Evaluating Outcomes

Retrak's use of the Child Status Index to measure well-being of street-connected children

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**The State of the Evidence of Children's Care Symposium
September 24, 2014**

Retrak

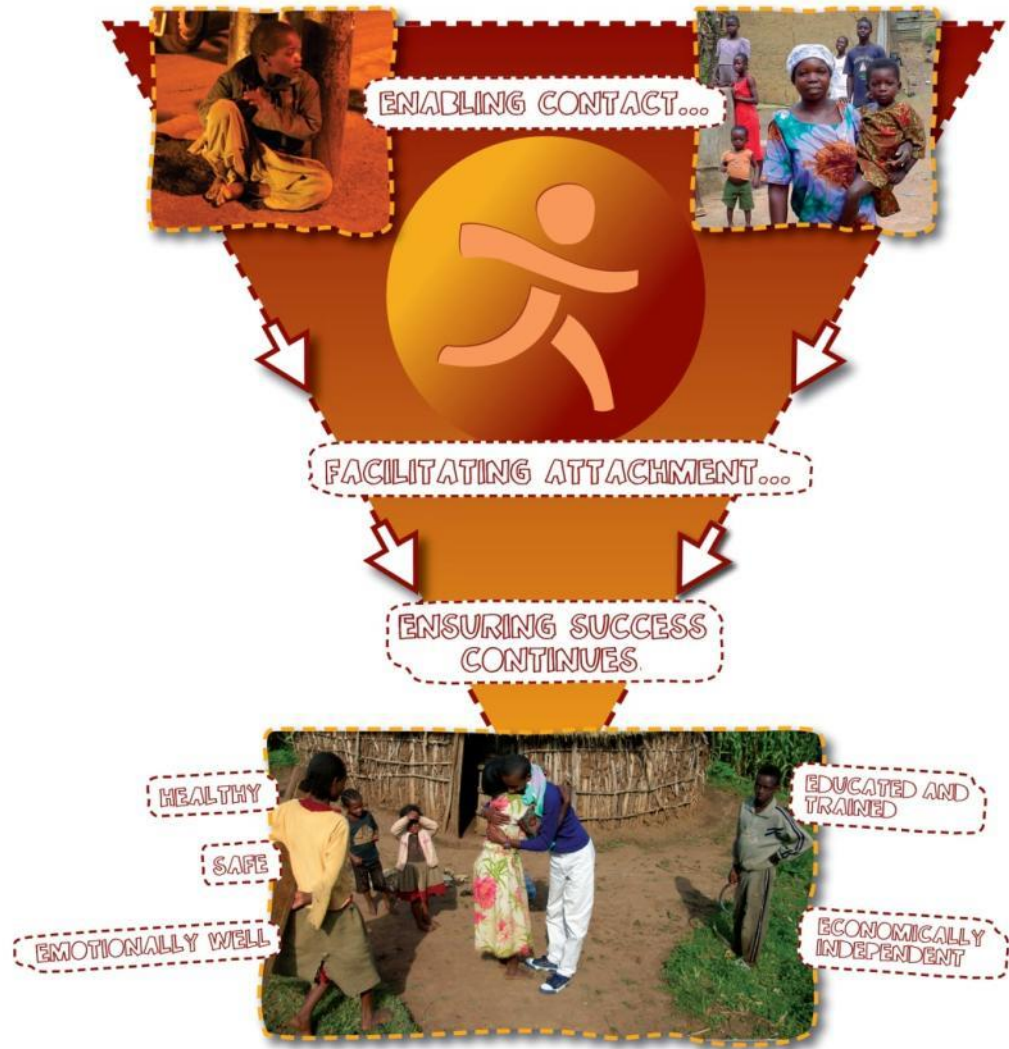No child forced to live on the street

Retrak: who we are

- Working to ensure zero children are forced to live on the streets

- Key strategy is providing family reintegration and alternative care for street-connected children

