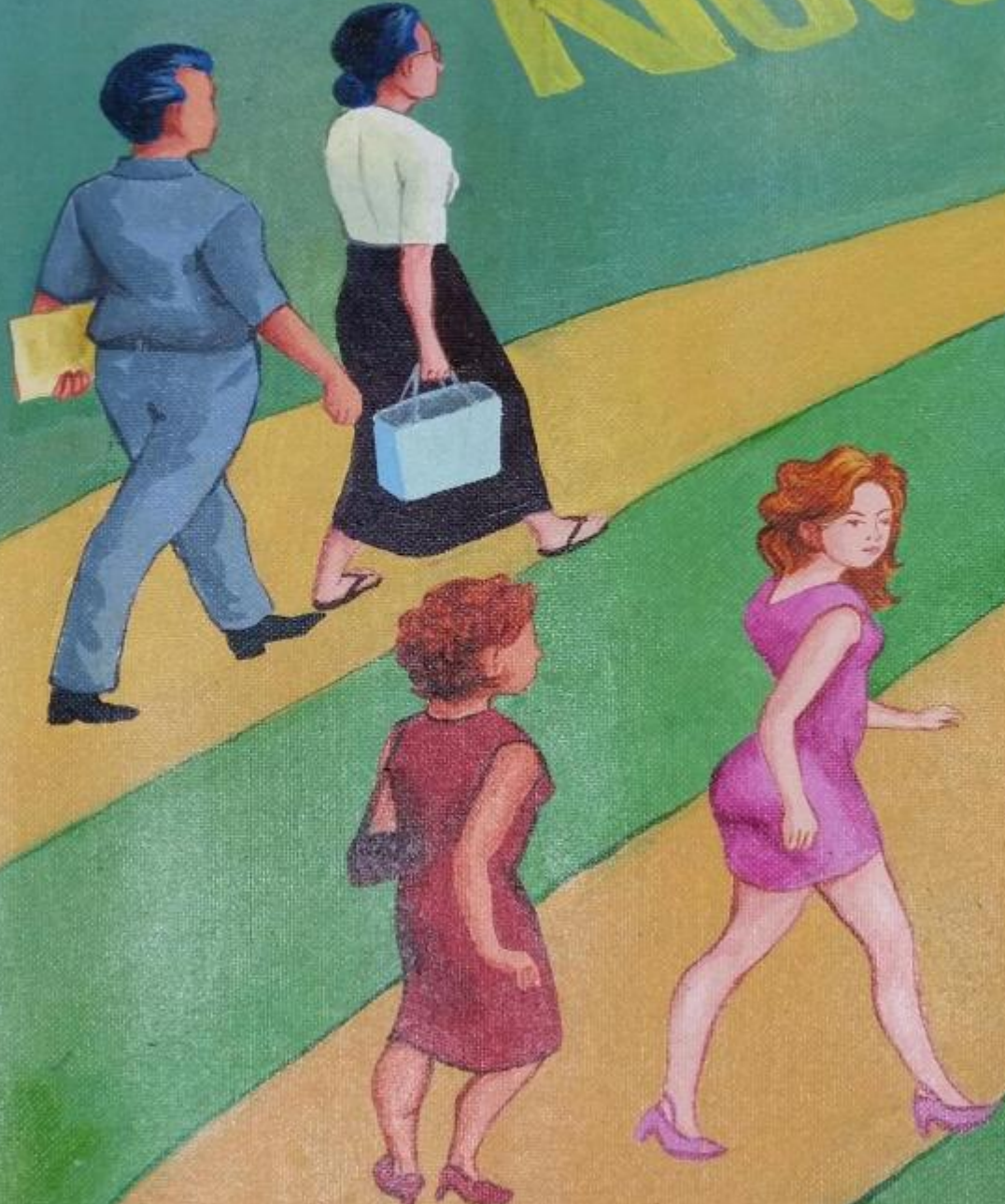


**STOP MARGINALIZATION AND  
VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS**



NOW

FUTURE





# CLOSING REMARKS



**SEX WORKERS BEAR A DISPROPORTIONATE  
BURDEN OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND HIV**



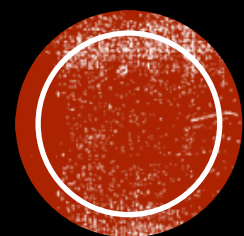
**WE NEED TO SCALE UP THE RESPONSE TOWARDS  
IMPROVING SEX WORKERS RIGHTS**



**WE NEED TO SCALE UP THE RESPONSE TOWARDS  
IMPROVING HIV SERVICES FOR SEX WORKERS**

**WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER  
TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN**





# WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ABOUT?

Why do a research on violence against sex workers?

# OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1- Documenting the evidence



# OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

## 2- Building Partnerships

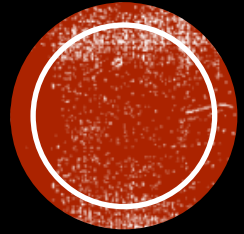


# **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

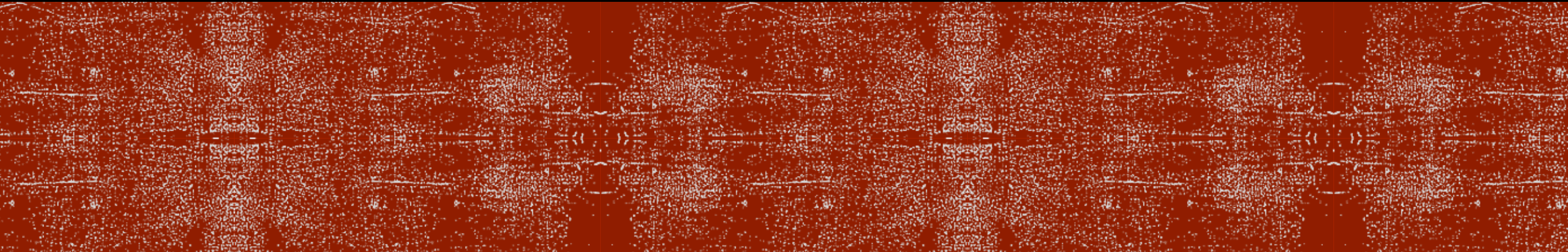
3- Generate Change

**TRANSFORM THE FINDINGS INTO  
POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES  
THAT WILL PROTECT SEX WORKERS FROM VIOLENCE**





