

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA, CHITTAGON, SYLHET, KHULNA AND RAJBARI, BANGLADESH

All children deserve to live free from exploitation and abuse. In Bangladesh, we've been working with communities and governments to protect the children of sex workers and children affected by HIV and AIDS.

An estimated 200,000 women and teenage girls work in the sex industry in Bangladesh, and child prostitution is one of the most serious problems facing girls. Many children of sex workers are at risk of violence, exploitation and illness, and are denied their basic rights – including to birth certificates and preventative healthcare.¹

Many also lose their parents to HIV and AIDS, which is devastating and which limits their access to enough food and an education. This makes them even more vulnerable to sex trafficking and homelessness.

Save the Children has been working to keep these children safe from all forms of abuse, and improve their health and access to education. We've been training children and their communities on child rights. We've established child protection committees and strengthened community-based systems that help protect children. We've also created peer groups for sex workers so they can learn from each other about positive parenting.

¹ Final Evaluation Study for the protection of Bangladesh sex-worker's children and those affected by HIV/AIDS, Save the Children Bangladesh.



1. CHILD PROTECTION GROUPS



Formed
17 COMMUNITY-BASED COMMITTEES
focused on child protection.

These committees work at the village level to stop violence, abuse and exploitation.

2. BRINGING CHILDREN TOGETHER



Established
31 CHILDREN'S GROUPS.

For children and teenagers, these groups help bring children together and build protective communities where children can support each other.

3. CONNECTING MOTHERS



Established
27 MOTHER'S GROUPS.

Giving mothers a support network and a place to learn about positive parenting.

4. TRAINING SERVICE PROVIDERS



Provided training for
140 WORKERS.

People working in health, education and social services now better understand the risks and vulnerabilities faced by children.

5. TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT RESILIENCE



Provided 30 workshops
on resilience for
650 CHILDREN.

With increased confidence and knowledge about their rights, children can take better care of themselves and look for new opportunities.

 **688**

children affected by HIV and AIDS were reached by this project.

 **88.5%**

of children who participated in research on the impact of this project said they received better healthcare in 2017, up from 58.9% in 2013.

OUR PARTNERS

This project was supported by many partners including the Bangladesh Government's Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and the Ministry of Social Welfare; The Ashar Alo Society; Mukto Akash Bangladesh; Durjoy Nari Sangha; and the Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition.

WHO FUNDED THE PROJECT?

The 'Chetona' program was funded by the Australian Government. Through the government's overseas aid program, Australians are providing children and families in Bangladesh and around the world with the chance to achieve a brighter future. Find out more about how Australian Aid is changing lives at www.dfat.gov.au/aid/who-we-work-with/ngos/ancp/

