

Agape Children's Ministry Operational Process Narrative

"Agape is not a children's home. It is a place of safety and care as we work to reintegrate a child with his family." – Blake Gibbs

Our Mission Field

If you have ever had an opportunity to travel to a developing nation, you might have seen or met a street child. In Kisumu, street children are easy to identify. They are dirty . . . wearing ragged clothes . . . they sometimes beg . . . some work collecting scrap metal or as menial laborers . . . most are high from sniffing glue. These are the children that God has called Agape to minister to – this is Agape's mission field.

Why Street Children?

Life on Kisumu's streets is rife with danger. If a child does not leave the streets, the question is not "if" he will die. The question is "When will he die?" **Health Risks.**

Malaria, HIV, typhoid, tuberculosis, cholera – children living on Kisumu's streets face a staggering number of health risks from sleeping exposed outside without bed nets, engaging in risky sexual behaviors, eating garbage, and drinking unclean water. In the past year alone, three of Agape's former children who chose to return to street life after reintegration died from disease and illness on the street. **A Climate of Violence.**

Coercion, theft, rape, intimidation – violence rules the streets of Kisumu. To

survive on the streets, a child must ally himself with a team of other street children and adults. These street teams occupy "bases" throughout town: public toilets, under awnings for businesses, and abandoned buildings. Teams are usually led by street youth (Age 18+) who protect the younger street boys in return for sexual favors. Sometimes the boys on the street are forcibly sodomized by older street boys and adults. Many boys join gangs that break into houses to steal or that snatch purses, but the punishment for stealing is swift and severe. Recently, two of Agape's old boys who chose to return to street life were accused by a mob of breaking into a local business. If one of Agape's staff members had not interceded, the mob would have beaten and burned alive the children as thieves. **Drug Abuse.** Globally, the drug of choice for street children is glue. For as little as 5 shillings (\$.05), a street boy can purchase enough glue to keep him high for a day. Street children sniff glue because it wards off feelings of hunger, cold, and fear. While not chemically addictive, this industrial-strength shoe glue becomes addictive psychologically for these



children. The long-term debilitating health effects of glue inhalation is devastating. Sniffing glue has a similar effect upon the brain as crystal methamphetamine, eventually shutting down the frontal cortex, the location in the brain where a person makes executive decisions. Glue inhalation can also cause irreparable damage to the kidneys and lungs. Because sniffing glue also suppresses a person's appetite, many street children starve themselves simply because they have no urge to eat. **Cultural Traditions.** All Kenyans have a rural home, the family's land and homes that have been within the family for generations. A Kenyan's identity is tied very closely to his family and rural home, and when a boy leaves his family and rural home for a long period of time to go to the streets, he can become "lost" in the eyes of the family. A boy that has left home for a long period of time can even lose his inheritance within his home area. Kenyans also rely upon their families for emotional, financial, and moral support. As Americans, we typically raise our children to be independent; Kenyans are much more communal in their relationships. A boy who chooses to live for years on the streets runs the risk of abandoning his identity and connection with Kenyan society. Without his family, he is lost.

Agape's Story

Agape began in Kisumu, Kenya in 1993 as a response from the compassionate heart of our founder, Darla Calhoun, RN. Darla was working in community health in the villages and small towns surrounding Kisumu. Whenever she came to town for supplies or to pick up her mail, she would immediately be surrounded by groups of begging street boys. They were dirty. They were hungry. Some of them were sick. Many of them were high from sniffing glue. They were desperate. And she knew in her heart she needed to do something to help them.



Darla began giving them small bags of peanuts to eat or pieces of soap so they could bathe in nearby Lake Victoria. As the number of boys flocking to meet her grew, she began to meet with them in one of the town parks. Alarmed by the prospect of as many as 80 to 100 street boys all gathering in one place at the same time, city officials told Darla she would have to end her meetings in the park. At that point she boldly asked the city to provide land where she could care for the boys.

In the meantime, Darla rented a small house, hired a cook and a guard, and invited five boys to leave the streets and come live at what she called, "Agape." The city did donate land for the ministry and the local Kisumu lions Club helped fund construction of the first dormitory building on the campus. By 1995, there were 16 boys living at Agape in that single building.

Most Kenyans have a very low opinion of street children. In Kisumu, they are called *chokoraa*, meaning "one who eats trash". Many Kenyans believe that children are on the

street because they are cursed. Shop owners view them as thieves. The local governments see them as security problems and nuisances.

John Mwalo, one of Agape's Kenyan managers, challenged these perspectives. In the early 2000s, he began inviting Agape's children to share a meal at his home and later even invited these children to spend a weekend with his family. Quickly, he realized that these former street children were no different than his own sons and daughters. John began asking a critical question: "Why can't these children return home to their families?" The rest of Agape's Kenyan staff initially resisted the idea of reintegration, holding onto the perception that these children were too "bad" to live in a Kenyan home. Some even secretly feared that they would lose their jobs if all of the children on campus were reintegrated. Some Agape missionaries even opposed the idea of reintegration on the grounds that reconciliation with families would be too difficult and that some homes were too dangerous or too poor to support a reintegrated child.



