



Situation analysis of services offered to street girls in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Abstract

The number of girls found on the streets in Addis Ababa is not as high as street boys (approximately 1 girl to every 3 boys), however, there are many more girls who are not visible. Their visibility is less because during the night they sleep in rented rooms or churches to protect themselves from abuse. For the girls, shelter is even more important than food – there is a higher priority to protect themselves. They are also less visible because they are engaged in house work and prostitution. Often having been forced by brokers and bar owners since they don't have any other means to survive.

Girls on the street face lots of challenges. A lack of basic needs, food and shelter have been highlighted as the priority from the majority of girls. Girls are repeatedly sexually abused and are therefore at high exposure to HIV and AIDS as well as other sexually transmitted diseases. They also often end up having children that they have neither the financial or emotional capacity to support, exposing them to more emotional stress and greater challenges. Most of them do not have knowledge of or access to contraceptives.

From this short study, it is clear that the needs of street girls in Addis Ababa are not being fully addressed by existing services. The NGOs interviewed mentioned that with the capacity they have it is not possible for them to address the current needs that exist. The girls interviewed for this study also told us that they do not know any NGOs supporting street girls and have never been approached by any organization. They also cannot access support provided by NGOs working with the local communities as they don't have a permanent house and are not considered members of their local community.

Given that the needs of these street girls are not addressed by the existing NGO services it is proposed that Retrak should begin working with this group.

Any future programme should have a strategy to address the three different groups of street girls who are present in Addis Ababa:

- Girls who have been on the street for less than a week
- Girls who have been on the street for more than a week, but have not engaged in commercial sex work.
- Girls who are engaged in commercial sex work.

All groups need the basic services, (food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education and skill training, psychosocial support). However, the first group, girls who have been on the street for less than a week, would be easier to work with and there is the possibility of reunification for at least some of them.

The second group, girls who have been on the street for more than a week, would be more challenging to work with. Many of these girls may have a child or might be pregnant and the programme should be able to support both the mother and the child to fully address the needs of this group.

The third group, girls who are engaged in commercial sex work, would need intensive work and extensive and specialized psychosocial and spiritual support. Retrak should learn more from other

organizations who are engaged in supporting this group about their critical and specialized needs and long term support. Reunification might be difficult for both this group and the second group as they might be embarrassed to go back to their home and community. In addition, if the girls are tested for HIV and are positive, the programme would need to plan to address special medical and other related needs for them.

It is therefore recommended that Retrak Ethiopia should start with the group who have been on the street for less than one week and as it learns from the intervention and masters the programme they could move into the other two groups. Even so, a programme to address the needs of girls would differ from current programmes due to the need to provide:

- Specialized counsellors and social workers trained to handle the specific needs of sexually abused girls and commercial sex workers.
- Separate shelter and programme facilities from the street boys in order to have separate toilet and washing rooms, provide programme activities to address the different needs of the girls, and to prevent sexual relations among the street boys and girls.
- Child care provision for babies and children of street girls to enable them to attend programmes freely.
- Skills training and income generating activities that take into consideration the fact that the girls involved in commercial sex work will be used to earning good money and will not be content with low paid work. If they are trained in low paid work then there is a high temptation to return to commercial sex work.
- Reproductive health service for all street girls, even during outreach to those not fully engaged in Retrak programmes, to try to limit the next generation of babies born on the street and to protect street girls from STIs and HIV/AIDS.
- Higher budget allocation for girls to cover such things as toiletries, clothing and child care programmes.

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List of abbreviations

AIDS.....	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
FCSE.....	Forum for Street Children Ethiopia
GRIP.....	Godanaw Rehabilitation and Integration Program
HIV.....	Human Immuno Virus
NGO.....	Non Governmental Organization
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
STI.....	Sexually Transmitted Infection

1. Introduction

1.1. Retrak

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 since 1994 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 a 3-year project funded by USAID, through PEPFAR NPI, Retrak's goal was 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.

As part of this project Retrak wanted to understand more about the street girl population in the towns where it is working, since Retrak has traditionally focused on street boys whose numbers are greater and who are underserved.

1.2. Street children

Recent reports show that the majority of the street children are in developing countries. Therefore, Ethiopia is at high risk for the street children problem since it is classified as low human development country ranking 171 out of 182 country in the 2009 Human Development Report. The report shows that 77.5% of the Ethiopian population earn \$2 a day and is below income poverty line. In addition, child dependency is 86.5% which is translated as the population aged under 15 years expressed as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years). Famine, conflict and other diseases claims the lives of parents and exposes children to becoming orphans and thus makes them vulnerable to street life (UNDP 2009). According to UNICEF, Ethiopia has one of the largest populations of orphans in the world: 13 percent of children throughout the country are missing one or both parents. This represents an estimated 4.6 million children (UNICEF 2006).