- Established in 1994 in Uganda

- Now active in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda
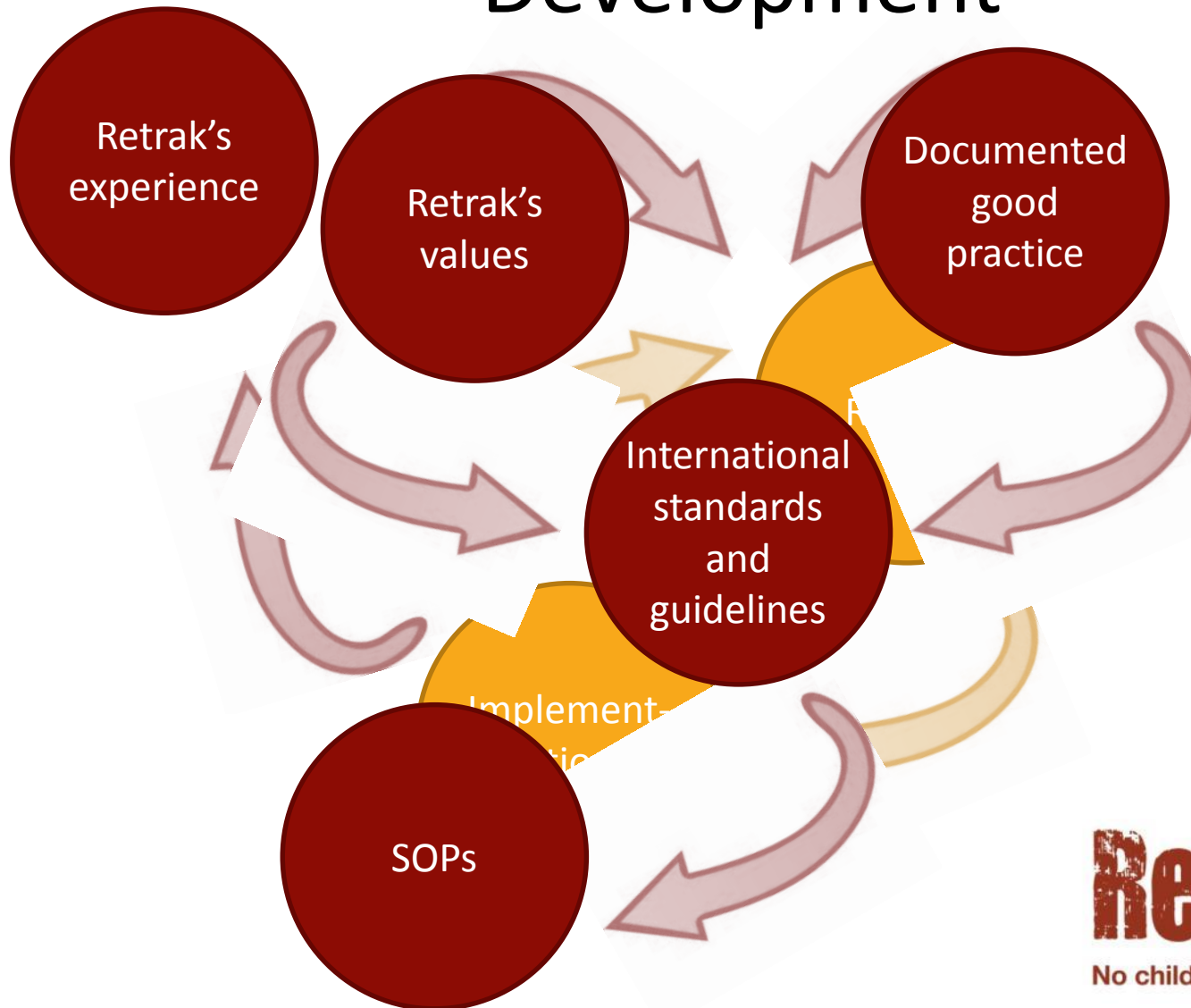
- Over 18,000 beneficiaries in 2013

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Retrak's model:

Successfully returning street children to safe homes in families and communities

ENABLING CONTACT...

FACILITATING ATTACHMENT...

ENSURING SUCCESS CONTINUES

HEALTHY

SAFE

EMOTIONALLY WELL

EDUCATED AND TRAINED

ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT

Family Reintegration SOPs: Development

Retrak's experience

Retrak's values

Documented good practice

International standards and guidelines

Implement-...

