

PEPFAR/NPI

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

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Point of Contact:

Diarmuid Ó Néill, Chief Executive Officer

Retrak,

Landmark House, Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, SK8 7BS, UK

e-mail: diarmuid.oneill@retrak.org

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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

The targets for the 3-year period are:

- Over 1000 OVC on the street able to access counseling, basic needs, life skills, medical care and HIV/AIDS peer education
- Over 500 OVC on the street participating in catch-up education
- Over 360 OVC resettled or placed in foster care
- Nearly 3000 family members benefiting from increased capacity, of which over 2000 will be women and children.

General Summary of Results and Successes

Retrak Uganda – During this reporting period 668 OVC received services, either on the streets or in the drop-in center in Kampala and in families across the country. Retrak has continued to carry out street visits, other outreach activities and peer education through the Baaba program. In addition an HIV/AIDS awareness day at the Retrak clinic on World Aids Day and two community days for care-givers were held focusing on parenting skills and HIV education. Over 300 children benefitted from the services provided at the drop-in center and 65 children received comprehensive care at the halfway home. 46 children were reunified with their families in locations across Uganda and a further 24 children were supported in foster care. 35 potential foster carers were identified and assessed. Staff capacity building continued and new local partnerships were developed. 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 126 OVC either on the streets of Addis Ababa or having been reintegrated with their families across the country. 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 to ensure individualized care and support for each child during their catch-up education. 28 children were reintegrated back home with their families and 73 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.

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

The remainder of FY11, will see the

- Continuation of street outreach, drop-in centre activities and family reintegration activities
- Development and expansion of foster care in Uganda and Ethiopia
- Building and formalizing of linkages with other NGOs to improved follow-up of OVC and extend outreach to more OVC on the streets
- Finalizing of SOPs for reintegration and foster care and train staff on these
- Improvement in usage of baseline assessment and CSI tools and launch of specially designed database
- Review of our child safe-guarding/protection policies
- Planning and hosting of a conference for street child stakeholder, focusing on family reintegration, together with an associated piece of research
- Participation in final evaluations and audits
- Greater links and participation with government agencies
- Development of relationships with other key funders

IV. Summary Table of PEPFAR Indicators

Reporting Period Semi-Annual: October 1 – March 30	Target for this FY11	Achieved this reporting period	Target for life of the Project	Achieved to date
OVC: Care Sub Area 5: Support Care				
C1.1.D Number of eligible adults and children provided with a minimum of one care service				
Male	915	794	1020	2599
Female	0	0	0	0
<18 years old	915	794	1020	2599
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	794	1020	2599
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>	161 <i>Uganda only</i>	310 <i>Uganda only</i>	464 <i>Uganda only</i>
C5.0.D Number of OVC care givers trained in comprehensive HIV management	1500 <i>Uganda only</i>	459 <i>Uganda only</i>	1740 <i>Uganda only</i>	861 <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

Retrak has continued to carry out street visits as part of our outreach activities. The visits are opportunities that Retrak staff use to identify the street children, meet and talk to them and offer the chance to be a part of the Retrak programs. During this period, 8 street visits were carried out with 4 teams. Some children were willing to leave the street and join our programs. Other outreach programs carried out were; open feeding, sports training, health care services, and HIV peer education services (Baaba peer to peer education). There was HIV/AIDS counseling and testing at the Retrak clinic on World Aids Day. Many children turned up 20 of whom were counseled and tested. There were 2 community days where care-givers were taken through a parenting skills curriculum and the Retrak nurse in collaboration with Aids Information Center provided HIV education and an opportunity to receive VCT. As part of the Baaba program trainings in life skills and sexual health rights were carried out. Through these meetings the children also gained leadership skills and learned how to reach out to other children, and as a result they have had two outreaches and peer-education sessions at Lubiri Sports ground and in the Kisenyi slum.

