



**RENEWAL Regional Workshop**  
**A Decade of Work on HIV, Food and Nutrition Security**  
*The Protea Breakwater Lodge, Waterfront, Cape Town South Africa*  
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**Workshop Report**

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## **1.0 Overview of RENEWAL**

Many people in sub-Saharan Africa continue to struggle with a prolonged livelihoods crisis. A complex array of factors and processes underpin and drive this crisis – with the bidirectional relationship between food insecurity and the AIDS epidemic prominent amongst them. With support from several donors, the Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL), a regional “network-of-networks” operating across southern and eastern Africa, has focused on this relationship since 2001. RENEWAL’s agenda has been to enhance understanding of the intersections and links between HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security, and to facilitate the development of comprehensive interventions. RENEWAL comprises national networks of agriculture, food and nutrition-relevant organizations together with partners in AIDS and public health with focal points in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa. RENEWAL is both a network and a process, with the process of network development being viewed as both a means and an end. The aim is to enhance and sustain impact through pro-actively establishing links between locally prioritized research, capacity strengthening and policy communications. Further details on RENEWAL can be found here: [www.ifpri.org/renewal](http://www.ifpri.org/renewal)

As the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of RENEWAL drew to a close in December 2010, a planned transition process and internal review has been undertaken with a focus on gaps in knowledge and emerging debates and opportunities. As part of this process, a final regional workshop was held in November in Cape Town to review and reflect on successes, challenges and lessons learned through nearly a decade of RENEWAL’s work. During this workshop, widespread support for continuing with certain RENEWAL work streams emerged– namely, a renewed emphasis on networking for social change, getting research into policy and practice and continuing interrogation of some key research issues.

## **2.0 Objectives of the Workshop**

The objectives of the workshop were to: review the work of RENEWAL over the past nine years; showcase some of the most recent research findings; stimulate discussion amongst participants; identify research gaps in HIV/AIDS, food and nutrition security; reflect on the network processes of RENEWAL; and discuss what a fourth phase RENEWAL could become. It was intended to be a celebration of successes as well as a space to reflect on RENEWAL’s learning and challenges from the last nine years. The proceedings were designed to provide opportunities for participants to network, learn from one another and provide input to strategies for moving forward with RENEWAL.

Scott Drimie opened the workshop by welcoming participants and inviting them to celebrate the successes and explore the challenges faced by RENEWAL in the past, present and future. Scott outlined the learning and experiential objectives of the workshop, highlighting that it was to be an opportunity to both reflect on the past work and think about the future, to use the lessons learnt as a foundation for what comes next. He asked participants to think about their own experiences with RENEWAL. To this end, a short reflective questionnaire was distributed to participants wherein they were asked to articulate: their own history with RENEWAL; key personal learning that has resulted from this work; and what they hoped to gain from participating in the workshop. This exercise was intended to personalize the workshop for participants and facilitate meaningful participation and engagement throughout the three days.

### **3.0 Workshop Highlights and Key Issues**

For more information about the RENEWAL studies and to see the Power Points presented at this workshop, go to: [www.ifpri.org/renewal](http://www.ifpri.org/renewal)

#### *3.1 Renewal Retrospective*

This session began with an overview of the history of the development of RENEWAL, and of how the HIV/AIDS research agenda has broadened in the last decade to include social determinants. RENEWAL's decision early on to focus on livelihoods, food security and HIV/AIDS led to the development of the three core pillars approach: Action Research; Communications; and Strengthening Capacity, as well as a network approach amongst regional partners. Current understanding of the epidemic in Southern and Eastern Africa can be focused on three coexisting or 'interacting' crises: HIV/AIDS, malnutrition and livelihood and food insecurity.

The World Food Program (WFP) included a retrospective of the organization's development and shift in approach to food aid away from strictly food aid and towards supporting the development of sustainable local food systems. As clients of RENEWAL, they would like to participate in developing appropriate and applicable research themes. NEPAD also shared lessons, questions and concerns about getting research into policy and practice, particularly focusing on the challenge of crossing government and sector-based silos with the HIV, food and nutrition security agenda. They asked important questions about: processes of knowledge translation; who the users of knowledge are; how it should be packaged; and what platforms should be used to inform and communicate this knowledge.

