

Tanzania Policy Research Paper (PRP)

Title

Baseline Surveys to Determine Factors Leading to HIV/AIDS Transmission

Implementing Agency

Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children

Asian Counterpart

Ministry of Public Health, Department of Disease Control, Thailand

General Information of the PRP

Tanzania is among the countries with the highest prevalence of HIV in the world and the infection rate is rising rapidly. The first three cases of AIDS in Tanzania were reported in 1983. Three years later (1986) all regions of Tanzania reported having AIDS cases which was an indicator that the disease was spreading very fast.

According to the Tanzania HIV/AIDS Indicator Survey (2003 – 2004) seven percent (7%) of Tanzanian adults aged between 15 – 49 years are infected with HIV/AIDS. Prevalence among women is higher (8%) than among men (6%). The HIV/AIDS pandemic however, shows strong regional variation. Regions with highest HIV prevalence in Tanzania are Mbeya (14%), Iringa (13%) and Dar es Salaam (11%). The prevalence rate of HIV in the study area, Morogoro region is 6.7%.

Goal

The goal of the Tanzania PRP is to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country.

Result of the PRP

Intermediate Output

The immediate output of implementation of the PRP which is already in place is a baseline survey report narrating findings and recommendations. It is through the relevant findings and recommendations that guidelines to be used by Local Authorities in the districts, Non governmental Organisations (NGOs) and extension staff shall be developed.

Final Output

The final output will be guidelines which will enable Local Authorities in the districts, Non governmental Organisations (NGOs) and extension staff to formulate relevant interventions geared to address HIV/AIDS related issues as revealed in the baseline survey.

Lessons Learned

There were several lessons learned while designing and implementing the PRP, both by the Asian experts and by the African experts.

- *Tanzanian experts*

While in Thailand, the Tanzanian experts were able to understand the effectiveness of preventive strategies to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular the extensive promotion of condom use and the relevance of knowing one's sero-status. In addition, the group saw the positive effects of the involvement of civil society – NGOs, Faith-based organisations (FBOs) – the important role that support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS can play, and the effectiveness of integrating the treatment of AIDS related reproductive health issues such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and tuberculosis (TB) in management of the disease.

- *Thai experts*

While visiting Tanzania, the Thai partners were able to see the differences between Asian and African cultures and social contexts. These differences exemplified the necessity of creating culturally-specific solutions to enhance development and therefore the importance of knowledge co-creation rather than simply transferring initiatives already in place in Thailand to Tanzania.

Future Plans

JICA should continue supporting the Ministry to ensure the final output of the PRP is accomplished. Guidelines on HIV/AIDS control should be put in place and disseminated for use by the target groups.

Gaps in the two districts must be filled terms of knowledge and practice towards fight against HIV/AIDS, and an extensive awareness should be created on how HIV/AIDS is acquired, transmitted and how it can be prevented. At the same time, campaign on the condom availability and use should be escalated.

Vulnerable groups at risk of getting HIV infection should be identified and then helped. Recreation centres should be established to attract youths away from risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Comments from Asian Partners

The Thai expert from the Ministry of Public Health noted that attention must be focused on primary prevention of the spread of HIV as a first step, and particular programmes must be set up for AIDS orphans. There is a need for multi-sectoral collaboration involving people from community development as well as those from public health and other relevant levels of government. The guidelines formulated must be of use to all people – from national policy level down to grassroots level.

It was also noted that time constraints played a role in limiting the development of the final product – the guidelines – and that this final seminar was not to be the end of the cooperation between the Asian and African partners.

Comments and Questions from Advisory Panel and JICA

Prof. Sakamoto noted that as Thailand had some of the best policies in the world regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and management, the opportunity to benefit from these policies was of particular benefit. He expressed some concern regarding the structure of the of the presentation vis-à-vis the final report and noted that the presentation must follow that of the final report.

Mr. Kato noted that as the final output of the PRP - Guidelines to prevent and manage the spread of HIV/AIDS – was not yet complete, efforts should be made by JICA to continue to support the project to allow this end to be achieved.

Mr. Takenaka observed that as most HIV/AIDS sufferers live in Africa and most of these people participate in a rural, subsistence-based agricultural economy, research must be done into whether appropriate agricultural techniques can play a mitigating role in easing the burden of the disease.

Zimbabwe Policy Research Paper (PRP)

Title

Capacity Building for Agricultural Extension in Zimbabwe

Implementing Agency

Ministry of Agriculture

Asian Counterpart

**National Agricultural Extension and Training Centre, Kasetsart
University, Thailand**

General Information of the PRP

Approximately 70% of Zimbabwe's population lives in rural areas. The majority of this population is smallholder farmers whose primary source of livelihood is agriculture. 60% of these farmers live in semi-arid regions which receive less than 600 mm of rain annually. These areas are prone to frequent droughts, have poor soil fertility and consequently there is poor agricultural productivity and low crop yields leading to chronic food insecurity and increasing poverty.

