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HIV and AIDS REPORTER: focus on AIDS, vulnerability and development 15 August 2006

produced by the [IDS Health and Development Information](#) team
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This is our monthly email bulletin, bringing together research to inform policy debates on HIV and AIDS in developing countries.

The HIV and AIDS Reporter aims to provide readers with a more in-depth look at a particular area of HIV-related policy. This month's theme is on [AIDS, vulnerability and development](#). The bulletin also features summaries of new documents and other additions to the [HIV and AIDS Resource Guide](#).

[Reporter Archive](#) - A reporter archive is now available on the HIV and AIDS Resource Guide. See previous issues of the HIV and AIDS Reporter at <http://www.eldis.org/hiv aids/archive.htm>

All documents listed below are available free on the web. If you are unable to access any of these materials online and would like to receive a copy of a document as an email attachment, please contact i.young@ids.ac.uk.

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Feature: AIDS, vulnerability and development

As the AIDS epidemic has evolved, the need to understand responses in the context of broad development strategies has become clear. On the one hand, successful efforts to prevent the spread of infection and mitigate its impact depend on a variety of social, economic and institutional factors. On the other hand, the AIDS epidemic strongly affects efforts to reduce poverty and reduce the impact of non AIDS-related shocks. The early public health perspective and funding encouraged a vertical approach to HIV and AIDS. As the shortcomings of the vertical approach began to be recognised, there were increasing calls for the response to HIV and AIDS to be integrated with development, gender, and reproductive and sexual health approaches. Yet the development research community was relatively slow to take on board the real implications of the AIDS crisis until quite recently.

Early research and policies were based primarily on an understanding of HIV and AIDS as a medical problem. But standard public health responses were largely not successful. Over 40 million people worldwide are now HIV positive, highlighting the fact that measures to support affected people and their communities require more than medical care. As HIV and AIDS affect all sectors of society, approaches that work across and between sectors are needed to establish and support strategies appropriate for affected communities. New approaches can build on the wealth of experiences that has accumulated. Communities have been living and coping with HIV and AIDS for a long time, and a great deal can be learned from how they have adapted. We need to build on the many lessons that have been learned and find ways to make these lessons widely available.

For more information, see:

- HIV and AIDS Key Issues Guide on [Vulnerability, HIV and AIDS](#)
- A collection of resources from the [UNDP South East Asia HIV and Development Programme](#)

Recommended readings

AIDS: questions for development

Author(s): Edstrom, J.; Turquet, L.; Young, I.

Produced by: Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, UK, 2006

This IDS Policy Briefing assesses past and current efforts to understand AIDS in relation to development and to identify key policy and research gaps. The briefing considers 4 key questions. Can we go beyond the existing frameworks of understanding and tackle the underlying drivers of HIV, in order to break the cycle of transmission more effectively? How should AIDS be analysed in relation to other shocks and livelihood vulnerabilities, to understand the interactions between the virus and development over the long term? In what ways do we need to reconfigure health systems, delivery and access to meet new and future challenges presented by HIV? What are the best ways of harnessing the capacity of governments, civil society, the private sector, researchers and communities to enhance coordination, transparency and accountability in the response to HIV?

The authors argue that researchers, policymakers and practitioners need to learn much more about how development interacts with the evolving and shifting dynamics of HIV through working with affected communities. Development research has enormous potential to make linkages between different approaches, bringing together perspectives on vulnerability, health, governance and rights, as well as promoting cross-cutting solutions. Participatory approaches to development, citizenship

and power are a further fruitful starting point for engagements that support effective local initiatives and advocacy efforts. [adapted from authors]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC20534>

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AIDS and vulnerability: reflections on "long wave" shocks

Author(s): Standing, H.

Produced by: HIV and AIDS Resource Guide, 2005

This background note, for a UNAIDS workshop on AIDS and Vulnerability, considers the research and policy implications and challenges of treating AIDS as a long wave shock. The paper specifically explores: the methodological challenges of studying long wave shocks; the distinctiveness of AIDS; and the policy implications of a focus on long term vulnerabilities. The author compares two other long wave shocks resulting in chronic health conditions: the fall in life expectancy among middle age men after the collapse of the Soviet Union; and the arsenic crisis in Bangladesh. Similar features of these shocks with AIDS include: demographic impacts; injury to social structures; changes in gender relationships; and existential crises.

The author argues that understanding AIDS as a long wave shock opens up the possibility of comparing it to other long wave shocks and learning across them. Consequently, the author calls for a more comparative approach to understand and deal with the vulnerability consequences of HIV and AIDS. Long wave shocks are complex and difficult in policy terms, as they require dealing with multiple dislocations, diverse agencies and very long time lines. The author calls for further research on long wave shocks and policy responses, incorporating a strong citizen participation component. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC20703>

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HIV/AIDS and vulnerability: sundering the bonds of human society?

