

# **Determinants in provision of optimal nutrition care for orphans and vulnerable children in Kisumu, Kenya**

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## **Abstract**

The impact of Human Immune Deficiency/Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome is evident in the rising numbers of those orphaned by HIV/AIDS. These Orphans and Vulnerable Children affected by HIV/AIDS are stigmatized and often deprived of basic education and care. This study was carried out in Kadibo, Kisumu District. Systematic random sampling was used. 111 households were interviewed and nutritional assessment for 322 children done. Data collection applied both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study found out that among the 322 children who were nutritionally assessed, 26.1% were underweight and 12.7% were wasted. Stunting was also prevalent in the under two years with 12.5%. Pearson's product coefficient correlation showed the existence of relationships between age of household head and wasting ( $r = -0.236$ ,  $p = 0.013$ ). The case was similar with ITN ownership, treatment and food taboos such as restricted intake of some foods during illness, ( $r = 0.213$ ,  $p = 0.025$ ). Probit regression model indicated significant strength of association, between use of leaky tins, latrines, age of household head and main water source with the respective magnitudes of underweight and wasting. The study recommendations include moderation of market food prices and food aid, development of Information, Education and Communication materials with nutrition messages and health promotion.