

Welcome to this pilot issue of Retrak's Prayer E-News. We hope you find this useful and informative and we would welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues.

In this issue we hear about a great initiative just started in our Ethiopia program, we thank God for some great funding successes in both Ethiopia and Uganda but ask you to pray for some of the funding gaps. We ask you to join with us in giving thanks for praying for some of the practical issues that our teams face each day as we press on towards our vision of a world where no child is forced to live on the street.

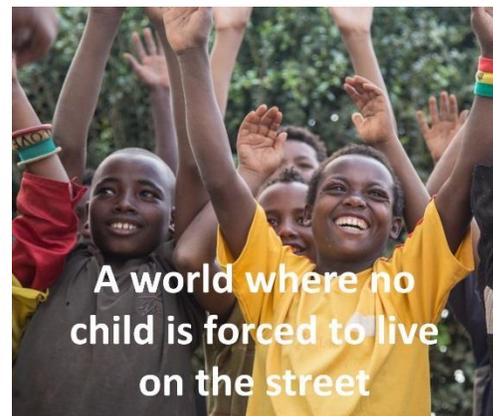
Ethiopia



Retrak's Addis Ababa drop-in centre has started to stage a farewell ceremony for boys who are leaving the program to be reintegrated with their families.

It's a moving occasion and a great opportunity for boys to express their feelings and thoughts about what they have experienced in their journey from the vulnerability of life on the street to being ready to move into a safe home.

Lynn Kay, Retrak's Country Director said "One astonishing things we observed during the farewell ceremony was that some of the boys were asking forgiveness for the conflicts and fights they had in the past with other children. The other children forgave them and demonstrated this by hugging each other. Eventually the boys leaving Retrak cut the bread together and shared it with the other children." A moving experience for all at Retrak.



Please pray:

- That the many children we return home each month will quickly overcome any issues and find connection within the family again. (In 2014 we returned 605 children to safe homes in families and communities.)
- Giving thanks for the relationships that are built between children during their time with us; pray that they will continue to be a support to each other.
- For Lynn's capacity as she oversees the growing work, and for success in securing a suitable property to relocate the Deborah House Program.
- Giving thanks for a successful visit by a team from Greater Manchester Police and Fire and Rescue service at the end of last year.
- For Retrak's team in Kechene as they work with older girls; that the team find good job opportunities for the girls at the end of the training process; and that they would persevere in becoming good and productive employees.
- Give thanks for recent funding we have secured from two major donors for our work in Ethiopia.



Uganda

In November, Retrak Uganda hosted a team from both Greater Manchester's Police and Fire & Rescue services. The team took part in both day and night outreach work where they met children on the streets and invited them to a sports gala which included an open clinic and open feeding sessions. The team from Manchester were able to help Retrak staff visit some areas where our outreach staff rarely visit and we saw a large number of children come to the gala as a result.



Telley Sadia, Retrak’s Country Director reported: “At the centre, the team engaged children in various games, music and dance, but also participated in creating the hanging gardens. This has given the centre a new look as well as contributing to food security as onions, beetroot, carrots, egg plants, sukumawiki and spinach were planted. The staff were taken through fire drills and new smoke alarms were installed in the buildings. It has been a blessing to us.”



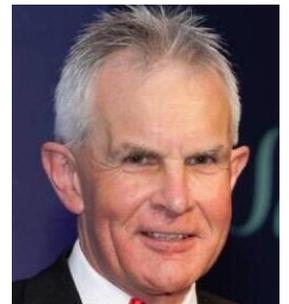
Telley also reported a cholera outbreak alert in Uganda. “Our nurses have continued to give sensitisation and lessons to both the children and the staff so that we prevent the spread in case we received a child who is infected”.

Please pray:

- Giving thanks for the successful visit of the team from Greater Manchester and the impact they had on children living on the streets. Please also pray that the impact it had on the team members will energise them in raising the profile of Retrak with their colleagues, friends, and networks.
- For the ongoing recovery of children involved in October’s road accident
- For Telley as he steps down from his post as Country Director and for Florence Soyekwo as she takes on this role; for a smooth transition, and for Telley as he move to a new role in South Sudan
- Giving thanks for a new grant we recently received that will fund a significant part of our work in Uganda for the next 4 years.
- For the health of staff and children in light of the cholera outbreak.

In the UK

We have a number of new staff in the UK office who are settling in to their roles. Also, new grants from major donors bring with them new reporting, monitoring and accounting requirements for us to implement. New funding is a real blessing but there are also still significant gaps for us to fill for the coming year’s budget.



Please pray:

- For Sir Peter Fahy (former Chief Constable in Greater Manchester) Retrak’s new CEO and for other new members of the team as they settle into their roles.
- Thank God for the fantastic news of new funding but also pray for staff involved in understanding and implementing the reporting, monitoring and accounting processes which come with these grants.
- For our fundraising staff as they seek to fill the remaining gaps and to look to fund new initiatives.

Thank you so much for the part you play in realising our vision. A world where no child is forced to live on the street is a bold vision. But with God’s grace, Retrak’s proven model, and your support, it’s a reality we can start to move towards.

