

NO CHILD FORCED TO LIVE ON THE STREET



Retrak
inspiring street children

**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2012**

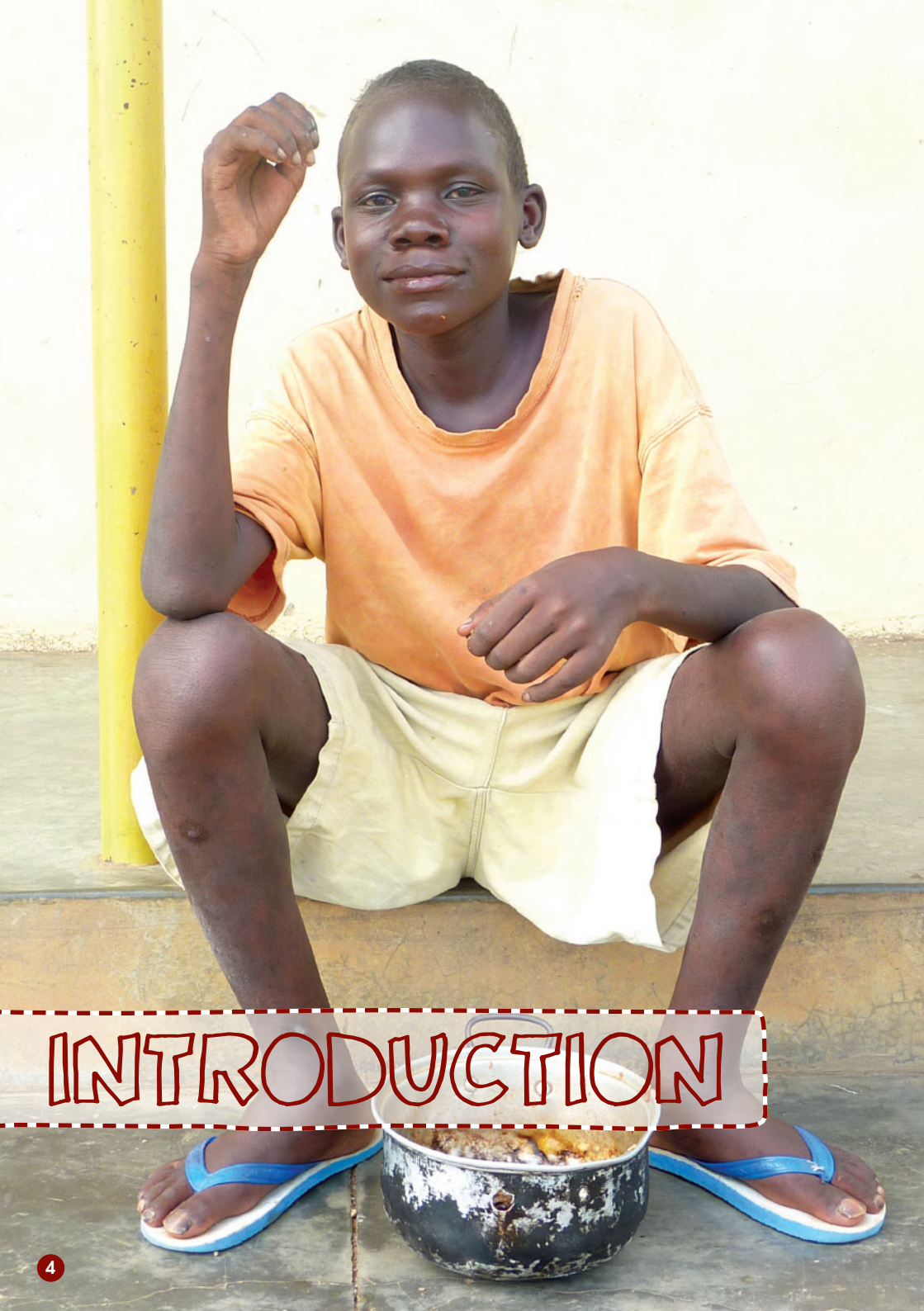
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The Retrak policy on child safeguarding requires we change all of the children's names in our publications to protect their real identity.



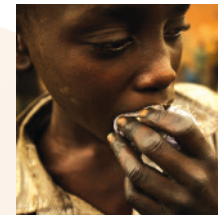
INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE RETRAK ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2012

I hope you will take a few minutes to read in the following pages about some of the exciting developments that have occurred during 2012. It was a year of milestones for Retrak, as we returned our **1,000th** child to a home and we expanded our work to include programs for street girls.

