AIDS, Poverty, and Food Security: Challenges for the Next 25 Years

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The Role of Social Science:

- To understand how HIV, AIDS, human behavior, and environment interact to affect human welfare
- To identify cost-effective means of prevention, treatment, and mitigation
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Resistance
Resilience

Behavior
Social conditions
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What do we know about the effectiveness of alternative policies and programmes?

- If Donors Provided an Additional $10 billion to Combat AIDS, how should it be allocated?
  - to ARV treatment?
  - to improved nutrition programs?
  - to agricultural & rural development?
  - to investment in vaccines?
  - to community-driven development programs?
  - to programmes combating alcohol abuse?

......NO ONE REALLY KNOWS

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Overview of Current Understanding

• HIV/AIDS and poverty are mutually reinforcing
  – AIDS exacerbates poverty
  – factors associated with poverty worsen the spread of AIDS
  – Disease, environment and human behavior co-evolve over time

Therefore, the most effective programmatic responses will be three-pronged:

i. Programmes that improve health & nutrition
   e.g., Nutrition, alcohol mitigation, STD programmes

ii. strategies that promote rural poverty reduction
   • broad-based agricultural development (Mellor, Johnston)
   • Agricultural policy and programmes are powerful levers of change.

iii. Strategies addressing gender dimensions
Health and Nutrition Programmes

• Spread of AIDS is co-factored with:
  – STDs: elevates risk of contraction 5-10x
  – Nutritional status
  – Parasite load and other diseases that degrade human immune response
  – Quality of basic health services
  – Male violence, alcoholism
• All associated with poverty

POVERTY RATES ARE CORRELATED WITH LOW AGRICULTURAL INCOMES

Source: O. Badiane
Yet Poverty Reduction Requires More than Just Agricultural Development

- Gender inequities - local institutions/traditions influence resilience
  - Rules governing women’s rights and access to resources
    - e.g. can widows retain land and other productive assets after husband’s death?
    - Findings from nationwide survey in Zambia: about 1/3 of widows lose access to land within 2 years after the death of their husband (Chapoto, Jayne, Mason).
Gender Effects of Mortality on Crop Cultivation

• In Kenya:
  – Death of male head ➔ - 0.9 acre to cash crops (e.g., sugarcane, horticulture)
  – Death of female head ➔ - 1.8 acre to cereals, tubers

Where from here? Major Challenges

1. Improved drug supply chain management
   – Potential for drug resistance:
   – “Adherence” - avoid disruptions in supply chain
   – Traditional supply chain challenges: financing, reliable distributors, matching supply with need
   – Expiration of “old drugs”
   – Very little “adherence” monitoring
   – Stock-outs raise likelihood of mutation

• Most countries in the region are not equipped for second-line drugs
Where from Here? Major Challenges - II

2. Improved Health-Nutrition-Education Programmes
   - Aggressively combat STDs
   - Sexual risk behavior education
   - Condoms
   - Access to basic health care
   - Basic education
   - Nutrition programmes
   - Alcohol “management” programmes

Where from Here? Major Challenges - III

3. Agricultural Development
   - Given the link between poverty and AIDS, improving livelihoods is crucial
   - Agricultural development is pre-condition for sustained and rapid growth in living standards
   - So, focus public resources on investments that catalyze agricultural development (pro-poor)
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Budget allocation to Agricultural Sector in Zambia:

Personnel Emoluments 20%
Operational funds 11%
Irrigation Development 3%
Infrastructure 2%
Food Security Pack & EDRP 12%
Food Reserve Agency Maize Marketing 15%
Fertilizer Support Program 37%

Where from Here? Major Challenges - IV

4. Modify rules governing women’s rights and access to resources
   -- work with communities to recognize that it is in the communities’ interest for widows to retain access to land after husband’s death
   -- Will require shifts in consciousness
   -- Recognition that communities’ resilience to AIDS will require more equality for vulnerable groups
Thank you
Is the Cassava Boom Related to AIDS-related Labor Shortages?

Characteristics of MSU household surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
<th>Year(s) of surveys</th>
<th>Panel or cross-sectional</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>n=420, n=372</td>
<td>1990, 2002</td>
<td>Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>n=4908</td>
<td>2002, 2005</td>
<td>Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>n=1395</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Cross-section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>n=6922</td>
<td>2001, 2004</td>
<td>Panel</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Deceased prime-age males</th>
<th>Deceased prime-age females</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poorest 25%</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>22.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd quartile</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>20.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd quartile</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealthiest 25%</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>27.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Findings


Source: Calculated from Post-Harvest Surveys (CSO)