

Keep Kids Safe



Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Combatting Trafficking

Total Budget



Project Timeline



Overview

This project focussed on our partners' outreach to vulnerable and exploited children in the red-light district and slum areas of Phnom Penh where gangs, drugs, extreme poverty and abuse are prevalent. Our partners have established 65 kids clubs to reach children who are at risk of sexual exploitation in these areas or have been abused. Traditional therapy methods have not always brought long-term success due to social and built-environment factors that hinder the process. Entrust has helped fund a new, innovative Creative Adventure Play (CAP) therapy program into the existing curriculum, working with abused/trafficked street children and the local community to prevent further abuse and exploitation.

Objectives

Impact

Trained staff in Therapy Skills

Staff have been trained in CAP therapy. It aims to give participants opportunities for physical exertion in order to process emotions, facilitate restoration and as a means to prevent further exploitation. It has been a huge success!



Aquired resources for CAP

Funding for resources, transport and admission fees enable outings to take place. Clients have enjoyed trips to the movie theatre and water park. Weekly soccer training and monthly inter-club tournaments are also a regular part of the program.



Creative Arts program

Music is becoming an evermore important way for children to creatively express emotions. Young people who have been through the music class have begun mentoring and teaching music in the clubs – a great way to pass on the benefits.



Introduced play therapy to program

CAP therapy has been rolled out across all Kids Clubs, and is now a cornerstone of the program. Its techniques have proven far more effective than traditional talk therapies - children open up as they play, jump, climb, explore and create.



Life Change

- Children have been taught how to avoid sex-traffickers and paedophiles.
- 84 children (29 girls & 55 boys) were rescued from situations of trafficking.
- Children have been given a safe space to play and explore their creative side with safe adults to trust.
- Children gained experiences of new environments that 'trigger' positive emotional responses that lead to healing.



Harry's story

Harry grew up in poverty with his sole provider mother and five siblings. Since 2023, he has been attending the youth soccer program, one of the most successful of the CAP therapies. More than just kicking a ball, soccer provides a green space to play on, build relationships and process trauma. Harry has thrived in this program and has been very caring and patient with other kids. His positive attitude and great potential was noticed and he was offered a paid internship to help mentor children through the soccer program. With the money he earns he can continue his studies, for which he and his mother are immensely thankful.



**Creative Adventure Play therapy in action.
880 children aged 3-14 have benefited.**

Therapy that reveals and heals

Sadly, five girls from the program were groomed and molested by a US paedophile. By using CAP therapy techniques - taking the girls on a four-day wilderness camping trip where they could relax around a campfire, playing team building games and engaging in deep conversation – our partner was able to build trust with the girls and give them the courage to confide in staff. They soon identified the lifelong offender. Our partner's investigative teams were able to gather enough evidence to report him to the FBI and he has now been arrested and deported back to the US for trial. The girls can now continue the healing process with our partner's care and support.