**HOW HAVE WE DONE IT?**



# FIRST – SEARCHING FOR REGIONAL PARTNERS

We needed

Strong Community  
Involvement and  
Participation



Alliances in the UN:  
*one agency can't do  
it alone*



Strong Technical  
expertise



## SECOND – IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL COUNTRIES

We needed

Strong networks of  
sex workers



Good capacity in  
Government and  
UN country offices



Balanced  
geographic  
distribution

**Indonesia**

**Myanmar**

**Nepal**

**Sri Lanka**



# THIRD – BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

## Formed Steering Committee



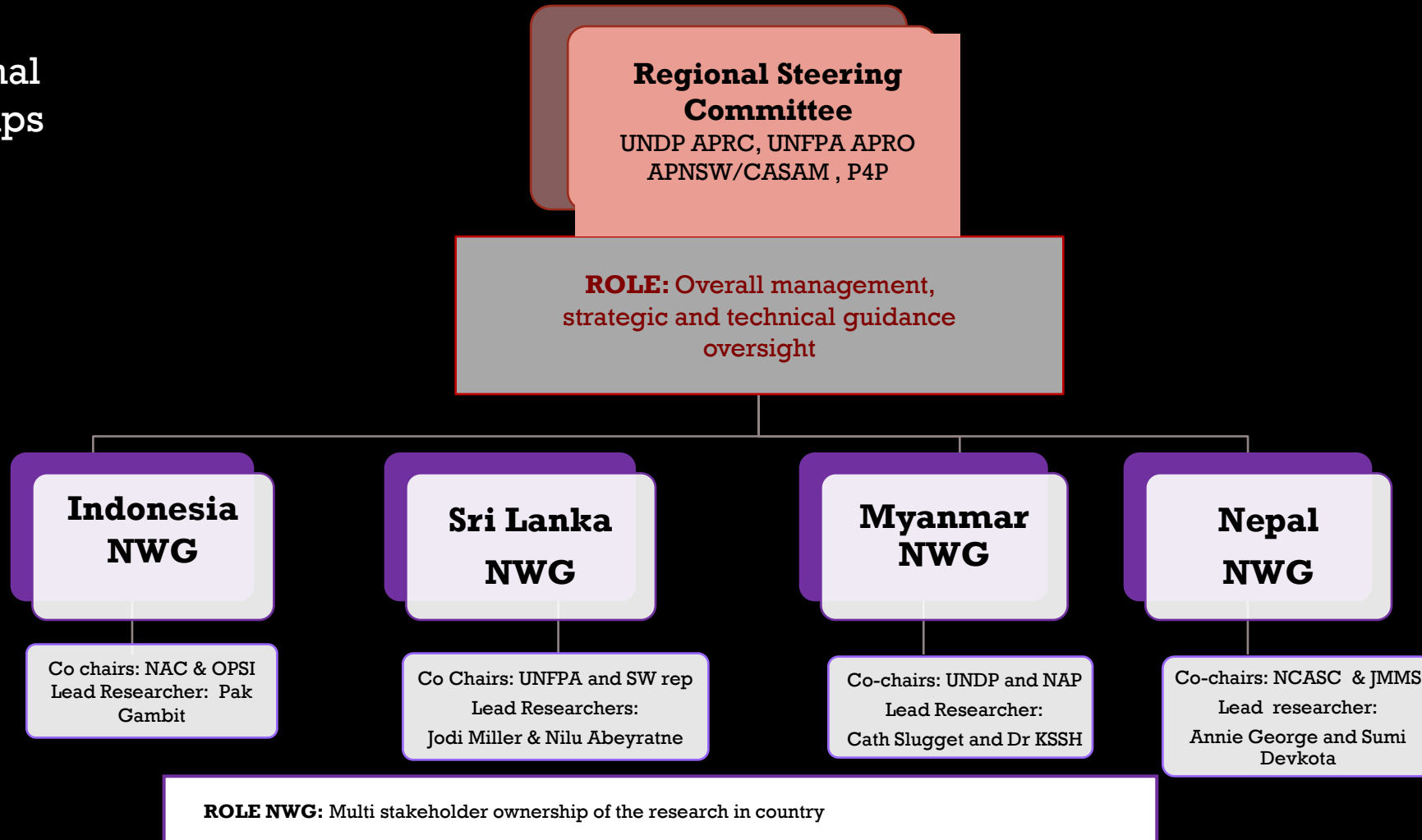
**ROLE:** Overall management, strategic and technical guidance, Oversight

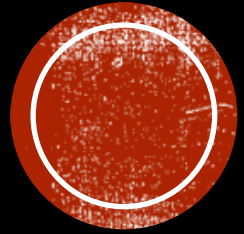




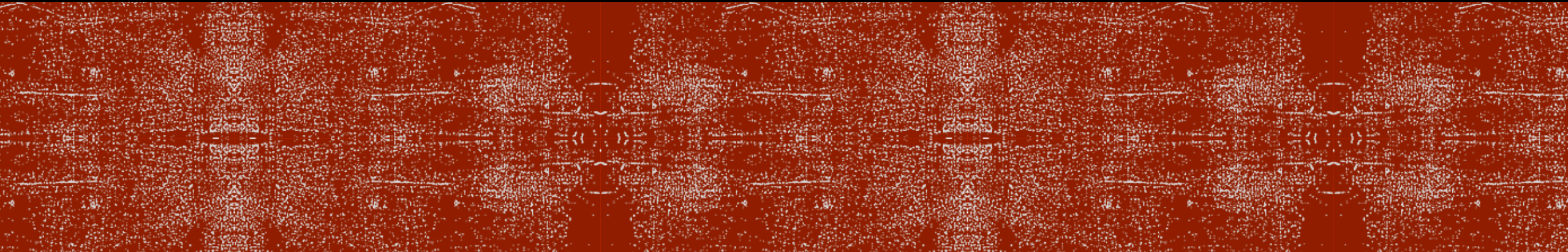
# OVERALL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

