

# ***Dhaka Photovoice Program May 2017 Report***

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This first round of the Dhaka Photovoice Program has been very successful over May 2017 with a total of seven photovoice workshops run with four different local partner organisations, and a range of photo-stories and associated visual documents created.

## **Project Team**

A solid project team was vital to the program running smoothly, which was fulfilled through an interdisciplinary group of internationals, local ICCCAD staff, and IUB undergraduate and postgraduate students.

## **Core Team**

The international component doubled with Emily Crawford joining program coordinator Michael Chew in Bangladesh for the first time, in a research assistant role. On the local side, Fabiha Atique Rahman joined coordinator Jennifer Khadim and Adnan Quader in the ICCCAD Youth Team. A challenge was other projects and some health issues impinging on team time which required juggling of schedule and human resources.

## **Core Team Members**

Michael Chew  
Emily Crawford  
Jennifer Khadim  
Adnan Quader  
Fabiha Atique Rahman

## **Volunteer Team**

Volunteers were essential for the running of the workshops to ensure sufficient 1-1 engagement with the participants. A volunteer training was run to train Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) students to fulfil this role. Volunteers proved generally reliable and interested, with a few them showing very high degrees of interest.



## **Volunteer Team Members**

Anika Tanjim  
Bayazid Ahmed  
Noor-E-Elahi  
Sadia sarwar  
Tanjila Reza

## Photovoice Workshops

The workshops themselves were very successful in their aims of teaching, inspiring and supporting participants to create photos-stories around the theme of building climate and environmental resilience.

### Workshop Summary

Organisation	Location	Work-shops	Partici-pants	Date
ICCCAD - Youth Team/Project B	ICCCAD Secretariat, Bashundhara	1	5	7th May
CPD/Save the Children	Child Club Shymoli	2	13	8 & 11th May
Jaago Foundation	Korail School Banani	2	20	9 & 14th May
Project B	Independent University Bangladesh	1	7	18th May
ICCCAD - Climate change course	ICCCAD Research Office, Bashundhara	1	10	24th May
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>55</b>	

### Workshop Content and process

The workshops covered a similar format to last year, with the first workshop covering project concept, basic photography, and shooting, and the second covering visual/photographic literary and text development.

One reason for the consistency was to focus on building up a dependable process that could be properly documented. This proved to be readily teachable to volunteers and adaptable to different contexts. A downside was that it limited experimentation, which was constrained anyway given the two partners Jaago and CPD had very young participants (approx. age 8-12) whose comprehension of the project was limited. In this way Dhaka participants are skewed towards the very young segment, being out of alignment with Australia and China, whose participants are looking likely to be +16 years. Additionally, it meant that the cross-cultural component (responding to photo-stories from other sites) was not able to run this time. This is a focus on the workshops in China, and in Dhaka this will be attempted to run remotely through the Dhaka Project Coordinator (see below). The youth age issue was partially rebalanced through the older IUB volunteers doubling as participants (which was helpful for their understanding of the process anyway).

Volunteers were given slightly more scope to run a greater part of the workshops which worked well. However, there seems an enduring preference for foreigners to be present.

There were greater ambitions to collect more contextual data on participants (family background, motivations etc). Some of this was collected by Emily during video interviews, however as it proved overly ambitious to collect consistently during the workshops, follow-ups will be required.

### Documentation

A comprehensive set of workshop documents and processes began to be documented during their implementation. This process is still continuing and is hoped to produce a trial self-contained 'workshop kit'. See photographic documentation below.

### Equipment

Digital cameras and camera phones were donated to the host organisation to add to their capacity to run photovoice workshops.



### **Workshop Outputs**

The outputs are still being collated, however an interim summary is below. Outputs will be loaded onto the project website [www.greenphotovoice.org](http://www.greenphotovoice.org)

### Photo-stories

Participants made approximate 2-3 complete photo-stories each, making the total output approximately 120. Of this so far 41 have been translated.

