

Retrak reintegration locations 2015

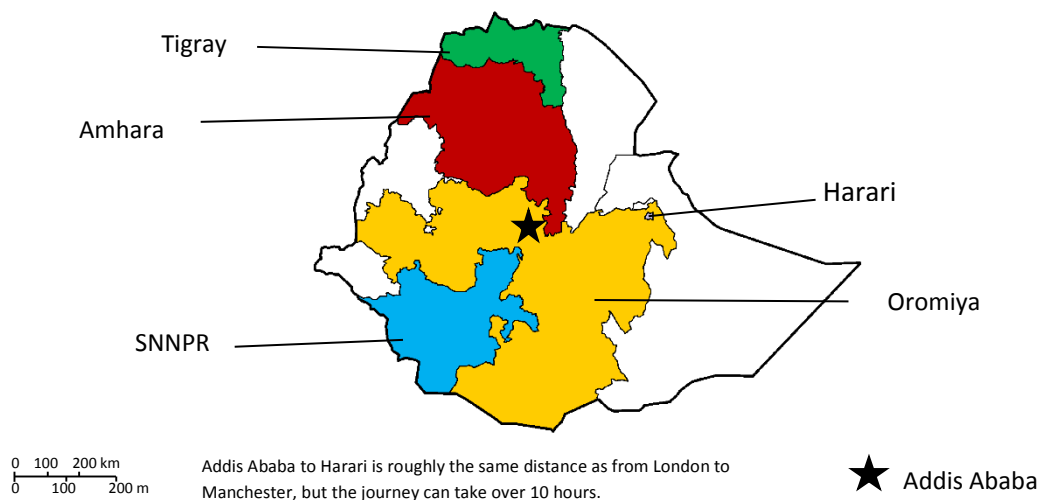
A core part of Retrak’s work is returning children to safe homes in families and communities, where each child feels a sense of belonging through a secure attachment to caring adults. Over 80% of the children whom we help leave the streets return to their own relatives through our family reintegration programmes. Between 2009 and 2015, Retrak has enabled almost 2,500 children to be reintegrated with their families and provided training and support to over 3,000 care-givers benefitting an additional 5,000 children in their care.

In order to provide an insight into these programmes we annually map the locations of these reintegration placements and track trends in locations over time. We have used this information to explain the geographic spread of children coming to the streets and to help us target prevention programmes in “hotspots”, such as Hossana in Ethiopia. This paper provides the results for 2015 and is intended to be used to inform Retrak’s planning, research and advocacy work.

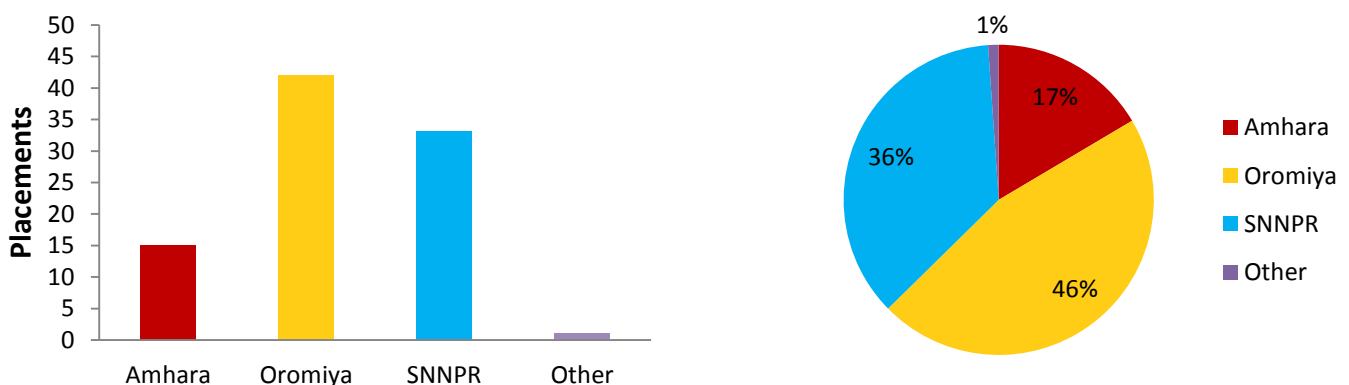
Compiled by Anna Kuligowska, August 2016

Retrak Ethiopia

In 2015, 91 children were placed with their families.