NWG = National Working Groups





**WHAT HAVE WE DONE?**



# PRIMARY QUALITATIVE RESEARCH WITH SEX WORKERS ON VIOLENCE

Qualitative  
interviews

HIV +



Myanmar

Nepal

Sri Lanka

Indonesia



# PEER TO PEER INTERVIEWS

Sex Work and Violence:  
Understanding Factors for Safety & Protection  
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH INTERVIEW GUIDE  
[For Female sex workers]

Note: The questions should be used to guide the interview what the participant says. All the questions may not be asked in this order. It is not necessary for the respondent to answer every question.

Demographics  
Please note down the following information:

Gender	
Age (approximate age will suffice if exact date not known)	
Education (non-literate, primary school, high school, college, post-graduate, technical training)	
Mother tongue, other languages spoken	
Number and gender of children	
Household income (based on last day income/expenditure)	

A. Family Background and Childhood

The first part of the interview seeks to take the sex worker back to earlier periods in her life to narrate her family background and childhood. The purpose of this section is to learn about the respondent's childhood background, and build rapport between the peer interviewer and respondent.

1) Can you tell me about your childhood?

Probes:

- (i) Where did you grow up?
- (ii) Who did you live with and who took care of you? Whose parents do?
- (iii) How many siblings (brothers and sisters) do you have? How many aunts and uncles, grandparents or other family members live in the same house?
- (iv) What did you do for fun?

2) Can you tell me about your education and experiences at school?

Probes:

- (i) Where did you go to primary school?

Sex Work and Violence:  
Understanding Factors for Safety & Protection  
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH INTERVIEW GUIDE  
[For male and transgender sex workers]

Note: The questions should be used to guide the interview based on what the participant says. All the questions may not be asked exactly in this order. It is not necessary for the respondent to answer every probe question.

Demographics  
Please note down the following information:

Gender	
Age (approximate age will suffice if exact date not known)	
Education (non-literate, primary school, high school, college, post-graduate, technical training)	
Mother tongue, other languages spoken	
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1) What do you identify as... (man, woman, transgender or a specific term used in your country eg: *biira, obei, kausa*)? The self-identity might be different from the official identity (noted above) or the social identity (observable).

Read: So during the interview, I will address you as xx (he or she depending on self-identity)

2) Can you tell me about your childhood?

Probes:

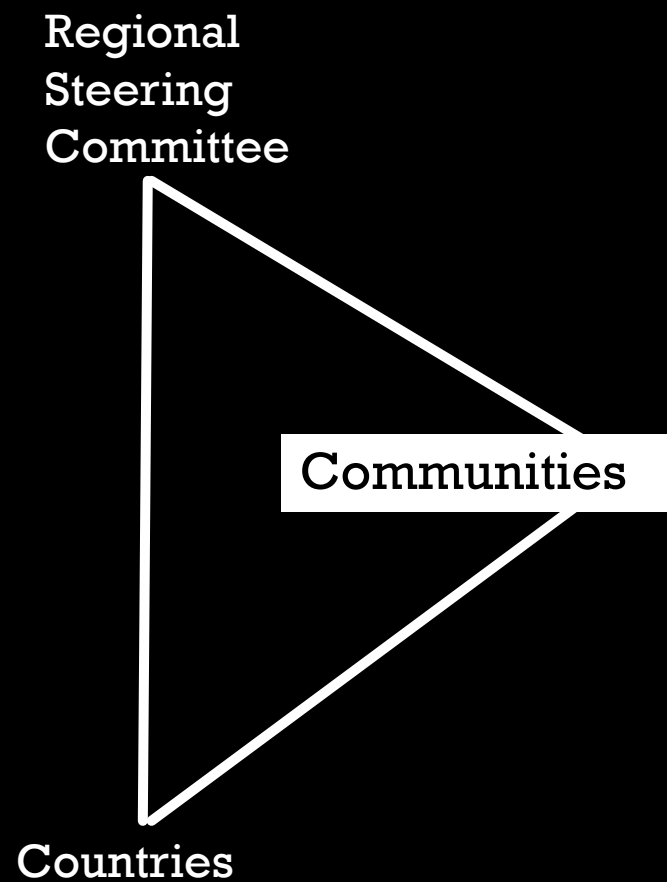
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- (ii) Who did you live with and who took care of you? Whose parents do?
- (iii) How many siblings (brothers and sisters) do you have? How many aunts and uncles, grandparents or other family members live in the same house?

