A young boy with a joyful expression is looking out from a window frame. He is shirtless and has his hand on the wooden frame. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a community setting.

# Evaluating Outcomes

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

Joan Townsend, Retrak US Country Director

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



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# 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



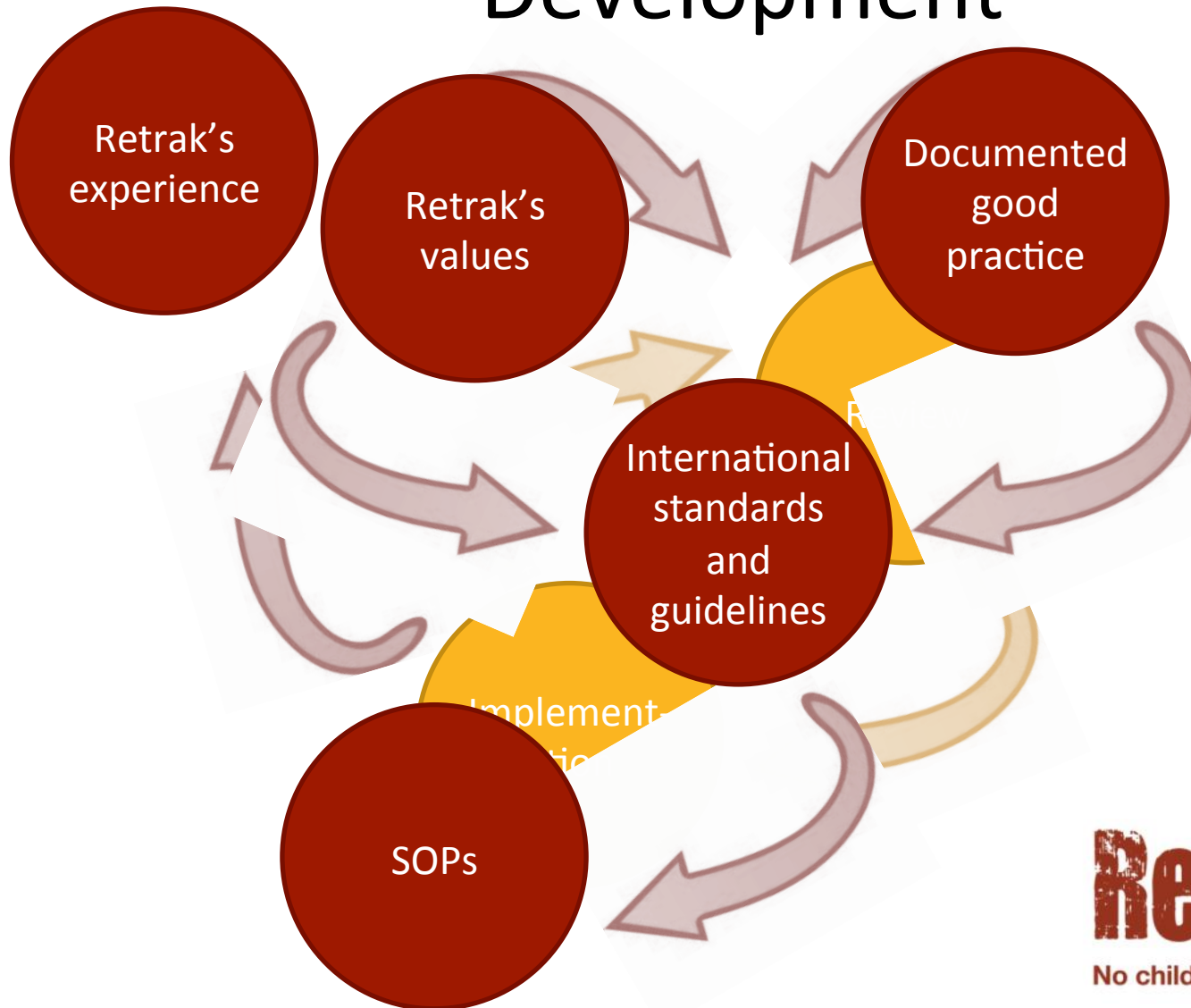
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# Retrak's model:

Successfully returning street children to safe homes in families and communities



# Family Reintegration SOPs: Development



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# Family Reintegration SOPs: Principles