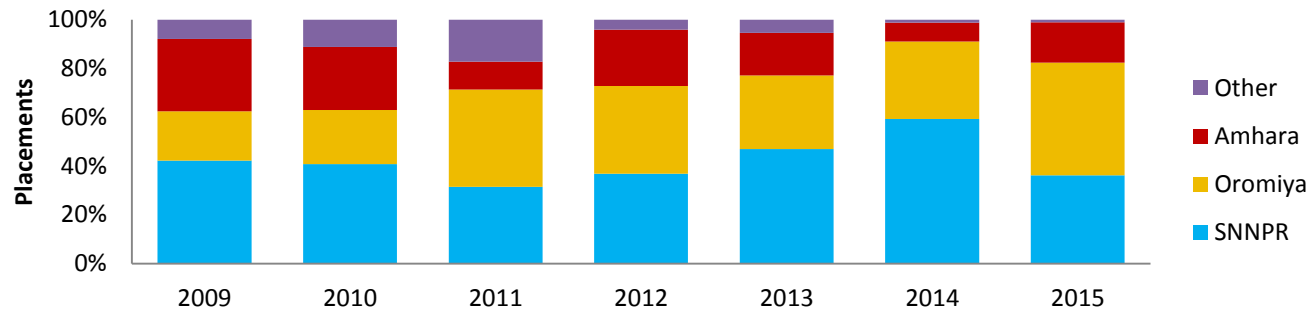
Oromiya and SNNPR continue to be the regions with the highest numbers of children.



Historical trends in Ethiopia 2009-2015

Regional distribution

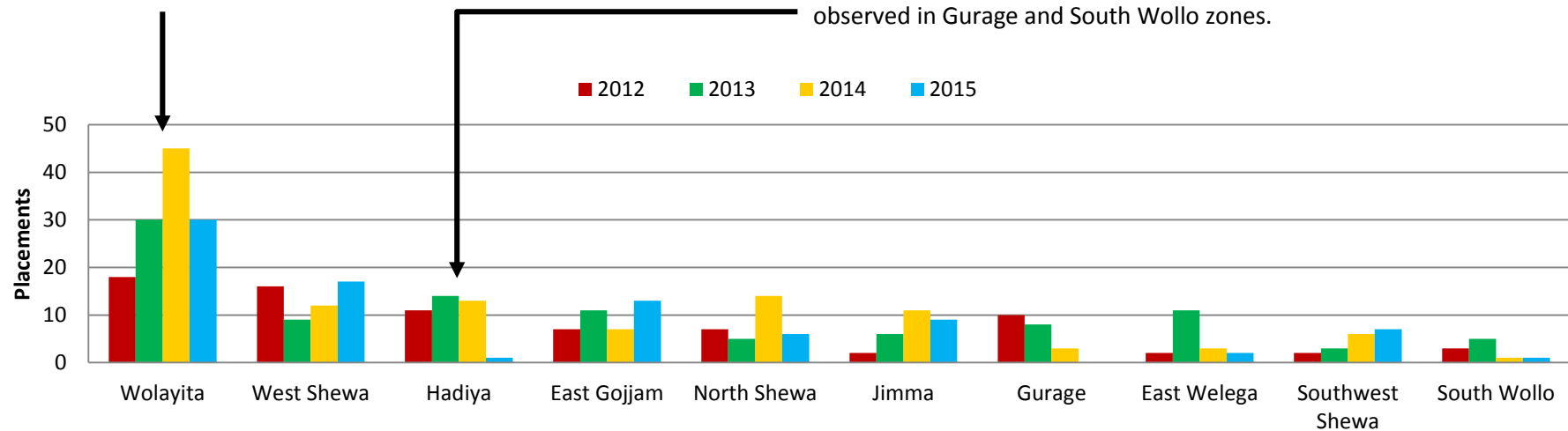
The proportion of children coming from SNNPR has been gradually increasing since 2011, however 2015 saw a drop in the number of children coming from this zone. On the other side, the proportion of children coming from Oromiya has been increasing over the years.