1.2. Drop-in centers

295 children have received treatment at Retrak's drop-in center clinic. Its expansion and furnishing enabled more privacy for the children thus confidentiality is emphasized. It has also helped in isolation cases such as the 13 children with dysentery during this period. 205 children participated in health/hygiene classes on topics such as safe water/food, personal hygiene, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS in preparation for VCT, malaria, proper medicine use, reproductive health. In regard to this toothbrushes, toothpaste and bags were donated to the children; this enabled them to put some of their lessons into practice. The catch-up literacy and numeracy curriculum is still being used along with assessments. The teachers at the drop in center and halfway home had an opportunity to share with and learn from a teacher from International School of Uganda (ISU) regarding the literacy and numeracy curriculum. They discussed more creative ways of teaching slow learners and illiterate children. This enabled the teachers to be more effective and relevant to each child. Retrak has continued to provide life skills, quizzes and debates weekly to the children. The topics handled in this period have been: communication skills, critical thinking, creative thinking, interpersonal relationships, non-violent conflict resolution, negotiation skills and coping with stress. 170 children received counseling and 312 children participated in sports activities like football with different teams/indoor games. 199 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.

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

2.1. Halfway home

During this period 65 children have stayed at the Retrak halfway home and training farm after they were assessed to need a longer and more intensive period of preparation before returning to family life. Services at the halfway home include basic medical care, referrals and HIV testing/counseling. Catch-up classes ran on a daily basis following the curriculum also used at the drop-in center. A sports program focusing on inter-personal skills was also run regularly along with life skills sessions, also following the same curriculum as at the drop-in center. The children also access 1:1 counseling as needed.

2.2. Reintegration and foster care

46 children were reintegrated in various districts across Uganda. The children and their families received guidance and counseling, a basic reintegration package and most were supported to continue their education or join vocational training. The children and families were followed up physically and by phone and were given further support and counseling, as well as scholastic materials and maintenance allowances (for foster families only). The Child Status Index tool was used for assessment during follow up visits. Through a private donation, 5 children and their families were given IGA grants after assessments, the businesses set up include: chicken rearing, pineapple growing and goat rearing. 24 children are still being supported under foster care. No new placements have been made during this period, instead the emphasis was on identify and assessing new prospective carers, this was done with the assistance of African Evangelistic Enterprise. 35 carers were identified. There will be a training and selection process during the next period for prospective carers with the hope of placing several children before the end of the year.

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

During this period Retrak appointed a Relief Worker at the halfway home and interviewed for a partnership coordinator to oversee new partnerships with local organizations from mid-2011. All new staff had a thorough induction including Child Protection. An audit was undertaken that showed excellent performance and great improvement

Retrak staff attended training sessions such as:

- finance and sub-grant management,
- foster care – through a structured learning visit in Arusha in two projects,
- computer application,
- HIV-counseling and testing at TASO,
- OVC workshops on emotional and social intelligence by NuPITA,
- monitoring and evaluation,
- International Federation of Educative Communities 2011,
- Senior Management training on leadership skills and strategic thinking,
- creative teaching of numeracy and working with slow learners.

As part of the new M&E system, we are developing a new database for working with OVC and will be in use by the end of the year. With the assistance from the Retrak/NuPITA OVC Advisor we are developing Standard Operating Procedures for family reintegration, education, foster care and outreach. The OVC Advisor also researched the situation analysis of the girls who live on Kampala streets to advise on the need to expand Retrak's programs to include girls.

4. Strengthen partnerships both locally and internationally

Retrak is part of the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development's (MGLSD) OVC Technical Working Group to develop the National Strategic Program Plan of Interventions for OVC. This is a key development, ensuring that Retrak is aligned with the MGLSD's strategies and that street children are properly represented in the plan. Retrak is awaiting feedback from the National Council for Children and the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network on our membership application. Retrak is developing a Street Children NGO Coalition to network NGOs working with street children and ensure there is minimal duplication of activities (this coalition is to replace and improve the work done by SCNN which is no longer operational). Members will work together to compliment the work done by the government at Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Center. Monthly meetings take place to share good practice and progress.