The problem and the increasing number of street children in Ethiopia, especially in Addis Ababa, is a pressing phenomenon. The conclusion of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2006 stated that "The Committee is deeply concerned at the increasing number of street children, especially in major urban centres, who are also victims of drug abuse, sexual exploitation, harassment and victimization by members of the police force." (UN CRC 2006, para 69) A recent head count of street children in Addis Ababa, commissioned by UNICEF in collaboration with Bureau of Woman and Children Affairs and Street Invest London, stated that the number of street children (in the 85% coverage of the city in their survey) in Addis Ababa to be 10,706 children. Of these, approximately 25% were girls (Shanahan 2010).

The street children in Addis Ababa and the main cities of Ethiopia lack basic needs and are exposed to emotional, physical and sexual abuse. As observed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child which clearly stated its concern "at the large numbers of children living or working on the streets of the main cities in the State party, and at their lack of access to education, health care, essential nutrition and housing" (UN CRC 2001, para 74). Girls face extremely harsh conditions including

sexual abuse by adults, rape, unwanted pregnancy and early motherhood – at times as early as 12 years old. These girls are likely to join the rank of child prostitutes or street mothers and continue the vicious cycle of street life. They are inevitably at high risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS, which they often pass on to their children, as well as the men who pay for their services.

Retrak Ethiopia is one of the few organization working with street children in Ethiopia. Retrak Ethiopia has its roots in the Tigers Football Club set up in Uganda in 1994 and was formally established as a Ugandan NGO and UK charity in 1997, and in Ethiopia in April 2006. Retrak is a professionally run, Christian social work organization which seeks to help street children break away from street life and poverty and enables them to realise their potential and discover their worth. In April 2005 the UK charity was formally renamed Retrak.

By building trust and a deep understanding of each child’s specific circumstances and character, Retrak is able to facilitate a process by which children equip themselves with the social, educational and practical tools they require for overcoming the past, reintegrating into society and for taking their future into their own hands. The approach of Retrak is holistic and concerned with the physical, emotional and spiritual development of each child.

At the moment, Retrak Ethiopia works directly with boys between 7 and 17 years of age. This target group of beneficiaries was chosen based on initial research done in 2006 which showed a wide gap between needs and services provided for street girls and street boys (Retrak, 2006). At that time there were fewer street girls in Addis Ababa and a number of NGOs had either girl only or mixed gender services. The 2006 research showed that there were three times more street boys than street girls in Addis Ababa, and few NGOs were providing resources and services to work with full-time street boys. Currently street girls who approach Retrak Ethiopia benefit through referral to other partner organisations for further support. At times Retrak Ethiopia provides emergency health care, and in one case, they have supported a girl in exceptional circumstances, in collaboration with another NGO, through vocational training.

1.3. Purpose of this study

The overall purpose of this study is to establish the situation for girl children on the streets of Addis Ababa. Information generated by the study will provide Retrak with evidence on whether or not they should consider starting a programme with street girls and if so, what type of programme design might best meet the girls needs.

1.4. Objectives

- Study and analyze the situation of girls living and working on the streets of Addis Ababa by identifying the resources and services available to them
- Identify the gaps between the needs of girls and the available resources and services. Especially focusing on the needs of the street girls in the Core OVC Programme Areas of food and nutrition, education and vocational training, health care, psychosocial support, child protection and legal support, care and support, and economic strengthening.

2. Methodology

2.1. Sampling and data sources

The study adopted a qualitative design in order to generate the required results. The sampling technique applied for this survey was purposive sampling. The sample children were selected from places where there is high concentration of these children. The sampling procedures were handled by the OVC Advisor and social workers of selected NGOs, who are familiar with the area and the children. The interviews of the street children were conducted near their places of dwelling. Discussions were held with key informants who were selected for their long exposure to the lives of street children.

Primary data was collected from several respondents from governmental and non governmental organizations and from the children themselves; while secondary data was collected from published studies and reports.

