

Country Data Profile: Orphans

Countries Targeted by the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



UGANDA

Uganda has a population of 25.6 million, 13.0 million of whom are children under the age of 15 years (BUCEN, 2003). With an infant mortality rate of 79 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 and an under-five mortality rate of 124 deaths per 1,000 live births, Ugandan children face a variety of health challenges (UNICEF 2003). Uganda 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. UNAIDS estimates that adult HIV prevalence was 5

percent in 2001, with a total of 600,000 adults and children infected. Approximately 110,000 children between the ages of 0 and 14 were living with HIV/AIDS in 2001.

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 – 14.9 percent (1995), 14.6 percent (2001), and 9.6 percent (2010, projected) by *Children on the Brink 2002*, and 13 percent (1995) and 12.5 percent (2000/2001) by the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). The number and percent of children orphaned in Uganda is likely to decrease throughout the current decade; nonetheless, the country is projected to have approximately 1.6 million in 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 42.2 percent of all orphans in 1995 to 51.1 percent in 2001. It is projected that by 2010, nearly 39 percent of Uganda'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 (1995 estimates)		Uganda DHS 1995	Uganda DHS 2000/2001	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)								600		
Adult HIV Prevalence							5	510		
Total Orphans	14.9	1,456	13	12.5	14.6	1,731			9.6	1,554
Maternal Orphans	4.5	438	3.1	2.9	5.0	587			3.4	559
Paternal Orphans	7.5	737	8	7.3	7.0	829			5.2	851
Double Orphans	2.9	282	1.9	2.3	2.7	315			0.9	144
Orphans Due to HIV/AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans	42.4	617			51.1	884			38.9	605

Sub-National Orphan Populations. The percent of children orphaned in Uganda differs by sub-region, varying from 8.2 percent of children in the Eastern region to 17.1 percent in the Central region, as shown in table 2. As shown in table 3, the percent of Ugandan children who are double orphans (having lost both parents) increased in all regions except the Western region between 1995 and 2000/2001. For the country as a whole, DHS reports a



decrease in the percent of children losing at least one parent during the later half of the decade, with Eastern and Northern regions experiencing decreases in total orphans from 8.9 to 8.3 percent and 12.9 to 11.8 percent, respectively.

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 the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) (not available for Uganda), 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, 2000/2001

Factors	Sub-Regions (Uganda DHS, 2000-2001)				
	Uganda	Central	Eastern	Northern	Western
Total number of Children Under 15 Surveyed	20,944	6,332	6,091	3,330	5,191
Total Orphans	12.6	17.1	8.2	11.2	13.5
Maternal Orphans	2.9	4.3	1.3	1.9	3.5
Paternal Orphans	7.3	9.1	5	7.4	8.1
Double Orphans	2.4	3.6	1	1.8	1.9

Table 3. Sub-National Estimates of Double Orphans and Total Orphans, 1995 and 2000/2001

Sub-Regions	1995 (DHS) (N = 18,495)		2000/2001 (DHS) (N = 20,944)	
	Double Orphans (%)	Total Orphans (%)	Double Orphans (%)	Total Orphans (%)
National Average	1.9	12.9	2.4	12.6
Central	3.0	16.6	3.4	16.8
Eastern	1.2	8.9	2.0	8.3
Northern	1.3	12.9	1.9	11.8
Western	1.9	13.5	1.8	13.9

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.

Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 1995 and 2000/2001. Calverton, Maryland, USA: Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), and ORC Macro, 2001. 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

Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2000/2001. Calverton, Maryland, USA: Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), and ORC Macro, 2001.

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 2000/2001 DHS data.

Table 3 Data Sources

Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 1995 and 2000/2001. Calverton, Maryland, USA: Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), and ORC Macro, 2001.

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 1995 and 2000/2001 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).