

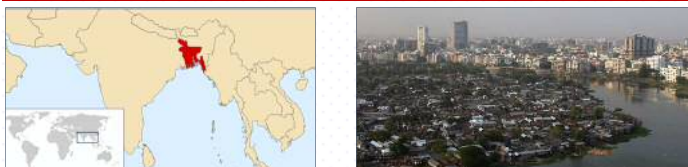
# Risks and resilience of children in urban slums in Bangladesh

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## Research context



Map of Bangladesh (left), slums beside high-rise buildings in Dhaka, Bangladesh (Photo: Laura Elizabeth Pohl)

- Bangladesh has an urban population of about 35 million, approximately 25% of its total population
- Every year, an estimated 300,000–400,000 people – including large number of children – migrate from rural areas to the urban areas in search of economic opportunities and turn to live in slums
- Urban slums are often incapable of providing basic services and increasing the child protection risks
- I have learned from my experience of working with Save the Children that it is increasingly important to recognize the resilience of the children along with identifying the risks that surround them
- However, the existing literatures brings out the risks of children only, without any focus on their resilience. I intend to learn about both the risks and resilience of children, with a focus on the role of the families and communities in creating a protective environment for the children in urban slums of Bangladesh

**abuse** neglect lack of family care **trafficking** exploitation  
discrimination violence migration child labour  
limited access to services **stigma** insecurity child marriage

Realities of the lives of children in slums in Bangladesh

## Research questions



Children in urban slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh (Photos: Gabriela Bamuevo and South Asia Photography)

Research question:

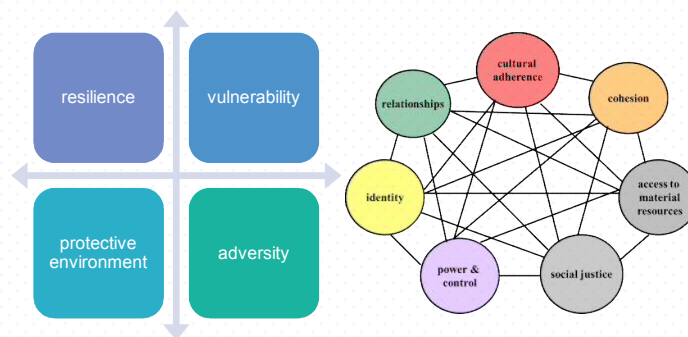
1. How do children and adults understand children and childhood?
2. What is the child's and adult's perception of harms and risk?
3. What protective factors enable children's positive coping and resilience?
4. What processes and mechanisms the families and communities use to support the children on their wellbeing?

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## Research approaches

- This **child-centred research** aims to listen to the voices and experiences of children
- This research will **engage families and communities** to identify the support structure to minimise the risks of the children's lives and strengthen the protective environment in the community
- This research will apply **ethnographic research approach** including activity based research interviews, participant observation and field notes
- This research will embrace **multi-dimensional model of resilience** for data collection
- The research will adapt **resilience matrix** for data analysis

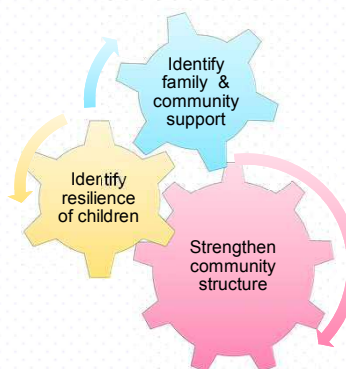


The Resilience Matrix (left) adapted from *The Child's World: Assessing Children in Need (2000)*, and multi-dimensional model of resilience developed by Michel Ungar (2014)

## Expected outcome

The research aims to provide new, grounded knowledge about how people actually respond to child protection risks along with identifying the merit of the existing prevention mechanisms to strengthen the child protection system

The insight gained from this research can be utilized to initiate discussion among the decision makers and development organizations to design effective interventions to meet the protection needs and thus to empower children to claim for their rights to protection



## References

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