Prevalence of ‘orphanhood’

- Children under 15 who have lost both parents (double orphans): 1.1%
- Rural: 1.2% / Urban: 0.9%
- Boys (1.2%) and Girls (1.1%)

The Genocide in Rwanda in 1994 has had a staggering impact on children’s care situations as could be expected, bringing percentages of children under 15 who have lost both parents from 0.7% in 1992 to just under 5% in 2000. By 2010, however, the prevalence of double orphans in Rwanda has almost gone back to pre-genocide level 1.1%, underlining the tremendous changes happening in the country to family life.
In the Eastern Africa regional context, **Rwanda’s current rate of double orphanhood for children under 15 (1.1%) is about average**, above that of Madagascar (0.4%) and Ethiopia (0.6%) that have the lowest in the region but well below Zimbabwe (4.7%) and Zambia (2.7%), with the highest. This is no doubt a reflection of the very different prevalence rates of HIV AIDS between countries in the region, with Zimbabwe (14.7%) and Zambia (12.7%) having much higher rates than Rwanda (2.9%) and therefore lower rates of AIDS related death of caregivers. (UNAIDS, 2012).

**Percentage of children under 18 who have lost both parents (double orphans): 1.8%**
• Percentage of children under 18 who have lost at least one parent (single and double orphans combined): 13.4% (13.5% girls and 13.4% boys)

• Higher percentage in urban (15.9%) rather than rural context (13.2%)

• The vast majority of children under 18 who have lost at least one parent (single and double orphans combined) are single orphans: 11.6%

• Percentage of children under 15 who have lost at least one parent (single and double orphans combined): 10.2% (10.2% girls/10.1% boys)

• Higher percentage in urban (11.5%) rather than rural areas (10%)

• In the Eastern Africa context, Rwanda’s percentage of children who have lost one or both parents is about average, significantly higher than Madagascar (6.2%) and Ethiopia (7.8%) that have the lowest but well behind Zimbabwe (18.4%), Uganda (13.4%) and Zambia (13.1%) that have the highest.

• Percentage of children under 15 who have lost one parent (single orphans): 9.1%
Overall, the vast majority of children under 15 in Rwanda still have both parents. Real orphanhood is now thankfully relatively rare, although Rwanda’s genocide has had a generational impact on children’s care that can be seen when looking at trends in orphanhood. A significant percentage of children have lost one parent to death and their situation is also important to understand better in terms of the situation of their caregivers and whether these children remain in the care of their parent or are cared for by others.
**Living arrangements and survival of parent status**

- Children under 15 **living with both parents**: 64.5%
- More boys than girls (65% boys and 64% girls)
- Significantly more children in this category live in a rural setting (64.8%) than in an urban one (62%)
- **Children aged 0 to 2 are significantly more likely to be living with both their parents (75%)** which cannot solely be explained by increased likelihood of parental death with age. By 10-14 years of age only 54% live with both parents, a significant decrease indicates change of care patterns for children (and for a smaller percentage the result of parental death).
As we have seen above, there have been significant changes in pattern in the survival status of parents following the 1994 Genocide. Although there has been a steady increase in the number of children under 15 living with both parents in Rwanda since 2000, this trend has slowed down somewhat since 2005.
• In the Eastern Africa regional context, **Rwanda’s percentage of children under 15 living with both parents is above average.** Higher than Zimbabwe (44.6%) and Mozambique (54.8%) with the lowest prevalence of children in this category, but lower than Eritrea (76%) and Ethiopia (74.6%) with the highest prevalence.
There are significant regional variations within Rwanda, in terms of the percentage of children under 15 living with both parents, with the Southern region having much lower percentage of children in that category (59.2%) than other regions in the country, including Kigali (64.1%), with the Northern region having the highest prevalence (67.6%).
• Children under 15 living **with their mother but not their father (father alive): 15.9%**
• Slightly more girls (15.9%) than boys (15.8%).
• Higher percentage of children in this category in urban (17%) rather than rural setting (15.7%).
• **Significantly higher percentage of children aged 0-2 in this category (20.3%)** than children aged 3-5 years old (15.8%), which is perhaps surprising, with more progressive decrease in percentage between older age groups. For the 10-15 years old, that percentage is down to 13.4%.
There are also very significant regional variations within Rwanda with the highest percentage of children in this category the South region (19.1%) compared to the North region with only 13.5%.
In the Eastern Africa regional context, Rwanda’s percentage of children under 15 living with their mother although their father is alive is average. (Well below Mozambique (21.1%) and the Comoros (20.2%) but higher than Ethiopia (9%) and Eritrea (10.2%) that have the lowest prevalence in the region.)
- Children under 15 living with their mother but not their father (father dead): **5.8%**
- Small difference between girls (6%) and boys (5.7%) and slightly higher number of children in this category living in an urban (6.7%) rather than rural setting (5.7%).
- Higher percentage of children in this category in the Western region (6.4%) compared to Kigali that has the lowest percentage (4.9%).
- **Rwanda is among the countries in the East Africa region with the highest percentage of children under 15 living with their mother but not their father (Father dead), together with Kenya (5.8%) and Burundi (5.8%).**
Children under 15 living **with their father but not their mother (mother alive): 1.3%**

