

PEPFAR/NPI

**Sustainable reintegration of orphans and vulnerable children into family and community life in Uganda and Ethiopia**

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**Annual Report FY11**

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## I. Table of Contents

I.	Table of Contents .....	i
II.	Acronyms .....	ii
III.	Executive Summary .....	1
	Program Overview .....	1
	General Summary of Results and Successes.....	1
	Major Challenges, Constraints and Lessons Learned .....	2
	Brief summary of activities planned for the next period.....	2
IV.	Summary Table of PEPFAR Indicators .....	3
V.	Project Implementation by Strategic Objective .....	4
	Retrak Uganda .....	4
	Retrak Ethiopia .....	7
VI.	Monitoring and Evaluation .....	12
	Activities .....	12
	Data quality .....	12
	Summary of all Program indicators (both PEPFAR and non-PEPFAR) .....	14
VII.	Management and Staffing .....	15
VIII.	Budget.....	15
	Budget: Estimated budget and actual expenditure for reporting period.....	15
IX.	Other Issues.....	15
X.	Success Story .....	16

## II. Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CSI	Child Status Index
FY11	US government fiscal year 2011 (1st October 2010 to 30th September 2011)
GER	Great Ethiopian Run
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGA	Income Generating Activity
ISU	International School of Uganda
IT	Information Technology
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (Ugandan Ministry responsible for OVC affairs)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWCYA	Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (Ethiopian Ministry responsible for OVC affairs)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NuPITA	John Snow International project NuPITA providing technical support for Retrak
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
SCNN	Street Children NGO Network (Ugandan network)
SKI	Street Kids International
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing

### III. Executive Summary

#### Program Overview

Retrak is a faith based NGO working with OVC on the street in Africa and committed to providing each child with an individual route back to family and community. Retrak's project in Uganda has been operating for over 10 years and the lessons learnt have been successfully transferred to a new project in Ethiopia, which opened in June 2007. Both Retrak projects aim to enable OVC living on the streets to return to a stable and caring family setting. This is achieved through reunification with their own relatives or through placement with local foster care families and with support to build the capacity of these families to meet the needs of their children.

During this 3-year project Retrak's goal through PEPFAR is to further strengthen and grow these programs in both countries in order to provide short-term quality care and protection to OVC on the street and to strengthen families to meet the needs of these OVC in the long-term.

The 3 year strategic objectives are:

1. Enable over 1000 OVC to begin the transition from street life through meeting their psychosocial, health and education needs
2. Enable over 360 OVC to be reintegrated into a sustainable family context
3. Build the capacity of Retrak projects to improve quality and efficiency
4. Strengthen partnerships, both locally and internationally

#### General Summary of Results and Successes

To date, with 2 months of implementation remaining, Retrak has met its PEPFAR targets for this project:

- 2866 children provided with a minimum of one care service (LoP target 1020)

And its internal targets:

- 2789 OVC on the street accessing services at our drop-in centers, including counseling, basic needs, life skills, medical care and HIV/AIDS peer education (LoP target 950)
- 407 OVC reintegrated or placed in foster care (LoP target 335)
- 377 OVC followed-up in their families (LoP target 260)

**Retrak Uganda** – During this reporting period 744 OVC received services, either on the streets or in the drop-in center in Kampala and in families across the country, this brings the total for the life of the project to 2424 OVC receiving one or more services. Retrak has continued to carry out street visits, other outreach activities. Over 300 children benefitted from the services provided at the drop-in center and 97 children received comprehensive care at the halfway home. 104 children were reunified with their families in locations across Uganda and 4 children were placed in foster care. 35 potential foster carers were identified and assessed. 1211 caregivers were trained in healthy parenting through community workshops in Wakiso and Mpigi Districts where over 10% of the street children are reintegrated. Staff capacity building continued and new local partnerships were developed. Staff members participated in Retrak's conference in Addis Ababa focusing on family care for street children and have contributed to developing SOPs on family reintegration, foster care and outreach. Retrak contributed to the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development's OVC Technical Working Group which is currently developing the next National Strategic Program Plan of Interventions for OVC.

**Retrak Ethiopia** - During this reporting period Retrak Ethiopia has worked with 234 OVC either on the streets of Addis Ababa or having been reintegrated with their families across the country, this brings the total for the life of the project to 442 OVC receiving one or more services. Retrak joined together with UNICEF and 3 other NGOs to count how many OVC were living on the streets of Addis Ababa. Nearly 11,000 children and young people were identified. Retrak's street outreach to

many of these children continues on a regular basis. Retrak's new drop-in center has been renovated to provide better facilities for the children and to allow an increase in the number of beneficiaries. The old center has been converted into an overnight refuge so that many more OVC can receive shelter at night. Retrak employed another teacher and a drop-in center manager to ensure high quality individualized care and support for each child during their transition off the streets. 71 children were reintegrated back home with their families and 84 care givers were supported. A new social worker has been employed to head up a new foster care program. She has begun assessing suitable children for the program, beginning steps to recruit foster carers, and developing carer training modules and procedures. Staff capacity building continued along with implementation of new policies and procedure, and new local partnerships were developed. In collaboration with UNICEF and two other NGOs, Retrak has been at the forefront of the formation of a Foster Care Work Group, with the aim of working with and strengthening the Ethiopian governments' establishment of foster care. Retrak Ethiopia hosted, led and participated in Retrak's conference in Addis Ababa focusing on family care for street children. The conference was attended by over 100 delegates representing 12 countries from as far afield as Australia and Brazil. Finally, staff have been contributing to developing SOPs on family reintegration, foster care and outreach.