The subsequent plenary discussion focused on a number of key issues including: how to navigate and influence future donor priorities; understanding the changing role of development partners in getting research into policy and practice; challenges and strategies for uptake of research results and related policy decisions into practice (implementation); issues of sustainable development for comprehensive policy interventions addressing food and nutrition security; and strategies for influencing the research to policy process. A large part of the discussion in this session focused on this issue, and it remained a theme throughout the workshop. A number of strategies were discussed, including: south-south collaboration; use of appropriate sector 'language'; timing; entry point and/or champion; and the need to situate research findings in line with existing government mandates and budgetary commitments.

#### *3.2 HIV and Nutrition Security*

##### Presentation Highlights:

Studies presented explored the relationship between HIV/AIDS and food/nutrition security as well as pathways between under nutrition, household food security, BMI and other covariates. Research raised new questions about: timing of support, sustainability, how to support development of sustainable local food systems. Findings from a study of the 'group approach' for integrated HIV/AIDS and livelihood programming were presented. It was found that the group is the focal point for material and intellectual inputs of these programs, brings psycho-social and motivational benefits, empowering people to access HIV services and handling stigma and economic benefits through the pooling of labour, resources and peer support. However, it needs to be set against the

costs of membership (i.e. money, goods or labour) and the challenge of stigma because of public declaration of status. Lessons learned from these studies indicated that there is a need for evaluation and measurement, intervention research and the development of simple, focused and effective interventions. It was pointed out that existing intervention research has raised many questions that could be answered through partnerships with institutional programming partners in lieu or in conjunction with academic research studies.

#### Discussion Highlights:

Participants were involved in a lively discussion following the presentations. There were a number of questions pertaining to specific study details such as methodologies and approaches used. Questions included exploration of nutrition needs of wealthier quartiles, gender analysis and how to measure impact in complex interventions. Discussion of research approaches included the importance of participatory research as both a strategy for getting results taken up by policy makers and in developing context-relevant research. There was some conversation about the need to build sustainable local food systems. Finally, the large part of the discussion was centered on issues of research uptake into policy including: means of communication; agency and engagement of researchers and government partners; and relationship building between research, civil society, policy makers.

### *3.3 Social Protection, HIV and Children*

#### Presentation Highlights:

Three diverse presentations explored issues of social protection, HIV and Children. The idea of the “new variant famine”, as coined by Alex De waal and Alan Whiteside eight years ago to describe the intersection between AIDS and food security that is increasing vulnerability in the region, was introduced. RENEWAL’s role was described as having been about identifying resilience and social protection in this context and asking how can social protection move towards being transformational. This has led to some success in policy outreach, demonstrated by language and issue uptake in relevant sectors. A proposed study was presented that will explore some of the complex issues around cash transfers as a social protection strategy. This conditional cash transfer for young women’s education incorporates contextual risk factors and the need to mobilize community support to change social norms. Questions were raised about how to scale-up successful intervention research. A World Food Program example of a mobile (web-based) cash transfers for food purchase program raised related questions around scaling-up, designing replicable programs and getting research into policy and practice. Aligning intervention research with existing government interests was articulated as a strategy for optimal policy impact. The importance of supporting local food systems, economic and infrastructure development was also emphasized.

#### Discussion Highlights:

Participants were keen to learn from one another, and had a number of research specific, logistical, ethical questions for presenters. Lively discussion also expanded to debate around some key conceptual and theoretical elements of the studies, in particular to the conditional cash transfer study. Participatory and community-based research strategies were discussed, with elaboration on elements of a ‘research smart’ community and the importance of meaningful community partnership and engagement. The discussion then focused on strategies for getting research into policy and practice, which included highlighting long-term economic impacts of social protection interventions to

provide incentives to governments to 'invest'. Scaling up was also a focus of discussion, particularly about how to design 'replicable' interventions and 'percolate' the policy arena enough to have evidence included in programming decisions.

