

Country Data Profile: Orphans

Countries Targeted by the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia has a population of 66.6 million, 29.8 percent of whom are children under the age of 15 years (BUCEN, 2003). Child health status remains poor in the country. UNICEF reports that infant mortality was 116 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001, and under-five mortality was 172 deaths per 1,000 live births. As one of the sub-Saharan African countries most severely affected by HIV/AIDS, Ethiopia is one of the 14 African and Caribbean countries selected for assistance by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

UNAIDS estimates that adult HIV/AIDS prevalence was 6.4 percent in 2001 and that 230,000 children aged 0 to 14 were living with HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS 2002).

National Orphan Population. As seen in table 1, various estimates and projections of the percentage of children who are orphans (losing one or both parents due to all causes, including HIV/AIDS) are high – 12.4 percent (1995), 13.2 percent (2001), and 14.0 percent (2010, projected) by *Children on the Brink 2002*, and 10.7 percent (2000) by the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). The number of orphans in Ethiopia is likely to increase throughout the decade and surpass 5 million by 2010 (*Children on the Brink 2002*).

Orphans Due to AIDS. The estimated percentage of children orphaned by AIDS, as opposed to other causes, increased from 9.6 percent of all orphans in 1995 to 25.8 percent in 2001. By 2010, it is estimated to increase to 43 percent of all orphans.

Table 1: Orphan Estimates as a Percent of All Children Under Age 15

Factors	Source Name/ Year								
	Children on the Brink 2002 (estimates for 1995)		Children on the Brink 2002 (estimates for 2001)		Ethiopia DHS 2000	UNAIDS 2002 (estimates for 2001)		Children on the Brink 2002 (projections for 2010)	
	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)	%	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)
HIV/AIDS Prevalence (Adults and Children)							2,100		
Adult HIV Prevalence						6.4	1,900		
Total Orphans	12.4	3,062	13.2	3,839	10.7			14	5,029
Maternal Orphans	4.0	985	4.3	1,251	3.2			4.7	1,699
Paternal Orphans	7.1	1,753	7.3	2,133	6.5			7.5	2,704
Double Orphans	1.3	324	1.6	455	0.8			1.7	627
Orphans due to HIV/AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans	9.6	294	25.8	989				43	2,165

Sub-National Orphan Populations. In all regions of the country, at least 10 percent of children under the age of 15 are orphans, as shown in table 2. The percent of children orphaned is especially high in the Affar region (20.7 percent) and Addis region (15.7 percent). Paternal orphans represent the majority of orphans in the country,



averaging 6.6 percent of all children. For the country as a whole, half as many children are maternal orphans as paternal orphans. However, in the Affar region, the ratio of maternal to paternal orphans is reaching parity, with 8.4 percent of children maternal orphans and 9.9 percent paternal orphans.

Methodologies for Estimating Orphans. Differences among the orphan estimates and projections of various organizations occur due to differences in methodologies, definitions (of “orphan,” for example), and demographic and epidemiological assumptions. On the one hand, *Children on the Brink* and UNAIDS estimate the number of orphans using mathematical models, estimations, and projections based on certain assumptions about the impact of HIV/AIDS on adult mortality, fertility, and child survival. These assumptions are likely to lead to overestimations of female HIV prevalence and mortality. Surveys such as DHS and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) (not available for Ethiopia), on the other hand, are based on data gathered through household surveys of representative samples of the national population. These surveys may underestimate the number of orphans because they fail to count orphans in institutions or on the street. In addition, surveys may underestimate the number of orphans if parental survival status is unknown.

Table 2. Sub-National Estimates of Orphans as a Percent of All Children Under Age 15, 2000

Factors	Sub-Regions (Ethiopia DHS, 2000)								
	National	Tigray	Affar	Amhara	Oromiya	Somali	SNNP	Addis	All other states*
Total Number of Children Under 15 Surveyed	31,353	2,084	323	8,441	11,998	431	6,870	644	562
Total Orphans	10.7	10.8	20.7	10.1	10.3	14.4	10.6	15.7	13.3
Maternal Orphans	3.3	2.4	8.4	2.8	3.4	4.9	3.3	3.9	3.7
Paternal Orphans	6.6	7.5	9.9	6.6	6.1	7.7	6.6	10.1	8.4
Double Orphans	0.8	0.9	2.5	0.8	0.8	1.9	0.7	1.6	1.1

*All other states include Ben-Gumz, Gambela, Harari, and Dire Dawa.

Table 1 Data Sources

Children on the Brink 2002: A Joint Report on Orphan Estimates and Program Strategies. New York: UNICEF, November 2002: National estimates and projections for the number of orphans by country, type (whether the orphan has lost mother, father, or both parents), and cause (AIDS and non-AIDS) are provided for five-year periods between 1990 and 2010. This report is a collaborative effort of USAID, UNAIDS, and UNICEF to produce estimates and projections specifically related to the orphan population, such as child mortality rates with and without AIDS and the number of children orphaned by AIDS and other causes.

Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2000. Calverton, Maryland, USA: Central Statistical Authority [Ethiopia], and ORC Macro. This household survey provides orphan estimates.

Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic. July 2002. Geneva: UNAIDS, July 2002: The models for the estimates take into consideration HIV/AIDS prevalence in special populations, AIDS deaths, and HIV/AIDS knowledge and behavior.

Table 2 Data Sources

Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2000. Calverton, Maryland, USA: Central Statistical Authority [Ethiopia], and ORC Macro.

Nyangara, F. and P. McDermott. 2003 (unpublished). “Sub-National Distribution and Situation of Orphans: Countries Targeted by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.” Washington, D.C.: Population, Health and Nutrition Information Project/USAID. National-level statistics and sub-national orphan percentages using 2000 DHS data.

Other Data Sources

State of the World’s Children 2003. New York: UNICEF. This source provides infant mortality and under-five mortality statistics.

United States Census Bureau (BUCEN), International Programs Center. Washington, D.C: BUCEN International Programs Center, International Database (<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/world.html>), accessed October 2003: The source provides the total number of children under 15.

Definitions by Data Source

Children on the Brink 2002

(The following definitions refer to the data in the *Children on the Brink 2002* final report. Figures in table 1 differ from those found in the final report as double orphans were subtracted from the maternal and paternal estimates to allow for comparability with DHS and MICS data.)

Maternal Orphans: Estimated percent of children under age 15 whose mothers, and perhaps fathers, have died (includes double orphans).

Paternal Orphans: Estimated percent of children under age 15 whose fathers, and perhaps mothers, have died (includes double orphans).

Double Orphans: Estimated percent of children under age 15 whose mother, father, or both parents have died.

Total Orphans: Estimated number of children under age 15 whose mother, father, or both parents have died regardless of parental cause of death. The total number of orphans is equal to the sum of the maternal and paternal, minus double orphans, because they are counted in both the maternal and paternal category.

Total Orphans Due to AIDS: Estimated number of children under age 15 whose mother, father, or both parents have died due to AIDS.

Orphans Due to AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans: Estimated percent of children under age 15 who have lost at least one parent due to AIDS as a percent of all children who have been orphaned, regardless of parental cause of death.

UNAIDS

Number of People Living with HIV/AIDS: Estimated number of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001. Children are defined as those aged 0-14.

Number of Children Living with HIV/AIDS: Estimated number of children aged 0-14 living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001.

Number of Adults Living with HIV/AIDS: Estimated number of adults living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001. Adults are females and males aged 15-49, or those in their sexually active years.

Adults HIV Prevalence Rate: To calculate the adult HIV prevalence rate, the estimated number of adults living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001 was divided by the 2001 adult population (aged 15-49).