

RIVERKIDS: OUR MODEL

With more than 400 alumni in Phnom Penh, Riverkids has a waiting list of alumni nationwide for child trafficking. We work in communities that don't already have a strong NGO presence.

Riverkids works on a site basis, with programs carried out within walking distance of the families we need to help.

First, we meet and talk to as many families as possible to learn what's really happening in the community, what families want and what children need most.

We start a small classroom for up to 25 children in our Afterschool Tuition program with a housemother recruited from the community, and a teacher and social worker. As the children gain confidence and skills, we enroll them in a nearby state school.

Through this we know who the troubled families are and they've learned that Riverkids can be depended on for compassionate help.

More programs like our Kindergarten and Get Ready programs are added to meet the needs of the community.

With the growing trust of the community, Riverkids is informed of planned child trafficking and exploitation, and can intervene before a child is harmed.

With more families involved in our programs, we can encourage them to turn to each other for help and think of community-driven solutions.

Positive examples of changed families with thriving children help start to change the community standards so that trafficking is seen as a tragedy and not as an easy choice.

As our families recover, we slowly graduate them out of our programs. For some deeply troubled families, their children will need our help until they reach adulthood.

Our goal: To transform child-trafficking slums into communities that care for and protect their children.

*Illustrated and designed
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