

Why so many Orphans?

For countless orphan children across Ukraine, the reality of life is grim and tragic.

A young boy or girl ends up in a state-run orphanage because their parents have died or are too poverty-stricken to take care of them. Still others are taken away from their parents because of abuse, alcoholism or neglect, and placed in an orphanage.

Why? Why are there countless thousands of sweet innocent children with no parents, no home and only a small chance of survival in Ukraine?

More than 10 years ago, the collapse of the Soviet Union, plunged the Eastern Bloc countries into a social and economic chaos. The social welfare system all but collapsed, except for those with money.

Extraordinary rates of unemployment spawned equally shocking percentages of alcoholism rates among Ukrainian men.

While conditions slowly improve, still more than 90% of the population are living at or below the official poverty line which is about US \$50/mo.



In many cases parents have no means by which they can support their children, as they themselves are starving.

These factors have forced thousands of families to make the unfathomable decision to abandon or give their children to boarding schools or orphanages, just to save their lives.