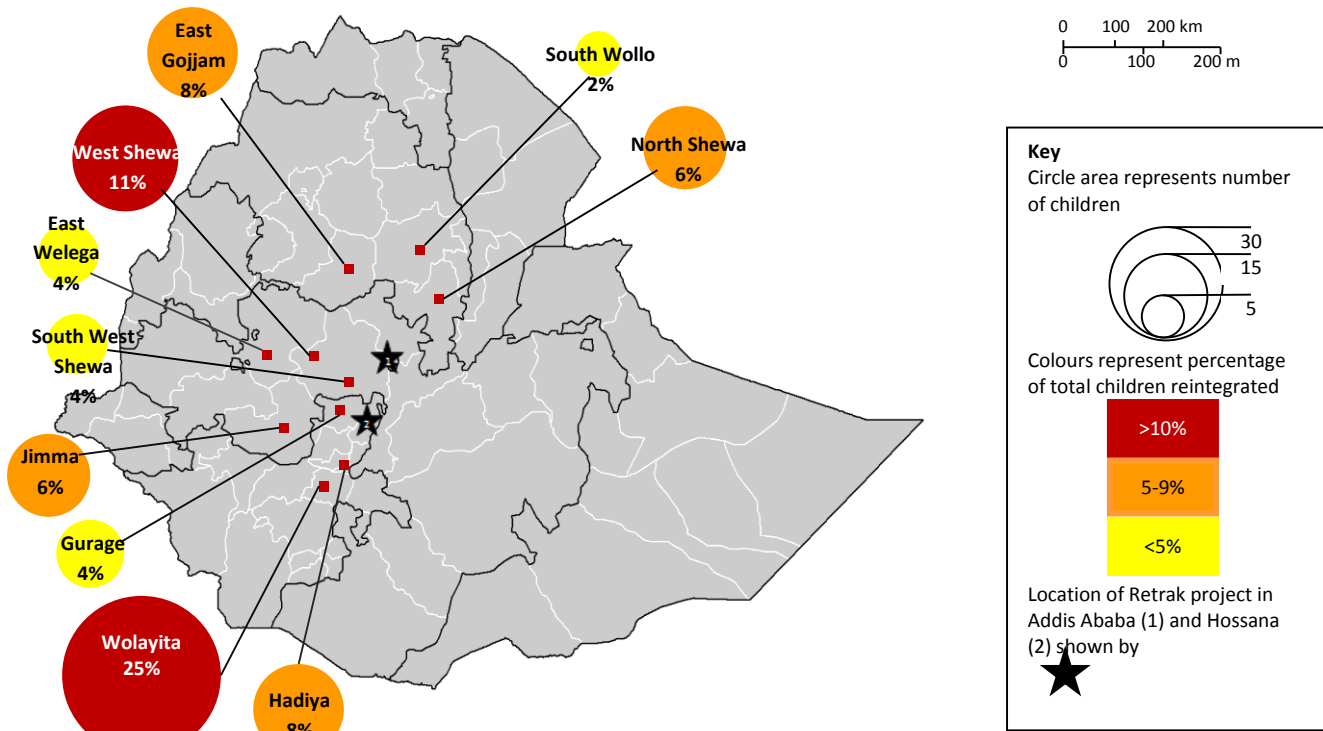
Top 10 zones for reintegration placements

Over the past years **Wolayita zone** has been the area with the majority reintegration placements. In 2015 there were one third less placements in Wolayita than in the previous year, however Wolayita still remains the zone with the most placements in comparison to other zones.

Hadiya zone has noted a significant drop in reintegration placements from 13 children in 2014 to only 1 child in 2015. This might be linked to Retrak's community prevention work targeted around the Hadiya zone. A gradual reduction of reintegration placements between 2012 and 2015 has been observed in Gurage and South Wollo zones.



Top 10 zones accounting for 76% reintegration placements 2012-2015¹



¹ We have been working on improving data quality for reintegration locations in terms of consistent recording of towns and zones. Therefore, the updated information is only available from 2012 onwards.