### Video

A wide range of interviews and documentation of participants and workshops were carried out. A short video documentary will be produced from the workshops. (See below)

### Postcards

A series of 10 postcards were made from the translated photo-stories, compiled to represent a balanced mix of participants from each local organisation, gender and theme. (See below)

### Posters

Three posters developed from the photo-stories to enable easy sharing and instruction during future workshops. (See below)

### Presentations

The preliminary research and process was presented to the hosting organisation ICCCAD's staff, including the Director, Dr Saleemul Huq, at a Research Seminar on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Dr Huq was very supportive of the project and was keen to keep it going after our departure on 20<sup>th</sup> May.



## Project Sustainability

While the Dhaka project has been successful at generating specific sets of photo-stories, there has been key limitations:

- The photo-stories have been generated in relative isolation – there has been little or no follow-up with the participants
- There has been only limited dissemination of photo-stories (Gobeshona 2017)
- There has been little connection between the other two sites (China and Australia)

These limitations spring mainly from time constraints – fieldwork has only been short (approximately 2 week duration) and the direct photovoice activities has taken all capacity, with none leftover for the on-going relationships with the partners, participants, and sites.

To transcend these limitations, a part-time trial Dhaka Project Coordinator, hosted by ICCCAD has appointed to focus on these on-going activities and relationships, including:

- Coordinating publication of photo-stories in relevant ICCCAD channels (ICCCAD, partner organisations, etc)
- Running subsequent workshops with the participants to enact the second phase of developing the youth's action responses based on their photo-stories
- Providing an ongoing presence at the Dhaka site to enable cross-site connections

So far the Project Coordinator has been working sporadically due to Eid and other constraints, but progress is being made with an addition workshop conducted and further data collected.

## Climate Champions and Entrepreneurial Potential

As a way to make the research accessible and as a way to generate ongoing funding, we have several ideas about extending the CRME project into a social enterprise. In this way, we would be taking the macro to the micro, collating stories and sharing them globally while allowing people the opportunity to support projects and individuals through the purchase of products and through crowdfunding campaigns. It would also be our aim that the enterprise would be a platform for stimulating local actions through regular events, meet ups and social media campaigns. Beyond raising funds, it would be an accessible online platform where individuals are encouraged to foster a sense of responsibility, nurturing discussions between countries and to take collective, grounded actions to address climate change (and to support one another in these actions).

Drawing inspiration from organisations such as Lensational (<http://www.lensational.org>) who focus on women's empowerment through photography training and the sale of photographic prints, we are looking to provide an open source toolkit for photo-voice methods, as well as ongoing support, and where possible face to face training. With the intention of taking the enterprise globally, Bangladesh would be the pilot.

Through this platform, there is scope to develop the 'Climate Champions' project, and both Emily and Michael are interested in returning to Bangladesh to provide video and photography training to individuals in Bangladesh who may be able to continue to generate stories and crowdfunding campaigns on a regular basis (in addition to PhD research pending).

- **Mentorship programme:** Funds raised would assist local Bangladeshi photographers to have regular photo-voice sessions with participants, helping them to develop their photographic and written



storytelling skills over time. They would provide participants images, as well as their own images documenting the relationship, life of participant and other deeper stories. The mentor in turn would be given photographic advice, an honorarium and a global platform for their related photographic work.

- **Online Shop:** Sale of prints, diaries, calendars, other photographic products (potentially using local fair trade materials such as jute).
- **Competitions:** Photographic competitions – a good tool for collecting climate related images as well as giving opportunities to local photographers.
- **Photovoice app:** Developing a photo-voice app to collect data and stories from the wider community and for organising local actions, connections and discussions.
- **Interactive map:** People can easily click, compare, connect and support climate resilience and adaptation stories from across the globe.