SOPs

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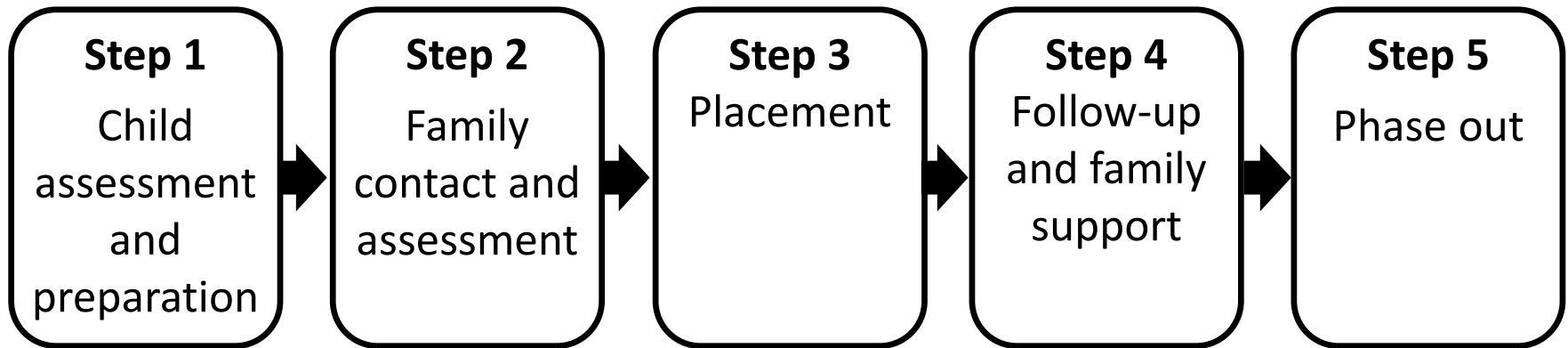
Family Reintegration SOPs: Principles

- see family as the first priority

- be child-centered

- (re)build positive attachments between child and care-givers

- involve community in providing support

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Family Reintegration SOPs: Key Steps

Step 1
Child assessment and preparation

→

Step 2
Family contact and assessment

→

Step 3
Placement

→

Step 4
Follow-up and family support

→

Step 5
Phase out

Monitoring children's wellbeing: Study overview

- Pilot study during Retrak reintegration programs
- Ethiopia and Uganda throughout 2011 and 2012
- Using Child Status Index with 12 measurable goals:
  - 1a Food Security, 1b Nutrition and Growth
  - 2a Shelter, 2b Care
  - 3a Abuse and Exploitation, 3b Legal Protection
  - 4a Wellness, 4b Health Care
  - 5a Emotional Health, 5b Social Behavior
  - 6a Education performance, 6b Education access
- Each goal scored *good*, *fair*, *bad* or *very bad*
- 5 time cohorts: street, placement and 3 follow-up points

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Monitoring children's wellbeing: Limitations

- Pilot period, still some issues with data collection methods and data quality

- Only a small sample of children comparable over time

- CSI used with caution as subjective and context-specific

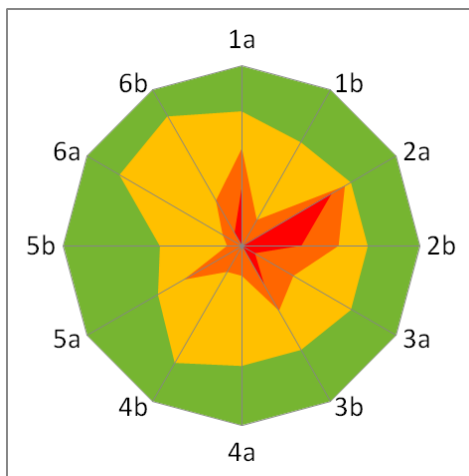- Long-term change cannot be solely attributed to Retrak's work

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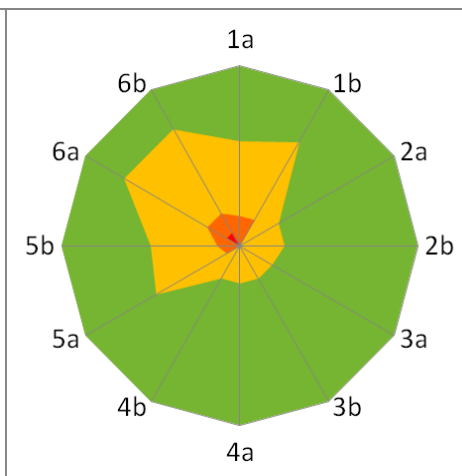No child forced to live on the street