### **Major Challenges, Constraints and Lessons Learned**

There are continuing challenges of working with large numbers of such vulnerable children, covering large distances to enable them to return home and working with a community who often see them as separate and not part of them. Retrak has expanded its outreach (through larger facilities and partnerships) and is developing new partnerships to help engage local communities on a more on-going basis, to provide greater follow-up and prevent more children turning to the streets.

### **Brief summary of activities planned for the next period**

During the final two months of the project period (Oct-Nov FY12) Retrak will:

- Continue street outreach, drop-in centre and family reintegration and foster care activities
- Continue working on SOPs for outreach and foster care
- With NuPITA, begin developing a training curriculum based on the SOP for family reintegration
- Continue to work with the NuPITA OVC Advisors, to improve and develop 'best practice' standards for OVC, and work with staff to develop their capacity to improve their service delivery and Quality Assurance in all programs
- Fully implement the baseline assessment and CSI tools
- Finalize the final evaluation report
- Participate in CLOCA and audits
- Pursue and develop relationships with key funders
- The Way Forward Project, which Retrak took a lead role in drafting one of the papers for, will present to Secretary Clinton in November
- November will also see the launch of the Safe Families Safe Children toolkit designed by a coalition of a dozen international OVC organizations working in Turkey, Africa, India and Latin America, UK and South America
- Continue developing local partners who can help us extend our outreach to more OVC on the streets
- Hold a dissemination workshop to show case Retrak's achievements under the NPI-PEPFAR grant to beneficiaries, key donors, government officials, partners and other stakeholders

#### IV. Summary Table of PEPFAR Indicators

Reporting Period Annual FY11: October 1 – September 30	Target for this FY11	Achieved this reporting period	Target for life of the Project	Achieved to date
<b>OVC: Care Sub Area 5: Support Care</b>				
C1.1.D Number of eligible adults and children provided with a minimum of one care service				
Male	915	1168	1020	2866
Female	0	0	0	0
<18 years old	915	1168	1020	2866
18+ years old	0	0	0	
C1.1.N Number of eligible adults and children provided with a minimum of one care service				
<18 years old	915	1168	1020	2866
18+ years old	0	0	0	
C5.0.D Number of eligible children (OVC) provided services in 3 or more OVC core program areas beyond Psychosocial/spiritual support during the reporting period	275 <i>Uganda only</i>	253 <i>Uganda only</i>	310 <i>Uganda only</i>	551 <i>Uganda only</i>
C5.0.D Number of OVC care givers trained in comprehensive HIV management	1500 <i>Uganda only</i>	1375 <i>Uganda only</i>	1740 <i>Uganda only</i>	1770 <i>Uganda only</i>

## **v. Project Implementation by Strategic Objective**

### **Retrak Uganda**

#### **Results of activities**

1. *Enable OVC to begin the transition from street life through meeting their psychosocial, health and education needs*

##### *1.1. Outreach activities*

This year regular street visits were carried out within the centre of the city and the outskirts. Some of the places visited include clock tower, New Park, Entebbe road, Wandegeya, Mulago, Katanga, Nakivubo channel, Old Park and Nakasero market. The majority of the children found on the streets were between 11-15 years. Most of the children were from Busoga region, Masaka and Mbale. Some of the children talked to during these outreaches were willing to leave the streets and join our programs.

Regular football training, health care services and provision of lunch (funding for lunch from non-USAID sources) were accomplished. Through these services there was opportunity for children to meet staff and build trusting relationships. Through the Baaba program (HIV/AIDS peer education) children received training in life skills and sexual health. Children also had their own club sessions where they discussed various life skills topics. Some children were trained as peer educators and with support from social and health workers delivered sessions to other OVC on the streets and slums with an HIV/AIDS prevention message. Through this children have gained vast knowledge in how to safeguard their lives against HIV/AIDS infections.

Retrak had the opportunity to take part in the Day of the African Child under the theme “All together for urgent actions in favor of street children”. 30 children participated in a children’s dialogue entitled “Bringing hope to street children” which made them feel valued and honored. Issues discussed in the dialogue were put in a memorandum presented to the Minister of State for Children’s Affairs, Members of Parliament and the Minister of Gender Labor and Social Development.

##### *1.2. Drop-in centers*

399 children received treatment at Retrak’s drop-in centre clinic, while 103 were referred for specialist medical care to various clinics/hospitals such as the Surgery, Mengo and Mulago hospitals, among others. Apart from the common ailments (cough, flu, cuts, wounds, diarrhea, vomiting) many children had malaria and there were cases of pneumonia, tuberculosis, water borne diseases, chicken pox and hepatitis (A, B, C). Most of these cases were managed at our clinic and others were referred to hospitals.