“Involvement of peer sex workers in implementing the research forced us to review the methodology anew. How do you break up the technical language so that sex workers internalize and understand it? We needed to transition the peer researcher from being an activist to becoming a researcher, those are fundamentally different approaches.”

[Laxmi Murthy, Regional Steering Committee Member CASAM]



Built a multi-layered partnership  
**REGIONAL & COUNTRY LEVEL**



Writing up the research





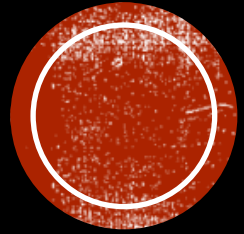
## OUTPUTS

**1** Regional  
Report on the  
Findings

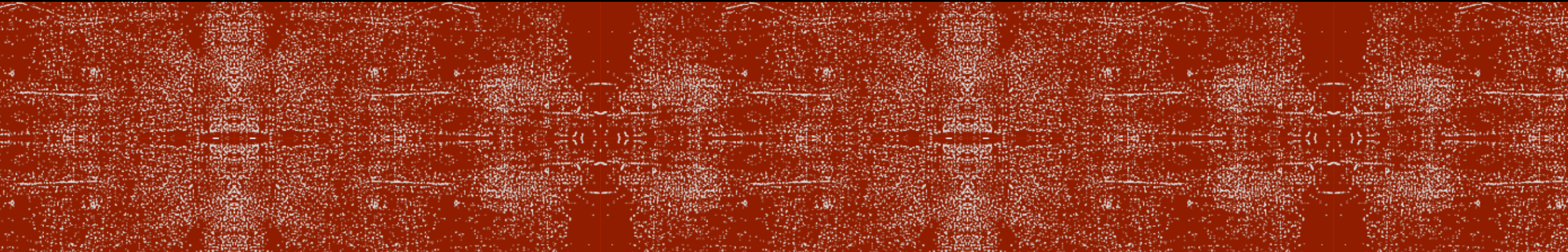
**1** Regional  
Report on the  
Process

