



WOW: It really IS a crisis...

1 in 2 (1 billion) children live **in poverty**.

There are **143 Million Orphans** Worldwide

Including **15 Million AIDS Orphans**

12 Million of them **in Sub Saharan Africa**

Globally there are **over 100 million street children**

1.2 million children are **trafficked** each year

250 Million children are involved **in labour**

Over **2 million** children world wide are currently working **in the commercial sex industry**

There are **over 300,000 child soldiers** worldwide

Over the **past 10 years**, more that **1 million children** have been **separated from their families by war**



Q & A about the World Orphan Crisis?

What is an orphan?

An orphan is a child who has lost either their father or mother as a result of death.

What is a double orphan?

These are the children we usually think of when we hear the word "orphan". A double orphan refers to a child who has lost both his/her parents.

What is an AIDS orphan?

This term is generally used to identify a child who has lost his/her mother to AIDS before the age of 15. This does not indicate the death of the father because the majority of mothers with AIDS are single parents.

Why do some children become orphans?

Children can become orphaned because of many reasons including disease, war, and natural disaster. The leading causes of death in the developing world are primarily infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, diarrheal disease, malaria, tuberculosis, lung infections), and secondly cardiovascular diseases and pregnancy and childbirth complications.

Why do these children need our help?

Poor, and without parents to speak out for them and defend them, orphans usually experience decreased access to education, healthcare, basic sanitation, and most importantly, a caring and secure environment. In many places, orphaned and abandoned children are at higher risk of being forced into child labour, substandard living environments, or even becoming child soldiers.

Why do parents abandon their children?

Abandonment rates are typically higher in regions with weak social welfare systems and high levels of poverty where parents do not see any programs available to help them through difficult times. Children are sometimes left behind when their parents leave to find work or medical care in another city.

Who takes care of them?

Orphaned and abandoned children without services may end up with extended family, living on the streets, or living by themselves. Through programs like SOS Children's Villages', children are given a mother to love them and a family home in which to raise them.

What makes this a CRISIS?

- Every 15 seconds a child becomes orphaned because of AIDS.
- By 2010, the number of AIDS orphans is estimated to reach 25 million.
- Less than 10% of children orphaned by AIDS are receiving any kind of support
- Children with ill or dead mothers are 4 times more likely die within 2 years than those children with healthy mothers
- More than 16,000 children die each day from hunger-related issues