2.2. Interviews

Three groups of interviews were undertaken:

- **Street children:** in-depth interviews with 20 street children 10 boys and 10 girls were conducted, out of which 5 boys and 5 girls were not supported by any organization while of the rest, 5 boys and 5 girls are supported by NGOs.
- **Governmental Organizations:** Addis Ababa sub-cities' Women and Child Affairs Officers were interviewed from: Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema, Kirkos and Arada. The population size of the sub-cities range from 297,000 to 335,330. In addition, the Child Desk Expert of Addis Ababa Bureau of Women's Affairs was interviewed.
- **Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Coordinators, managers and officers of Goal Ethiopia, Don Bosco, OPRIFS, Forum for Street Children Ethiopia (FSCE), Godanaw Rehabilitation and Integration Project (GRIP) and Sport the Bridge were interviewed.

2.3. Limitations

The constraints included:

- Since the study is qualitative in nature it cannot be generalized; yet it does give important information about the needs of girl street children, and the service gaps in Addis Ababa for street girl children.
- In this assessment, the majority of the NGOs working with street children are included. However, it was not possible to include all the NGOs working with street children in the city due to lack of available data and information regarding NGOs working with street children.

2.4. Operational definition

For the purpose of this study, the working definition of street children is children who live on the street and totally participate in street life. They may not have home to go to because they are orphans or may have family tie that exist but are not fully maintained.

Table 1: Service provision to street children vs number of children requiring services

	Estimated street children in Addis Ababa ¹	Estimated street children supported by the NGOs ²	Estimated of street children not supported
Boys	7,647	1,388	6,259
Girls	3,059	985	2,074
Total	10,706	2,373	8,333

Table 2: Type of service provision to street children in Addis Ababa³

Organization	Girls served	Boys served	Type of services provided ⁴
OPRIFS	122	--	All the services except vocational training
FSCE	117	--	All the services
Sport the Bridge	15	125	All the services for the boys, but for girls only education, psychosocial and reunification
Goal	258	867	All the services
Don Bosco	--	100	All the services
GRIP	204	--	60 girls access all the services, plus skill training for 144
Retrak	--	80	All the services
Hope Enterprise	59	141	Feeding only
Youth Impact	--	15	All the services
Abebech Gobena	150	--	All the services
Chad-ET	60	--	Informal education only
Siddartha		60	All the services
Total	985	1,388	

Table 3: Number of street girls accessing different services in organizations interviewed

Organisation	Total girls served	Drop-in centre	Shelter	Vocational training	Food	Education	Psychosocial support	Life Skills classes	Health care	Family reunification
OPRIFS	122	--	122	--	122	122	122	122	122	82
FSCE	117	75	25	17	117	117	117	117	117	--
Sport the Bridge	15	--	--	--	--	15	15	--	--	15
Goal	258	258	24	7	24	24	258	258	258	--
GRIP	204	--	60	144	60	60	60	60	60	--
Total	716	333	231	168	323	338	572	557	557	97

¹ Taken from recent head count (Shanahan 2010). These numbers comprise the number of street children in 85% of Addis Ababa.

² Information from data collected in this study and shown in table 2

³ The majority of the NGOs working with street children are included. However, it was not possible to include all NGOs in the city due to lack of available data and information.

⁴ All the services means shelter, feeding, clothing, medical care, education, psychosocial support

3. Findings

3.1. Number of boys vs girls

The general impression from NGOs, governmental organizations and street children living on the street of Addis Ababa is that there are more boys than girls living on the streets.

Table 4: Opinion of numbers of street boys and girls

Comments	Number
Boys are more than girls	24
Girls are more than boys	5
Boys and girls are equal	1

The respondents further explained their reason for saying so as follows:

A boy who had been on the street for 4 years said: “where we are sleeping and hanging around there are around 40 boys and 5 girls. The girls don’t sleep with us but rent room to sleep there. Even though their number seem less on the street if you go to the place where they rent rooms and sleep the number of the girls can be a surprise.” A boy who is 10 and has been on the street for 2 years said: “Those girls who have been sleeping on the street have been raped repeatedly both by groups (where the group can be 5-6) and individually by other street boys or thieves or even drunkards.” Another 15 year old boy explained the reason that the boys are more than the girls by: “The girls will be forced by individuals into prostitution and house work. They are not strong enough physically to refuse this but some times they go into that willingly.”

A girls who has been on the street for 2 years said: “The number of girls are more than the boys on the street however girls sleep in churches and in rooms during the night and during the day will not be seen on the street as the boys because there is a lot of stigma from the community. The amount of money boys and girls get is almost the same however, the girls use it to pay for room rent while to boys will use it for food and other things (like recreation). Our priority [girls] more than anything is shelter, we prefer some times to go with out food and to pay the room rent. We pay 1-2 birr for a night. However, we don’t always have the money to pay for room rent. Some times when we are sick the owners will tell us to go out and we will be exposed to hunger, sexual and physical abuse on the street.”