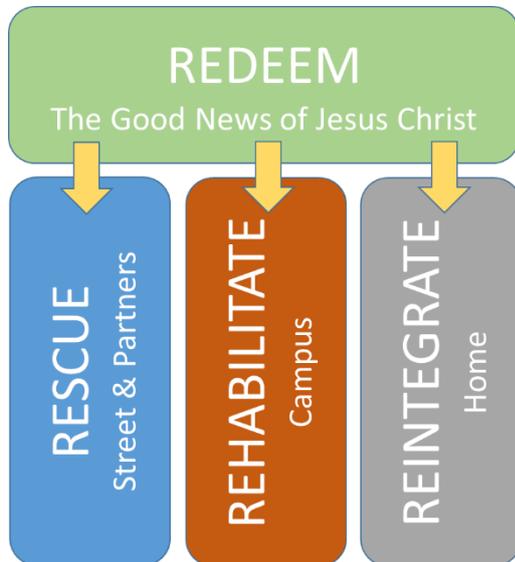
For its first 15 years of operation, Agape served as a long-term care facility, providing former street children with education, vocational training, and spiritual instruction. In the mid-2000s, the idea of reintegrating former street children with their families slowly began to take root at Agape. Agape began reintegrating children from campus in 2008, albeit on a small scale initially. Because of severe overcrowding at Children's Remand Home (Kid Prison), Agape also began assisting Kisumu's government with the reintegration of children living at Remand.

In reintegrating children from Remand, Agape began ministry work with girls for the first time. For over four years, Agape regularly traveled to Remand to prepare girls in government custody for reintegration. In 2012, Agape took a big step to establish a Girls Center in Kisumu to better prepare these girls to live at home with family again. Prior to this point, there was no place for girls to receive rehabilitative care in Kisumu.

As Agape transformed its processes to prepare children for reintegration, the organization also began transforming its rehabilitation model for former street children. In 2013, Agape took bold steps to transform its academic program from a traditional Kenyan primary model to a program focused upon remedial education in preparation for a child to return to his old school at home. Agape also began investing in its counseling program in 2014, focusing upon the training of all staff in Trauma Competent Caregiving (TCC) and all counselors to provide Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT). With the implementation of Agape's Reasons to Believe program in 2014, Agape also began to see a significant increase in number of the children professing faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Agape’s Operating Methodology – The 4R’s

Today, Agape utilizes the 4R’s as its operating methodology: Rescue, Rehabilitate, Reintegrate, and Redeem. The first three R’s detail Agape’s process in ministry to street and at-risk children. **Rescue.** Daily, Agape rescues children directly from life on the street. Local



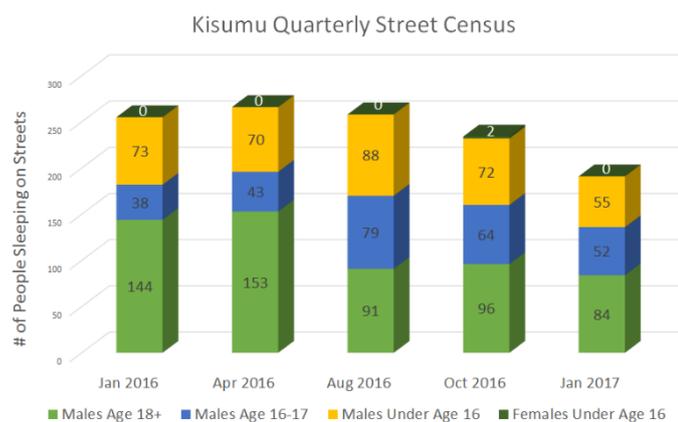
governmental agencies and NGO partners who do not have facilities or capacities to house at-risk children also bring children to Agape daily.

Rehabilitate. Upon arrival at Agape’s campus, our team members begin the initial assessment of children to determine their rehabilitative needs. Agape develops Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs) for all children, lasting in duration from 30 to 150 days. **Reintegrate.** Agape has developed an organizational perspective that “Home is Best”. Once a child has been fully rehabilitated, Agape places the child back with their family. Agape’s team of social workers then continues visiting and ministering to the child and family to ensure long-

term family stability. **Redeem.** The overriding emphasis of Agape’s programs, though, are to clearly present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every child that God places into our care and to disciples those who profess faith in His Name. The Gospel penetrates our programs on the streets, on campus, and within a reintegrated child’s home. The salvation of every child and their family is Agape’s primary ministry goal.

The 4R’s – Rescue: Knowing the Streets

Just a few years ago, over 1,000 children called Kisumu’s streets home, but over the past few years, Kisumu has seen a drastic reduction in the number children living on its streets. To properly assess trends in Kisumu’s street population, Agape began conducting quarterly street censuses, counting the number of people living on the street by age and gender. In order to conduct this census, Agape first carefully mapped all of the “bases” where the street children and youth live in Kisumu. Agape’s census team then did a physical count of adults and children sleeping on the streets from. This 4-hour census count took place from 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM.

