

Street Kids International's **Street Work** program provides a positive learning environment for youth to explore the choices, acquire the skills, and seek out opportunities to make a better life for themselves. Our Street Business and Street Banking Toolkits are entrepreneurship and financial literacy courses designed for front-line workers to use directly with street youth. The trainings use narration, including an animated video called Speed's Choice, to tell the stories of five street youth facing the challenges and opportunities associated with earning an income. The stories allow youth to analyze cases very similar to their own in a practical, interactive and participatory manner. At the conclusion of the courses, youth will have developed their own business plan, explored the choices available to finance their businesses and are equipped with the skills to improve their businesses in the future.



The Success of the Street Work training program is grounded in three key elements:

1. **Training of Trainers Methodology** - The Street Work Training of Trainers workshops for youth workers run for 12-16 days and allows youth workers the opportunity to learn the techniques and content of the program through both active observation of youth and practice-based learning. We have found this type of participative style to be particularly effective as it offers trainers the opportunity not only to witness a live demonstration with a group of youth, but also to ask questions and test the methodology out for themselves in a supportive environment, while contributing their own unique flavour and skills to their facilitation.
2. **Development of Master Trainers** - Street Kids International consistently seeks to foster and develop national teams of Master Trainers in order to strengthen the capacity of local NGOs and state-run social services in the implementation of successful and effective learning and earning opportunities for youth. From the initial contact with youth workers, individual trainers who show potential as national leaders are identified and developed. Those who excel have the opportunity to lead trainings in other countries in an effort to reinforce South-South partnerships and knowledge exchange.
3. **Adaptation to local cultural context and experience** - Modules are versioned by our local partners. Their experience has led to the broadening of the trainings to include components essential to the success of their income-generating activities, which are later packaged and shared with their peers around the world. Some examples of these adaptations and innovations are as follows:

SathSath (Nepal)

Innovation: "Practice Businesses", a practical step between training and youth-directed business start-up.

SathSath found that youth needed proof that business does indeed work. Using the organization's equipment, youth spend a month or more running a viable business and gain confidence in their ability to do the same.





Mkombozi (Tanzania)

Innovation: Insistence on business mentor pairing before loans are distributed.

Mkombozi encourages youth to find mentors of their own as a precondition to accessing a loan. While this has been challenging for some youth, Mkombozi feels that mentors provide the community support that they themselves cannot provide long term. This is especially true in the case of older youth who are taking steps towards adult independence.

DINA (Tajikistan)

Innovation: Business training in national vocational schools.

DINA has led the training of government trainers in vocational schools. While vocational training has long been used as a means to offer marginalized young people the skills to earn an income, this type of training has often lacked the complimentary learning of a solid grounding in business operations. By providing the opportunity to learn both the “hard” and “soft” skills of a trade, young people have more choices in how they chose to earn an income.

CDEA (Bolivia)

Innovation: Broadened scope of training to that of a life project, rather than a means to an immediate financial end.

CDEA believes that financial independence is only one life goal. To address the holistic needs of youth, they have integrated the business and banking training into a greater life project where participants are accompanied through an intensive 26 week period towards greater self-actualization.

Innovation: Relationship building with MFIs to transform program graduation to equate to business experience.

CDEA has also been successful in encouraging the participation of MFI staff in their trainings so as to make the case for the expertise and skills exhibited by youth upon the conclusion of the workshops.



Street Kids International is a non-profit agency founded in Canada that is a global leader in developing and disseminating the strategies and tools needed to give street kids around the world the choices, skills, and opportunities to make a better life for themselves. Street Kids International area of focus is the leveraging of the strengths and assets of local partner organizations, and building the capacity of youth work practitioners.

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