“We are not visible, we will be in video houses (watching pornography movies the whole day) and during the night work as prostitutes. If we don’t have enough food to eat and sleep we can’t do some other job, what is available? And who will give us work? After all we are not trusted” was an explanation given by a mother of a 4 month child who has stayed on the street for 1 year.

The programme manager of one NGO said: “There are equal numbers of boys and girls. However, most of the girls are working as prostitutes and will not be identified as street children, but will be seen as street girls when they are pregnant and after they give birth to their child because then they can’t work as prostitute and will not have anything to eat.”

A programme coordinator of another NGO said: “We don’t know about the number out on the street as we don’t go out on street visits. We work with girls only and police refer girls to our

organization. However, the number is sometimes more than we can take and we have to refuse to take the girls when they come to our organization as we have limited capacity.” Another programme officer said: “We work with both boys and girls but the number of boys and girls in our organization is different. We have 170 boys and the girls are 16. The girls are not found on the street but they are found in different places such as slum areas where they rent rooms. We are planning to work toward finding the right place to include them in our programme.”

3.2. Challenges faced by street girls

As cited by those interviewed for this study the greatest challenges are lack of food and shelter and exposure to sexual abuse.

Table 5: Opinions on challenges faced by street girls

Challenges	Number
Lack of food	25
Exposed to sexual abuse	23
Lack of shelter	22
Lack of medical care	17
Exposed to emotional abuse	14
Exposed to HIV and STIs	13
Exposed to physical abuse	12
Exposed to unwanted pregnancy	12
Unable to help their child	11
Lack of knowledge and access to contraceptives	10
Unable to attend trainings when they have child	8
Exposed to higher psychosocial problem	7
Exposed to higher stigma and discrimination	5

Respondents stated that girls face more challenges than boys on the street. When a boy explained further about the challenges girls face on the street in comparison with boys, he said: “Boys can work on the street carrying things for people and shoe shining but girls can’t do such kind of work. Even if they try they will not be accepted and no one will give them things to carry. And to work as a shoe shine girl, the boys will not allow them to share the market they have. They are forced into prostitution to feed themselves much of the time. Even the girls who beg are not pitied by the community. They will assume that they have run away because they are not ‘good girls’. While the reality may be different and most of the community don’t know and understand that.”

Another boy explained and said: “The boys force them to take drugs [ganja or marijuana] so that they can rape them. Once they have a drug habit it is very difficult to get out of that. They will be addicted and will be useless.”

A mother whose baby had died one day before the interview, said she was raped when she was working as a house maid and was sent out of the house the moment they knew she was pregnant. When she was explaining the challenges faced by girls on the street she said: “We are more exposed to HIV/AIDS. And once we are sick we can’t get well because we don’t have resistance since we don’t eat well. Most of the girls I know on the street are pregnant. Being raped is the worst thing that can happen to a girl. It shatters the future and leaves you hopeless, depressed and with a very

low self esteem. After having a baby my friends [other street girls] were challenged to feed both the child and themselves”

A mother of 7 month child who is supported by a NGO said: “We have a challenge feeding our children and taking care of our children and it is a challenge to attend a trainings even if we get the chance. For example me and my friends are not able to attend a training that was available in the organization because we don’t have any one to look after our children.”

A NGO programme coordinator said: “Girls have more psychosocial problem than the boys. Usually they are very depressed and angry. We work with boys and girls, however, we find it more difficult to help the girls deal with the emotional problem they have than the boys.”

3.3. Current services available to street girls

The boys as well as the girls interviewed who are not currently registered in a NGO said there are no services they get at the moment but some of them had received help within their communities prior to their street life.

A boy when explaining about the lack of available services said: “People come and write about our story and just go and never come back. We used to think they are going to help us when they were writing our story but it has never been so. I was supported by an organizations who used to help me and my brothers because my mother was a beggar. But the organization was closed.”

Another boy who is 15 years old and whose parents had died said: ‘I was helped by Tesfa Maranata Church. It was a hostel but I fought with a boy and was sent out of the hostel’.

A boy who has been on the street for 2 years said: “[An organisation] was helping me. I don’t have a father and mother and was living with my grandmother. When my grandmother died, I was absent from the program for some time, and because of this, I was sent out of the programme. I didn’t tell them why I was absent and they didn’t ask.”