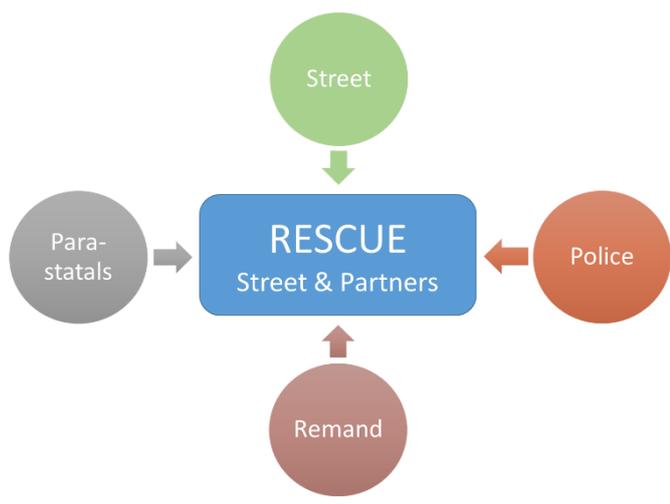


Upon completion of our first street census in Kisumu, we found that the number of children living on the streets had dropped drastically. Our January 2016 census showed only 111 children sleeping on the streets at night, and our April census only showed a slight increase

in the number of children living on the streets with a count of 113 children. Our August 2016 census, though, showed a significant shift in the individuals living on Kisumu’s streets. While the total number of people (adults and children) remained relatively static at around 250 people, the number of adults reduced significantly, and the number of children replaced the missing adults. The October 2016 and January 2017 censuses revealed a gradual reduction in both children living on the streets, as well as an overall decline in people living on Kisumu’s streets.

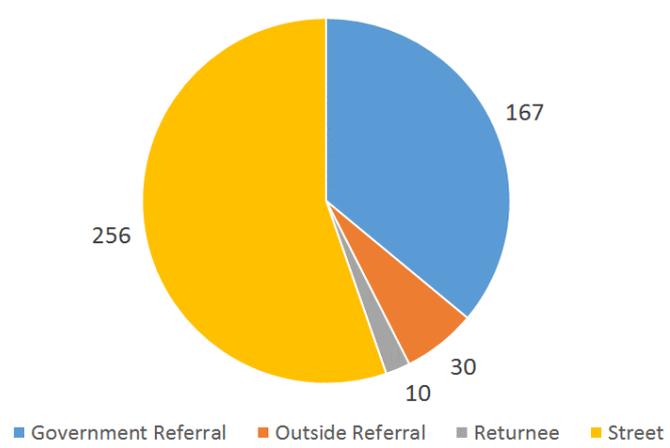
The 4R’s – Rescue: By the Numbers

Agape rescues children from a number of different places, but Kisumu’s streets still account for two-thirds of the boys that Agape rescues. As Agape has reduced the number of boys living on Kisumu’s streets over the years, the ministry began rescuing more boys from governmental agencies and from NGOs and parastatal partners. Today, these boys account for one-third of the boys entering Agape’s gates for rehabilitation. All of the girls to whom



Agape ministers come from governmental agencies and from NGOs and parastatal partners. Rarely will you find a girl living on the streets in Kisumu. Almost daily, Kisumu’s Central Police Station contacts Agape asking that we pick-up boys and girls that they are unable to house and feed. Many of the children from the police and Children’s Remand Home are involved in course cases of child neglect and/or abuse. Likewise, partnering organizations like Child Welfare Society (CWS) and Childlink bring children to Agape on a weekly basis for care and protection as they do not have facilities to house the children they are attempting to help.

Children Rehabilitated at Agape in 2016

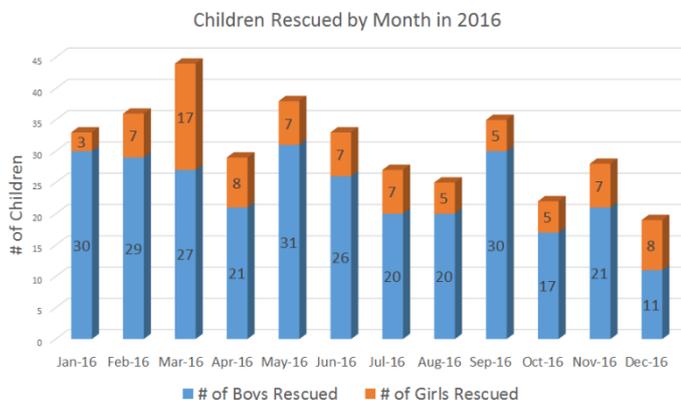


Of the children that Agape rehabilitated on its Kisumu campus in 2016, 256 children (55%) were rescued from Kisumu’s streets, while 167 children (36%) were rescued from governmental custody (Police, Remand, Mama Ngina Children’s Home, and the Children’s Department). The remaining 40 children (9%) rehabilitated at Agape in 2016 were rescued from partnering NGOs and parastatals or were returnees from reintegration.

The 4R's – Rescue: Agape's Target Demographic

When Agape is rescuing children from Kisumu's streets, we target the rescue of boys under age 16. Why doesn't Agape rescue older boys? Most boys in Kenya go through puberty around age 15, much later than children from developed nations. By age 16, most boys are a head taller than other children.