### *3.4 Presentations of Group Synthesis Work*

At the end of the first day, participants were asked to spend one hour in small groups discussing key issues in HIV and Nutrition Security or Social Protection, HIV and Children.

#### HIV and Nutrition Security Groups:

Key issues articulated in this area were: fragmentation of nutritional policy interventions; issues around ownership of information (in research); a need for scaling-up of best practices. The following recommendations were made for translating research outputs into policy action:

- Summarize key issues for policy makers, i.e. policy briefs
- Identify local newsletters/papers, that could be used to communicate research findings to stakeholders
- Build strong relationships between government and research institutions
- Develop a database of good researchers who are doing this kind of work
- Needs to go beyond advocacy: give the evidence and support people to understand it

In addition, the following research gaps were articulated: mothers, young children, adolescents; HIV and quality of food; nutrition needed for HIV infected without ART; ART and nutrition rehabilitation; nutrition for infected and affected; household nutrition; and pathways between household nutrition and resilience and vulnerability.

#### Social Protection, HIV and Children:

Discussion focused on the importance of understanding context of social protection, i.e. In an African context social protection is a social responsibility issue informed by cultural norms. The following ideas and challenges for research and best practices dissemination were articulated:

- Example of the Malawi AIDS Council: invites researchers to a symposium where they discuss and synthesize ideas with the participation of government partners
- Promote government ownership and leadership in research
- Importance of partnerships in the context of an ineffective state
- Importance of presenting evidence in language relevant to policy makers and aligned to priorities in their national strategic plans

In addition, the following 'lessons learned' about promoting multi-sectoral collaboration were articulated. It is a process that needs:

- Strong leadership
- Time, patience and understanding. Because success in academia is traditionally measured by other kinds of outputs, such as research publications, engaging this type of action may require some 'convincing' of donors and research institutions.
- Continued opportunities for networking, regional meetings and exchanges

### *3.5 AIDS and Agricultural Extension*

#### Presentation Highlights

Two complementary presentations explored a variety of issues related to HIV/AIDS and agricultural extension work in Zambia and Malawi. In both countries the high vacancy rate of agricultural extension workers due to HIV/AIDS is of primary concern. In Zambia, extension workers are dying because of AIDS, which is affecting the effectiveness and efficiency of the broader system by overburdening remaining extension staff and increasing operational costs. In Malawi, there is a high emphasis on vacancy rate (46%) but also on how it is compromising the ability of remaining staff to deliver services. The government has responded with a problematic strategy of recruiting unqualified staff. The following issues for policy consideration emerged: need for sector-wide HIV responsive capacity development; existing research gap in the relationship between HIV and agricultural extension work; and community empowerment to facilitate knowledge dissemination, particularly amongst vulnerable households.

#### Discussion Highlights

A lively discussion ensued about the failure of workplace policies and HIV mainstreaming to change individual behaviour. Participants discussed the gap in HIV knowledge for agricultural extension workers but also expanded the analysis to discuss what is needed beyond comprehensive HIV knowledge to address vulnerability. It was suggested that more research is needed to assess determinants of vulnerability of agricultural extension staff. In addition, it was suggested that development of research in this area should ensure participation of Ministry of Agriculture, as it would positively impact uptake of results.

### *3.6 HIV and Urban-Rural Linkages in Southern Africa*

#### Presentation Highlights

Migration was described as at the centre of the intersection between urban and rural livelihoods. The current migrant system in Southern and Eastern Africa is exposing rural areas to HIV as migrants are interlinked between two places; and this system involves complex reciprocal relationships. Two types of urban-rural migration were identified: permanent (often social, for marriage and traditionally women) and temporary or circular (for work, traditionally men, but increasingly women as well). In temporary migration, links to one place are retained as individuals move around in search of work. There are a number of vulnerabilities associated with circular migration, for both the migrant and the sexual partners at home. The following **research needs** were identified in the presentations: HIV positive migrants returning home to die; how to support economic growth, poverty and inequality with and/or without migration; addressing negative impacts of migration by intervening in associated areas, i.e. improved roads and infrastructure could result in increased home visits, potentially, lowering the HIV implications of migration. The following **policy recommendations** from the studies included: spatially aware policies; social security of urban and rural poor; food insecurity of urban and rural poor households; strengthened rural health system; and health infrastructure that accounts for circular migration.