Another boy who is 10 years old said: “There is no support from non governmental or governmental organization on the street. I haven’t got any support, only from individuals. I was sleeping in front of the federal police office and the employees used to feed me at least two times a day, but since they have a new building [with added security] I can’t go near them and I can’t get that support anymore.”

A mother with her 7 month child said: “We don’t see anyone coming to support us. Most of the support is given by organizations to the local community and you need to belong and live in that community. We are not member of the community. At least people think we are not. We don’t have I.D. card and can’t access any support. And most of my friends don’t know any non governmental organizations. So we can’t go and ask for support either. We only hear people saying ‘there are non governmental organizations who help But we don’t know where they are.”

In explaining the service gap that exists for street girls a programme coordinator of a NGO said: “We work with girls only and they come to us through the police and we accept girls who have been on the street for few weeks or months only. However, the need is so big that we can’t address even half of it.”

3.4. Types of services that would address the girls felt needs

According to those interviewed the most important services are shelter and food. Providing education or skills training, alongside the provision of child care, is also key, as is psychosocial support.

Table 6: Opinions on key services to meet street girls' needs

Services	Number
Shelter	28
Food	20
Skill training	15
Education	12
Small business	12
Day care for children	12
Psychosocial support	11
Clothing	10
Access to contraceptive	9
Support to stop addiction	6
Access to health education	4
Reunification	2

In explaining the needs of the girls further a boy said: "They don't wear shabby clothing like us if they are in prostitution, so organizations need to provide better clothing, basic toiletries for them. If not they will be tempted to return to prostitution again. Usually if they stay long in the city, they would be a prostitute but if you find them early they could go back home. Those who have stayed for a while on the street will not go back home because they will be engaged into prostitution and start dressing well and getting money. They will also be ashamed to return back to their family and community." Another boy said: "If the girls who have started prostitution can start their own business it would be good because they are used to having money and if you say you will not have money it will be difficult. They are used to having some money and they want to get the money while they are taking the skill training as well as education."

A mother of a one year old boy said: "We need house and space to work more than anything else. If we got a house we could do petty trade and improve ourselves because we are using all the money we get to pay house rent. Even though we know that business is profitable and we can do it, we can't do it because we don't have space to do the work and also our own house to keep our goods."

A mother of a seven month child said: "Girls on the street need knowledge and access to contraceptives as they are repeatedly exposed to rape and to HIV as well. They don't have choice and will end up with a child whom they can't support in addition to themselves. Some of them have no hope and don't want to think about the future or even tomorrow. They have very low self esteem and don't care what happens when they are raped they are hopeless and do not think to protect themselves."

A mother of a child who is a year and half who has been supported by a NGO said: "If there is a program that is ready to support us there has to be a facility that will look after our children while

we are in training or education. If that is not so it will be very difficult to support us and change our life.”

3.5. Discussion

The majority of the respondents agreed that the number of street boys is more than the number of street girls in Addis Ababa. The street boys all agree that the number of street girls is not small as it seems and it is simply because the girls do not reside on the street. Street girls interviewed also said the places where they spend the night by renting rooms are the places where one can find large number of street girls. Two of the NGOs interviewed also said that they have the information that the street girls who rent rooms in the slum areas are quite big in number even though they have not gone to the places to see their situation. These imply that number of street girls is not visible on the street but is still significant in number.

In terms of the list of challenges faced by street girls, and type of services that would address the girls felt needs, respondents have mentioned challenges which are almost similar with each other where food and shelter have been mentioned by most respondents. In agreement with this, in terms of priority, girls interviewed said their most significant priority is shelter compared to the other challenges they have. Unable to attend trainings when they have child, have been mentioned as a challenge by mothers who were supported by NGOs because they were not able to take the training they are offered since they could not find someone to look after their children. This is an area which other respondents have not seen as significant. All respondents agree that even though shelter is the priority and will protect the girls immediately from sexual and physical abuse and unwanted pregnancy and psychosocial problems. It is also important to provide reunification and if that is not possible training and income generating activities should be provided to change the life of the girls.

The services available to street girls are not sufficient, as cited by the street children as well as the NGO workers. They all agree that more services are given to boys and the community children to prevent the problem of street children. More needs to be done for girls on the streets.

4. Conclusion

Many people believe that the number of girls on the street is low but actually it is just that it seems less than the boys because the girls are not openly sleeping on the street. They try to find safe places like churches or rented rooms to sleep to protect themselves from sexual abuse. They pay 1-2 birr for the room rent as having shelter is a greater priority even than food. The visibility of the girls is less because some of them are also engaged in work as house maids and prostitution.

