

# Country Data Profile: Orphans

Countries Targeted by the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



## NIGERIA

Nigeria has a population of 133.9 million, 58.3 million of whom are children aged less than 15 years (BUCEN, 2003). Child health remains poor in the country. UNICEF estimates that infant mortality stood at 110 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 and under-five mortality at 183 deaths per 1,000 live births. Approximately 270,000 children aged 0 to 14 were living with HIV/AIDS in 2001, according to UNAIDS. With an estimated adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of 5.8 percent in 2001 (UNAIDS 2002), Nigeria is one of the sub-Saharan African countries most

severely affected by HIV/AIDS and is also 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 – 10.2 percent (1995), 10.3 percent (2001), and 10.6 percent (2010, projected) by *Children on the Brink 2002*, and 5.9 percent (1999) by the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). The number of orphans in Nigeria is likely to increase throughout the decade and reach approximately 6.7 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 4.2 percent of all orphans in 1995 to 18.4 percent in 2001. If current trends continue, it is projected that by 2010 nearly 40 percent of Nigeria'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									
	<i>Children on the Brink 2002</i> (1995 estimates)		Nigeria DHS 1999	<i>Children on the Brink 2002</i> (2001 estimates)		UNAIDS 2001		<i>Children on the Brink 2000</i> (2010 projections)		
	%	# (000's)	%	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)	
<b>HIV/AIDS Prevalence (Adults and Children)</b>							3,500			
<b>Adult HIV Prevalence</b>						5.8	3,200			
<b>Total Orphans</b>	10.2	4,638	5.9	10.3	5,421			10.6	6,686	
<b>Maternal Orphans</b>	3.4	1,570	1.8	3.5	1,834			3.7	2,339	
<b>Paternal Orphans</b>	5.6	2,574	2.9	5.7	2,980			5.6	3,538	
<b>Double Orphans</b>	1.1	495	0.9	1.2	607			1.3	810	
<b>Orphans Due to HIV/AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans</b>	4.2	196		18.4	995			39.5	2,638	

**Sub-National Orphan Populations.** The percent of children orphaned in Nigeria varies by sub-region, as shown in table 2. The North East region has the lowest percentage of orphaned children (4.1 percent of all children), and the South East region has the highest at 11.0 percent.



**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 Nigeria), 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, 1999**

Factors	Sub-Regions (Nigeria DHS, 1999)					
	National	North East	North West	South East	South West	Central
<b>Total Number of Children Under 15 Surveyed</b>	16,039	3,127	2,396	3,297	3,690	3,528
<b>Total Orphans</b>	6.0	4.1	4.3	11.0	4.7	5.6
<b>Maternal Orphans</b>	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.5	1.7	1.6
<b>Paternal Orphans</b>	3.2	1.8	1.8	7.4	2.6	2.1
<b>Double Orphans</b>	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.4	1.9

**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.

*Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 1999.* Calverton, Maryland, USA. National Population Commission [Nigeria], 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**

*Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 1999.* Calverton, Maryland, USA. National Population Commission [Nigeria], 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 1999 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).