



KHM-HPC-PSK-P01, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Reporting Period: December 2018 – November 2019

## Protecting Street Kids – Phnom Penh

**Budget:** Year 1 \$45,000 - fully funded.

### The Project:

This project allows our partners to continue their outreach during the evenings in the red-light district of Phnom Penh, where new cases of child sex trafficking are continuing to occur. To prevent this, the teams head out during the evening to connect with the children on the streets, to build relationships and help them avoid predators. The second target area is the Stung Mean Chey slums, full of gangs, drugs, extreme poverty and every sort of abuse. Our partners are assessing the needs in these two areas and are coming up with the best solutions to reach children who are sexually exploited there.

### Update:

The riverfront area continues to be the focus of our partner's kids clubs and night outreaches, which run 5 days a week. The night teams reach out to small, working groups of children who sneak quick breaks away from their begging or selling. They join the clubs and get to know the friendly, caring staff. As trusted relationships form, the children feel able to disclose their abuse to the staff who will work with them and authorities to bring the abuser to justice and help the victims through the long-term process of restoration and recovery. The outreach teams are also trained to detect potential situations of abuse and to intervene to prevent them from happening.

Kids clubs are ongoing in the Stung Mean Chey slums, providing an opportunity to build trusted relationships with both children and their families. Our partners are running an Arts Program as a way to find healing through creative expression. The Arts Centre also provides awareness and counselling services and it has helped the community connect with one another. Every three months our partners conduct a comprehensive prevention program.

A plan is underway to launch a fashion design program in Stung Mean Chey slum. The aim is to bring hope to many in the slums through this opportunity to express themselves creatively, design their own product lines and sell them to generate a sustainable income. Three sewing machines have been purchased in anticipation of the launch.

An example of the outreach team's effectiveness is seen in the removal of an eight year old girl from threatening circumstances. The team noticed a mother allowing her daughter to go off with a foreign man to various eating spots. He had been able to build trust with her because she was homeless and needed the financial help. The team were able to explain the seriousness of the situation and provide a safe haven for her daughter.

Our partners are saving lives, one at a time, and believe that one day the sex tourist district of Phnom Penh will be a thing of the past. *Thank you for helping to protect the futures of these vulnerable children!*

