

Pavement Project in a Nutshell

It has been said that “you can take a child out of the streets, but you can’t take the streets out of a child.”

Street children are perhaps the most at-risk children on the planet: vulnerable to disease, exploitation and abuse. Although there are thousands of organisations working to reach out to them and rescue such children from the streets, workers repeatedly struggle to keep them from going back. Their self-worth destroyed, unable to recognise their true value, these children simply cannot accept that they are worthy of the help offered them. As far as they are concerned, their story has already been written. They end up back on the streets. Pavement Project exists to break this cycle. It was in response to the situation of street children that Pavement Project was created. Now, the work not only ministers to street children, but to vulnerable children in many difficult situations.

- Four years in the making, Pavement Project uses a Bible-based therapeutic counselling process, called Picture Me.
- Designed by child psychology / trauma specialists and delivered by trained workers, it’s a holistic approach that takes the Bible seriously – and it’s all about relationship. Children see love in action, and encounter God through the workers, as well as the stories they tell.
- The counselling materials have been carried in a big green bag that became a familiar sight, a symbol of love and acceptance. Now, the resource is just as likely (an increasingly so) to be carried on a tablet via a specially created app. Still containing the same love and hope.
- Children are encouraged to share their stories, to talk about the negative experiences they have had, and about how that made them feel, and are reassured that there are other children just like them.
- Workers then share stories of encounter with Jesus, which begin the process of bringing about healing and transformation.
- Through the counselling process, children begin to see themselves differently. Slowly, self-worth and a sense of hope for the future can emerge.
- Stories are shared ... relationship grows ... transformation comes.

“Maybe you are wondering how 45 minutes of pictures and familiar stories can really help a child who’s been raped, or who is HIV-positive, or whose parents have disowned them. But I have come to know that because God is in these stories and pictures, and at the centre of the whole process, **Pavement Project** created an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to come in and touch that child’s life, right where it hurts. God can change how that child feels about what happened, which ripples out to affect how they behave and interact with others, and so each ripple continues.” *Joanna Wakia, former Pavement Project Coordinator for East Africa.*



Pavement Project in Numbers

Since the beginning of the program, we have carried out 75,581 one-to-one counselling sessions with at-risk children. We are actively working in 21 countries in partnership with 521 churches or organisations that work with children, through 718 workers. We currently have 27 certified Trainers, and 42 are taking the Trainers training, covering 19 countries around the world.

- **718** workers are currently trained to use Pavement Project.
- There are **27** certified trainers and **42** undergoing training, covering **19** countries.
- **75,581** one-to-one counselling sessions have been completed with at risk children.
- Pavement Project is active in **21** countries, working alongside **521** partner organisations and churches to reach vulnerable children.
- Pavement Project has trained workers counselling in DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Portugal.



“Pavement Project works with a child individually. That’s the beauty of it- it’s something personal. The bible becomes alive to them; it’s not just a story to be told. We are witnessing lives change, and this is a privilege.

Now with Pavement Project I see children dreaming beautiful dreams for themselves. They believe that they can have a future, they want to go to school. They want something else from life, and that’s what Pavement Project has been doing to the children and their communities.”

Clenir Xavier dos Santos, Global Pavement Project Director

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