

AN INITIATIVE OF



ORPHANAGE CHECKLIST



ACCI RELIEF

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INTRODUCTION

All children have the right to be raised by their families and should, for their full and harmonious development, be raised in a family environment participating in natural community life.

When vulnerable children in need of support are identified, orphanages should not be the first and only support offered to families and/or children in crisis. All attempts should be made to ensure children can stay with their families or in a substitute family before they are placed in an orphanage.

Orphanages should be a last resort and temporary measure until a family placement can be secured or a child is able to return to their biological family. Using orphanages as a long-term solution can detrimentally affect children therefore should be avoided.

Families should be offered support services to ensure they can fulfill their function as the primary carers of children. Children should never be removed from their families due to poverty, but resources should be directed towards assisting the family and preserving the family unit.

CHECKLIST

As a donor/supporter it is important to know that the orphanage (or any other form of residential care centre) you are supporting is operating legally and following best practice. This includes ensuring that the orphanage is legitimately a last resort option for children and is not actively recruiting children and separating families unnecessarily. The questions below are a starting point to helping you understand how the orphanage is being run and how well it is aligning with best practice. It may be difficult for you to interpret some of the answers given to you, so we suggest you make a note of them so you can check them against government standards and policies often available online or contact us directly at info@kinnected.org.au.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE CHECKLIST?

Asking these questions may raise a lot of new questions such as:

- What do the answers given to me actually mean?
- Should I keep supporting this orphanage?
- How do I best support this orphanage towards aligning with best practice and international law on child rights?
- Who can assist this orphanage with making the required changes?

If you have further questions or would like more information please feel free to contact ACCI Relief. One of our staff would be happy to speak to you or give you further resources to answer your questions.

ORPHANAGE CHECKLIST

LEGAL REGISTRATION: 1. Is the orphanage run under a registered organisation in your host country? O Yes \bigcirc No If no, what reason was given? 2. Is the orphanage authorised by the relevant social services or child protection Government Ministry/Department to facilitate residential care for children? ○ No O Yes If no, what reason was given? PRESERVING FAMILIES: 3. Is the orphanage director aware of the Alternative Care Guidelines and National laws and policies in their host country around alternative care? O Yes \bigcirc No Comments? 4. Is the orphanage director ensuring that children are not placed in orphanages due to poverty, but that families are able to access the support they need to raise their own children? $\bigcirc\,\mathsf{No}$ Yes If yes, how? If no. what reason was given? 5. Is the orphanage actively trying to trace family members and reunify families that have been separated? ○ Yes \bigcirc No If yes, how? If no, what reason was given? 6. Does the orphanage have a clear gate keeping policy to ensure children are not unnecessarily placed in residential care? O Yes \bigcirc No If yes, how? If no, what reason was given? 7. Does the orphanage have a clear reintegration policy to ensure children are actively being reintegrated into families and only kept in residential care for as short a time as possible? O Yes O No If yes, how? If no, what reason was given? 8. Does the orphanage explore all family based care options (kinship care, foster care, local adoption, semi independent living) before placing children in the orphanage therefore ensuring the orphanage is used as a last resort and temporary option? O Yes ○ No If yes, how? If no, what reason was given?

9. Does the orphanage adhere to the minimum standards stipulated by their host Covernment? Yes No If no, what reason was given? 10. Does the orphanage facilitate children to learn life skills (as separate from vocational skills)? Yes No If no, what reason was given? 11. Does the orphanage have a clear and written child protection policy? Yes No 12. Does the orphanage have a clear screening and recruiting process including staff, volunteers and visitors to the orphanage? Yes No 12. Does the orphanage have a clear screening and recruiting process including staff, volunteers and visitors to the orphanage? Yes No 13. Does the orphanage ensure the children are able to engage in community life outside the orphanage through attending community schools, participating in community events, develop friendships with families in the community etc? Yes No If no, what reason was given? If no, what reason was given? 14. Is the orphanage located within a community or is it separated from the community and isolated? Yes No 14. Is the orphanage located within a community or is it separated from the community and isolated? Yes No No No No 14. Is the orphanage located within a community or is it separated from the community and isolated? Yes No No Comments:	Yes	STANDARDS OF CARE:			
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