Challenges

- The abuse that the children have gone through both prior to coming on 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.
- Children on the streets of Kampala come from across Uganda, therefore Retrak travels long distances to reunify children. This can limit the opportunity to undertake pre-reunification family assessments – an essential part of successful reunification and reintegration. Retrak is launching a new partnership with a local organization which has wide geographical coverage that will assist in easier pre-assessments and follow-up care. Discussions are also underway with two other organizations on linkages for follow up of children.

Activities planned for next reporting period

During the second half of FY11 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
- Develop and improve counseling services offered to children

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

- Continue with family reintegration activities
- Design and implement foster care recruitment drive including focusing on presentations in rural areas to churches and women's groups with the aim of screening 40 potential foster carers and training 20 successfully screened parents and matching children accordingly.
- Explore and develop feasibility study paper on the possible use of small group housing including financial implications.
- Develop economic strengthening activities for families
- Build and formalize linkages with other NGOs for improving follow-up of reunified OVC

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

- Improve IT resources and build staff capacity to use efficiently
- Finalize the SOPs for reintegration and foster care and train staff on these
- 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 of the baseline assessment tool for use on all OVC as they enter the program to enable better follow-up and ongoing assessment (using CSI)
- Retrak's M&E system will continue to be developed, including the launch of the database and training of staff in its use.
- Review of our child safe-guarding/protection policies (in collaboration with Retrak Ethiopia) and continue to review and update our policies and technical tools to improve the quality of the care we deliver to OVC
- Participate in the up-coming NuPITA trainings on HIV prevention training, team building and Close-Out for the PEPFAR NPI grant
- Participate in final evaluations and audits

4. Strengthen partnerships, both locally and internationally:

- Develop a Street Children NGO Coalition, hold monthly meetings for NGO workers and encourage Police Family Protection Unit, Min of Gender representatives, District Probation Officers, Children's Affairs Councillors, KNRC staff to also attend.
- Pursue and develop relationships with other key funders
- Develop local partners who can help us extend our outreach to more OVC on the streets

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 find out about our activities. Outreach workers move around the streets of Addis Ababa either very early in the morning (6-8 am) or late at night (8-10.30pm) to seek out and relate to children living on the streets. During this period they registered 162 new children that they had not met before on the street. During the month of October 2010, Retrak joined together with UNICEF and 3 other NGOs in a collaborative effort to count how many OVC were living on the streets of Addis Ababa alone. The final number was nearly 11,000 children and young people – the needs are enormous.

1.2. Drop-in centers

The great excitement in this period has been the partial renovation of Retrak's new drop in center (also located in Mercarto behind the bus station). Not only does this provide better facilities for the children, with dedicated areas for each activity, it also means that during 2011 we can begin to increase the number of beneficiaries. The other advantage of the new site is that we have been able to turn the old center into an overnight sleeping refuge so that many more OVC are receiving shelter and care at night. In this past 6 month period 102 children have accessed shelter and care.

Other activities continue on well. 126 children were registered and participated in a full program that includes access to health care, education and literacy classes, psycho-social support, sports and recreation, as well as shelter and care.

During this past 6 months Retrak employed another teacher. Due to the huge variation in children's past educational levels and abilities, this extra teacher has meant that children can receive much more individualized care and support for their catch-up education. The teachers at the drop-in center focus the children's catch-up educational activities around the Ethiopian national government school curriculum to make the transition from the drop-in center classes to their local village schools easier. At the same time, for children who have never attended school, we offer an intensive literacy program. A number of children have 'graduated' from the literacy classes and moved on to primary 1 school work in a relatively short space of time.

We have offered 102 OVC shelter and care, 33 OVC protection and legal aid, and 110 OVC psycho-social care. This includes 10 children who access regular shelter at another site and have reintegrated back to formal schooling and are doing very well in their classes. House-parents at this shelter are receiving regular mentoring and support through our OVC Advisor (TA supported through NuPITA). The children in this home have also participated in a joint program with leaders from the Great Ethiopian Run who are running a Sport for Success pilot program to help OVC develop self-worth and confidence. The children are very much enjoying this program.

With all these activities and increasing numbers of OVC through our program, plus the new drop-in-center site, we have been keen to appoint a drop-in center manager to oversee this growing work. We are delighted to have just recruited someone to this position and they will start on May 1st, 2011.

