CARE’s Experiences of Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into Livelihood Security Programming

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Link between Livelihood insecurity and HIV/AIDS

1. Reduction in food & non food production by the ill and care givers.
2. Depletion of productive assets (financial, human, savings).
4. Increased dependency ratio due to more orphans.
5. School drop out
6. Change of HH roles

HOUSEHOLD/Infected
AFFECTED
WITH HIV/AIDS

1. Increased likelihood of HIV/AIDS infection. – Risky actions to get food and money.
2. Faster progression from HIV to AIDS due to poor nutrition and health care.
3. Increased vulnerability.

HOUSEHOLD
AFFECTED
WITH FOOD/ECONOMIC/EDUCATION INSECURITY
How can livelihoods programs support major HIV / AIDS objectives?

Address human capabilities, assets and activities in ways that:

1. Avert new HIV infections among those at risk:
   Eg: Safe access to food and income: income generating activities targeting younger girls

2. Improve quality and length of life for those living with HIV:
   Eg: Nutrition gardens; income to access health care

3. Increase social-economic resilience of those affected:
   Eg: Build assets before illnesses (fruit trees; land tenure)
Multiple Units of Analysis

Start with people, focus on the household:

Then go beyond ‘the household’:
1. intra-HH differences: gender, age, status
2. differences among HHs
3. external influences on livelihoods
Focus on Livelihoods to Achieve HIV and AIDS Objectives

Gender Equity
- Reduce structural power imbalances based on gender

Rights-Based Approach
- Greater influence by marginalized (those affected, ill, at high risk)

Mainstream HIV/AIDS
- Active involvement of those living with, affected by, & at risk of HIV

Focus on Livelihoods Objective
- Safe water, secure sources of income, nutrition and resources/services for vulnerable people

Achieve HIV / AIDS Objectives
- Fewer new HIV infections
- Longer, healthier life with HIV
- Reduced impacts of AIDS
Case of crop diversity

- CARE provides seeds of diverse crops
  - Cash
  - Nutrition
- Training in crop production and post harvest management
- Seed banking – improving local seed access
Case of savings and loans scheme

- Weekly savings, enable women to access loan funds
- Additional savings for ‘emergency’ and assist members afflicted by illness
- Engage in income earning activities
Case of ARVs and food transfer

- In collaboration with others participants access ARVs
- CARE provides food through targeted feeding
- Mothers are encouraged to bring their children for nutrition assessment and immunization
Case of capacity Building of partners

- Traditional Funeral groups (Iddir/ Afosha) transformed to discuss and address HIV/AIDS
  - Preventive
  - Promotion of VCT
  - Care and Support
Capacity building of Partners Cont’d

- Community resource mobilization to address HIV/AIDS impact mitigation (by CBOs)
- CBOs making HIV/AIDS issue their core business, facilitating change in social norms.
- Vocational skills trainings, enabling older OVC and older orphans to earn income
- CBOs adopt by-laws which have positive effects on the livelihoods of those infected and affected.
Capacity Building of Partners Cont’d

CARE

Local NGOs

CBOs

CBOs

- Assistance during suffering – illness & death
- HIV/AIDS awareness
- Income generation activities
- Saving and loans
- Child-friendly corners at Community Resource Center
- Use coffee ceremonies to discuss issues of HIV/AIDS
- HBC
- Bank account for each coalition (5-10 groups)
Challenges

- Some Customs and Traditions
  - Land ownership, property grabbing

- Poor Infrastructure
  - Roads, clinics, markets

- Limited government service provision
  - Access to drugs, extension, high staff turn over
Challenges Cont’d

- Impact of HIV/AIDS objective is measured by measuring livelihoods objectives
  - HIV/AIDS donors do not feel accredited
- Weak referral linkage between Local NGOs and VCT centers
Conclusion

- Adopt an HIV/AIDS lens or ‘chronic illness lens’
- Adopt a livelihoods approach for mainstreaming
- Focus on vulnerability and targeting vulnerable groups and households
- Understand HIV/AIDS stages and the part of the cycle being dealt with
- Provide a basket of options that are mutually supportive
- Develop alliances to broaden interventions and address challenges