

Life for Relief and Development (LIFE) Addresses Global Orphan Crisis as Wars and Conflict Escalate

*Millions of Children Are Left to Face
Trauma, Displacement, and Uncertainty*

SOUTHFIELD, MI, UNITED STATES, April 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Armed conflicts and humanitarian emergencies around the world are driving a rapidly expanding orphan crisis, leaving millions of children without one or both parents and exposing them to long-term trauma, instability, and poverty. Humanitarian organizations warn that without sustaining international attention and long-term investment; the number of vulnerable children will continue to rise.

According to the United Nations and UNICEF, an estimated 153 million children worldwide have lost one or

both parents. Many of these children have been orphaned directly or indirectly by war, forced displacement, extreme poverty, disease, and the collapse of essential social systems. While conflicts may be fought on battlefields, their most devastating consequences are often felt in

homes, schools, and communities, where children bear the heaviest burden.

“

When LIFE gave me warm clothes, I felt valued. Being able to go back to school made me very happy.”

Rimas, 12-years old, Syria

In conflict-affected areas, children frequently endure the loss of caregivers, forced displacement, disrupted education, food insecurity, and severe psychological distress. Research consistently shows that exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including violence,



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loss, and deprivation, significantly increases the risk of long-term physical, emotional, and mental health challenges. Globally, nearly one in six children, or approximately 468 million, live in conflict-affected regions where multiple traumatic experiences often occur simultaneously.

Recent conflicts highlight the scope and urgency of the crisis. In Gaza, tens of thousands of children have been killed or injured, and hundreds of thousands have been displaced. Meanwhile, millions of children in countries such as Sudan and Ukraine continue to face severe disruption to their daily lives amid prolonged violence and instability.

Supporting Orphaned Children Around the World

[Life for Relief and Development](#) (LIFE), a U.S.-based global humanitarian organization, supports orphaned children through its [International Orphan Sponsorship Program](#). The program provides financial assistance, education support, access to healthcare, and essential relief supplies to 15,000 orphans across 22 countries worldwide.

Humanitarian experts stress that orphaned children are among the most vulnerable victims of war. Without adequate protection systems, they face heightened risks of exploitation, child labor, early marriage, and recruitment by armed groups.



Life for Relief and Development - Afghanistan - Orphan Sponsorships 2026



Life for Relief and Development - Sierra Leone - Orphan Sponsorships 2026



Life for Relief and Development (LIFE) - Ghana - Orphan Sponsorships 2026

“Orphaned children are among the most overlooked victims of war,” said Dr. Hany Saqr, CEO of LIFE. “When conflict takes the lives of parents, children are left to navigate poverty, trauma, and

uncertainty alone. Long-term support is essential to ensure they have access to education, healthcare, and a stable future.”

Programs that provide consistent financial assistance, education, healthcare, and psychosocial support are critical to restoring stability and improving long-term outcomes, not only for orphaned children, but also for the families and caregivers supporting them.



Life for Relief and Development - Iraq - Orphan Sponsorships 2026

“Behind every statistic is a child who has lost the protection of a parent,” said Ali Al Zaquq, Orphans Program Manager at LIFE. “Ensuring these children receive care, education, and opportunity is not only a humanitarian responsibility, but also an investment in the long-term stability of communities worldwide.”

As conflicts continue across multiple regions, humanitarian organizations are urging governments, institutions, and donors to increase global attention and sustain long-term investment in programs that help orphaned children rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Stories of Hope

Across the 22 countries where LIFE supports orphaned children, many beneficiaries describe profound change, often receiving consistent care for the first time in their lives.

In Afghanistan, Arif recalls a time when daily life was dominated by uncertainty and hunger. “There were many days when we searched for food just to have something to place on our dining mat,” he said. “The support we received from LIFE brought positive change to our lives and helped restore stability for my family.”

In northern Syria, Rimas, a 12-year-old who lost her father during the conflict, was unable to attend school in winter due to a lack of warm clothing. Through LIFE’s orphan sponsorship program, she received a winter clothing kit that allowed her to return to school.

“When LIFE gave me warm clothes, I felt valued,” Rimas said. “Being able to go back to school made me very happy.”

For many orphaned children, returning to school marks the moment they begin to dream again.

In Ghana, another LIFE-sponsored child described how consistent support restored not only access to education, but also confidence and hope for the future.

“Losing my parents made me feel alone and uncertain about my future,” the child shared. “When I was selected for a LIFE sponsorship, I felt like someone finally saw me and believed in me. Now my school fees and books are covered, and I am determined to succeed.”

About Life for Relief and Development

Life for Relief and Development (LIFE), headquartered in Southfield, Michigan, USA, is a global humanitarian relief and development organization committed to providing assistance regardless of race, gender, religion, or cultural background. LIFE is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and holds Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

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