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

1.2. Reintegration and foster care

The family reintegration program continues on well and during this period we were able to reunify 28 OVC back home to their families and support 73 care givers with support and /or IGA activities.

As a way of further strengthening nutritional support and economic empowerment of both the OVC and their families, we have just entered into a MOU with USAID Urban Gardens program to deliver training to our staff and the OVC to cultivate vegetables and to raise poultry in small urban areas. We

are excited that this will further enhance the support we can give to OVC and their families. The first training will commence in April 2011.

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 both assessing suitable children for the program, beginning steps to recruit foster carers, and developing carer training modules and procedures.

With support from other donors, Retrak currently supports 12 OVC as they do their vocational training courses and 8 other older OVC living independently in the community who were assisted with economic strengthening activities. Retrak's Deputy Country Director also was awarded a Masters Training for Trainers for Street Business and Street Banking. This enables him to train both beneficiaries and Retrak and other NGO staff. This will enable Retrak to do more in this key area to deliver economic strengthening to households and individual OVCs.

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.

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

Monthly 'Children's Councils' are held with the OVC attending Retrak's programs. The children 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.

Staff have accessed a number of trainings during this period, all with the aim to strengthening our programs. 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,
- Alternative Child Care conference.

Retrak has hosted several consultants (supported through NuPITA) 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. This support has been invaluable to build the skills and capacity of our national team, as well as ensuring transparency and increased accountability in our programs. Our 2010 audit has been finalized and there were no major comments of note from the auditor.

Together with our NuPITA 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 NuPITA OVC Advisor has also given training to all staff on OVC psychosocial care and parenting skills. She has also headed up a key group of staff who have been working to develop SOPs around reunification and foster care, and writing a new policy on our street outreach.

We have now had a 6 month trial of our new supported supervision cycle, and from January 2011 we begin our first full year of supported supervisions, setting 'in-year goals' and making personal development plans for all key staff.

The NuPITA OVC Advisor has also researched and developed a report on the situation of street girls in Addis Ababa. Together with findings from Retrak in Uganda, this was 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 girl OVC on the street and is now developing an action plan to bring this in to reality.

4. Strengthen partnerships, both locally and internationally

In collaboration with UNICEF and 2 other NGOs, 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, Retrak has 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 base, 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.

Retrak continues to collaborate with 2 local NGOs with an aim for future partnerships, 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 and await the outcome of these.

Retrak continues to collaborate with SKI (Street Kids International) in the delivery of Street Business training that we want to share both with 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.

We continue to negotiate with the Gender Challenge program of USAID and hope this will result in a collaborative research project with Population Council and Retrak and Johns Hopkins University.

After negotiations with the new Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa, we have been awarded a grant to reach more OVC on the street. We have also been successful in attaining a grant from the Japanese Embassy who have just signed up to an award that will enable us to pay for full renovations of the old drop-in center 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.

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.
- 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 keen that the launch of our new drop-in center work will help us to reach more OVC on the streets.
- Negotiation of the SOW for the Gender Challenge fund project is taking a long time and we are keen to move this forward as we see this as vital to us helping more OVC at a much deeper level. We are seeing many deep needs of the OVC that are coming into our projects – especially in the areas of counseling, mental health and care due to their past histories of abuse, abandonment and grief and loss. Resulting behavior issues, addictions, grief, anger and Post Traumatic Stress disorder are a big challenge to our counseling staff. The demands on the time of our social workers is critical and challenges us to address these issues which, if

not thoroughly worked through, are a real barrier to the OVC moving forward and away from street life and absorbing teaching, life-skills and HIV prevention messages. We hope that our negotiations with the Gender Challenge fund will result in added capacity to assess and monitor OVC, as well as plan more appropriate and targeted interventions to their mental health needs. This will begin sometime in mid 2011 we hope.

- Continued challenges of working with OVC on the street where the local community do 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 to overcome this challenge and help break down stigma and discrimination against OVC on the street.