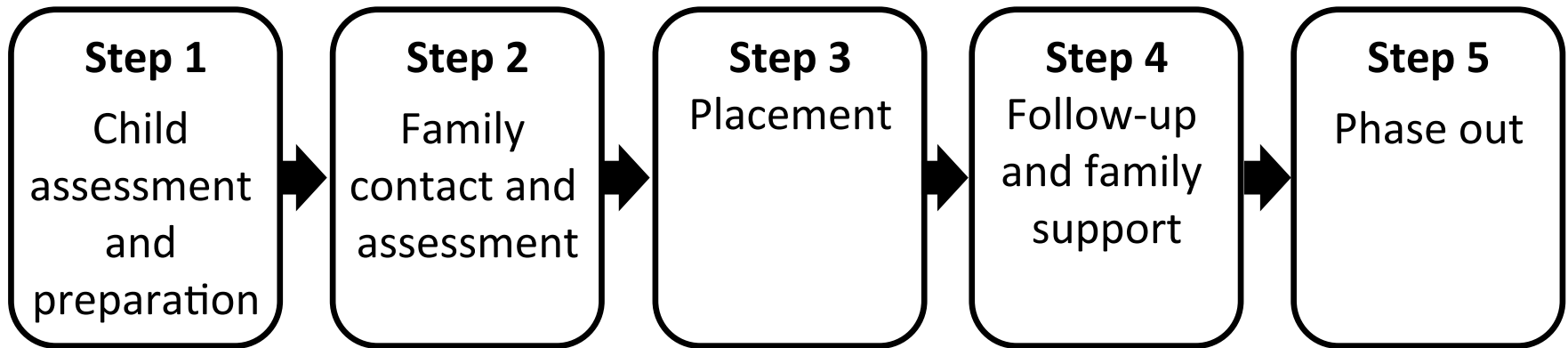
- see family as the first priority
- be child-centered
- (re)build positive attachments between child and care-givers
- involve community in providing support



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# Family Reintegration SOPs: Key Steps



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# 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

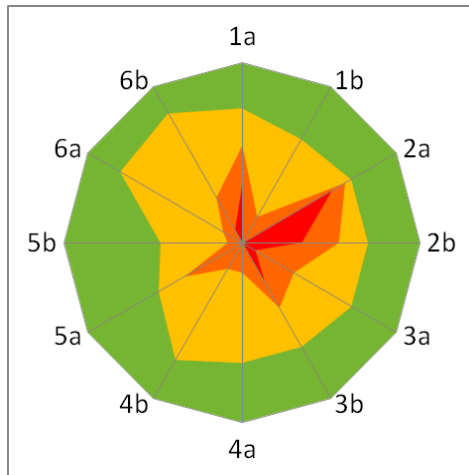


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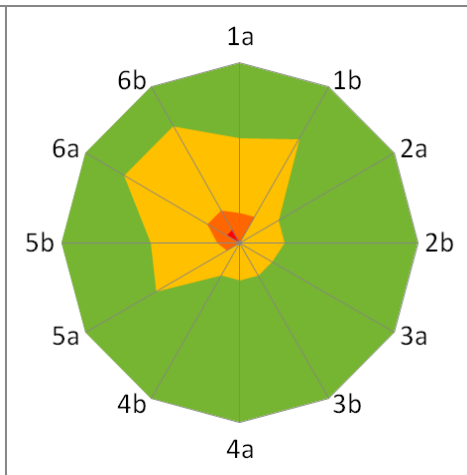


# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Outcomes (Ethiopia)

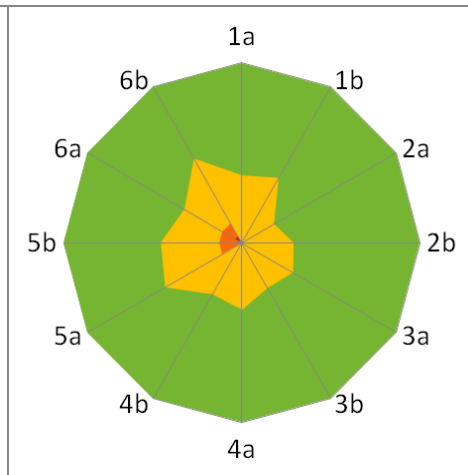
On the streets (n=24)



Placement (n=24)



Follow-up within 6mths (n=24)



