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CONTINUED RAIDS by armed bands of the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), combined with acute food shortages, have triggered an alarming rise in the number of orphans and abandoned children in Mozambique.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), last year "about 10 per cent of children found in the liberated drought zones were on their own; there was no indication of whether their parents were dead or kidnapped by the MNR".