Activities planned for next reporting period

During the second half of FY11 Retrak Ethiopia will:

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

- Settle into the new project site for our drop-in center activities and extend our outreach to OVC on the street
- Renovate and refurbish the old drop-in center to make it into a more appropriate space for OVC to find safe shelter at night (Japan Embassy funding)
- Renovate and refurbish the new drop-in center site to upgrade toilets, showers and office space to provide better facilities and more private counseling space for OVC in the social work program.
- Access a USAID intern to assist at our programs over the summer of 2011 and help us in some data collection around mental health issues for the OVC program, as well as teach English, sports and other activities

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

- Finalize the foster carer training curriculum and use it to train future foster carers
- Recruit carers from 4 selected sites, train them and then place the first children into foster care
- Improve our curriculum for parenting and care of reunified/fostered OVC
- Build our linkages with other NGOs for improving follow-up of reunified OVC
- Implement the Urban Gardens work after the training in April 2011
- Review the current use of our ‘hostel’ with a view to transitioning these children into more of a family environment (groups of 4-5 children)
- Using the SKI model, run further Street Business training for older OVC and carers
- Enable older OVC to access vocational training and facilitate employment

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

- Finalize the SOPs for reintegration and foster care and train staff on these
- 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 of the baseline assessment tool for use on all OVC as they enter the program to enable better follow-up and ongoing assessment (using CSI)
- Develop better mental health assessment tools and improve the interventions and care of OVC who are struggling with mental health issues. (in collaboration with the Gender Challenge program)
- Retrak’s M&E system will continue to be developed, including the launch of the database and training of staff in its use.
- Put into practice fully the new financial policies and systems.
- Review of our child safe-guarding/protection policies (in collaboration with Retrak Uganda) and continue to review and update our policies and technical tools to improve the quality of the care we deliver to OVC

- Complete the Quality Assurance Audit based on the new Ethiopian Government Standard Service Delivery guidelines, review and fill in any gaps and train staff in these guideline applications
- Put in place new training timetables for staff. Key staff to participate in the new Retrak Leadership Academy
- Participate in the up-coming NuPITA trainings for around supported supervision, team building and Close-Out training for the PEPFAR NPI grant
- Get further support training for our finance team in the new software and support them as this is implemented
- Participate in final evaluations and audits

4. Strengthen partnerships, both locally and internationally:

- Collaboration with Johns Hopkins University in the development of OVC mental health research tools and subsequent interventions
- Continued collaboration and development as we work with the Japan Embassy
- Continue collaboration with the new Australian Embassy as we implement their grant
- Pursue NGO/charity registration in Australia to increase availability of funding opportunities
- Pursue and develop relationships with other key funders
- 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
- Complete the necessary due diligence processes for these potential partners.

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

Activities

Regular monitoring activities have continued, including monthly reporting on outputs and the use of outcome mapping and CSI to track changes in children and their families. An initial set of CSI data was gathered which has allowed a greater insight into the impact Retrak is having on children after they have been reunified with their families. During the next period, the focus will be on developing further the use of the CSI tool and building Retrak's ability to measure its impact.

The Retrak children's database will also be launched with effect from 1st June. An initial training and trial period revealed that the current internet and IT capacity in Retrak's projects needed to be improved before the database could be used effectively.

Plans are also being made to undertake a mock evaluation before the full end of project evaluation, which will involve children and their families and communities as fully as possible.

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)

Reporting Period Semi-Annual: October 1 – March 30		Target for FY11	Achieved this reporting period	Target for life of the program	Achieved to date	Achieved in FY10
Retrak indicators						
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	688	950	2517	1791
SO2 Enable OVC to be reintegrated into a sustainable family context	2.2 # children at halfway home received comprehensive care	60	65	135	162	118
	3.1 # children reintegrated or fostered	135	74	335	306	165
	3.5 # children in families received follow-up support	210	120	260	316	238
PEPFAR recommended indicators						
C5.2.D Number of eligible children provided with shelter and care-giving	<18 years	180	338	380	806	461
C5.3.D Number of eligible children provided with health care referral	<18 years	705	508	960	1417	1042
C5.4.D Number of eligible children provided with education and/or vocational training	<18 years	465	331	610	1168	473
C5.5.D Number of eligible adults and children provided with protection and legal aid services	<18 years	210	120	260	766	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	573	1020	1907	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	13	45	48	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:

	14 Months Budget	6 Months Budget	6 Months Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Personnel	██████████	██████████	██████████
Fringe Benefits	██████████	██████████	██████████
Travel	██████████	██████████	██████████
Equipment	██████████	██████████	██████████
Supplies	██████████	██████████	██████████
Contractual Services	██████████	██████████	██████████
Program Costs	██████████	██████████	██████████
Other Expenses	██████████	██████████	██████████
Total Costs	██████████	██████████	██████████

Activities have continued as planned in the first six months of the period with the intention to maintain the level of USAID support for activities, tapering this off to the end of the period as other funding comes on stream.

Total obligated amount is currently ██████████ and with expenditure of \$ ██████████ at the end of March 2011, the pipeline stands at \$ ██████████

IX. Other Issues

The PEPFAR/NPI funding period ends in September 2011 and Retrak's has already managed to replace a sizable proportion of that funding 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 through a unique learning and development opportunity.

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.

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.

X. Success Story

Home-coming after 2 years on the streets

“The Retrak social workers were able to assist Dereje and his step-grandmother to reconcile and together they agreed that Dereje could return home and go back to school”

Dereje* was just 11 years old. First he lost his mum, and then he lost his dad to AIDS. Left with his step-mother it seemed that somehow he had become the target for her grief and frustration. She pulled him out of school where he was doing well in Class 5, forced him to do all the housework, collect water and firewood and look after her. Dereje’s step-siblings were allowed to stay in school and were not treated like him. Slowly he grew to resent this woman who he thought might have even taken pity on him. Finally in desperation and longing to return to school he decided to go looking for someone to help him.

He came to the capital city of Addis Ababa and wandered around for some days before he ended up in Mercato, the busy market centre. Here he met some other children living on the street and started to hang around with them. They helped him to adapt to the tough life on the street, taught him which restaurant doors he could beg leftovers from, where to find a dry verandah to sleep on, and which guards would not beat him. Dereje learned to survive, and survive he did – for a full 2 years – but in his heart he hated living on the street and longed to return to school and be safe.

One day he was greeted by the Retrak street outreach workers, a project funded by PEPFAR to care for children on the street. After several visits he got to know them and told them some of his story. They invited him to come to the Retrak drop-in center. Here he was seen by a nurse and got treatment for the lice and infected wounds he had picked up on the street. He received nutritious food and started to catch up on his Grade 5 lessons. Best of all was a listening ear from the social workers who heard his story and allowed him to grieve his lost parents. Dereje also shared with them his dream of returning to school one day.

During the daily program at Retrak, Dereje learned many other things as well: how to keep safe on the street, how to look after himself and stay healthy, and especially how to keep safe from catching the same disease that killed his parents through the nurse’s HIV prevention classes.

As he continued to receive counseling and encouragement, the social workers challenged him to think about making contact with his step-mother, though at first he didn’t want to. But as he talked this over he realized that actually she was the only connection he still had to his dad. One day he told them where she lived and they asked permission to go and visit her and talk over his situation.

Dereje’s step-mother was very relieved when the Retrak social worker knocked on her door. She had been worrying for the past 2 years on what had happened to Dereje, imagining that maybe he had even died. After some counseling sessions with her, she understood that she had been unfair to Dereje and had not treated him fairly, but she doubted if he could forgive her. The Retrak social workers were able to assist Dereje and his step-mother to reconcile and together they agreed that Dereje could return home again, and that she would allow him to go back to school and continue his education.

Dereje is now back home with his step-mother, has nearly completed Grade 5 and is greatly relieved to no longer be exposed to the dangers of the street. Retrak social workers continue to follow up Dereje and his family to ensure he is safe, still at school and having all his needs met.

Through the support of PEPFAR, Retrak has been enabled to offer Dereje and many other OVC like him, a permanent life away from the street where they can achieve their dreams.

* child's name changed to protect his identity