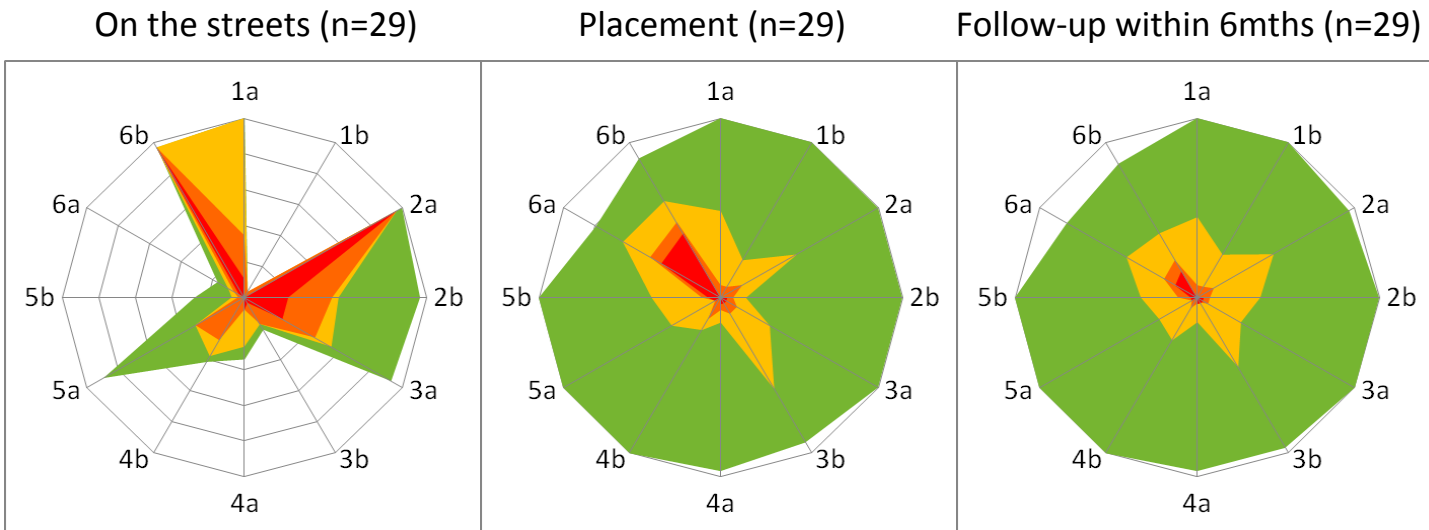
1a Food Security, 1b Nutrition and Growth,  
2a Shelter, 2b Care,  
3a Abuse and Exploitation, 3b Legal Protection,  
4a Wellness, 4b Health Care,  
5a Emotional Health, 5b Social Behavior,  
6a Education performance, 6b Education access

Good
  Fair
  Bad
  Very bad



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# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Outcomes (Uganda)