**4** National  
Reports on  
country findings



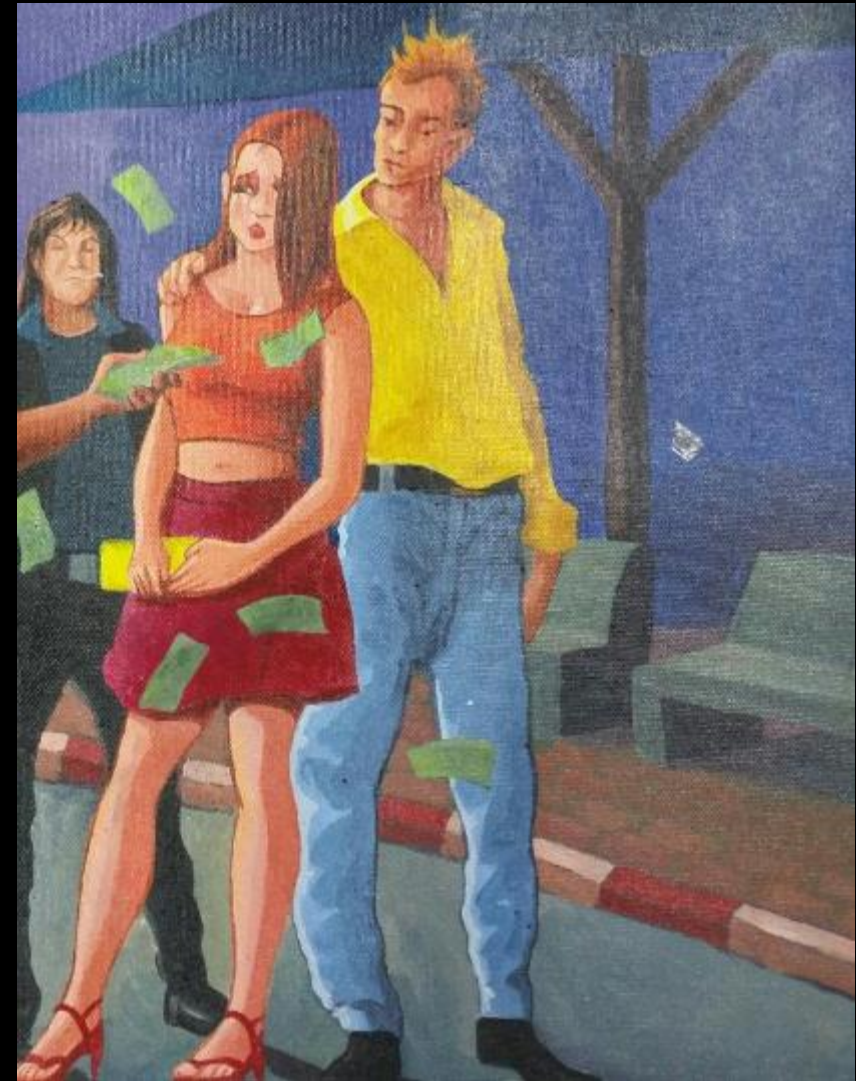


