

# Children at Risk: A Global Overview for 2007

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The situation of millions of children around the world is desperate. They lack access to basic healthcare, education, and even citizenship and birth registration. They are abused, trafficked, and exploited. As Christians, we must raise awareness about these injustices. We need to pray, and we need to take action.

Across the globe, 10.1 million children under age five die every year. That's more than 27,600 children dying every single day.

Furthermore,

- 1.4 billion people live on less than US\$1 a day.
- 3.4 billion people live on less than US\$2 a day.
- 17% of primary school entrants do not reach grade five.
- 1.3 billion adults are functionally illiterate;
- 834 million of these are women.
- 1.1 billion people are without access to improved water sources.
- 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.
- 154 million children under age five are underweight.
- 38.6 million people are living with HIV and AIDS.<sup>1</sup>

Children around the world live in extremely difficult and risky environments. It is estimated that there are:

- 300,000 child soldiers;
- 2.1 million children living with HIV or AIDS;
- 15 million children orphaned by HIV and AIDS;
- 48 million children whose births go unregistered every year;
- 1.2 million children who are trafficked each year;
- 5.7 million children who are involved in forced or bonded labor;
- 13 million internally displaced children and 10 million child refugees;
- Up to 100 million 'missing' girls due to sex-selective abortion and other forms of discrimination against the girl child; and
- 10 to 100 million children living on the streets.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted by Jennifer Orona from McConnell, Orona, and Stockley, eds. 2007. *Understanding God's Heart for Children: Toward a Biblical Framework*. Colorado Springs, CO: Authentic Media, 178. Sources: [State of the World's Children 2007](#); [2007 World Population Data Sheet](#); [World Health Organization 2007](#).

<sup>2</sup> Sources: [Children and Armed Conflict 2006](#); [State of the World's Children 2006](#); [Because I am a Girl: The State of the World's Girls 2007](#).