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

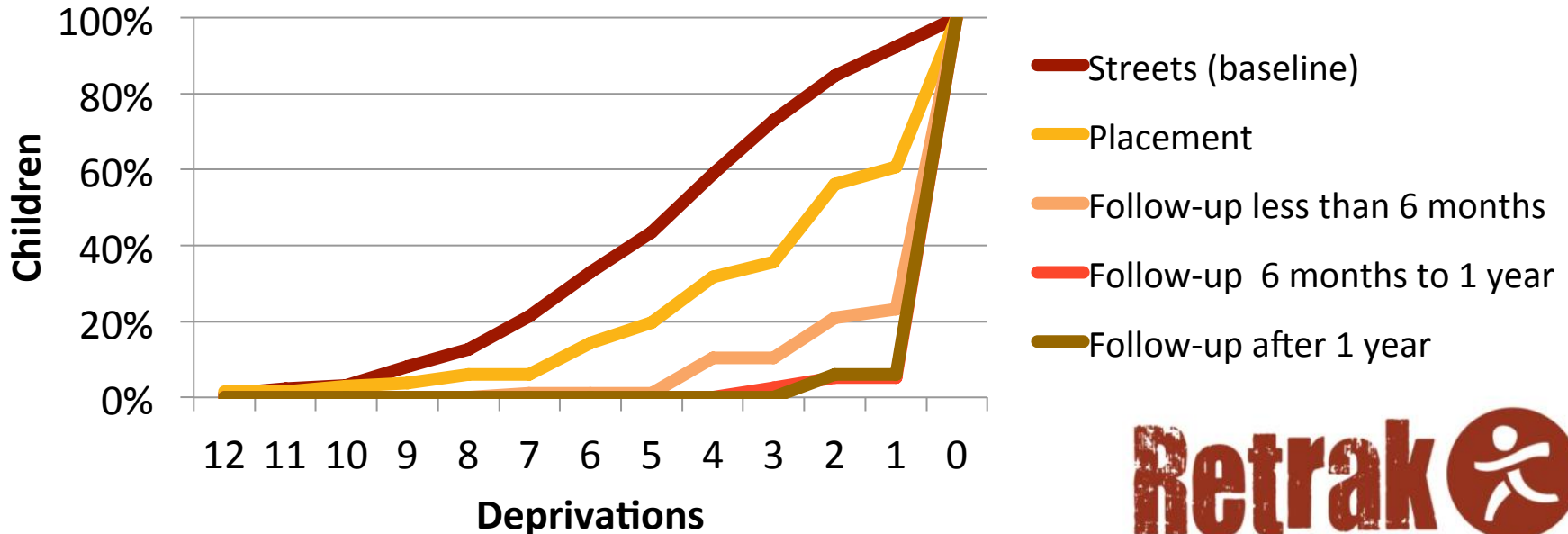


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# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

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

**Deprivations by stage of journey with Retrak Ethiopia**

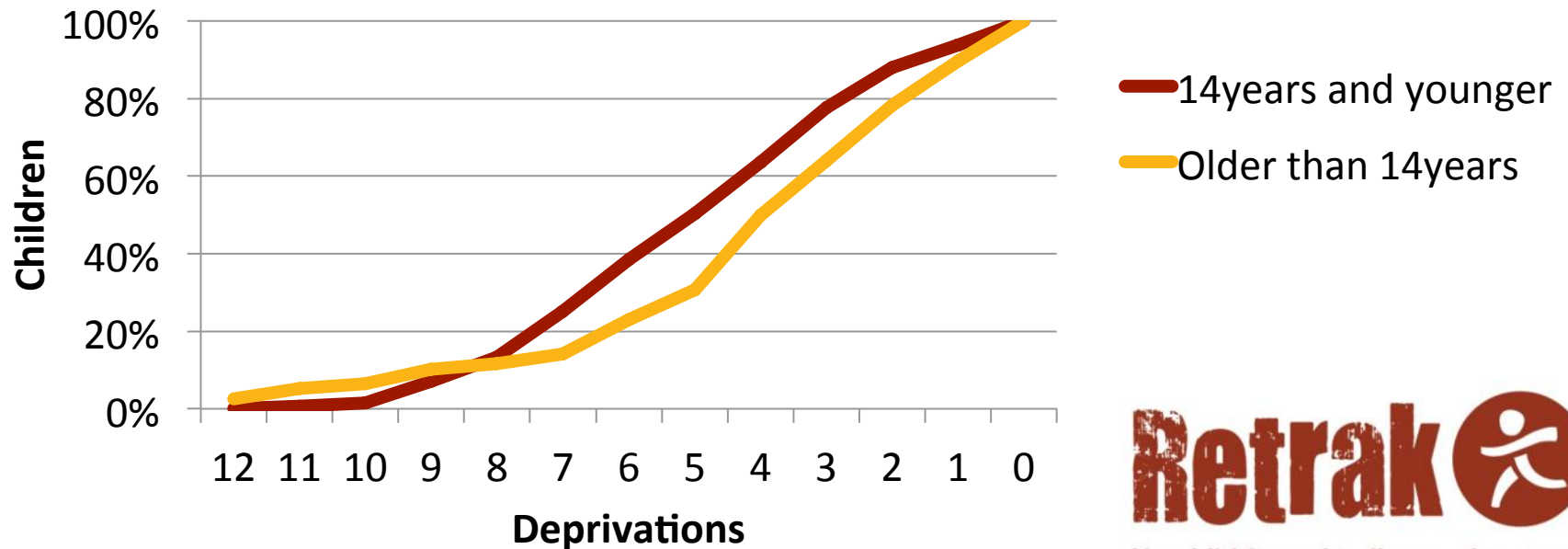


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# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

