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ADOPTIONS INC.

## Orphan Crisis in Democratic Republic of Congo



The Democratic Republic of Congo has a population of 71 million; in the capitol of Kinshasa 10 million of the residents overflow the streets and shanty towns. Of these 10 million residents it is estimated that 1 million are orphaned children.

### Poverty

Despite being the third largest country in Africa and considered one of the richest in natural resources, holding up to 30% of the world's diamond reserves, DR Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world. With an 80% unemployment rate, malnutrition effects 2/3rds of the population. Due to the widespread poverty, children are literally abandoned in the crowded streets and alley ways.

### Orphanages

While everyone agrees no child should be raised in an orphanage, DR Congo's orphanages, like the country, have very few resources. The orphanages in DR Congo are overflowing and some only offering one meal a day cooked over an open flame outdoors. Some have no windows and no electricity with children sleeping on floors on thin mats when available.



### War

DR Congo has experienced war since August 1998. It is estimated that 5.4 million people have died as a result since the war began and is considered the world's deadliest conflict since WWII. Despite children being 19% of the population they account for 47% of these deaths. While fighting has decreased some 45,000 continue to die each month and an estimated 1.5 million are internally displaced or refugees. Many of the deaths result in preventable illnesses such as malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition. Preventable if resources were available to combat these illnesses.

***Adopting an orphaned child in DR Congo not only offers a child a home and a family, but literally a chance to survive.***

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