

Protecting Street Kids



Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Combatting Trafficking

Total Budget

\$83,000

Project Timeline

DEC 18

NOV 20



Overview

This project focused on our partners' outreach to vulnerable children during the evenings in the red-light district of Phnom Penh. The Cambodian Government told our partner that new cases of child sex trafficking were occurring in this district and at night. 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 was the Stung Mean Chey slums, full of gangs, drugs, extreme poverty and every sort of abuse. Our partners assessed the needs in these two areas and established 65 kids clubs to reach children who were at risk of sexual exploitation in these areas.

Objectives



Night Outreach Teams

Impact

Staff built trusted relationships with families in each area which led to children and/or adults disclosing their abuse or staff seeing a situation that was potentially threatening to a child's health and were able to intervene appropriately.



Establishing 65 Kids' Clubs

By the third year, our partners were able to establish 65 clubs for kids begging, selling items or their bodies on the streets, getting to know where they came from, who was sending them out and who was most vulnerable.



Develop a Healing Arts program

Starting from the ground up, securing a building and training staff in the slum area, they soon realised they could take this program to any street or location. Trained staff are now capable of sharing their knowledge with many more people.



COVID-19 Pandemic response

These communities live in extreme poverty relying on tourism, travel and the sex industry for survival. COVID-19 prevented large outdoor gatherings so visiting kids at home meant going deeper in relationship with the whole family.



Life change

- Intense campaigns educating parents about the dangers for their kids and explaining the criminal charges that could be brought against them for trafficking, as well as the kids clubs along the riverfront, has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of children working on the streets.
- Vulnerable children have been protected from trafficking and others, who have shared their stories of abuse and trauma, are on the long journey towards recovery and restoration.



Safe now

While running one of the kids' clubs, our partners noticed a man grooming two young boys and showing them pornography on his phone. He was working with a woman who had five other young kids begging for her. Working with the anti-trafficking police and SWAT team they were able to put the woman behind bars but the man slipped away. The five children, who had been sold years before, are now in a safe place on a journey of rehabilitation and restoration. The two boys have returned to their grandfather, who loves them, and is now aware of the trafficking dangers in the city and how to protect his grandsons.

Outreach team running a Kids Club in the Stung Mean Chey slum area



Help me, help my child

A young mother, living on the streets, asked our partners to find a safe and loving family to raise her son. Before this encounter, she had been approached by many people asking to buy her son. She refused, even though she was desperate for money. Had she sold her son, he would have been sold again by a pimp, grown up in a trafficking ring or forced to beg on a daily basis. Instead, she chose to put her son's life and future into the hands of people she had learned to trust the past couple of years. A little boy was rescued and placed with a loving family instead of being sold on the street! Our partners are working with the young mother to help her overcome her drug addiction and find freedom and restoration.