Explanation of trends in Ethiopia

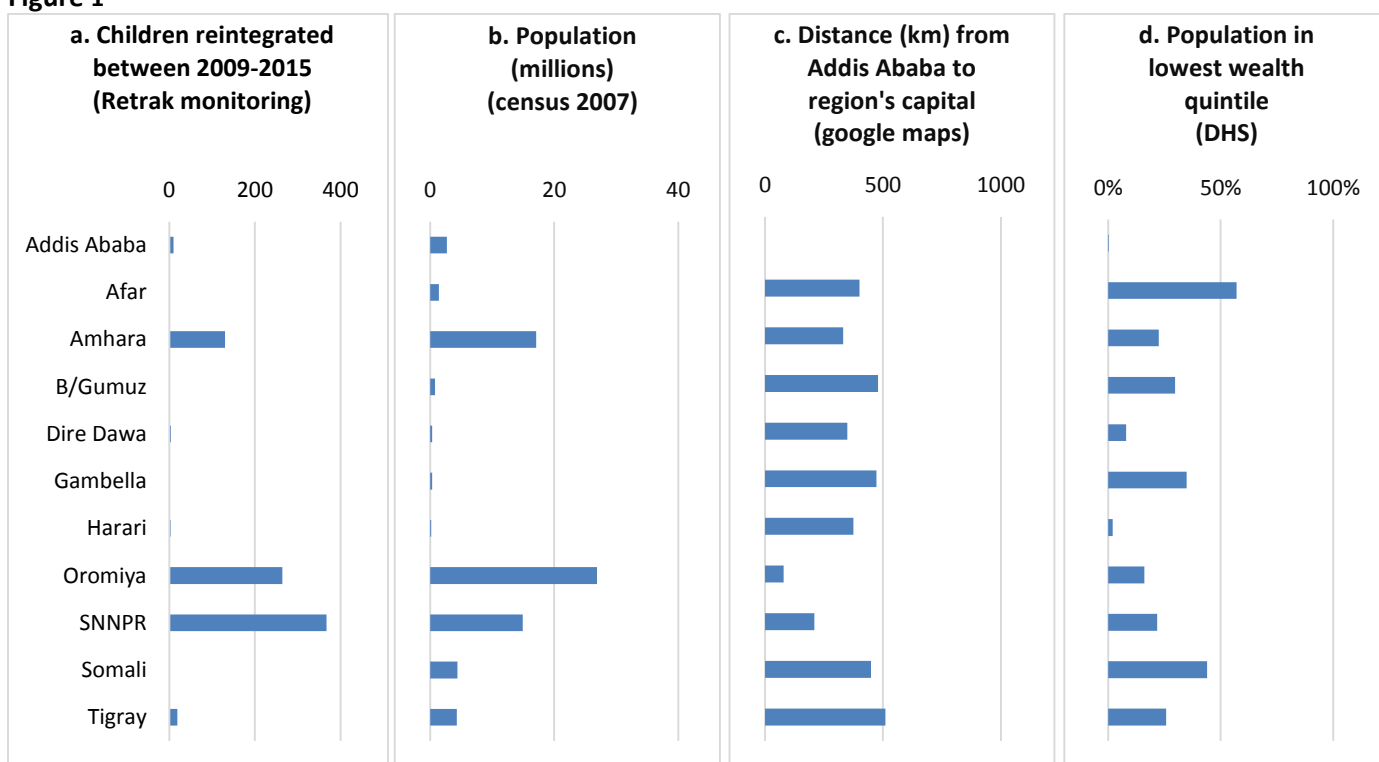
The staff from Retrak Ethiopia suggests that the reasons behind 2015 trends are very similar to the ones from 2014.

Distance continues to be one of the pull factors. Most children coming to the streets of Addis Ababa are coming from SNNP and Oromiya regions, the two regions surrounding Addis Ababa. Wolayita (330km) and Hadiya zones (230km) are found in a reasonably short distance from Addis Ababa and have been two top zones for reintegration locations between 2009 and 2015.

Another factor which influences children coming to the streets is poverty. Recently conducted rapid assessment in Wolayita zone comments on this: 'The factors pushing children to migrate are household poverty and lack of awareness of child protection issues by people close to the child. Household poverty is aggravated by large family size and scarcity of farming land which is getting diminished by the day'.²

Similarly to Uganda, peer groups are another factor which influences children coming to the streets. Children who have migrated to bigger cities encourage other children from their communities of origin to migrate as well. Therefore communities may become more tolerant or even encouraging towards child migration which becomes an acceptable norm.