2012 was a banner year closer to home as well, when in July Retrak America was designated a US-registered 501(c)(3) charity. During 2012, Retrak America continued its partnership with GlobalGiving, and we gained new supporters such as the Belgian Embassy to the US and the International Monetary Fund. Our new 501(c)(3) status will allow us to reach out to even more funders and gain further traction as we work to support our colleagues in Africa.

At the heart of everything that Retrak does is the belief that every child is unique and valuable, and that each and every child deserves to be raised in a loving home. Inside this report you'll be introduced to some of the children who have gone through Retrak's programs. Their personal stories should give you an idea of the unique challenges that these children face and the important work that Retrak does to transform their lives.



Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers here in the US who have helped Retrak America in 2012. It has been a privilege to work with you and Retrak America couldn't have come as far as we have without your help.

Joan Townsend,
US Country Director

OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT

Retrak works to transform highly vulnerable children's lives; preserve families; empower communities and give each of them a voice. We put children at the very heart of everything we do and will be fearless and tenacious in defending and promoting their rights.

"THE BEST THING ABOUT
RETRAK FOR ME IS
GETTING MY EDUCATION,
BECAUSE EDUCATION IS
MY FUTURE."

Michael, 14 yrs old



WELCOME TO THE RETRAK ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2012

This year an amazing **9,207** children and families were provided with a range of different services by Retrak. However, there is still much to be done as the estimates of street children range in the millions globally. This global need is part of the reason Retrak's Vision has changed to:

A world where no child is forced to live on the street.

The change in vision came about as we spent a considerable portion of 2012 designing the new Retrak Strategy 2013 – 2017, which you can download from our website.

Some other highlights for 2012 included:

1. Developed new partnerships allowing us to expand and open new centers and reach street girls for 2013. One of those was with Cordaid, a Dutch NGO with the activities beginning in May 2013. This partnership will allow us to work with communities in an exciting new way through 'self help groups.'
2. We were also for the first time able to work with children who had suffered as a result of a natural disaster. In Ethiopia we have provided emergency food provision to over 2,000 people and as a result helped over 600 children complete their schooling.

3. Retrak America launched as a Charity.
4. Retrak ZERO Appeal with UK Aid matching donations over a 12 week period raised a total of **£374k (\$598k)**, with more than 2,000,000 viewers of appeal materials / media coverage. A massive thanks to the Manchester Evening News (MEN) who were Retrak's media partner, without whom we would not have been able to do this.

One of the most exciting things to watch for in 2013 with Retrak is that we will begin to work in other African countries – you can follow our progress via our website, Twitter and Facebook pages.

Finally, I would like to convey my personal gratitude to all of you who are engaged with Retrak. Thank you for all your passion, prayer, dedication, commitment and support to see children's lives transformed. It never ceases to amaze me! Finally, I invite you to join with us on the journey ahead because we are still learning, we still need your time, prayers, donations and help. There is still much work to be done. Best wishes and once again a HUGE thank you for all your support.

Diarmuid O'Neill,
Retrak Chief Executive and Chair of
the Retrak America Board of Trustees

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WHAT WE DO



WHAT WE DO

Across the world there are hundreds of thousands of children living on the streets suffering hunger, poverty, abuse and violence.

Retrak is a charity working to give these children a real alternative to life on the streets, and to give them a voice.

We provide these vulnerable children with food, medical care, legal support, shelter, clothing, counseling and opportunities for education. Where possible, Retrak will work to return children to their families and if that's not possible into foster care or supported independent living.

We also work with families, carers and communities to address the root causes that lead children to be living on the street, and also to prevent children returning to the street. This includes parenting skills, reinforcing child protection messages, and supporting income generating activity.

We put children at the very heart of everything we do.

WHAT CHILDREN SAY ABOUT WHAT WE DO

"RETRAK HAS GIVEN ME HOPE". Moses, aged 8.

"RETRAK OPENED MY EYES, I HAD NO HOPE OF EVER GOING TO SCHOOL, I COULD NOT EVEN SPELL OR WRITE MY NAME, BUT NOW I CAN EVEN WRITE A BOOK OF MY OWN." Julius, aged 13, Uganda.

"THANK YOU BECAUSE NOW I HAVE ACHIEVED SOMETHING I DID NOT THINK WAS POSSIBLE." Belete, 17, on graduating from a Vocational Training Course.