281 children attended the learning centre and were assessed in literacy and numeracy. Many children improved in their reading and writing skills and an enabling environment (provision of more reading materials and desks) was created to further improve these areas. Learning through games, quizzes and debates was also emphasized during this time. The children were also excited to receive a new uniform.

261 children received counseling and 476 children participated in sports activities such as football and indoor games. Having these children play with other football teams in the community helps to boost their self-esteem, especially when they are able to win the games. It also helps instill a lot of discipline in the children and increases cohesiveness and the need to work together as a team. Through two preparatory Kick4Life activities (using football as an approach towards HIV/AIDS prevention activities), the children became enthusiastic about the new way of passing on the HIV message and learnt a lot about why and how football is used as a tool to teach HIV prevention and why signing a contract and making good and informed decisions is important. 329 children stayed overnight at the refuge. This is a safe space for vulnerable children to stay and also marks the entry point into transition to family care; here they received counseling, medical care, meals, sporting

activities and spiritual guidance. The messages from these sessions have helped in shaping children's behavior.

## *2. Enable OVC to be reintegrated into a sustainable family context*

### *2.1. Halfway home*

97 children have stayed at the Retrak halfway home and training farm after being assessed to need a longer and more intensive period of preparation. These children received basic medical care, referrals and HIV testing/counseling, meals, counseling, sports, life skills and catch-up classes run on a daily basis following the same curriculum as the drop-in centre. The children also had an opportunity to participate in the inter-primary athletics championships where Retrak took the 7<sup>th</sup> position of 13 schools, and the football championships where they took lead at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels from different zones. The children at the halfway home also benefited from two sessions of the Kick4Life training by the sports coordinator. Through all these activities, children's understanding how they can make positive decisions for their future was boosted and they were equipped with skills and knowledge that will help them to keep themselves and others safe.

### *2.2. Reintegration and foster care*

104 children were reintegrated and 4 children placed in foster care. The children and their families received guidance and counseling, a basic reintegration package and most were supported to continue their education or vocational training. They were followed up physically and by phone and were given further support and counseling, scholastic materials and maintenance allowances (for foster families only). The CSI tool was used for assessment during follow up visits. Through private donations, 17 children and their families were given IGA grants after assessments. Businesses set up include: poultry rearing, fruit growing, produce buying and goat rearing. In addition to the 4 children placed in foster care, Retrak identified 35 prospective carers through a partnership with the African Evangelist Enterprises. 7 prospective carers have gone through the training and selection process.

17 children participated in business skills training which facilitated by the Retrak livelihood manager. The training covered an introduction to business skills, overview of business in Uganda, its various forms, sources of capital to start a business and the challenges and solutions for this. 4 children were taken for a transect walk for purposes of interacting with different people in various trades and thus enabling them make informed decisions before engaging them in livelihood development. Mentors were also identified for them. It is through these activities that 4 young people have been able to develop business proposals for purposes of building them to independent living.

Through 4 community days, 1211 caregivers were trained in healthy parenting in Wakiso and Mpigi Districts. In collaboration with Aids Information Centre, voluntary testing and counseling in these communities was provided to 292 adult. Each caregiver also received a Healthy Parenting manual.

## *3. Build the capacity of Retrak projects to improve quality and efficiency*

During this period Retrak appointed 2 relief workers for the halfway home, a Livelihood Manager and Partnership Manager (manages new partnerships Retrak has with two local NGO's). All new staff had a thorough induction to the updated Child Protection and Human Resource Policies.

We continue to improve our work with the assistance of the NuPITA staff. Retrak staff attended training sessions such as:

- finance and sub-grant management,
- foster care through a learning visit in Tanzania with two projects (Mkombozi and Dogodogo),
- IT
- HIV-counselling and testing by TASO and AIC
- OVC emotional and social intelligence by NuPITA and Retrak
- monitoring and evaluation, including vulnerability assessment tool
- International Federation of Educative Communities 2011,
- support supervision,
- senior management (Leadership skills and Strategic Thinking),

- creative teaching of numeracy and assistance to slow learners,
- team building,
- Kick4Life HIV/AIDS prevention,
- psychosocial support,
- follow up child protection,
- financial management for effective programmes by Mango (UK),
- communication and documentation,
- livelihood building plan through a structured learning visit to Iganga Youth Network

Several staff also travelled to Addis Ababa to participate in Retrak's conference on 'Returning street children home' where they were part of expert panels answering questions on family reintegration and foster care.

With the assistance from the OVC Advisor, Retrak (across Uganda and Ethiopia) is developing Standard Operating Procedures for family reintegration, foster care and outreach. Our OVC advisor also helped research the situation analysis of the girls who live on Kampala streets and it was done primarily to ascertain the need to expand our programs to include the girl child and the discussions regarding this are underway.

#### *4. Strengthen partnerships both locally and internationally*

Retrak is part of the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development's OVC technical working group to develop the National Strategic Program Plan for Implementation of OVC. This is a key development ensuring that Retrak is aligned with the Ministry's strategies and street children are properly represented in the plan. We are members of the Children at Risk Action Network and the Street Children NGO network (SCNN). This is a crucial network for NGOs working with street children and aims to ensure that there is minimal duplication of work. As member organizations we work together to compliment the work done by the government at Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre. Monthly meetings take place to share good practice and progress.