**WHAT HAVE WE FOUND?**



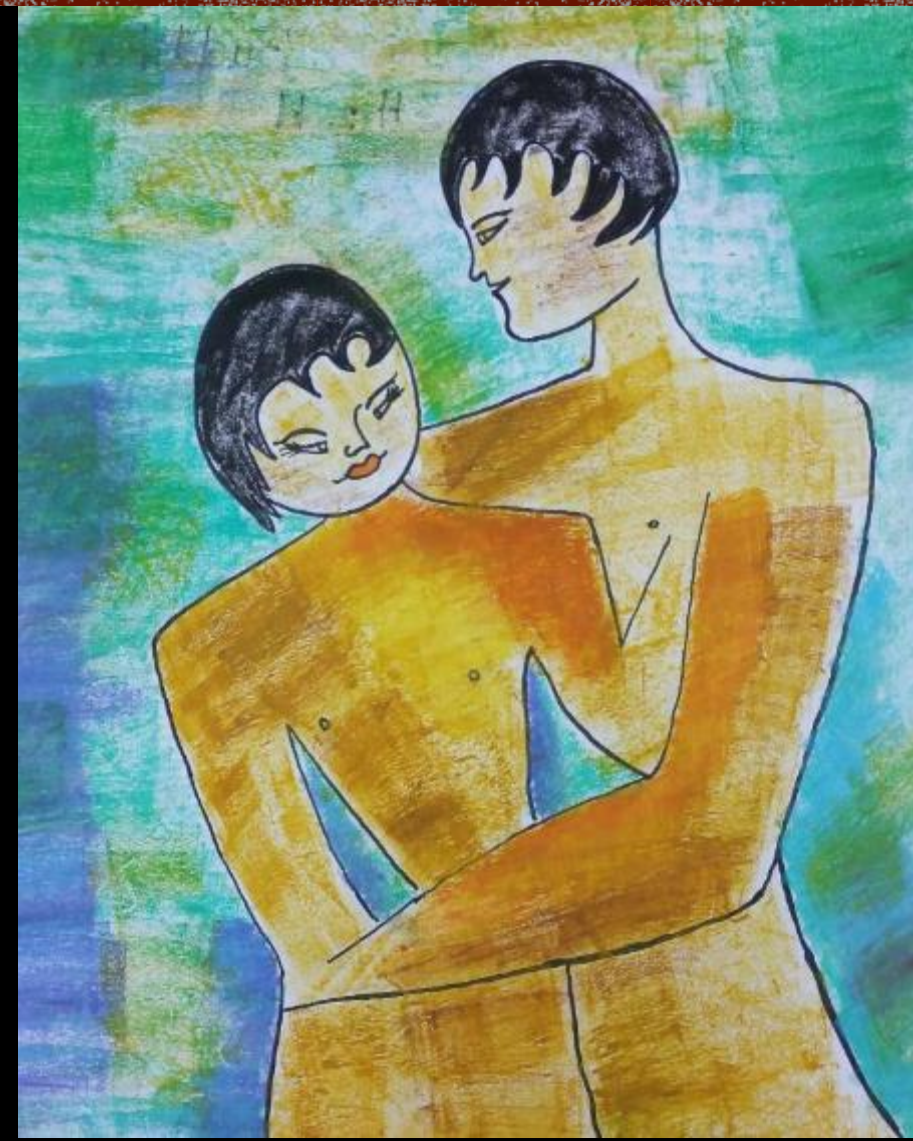
# WHY DO PEOPLE ENGAGE IN SEX WORK?