Author(s): Barnett, T.

Produced by: HIV and AIDS Resource Guide, 2005

This background note, for a UNAIDS workshop on Vulnerability and AIDS, explores how the impact of HIV and AIDS may threaten social development, with major implications for social and political relations at household, community and national level. The paper: describes the nature of HIV and AIDS and why it is a cause for concern; explores the extent of AIDS orphaning; and speculates about the broader implications for public policy and the welfare of children. The author outlines a cycle of AIDS orphaning that results in the basic unit of social structure being threatened, as the bond between grandparents, parents and children is threatened.

The author speculates about two potential future scenarios: the epidemic could place pressure on the state and elite, resulting in authoritarian responses and policies; or, the epidemic elicits a substantial community response, as members work not solely for their own individual welfare, but also for the welfare of their communities and the younger generations. The author highlights the range of possible future scenarios but stresses the importance of not stigmatising orphans of the AIDS epidemic and the need to be careful in describing and discussing the possible implications of this long wave event. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC20707>

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AIDS, vulnerability and social protection

Authors: Devereux, S.; Sabates-Wheeler, R.

Produced by: HIV and AIDS Resource Guide, 2005

This paper, prepared for a UNAIDS workshop on Vulnerability and AIDS, examines the links between HIV, vulnerability and social protection. The paper relates vulnerabilities to and from HIV and AIDS to the emerging social protection agenda and the household, national and global levels. It then sets out a series of received wisdoms about vulnerabilities, HIV and AIDS, and considers their implications for social protection. The authors find that policy responses have consistently underestimated the extent to which AIDS is a livelihoods crisis, requiring support for household and community livelihood activities and not only a health crisis, requiring programmes for prevention treatment and care.

The authors conclude that HIV and AIDS present new and diverse challenges for formal and informal providers of social protection. They argue that since the social and economic impacts of AIDS vary across contexts and over time, social protection responses need to be identified by people living with HIV and AIDS, tailored to locally relevant priorities, and adjusted as conditions change. They also highlight the need for integrated and comprehensive packages that combine support to affected individuals and affected households with community-based and national initiatives. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC20712>

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Mapping made easy: a guide to understanding and responding to HIV vulnerability

Produced by: UNDP-SEAHIV; UNESCO; World Bank, World Food Programme; Family Health International; USAID; IOM; World Vision International, 2004

This document is a step-by-step guide to identifying and understanding spatial links related to HIV vulnerability, aimed at those who work in HIV prevention and AIDS care. Looking at HIV vulnerability is important as it looks beyond responding to high risk behaviours and aims to address the broader issues of response, such as mobility and development. The guide outlines the importance and usefulness of identifying HIV vulnerability and mapping; how to make and use an HIV vulnerability map; and how maps can be used in programme planning. The final section of the guide provides a number of resources, including examples of using HIV vulnerability maps in Vietnam, Cambodia and the Mekong region.

HIV vulnerability maps can be useful in encouraging participation by engaging local and community stakeholders, and by creating a forum for information exchange and knowledge sharing. Mapping can aid capacity building as it provides information for community leaders to address HIV issues with locally designed strategies. Maps can also be used in advocacy, as a tool to educate leaders and organisations at all levels. Finally, maps are an important tool through which multi-sectoral and multi-level cooperation and approaches to HIV can be developed. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC16757>

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Summaries of other documents in the HIV and AIDS Resource Guide

Sexual and reproductive health of women living with HIV/AIDS: guidelines on care, treatment and support for women living with HIV/AIDS and their children in resource-constrained settings

Produced by: UNFPA; WHO / World Health Organization (WHO), 2006

This publication, produced by UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and the WHO (World Health Organization), addresses the specific sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of women living with HIV and AIDS. It includes recommendations for counselling, antiretroviral therapy (ART), care

and other interventions. It is aimed at national-level programme planners and managers responsible for designing HIV programmes and comprehensive SRH services for women. The authors argue that improving women's SRH, treating HIV infections and preventing new ones are important factors in reducing poverty and promoting the social and economic development of communities and countries. SRH services are uniquely positioned to address each of these factors.

