Interactions between HIV/AIDS and the Environment: 
A Review of the Evidence and Recommendations for Next Steps

Report Prepared by: 
Susan Bolton and Anna Talman  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington USA

Presented by: 
Ben Piper  
Director, Research & Programs  
KEMRI/University of Washington
Introduction

Objective

• Synthesize the literature on issues associated with HIV/AIDS and the environment
• Identify and discuss examples of interventions to address HIV/AIDS and the environment
• Identify data and knowledge gaps
• Develop a conceptual framework to address the links between HIV/AIDS and the environment
• Suggest next steps for basic and operational research and for improving integrated interventions

• IUCN asked UW to assist in developing report. IPPF and UoN was also involved at various points.
• Focus on E. Africa, however learn from other research areas and provide recommendations that can be applied at different scales and areas.
## Literature review

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type of Publication</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In Peer-Reviewed Journals:</strong></td>
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<td>Original Research</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>Case Study</td>
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<td>Commentary</td>
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<td>Published Guidelines or Tool-kit</td>
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<td>Large Scale Demographic/Health Survey</td>
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<td>Case Study Paper</td>
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Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1—Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
Goal 2—Achieve Universal Primary Education
Goal 3—Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
Goal 4—Reduce Child Mortality
Goal 5—Improve Maternal Health
Goal 6—Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases
Goal 7—Ensure Environmental Sustainability
Goal 8—Develop a Global Partnership for Development
Major Themes Linking HIV/AIDS and the Environment

- Food insecurity
- Natural resource use
- Agriculture and land use
- Fisheries sector practice
- Gender inequality

- OVC
- Migration
- Crisis situations
- Climate change
- Effects of environment interventions on HIV/AIDS
- Workforce and human capacity impacts of HIV/AIDS
A framework for integration of environmental and health programming

Adapted from (Oglethorpe et al. 2008)

ELEMENT 1: Relationship of Environmental Organization to Health/Development Partners

- Work in: Parallel
- Coordinate Efforts
- Integrate Efforts

Increasing operational efficiency

ELEMENT 2: Relationship of Environmental Priorities to Community Health Priorities

- Barter—project addresses community health priorities in exchange for community engagement in key environmental activities
- Entry point—project addresses community health priorities to generate community goodwill towards environmental activities
- Bridge—project addresses community health priorities that are closely related to environmental priorities in hopes that later community will comprehend linkage to environmental protection
- Symbiotic—project addresses health and environmental priorities that are identical for the environmental organization and community, so community goodwill towards environmental protection occurs organically

Increasing degree of conceptual linkage

ELEMENT 3: Level of Integration in Activities, including Communication

- Activities separate by sector
- Separate activities with integrated messages
- Integrated activities with integrated messages

Increasing degree of integration

ELEMENT 4: Level of Integration in Project Indicators and Results

- Indicators and results totally separate by sector
- Indicators and results providing some synergy and benefits to each sector but not strongly linked
- Good synergies and significant benefits between environmental and health sectors

Increasing degree of integration
Core findings

• Three major upstream factors that affect all aspects of the HIV/AIDS-Environment nexus:
  – Social disruption
  – Poverty
  – Gender inequality

• Enhance susceptibility to HIV and increases reliance on ‘free’ ecosystem services
Coping Ability

“Coping ability is a linchpin in the pathway from poverty, gender inequality, and social disruption to HIV.”

– Decreased coping ability makes people and communities more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.
– HIV/AIDS in turn leads to increased dependence on natural resources due to loss of:
  • Labor force
  • Land tenure
  • Traditional knowledge
  • Maintaining previous livelihoods
Linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment at the community level

Global scale issues:
e.g. climate change, urbanization, globalization, macroeconomics

- Social disruption
- Poverty
- Gender inequality

“Cultural” practices
- Food insecurity
- Inadequate shelter
- Inadequate water and sanitation
- Insufficient or unequal access to household assets (including land)
- Lack of access to health services
- Lack of education
- Land tenure insecurity
- Loss of social controls
- Migration/mobility
- Poor health, multi-disease burden
- Power dynamics
- Risk behaviors
- Safety/security issues

Increased vulnerability to HIV

Decreased coping ability

HIV/AIDS

Increased reliance on natural resources

Via: labor shortage, land tenure issues, loss of traditional knowledge, changing land use practice, decreased food yields

Via: resource degradation, unsustainable usage
Linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment at the household level

- Loss of traditional knowledge
- Land tenure insecurity
- Multi-disease burden
- AIDS mortality
- Labor shortage
- Lack of access to health services
- Malnutrition
- Food and water insecurity
- HIV vulnerability, transmission, probability, morbidity
- Risk behaviors
- Migration
- Lack of household resources
- Decreased agriculture output
- Increased natural resource use
- Decreased purchasing power
Effects of climate change on the links between HIV/AIDS and the environment

Climate Change

- Changes in biodiversity
- Changes in ecosystems services
- Natural disasters
- Water insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Increased vector- and water-borne disease
- Changes in land use practice

Environmental degradation

Via social disruption, conflict, migration, increased poverty

Decreased Coping Ability

Risk behaviors

HIV/AIDS

Increased natural resource use

Food and water insecurity
Next steps: the research
HIV/AIDS and the environment

• **Evidence** regarding the success of interventions is **still lacking**

• HIV/AIDS can result in overuse of natural resources?
  – Lacking is documentation of status and trends of the various natural resources and of the extent of use by HIV/AIDS affected households vs. poor households in general
Workshop Outcomes

- Produce evidence supporting addressing HIV and the environment as an integrated topic.
- Identify relationships between environmental condition and HIV/AIDS prevalence.
- Active collaborative group
- Conduct efficacy, effectiveness and operations research
Additional Recommendations

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Upstream determinants of social conflict, poverty and gender inequality
- Identify and measure appropriate ecological indicators.
- Inventories of known medicinal plants
- Pursue additional pharmaceutical and clinical research.
Additional Recommendations

- Food insecurity and HIV/AIDS outcomes
- Land use/land tenure issues
- Food insecurity and human health effects of climate change.
- Research in developing countries.
- Policy Learning!
- HIV/AIDS at the institutional level
Thank you…


Full report available at www.iucn.org

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