Almost without exception, these bigger boys bully the younger children if they are allowed on campus. The bigger boys also pose as a greater potential risk of sexual abuse of the younger boys. Agape still ministers to the bigger boys on the streets, but instead of allowing them on campus, Agape works to prepare them for direct reintegration to their homes from the streets. Thankfully, Agape does not face the same difficulties in ministry with girls. Agape Girls has housed girls ranging in age from six to seventeen.



The 4R's – Rescue: Our Method of Street Rescue

Daily, Agape's Outreach Officer goes to Kisumu's streets to build relationships with the people who live and work there. While his primary focus and overall goal is to find, prepare, and rescue boys under age 16 living on the street, his ministry covers both the children and adults that call the streets home, as well as the people working non-formal jobs in and around the streets. When heading to the streets, our Outreach Officer carries a Bible-story book, board games, and sports equipment.



As he walks, he meets different street boys along the way and invites them to sit down with them for a few minutes. Once he has assembled a few boys, the Outreach Officer finds a comfortable place to sit and spends time getting to know the boys. As he is able, he shares a Bible story with the boys and plays games with them. Afterward, the Outreach Officer takes time to meet individually with any boys who are willing to talk. This time of one-on-one communication between a street boy and the Outreach Officer is critical. The Outreach Office will share with the child

about how Agape operates and will gauge the child's desire to be helped. If a child is ready to leave the streets immediately, the Outreach Officer will immediately take the boy to Agape. If the child seems interested but is still unsure, the Outreach Officer will set up a

time the following day to meet with the boy. If the street boy shows up at the scheduled time, this is a very good indication that the boy desires to be helped and the Outreach Officer will bring the boy to Agape’s campus accordingly.

The 4R’s – Rehabilitate – Day One

Upon arrival to Agape’s campus, a child first is first welcomed by one of Agape’s Child Welfare (CW) Managers, but their welcome message might not be what you would expect. The CW Manager welcomes the child by saying: “Welcome to Agape! We are so happy that you are here . . . but, we don’t want you to stay here forever. Our desire is that one day you will be able to return to live with your family. Is that okay?” It is very important that a child does not enter Agape with a false expectation of how the ministry operates. (If the Outreach Officer did his job well on the street, the child should not be surprised about the way that Agape operates.) If the child refuses, then the manager tells the child that they are free to leave, and they are welcome to return to Agape if they change their mind. The child is then released back to the streets. Rarely, though, does this occur. The vast majority of children agree to Agape’s methodology.



Upon agreeing with Agape’s methodology, the CW Manager then asks the child to share their story. The CW Manager then tells the child, “Thank you for sharing. We would also like to hear your family’s story, too. Can you take us for a visit to your home next week? Don’t worry, we won’t leave you at home, and we will be there to protect you.” The majority of children agree to visit their home; a few, though, initially refuse, but after counseling, almost all children eventually agree to take a Child Welfare Officer to visit their family.

The 4R’s – Rehabilitate – The Initial Home Visit (IHV)

Conducting an Initial Home Visit (IHV) for a child early within a child’s rehabilitative process



is very important. Why? Most of Agape’s children lie about everything when they first arrive on campus. Street children, in particular, adopt “survival language” while they are on the street in order to elicit sympathy from potential Good Samaritans. Almost all children on the streets will tell you that they are orphans, who have no family. They will then ask, “Give me money” or

“Give me bread.” Street children learn that a pitiful story generates the most money and food when begging.

By visiting the child’s home, Agape learns the child’s real name, age, grade in school, and most importantly, Agape learns the real reason why the child left home. Of the 2,500+ children that Agape has rescued over the past 7-8 years, there have only been four instances where Agape has been unable to find a child’s family. In each of these four instances, Agape rescued the child from Children’s Remand Home where they had lived for 5+ years. Each of these boys left home at such a young age and spent so much time away from family, they simply cannot remember where home is. For street children, 100% of rescued children have homes and families.

Once Agape completes the child’s IHV, Agape then has the proper administrative information to take the child to court to obtain legal custody while rehabilitating the child. On a weekly basis, Agape takes a group of newly rescued children to the local magistrate for these custody hearings. Upon the completion of a child’s rehabilitation, Agape obtains a signed “Exit Form” from the child’s family transferring custody of the child back to the family.



The 4R’s – Rehabilitate – Initial Assessments

In a child’s first week on campus, Agape begins its rehabilitative assessment process, the first step in developing a customized Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) unique to that individual child’s needs. Agape assesses children in three primary areas: Academic, Psychosocial, and Spiritual.



