

Investigating the Linkages between HIV/AIDS and Environment

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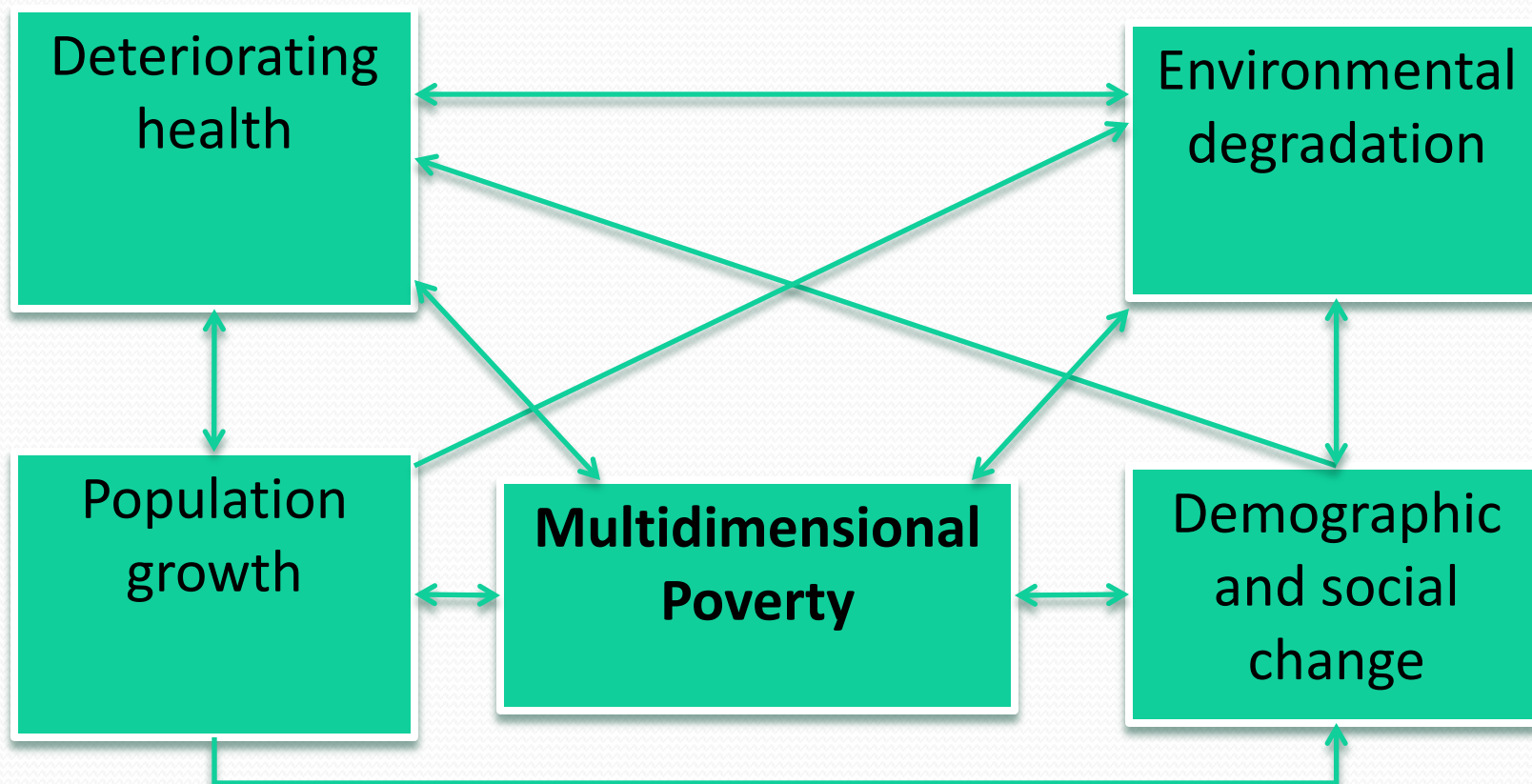
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- Conceptual link between Population, Health and Environment
- Emerging themes linking HIV/AIDS and the Environment
- HIV/AIDS and Environment: What are the linkages?
- How can environment sector respond?
- Current Gaps
- Next Step in Addressing HIV & Environment
- Recommendations for stakeholders

