Surviving in the city: Resilience strategies and outcomes among women in three urban slums

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Global Context: Urbanization & GBV

- Urbanization is occurring at a rapid pace globally
- Poor urban planning often leaves the most vulnerable exposed to insecurity and left out of economic gain
- This environment can foster and exacerbate GBV, particularly violence against women and girls
Research Questions

1. What behaviors do women and men adopt to try and stay safe in their cities?

2. What cost do women and men incur in order to try and stay safe?
Study Design

- 3 cities in 3 regions
- 14 focus group discussions (N=105)
- Formative qualitative study with traditional & art-based methods

![Map showing locations of study cities: Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dhaka, Bangladesh]
## Study Design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dhaka</th>
<th>Addis Ababa</th>
<th>Port-au-Prince</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age range</strong></td>
<td>18-42</td>
<td>18-73</td>
<td>21-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participants (F,M)</strong></td>
<td>32 (24,8)</td>
<td>40 (20,20)</td>
<td>33 (19,14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women FGD</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men FGD</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mixed-gender FGD</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Key informant int.</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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Structural Drivers -> Individual Strategies

- Systems of Power
- Resilience Strategies

define
Coping Strategies: Movement

“It’s dangerous only if you go into darker areas and only if you are walking alone. If you are two, like you travel with your mother, it is safe.”

- Older woman, Addis Ababa
Coping Strategies: Avoidance

“Since I know that they are armed and they have guns, being around them, I quiet myself and try to avoid them.”

- Young woman, Port-au-Prince
Coping Strategies: Confrontation

“When they touch you, it’s better to push them back and when they insult you, to insult them. Because they are also terrified when you are serious and telling them a serious thing. So this is another way. Or give him one slap is another option.”

- Young woman, Addis Ababa
Coping Strategies: Acquiescence

“Men come at night and propose to have them [women] go have sex. If I say no, they will beat me. So I cannot protest them because they will do more damage.”

- Young woman, Dhaka
Conceptual map drawn by married women in Dhaka, Bangladesh
Individual Strategies -> Structural Drivers

- Costs of Safety
  - reinforce
  - create
  - define
- Resilience Strategies
- Systems of Power
Thank you!