Figure 1



Sources

DHS: Central Statistical Agency [Ethiopia] and ICF International (2012) *Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2011*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Calverton, Maryland, USA: Central Statistical Agency and ICF International, available at:

http://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/ET_2011_EDHS.pdf

Census: Central Statistical Agency Ethiopia (2007) Population and Housing Census, available at:

http://ecastats.uneca.org/aicmd/Portals/0/Cen2007_firstdraft.pdf

² Retrak (2015) *Assessing the situation of street children and child migration/trafficking in Wolayita Zone (SNNPR, Ethiopia): Rapid Assessment Report*, p17

Retrak Uganda

In 2015, 242 children were placed with their family across all four regions of Uganda.

0 50 100 km
 0 50 100
 Kampala to Gulu is roughly the same distance as from New York to Washington DC, but the journey can take over 9 hours.

★ Kampala

Western

- Bundibugyo
- Bushenyi
- Hoima
- Kabarole
- Kamwenge
- Kasese
- Kibaale
- Kiruhura
- Kisoro

- Kyegegwa
- Kyenjojo
- Mbarara
- Ntungamo
- Rubirizi

Central

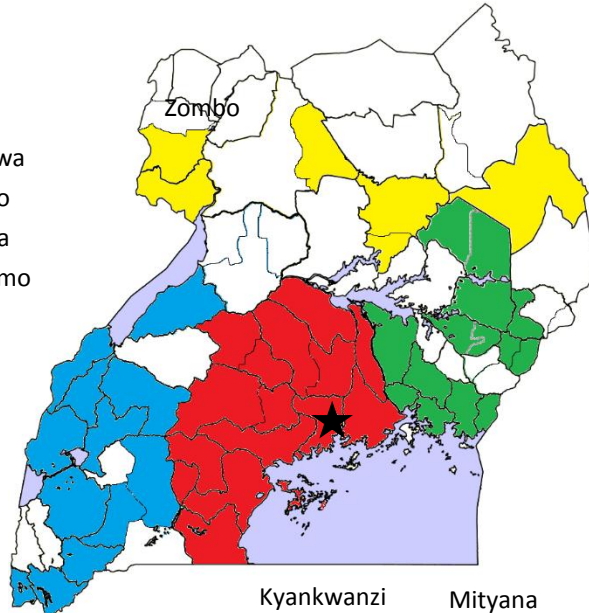
- Buikwe
- Bukomansimbi
- Butambala
- Gomba

Northern

- Alebtong
- Arua
- Dokolo
- Gulu
- Moroto
- Zombo

Eastern

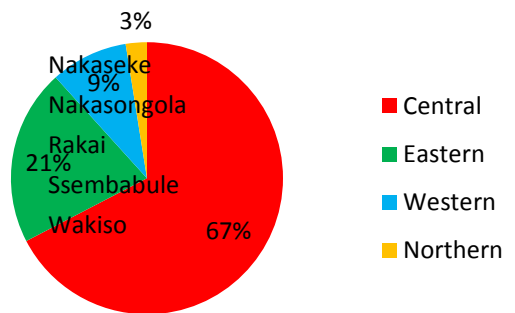
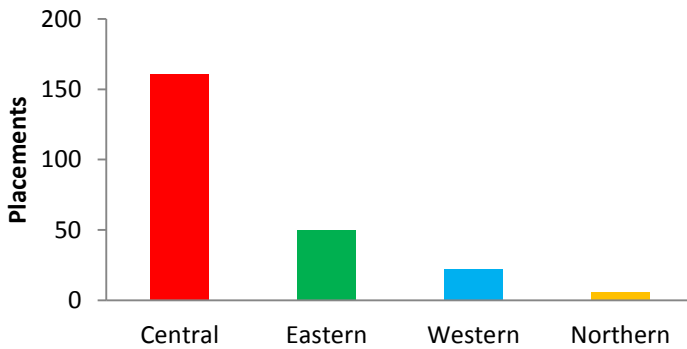
- Amuria
- Budaka
- Bududa
- Bugiri
- Bukedea
- Bulambuli
- Busia
- Buyende
- Iganga
- Jinja
- Kamuli
- Katakwi
- Mayuge
- Mbale
- Namayingo
- Ngora
- Pallisa
- Sironko