There is a shortage of skilled manpower in the agricultural sector in general and in particular in agricultural extension. Many new farmers have emerged over recent years and consequently many more agricultural extension workers are needed.

The agricultural extension workers' programme that is in place currently takes three to four years in duration to complete. Given the dearth of extension workers and the relatively lengthy training program, there is a need to broaden the extension services quickly to enable a response to farmers to improve smallholder farming techniques.

Results of the PRP

The final output of the PRP is an operational manual for field extension workers. It is divided into three sections:

- Crops
- Livestock
- Agricultural engineering and economics.

This manual is designed to be user friendly which can be used with minimal training and to suit the needs of the agricultural extension workers in training the farmers.

Lessons Learned

There were lessons learned while designing and implementing the PRP, both by the Asian experts and by the African experts.

While in Thailand, the Zimbabwean experts were able to observe the success of Thailand's vast experience in implementation of agricultural and rural development policies and programs. The farmers are highly knowledgeable about their production systems and the importance of the link between the political system, the agricultural research and extension systems and farming systems was highlighted.

While in Zimbabwe, the differences in the Asian and African contexts were highlighted to the Thai partners. The climatic conditions are very different between the two countries and an operational manual would have to take this into consideration. This difference will therefore make it difficult to exchange crop varieties. In addition, some Asian farming technologies require sophisticated equipment and machinery which is not available in Zimbabwe. The modification of these techniques would also have to be considered in the manual.

There is need for close collaboration between research and extension institutions and farmers. In order to have some impact on poverty reduction, diversification of crops and value addition at the farm level are imperative.

Incorporation of Asian knowledge and experiences can enhance rural development and economic development in general, but another important factor would be the continued interaction and collaboration for extensive knowledge co-creation.

Agricultural and rural development policies and programs need full political backing to yield good results.

Asian initiatives, especially the lead farmer concept can be the benchmark for Rural Community Development in Zimbabwe if fully adopted and implemented.

Future Plans

Copies of the manual will need to be printed and distributed amongst agricultural extension workers. The manual should contain a feedback mechanism, such as a questionnaire, attached to the manual as an annex. This needs to be first done in the project area before it can be distributed in other parts of the country. A proposal is to be sent to the Office of the Treasury in Zimbabwe for funding to replicate this

project in other parts of the country and a local university will be engaged as a partner for agricultural extension in Masvingo Province.

Comments from Asian partner organisation

The Thai expert from Kasetsart University noted that there were four steps to successful implementation of development projects.

- Comprehension and understanding of the problem to be addressed
- The tools provided must be replicable in the context they are needed
- An analysis of the success or failure of the intervention must take place
- A synthesis of the entire experience must occur in order to learn from the experience and render it successful eventually

It was also recognized that as most Thai agricultural extension workers are holders of Bachelor's degrees and Zimbabwean extension workers have diplomas or certificates, aspects of the Thai manual had to be modified to suit the Zimbabwean context.

It was also recommended that the manual be field tested before being put into wider distribution, and that a community seed bank and technology centre would be of great use.

Comments and Questions from Advisory Panel and JICA

Prof. Kodamaya

Comments

There was concern that although the purpose of the manual was to enhance the capacity of the agricultural extension worker, in reality it did not fulfil institutional knowledge capacity within extension workers as it is purely operational.

The manual does not contain information on maize varieties in Zimbabwe and as this is one of the most important crops this information is necessary.

In addition, there is information in the manual on wheat production – this might not be of enormous benefit to the smallholder farmer in Zimbabwe.

General comments

The manual needs to be rigorously field tested and modified to suit the Zimbabwean context. The future plans for agricultural extension improvement in Zimbabwe should include actually enhancing the capacity of the extension worker with permanent institutional knowledge, not temporary operational knowledge.

Special Seminar 2

Asia-Africa Cooperation in Practice

The Case of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

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Background

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was founded in 1971 as an instrument to help achieve the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. UNCRD Africa was created in 1992 with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya to assist African countries in their endeavors to design and implement effective regional (sub-national) development policies and programmes. UNCRD was created by an agreement between the UN and the Government of Japan, and has worked to promote the following objectives for more than thirty years:

- Serve as a training and research centre in regional development;
- Provide advisory services in regional development;
- Assist developing countries in promoting the exchange of information, experience, and teaching in regional development; and
- Assist and cooperate with other organizations, national or international, concerned with regional development.

To meet these goals, the Centre targets its programmes towards socially and environmentally sustainable development. The three multidisciplinary themes of human security, environment, and disaster management serve as a guide for the Centre's training and research activities.