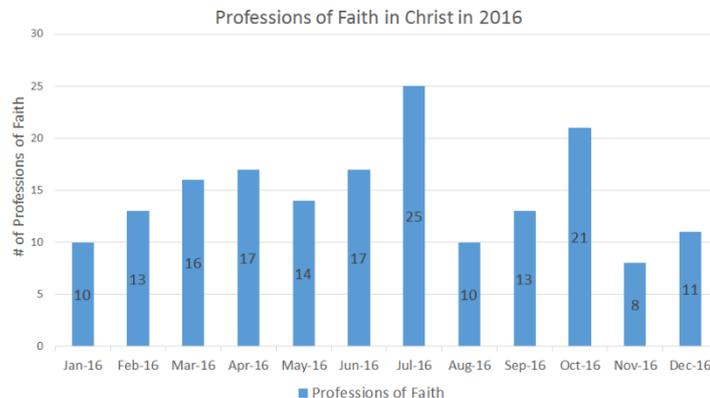
Academic. Many of Agape’s children struggle academically and at times these difficulties lead children to leave home for life on the streets. Agape’s goal in rehabilitating a child academically is to equip a child to succeed in school when they return home to live with their family. If through the IHV, Agape learns that a child was in Class 3 prior to leaving home, Agape will assess the child relative to their academic understanding of and proficiency in Class 3 concepts in Math, Reading, and English. The academic assessment identifies learning gaps for each child that may hinder their ability to succeed in school after reintegration. Agape develops an

individual education plan (IEP) for each child undergoing rehabilitation to address the learning gaps identified during the academic initial assessment.

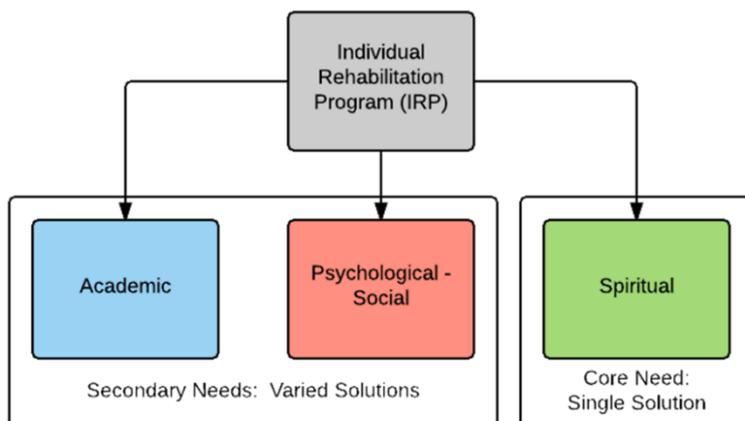
Psychosocial. Agape’s children end up on campus for a multitude of reasons, and many suffer from past trauma, addictions, and habits. Through our Psychosocial Assessment, Agape attempts to identify the struggles keeping a child from settling at home. Core to Agape’s psychosocial rehabilitative efforts is the assessment of past trauma in a child’s life and the impact of that trauma on a child’s mental health. Just like a soldier can return from war with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), some of Agape’s children experience PTSD due to trauma experienced at home and/or on the streets. Many of our boys who have spent time living on the streets develop an addiction to sniffing glue, so Agape assesses its children to determine whether they are struggling with a chemical or emotional addiction. Agape then assesses children to determine if they are struggling with anxiety, anger, or depression. Agape’s assessors also seek to identify manifestations of disruptive behavior and poor self-concept among children they are assessing. Each component of the psychosocial assessment combine to form the psychosocial component of the IRP.

Spiritual. Beginning in 2014, Agape began assessing children spiritually by asking very basic questions about the Christian faith:

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) Why did He come to earth?
- 3) What did He do on earth?
- 4) How do you go to heaven?



Of the 300+ children who Agape rescued over the following year, only one child was able to answer these questions correctly. Agape was shocked by how little Kenya’s children knew about the Gospel. All non-Muslim children in Kenya attend Christian Religious Education (CRE) classes every year from primary through secondary, but based upon Agape’s experience, this instruction has had no spiritual impact upon Kenya’s children. As such, Agape assumes that every child that enters Agape’s gates does not have a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Hearing the Gospel and professing faith in Jesus Christ is each Agape child’s greatest need.

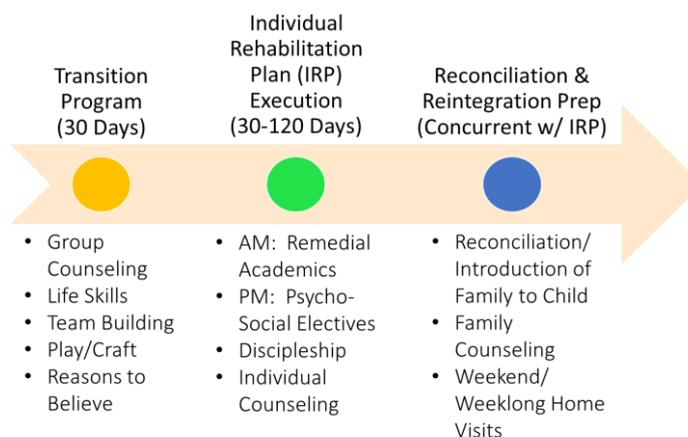


Once all initial assessments are complete, Agape develops an IRP for each individual child on campus, providing customized, varied solutions for a child’s secondary needs (Academic and Psychosocial) and a single solution for their primary, core need (Spiritual).