"I NEVER EVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD AGAIN LIVE IN A HOME - AND HAVE A PLACE I CALL HOME, AND BELONG TO A FAMILY AND LATER ON BE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL. FOR ME THIS IS A MIRACLE TO BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, IT IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE." Frank, 13 years old.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

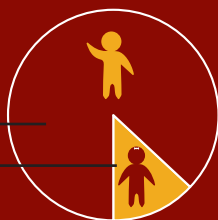
9,207 NO. OF COUNSELING SESSIONS DELIVERED: **1,947**

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKED WITH

95% CHILDREN REINTEGRATED IN ETHIOPIA ARE HEALTHY, SAFE, EMOTIONALLY WELL, EDUCATED AND TRAINED AFTER 6 MONTHS IN THEIR FAMILY AND/OR COMMUNITY

GENDER SPLIT:

BOYS 87%
GIRLS 13%



Number of children who participated in education:

ONE THOUSAND AND SIXTY

128 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

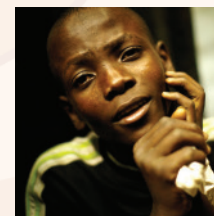
455 CHILDREN GIVEN HIV / AIDS EDUCATION

WHERE WE WORK

TANZANIA



At the end of 2012 Retrak began to work with Mkombozi in Tanzania on the Campaign Against Child Abuse. This will involve developing awareness raising and advocacy messages, training children to create and deliver radio programs and meeting with key stakeholders such as government departments, Mkombozi staff and relevant partner organizations. We expect to reach 420 adults and 420 children with this project.



"I FOUND MYSELF - NOW I FEEL LIKE I CAN MOVE FORWARD TO THE FUTURE."

Brihanu, aged 17, doing tailoring VOT - now working

UGANDA



Retrak Uganda reached **4,694** vulnerable children in 2012. Our drop in center continues to provide medical care, counseling, education, shelter, and voluntary HIV testing, and Tudabujja, our halfway home provides a space in which children can prepare for reintegration with families.

Our partner Dwelling Places also enables street children access health care, education and psycho-social support, as well as helping children return home to a safe family. In 2012 Retrak supported Dwelling Places to work with over 200 such vulnerable children.

Our partner Child Restoration Outreach have continued their vital work with street girls reaching over 700 children.

Retrak have also supported the training of over 50 staff members in Uganda.

ETHIOPIA



Retrak Ethiopia worked with over 2,000 children in 2012 who were living on the street, or at risk of being forced to live on the street. Our new night shelter was also renovated during 2012 allowing us to increase capacity.

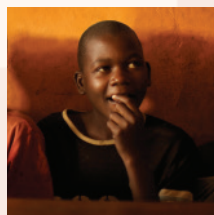
Our partner Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street children, worked with over 200 children and 80 care givers, offering rehabilitation to street girls and reintegrating them back in to their families or in to independent living.

In Ethiopia, Retrak also worked in a disaster area for the first time with our partner, Rift Valley Children and Women's Development Organization, to address the food shortage and malnutrition as a result of the drought in the region. This program provided 650 children with meals, enabling them to maintain their health, and continue their education.

KENYA



Our Kenyan partner, Child Rescue Kenya (CRK) delivers the program Street Smart which helped over 400 children in 2012 through street outreach work. Social workers from CRK gain the trust of children in their own environment and offer counseling before providing a safe place for food, washing facilities and informal education.



"BEFORE I CAME TO RETRAK I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO CARE ABOUT ANYTHING OR HOW TO LOVE OTHERS-BUT NOW I HAVE LEARNED HOW TO LOVE."

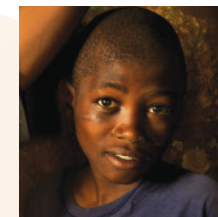
Isaac, aged 16

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CHILDREN'S STORIES

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DAWIT'S STORY

Dawit was 15 years old when he first met Retrak. He had traveled to the big city streets of Addis Ababa with hopes of earning money to support his family but he soon became lost and these hopes quickly disappeared.

Dawit's father died when he was young and he was given the role of supporting his family. Dawit offered shoe shining on the streets of his home town Bahar Dar but one day a friend told him he could make more money in Addis Ababa. Believing he could improve his family's situation, Dawit made the journey there. Unfortunately he became separated from his friend and was soon alone and anxious. Shoe shining did not offer the opportunities he had hoped as there were shoe-shiners on every corner and Dawit soon found he had no money to return home. He was forced to start living on the streets.