- Kyankwanzi
- Mityana
- Luweero
- Mpigi
- Lwengo
- Mubende
- Lyantonde
- Mukono
- Masaka

Nakaseke

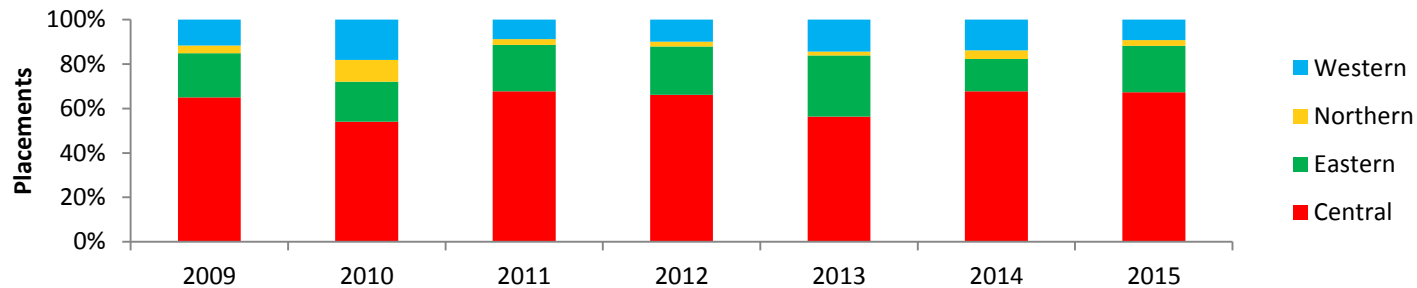
The central region of Uganda is the home origin of the majority children Retrak places back to family care.



Historical trends in Uganda 2009- 2015

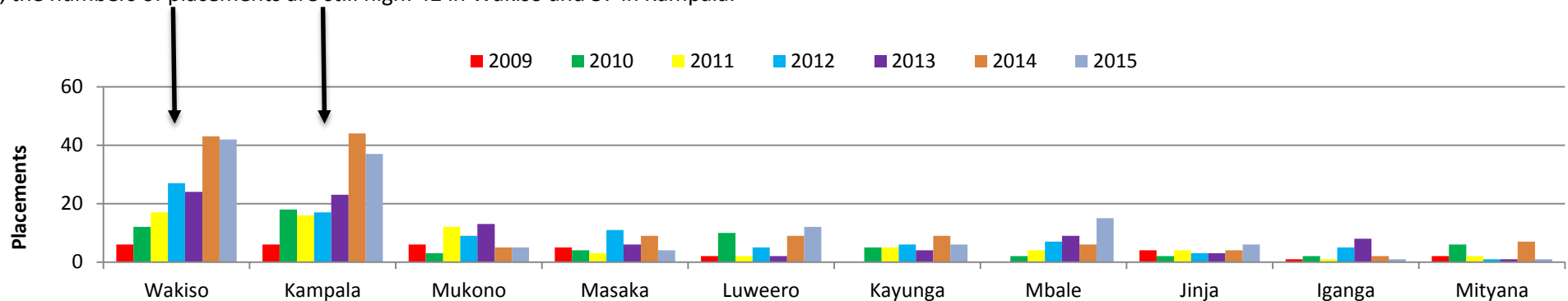
Regional distribution

Over 50% of children have always come from Central region. In most years Eastern region has accounted for 20% or more of children. The proportions of children coming from the two remaining regions changed slightly over the years.

