



A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

How does HIV affect livelihoods?



Why use this activity?

This exercise helps people to understand how HIV can affect people's livelihoods.



A brief description

It uses pictures and discussion questions to help people to think through the relationship between HIV and livelihoods.



You will need

Four large pieces of paper either stuck onto a wall or placed on the ground.



Time taken

Typically one to two hours.



What to do

Draw picture 1:



With the involvement of the group, draw a house and a compound of a typical family in the community that has good resources and assets (for example, a house, animals, fields that are planted, a stream or water source, family members, children going to school, church involved, etc).

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene

A2 HOW DOES HIV AFFECT LIVELIHOODS?

Draw picture 2:



Next, explain that the father in the family has become sick and can no longer work.

Ask what is the impact on the family? Draw a second picture, and **ask** how each asset is impacted by the father's illness.

Draw picture 3:



Explain that the father has now died. (Draw a gravestone.) And Mum has now become sick. With the help of the group, **draw** the impact of this on the family home. How have the fields, animals, house, children, church involvement etc been impacted by the father's death and mother's illness?

Draw picture 4:



Say that Mum has now died.

Ask what is the impact on the children and on their ability to survive?

Discussion

- Which are the ways that HIV can affect people's livelihoods in our communities?
- Which livelihoods make people more vulnerable to becoming infected with HIV?

Share and summarise people's answers to the two questions. Conclude by emphasising the two-way relationship between HIV and livelihoods:

- Illness and death (associated with HIV) can have a severe impact on a families' livelihood.
- Some livelihoods can increase people's risk of contracting HIV. (See below for more information.)

A2 HOW DOES HIV AFFECT LIVELIHOODS?



Notes

This activity is taken from: Tearfund and Samaritan’s Purse UK (2011) *Think livelihoods! A facilitator’s manual for applying a livelihoods lens when working with people, households and communities affected by HIV* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/themes/hiv/sustainable_livelihoods/



Finding out more

- Tearfund and Samaritan’s Purse UK (2011) *Think livelihoods! A facilitator’s manual for applying a livelihoods lens when working with people, households and communities affected by HIV* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/themes/hiv/sustainable_livelihoods/
- Tearfund (2009) *Guardians of our children’s health (GOOCH)* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/themes/hiv/preventing_parent-to-child_transmission/gooch/?d=1%3Fd%3D1
- Tearfund (2011) *HIV and your community: a facilitator’s supplementary guide to Umoja* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/themes/hiv/church_mobilisation_on_hiv_issues/

Related tools

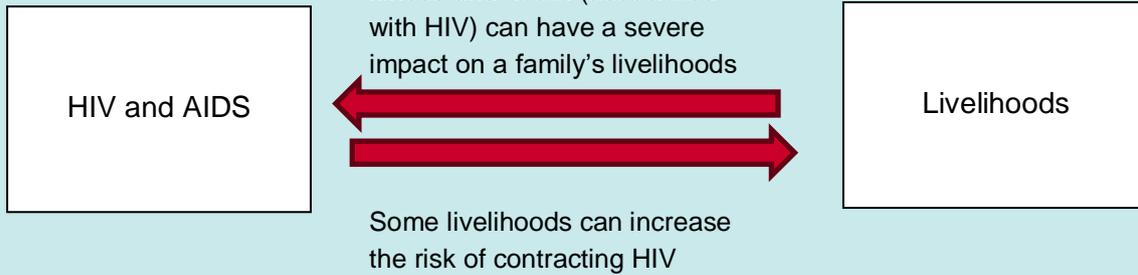
- A1 – Revealing HIV: information for facilitators [A1: Health & HIV-1]
- A2 – HIV testing and counselling [A2: Health & HIV-1]
- A2 – How HIV spreads [A2: Health & HIV-2]
- A2 – Tackling HIV stigma [A2: Health & HIV-3]
- B – Attitudes towards disease and difference (Bible study) [B: Discrimination & inclusion-1]
- B – Loving the outcast (Bible study) [B: Discrimination & inclusion-2]
- B – Caring for widows and orphans (Bible study) [B: Discrimination & inclusion-3]
- B – HIV and AIDS and the glory of God (Bible study) [B: Health & HIV-1]

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peace-building
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
Migration & trafficking
Water, sanitation & hygiene

A2 HOW DOES HIV AFFECT LIVELIHOODS?

How HIV can affect people’s livelihoods

A two-way relationship



A person living with HIV may have a healthy life for many years before repeated, chronic illness associated with AIDS may set in. But this period of healthy living tends to be shorter for those with insecure livelihoods. This is because of poor nutrition, poor access to health care, poor access to support from others and the stress caused by struggling to survive.

When livelihoods are secure, people, households and communities are better able to cope with the various impacts of HIV.

Labour shortages

As a person becomes ill, their labour and skills are less available to the household. Healthy family members have to use their time and energy to care for the ill person, leaving less time for livelihood activities. Children may be pulled out of school to work, affecting their education.

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peace-building
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
Migration & trafficking
Water, sanitation & hygiene

A2 HOW DOES HIV AFFECT LIVELIHOODS?

Loss of knowledge and skills
 If parents die early (due to AIDS-related illnesses), life and livelihood skills, including agricultural knowledge, are not passed on to the next generation. This leaves a young population poorly equipped to cultivate their land and support their own families.

Food insecurity
 Less work frequently means less food on the table for all members of the household.

Loss of assets
 Widows and orphans may have land, houses and other assets taken away through property grabbing after the death of a husband/father.

Social changes
 Families with serious health problems may find their social networks weakening if they need considerable ongoing support due to the cumulative impact of HIV. Stigma may also bring isolation from others. Social structures may change, with more female-, elderly- and child-headed households.

Institutions and services weakened
 Education, health, agricultural and social services all suffer due to illness and death related to HIV. If staff are absent due to sickness or caring for ill family members, the quantity and quality of services provided by these institutions are reduced. Remaining staff have to cover for their colleagues' absence, increasing their own workloads and reducing service quality.

Environmental damage
 Families affected by HIV may continue to have access to assets such as water, land or forest resources, but may be unable to use them responsibly. As poverty becomes more intense and people have fewer income options because of HIV, the local environment can be over-exploited and degraded due to over-grazing near the village or tree-cutting for sale as fuel wood or charcoal.

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peace-building
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
Migration & trafficking
Water, sanitation & hygiene