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Monitoring children's wellbeing: Outcomes (Ethiopia)
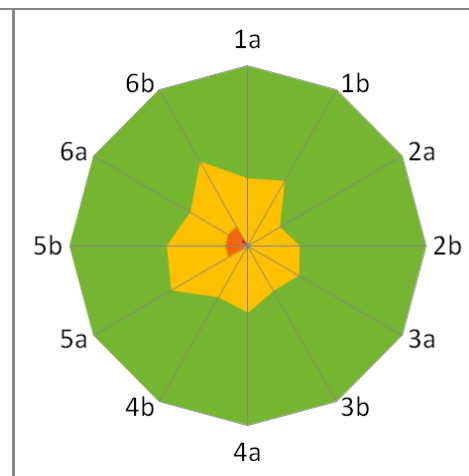

On the streets (n=24)   Placement (n=24)   Follow-up within 6mths (n=24)

1a Food Security, 1b Nutrition and Growth,
2a Shelter, 2b Care,
3a Abuse and Exploitation, 3b Legal Protection,
4a Wellness, 4b Health Care,
5a Emotional Health, 5b Social Behavior,
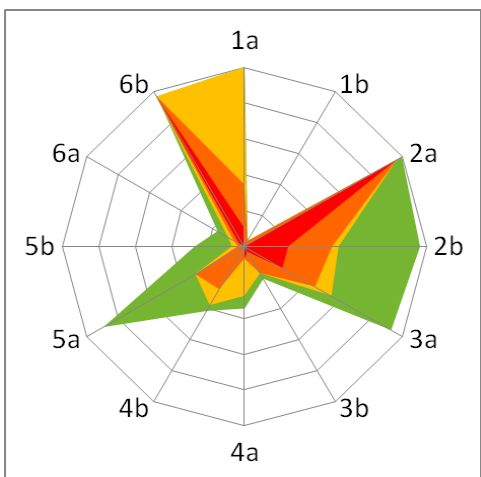6a Education performance, 6b Education access

Good   Fair   Bad   Very bad

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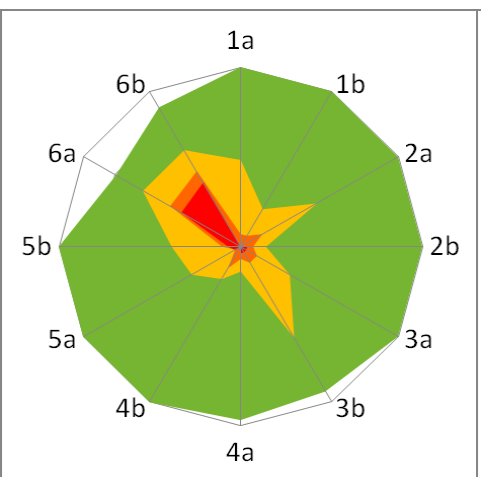
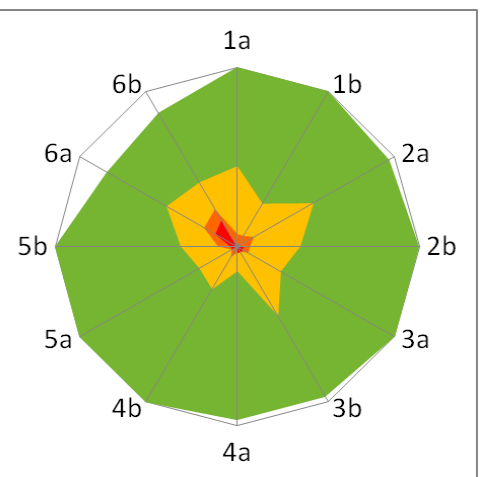# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Outcomes (Uganda)

On the streets (n=29) Placement (n=29) Follow-up within 6mths (n=29)

1a Food Security, 1b Nutrition and Growth,
2a Shelter, 2b Care,
3a Abuse and Exploitation, 3b Legal Protection,
4a Wellness, 4b Health Care,
5a Emotional Health, 5b Social Behavior,
6a Education performance, 6b Education access