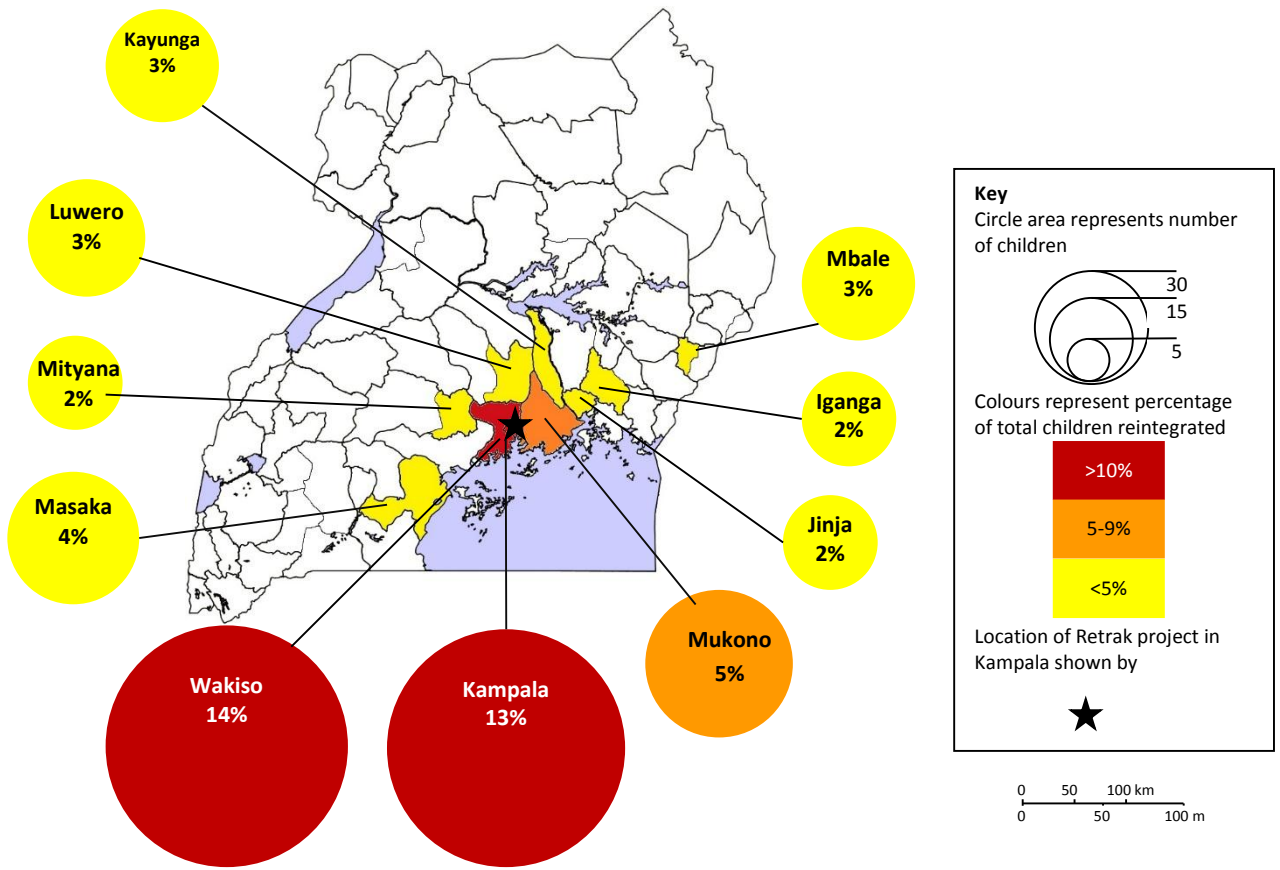


Top 10 districts

Wakiso and **Kampala**, both situated in the central region of Uganda, registered a significant increase in reintegration placements between 2013 and 2014. For both areas the number of placements nearly doubled from 24 to 43 in Wakiso and from 23 to 44 in Kampala. Even though fewer children were placed back home in those districts in 2015, the numbers of placements are still high: 42 in Wakiso and 37 in Kampala.



Top 10 districts accounting for 53% reintegration placements 2009-2015



Explanation of trends in Uganda

During 2015 Retrak Uganda reintegrated most children in the central region of Uganda, in the districts of Kampala and Wakiso. This tendency has been observed over several years. The staff on the ground provided a further explanation for this trend.

