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.

**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_f/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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Many thanks to Dr. Chris Gray (Mentor), Duke Global Health Institute, Center for Health Policy & Inequalities Research, POFO Research Team and study participants.