#### **Challenges**

- The abuse that the children have gone through, both prior to the streets and during their time on the streets, affects their ability to respond to care. Retrak aims to ensure every child has a personal plan to move forward in a way and timeframe that suits them.
- Due to the conditions children live in on the streets, medical needs can be very large.
- The holistic care that is needed by this vulnerable group of children can be overwhelming for one service provider. Therefore Retrak partners and networks with other organizations to deliver a full set of services.
- The general stigma leveled on street children by society does not promote nor encourage communities' participation in their care and reintegration.

#### **Activities planned for next reporting period**

During the final two months of the project period (Oct-Nov FY12) Retrak Uganda will:

*1. Enable OVC to begin the transition from street life through meeting their psychosocial, health and education needs:*

- Continue with street outreach and drop-in centre activities

*2. Enable OVC to be reintegrated into a sustainable family context:*

- Continue with halfway home and family reintegration and foster care activities

*3. Build the capacity of Retrak projects to improve quality and efficiency:*

- Continue working on SOPs for outreach and foster care
- With NuPITA, begin developing a training curriculum based on the SOP for family reintegration

- Continue to work with the OVC Advisor, to improve and develop ‘best practice’ standards for OVC, and work with staff to develop their capacity to improve their service delivery and Quality Assurance in all programs
- Full implementation and data collection of the baseline assessment and CSI tools
- Finalize evaluation report
- Participate in CLOCA and audits

*4. Strengthen partnerships, both locally and internationally:*

- Pursue and develop relationships with key funders
- Continue developing local partners who can help us extend our outreach to more OVC on the streets
- Hold a dissemination workshop to show case Retrak Uganda’s achievements under the NPI-PEPFAR grant to beneficiaries, key donors, government officials, partners and other stakeholders
- Secured MOU and subgrantee contracts to fund and build capacity of two local NGO’s to deliver services to OVC
- Retrak Uganda has secured a 3 year grant from an International NGO – AVSI – as a subgrantee under a US Mission grant called SCORE.

**Retrak Ethiopia**

**Results of activities**

*1. Enable OVC to begin the transition from street life through meeting their psychosocial, health and education needs*

*1.1. Outreach activities*

Street outreach visits have continued regularly and this is the main channel by which new street children come into the project and access our activities. We have had several referrals from the police and other NGOs as well. Outreach workers move around the streets of Addis Ababa either very early in the morning (6-8am) or late at night (8-10.30pm) to seek out and relate to children living on the streets and invite them into the program, identifying and targeting those children who are highly vulnerable amongst the street child population (the very young, new to street, girls, sick, disabled etc).

*1.2. Drop-in centers*

The activities at the new drop-in center site continue on well, although we have had to restrict new registrations in Q4 due to the renovation work as not all rooms have been accessible to run project activities. We registered 234 new children into the program during this past year. As well as offering OVC a full range of care services, since the beginning of 2011 we have also added night time shelter facilities. A total of 211 OVC express much appreciation of being able to access safe, dry shelter during the transition period whilst they are attending the day time program. As well, in Q4 we have leased a new site for the night time shelter and after renovations (planned for next quarter) we will have much better facilities for the children and be able to accommodate 50 children every night.

A big feature this past 6 months has been the renovations of the drop-in center site (with Japan Embassy funding). The children now benefit from a new toilet and shower block. Most rooms at the drop-in center are being renovated. This has restricted our movements and use of certain spaces but the work is progressing well and should be finished in the next quarter. Once these renovations are completed we hope to increase our daily capacity to around 45-50 children per day.

234 children received a minimum of one care services, most participated in a full program that includes access to health care, education and literacy classes, psychosocial support, sports and recreation, as well as shelter and care.

During this past year we have employed a new Drop-in Centre manager/psychologist and another teacher. These extra staff members have really boosted our team to be able to deliver better quality services to the children.

After long negotiations with the Addis Ketema Sub-City we finally got approved to perform VCT on-site for our beneficiaries in Q3. The children attending the program can now much more easily access VCT and the numbers of OVC coming forward for both counseling and testing has greatly increased. HIV prevention lessons are also regularly included in our life-skills program as well as with the new Kick4Life sports and HIV prevention program, following two of our staff attending a training in July.

The USAID Urban Gardens program has trained our staff and OVC to cultivate vegetables and to raise poultry in small urban areas at the drop-in centre and small group home. This enhances the food program and nutrition of the children, plus teaches them valuable skills they can use once they have returned to their families. We have also taken delivery of 50 chickens and anxiously await egg production to commence.

## *2. Enable OVC to be reintegrated into a sustainable family context*

### *2.2. Reintegration and foster care*

The family reintegration program continues on well and during this past financial year we were able to reunify 72 OVC back home to their families and support the caregivers of these children with psychosocial support, parenting skill and IGA grants and training. This program has been strengthened with the employment of a new social worker in Q4.