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

Deprivations on streets by age (at assessment) Ethiopia

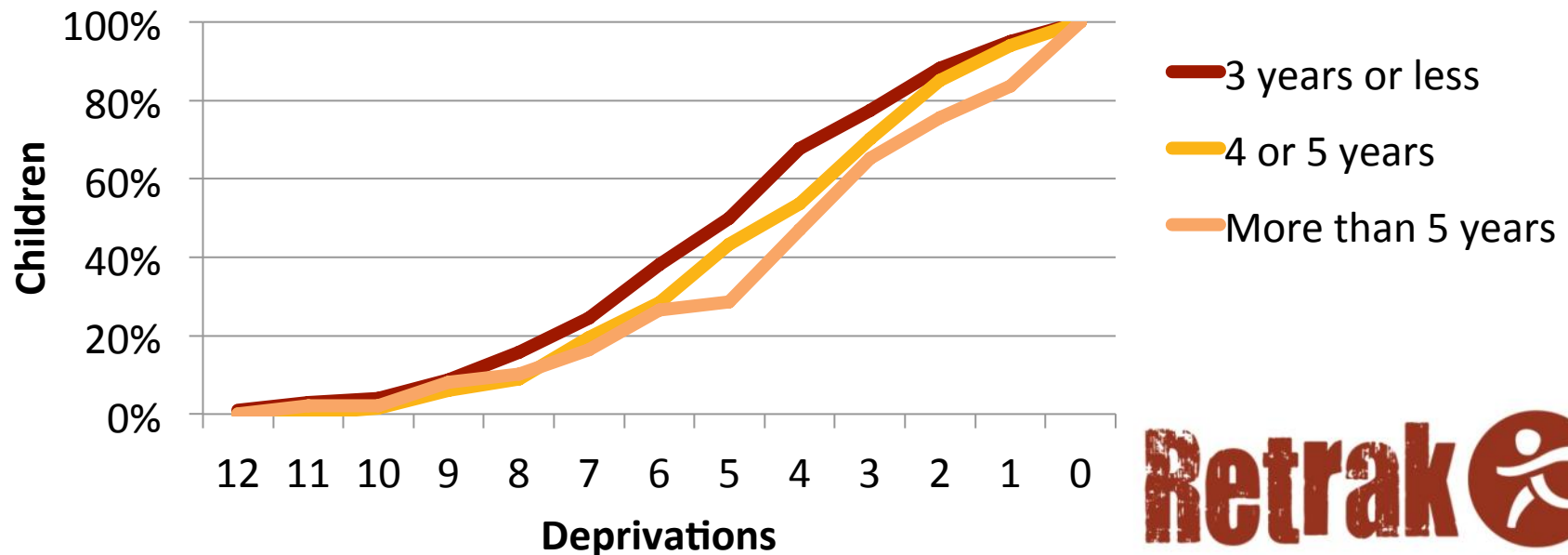


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# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

- The longer a child spends in school before migrating to the street the lower the number of deprivations on average.

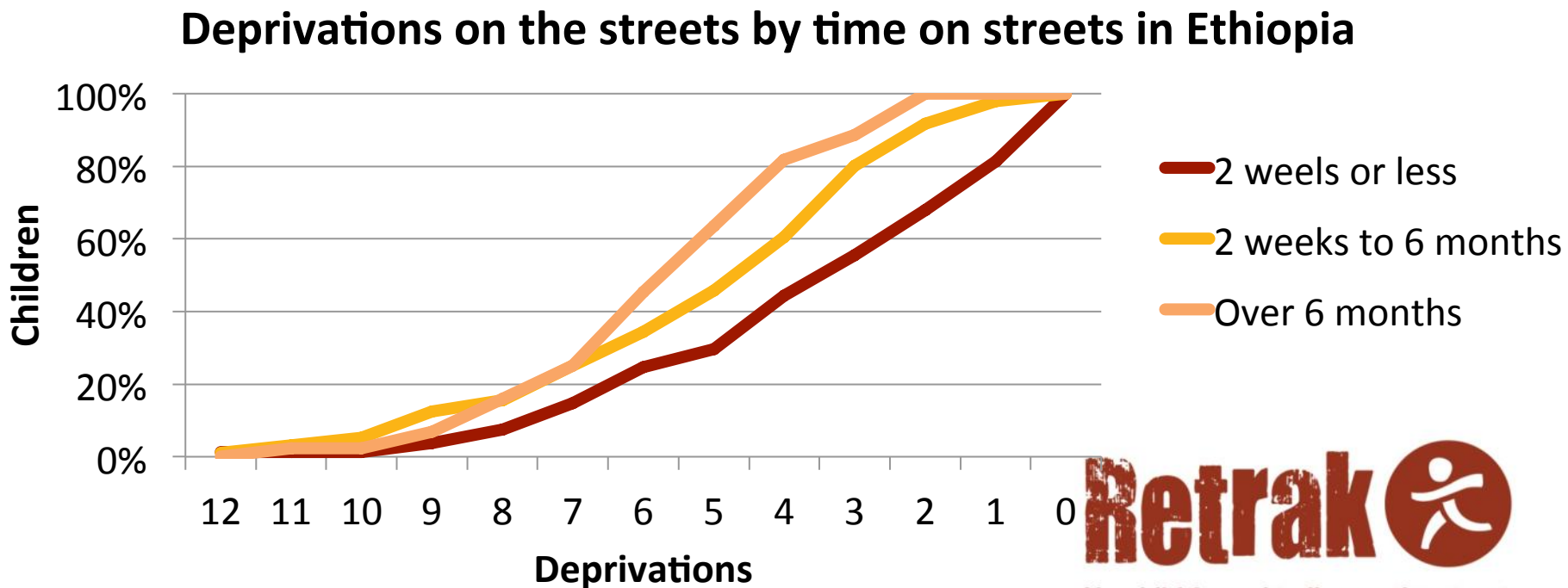
Deprivations on streets by years of education in Ethiopia



