

## 1.5 million children lost parents to Covid-19

During the first 14 months of the pandemic, an estimated 1.5 million children worldwide experienced the death of a parent, custodial grandparent or other relative who cared for them, as a result of Covid-19, according to a study published in The Lancet on Tuesday, (July 20, 2021).

The orphanhood estimates are drawn from mortality data from 21 countries that account for 77% of global Covid-19 deaths and from the United Nations Population Division.

"From every two Covid-19 deaths worldwide, one child is left behind to face the death of a parent or caregiver," Dr. Susan Hillis from the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Covid-19 Response Team, who led the study said in a statement.

The number of Covid-19 orphans will increase as the pandemic progresses, she added.

There is an urgent need to prioritize these children and "support them for many years into the future," Hillis said.

Said study co author Lucie Cluver of Oxford University, "And we need to respond fast because every 12 seconds, a child loses their caregiver to Covid-19." -reuters. com, July 21, 2021