Training and Research Activities - UNCRD Africa Office

The UNCRD Africa Office concentrates on human resource capacity building. Research is never carried out for the sake of “research”. Current problems in the region are identified and research is carried out which is relevant to the particular issue. The Africa Office develops Country Case Studies and Case Materials which are used as text books and training materials during training sessions.

One of the activities which take place every year is a Senior Policy Seminar. This seminar is organized to give senior policy makers in Africa and Asia the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on current and emerging issues in regional development. The theme of the seminar changes every year. Last year’s seminar was entitled “Citizen-government dialoguing for Pro-Poor Policies and Evaluating Public Policies for Poverty Reduction: Tools, Techniques and Processes”. The seminar was organized in partnership with the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Kenya (GoK). This year the seminar will be entitled “Development of Socio-Economic Indicators for Performance Monitoring at the Local and National Levels” and will be held in December 2006. This seminar will take place at the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) which is housed at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Juja, Kenya.

UNCRD Africa – Training Programmes

Two types of training programmes are conducted by UNCRD. These are the Africa Training Course (ATC) on local and regional development planning and management, and in-country training courses.

The ATC is organized every year for 5 weeks in Nairobi, Kenya. Approximately 30 mid-career regional planners from 12 African countries attend the course. The course operates as a Training of Trainers (TOT) session and focuses on the training of individuals who are then capable of returning to their countries and further training other relevant parties. IN addition, the course has established a network of alumni (ATC Alumni Association), which aims to provide a forum for exchanging information for those professionals who have attended the course. This year’s course was held in February 2006 and had participants from all over Africa. The table below illustrates the course’s participation history over the last 11 years.

Professional Planners Trained through ATC, 1995-2006

Year	Number Trained	Total	Men (%)	Women (%)	Countries
1995	19	19	14 (74)	5 (26)	13
1996	22	41	15 (68)	7 (32)	14
1997	31	72	24 (77)	7 (23)	16
1998	28	100	19 (68)	9 (32)	14
1999	31	131	24 (77)	7 (23)	15
2000	33	164	21 (64)	11 (36)	14
2001	28	192	25 (86)	3 (14)	14
2003	24	216	20 (83)	4 (17)	11
2004	21	237	16 (65)	5 (35)	12
2005	26	263	17 (76)	9 (24)	11
2006	29	292	19 (66)	10 (34)	12

In-Country Training Programmes

The in-country training programmes are designed to supplement the international training course and are tailor-made courses for a specific country or region with focus on particular issue or topic. To date, successful in-country training programmes have been undertaken in Kenya, Ethiopia and Namibia.

In Kenya, UNCRD is involved in capacity building and the preparation of Regional Plans for the Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority, Kwale District and Mombasa Mainland South, Nyandarua District and the Nairobi City Council. In Ethiopia, UNCRD supports the regional government of Oromia by training its planners on project planning and management, participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and data collection and analysis. In Namibia, UNCRD supports the government in its regional development and decentralization programmes. In the future, UNCRD is planning to expand its training programmes to Botswana, Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania.

UNCRD Africa-Asia Exchange Programme

This programme is designed to create and strengthen links between African and Asian research and training institutions and to promote south-south collaboration. The rationale for south-south cooperation being more advantageous than north-south cooperation is that Africa and Asia developmental similarities and their capacities and resources are often complementary and exist at relatively close levels of development. The revolution in information technology has also created opportunities that make collaboration between these two regions comparatively simple. More specifically, the programme is designed to:

- To involve Asian scholars and policy-makers in ATCs;
- To provide a forum for Asian and African regional planners and scholars to exchange information and experiences through our policy seminars; and
- To collaborate with Asian counterparts to organize training programmes in Asian countries.

Since its inception, participants from all over Asia and Africa have attended various courses and have had opportunities to visit different Asian and African countries.

A new project is under development entitled “Africa-Asia Cooperation in Local Governance”. The project is initiated by:

- Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, (SU/TCDC), UNDP
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA);
- United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD);
- In Collaboration with African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD);and
- Japan International Cooperation (JICA)

The objectives of the project are to:

- Train African & Asian planners on decentralized governance;
- Build the institutional capacity of training and research institutions of participating counties on decentralized governance;
- Create institutional linkages between African and Asian local governance institutions; and
- Create a forum for African and Asian policymakers to discuss what constitutes good practices in local governance.

The philosophy of UNCRD is best summed up by the following idea:

“Through visionary thinking, proper identification of their comparative advantage, meticulous planning and relentless implementation, Asian countries has transformed themselves from a poor underdeveloped country to industrialized countries. In the case of Singapore and Malaysia, they have also developed into important financial hubs in the world economy. These policies and achievements hold valuable lessons for African countries”.
