Children in Difficult Circumstances

Revised report for the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex and DFID.

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Introductory note

This is a revised report following clarification of the terms of reference (TOR). The revision now groups child labour, orphanhood, abuse and children exposed to conflict together. The TOR requires the consultant to focus reference selection on a set of key areas (evidence base etc). Clearly these have been drawn up with a medical perspective in mind, and some are not readily applied to the topics of child labour, abuse, orphanhood and exposure to political conflict. Drug procurement is one obvious example. These limitations have been taken into account in the presentation of references related to each topic.

CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Introduction (104 words)

The rights, health, development and well being of children in difficult circumstances are severely compromised. Outcomes depend on the form and duration of the adversity, the child’s age and gender, and availability of support and protection. Community-based and culturally sensitive interventions should be considered as far as possible. Targeting of children orphaned by AIDS should be avoided as stigmatization may result. Kin rather than residential care for orphans is good practice wherever feasible. Effective treatments for abused children (in Western societies) include trauma/abuse-focused cognitive therapy and parent-child interaction therapy. Home visiting preventive initiatives have to be intensive if they are to reduce abuse risk.

Three Key readings (internet available)


Ten Additional readings


8. UNICEF Child Protection Indicators