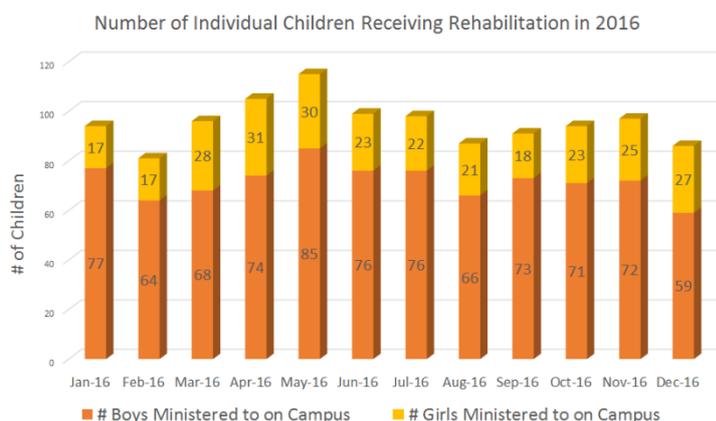
The 4R's – Rehabilitate – Process & Program

Transition Program. All children, regardless of their source of rescue, spend their first 30 days at Agape in the Transition Program. This four-week class is taught in an informal setting to slowly acclimate children to being back in an ordered environment. In Transition Class, children participate in life skills training, group counseling, team building exercises, and structured play and craft times. The backbone

of the Transition Program, though, is the *Reasons to Believe* class, Agape's 20-lesson evangelism program, teaching the basics of the Christian faith. While in the Transition program, each child also receives, at a minimum, 1-hour of individual counseling per week. Children who exhibit symptoms of PTSD are counseled utilizing Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT). All staff are also trained as Trauma Competent Caregivers in order to properly care for children who have been victims of past trauma.



Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) Execution. Upon completion of the transition program, Agape begins the execution of each child's IRP in earnest. In the mornings, Agape provides remedial academic instruction to fulfill the requirements of a child's Academic IRP. Agape works to maintain a low student to teacher ratio within the academic classroom (Target



Ratio, 8:1) as teachers must teach towards multiple Individual Education Plans (IEPs) within an individual classroom. In the afternoons, children attend psychosocial elective classes as indicated within their IRP. All children attend Nurture Group classes, which teach children coping mechanisms when dealing with

overwhelming emotions. For our children struggling with addiction, Agape takes children through a customized version of Celebrate Recovery. All children also continue with individual counseling, many receiving two or more hours of counseling per week. Children also attend classes on Family Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, and Therapeutic Storytelling. Children that make a profession of faith in Christ are enrolled in a 30-day discipleship class to continue building upon their foundation and assurance of faith.

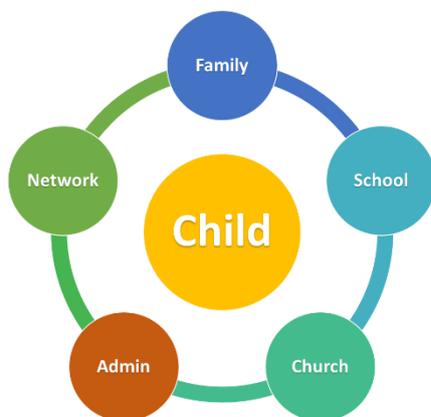
Reconciliation & Reintegration Preparation. Throughout the time that a child is undergoing rehabilitation on campus, Agape’s Child Welfare Officers (CWOs) work to identify the best place to reintegrate the child and to prepare that family for the child’s eventual reintegration. To identify the most suitable home for reintegration, Agape utilizes the Child Status Index as tool to objectively measure the suitability of a family member’s home for reintegration. Agape works closely with the child’s family to attempt to reconcile the child with their family members. When reconciliation is not possible due to a family member’s unwillingness to forgive or because the family member’s home would be unsafe for the child psychologically, physically, or spiritually, Agape then begins to search for other family members who might be willing to care for the child. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, older siblings . . . Agape searches all options to find the ideal location for the child’s placement with family. For families that need time in counseling, Agape coordinates for the family’s visit to campus to receive counseling from Agape’s counseling team. As a child nears his reintegration date, Agape takes the child for weekend and weeklong visits at home to both acclimate the child to living at home again and for the family to get used to having the boy back home.



When a child’s IRP is completed and Child Welfare shares that the family is ready to have the child home, then Agape reintegrates the child back with their family members.

The 4R’s – Reintegrate – A Network of Support

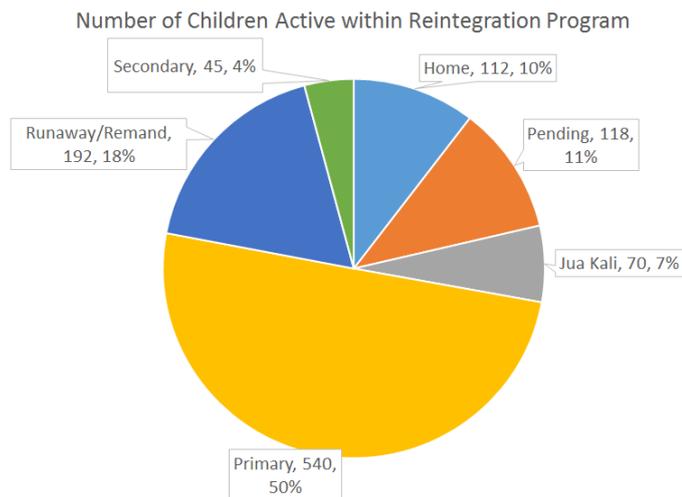
Agape enjoys a close working relationship with the Children’s Department of Kisumu County, and we operate in Kenya under the umbrella of their governmental authority and registration. When an Agape CWO first meets with a child’s family during an IHV, the officer first introduces themselves as one serving on behalf of the Children’s Department. Decades of foreign aid in Kenya has developed a culture of dependency among many Kenyans and expectations of sponsorship from western NGOs and charities is normal.



