

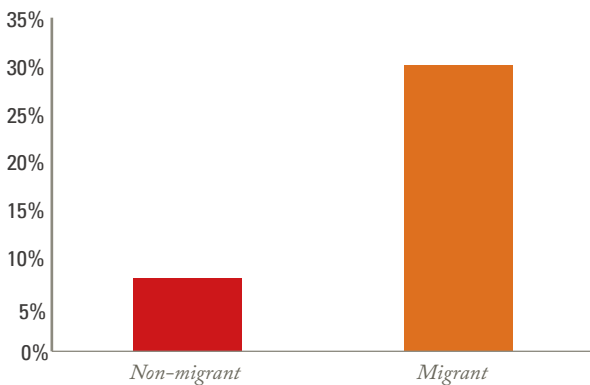


Policy Brief

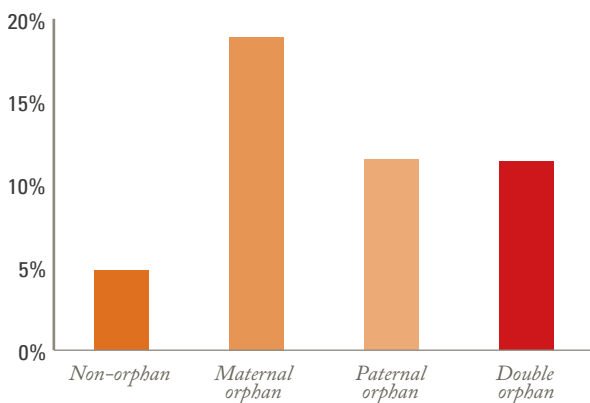
Household mobility and school drop-out in orphans and vulnerable children

Citation: Nyamukapa, C, Robertson, L, Pufall, EL, Mushore, PG, Takaruzza, A, Gregson, S, 2014. *Migration as a risk factor for school drop-out amongst children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS: a prospective study in eastern Zimbabwe*. In preparation.

Percent who dropped out of school



Percent who migrated



Past studies have found that orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV (OVC) in sub-Saharan Africa are at increased risk of moving household and of school drop-out. However, the relationship between child migration and school enrolment has not been established. We conducted secondary analysis of prospective data, collected from 2002–2006, to investigate whether children who recently migrated were at increased risk of dropping out of school. We also investigated associations between orphanhood, type of caregiver and school drop-out, and whether any such associations are explained by an increased risk of migration among affected children.

The questions:

- Are children who move household at increased risk of dropping out of school?
- Does moving household mediate the relationship between orphanhood and school drop-out?

The research:

- 2002–2006: Enrolled and followed up 645 children aged 6–18 as part of a cohort study.
- Included orphaned and non-orphaned children.
- Collected data on type of caregiver, school drop-out and migration.
- All analyses control for age, gender, socio-economic status, and community type.





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Finding 1: Children who moved household were at greater risk of dropping out of school

- 92% of children were enrolled in school at baseline.
- 9% of children had dropped out of school at follow-up.
- Children who moved household were seven times more likely to drop out of school than those who did not move.
- Children who moved to more distant households were the most likely to have dropped out of school.
- Some children may have moved after leaving school.

Finding 2: Greater migration did not result in higher levels of school drop-out in OVC than in non-OVC

- More orphans than non-orphans migrated but the difference was statistically significant only for maternal orphans.
- Whilst higher school drop-out amongst maternal orphans has been found in this population previously, there was no association in the current study period/sample.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The time following moving households is one of high risk for school dropout.
- The relationship between moving households and school drop-out may explain previously observed associations between maternal orphanhood and non-enrolment.
- Interventions are needed to ensure that children who move household are re-enrolled in school.
- It is important to help families understand the negative impact of household mobility and to help reduce household mobility.

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