Introduction

- The last decade have seen an increase in the awareness of & interest in the complex interactions among PHE
- More recently, an increase in awareness of linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment
- Studies have been conducted to untangle the impacts of HIV/AIDS on the environment
- The connections between HIV/AIDS & the environment are subtle, bi-directional & involve direct and in-direct pathways
- With high population of adults (15 – 64 years) infected with HIV in developing countries,
 - Dependence on the natural environment is likely to increase
 - Depletion of the available resources is likely to increase

Interactions between HIV/AIDS and the environment



Emerging themes linking HIV/AIDS and Environment

- Food Insecurity
- Natural Resource Use
- Agriculture and land use
- Gender Inequality
- Orphans & Vulnerable children
- Migration
- Climate change
- Work force & human capacity impacts of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS and Environment; what are the linkages?

- Direct impact thro' over use of Natural resources
- Access to resources and land
- Loss of traditional knowledge
- Loss of human capacity
- Loss of leadership and capacity for CBNRM
- Diversion of conservation funds to HIV/AIDS related work

How can environment sector respond?

- Using Conservation work/Natural environment to respond to HIV/AIDS challenges- positive.
- Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into conservation and development work; HIV and AIDS planning and interventions become part of the normal routine functions and core business of the conservation sector in both the internal and external environment.
- HIV/AIDS should be aligned with the core business of governments and organisations.



Photo Credit: David Huberman (IUCN)

Current Gaps

- Research: Inadequate research on the linkages – especially evidence based research to provide platform for program development
- Weak evidence related to intervention: successful intervention e.g. that tackles twin issues of HIV/AIDS and conservation is still lacking
- Platform: Limited networks/ forums that bring together conservation and health experts

Next Step in Addressing HIV & Environment

- Priority research areas
 - Compare prevalence & interactions btw HIV/AIDS & the environment across different types of conservation areas
 - Use district level data to correlate environmental conditions and prevalence of HIV/AIDS
 - Clarifying the relationship between HIV/AIDS & livelihood security
 - Policy analysis: identify where policy is creating negative effects on HIV/AIDS-environment interactions
 - Track funding stream in the conservation, climate change and HIV/AIDS arenas

Next Step in Addressing HIV & Environment

- Priority intervention areas?
 - Analyze existing models of implementing integrated HIV/environment interventions seeking evidence based practical interventions
 - Build capacity at local levels
 - Constitute a networks of interested HIV and environmentally focused CBOs and create clearing house/ resource center for information sharing

IUCN & IPPF Intervention

- Implementing project in Northern Kenya that explores wider field of interactions between PH& sustainable Env'tal Mgt
- Generate experience and bring the lessons into policy dialogue from local to national level
- Work through local communities & local government to strengthen the institutional arrangements for integrating PHE
- The intervention will identify practical options for synergy between health & environment

Recommendations for Stakeholders

- Policy: establish government policy that support an integrated approach to HIV/AIDS and Environment
- Resources: Dedicate resources to support mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into Environment and Development work
- Research: support research work on HIV/AIDS and environment linkages/interventions

Thinking Differently

“It is important to realize that we all work in a context more or less affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and analyze whether consequently we need to adapt our activities to this reality. It means thinking differently, wearing AIDS glasses” – Claire Ogali

Useful links

- AfricaPHE@prb.org
- <http://www.k4health.org/toolkits/phe/>
- www.prb.org
- www.iucn.org
- www.abcg.org



THANK YOU

Group work

- Policy
- Resource
- Research
- Growing the network