The challenge: Agape is not a sponsorship organization. As such, as early as the IHV, Agape begins reinforcing with a child’s family their responsibility for caring for their child. As Agape builds a relationship with a child’s family, the CWO also begins building a stronger local network around the child and their family. Agape works closely with the local school’s head teacher and the child’s class teacher to help communicate the specific needs of the soon-to-be reintegrated child. When a Bible-believing church exists near the child’s home, the CWO also works to connect the family with the church and its pastor. Within Kenyan culture, the local chief and village elder are also essential partners

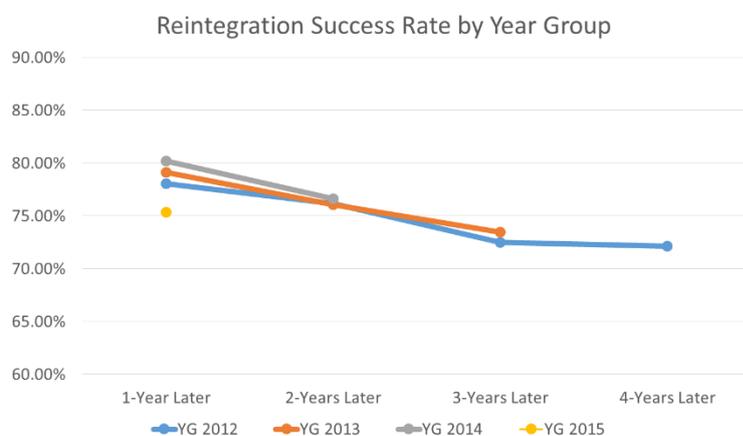
that must be contacted to ensure that the family is properly cared for when the child is reintegrated. At times, NGO partners step forward to assist the family as well.

As God leads, Agape does step in to assist some families, usually those families that are struggling financially. For children in primary school, Agape assists at times with the entry fees required to enroll a child back in school and with school uniforms, and for those families with food security issues, Agape will enroll the child in a school lunch program to ensure that they receive at least one nutritious meal per day. For children in secondary school or in “jua kali” (informal trade apprenticeship) training, Agape works closely with a child’s family to determine their capability to provide for their child. Agape usually shares the cost of tuition or apprenticeship with the child’s family, but rarely does Agape pay for all of these fees. In many cases, the child’s family finds ways to pay for all of their child’s fees. In cases of extreme financial need, Agape occasionally offers families microloans to start-up a businesses to support the family.



The 4R’s – Reintegrate – Process

When a child is first reintegrated back with their family, Agape administratively places the child into a **Pending** status for a period of 90-days. During this time period, Agape’s CWO visits the child on a weekly or biweekly frequency to ensure the stability of the child and the family. The CWO also works with the family to determine the child’s next steps at home. The vast majority of Agape’s children return to primary school when they return home and assume a **Primary** status, accordingly. For children that later proceed to secondary school assume a **Secondary** status. Many of the children that spend time at Agape have very little schooling and the possibility of their completion of Class 8 is unlikely. For such children, Agape works with the child and family to identify interests in vocational trades that exist in

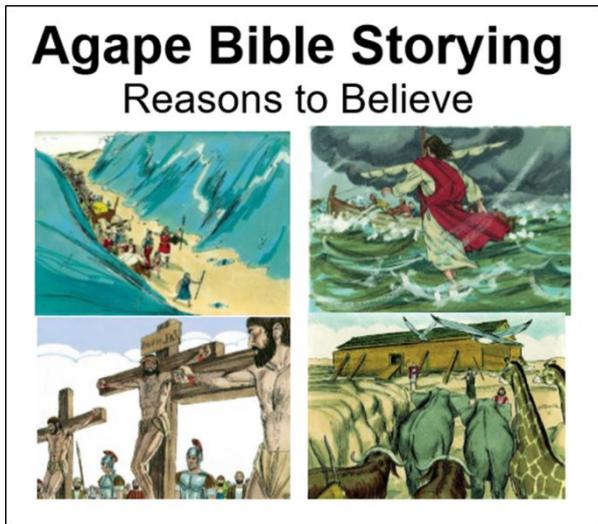


their home villages. Agape places boys into two-year informal apprenticeships in carpentry, masonry, motor vehicle mechanics, bicycle mechanics, and motorcycle mechanics. Agape places girls into two-year apprenticeships in tailoring and hairdressing. These boys and girls assume a **Jua kali** status within Agape’s reintegration program.

