

Country Data Profile: Orphans

Countries Targeted by the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



KENYA

Kenya has a population of 31.6 million, 13.1 million of whom are children aged less than 15 years (BUCEN, 2003). According to UNICEF, infant mortality stood at 78 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 and under-five mortality at 122 deaths per 1,000 live births (UNICEF, 2003). UNAIDS estimates that adult HIV prevalence was 15 percent in 2001 and that 220,000 children aged 0 to 14 were living with HIV/AIDS. It is one of the sub-Saharan

African countries most severely affected by HIV/AIDS and also one of the 14 African and Caribbean countries selected for assistance by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

National Orphan Population. The size of its orphan population – estimated at more than 1.6 million – puts Kenya in crisis. 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 – 9.1 percent (1995), 12.4 percent (2001), and 14.3 percent (2010, projected) by *Children on the Brink 2002*; 7 percent (1993) and 9.4 percent (1998) by the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS); and 9.2 percent (2000) by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). All the data support the consensus that the number of orphans in Kenya is likely to increase throughout the decade and exceed 2 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 22.1 percent of all orphans in 1995 to 53.8 percent in 2001. If current trends continue, it is projected that by 2010 more than two-thirds of Kenya'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										
	Kenya DHS 1993	Children on the Brink 2002 (1995 estimates)		Kenya DHS 1998	MICS 2000	Children on the Brink 2002 (2001 estimates)		UNAIDS 2002 (2001 data)		Children on the Brink 2002 (2010 projections)	
	%	%	# (000's)	%	%	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)
HIV/AIDS Prevalence (Adults and children)									2,500		
Adults HIV Prevalence								15	2,300		
Total Orphans	7	9.1	1,160	9.4	9.2	12.4	1,659			14.3	2,099
Maternal Orphans	1.5	2.9	378	1.8	1.8	4.1	556			4.9	725
Paternal Orphans	5.1	5.3	669	6.6	6.6	6.0	812			5.7	841
Double Orphans	0.3	0.9	113	0.9	0.9	2.2	291			3.6	533
Orphans Due to HIV/AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans		22.1	257			53.8	892			73.4	1,541

Sub-National Orphan Populations. As seen in table 2, the percentage of orphaned children in Kenya's sub-national regions ranges from 5.3 percent of all children in the Central region to 14 percent in the Nyanza region. The percentage of paternal orphans (children who have lost their father) is higher than the percentage of maternal orphans in all regions. Between 1993 and 1998, total orphans increased in all regions except the Central region, as



shown in table 3. Total orphans in the Nyanza region increased by over 4 percentage points. The percent of children having lost both parents (double orphans) increased in all regions outside of Nairobi but remained in the 0.5 to 1.5 percent range in all regions in 1998.

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. DHS 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, 1998

Factors	Sub-National Regions (Kenya DHS, 1998)							
	National	Nairobi	Central	Coast	Eastern	Nyanza	Rift Valley	Western
Total Number of Children Under 15 Surveyed	16,140	798	1,728	1,174	2,709	3,360	4,200	2,171
Total Orphans	9.5	9.1	5.3	10.3	9.7	14.0	7.7	8.8
Maternal Orphans	1.8	3.5	1.1	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.1	2.4
Paternal Orphans	6.8	5.0	3.8	7.4	7.2	10.4	5.9	5.3
Double Orphans	0.9	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.7	1.1

Table 3. Sub-National Estimates of Double Orphans and Total Orphans, 1993 and 1998

Sub-Regions	1993 (DHS) (N = 18,345)		1998 (DHS) (N = 16,140)	
	Double Orphans (%)	Total Orphans (%)	Double Orphans (%)	Total Orphans (%)
National Average	0.3	6.9	0.9	9.5
Nairobi	0.7	6.0	0.6	9.1
Central	0.2	6.4	0.5	5.3
Coast	0.3	7.2	1.2	10.3
Eastern	0.2	7.6	0.5	9.7
Nyanza	0.4	9.3	1.5	14.0
Rift Valley	0.3	6.2	0.7	7.7
Western	0.1	6.3	1.1	8.8

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.

Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 1993 and 1998. Calverton, Maryland, USA: National Council for Population and Development, Central Bureau of Statistics (Off ice of the Vice President and Ministry of Planning and National Development) [Kenya], and Macro International Inc. 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

Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 1998. Calverton, Maryland, USA: National Council for Population and Development, Central Bureau of Statistics (Off ice of the Vice President and Ministry of Planning and National Development) [Kenya], and Macro International Inc.

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 1998 DHS data.

Table 3 Data Sources

Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 1993 and 1998. Calverton, Maryland, USA: National Council for Population and Development, Central Bureau of Statistics (Off ice of the Vice President and Ministry of Planning and National Development) [Kenya], and Macro International Inc.

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 1993 and 1998 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. Estimates in table 1 differ from those found in the final report as maternal and paternal estimates were recalculated 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).