

SPOTLIGHT ON FINDING FOSTER FAMILIES FOR STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN

VIDEO SUMMARY

There are roughly 6,000 children living on the streets in Kampala, Uganda. Street connected children face immense difficulties and often come to live on the streets due to domestic issues at home.

In this film you will hear from Dinah, the Foster Care Advisor of Retrak, an organization that aims to improve the quality of life of street connected children through a variety of services, including foster care. We suggest you watch the film with other practitioners or colleagues so you may discuss these questions as a group.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Dinah shares with us that street connected children often have negative stigma surrounding them. Is this similar in your country? How can we combat the stigma tied to street connected children?
- Foster Care families go through a rigorous and detailed training and screening process.

Are there established policies and procedures in your country for Foster Care? If not, how could you implement a Foster Care system in your work or organization?

- It is very important that the children Dinah works with plays an active role in their case.

Involving the child in decisions regarding their future is key. In your work have you encouraged child participation? If so, how did you implement this?



TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Foster Care

Foster care is a care arrangement administered by a competent authority, whether on an emergency, short-term or long-term basis, whereby a child is placed in the domestic environment of a family who have been selected, prepared and authorised to provide such care, and are supervised and may be financially and/or non-financially supported in doing so. Informal foster care is where a child is taken into care without third-party involvement. This may also be spontaneous fostering if it is done without any prior arrangements.

FURTHER READING

You can find resources and tools to explore global practice and learning on the BCN website.

On Working with Street Connected

Children: <https://goo.gl/MN1xMW>

On Foster Care: <https://goo.gl/AXsCYu>

On Uganda: <https://goo.gl/qj3e9N>