***We hope that this valuable program can continue to grow and contribute to building climate resilience through visual storytelling in partnership with ICCAD.***

### **Preliminary evaluation**

Overall the workshops were a solid success, in producing a wide range of photo-stories, visual documentation, process documentation, and beginning to build sustainability into the program. Non-trivial issues remain regarding participant demographics and human resources, however these are looking very hopeful to be addressed further in the October 2017 round. We look forward to working with ICCAD again to advance this program.





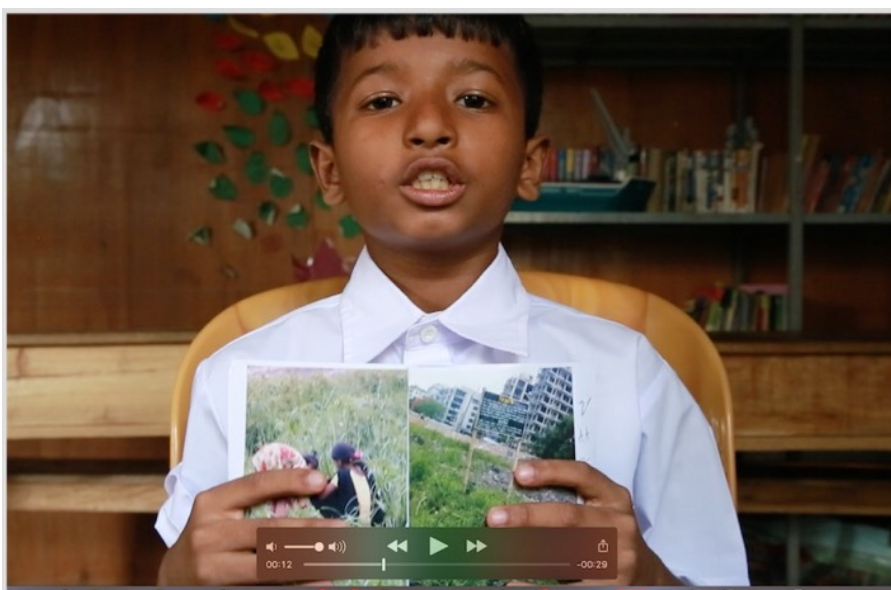
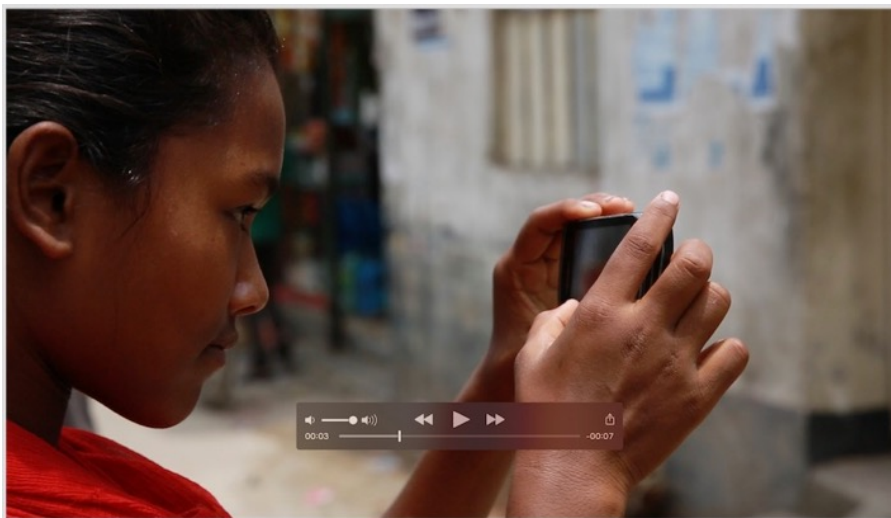






