

# SPOTLIGHT ON PREPARING STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN FOR FOSTER CARE

## 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 that there are feelings of loss when street connected children can not return to their family. How can you support a child who has lost their family of origin?
- Foster Care is often a foreign concept to the children Retrak works with. A large part of Dinah's job is preparing the children and answering their questions.

How would you explain foster care to a child you were working with? What would be the process you follow?

- Building trust with street connected children takes time. Dinah shares one thing her and her team have learned is to first and foremost listen to the child. By acknowledging their story is the first step in working with a child.

How do you build trust when working with children? What can we learn from Dinah's approach?

## 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>



## 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.