Currently we have 12 OVC being supported as they do vocational training courses and 15 other older OVC were supported to independent living in the community assisted with economic strengthening activities (under different funding). Retrak's Deputy Country Director was awarded a Masters Training for Trainers for Street Business and Street Banking. This enables him to train both our own and other NGO staff, as well as beneficiaries in this key area as we seek to deliver economic strengthening to households and individual OVC. We have conducted 2 business trainings this past year with the local Woreda and NGO staff, as well as beneficiaries, being trained.

Assisted by our NuPITA OVC Advisor, we have begun to develop a training module and recruitment plan to find community mentors for some of the older OVC who are moving from school to vocational training or from vocational training to work and independent life. We are calling this program 'Retrak Friends' and are hoping that this will strengthen and encourage these young people as they move to living in the community and to form networks and relationships as a way of building a sense of belonging in their new communities.

An exciting development since January 2011 has been the employment of another social worker into our team who is heading up our new Foster Care program. Currently she is assessing suitable children for the program, beginning steps to recruit foster carers, and developing carer training modules and procedures.

## *3. Build the capacity of Retrak to improve quality and efficiency*

Monthly Children's Councils are held with all the OVC attending the programs. They elect their own leaders, create the agenda and discuss and debate different pertinent issues, feeding their ideas back to the staff and country director to ensure the program meets their real and felt needs. A staff retreat day in August was a valuable time to reflect on the past year's work and plan for 2012 and get valuable input from all staff.

Staff members have accessed a number of trainings during this period, all with the aim to strengthening our program. These include:

- VCT training for the nurse,
- Experience sharing learning visit to Tanzanian street children NGOs,
- Street business training,
- HR training,
- Financial training,

- Senior Management training.

In September 2011 Retrak itself hosted a large conference in Addis Ababa entitled “Helping street children return home”. Six international speakers gave excellent input and challenging Q&A sessions were held and plans made for better collaboration and information sharing. This was also a key time for Retrak to showcase our work amongst the donor community and other NGOs to enhance future collaboration.

Retrak also had several consultants (supported through NuPITA) visit the project to train and support staff. This has included developing a new HR manual, installing and training staff in the use of new accounting software (Quickbooks), and having a financial review and finalization of new financial policy. These have been invaluable to build the skills and capacity of our national team as well as ensure transparency and increased accountability in our programs. Our 2010 audit processes have been finalized.

Together with our USAID funded OVC Advisor we have started a process of Quality Assurance activities for our program which is now nearing completion. We are measuring ourselves against criteria in the Ethiopian Government Service Standards Guidelines as well as the 6 core areas of success for Retrak and developing an Action Plan to address any gaps. As Retrak strives for excellence in child care this has been a valuable exercise to challenge us to go beyond the basic minimum service standards so that OVC receive the best services possible.

The USAID funded OVC Advisor has also given training to all staff on OVC psychosocial care and parenting skills. The OVC Advisor has also headed up a key group of staff have been working to develop SOPs around reintegration and foster care, and a new policy on our street outreach work has been written.

We have now had a 12 month trial of our new performance management (appraisal) system and supported supervision cycle and from January 2011 we began our first full year of supported supervisions, setting In-Year Goals and making Personal Development Plans for all key staff. Staff also participated in a supported supervision training at the end of March 2011.

The report entitled “The situation of street girls in Kampala and Addis Ababa” has now been presented to the board of Retrak in the UK. On the strength of this report the Retrak board has taken the decision that Retrak must work with female OVC on the street and is now developing an action plan to implement a pilot program in 2012.

#### *4. Strengthen partnerships, both locally and internationally*

In collaboration with UNICEF and two other NGOs (Bethany and FHI) Retrak has been at the forefront of the formation of a Foster Care Work Group. We are joining together to work with and strengthen the Ethiopian governments’ (specifically MOWCYA) establishment of foster care. As well, we have established a Foster Care Work Group to support over 20 other NGOs who are implementing or have the desire to implement foster care in Ethiopia. Using the government’s “Guidelines for Alternative Child Care” as a foundation, the Work Group is currently working on recommendations for clear definitions and legal issues around Foster Care as well as working towards the formation of a secretariat to support this work. Meetings are held approximately every 6 weeks. Funding is now in place for this new secretariat via OAK Foundation and UNICEF.

We continue to collaborate with two local NGOs with whom we hope to partner in the future, especially for the implementation of foster care and support of female OVC on the street. We have had further visits to both these organizations and have submitted several joint funding proposals on their behalf. One of these has been successful and we are about to sign a contract with OPRIFS to help them implement a small foster care program.

Retrak continues to collaborate with SKI (Street Kids International) in the delivery of Street Business training workshops (which has resulted in the above mentioned Master Trainer certificate) which we are opening to other NGOs as well as the wider Retrak organization.

Late 2010 saw our membership confirmed with CCRDA and we attended an orientation day with them and are looking forward to future collaboration.

Collaboration with the management of the Great Ethiopian Run (GER) has seen us again be recipients of free places for a number of the OVC in Retrak and in November we had 50 OVC participated in this. Further negotiations have resulted in us being included in a pilot program in collaboration with the GER, the New York Marathon and other local NGOs which aims to use a running program to build the self-esteem of OVC. This is strengthening the psychosocial care of the OVC at Retrak.

