



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

Beth J. Maclin\*, Nirma D. Bustamante, Hannah Wild, Ronak B. Patel



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[bmaclin@gwu.edu](mailto:bmaclin@gwu.edu)

[beth.j.maclin@gmail.com](mailto:beth.j.maclin@gmail.com)



# 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



# Study Design

	<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>Addis Ababa</b>	<b>Port-au-Prince</b>
<b>Age range</b>	18-42	18-73	21-60
<b>Participants (F,M)</b>	32 (24,8)	40 (20,20)	33 (19,14)
<b>Women FGD</b>	2	2	3
<b>Men FGD</b>	2	2	2
<b>Mixed-gender FGD</b>	-	1	-
<b>Key informant int.</b>	4	3	4

# Structural Drivers -> Individual Strategies



## 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

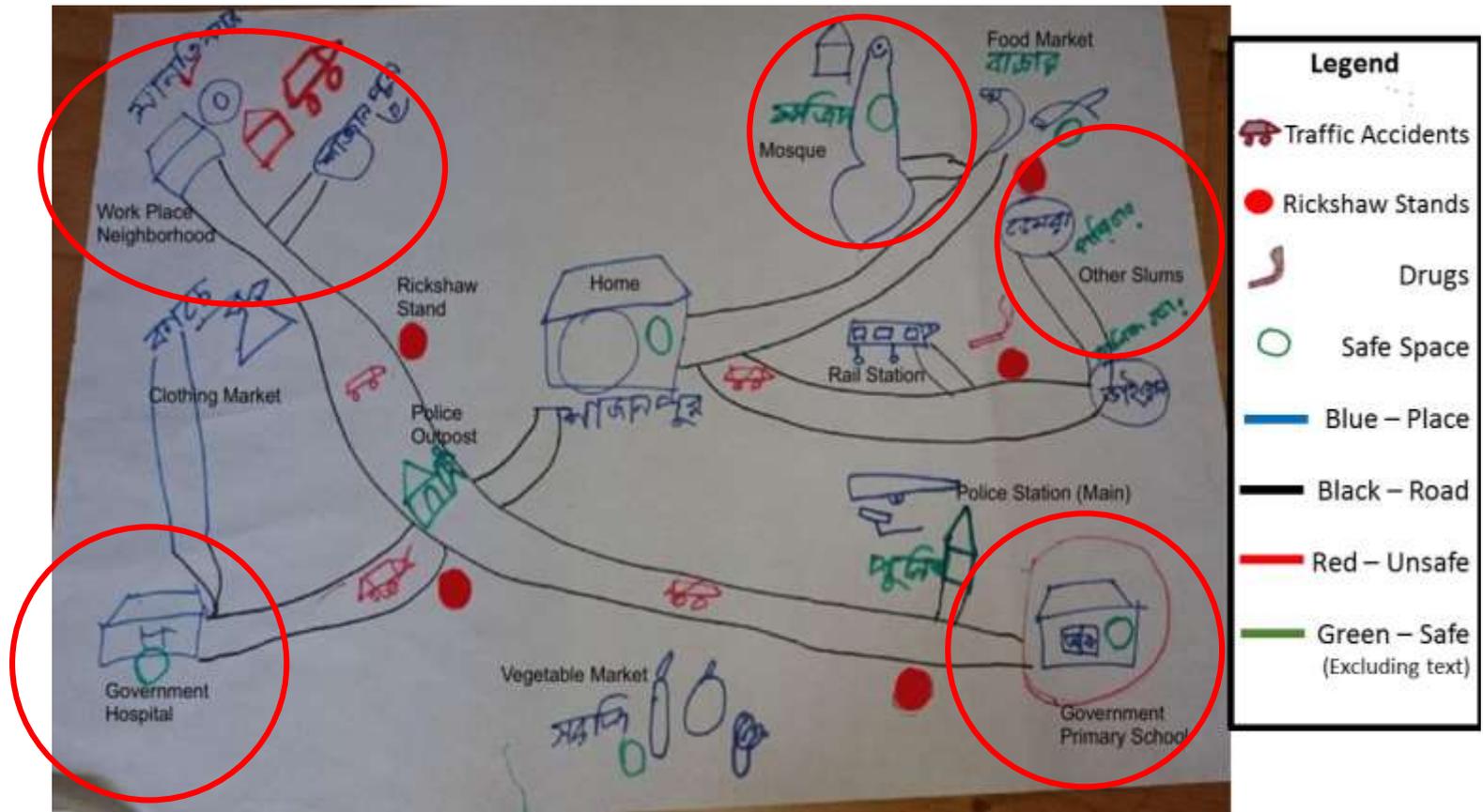
*“When they touch you, it’s better to push them back and when they insult you, to insult them. Because they are also terrified when you are serious and telling them a serious thing. So this is another way. Or give him one slap is another option.”*