Good Fair Bad Very bad

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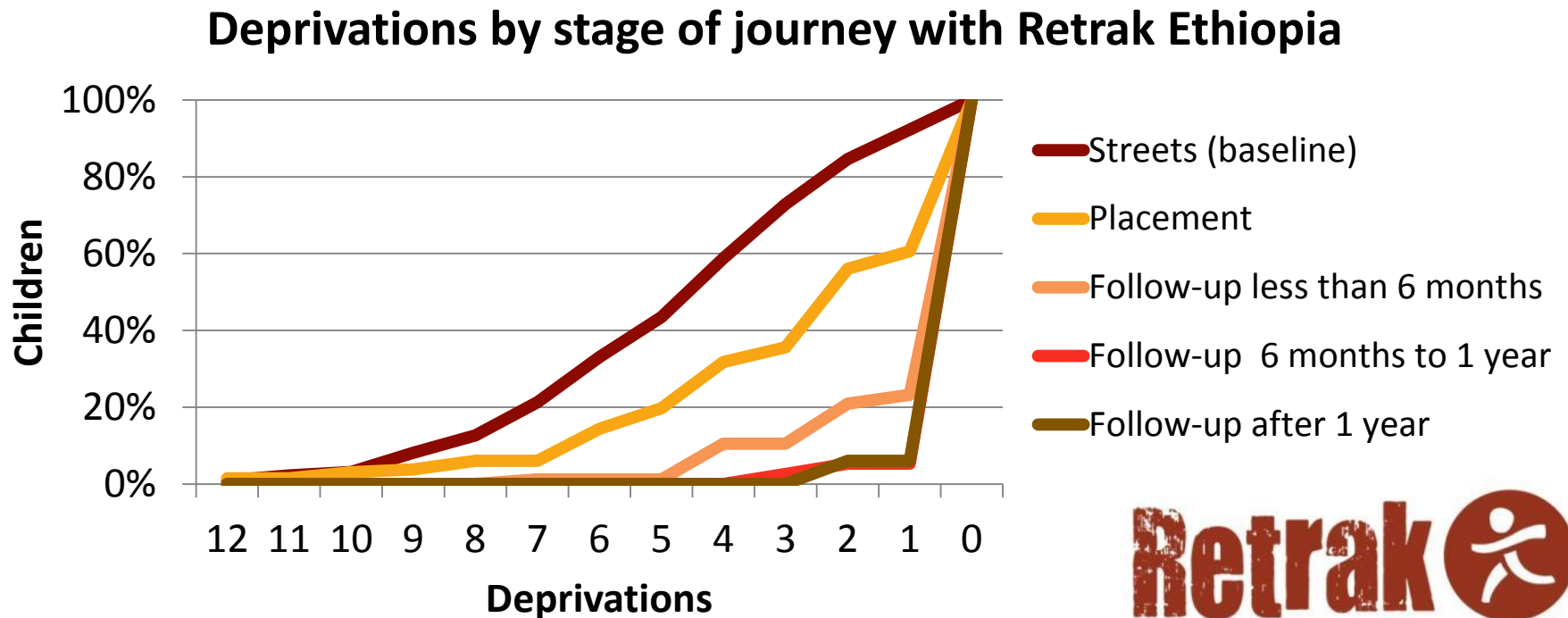
Monitoring children's wellbeing: Outcomes

- Children's wellbeing improved across all goals

- Education performance and access (6a&6b) are slower to improve

- Emotional health and social behavior (5a&5b) also slow to improve at placement and follow-up, especially in Ethiopia

- Some concern for food security (1a), shelter (2a) and legal protection (3b) in all cohorts in Uganda

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Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

- General decline in children's deprivation experienced with time as they move through Retrak's programs

Deprivations by stage of journey with Retrak Ethiopia

Legend:
- Streets (baseline)
- Placement
- Follow-up less than 6 months
- Follow-up 6 months to 1 year
- Follow-up after 1 year