The problems and challenges the girls face on the street are multiple and complex. The biggest problem they face, as told by the girls themselves, is shelter. Importantly shelter is not as significant for the boys as it is for the girls. Not having shelter exposes the girls to sexual abuse on the street and forces them to use their food money for shelter and many girls go hungry because of this pressure to try and stay safe. Using the money they have to improve their life by doing petty trade is also impossible as the money goes to pay their room rent. They are deprived of their basic needs, repeatedly exposed to sexual and physical as well as emotional abuse. All those interviewed stated that the problems the street girls face are worse than the boys. Since boys are physically stronger they are not exposed to sexual and physical abuse. Similarly, since the community attitude toward the boys is different than the attitude they have for the girls the emotional abuse of the boys is less than the girls. The girls are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and to unwanted pregnancy. Most of them end up with a child whom they cannot support physically or emotionally. Knowledge of and ability to use contraceptives is minimal and, due to their feelings of despair and hopelessness, many girls feel there is no point to using contraceptives.

The needs of the street girls is not fully addressed by the existing governmental or non governmental organizations. The NGOs currently working with girls have specific and often very limiting criteria, for example, age (only up to 14yrs), time on the street (less than a week), or being pregnant or with a newborn. Even with these limiting criteria the current NGOs can not accept all the girls who are in need due to their limited capacity. The girls interviewed mentioned that there are no NGOs who have approached them to provide them with the support they need to change their life.

5. Recommendations

The needs of street girls are immense and are currently not fully addressed by any of the existing services. This report recommends that Retrak Ethiopia should work with street girls. The programme should target three different groups who each need different interventions.

1. **Girls who have only lived on the street for a short time** should be provided with immediate shelter and basic needs (eg food, clothing, health care and psychosocial support). In addition, educational support, market based skill training and small businesses can help them to live their own and independent life. Retrak should also look to reunification for this group wherever possible.
2. **Girls who have stayed on the street for longer than a week** and for whom there is a high probability that they will have a child or may be pregnant⁵ will need to have support that can also cater for their children (for example in nursery day care). For this group also, shelter is the first and most basic need that will make a big difference, along with contraceptives and health and HIV prevention education. They should also be provided with basic needs (e.g. food, clothing, health care and psychosocial support) as well as with skill training or small business training.
3. **Girls who have been living on the street for an extended period** and who are engaged in prostitution need a deeper level of intensive psychosocial and spiritual support and intensive follow-up. Their basic needs of shelter, food, clothing and health care should be met as they explore possible avenues of education and market based skill training, small business and facilitating employment. Retrak needs to learn and share experience on how to address commercial sex worker's needs from other organizations who are already working this group (for example Ellilta: Women at Risk).

Retrak Ethiopia should start with the group who have been on the street for less than one week and as it learns from the intervention and masters the programme they could move into the other two groups. Reunification will be more difficult for the second and third groups as they might be embarrassed to go back to their home and may be stigmatised by the community. In addition, if the girls are tested for HIV and are positive, the programme should plan to address special medical and related needs for them.

Any Retrak Ethiopia intervention with girls will be different from the current intervention it has with the boys. Such differences include:

- Specialized counsellors and social workers trained to handle the specific needs of sexually abused girls and commercial sex workers.
- Separate shelter and programme facilities from the street boys in order to have separate toilet and washing rooms, provide programme activities to address the different needs of the girls, and to prevent sexual relations among the street boys and girls.
- Child care provision for babies and children of street girls to enable them to attend programmes freely.

⁵ From the experience of other NGOs girls who stay more than a week on the street will have greater risk of being raped or recruited to work as domestic workers or commercial sex workers.

- Skills training and income generating activities that take into consideration the fact that the girls involved in commercial sex work will be used to earning good money and will not be content with low paid work. If they are trained in low paid work then there is a high temptation to return to commercial sex work.
- Reproductive health service for all street girls, even during outreach to those not fully engaged in Retrak programmes, to try to limit the next generation of babies born on the street and to protect street girls from STIs and HIV/AIDS.
- Higher budget allocation for girls to cover such things as toiletries, clothing and child care programmes.

The following is a cost estimate for an individual per year:

Item	Cost per year (Birr)	Cost per year (GBP)
Food	10,200	380
Shelter	3,000	110
Education	480	20
Medical	360	10
Clothing	600	20
Vocational training	4,200	160
Total	18,840	700

Exchange rate: 1GBP:26.8Birr

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