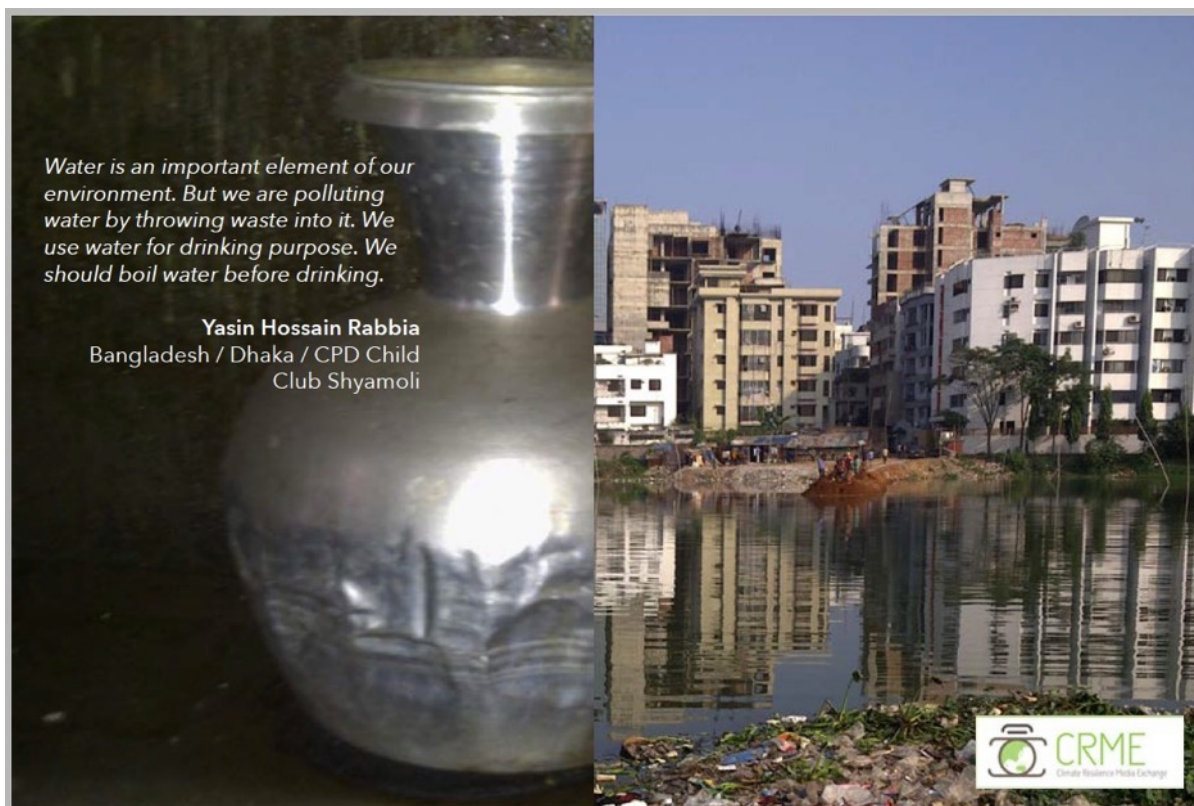


## Extracts from Video Documentation





## Postcards





Waste is everywhere! I don't want to waste anymore. So I am taking these coconut shells to reuse for many different purposes. One of my teachers told me once about recycling of used stuffs. Instead of throwing these shells in the garbage, I will make something useful out of it. Such as I can use it as plate, or planting small plants on it, keeping it on the roof as an umbrella. We can stop buying firewood and use these shells as fuel. I am so excited to take this away and start recycling.