Y-axis: Children (0% to 100%)
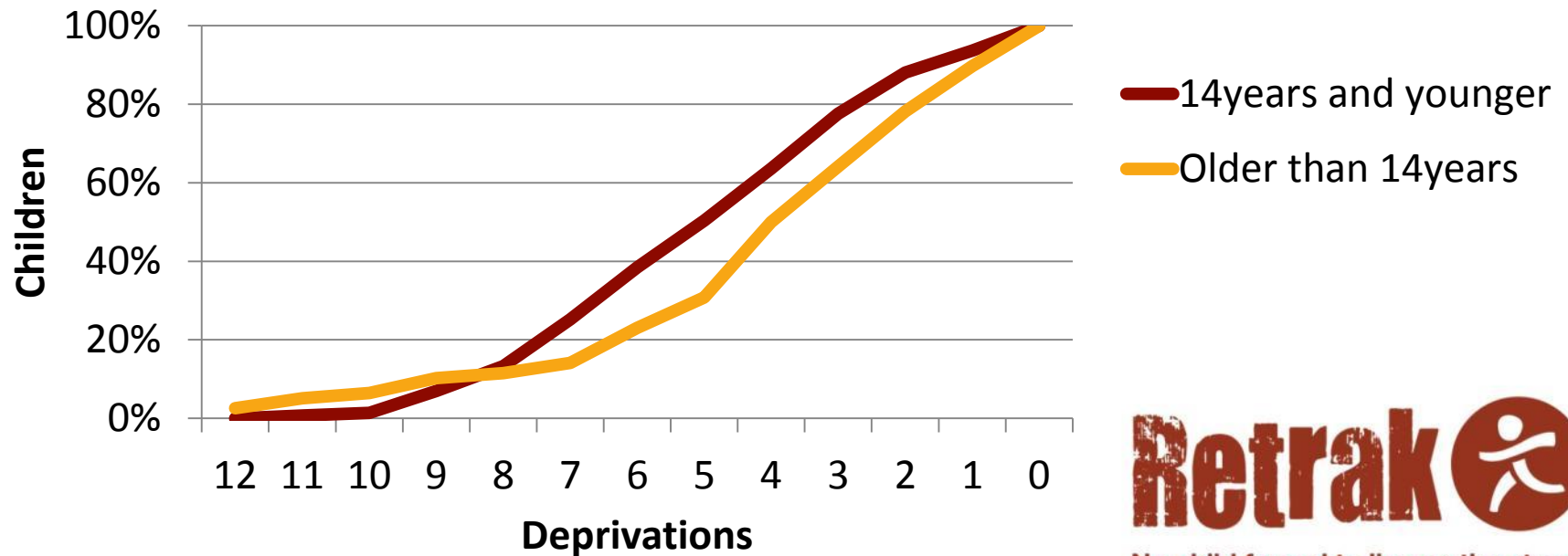X-axis: Deprivations (12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0)

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Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

- Children over 14 years old, have more deprivations than those under 14 years

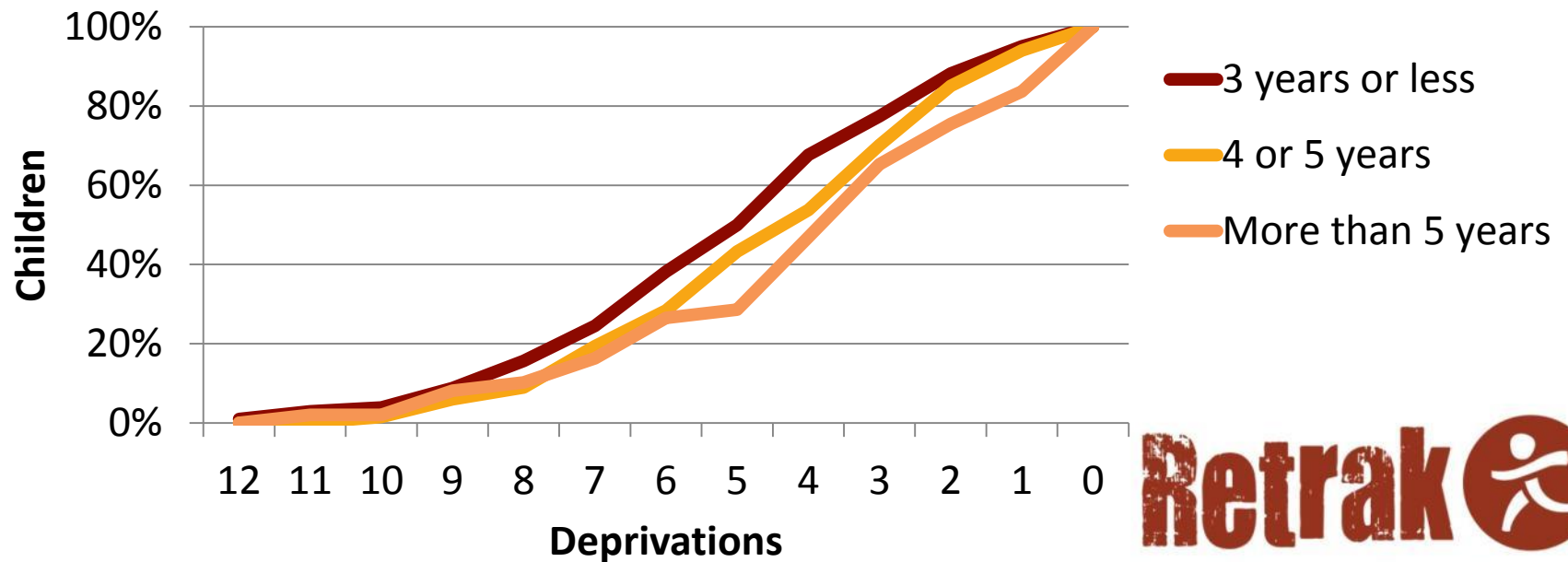**Deprivations on streets by age (at assessment) Ethiopia**