Occasionally, children and families refuse any school or training programs; these families are content to have their child at home working within the family’s garden or herding the family’s cattle. These children are placed into a **Home** status. Sadly, some children choose to leave home after reintegration, and these children assume a **Runaway** status within Agape’s database. But, Agape does not forget about these children. Agape’s CWOs continue with visits and phone calls to the family in the event that the child returns home on their own, and Agape’s Outreach team is alerted to look for the child on Kisumu’s streets again. In many instances, Agape find a way to rescue this runaway child and eventually return them home again. Thankfully, God has granted Agape incredible success in the vast majority of reintegrated children staying home with their families long-term.

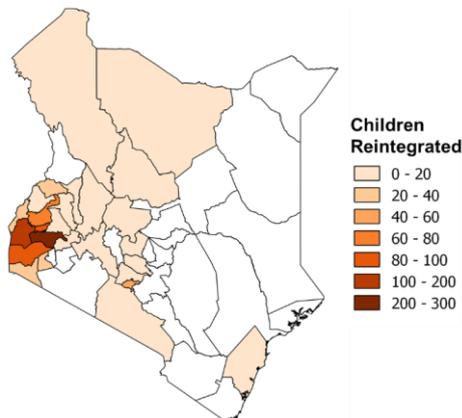
The 4R’s – Reintegrate – Field Evangelism & Discipleship

Rural Kenya is a spiritual desert. Some families could walk 30-40 kilometers before finding a Bible-believing church, while passing 10 cultic churches along the way. So how does Agape protect this new believer in Christ that has been reintegrated back home? Most Kenyans are oral learners and some struggle with illiteracy. To address these cultural facets, Agape developed a Bible-storytelling methodology based upon our Reasons to Believe class taught within the Transition Program to be able to present the Gospel message to children and their families at home in rural Kenya. Through stories from the Bible, Agape’s CWOs teach truth to families, consistently tying the message to Christ and his sacrifice on the cross. Agape is also in the process of developing a similar Bible-storytelling methodology for teaching Agape’s discipleship class to new believers within reintegrated families in rural Kenya.



The 4R’s – Reintegrate – Agape’s Footprint

“Kisumu’s street children are Kenya’s challenge.” In speaking with government officials, Agape consistently presses this message forward. Many Kenyans perceive that the children that live on Kisumu’s streets originate from Kisumu, but this perception couldn’t be farther

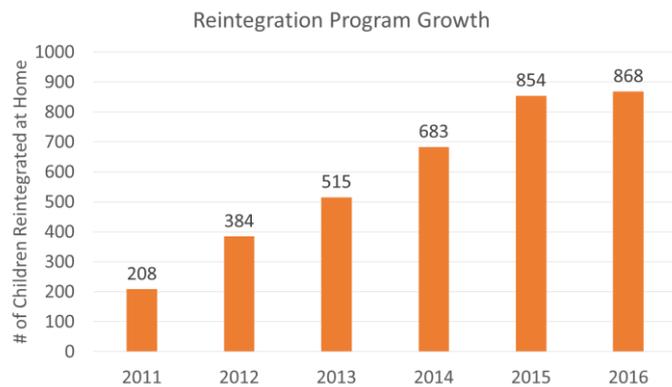


from the truth. Only 10% of the children that God places with Agape come from Kisumu Town. The other 90% of children come from outlying rural areas in western Kenya and from major cities such as Nairobi, Mombasa, and Nakuru. Street children travel easily throughout Kenya and East Africa, and they travel far. Agape evens rescues children in Kisumu from Tanzania and Uganda! Consider that Kenya is almost as large as the state of Texas. In addition, Agape does not reintegrate children to the child’s

most convenient family member, but instead Agape reintegrates a child to the best home possible. As such, Agape’s reintegration footprint is huge!

The 4R’s – Reintegrate – Program Growth over the Years

In late 2011, Agape had just over 200 children actively reintegrated children within the program, and in subsequent years, God enabled Agape to add 150 to 200 children per year into the program. By the Fall of 2015, Agape had over 850 children actively and successfully at home with their families in rural Kenya.



Praise the Lord! But, how can Agape sustain this type of growth? Agape did over 10,000 home visits in 2015 alone! Thankfully, Agape realized in 2016 that these reintegrated children grow up, and the 13-year old children that Agape reintegrated in 2011 were now 18-year old adults. Beginning in 2016, Agape began to see a levelling-off of the number of children active within its reintegration program.

The 4R’s – A Global Solution for Street Children

Eight years ago, no one in Kisumu (or Kenya) was considering the concept of reintegrating street children with their families. But within the past eight years, Agape has transformed



Kisumu’s mentality about street children, and now every organization dealing street children in Kisumu is conducting some form of reintegration within their programs. The Kisumu Children’s Department is even advocating for the reintegration of children from orphanages within the county.

Agape believes that the 4R’s model is the most effective method of ministry to street children in Kenya, and others have embraced this concept, as well. Due to Agape’s reputation for success, organizations throughout western Kenya have consulted with Agape to learn more

about how Agape is ministering to street children, and the possibilities of expansion of Agape’s ministry to Kitale is underway. Agape also believes that the 4R’s can be culturally tailored on an international scale to developing nations throughout the world.

We praise God for His hand upon Agape’s efforts to minister to street children for the past 24 years, and we look forward to where He will lead us in future ministry efforts!