*- Young woman, Addis Ababa*

## Coping Strategies: Acquiescence

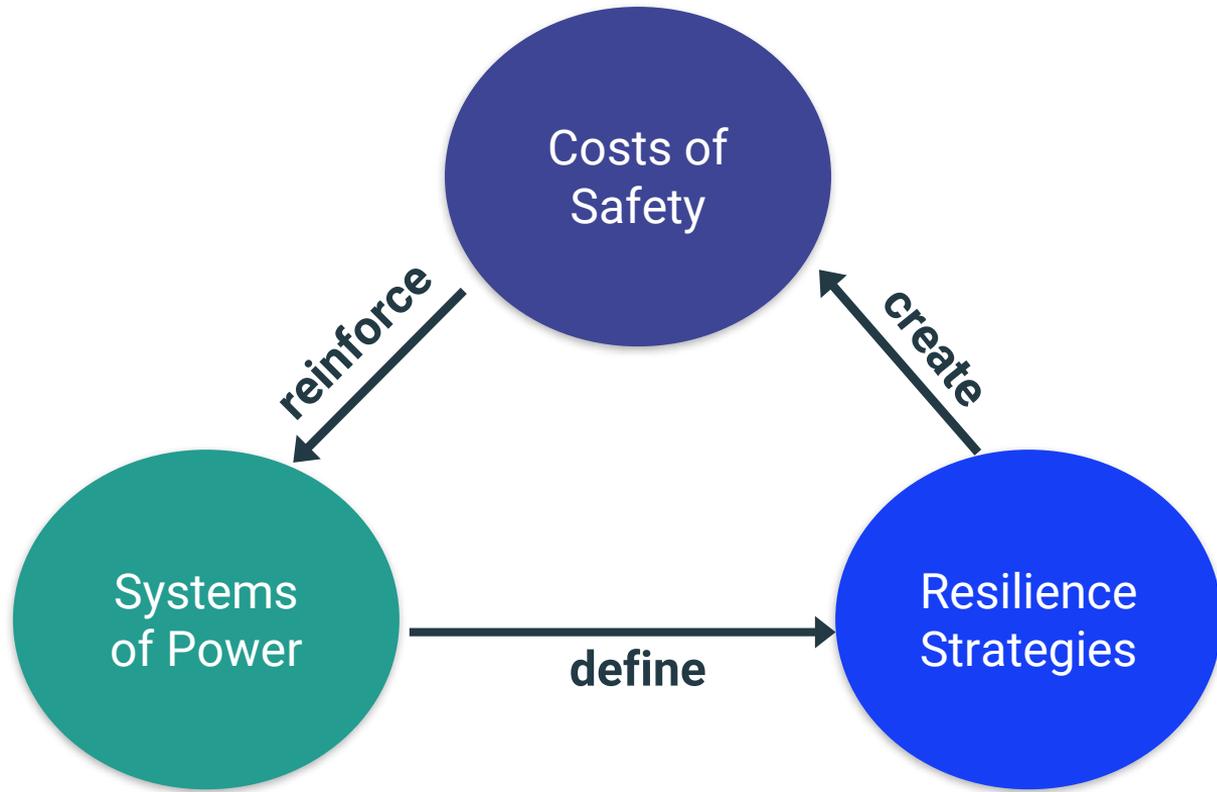
*“Men come at night and propose to have them [women] go have sex. If I say no, they will beat me. So I cannot protest them because they will do more damage.”*