In October and November 2010 Retrak street outreach staff collaborated with UNICEF, Bosco Children and several other NGOS and participated in an Addis Ababa wide head count of street children. Preliminary results reveal nearly 11,000 children living on the streets of Addis Ababa city.

After negotiations with the new Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa, we have been awarded two grants that will cover approximately 35% of our funds for 2011-12 and enable to reach more OVC on the street and further develop our foster care and family reintegration programs. This new relationship is a great encouragement for our project.

We have also been successful in attaining a grant from the Japanese Embassy who have signed up to an award that will enable us to pay for full renovations of the old drop-in centre which we are using as the night time shelter for OVC, as well as finish renovations and refurbishments to the new site, including plumbing and flooring and increasing space for counseling and other program activities. Again, this is a great encouragement for our staff and children with facilities that will be upgraded.

We are about to sign a contract with 'Fekat Circus' organization for the delivery of a circus and life skills program that will start in October. We have also signed an MOU with local health service provider for a stronger referral system.

We are actively working on a number of other funding proposals to ensure the smooth transition and continuation of all our activities after the close-out of our PEPFAR grant in November 2011.

### **Challenges**

- Devaluation of the birr and economic pressures in Ethiopia are a constant challenge, especially with reduced purchasing power of the birr and the pressure to increase staff salaries. We reviewed and increased salaries in January but this is always a challenge. We submitted a project amendment to the government to adjust our budget so as to accommodate these increases in the coming 12 months.
- The large number of OVC living on the street (now confirmed through the census late in 2010) is a constant pressure on our staff to take in more children. We are positive that upon completion of the renovations of our new drop-in centre we will be able to reach more OVC and give access to 45-50 children per day into the program.
- It is a challenge to work with OVC on the street where the local community does not see these children as part of 'their' community; even though they are physically present in the community. We plan to increase our program to reach the local community including street dramas, awareness raising days and coffee ceremony conversations to overcome this challenge and help break down stigma and discrimination against OVC on the street.
- The donor community does not always understand the resource intense nature of working with street children who are living full time on the street. If this group of beneficiaries are to permanently move away from street life and back to community, and if lasting and quality work is to be done with this target group, then low child to staff ratios are a must, and the children must be able to stay with programs for the length of time they need to move from street life (not be given a short 3-6 month period). Otherwise it just ends up being short-term treatment which is not sustainable. The conference held in September had awareness raising on these issues as one of its aims and we continue to advocate on behalf of street children to many donor organizations.
- Issues with the installation of our new database have delayed the launch of this system for all reporting and record keeping. The servers are now ready to be shipped from the UK and we hope to finalise this by the end of 2011.

- Recruitment of carers for the foster care program is proving a challenge. Foster care is still a new concept in Ethiopia and we need to do a lot of intensive awareness raising in the local woreda's, associations and other groups to encourage volunteers for foster care programs. We believe this is a matter of time as people come to better understand what foster care is. Our community awareness raising days and conference feed in to increasing awareness on this subject.

### **Activities planned for next reporting period**

During the final two months of the project period (Oct-Nov FY12) Retrak Ethiopia will:

*1. Enable OVC to begin the transition from street life through meeting their psychosocial, health and education needs:*

- Continue with street outreach and drop-in centre activities
- Complete the renovations and refurbishment of the new drop in centre site to accommodate 45-50 children per day in the program.
- Implement play and art therapy to enhance psycho-social care of OVC in the programs
- Implement the circus life-skills program

*2. Enable OVC to be reintegrated into a sustainable family context:*

- Continue with family reintegration and foster care activities, including recruitment drive and training for foster carers and the first foster care placements
- In collaboration with UNICEF conduct one training on foster care for Retrak, GO and NGOs
- Begin to improve our curriculum for parenting and care of reunified/fostered OVC
- Build our mapping and linkages with other NGOs for improving follow-up of reunified OVC
- Begin to phase out the current use of our 'hostel' with a view to transitioning these children into more of a family environment with 'cluster foster care' and family based care
- Begin to develop the youth mentor work "Retrak Friends" program to ensure smooth transition of older children back into community life
- Begin to implement increased number of parent/care giver trainings on parenting skills and economic strengthening
- Begin to hold more awareness raising days for communities in an effort to reduce stigma and discrimination

*3. Build the capacity of Retrak projects to improve quality and efficiency:*

- Continue working on SOPs for outreach and foster care
- With Nupita, begin developing a training curriculum based on the SOP for family reintegration
- Continue to work with the OVC Advisor, to improve and develop 'best practice' standards for OVC, and work with staff to develop their capacity to improve their service delivery and Quality Assurance in all programs
- Full implementation and data collection of the baseline assessment and CSI tools
- Begin to put in place new training timetables for staff
- Training and support for our finance team in the new software by the new head of finance in UK office
- Finalize evaluation report
- Participate in CLOCA and audits
- Begin to build a Quality Assurance action plan
- Undertake research in reintegration of street children who have been placed in institutional care