Two weeks later, after being introduced to Retrak by another boy living on the street, Dawit was invited to our drop-in

center. He stayed at the center for one month and told staff his story. He became involved in activities such as sports skills sessions, life skills sessions and joined in with education catch up classes. He was also offered counseling by our staff during which he expressed a strong desire to reintegrate with his family.

Dawit's excitement grew as he heard that he could return home and in January 2012 he was reunited with his family. Accompanied by a Retrak Social Worker Dawit returned home to the welcome of many family members. Upon opening the gate his little sister shouted out in joy and started crying with delight. We met with Dawit's family to explain Dawit's experiences of street life and to talk about the challenges facing the family. Retrak gave Dawit's mother a grant to enable her to set up a vegetable selling business. Our support means the family now has a regular income and Dawit is now happily living at home and excited about returning to school.

"RETRAK CREATES A NEW
HOPE IN MY LIFE."

Yeshe, aged 15

"WHEN AN OUTREACH WORKER FROM RETRAK INTRODUCED THEMSELVES TO JIMMY AND OFFERED HELP, JIMMY WAS GIVEN HOPE."



JIMMY'S STORY

Jimmy was 14 years old and struggling at school. He failed to pass the exams needed to move him in to the next year group. Upon discovering this, Jimmy's father ordered his mother not to give him any more food. When Jimmy's mother disobeyed this order she was beaten. Feeling life at home was unbearable Jimmy felt he had no alternative but to leave.

Jimmy then found himself living on the streets of his home town of Kitgum before deciding to go to Kampala. Thinking life would be better there Jimmy used all his money to buy a bus ticket, arriving at the bus station late at night.

Overwhelmed by the city, he felt confused and alone, especially since he did not speak the local dialect. Luckily he met another boy who spoke his language and the two boys stayed together. But two days after selling his shoes to pay for

food and using a sack to sleep in, Jimmy ran out of money. Passers-by were verbally abusive and unfriendly and so when an outreach worker from Retrak introduced themselves to Jimmy and offered help, Jimmy was given hope. Retrak gave Jimmy a safe place and opportunity to express himself. We have supported him to learn peer to peer empowerment skills, engage in catch up education, and other children now turn to him for support. Jimmy enjoys helping out at the refuge and can often be found supporting other children with their English communication or writing. Retrak empowers children to choose their own path in life and Jimmy hopes to go back to school in the future. Jimmy is preparing to move back home with the support and protection of Retrak and is excited about his future.

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ELFAGED / MESERET'S STORY

Elfaged told Retrak outreach workers that 3 weeks previously he had been sleeping in the middle of the road on the central reservation when a car had run over his foot. The driver didn't stop so he was left there in agony and with a bad injury (a deep, infected wound about 10 cm long and 5 cm across) and no prospect of medical help. The outreach workers encouraged him to come to the Retrak drop-in center for medical care, but he was very hesitant. Finally, after much cajoling, he agreed, but then whispered: "*but there's a problem!*" staff asked what the problem was, and the reply came: "*well, actually, I'm a girl!*"

Elfaged was actually called Meseret and had been disguising herself as a boy for the past 3 years to stay safe. She told Retrak that her strategy to protect herself on the street was to shave off her hair, dress as a boy, wear a big old overcoat to cover her body, and hang around younger kids who wouldn't ask so many questions or realize her gender!

Meseret came to the clinic at the Retrak drop-in center and after a course of antibiotics and daily dressings the wound healed. Meseret started to attend the education catch-up classes with the other street children. One quiet afternoon when most of the other children were not around, she began talking with one of the social workers and for the first time confessed that she had a mother and father, although they were separated. She said she really wanted to return home to her mom and that she was sick of street life and the pretence of living as a boy.

The social workers worked intensively with Meseret to help her achieve her dream of returning home and helped restore her selfconfidence which had been eaten away by years of suffering and living on the street.

Meseret has now graduated from vocational training to be a hairdresser and is about to embark on working for the first time!



"THE SOCIAL WORKERS ARE NOW WORKING INTENSIVELY WITH MESERET TO HELP HER ACHIEVE HER DREAM OF RETURNING HOME."



MONITORING, EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

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MONITORING, EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

This has been an exciting year for Retrak as we have grown in our capacity to collect, analyze and use quality information to inform our decision-making and learning and to influence change beyond our direct work with children and families.