- **Significantly more boys (1.5%) than girls in this category (1.1%)**
- More children in this category live in an urban setting (1.9%) rather than a rural one (1.3%).
- Age plays a major role, with fewer children in this category in the 0-2 age group (0.4%) than in the 10-14 age group (1.5%), but interestingly the age group with the highest percentage of living with their father but not their mother (mother alive) is 6-9 years old (1.7%). Cultural?
- Some regional variations, with highest percentage in Kigali (1.9%) and the Eastern region (1.9%) and lowest in the North region (0.7%).
- In the East Africa context, **Rwanda is among the countries with the lowest percentage of children in this category**, only above Eritrea (0.7%) but well below Tanzania (4.3%) and Uganda (4.2%).
- Children under 15 living with their father but not their mother (mother dead): 0.9%
- Equal numbers of boys (0.9%) and girls (0.9%).
- Slightly more children in this category live in an urban setting (1%) rather than a rural setting (0.9%)
- Higher percentage of children in this category in Kigali (1.4%) and the Eastern region (1.1%) compared to the North region that has the lowest percentage (0.6%).
- There has been a steady decline of children in this category since 2000.
• In the East Africa context, Rwanda’s percentage of children in that category is about average, higher than the Comoros (0.5%), Malawi (0.5%) and Uganda (0.7%) but significantly lower than Eritrea (1.8%) and Burundi (1.5%).

• Children under 15 **not living with their parents even though both parents are alive**: 7.3%
• **Significantly more girls (7.8%) than boys in that situation (6.7%)**
• More children in that category are living in a rural setting (7.4%) than an urban one (6.4%), possibly indicating parents migrating to urban areas in search of work leaving behind their children in the care of others but this could also be due to other factors.
• **Clear age differences** with fewer children in the 0-2 age group in that category (2%) compared to much higher percentage (9.1%) in the 10-14 age group.
There has been a steady increase in Rwanda in the percentage of children under 15 not living with their parents even though both are alive since 2000, although the trend shows significant differences between children living in rural and urban areas. In particular there were much higher percentage of these children in urban areas in 2000 but those numbers decreased significantly between 2000 and 2005 before rising again between 2005 and 2010, with continuing increases but at a lesser rate than in rural areas. What lies behind this striking change in patterns of care needs to be explored further to understand what caused it and what lies behind the continuing increases in children not living with their parents, even though the latter are alive.
• There are significant regional variations within Rwanda in the percent distribution of children under 15 living with neither parent even though both are alive. **Worth noting in particular is that the lowest percentage of these children can be found in Kigali (5.2%), the capital region,** confirming perhaps the possibility of adult migration from rural to urban areas as one of the main reasons for higher percentages of these children in rural areas (Other explanation?). Highest percentages can be found in the South region (8.6%) and the North region (8.1).
• In the Eastern Africa region, Rwanda’s percentage of children under 15 not living with their parents even though both are alive is about average, much higher than Eritrea (2.8%) and Burundi (4.3%) but significantly lower than the Comoros (15.2%), Zimbabwe (12.5%) and Uganda (11.8%).
• **Children under 15 not living with their parents (only father alive):** 0.9%
• **More boys (1%) than girls (0.8%).**
• **Higher percentages in urban areas (1.4%) rather than rural (0.8%).**
• **Higher percentages in the central areas of the country in particular Kigali (1.2%), the North (1.1%) and South regions (1%).**
Rwanda’s percentage of children in this category is about average in the context of the East Africa region, with only Ethiopia (0.8%) and Kenya (0.6%) with lower percentages, and Mozambique (1.9%), Malawi (1.8%), Zimbabwe (1.8%) and Zambia (1.8%) with higher percentages.

