



## King's Research Portal

DOI:

[10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30144-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30144-3)

*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication record in King's Research Portal](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Frood, S. (2020). Barriers to, and recommendations for, the provision of care and support to children living as AIDS orphans in township communities in South Africa: a cluster analysis. *The Lancet Global Health*, 8(Special Issue 1), S3. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30144-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30144-3)

### **Citing this paper**

Please note that where the full-text provided on King's Research Portal is the Author Accepted Manuscript or Post-Print version this may differ from the final Published version. If citing, it is advised that you check and use the publisher's definitive version for pagination, volume/issue, and date of publication details. And where the final published version is provided on the Research Portal, if citing you are again advised to check the publisher's website for any subsequent corrections.

### **General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the Research Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognize and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the Research Portal

### **Take down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact [librarypure@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:librarypure@kcl.ac.uk) providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



# Barriers to, and recommendations for, the provision of care and support to children living as AIDS orphans in township communities in South Africa: a cluster analysis

Sharron Frood

## Abstract

**Background** Orphanhood is a major consequence of the AIDS pandemic; the total number of people living with HIV in South Africa increased from an estimated 4.72 million in 2002 to 7.03 million by 2017. In South Africa, most children who are orphaned because one or both parents died from AIDS live in township communities. The aim of this study was to identify barriers to, and recommendations for, providing care and support to these vulnerable children.

**Methods** I undertook in-depth interviews with professionals caring for and supporting children who are AIDS orphans at four primary health care clinics and 12 satellite health care clinics in township communities in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa. Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. Primary health care nurses and social workers were selected using criterion-based purposive sampling; snowball sampling was used to select psychologists. I asked participants to make recommendations for how care and support is provided for children who are AIDS orphans living in township communities in South Africa. Data were coded 0 for absent and 1 for present and used the heatmap.2 command in the R package gplots, which uses Euclidean distance to cluster the pattern of participant responses.

**Findings** Between April and October, 2013, ten primary health care nurses, eight social workers, and six psychologists were interviewed. Analysis undertaken in September, 2018, identified six clusters illustrating barriers to providing care and support: fundamental barriers such as low morale in professionals; barriers primarily related to legislative and policy frameworks; lack of human and financial resources; grief, high-risk behaviours, and cumbersome bureaucratic processes; poverty; and barriers related to poverty including non-disclosure of HIV status. Recommendations identified fell into the following broad themes: development of resilience of health and social care professionals; development of responses to meet the unique needs of these AIDS orphans; developing, empowering, and capacitating professionals; and facilitating an empowering working environment.

**Interpretation** Significant clusters emerged from analysis and these identified barriers to, and recommendations for, delivering care could be used to form the cornerstone of an intervention to provide best practice care and support for these vulnerable children.

**Funding** None

**Copyright** © 2020 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an Open Access article under the CC BY 4.0 license.

## Declaration of interests

I declare no competing interests.

Published Online

April 17, 2020

Kings College London,  
London, UK (S Frood PhD)

Correspondence to:

Florence Nightingale Faculty  
of Nursing Midwifery  
and Palliative Care, John Clerk  
Maxwell Building, Kings College  
London, 57 Waterloo Rd,  
London SE18WA, UK  
sharron.frood@kcl.ac.uk