*4. Strengthen partnerships, both locally and internationally:*

- Pursue and develop relationships with key funders, including Australian and Japanese Embassies and NGO/charity registration in Australia to increase availability of funding opportunities
- Continue developing local partners who can help us extend our outreach to more OVC on the streets
- Hold a dissemination workshop to show case Retrak Ethiopia's achievements under the NPI-PEPFAR grant to beneficiaries, key donors, government officials from the Ministry of Children & Women's Affairs, partners and other stakeholders
- Begin to develop local partners with a view to funding applications that include local partners who can help us extend our outreach to female OVC and more OVC on the streets eg OPRIFS, Beza le Hiwot and others, and complete
- Increase links with government institutions eg Kechene, Kolfe children's homes and the Youth Detention centre to enable street children who have been placed in these institutions to move back to family and community life.
- Build on the successful partnership with UNICEF around the foster care secretariat to roll out the program nationally
- Retrak has now secured membership of the CCRDA in Ethiopia – an Ethiopian network of hundreds of NGO's in the country. This will help us have a voice in shaping civil society

## **VI. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Activities**

Regular monitoring activities have continued, including monthly reporting on outputs and the use of CSI to track changes in children and their families.

Data quality at the output level has improved greatly over this reporting period, especially in Retrak Uganda. Staff are better equipped to capture correct data and the M&E Officer is able to undertake good quality checks before the monthly reports are submitted to the regional level. A review of data collection tools has also been undertaken to feed into the development of SOPs and the preparation for the database.

A set of CSI data was gathered, from January to September which has allowed a greater insight into the impact Retrak is having on children after they have been reunified with their families. This data will be used during the final evaluation. During the final project period, Retrak will hold a workshop to explore this data further and explore ways of analyzing and using this data for decision-making and measuring impact going forward.

The IT capacity to host the Retrak children's database has been developed locally and the servers have been purchased and formatted in UK. However the implementation has been delayed due to difficulties with the IT contractor in UK. We now aim to launch the database early in 2012 with an initial training and trial period, with the aim to review and fully launch the database in the second half of 2012.

With the assistance of Nupita, a mock evaluation was held in July and enabled Retrak to be better prepared for the final evaluation. The preparation and field work with the children and their families and communities was undertaken in September with the final report expected by the end of October.

### **Data quality**

- Regular data collection – staff collect data on children on their programs on a regular, usually daily basis. However, currently the paper system of recording children's details and participation is very labor intensive and can allow for error in missing data
- Monthly compilation – data is compiled and entered into excel spreadsheets on a monthly basis. This provides an opportunity to check data for accuracy and validity.

- Database – Retrak’s new database system will facilitate the collection, storage and compilation of data, as well as making it easier to track children’s progress over time. This will be piloted in the projects during the next period once IT standards have been improved.

**Summary of all Program indicators (both PEPFAR and non-PEPFAR)**

<b>Reporting Period Semi-Annual: October 1 – March 30</b>		<b>Target for FY11</b>	<b>Achieved this reporting period</b>	<b>Target for life of the program</b>	<b>Achieved to date</b>	<b>Achieved in FY10</b>
<b>Retrak indicators</b>						
SO1 Enable OVC to begin the transition from street life through meeting their psychosocial, health and education needs	2.1 # children at drop-in centre accessed one or more care services	690	1008	950	2789	1791
SO2 Enable OVC to be reintegrated into a sustainable family context	2.2 # children at halfway home received comprehensive care	60	97	135	194	118
	3.1 # children reintegrated or fostered	135	178	335	407	165
	3.5 # children in families received follow-up support	210	215	260	377	238
<b>PEPFAR recommended indicators</b>						
C5.2.D Number of eligible children provided with shelter and care-giving	<18 years	180	584	380	1011	461
C5.3.D Number of eligible children provided with health care referral	<18 years	705	781	960	1889	1042
C5.4.D Number of eligible children provided with education and/or vocational training	<18 years	465	546	610	1090	473
C5.5.D Number of eligible adults and children provided with protection and legal aid services	<18 years	210	215	260	376	238
	18+ years	0	0	0	0	0
C5.6.D Number of eligible adults and children provided with psychological, social, or spiritual support	<18 years	915	880	1020	2328	1493
	18+ years	0	0	0	0	0
C5.7.D Number of eligible adults and children provided with economic strengthening services	<18 years	20	48	45	80	36
	18+ years	0	0	0	0	0

## VII. Management and Staffing

For details of staff training and organizational development see sections 4 in the Retrak Uganda and Ethiopia activity reports above.

## VIII. Budget

### Budget: Estimated budget and actual expenditure for reporting period

The current actual expenditure and budget position is summarized as follows:

	X		
	14 Months Budget	12 Months Budget	12 Months Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Personnel	109,076	104,476	114,644
Fringe Benefits	██████	██████	██████
Travel	32,500	32,500	25,679
Equipment	13,070	13,070	16,324
Supplies	11,710	11,710	9,282
Contractual Services	██████	██████	██████
Program Costs	██████	██████	██████
Other Expenses	██████	██████	██████
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>263,296</b>	<b>238,696</b>	<b>260,916</b>

X The 14 month budget is as per the Year 3 Work Plan for the period October 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011.

Total obligated amount is \$ 862,819 (the increase from \$762,819 being as per modification 6) with expenditure of \$ 762,770 to the end of September 2011. The pipeline stands at \$100,049.