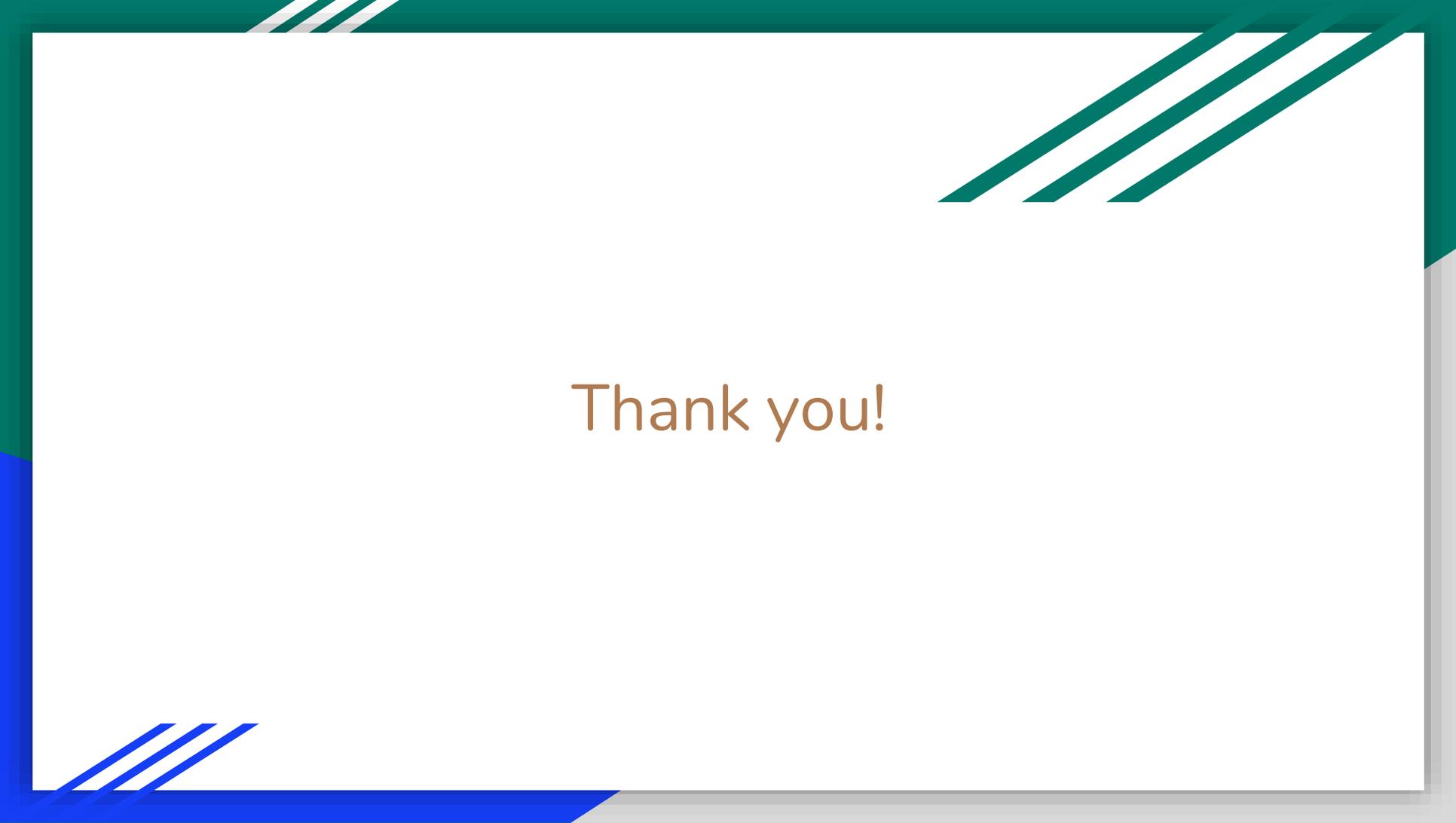
*- Young woman, Dhaka*



Conceptual map drawn by married women in Dhaka, Bangladesh

# Individual Strategies -> Structural Drivers





Thank you!