



Who is Street Kids International?

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.

We team with youth workers to develop locally relevant, innovative workshops using award winning animations that engage kids about sexual health, drug use and youth entrepreneurship. Having worked with more than 2 million street kids in over 60 countries, Street Kids International has been recognized by the United Nations as a Global Best practice leader in youth work.

Street Kids' Core Operating Principles

Street Kids International uses five operating principles as the back bone of what we do. These five principles guide us to work with effective local partners from the wide spectrum of youth serving organizations to develop practical tools which can be adapted and address the constantly changing needs of youth.

Open source code: We actively "give away" our methods and materials and look to our partners to demonstrate creativity and innovation by improving them and developing new applications for their use.

Initiative-driven partnerships: Our partners "choose us" by being healthy skeptics and by adapting our methods and materials to meet their local needs. Consequently, our partnerships are strengthened and have sustained mutual impact.

Multi-sector engagement: We support and engage individuals and organizations from government, non-government, and private sectors to enable local innovation to be converted into genuine policy change that has a significant and sustained impact on the lives of street kids.

Partner networks: Our strategy of sharing effective practices between regions creates networks of our partners across the globe that stimulates learning, leads to the ongoing enrichment of our methods and materials, and grows our impact.

Growth oriented: Our exponential growth is driven by the capacity of our local partners to train a growing number of individuals and their institutions to deliver direct programming to street kids, resulting in sustained impact and declining costs over time.

Street Choices Programming

To engage with and then support street active youth, Street Kids International has developed an overarching package of youth work tools, methodologies and trainings under the brand "*Street Choices*". This program is broken into three interrelated components, each of which serves to empower street active young people and the institutions that serve them.

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- **Street Health:** initiatives to help street active children and youth make more informed choices about sexual health and substance use, and develop the life skills and self care strategies needed to improve their overall physical and mental health.
- **Street Work:** initiatives that offer business education, business start-up and micro-credit support to street active youth, while linking them to community mentors and preparing them to access broader credit and business development support from community based micro-finance institutions and business incubator programs. Street Work is comprised of a basic business program called the Street Business Toolkit, and a complementary training program focused on building resources through loans and savings called the **Street Banking Toolkit**.
- **Street Rights:** initiatives that address the promotion of “positive rights”, or the right to receive health care, access flexible educational programs, and carry out livelihood activities free from abusive discretionary practices of police and municipal authorities.

Street Kids Methodology

Street Kids International believes strongly that youth have a lot to say about their experiences and their future. At the heart of what we do is a participatory approach which creates multiple ways of youth expressing their opinions and sharing their experiences. Through the use of narration, animation, games, role play, community interactions and mapping as well as written charts and one-on-one mentoring, youth build their skills and capabilities to make safe and healthy choices for their future.

Street Kids International works with youth workers as our primary entry to impact the lives of youth. Using a train the trainer model, Street Kids’ tools and methodologies are able to be shared and disseminated to reach a wide scope and range of professionals working and impacting the lives of young people. Our train the trainer model is unique in that it involves a two stage process of “learning by observing” and “learning by doing”. The first step allows youth workers to engage and participate in the material and consider the various ways to integrate and adapt them for their use. The second step enables these same youth workers to practice delivering the content to other participants (youth or other practitioners) within the coached environment including Street Kids facilitators.

Street Kids has found that applying this two step, “live” approach to the train the trainer model, ensures that youth workers truly understand the potential and the nuances of the material as well as offers them the chance to explore some of potential adaptations for the tools.

Street Kids’ Sustainability Model

The experience of working with many groups of practitioners and trainers over the course of 19 years has provided Street Kids with an interesting opportunity to review some effective methods for building and strengthening individual youth workers, national and regional teams of trainers. Many of our lessons learned are applicable for all of our program tools since they are based on the train the trainer model. These lessons have culminated in the development of a graduated process to develop Master Trainers.

Street Kids International consistently seeks to foster and develop local groups of trainers in each country in order to strengthen the capacity of local NGOs in the implementation of successful and effective learning opportunities for youth. From the initial contact with national youth workers, Street Kids and its partners begin to identify individual trainers and organizations, which could be part of a national team of Master Trainers.

Through a series of steps, youth workers move through the five steps between being a participant to becoming an international trainer. Each of these steps involves the incremental practice and applications of the tools to numbers of youth and youth workers. The process is a coached one which ensures the high level of program quality in both content and delivery.

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