## IX. Other Issues

Retrak have requested a No Cost Extension for the Ethiopia program until the end of February 2012. In terms of sustainability of service delivery to OVC Retrak has secured over 70% of its funding (from 4 different sources) needs for the next 3 to 5 years. This will help us in terms of financial stability and sustainability and the continuity of our services and programs to children.

Beginning in June, Retrak's leadership academy will be launched. The academy is about addressing our succession planning issue, retaining staff and building their capacity & skill set through a unique learning and development opportunity. The long term of this program is to generate revenue for Retrak and for it to be seen as a key development course for local staff who wish to become senior directors at Country Director or equivalent.

The work with OVC and the community will continue after the close of the PEPFAR funding so we are already engaging them to develop new ways of working through a local volunteering / mentoring scheme. We will also be conducting a project evaluation at the close out stage and as such will be taking feedback from all stakeholders and beneficiaries, which will include the communities and

families we work with. This will be aided with NuPita's help in securing funding to develop our SOP's into a train the trainer curriculum to disseminate practice.

Retrak has continued to meet with US mission staff in both Addis Ababa and Kampala to build our relationships and their awareness of what Retrak does, as well as applying for relevant funding opportunities. This will be aided in Uganda as Retrak is now a subgrantee of the Mission in which AVSI and their SCORE program were the awardees of a recent RFA to work with OVC.

There were several other key developments in the reporting period including the CEO and Chair of Retrak attending a 3 day executive leaders' summit in Boston organized by USAID and NuPita. The opportunity to have that amount of thinking time and debating space with other executives was invaluable. To be able to have the Chair and CEO attend the event together was also extremely helpful. Retrak have made a concerted effort to participate in the policy discussion recently and the outcome of that was the launch of the 'Zero' campaign, which advocates for there to be zero children forced to live on the street. Several other NGO's, individuals and companies have now signed up this and the Consortium for Street Children is helping to facilitate its development. USAID/NuPita also provided a consultant to have a board development day with all the trustees/directors of the charity present, the day included risk management and strategy among other issues. Finally Retrak has now begun work on its new strategic plan '13 - '16 with the aim of reaching 100,000 children per annum in 6 countries and USAID/Nupita have again generously provided the CEO with consultancy time to help deliver the strategy, accompanying business plan and a Retrak 'how to' partners manual.

## **X. Success Story**

Chris\* lost both of his parents to HIV some two years ago. As his mum was weakened by the sickness, she thought it wise to take both Chris and his young brother to stay with the 'right' people, that is to say relatives on the paternal side. Their auntie was so welcoming and accepted to stay with the children despite the fact that she was also struggling financially while she cared for her own children single-handedly.

"Our maternal grandmother continued to give us support even after our mum passed away. She sent us tuition fees to make sure we went to school, but sometimes auntie could use the money to solve other immediate problems that were at hand. Because of this, we were sent away from school from time to time. I decided to leave home and my young brother and come to Kampala to look for some money to use back home.

"In town, I tried to work collecting metal scrap and bottles but from what I got at the end of the day nothing remained to send home. For the whole year I spent in the city I saved nothing"

Chris' friends on the street told him about Retrak, a project funded by PEPFAR to care for children on the street. Chris decided to come to Retrak, but at the beginning he couldn't even think about going back home. He says "I wanted to get a better place to stay than at my auntie's place; and if at all I was successful I would go back and pick my younger brother as well."

While Chris was at Retrak's drop-in centre, everyone recognized how much he improved in his attitude to return home. Chris talks of the good things he got from Retrak's halfway home during his stay there: "I learnt how to pray, do farming, and how to play foot ball. When I go back home I will miss all the mothers at Retrak and all the other friends of mine."

Chris went to visit his paternal auntie home but the family was in a needy situation, typical of the area, and Retrak realized this resettlement would not work out very well. The auntie still struggles to take care of all the family members. Retrak later visited the maternal side of Chris' family to see whether they would still welcome him back. Chris's great grandmother could not recognize him as he had changed a lot. Even when another relative came in, no one could recognize him. Finally when he

introduce himself and started explaining his story his family began to understand. Now everyone could not believe their eyes.

“Alice! Come and see Chris”, the great grandmother called to her neighbors. “We heard that this boy had got lost when his grandmother visited the auntie’s place. How did you get him?” she asked the social workers. It is during this time that the staff got an opportunity to explain about Retrak and what it does. In just a few minutes the whole sitting room was filled with people who came to see the child who had got lost for years.

“Thank you so much”, is the only statement that many said to the staff while others kept asking the boy what happened and why he decided to go to the street. Others remained speechless and simply gazed at the child.

Very warm with happiness, the great grandmother sent for sodas in appreciation for the work that Retrak had done for the family. As we came to the end of the visit, we had to confirm whether it was fine for the child to remain with the family. “But of course!” she told social workers as she looked very serious in agreement. She packed some slices of bread for Chris as the social workers informed her that the child would be brought back soon.

Just a week after the home visit, Chris was placed back into the care of his family and join the local primary school in grade two. One of the relatives called Retrak recently to appreciate what Retrak did in Chris’s life and how well he is doing.

\* child’s name changed to protect his identity