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Assessing Health and Other Conditions among Orphans Living with Extended Families

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ABSTRACT The study explored the health challenges faced by orphans living with extended families. Qualitative research design was used to collect rich descriptive data of orphans on their experiences of living with extended families using exploratory approach. Data were collected using in-depth and focus interviews. The data were analysed thematically by identifying and expanding significant themes that emerged from informants' perceptions. The study revealed that the treatment given to the orphans by some extended families was harsh and sometimes jeopardised their health conditions while others were kind and played parental roles. It was concluded that policy makers and caregivers should highlight the importance of focusing on interventions that will have positive impact on the health and well-being of the orphans and increase support grants for orphans and teenage headed families.