Legend:
- 14years and younger
- Older than 14years

X-axis: Deprivations (12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0)
Y-axis: Children (0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%)

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Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

- The longer a child spends in school before migrating to the street the lower the number of deprivations on average.
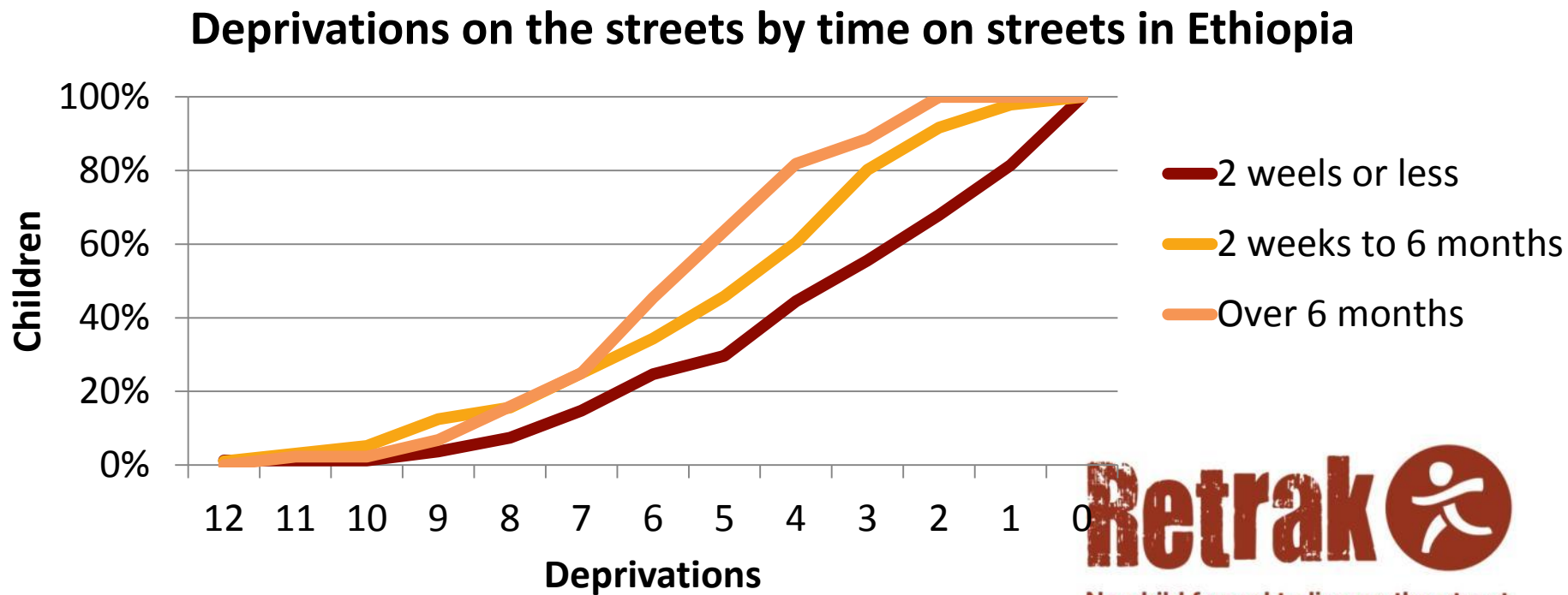
Deprivations on streets by years of education in Ethiopia

