Interactions between HIV/AIDS and the Environment

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Outline
Interactions between HIV/AIDS and the Environment

• Introduction and Background
• Paper Presentation
• Core Issues
• Recommendations
• Differences between Environment & HIV field
Interactions between HIV/AIDS and the Environment: A Review of the Evidence and Recommendations for Next Steps

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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.
6,273 articles identified through PubMed and Web of Science searches

225 articles identified through personal communication and other methods

5,586 articles excluded based on title

912 abstracts reviewed

445 articles excluded based on abstract

467 full-text articles reviewed

226 articles excluded based on full-text

241 references included as most pertinent for qualitative review

Flow Chart of Document Inclusion/Exclusion

Literature review
Community Level Linkages between HIV/AIDS and the Environment

- **Social disruption**
  - "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
  - Sexual violence
  - Transactional sex

- **Poverty**
  - Decreased coping ability
  - Increased vulnerability to HIV

- **Gender inequality**

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

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

- **Increased reliance on natural resources**
  - Via: resource degradation, unsustainable usage

- **HIV/AIDS**
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
Major Themes Linking HIV/AIDS and the Environment

- Food insecurity
- Reliance on natural resources
- Agriculture and land use
- Fisheries sector practices
- Migration
- Effects of environment interventions on HIV/AIDS
- Workforce and human capacity effects of HIV/AIDS
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
    • Ability to sustain previous livelihoods
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**

- Does HIV/AIDS result in overuse of natural resources or is it mainly poverty?
  - Little 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!

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Full report available at www.iucn.org

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