



Orphanage Checklist

INTRODUCTION

All children have the right to be raised by their families and should, for their full and harmonious development, be raised in a family environment participating in natural community life.

When vulnerable children in need of support are identified, orphanages should not be the first and only support offered to families and/or children in crisis. All attempts should be made to ensure children can stay with their families or in a substitute family before they are placed in an orphanage.

Orphanages should be a last resort and temporary measure until a family placement can be secured or a child is able to return to their biological family. Using orphanages as a long-term solution can detrimentally affect children therefore should be avoided.

Families should be offered support services to ensure they can fulfill their function as the primary carers of children. Children should never be removed from their families due to poverty, but resources should be directed towards assisting the family and preserving the family unit.

CHECKLIST

As a donor/supporter it is important to know that the orphanage you are supporting is operating legally and following best practice. This includes ensuring that the orphanage is legitimately a last resort option for children and is not actively recruiting children and separating families unnecessarily. The questions below are a starting point to helping you understand how the orphanage is being run and how well it is aligning with best practice. It may be difficult for you to interpret some of the answers given to you, so we suggest you make a note of them so you can check them against government standards and policies often available online or come and talk to ACC I staff about them.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE CHECKLIST?

Asking these questions may raise a lot of new questions such as:

- What do the answers given to me actually mean?
- Should I keep supporting this orphanage?
- How do I best support this orphanage towards aligning with best practice and international law on child rights?
- Who can assist this orphanage with making the required changes?

If you have further questions or would like more information please feel free to contact ACC International Relief. One of our staff would be happy to speak to you or give you further resources to answer your questions.

CHECKLIST

LEGAL REGISTRATION:	
1. Is the orphanage run under a registered organization in your host country?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If no, what reason was given?</i>	
2. Is the orphanage authorized by the relevant social services or child protection Government Ministry/Department to facilitate residential care for children?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If no, what reason was given?</i>	

PRESERVING FAMILIES:	
3. Is the orphanage director aware of the Alternative Care Guidelines and National laws and policies in their host country around alternative care?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>Comments:</i>	
4. Is the orphanage director ensuring that children are not placed in orphanages due to poverty, but that families are able to access the support they need to raise their own children?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, how?</i>	<i>If no, what reason was given?</i>

5. Is the orphanage actively trying to trace family members and reunify families that have been separated?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, how?</i>	<i>If no, what reason was given?</i>
Does the orphanage have a clear gate keeping policy to ensure children are not unnecessarily placed in residential care?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, how?</i>	<i>If no, what reason was given?</i>
6. Does the orphanage have a clear reintegration policy to ensure children are actively being reintegrated into families and only kept in residential for as short a time as possible?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, how?</i>	<i>If no, what reason was given?</i>
7. Does the orphanage explore all family based care options (kinship care, foster care, local adoption, semi independent living) before placing children in the orphanage therefore ensuring the orphanage is used as a last resort and temporary option?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, how?</i>	<i>If no, what reason was given?</i>

STANDARDS OF CARE:**8. Does the orphanage adhere to the minimum standards stipulated by their host Government?** Yes No*If no, what reason was given?***9. Does the orphanage facilitate children to learn life skills (as separate from vocational skills)?** Yes No*If yes, explain?**If no, what reason was given?***10. Does the orphanage have a clear and written child protection policy?** Yes No*If no, what reason was given?***11. Does the orphanage have a clear screening and recruiting process including staff, volunteers and visitors to the orphanage?** Yes No*If yes, what?**If no, what reason was given?*

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY LIFE:

12. Does the orphanage ensure the children are able to engage in community life outside the orphanage through attending community/state schools, participating in community events, develop friendships with families in the community etc?

Yes

No

If yes, explain?

If no, what reason was given?

13. Is the orphanage located within a community or is it separated from the community and isolated?

Yes

No

Comments:

CHILD RIGHTS:

14. Is the orphanage director actively implementing and protecting children’s rights in their approach to care and programs. These rights include:

Yes

No

a. Right to participation in decisions affecting their lives

E.g. Children are involved in deciding their own schedules, meal plans, activities etc.

Yes

No

b. Right to religious freedom

E.g. Children are allowed to continue to participate in the religious events of their choice, and permitted to choose not to participate in religious activities both within and outside of the orphanage.

Yes

No

c. Right to protection, safety and privacy

E.g. The orphanage is fitted with proper locks including on bathroom and bedroom doors. Single sex rooms and adequate facilities to protect privacy whilst changing etc.

Yes

No

d. Right to maintain close relationships with their family and community

E.g. Unrestricted family visits are facilitated and encouraged. Children and parents can initiate phone contact with each other not limited to ‘emergencies’.

Yes

No

If yes, how?

If no, what reason was given?