- Children under 15 **not living with their parents (only mother alive): 1.3%**
- More girls (1.4%) than boys (1.1%).
- Slightly more living in urban areas (1.4%) than rural areas (1.2%).
- Differences between regions are slight, with the East and West region having the highest percentages (1.4%) and the North the lowest (1%).
- Significant decrease in percentage of children in this category since 2000, particularly children in urban areas (4.2% in the 2000 DHS) compared to 1.4% in the 2010 DHS). As with children living with neither parents even though their parents are alive, the important differences between urban and rural areas in 2000 compared to 2010 should be explored and understood better.
• The percentage of children in Rwanda in this category is about average for the East Africa region. Higher than Eritrea, Comoros and Ethiopia but much lower than Zimbabwe (4.7% - an outlier in this category), Zambia (2.5%) or Uganda (2.3%).
• Children under 15 not living with their parents (both parents dead): 1.1%
• Slightly more boys (1.2%) than girls (1.1%).
• Higher percentage living in a rural area (1.2%) rather than an urban setting (0.9%).
• Nevertheless the highest percent distribution of children in this category is in the Kigali region (1.4%) with lowest percentage in the East region (1%).
• Significant decrease in percentage of children in that category since 2000, in line with decreasing prevalence of double orphanhood overall, with particular strong decline in the percentages of such children living in an urban area (6.9%) in DHS 2000 compared to 0.9% in the DHS 2010.
• As discussed above, the prevalence of children under 15 who are double orphans and therefore not living with a parent in Rwanda is about average for the East Africa region.
• Most children under 15 in Rwanda live with both parents (64.5%) but a significant percentage live with their mothers only (21.7%). Another important group of children under 15 do not live with either parent (10.6%).

• The majority of children under 15 who do not live with their parents in Rwanda have both parents alive (7.3%) with a smaller percentage of children in this category who have lost one parent (2.2%) and an even smaller percentage who have lost both parents (1.1%). The death of a parent is therefore not the only significant factor, or even the major factor that is linked to a child under 15 not living with either of his or her parents in Rwanda. Other factors must be at play that needs to be understood better.
NB> Data on living arrangements and relationship to the head of the household in not extracted either in the DHS full report or DHS data compiler.

Note also a slight difference in percentages given between the DHS full report 2010, and the Data provided in the DHS data compiler for Rwanda. Children living with their mother only/father alive in the DHS report is 16.2% as opposed to 15.9% in the data extracted from DHS data compiler. Not significant a difference enough to make this analysis invalid.

Data from the 2010, DHS full report on the under 18.

**Rwanda: Children under 18 living with or without parents, DHS 2010**

- Living with both parents: 61%
- Living with father only: 22.9%
- Living with mother only: 12.5%
- Not living with either parents: 2.4%
Education

Current school attendance rate of children aged 10–14 both of whose parents are alive and who live with at least one parent (both sexes combined): 96.1%
Current school attendance rate of orphans aged 10-14 (single or double orphans): 87.7%
The ratio of orphaned children aged 10-14 (who have lost either parent) in a household survey who are currently attending school to non-orphaned children the same age who are attending school (Both sexes combined): 0.9%