The document examines: equity and rights; HIV and sexual health; family planning; termination of pregnancy; pregnancy, birth and postpartum; sexually transmitted infections; and women receiving ART. Key recommendations include: ART for women is an essential component of maternal mortality initiatives and needs to be sensitive to women-specific needs; health care providers should anticipate that women receiving ART may require additional counselling and support to make choices regarding their sexuality and childbearing; the possibility of a planned or unintended pregnancy must be considered when selecting an ART regimen for women; and special efforts to support adherence may be needed during pregnancy, childbirth and shortly after birth. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC22179>

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The potential impact of male circumcision on HIV in sub-Saharan Africa

Author(s): Williams, B.; Lloyd-Smith, J.; Gouws, E.; Hankins, C. et al

Produced by: Public Library of Science Medicine (PLoS Medicine), 2006

This article, from Plos Medicine, considers the findings that male circumcision (MC) reduces sexual transmission of HIV from women to men and explores the implications of this finding for the promotion of MC as a public health intervention to control HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. The results of a mathematical simulation suggest that increasing MC coverage could result in 2 million HIV cases and 0.3 million deaths being avoided over the next ten years. In the ten years after that, a further 3.7 million cases and 2.7 million deaths would be prevented. The initial impact would be in men, but the reduction in the number of HIV-positive men would also lower the risk of women becoming infected. Overall, MC would reduce the rates of infection by about 37 per cent in both female-to-male and male-to-female transmission.

Although their predictions are based on the results of a single study, the authors argue that MC could substantially reduce the burden of HIV in Africa. This is especially true in southern Africa where the prevalence of MC is low but the prevalence of HIV is high. The authors conclude that while the protective benefit to HIV-negative men will be immediate, the full impact of MC on HIV-related illness and death will only be apparent in 10 to 20 years. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC22333>

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Mainstreaming AIDS in development instruments and processes at the national level: a review of experiences

Authors: UNAIDS; UNDP; World Bank

Produced by: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), 2005

This review, from UNAIDS and UNDP, examines the experiences of mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in national development instruments and the technical support provided to national partners. The review focuses on the HIV and AIDS content of national development instruments, the processes of implementation and progress to date, including gaps in technical support. Key issues highlighted in the report include: strengthening links between PRSPs (poverty reduction strategy papers), NAFs (National Action Frameworks), and sector plans; taking AIDS into account in economic and social policy; linking AIDS with poverty-related diseases and other Millennium Development Goal priorities; continuing technical support for mainstreaming; and limited mainstreaming of AIDS among national partners.

The report recommends that country-level actors and technical support providers need to promote

and ensure appropriate coverage of AIDS in PRSP content and other national development instruments. This should include: a more comprehensive analysis of the links between poverty and inequality, gender and AIDS; factoring the implications of AIDS into the design of poverty reduction and growth plans, and economic and social reform programmes; and assessing and planning for the national human and institutional capacities required to achieve the AIDS objectives expressed in PRSPs. The report also recommends focusing on strengthening institutional linkages and accountabilities in national development processes in a range of areas.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC22516>

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Mapping of community home-based care services in five regions of the Tanzania mainland

Produced by: Pathfinder International, 2006

This study, from Pathfinder International, reviews the experiences and challenges of delivering home-based care (HBC) to people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) in five regions of Tanzania. The study also evaluates the effectiveness of community AIDS committees established by local government authorities in supporting Community Home-Based Care (CHBC) programmes, and findings will contribute to efforts to scale up these programmes. The study finds that the demand for HBC far exceeds the supply: many organisations offering HBC tend to cover small geographic areas and offer a limited range of services. The authors argue that there is a need to form coalitions to complement each other's efforts and to improve access to the range of HBC services.

The study makes a number of recommendations. More effort should be made to advocate for and support organisations providing quality HBC. Simple methods of assisting in legal issues should be explored and implemented to help protect the rights of PLWHA in the areas of employment, inheritance, housing and access to resources. Other recommendations include: expenses, including clinic or hospital admission fees, should be waived; each hospital or clinic ward should have an HBC strategy and plan; and strategic networking and coalition building among organisations providing HBC is needed to facilitate a wider range of services. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC22400>

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See the HIV and AIDS Resource Guide for a complete list of new additions at:

www.eldis.org/hiv aids/

See the complete list of new additions, announcements, job adverts at: www.eldis.org/hiv aids/

The HIV and AIDS Reporter is produced by the IDS Health and Development Information team in collaboration with the DFID Health Resource Centre (HRC) and Eldis.

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- Health Resource Guide - www.eldis.org/health
- Health Systems Resource Guide - www.eldis.org/healthsystems
- HIV and AIDS Resource Guide - www.eldis.org/hiv aids/

The HRC provides access to technical assistance and information for the Department for International Development (DFID UK), and its partners, in support of pro-poor health policies as well as health systems, service delivery and public health topics and programmes.

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