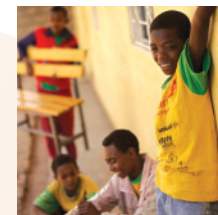
We have begun to pilot our specially designed beneficiary database which will allow us to electronically collect and store information about the children and families we work with.

Alongside this we developed a case management and monitoring toolkit to accompany our Family Reintegration Standard Operating Procedures and piloted a training curriculum for the Procedures and toolkit.

In Ethiopia we researched the possible use of these Procedures to aid reintegration of children in institutional care and found them to be successful and much needed.

"WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ASSOCIATION WITH RETRAK, IT IS CLEAR THAT RETRAK HAS ESTABLISHED A MODEL THAT WORKS AND DELIVERS RESULTS FOR STREET CHILDREN."

AVSI Country Representative Uganda



The data we collected in 2012 was not only able to show another year of growth in terms of the numbers of children and families we are working with, but for the first time included information on the impact of Retrak's programs on children's wellbeing.

During 2012 we had several opportunities to share our work with others, most noticeably through the end of our PEPFAR-funded project and the evaluation of our work which concluded that:

"Retrak exceeded all the targets set. Children's overall wellbeing improved during their time with Retrak and continued to do so after placement with families. The services Retrak provide are very relevant to the needs of children and their families; and children's participation and involvement in decision-making throughout the project is excellent."

In 2012 we expanded and were influential in setting up networks to help better children's lives. With this, and our work in advocacy and research, we are able to have a greater influence over policy and decision making, and make a difference to many more children.

ADVOCACY CASE STUDY

Retrak have helped to launch the Alternative Care Network in Ethiopia. Working together with the Ethiopian Government through the Ministry of Women's, Children's and Youth Affairs (who will house the new secretariat), it is hoped that this new network and secretariat will be a hub of learning and will greatly enhance the efforts to promote family and community based care options for children. Retrak is a key part of the Ethiopian Government's move away from institutional care for children.

RESEARCH CASE STUDY

Retrak has undertaken research into the needs of street children in institutional care and how Retrak's reintegration procedures can be used in the process of de-institutionalization. Our recommendations were endorsed by UNICEF and research such as this, revealing that long-term institutional care can be damaging to children, has promoted an international move towards reducing the use of children's homes and finding alternatives which allow children to benefit from care and protection in a loving family environment.

CAPACITY BUILDING CASE STUDY

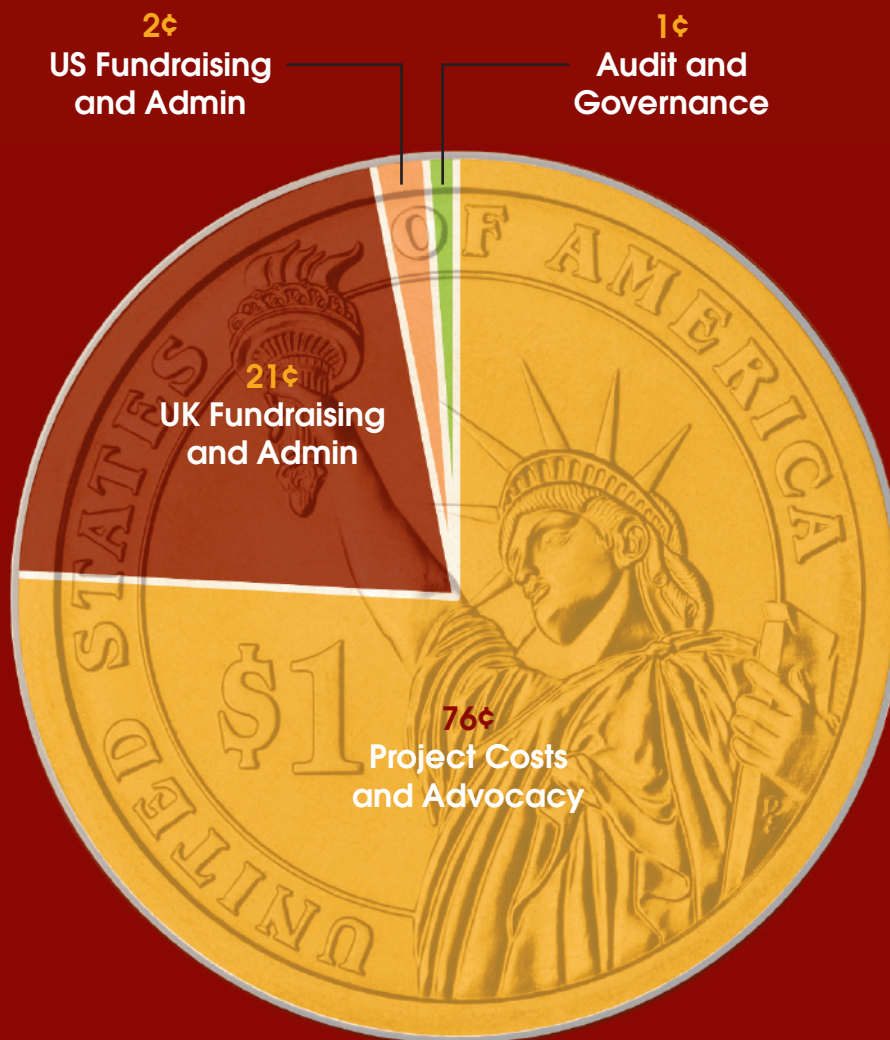
Based on our experience and building on the foundation of the UN Alternative Care Guidelines, child rights and attachment theory, Retrak has developed a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for family reintegration and a training curriculum for them. Retrak piloted this training curriculum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2012 and has since run workshops in Kampala, Uganda and Lubumbashi, DR Congo. We hope that the SOPs can be used to inform and guide the wider street child practitioner community and improve the quality of care available to all street children.