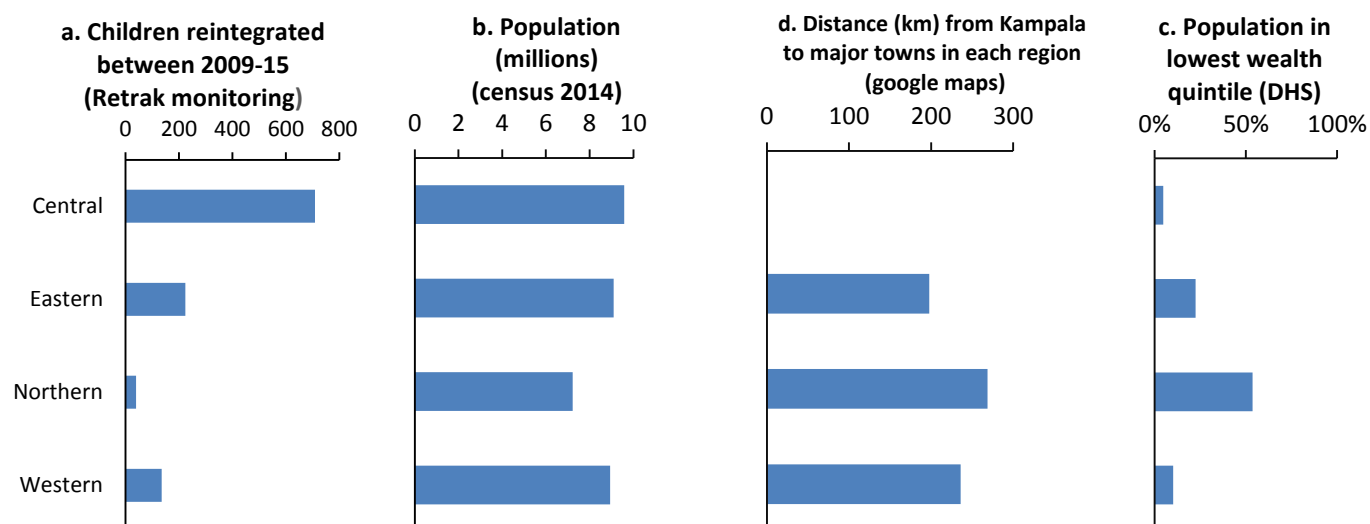
Wakiso district surrounds Kampala. The geographical proximity of the district to the capital city is conducive for children to travel there in search for work. In addition, Wakiso is second most populous district in Uganda after Kampala³ and its population is constantly expanding as people from all over the country migrate there in order to find work. Although the district is very close to the capital, it is one of the poorest areas in Uganda⁴. The migration has led to an increase in informal settlements where living conditions are below the minimum standard (eg. unavailable sewage, running water, solid waste management). Many families in Wakiso live in poverty and, as reported by Retrak's staff, the economic hardship in Wakiso has led to domestic violence, single parenting and family separation. Moreover, the rate of HIV/AIDS in central region is higher than the country's average⁵. Children are affected by these circumstances and many of them do not have access to quality education and health care. That overall may contribute to the decision to leave for the streets.

The staff also reported that the majority of the population residing in Wakiso's suburbs (such as Nansana, Entebbe and Kira) earns their living in Kampala, either by owning a small-scale business or being employed in the capital. This can result in adults leaving their children unattended during the day. In addition, the high demand for low cost labour in Kampala is a big pull factor for the children in Wakiso and many of them think getting a job in the capital is a quick way of making money. This combined with peer influence (other children encouraging their peers to think the life in Kampala is better) may also be a factor contributing to family separation.

According to Retrak staff in Kampala, another pull factor for coming to the streets is, to an extent, the growing number of NGOs working with children on the streets, many of whom provide handouts which can maintain children on the streets.

Eastern region comprises around 20 per cent of reintegrated children. Most reintegration placements are conducted in Bugisu sub region, the area surrounding Mbale⁶. The staff in Retrak Uganda suggested that, like areas around Kampala, many caregivers may spend extensive amounts of time away from home working in Mbale.

Figure 2



³ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2014) *Statistical Abstract*

⁴ SOS Children's Villages International (2016) SOS Children's Village Kakiri, SOS Children's Villages International [Online], Available at: <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/africa/uganda/kakiri>, Accessed; 11th March 2016

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ Bugisu is a sub region in Uganda comprising of the following districts: Bududa, Bulambuli, Manafwa, Sironko and Mbale.