



Action Strategies for an Orphans and Vulnerable Children Ministry

We must move beyond empathy. Specific action plans need to be developed to meet the holistic needs of those we serve. Consider the following approaches to loving the unloved and unlovable.

- Develop a step-by-step guide for beginning a ministry to orphans and/or vulnerable children.
- Sponsor and encourage presentations of this ministry by professionals or experienced people such as social workers and adoptive or foster parents.
- Seek advocacy by the church leadership, which is critical at the level of church organization.
- Develop strategies for reaching young people (millennials and others) who may have an interest in reaching out to orphans and vulnerable children.
- Ensure that members working with vulnerable children in any capacity meet local community standards for safety. Use professional services for background checks for abuse history as is appropriate and necessary in the local legal and cultural context.
- Develop interaction between churches and professional organizations, and coordinate activities with these organizations in the areas of ministry to orphans and vulnerable children.
- Increase awareness, interest, and advocacy in orphan ministry among church members and leadership.
- Show more interest to vulnerable children. To do so, it is necessary to define this group, identify problems they face, and research solutions that local churches can implement.
- Make sure to keep all volunteers and church members accountable and in compliance with specific qualification requirements.

- Always pay attention to families and encourage them to become “disciplers” of orphan and vulnerable children
- Organize empathy training for church leaders.
- Address either to an orphanage/orphanages in the vicinity or vulnerable children (group of risk families).
- Accept orphans and vulnerable children as they are – instruct the church to avoid misinterpretation of disruptive or troublesome behavior and understand the impact of trauma.
- Be open to all children.
- Seek and encourage leadership from Children’s Ministry Departments at local churches.
- Engage head elders and lay ministers in this ministry.
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- Seek advocacy by the church leadership, which is critical at the level of church organization.
- Develop strategies for reaching young people (millennials and others) who may have an interest and reaching out to other orphans and vulnerable children.
- Ensure that members working with vulnerable children in any capacity meet local community standards for safety through the use of services like background checks for abuse history as is appropriate and necessary in the local legal and cultural context.