"I FIND RETRAK'S APPROACH SO EFFECTIVE, PARTICULARLY ON REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN BACK TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY."

Uganda Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness & Refugees

OUR FINANCES

Total income = \$1,509,454



THANK YOU



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



COMIC RELIEF



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THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported Retrak during 2012. You have made a huge difference to the lives of children forced to live on the street.

Here are just a few of the ways supporters have enabled us to provide a real alternative to life on the streets to many vulnerable children:

- Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro
- Taking part in our Commando Challenge
- Greater Manchester Police & Fire Service raised over \$80,000 for Retrak and volunteered at our projects
- Hosting music concerts
- Holding a sleep out
- Our Zero Appeal raised over \$288,000 which was matched by UK Aid.



The Commando Challenge



Kilimanjaro Challenge



Retrak Sleep Out

Thank you to all the companies, trusts, institutions and churches who have supported us during 2012. We can't name all of you but here are a few!

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. David's Church, Washington, DC • GlobalGiving • The Episcopal Diocese of Washington • Cycle Africa • International Monetary Fund • Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church • Fleet Baptist Church • St Paul's Chipperfield • St Michael's & All Angels • St Paul's (Tervuren) • Ivy (Manchester) • Chichester Baptist Church • CMS • Holy Trinity Church – Sutton Montis • St Peter & St Paul (Tonbridge) • Tabeel Trust • The Coniah Trust • The Hillfield Trust • Souter Charitable Trust • Rowan Charitable Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minos Trust • Dorfred Charitable Trust • Anglican Aid (The Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund) • The Paul Farrer Charitable Trust • The Francis Crabtree Charitable Trust • H A Holliday Charitable Trust • Stansfield Charitable Trust • The Noel Buxton Trust • The Evan Cornish Foundation • Maranatha Christian Trust • Zurich Community Trust • Home Trust • Fulmer Trust • The Marr-Munning Trust • The St. Mary's Charity • Paget Trust • The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.B. and H.H. Taylor 1984 Charitable Trust • Better Lives • The Girdlers' Company Charitable Trust • Diggs Family Foundation • The Tournelles Foundation • Spencer Hunt • Belgian Embassy, Washington DC • British Embassy, Brussels • Nairobi chamber choir • Volunteer fundraising teams in the UK, Belgium and the USA • St Paul's British Primary School • The European School • Open Gate • African Palms • Ceniath Foundation • Wade Family Foundation |
|--|---|---|



"WHEN I WAS ON THE STREETS OF KAMPALA, I WAS HALF-DEAD, HALF-ALIVE, BUT WHEN I CAME HERE MY LIFE WAS FULL AGAIN."

Nasiche, 10 years old



Retrak
inspiring street children

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You can also help Retrak to raise awareness of the issues of street children by following us on Twitter or Facebook.



WE DO EVERYTHING
WE CAN TO HELP
STREET CHILDREN

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

A U.S. registered 501(c)(3) public charity. EIN number 45-3616612