*When I was working as a maid, washing and ironing clothes, I only got paid for 200,000 IDR [20 USD]. How can I afford my daily needs? My child had to drink two cans of milk in a week; I had no money to visit my home in the village. That's why I asked a friend about another job and she suggested that I get into this job. - Female respondent from Indonesia.*





# ARE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEMALE, MALE AND TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCES?

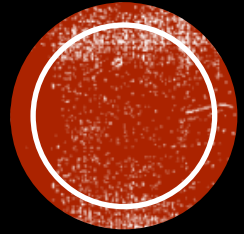


# IMPUNITY TOWARDS PERPETRATORS

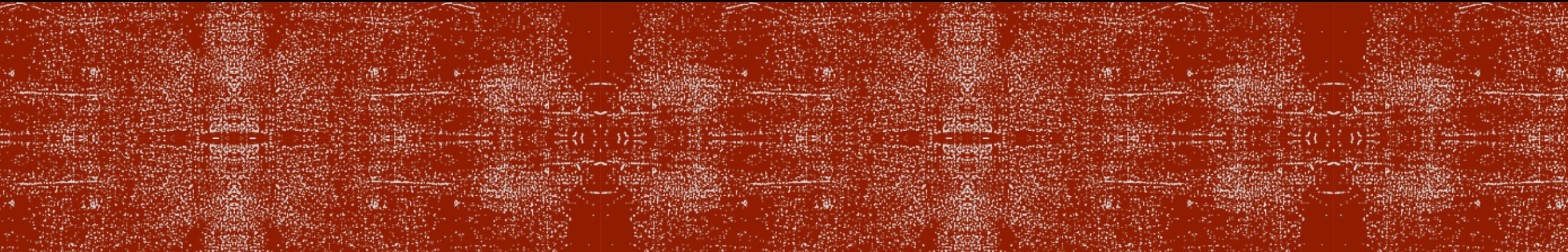


*“I think that other people are violent towards us because of police behaviour. Police hate us and punish us, and therefore, the general public has negative attitudes towards us.”*





# LESSONS LEARNED



# BREAKING NEW GROUND



“We had different perspectives on how the validation process must be conducted with the community. Building from the Indonesia experience we fine tuned the model and introduced it to other countries.” [Meena Seshu, Regional Steering Committee Member]





# TIME

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Caba



consultants on  
efed, people,  
tiative. RSC  
new people  
**Julia**





**PLANTED SEEDS TO BUILD A NEW FUTURE  
FREE OF VIOLENCE, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION**

**THANK YOU**