

Country Data Profile: Orphans

Countries Targeted by the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



GUYANA

The population of Guyana stands at 702,000, 190,000 of whom are children under the age of 15 years (BUCEN, 2003). UNICEF reports that infant mortality stood at 54 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 and under-five mortality at 72 deaths per 1,000 live births. With an adult HIV/AIDS prevalence of 2.7 percent in 2001, Guyana has one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the Latin America and Caribbean region (UNAIDS 2002). Approximately 800 children aged 0 to

14 were living with HIV/AIDS in 2001. Guyana is one of the 14 African and Caribbean countries selected for assistance by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

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 – 7.2 percent (1995), 8.7 percent (2001), and 10.8 percent (2010, projected) by *Children on the Brink 2002*, and 4.4 percent (2000) by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). The number of orphans in Guyana is likely to increase throughout the decade and surpass 23,000 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 5.7 percent of all orphans in 1995 to 20.8 percent in 2001. If current trends continue, it is projected that by 2010 more than 40 percent of Guyana's orphans will have been orphaned by AIDS.

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)		MICS 2000	Children on the Brink 2002 (estimates for 2001)		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)							18			
Adult HIV Prevalence						2.7	17			
Total Orphans	7.2	18	4.4	8.7	20			10.8	23	
Maternal Orphans	2.4	6	1.7	2.6	6			2.8	6	
Paternal Orphans	4.4	11	3.3	5.2	12			7.1	15	
Double Orphans	0.4	1	0.6	0.9	2			0.9	2	
Orphans due to HIV/AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans	5.7	1		20.8	4			40.5	9	

Sub-National Orphan Populations. The percent of children orphaned varies by sub-region, ranging from 3.0 percent in the Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo region to 5.9 percent in the Demerara-Mahaica region, as shown in table 2. The percent of paternal orphans exceeds maternal orphans in all regions except Upper Takutu- Upper Essequibo. Double orphans remain at or below 1 percent of children in all regions.



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 the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (not available for Guyana) and MICS, 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 (Guyana MICS, 2000)				
	National	Barima-Waini	Pomeroon-Supernaam	Essequibo Is.-W. Demerara	Demerara-Mahaica
Total Number of Children Under 15 Surveyed	6,612	239	502	746	2,737
Total Orphans	4.4	3.8	3.6	5.1	5.9
Maternal Orphans	1.7	1.4	1.7	0.5	1.4
Paternal Orphans	3.3	2.2	1.9	3.6	3.8
Double Orphans	0.6	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.9

Factors	Sub-Regions (Guyana MICS, 2000)					
	Mahaica-Berbice	E. Berbice-Corentyne	Cuyuni-Mazaruni	Potaro-Siparuni	Up. Takutu-Up. Essequibo	Upper Demerara
Total Number of Children Under 15 Surveyed	404	1,100	175	62	211	436
Total Orphans	3.5	4.0	3.1	3.4	3.0	5.4
Maternal Orphans	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.0	1.3	1.7
Paternal Orphans	3.0	2.4	2.1	3.1	1.2	3.3
Double Orphans	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4

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.

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). New York: UNICEF, 2000. Household survey interviews provided information on children under 15 with a deceased parent or parents.

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

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). New York: UNICEF, 2000.

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 MICS 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).