UNESCO reports 150 million street youth in the world, a growing problem in the area of unjust child welfare. One campaign held in the Netherlands that strives to contribute to raising awareness and behaviour change concerning street youth is Nacht Zonder Dak (NZD) (Night Without a Roof). Currently, there is insufficient insight into the effectiveness of NZD regarding awareness and/or an intention to change.

Research Question
What are the perceptions and intended actions of participants in respect of street youth after the campaign Nacht Zonder Dak?

RESULTS

Awareness

7 of the 8 children were able to answer questions concerning street youth, indicating a conscious awareness (level 1 SA: PERCEPTION).

Most of these children (n=5) seemed to understand street youth in that they made judgements about and sense of street youth (level 2 SA: COMPREHENSION).

Intention to change

Only three participants of NZD in Ede mentioned an intention to change in the (near) future e.g.: participating in fundraising campaigns; consuming fewer temporary goods; selling goods etc. (level 3 SA: PROJECTION).

DISCUSSION

Various studies indicate the limited impact of awareness raising campaigns; showing how simply providing information is unlikely to alter a person's beliefs or behaviours.

Discrepancy between and within groups could possibly be due to the manner in which the NZD was set up and due to the children's prior knowledge of street youth. This is in line with the study by Rofai et al. (2011).

Strengths
- Triangulation of data sources
- Member check

Limitations
- Limited number of investigated campaigns
- Convenience sampling: characteristics of children unequally distributed

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study provide indications that the majority of children, who participated in NZD, attained an awareness of street youth and a limited number of children indicated an intention to change, prompted by NZD.

Recommendations
- A greater number of NZD campaigns should be investigated or NZD campaigns located in the same area should be compared over a number of years
- Create a baseline of participants' perspective and knowledge of street youth to evaluate the results of the campaign
- Include a storyline that boys can relate to in future NZD campaigns

* References