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# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

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

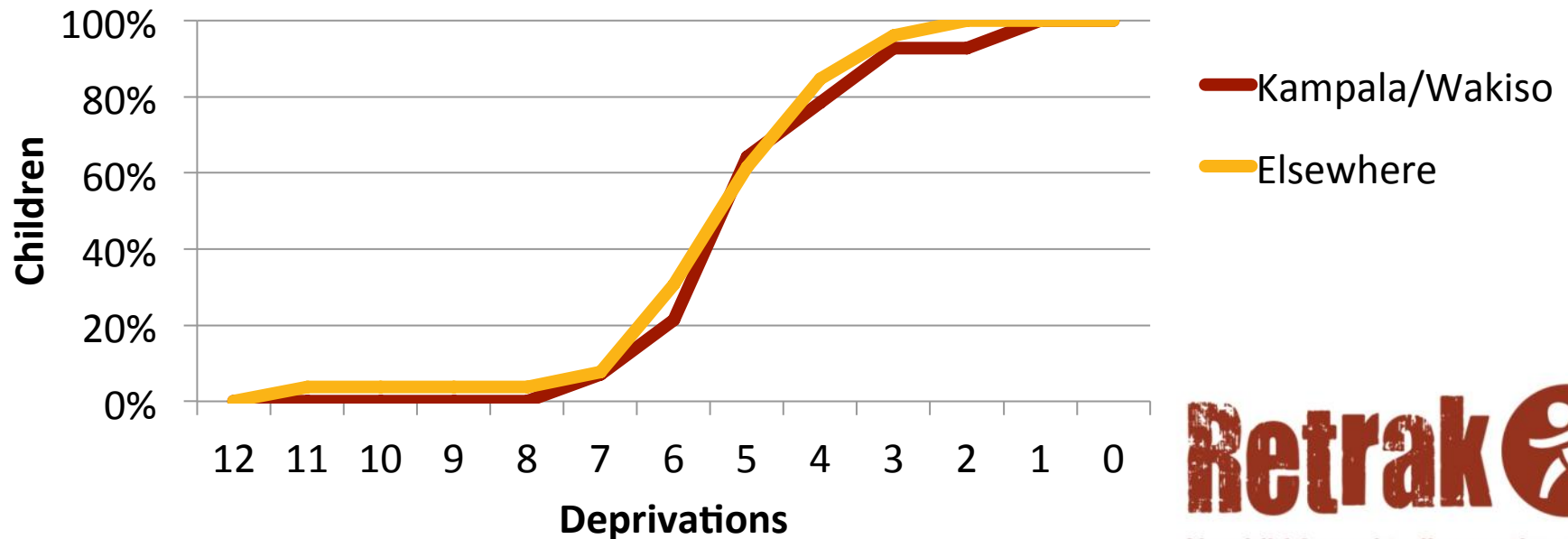


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# Monitoring children's wellbeing: Deprivations

- 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](http://www.retrak.org)  
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