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Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

- The longer a child spends in the street the more deprivations they experience.

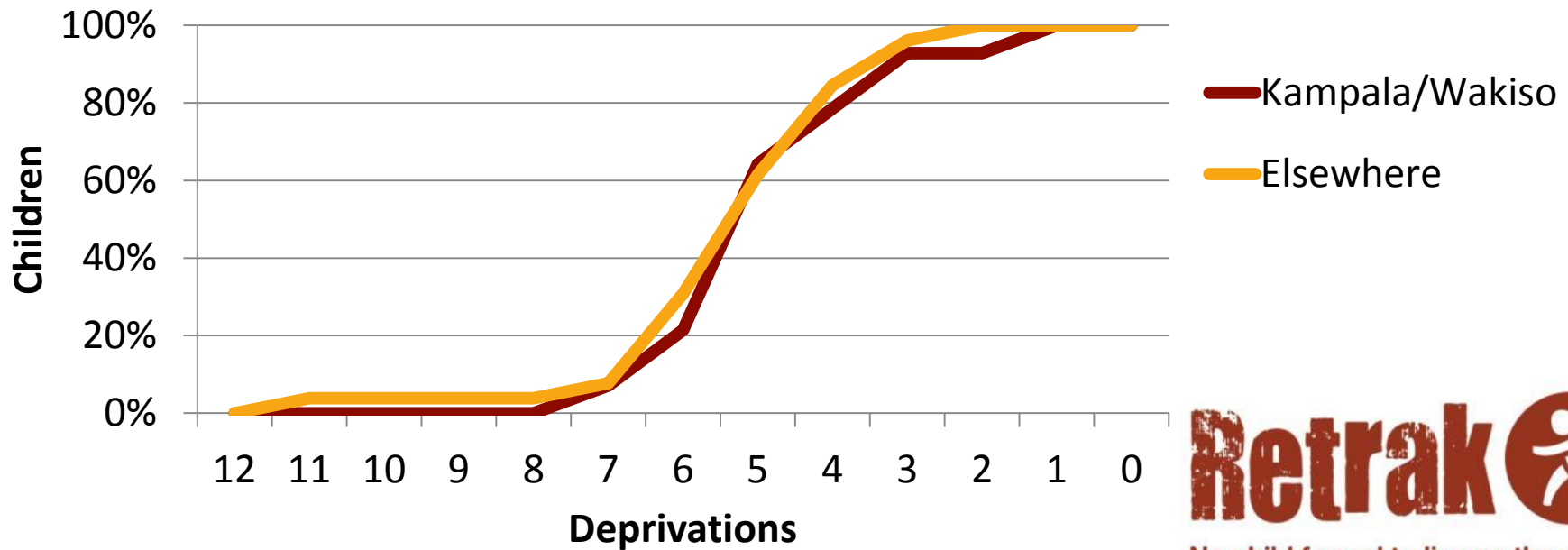**Deprivations on the streets by time on streets in Ethiopia**

Legend:
- 2 weels or less
- 2 weeks to 6 months
- Over 6 months

Y-axis: Children (0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%)
X-axis: Deprivations (12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0)

Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

- No distinction between region of origin in the level of deprivation.

Deprivations on streets by province of origin in Uganda

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Conclusion

- Family reintegration is an effective intervention for street-connected children
- Outreach is critical to be able to reach younger children and those who have recently arrived
- Reintegration programs must help children return to education or skills training and provide adequate psychosocial support
- Monitoring children's wellbeing during the reintegration process is key to ensuring that :
  - placements remains in their best interests
  - programs can respond to needs

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Publications on our website www.retrak.org
or from Joan joan.townsend@retrak.org

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