**Fatema**

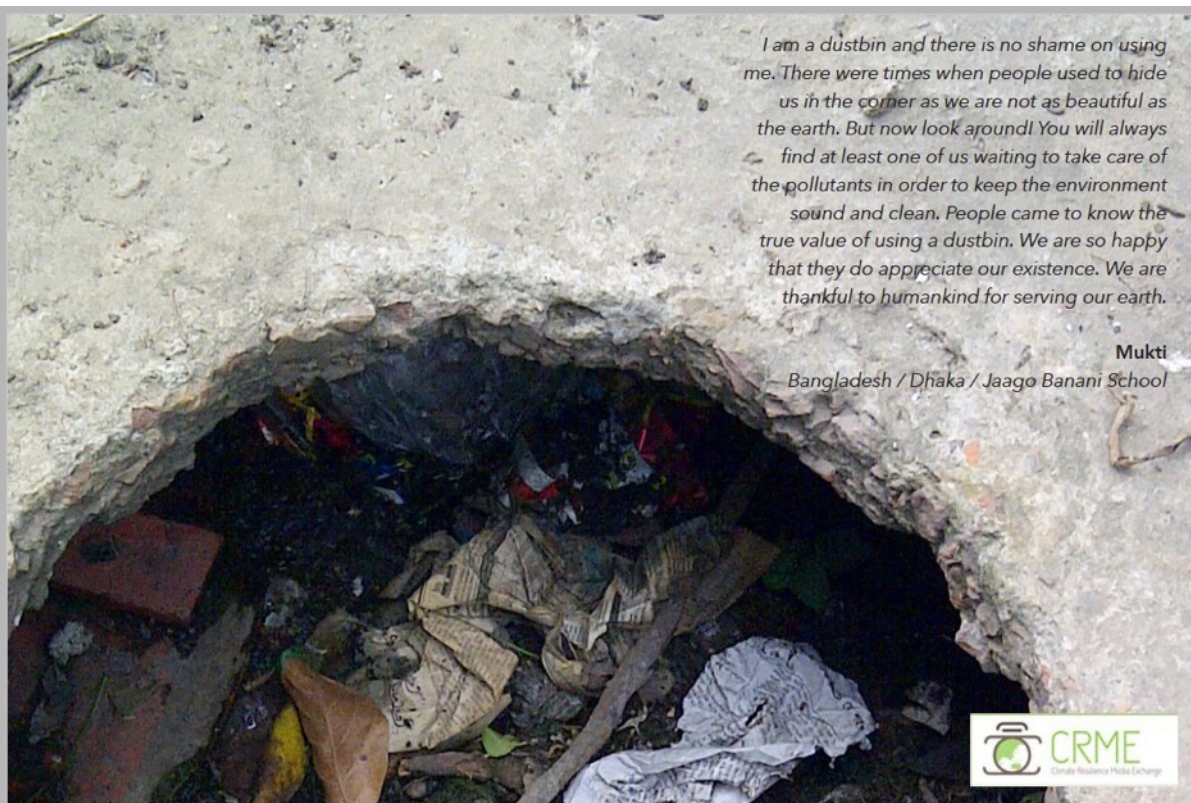
Bangladesh / Dhaka / Jaago Korail School



I am a dustbin and there is no shame on using me. There were times when people used to hide us in the corner as we are not as beautiful as the earth. But now look around! You will always find at least one of us waiting to take care of the pollutants in order to keep the environment sound and clean. People came to know the true value of using a dustbin. We are so happy that they do appreciate our existence. We are thankful to humankind for serving our earth.

**Mukti**

Bangladesh / Dhaka / Jaago Banani School







I am a tree. I give oxygen to everyone. Everybody gets flowers, fruits and shadow from me. Some take care of me, and some tear down my leaves. If they take care of me, they will get flowers and fruits. But they are cutting us down and thus destroying the environment. If they protect me, they would gain energy by eating my fruits and flowers. And if they gain energy, they can play. So, please don't cut me.



**Mukti**

Bangladesh / Dhaka / Jaago  
Banani School




Jheel is one of the source of water. But people throw waste in jheel instead of fixed garbage place. The Jheel water becomes foul and nasty. But there is life in this jheel, which gets hurt when we dump wastes. So, people realize, and started to maintain it. Now, everyone throws garbage in proper place, they keep the jheel clean. So, in the second picture you can see that the jheel is looking so beautiful after maintaining it. The red flowers of the jheelside trees added much beauty on it. Now this place gives us a soothing feeling whenever we see it.

