

Welcome to the March issue of Retrak's Prayer E-News. Thank you for joining us in prayer, and for your faithful support for the children we work with. Thank you to those who fed back comments on the pilot issue of Prayer E-News and a big welcome to new readers this time round.

In this issue, we learn a little more about, and pray for our work with Kimbilio in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Maggie Crewes our Director of Programmes is just back from Brazil and gives us great pointers for our thanks and fresh insights to guide our prayers. Finally, we invite you to pray for Retrak's board and hear from one board member.

Democratic Republic of Congo



Kimbilio's Outreach Centre in Lubumbashi has provided a lifeline to fourteen year old Amélie, who first reached out to Kimbilio last summer. Initially very shy and nervous, it

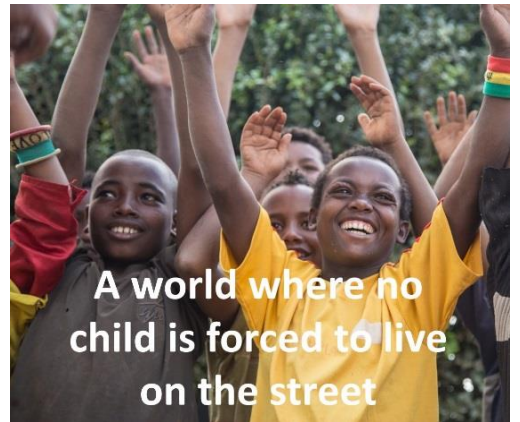
took some time to gain her trust, at which point she revealed she was pregnant. Kimbilio welcomed her to their Transit Home where they provided care and access to regular check-ups at a local hospital and in early January 2016, Amélie gave birth to a healthy baby boy. After a couple of weeks in hospital both mum and baby were able to return to Kimbilio and are enjoying being the center of attention!



Amélie is showing maturity far beyond her years, and this experience has brought her family together, visiting Kimbilio several times. The realities of giving birth on the streets could have been fatal, but fortunately Kimbilio is becoming well known in the local community, with children coming to the Centre in times of need.

Please pray:

- That Amélie and her baby grow strong together, and find the stability and love that they deserve. Allowing them to put the challenges of life on the streets behind them, so that they can have a future with hope and opportunity.
- Give thanks for volunteer Youth Worker Ian Mullens, who played an instrumental role in overseeing Amélie's wellbeing, and has worked alongside the Congolese team to support her.
- That Kimbilio can find a caring family to live the new home for girls, to provide a homely, loving setting for the children..
- Resources to complete the on site chapel, so that Kimbilio can become truly integrated into the community; and that the children have a quiet space to reflect and pray.



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

Brazil



Maggie Crewes, Retrak's Director of Programmes recently spent time with our Brazilian partner organisation Terra dos Homens (or ABTH). Maggie says "there are thousands of children living on the street, sleeping out rough and with no hope of anything positive in their lives. Many are

caught up in violent communities ruled by drug lords who see children as disposable “carrier bags” for drugs and running



messaging services to control their territories - and who can be got rid of with ease and without recriminations”.

Maggie was in Brazil to deliver a workshop on reintegrating children home from the streets in Rio. Although a very different setting to the African context Retrak is used to, it became obvious to Maggie very quickly how much Retrak’s experience of reintegrating children can help ABTH as they try to do the same in Brazil.



Maggie’s blog reveals the different context in which ABTH work: ‘Next stop is a family in one of the most violent favelas in Rio. We are instructed: “Keep the windows down so they can see you; Don’t make eye contact with anyone; Don’t joke around or be loud” We get an immediate sense of the dangers when we see cocaine and crack being sold openly in the street.’

Please pray:

- For the staff of ABTH, for safety on the streets; for good relationships with children; and for success in reintegrating children into safe, loving families.
- For the protection of Thiago and Mariana (ABTH family workers) as they enter into one of the most violent favelas in Rio to work with children and families.
- Give thanks for the enthusiasm of the participants at Maggie’s workshop and pray that the things they picked up there will be of great use to them as they seek to transform the lives of children living on the streets.

In the UK

Ian Pettigrew is a member of Retrak’s diverse and active Board of Trustees who meet regularly to provide a vital layer of accountability for the organisation. Ian also chairs one of two Board sub-committees that provide a particular focus and scrutiny on the areas of finance & risk, and impact & learning. Please pray for our Board members as they perform this vital role.

Please pray:

- For the trustees, in both their duties as trustees and as ambassadors for Retrak.
- That the two Board sub-committees would provide scrutiny and challenge at the same time as support to the organisation.
- That Board meetings would live out the Retrak values of boldness, excellence, innovation, respect.
- Give thanks for the staff we have who do amazing work in Monitoring and Evaluation.



Thank you so much for the part you play in realizing our vision of “A world where no child is forced to live on the street”. It is a bold vision but with God’s grace, Retrak’s proven model of care, and your support, it’s a reality we are already moving towards.

