

Understanding Sexual And Reproductive Health Among Orphaned And Separated Children In Five Low- And Middle-income Countries

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BACKGROUND



Community health workers reviewing the survey tools at Ace Africa Kenya

Globally, there are more than **148 million orphaned and separated or abandoned children (OSC)**. OSCs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are **more likely to experience potentially traumatic events (PTEs) including physical and sexual abuse.**

Orphaned and separated girls in LMICs could be at higher risk of poor reproductive and sexual health (SRH) outcomes compared to non-OSCs.

This is critical as poor SRH can be disabling and life-threatening contributing to further disparities.

Study Objectives



Compare the SRH outcomes among OSC girls compared to non-OSCs.



Compare the SRH knowledge among OSC compared to non-OSCs.

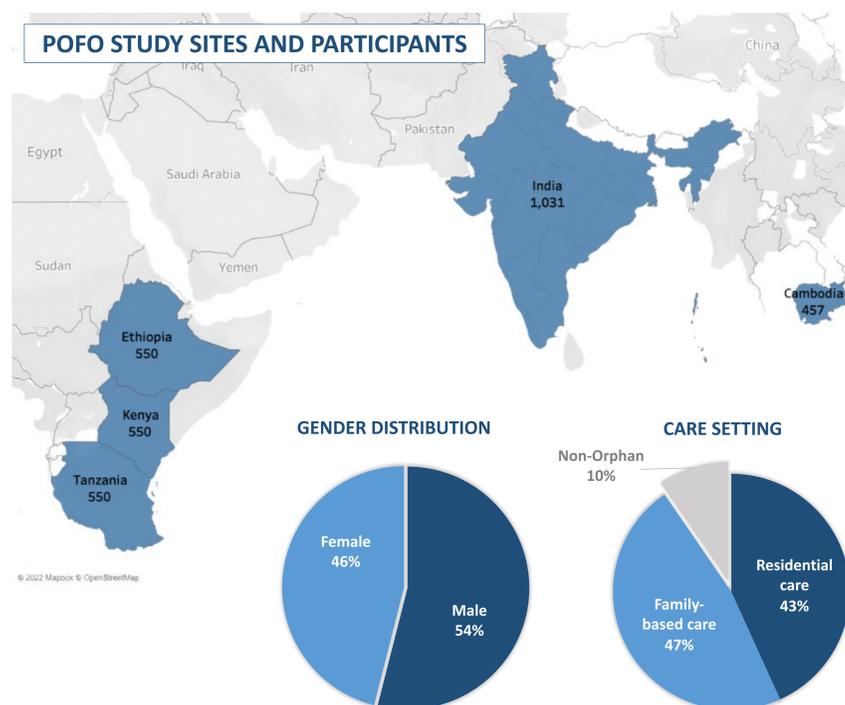


Identify the predictors of SRH outcomes

METHODOLOGY

Data source:

Positive Outcomes for Orphans (POFO): a longitudinal study on a **cohort of 3138 children from five LMICs.**



Study Design:

Cross-sectional study.

Analyze the self-reported SRH **survey** responses and STI results.

Target Population:

Orphaned and separated **girls aged 14 or older.**

Analysis:

Descriptive statistics for variables defined within SRH outcomes and knowledge. **Linear regression** to describe relationship between predictors and continuous outcomes, and **log-binomial regression** for binary outcomes.

NEXT STEPS

In progress:

Defining and narrowing indicators of SRH outcome.

Example of variables being considered:

First sexual intercourse by ages 15, age during first pregnancy, adolescent birth rate, contraceptive use/awareness, HIV infected/awareness, and no. of PTEs.

Deliverables:

- Results from statistical analysis comparing SRH outcome for OSC and non-OSC girls.
- Potential comparison results stratified by sites.
- Results identifying predictors of SRH outcomes.

Outcome:

- Share findings with POFO research study team.
- Findings will determine whether further study, intervention, and/or policy change is needed.



Group photo with study teams from Duke and Ace Africa in Bungoma, Kenya

References and more

- (Note: Scan the QR code to see the full list of references and study details, including data measures, tools used, and more.)
1. Estimated number of children (aged 0-17 years) who have lost one or both parents due to all causes. (2020). DATA UNICEF. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/data-explorer/unicef/>
 2. Thielman, N., Ostermann, J., et.al, the P. O. for O. (POFO) R. (2012). Correlates of Poor Health among Orphans and Abandoned Children in Less Wealthy Countries: The Importance of Caregiver Health. *PLOS ONE*, 7(6), e38109. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0038109>