**Sumaya Akhter**

Bangladesh / Dhaka /  
Jaago Banani School








*The Boy with Golden Stick and Hope:  
Playing crickets doesn't need good  
bats, stamps, gloves. You need eyes  
full of hope. Meet Saddam, a 7 years'  
young boy migrated from Bagerhat  
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**Bayazid Ahmed Tusher**  
Bangladesh / Dhaka /  
Project be



*Behind every successful story, there  
is someone. I have mine. Nature is my  
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different person now than I used to be.  
We are so forgetful about the blessing we  
have from nature. Yet we keep looking for  
beauty on the other side. Hills teaches me  
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the evergreen surrounding teaches me that  
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shows how important it is to make decision  
on the right time. Nature should be the  
true inspirational figure for everyone. They  
can't speak but serving us for billions of  
years. We are the true guardians of the  
environment. If not us, then who will?*

**Anika Tanjim**  
Bangladesh / Dhaka / Project be





Being Happy is easy!  
Whenever the word city appears, we  
usually picture it without less greeneries!  
Well you don't need necessarily a vast  
field to make a garden! It's a picture of  
my tiny happy place, my little balcony  
garden and i love it! Why look for  
beautiful happy places when you can  
make your surroundings, your home a  
beautiful place.

**Anika Tanjim**  
Bangladesh / Dhaka / Project be



Slum children live in an extremely vulnerable and polluted environment. Education seems to be luxury to them as survival is the hardest part. Their lives are shadowed by poverty, illness and hunger but they keep dreaming to get education. Some NGO schools like JAAGO school and

others are recently doing great works in bringing light in their darkness. As you can see the progress in the difference of their facial expression, it is the expression of joy to their achievement what seemed impossible to them before.

**Fabiha Atique Mubassirah**  
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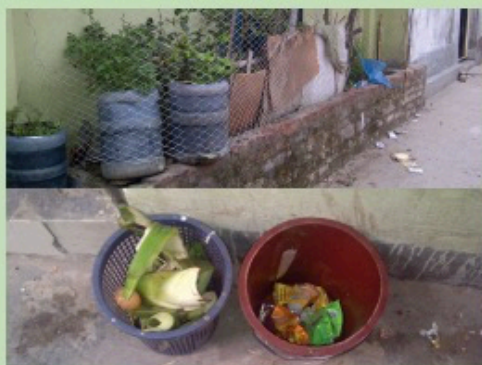


# What does urban climate resilience look like?

## Photo-stories from Dhaka youth exploring climate resilience and care for their local environment

Often it is easier to see environmental problems than solutions, so the *Climate Resilience Media Exchange* project partnered with *International Centre for Climate Change and Development* to teach Dhaka youth photo-storytelling as a way to show what climate resilience looks like in their own communities. Workshops were run with Jaago (Korail School), Community Participation and Development/Save the Children (Shyamoli Child Club), and Independent University Bangladesh (Project Be) in May 2017.

### CPD/Save the Children Child Club



If we collect our waste wisely it can be used properly. We can keep our disposable waste. Later they can be used as fertilizer. We can use these fertilizers on home grown vegetables which can benefit through the year.

Mohammad Tipu



Our world is big. But the number of trees is getting less. We can plant trees in different places, like on balcony, roof, unused land around us. Trees gives us oxygen. Planting trees can save our environment!

Sabina Aktar



We should throw waste in proper place. It will be helpful for us. Because foul smells spread from garbage, and it also helps in breeding of mosquitos and flies. We should be habituated from the childhood to throw waste in proper place. Then, our environment will be odour and pollution free. We should build awareness among people in this regard!

Jafreen Akhter



Water is an important element of our environment. But we are polluting water by throwing waste into it. We use water for drinking purpose. We should boil water before drinking.

Yasin Hossain Rabbia



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Fabiha Atique Mubassirah



Lands are being filled with buildings and waste. Trees are being cut down to provide space for infrastructures. This hampers the ecosystem. We can have indoor plants or make little gardens on our roof tops to make up for the trees which were cut down.

Sadia Sarwar