#### Discussion Highlights

As one of the studies had a qualitative design, an interesting discussion regarding the use of qualitative methodologies followed. Participants discussed the value and role of

including in-depth qualitative data as evidence in health-related studies for policy recommendations. In addition, participants had study specific questions for presenters to further explore issues of gender, disclosure, and the social norms and complex relationships that exist around remittances. Discussion continued regarding: issues of determining cause of death outside of health care facilities; implications of ART on continued migrancy and vulnerabilities; policy and health systems development in light of migration back to rural areas for palliative care; and the need for services and support for elderly populations now caring for orphans and vulnerable children.

### *3.7 HIV and Vulnerability: Poverty, Inequality and Multiple Stressors*

#### Presentation Highlights

Presentations highlighted the complexity of the dynamic pathways and interactions between poverty, inequality, multiple stressors and HIV. The framework of three 'streams' (upstream, midstream and downstream) of HIV interaction with multiple stressors was shared. The importance of addressing and further researching inequalities, food insecurity for women, and social cohesion in regards to the issue, was emphasized. A qualitative study exploring the connection between food prices and HIV identified distress migration, higher rates of adult malnutrition and transactional sex among poor women as key prevention impact areas. Care and treatment was impacted via increased nutrition needs for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). In addition, higher food prices affected mitigation of AIDS impacts via livelihood impacts from concurrent health and economic shocks that often forced poor and food insecure households into erosion decisions. It was suggested that the recent food price crisis in Southern Africa strengthens the multi-pronged rationale for linking food and nutrition security with AIDS programming that strengthens resilience. A theory and methodology of looking at HIV from an interdisciplinary framework for assessing vulnerability was then presented. This model included the exposure of populations to multiple stressors, and examined the affects of those stressors on the context. This dynamic approach includes assessing determinants and drivers of vulnerability. Two key findings were identified when looking at vulnerability: people are getting poorer and poorer; and there is a decline in their ability to adapt to changing conditions.

#### Discussion Highlights:

A dynamic discussion followed about how to get vulnerability and other complex concepts on the policy agenda. Participants talked about the politics of getting research into policy and practice and social change efforts and identified the following strategies for successful policy uptake: packaging results into policy maker's language and priorities; and promoting local champions. Participants also discussed the need and challenges involved in scaling-up lessons learned in small communities and the relationship of this challenge to a lack of political engagement and interest in changing social conditions. Multi-level policy responses to vulnerabilities were discussed, i.e. need to address the short term needs and underlying root causes. Related to this, funding implications of addressing vulnerabilities via drivers of the epidemic was discussed, given the popular emphasis in the funding arena on interventions with the biggest measurable impact.

Expanding the definition of vulnerability to all those affected, indirectly and directly, was also discussed. Lastly, emphasis was placed on the need for context-specific and relevant responses. To address vulnerability by strengthening the ability to respond, responses must take context into account.

### 3.8 Beyond Renewal: Future Directions

This session was facilitated interactively by IDASA representatives Mario Classen and Marietjie Oelofsen. In relation to the next phase of RENEWAL, participants were asked: Where should we focus our research? How can we better use our research to inform policy and programming? And, how can we strengthen our network?

#### Focus of Research:

- Operational research: increase knowledge of and understanding of a 'minimum package of interventions' required to make an impact on prevention, care, nutrition, vulnerability and HIV positive children
- Monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation and programming innovations to improve effectiveness
- Incorporate cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and action research approaches
- Indigenous knowledge and foods, culturally and contextually relevant food guide pyramid and food baskets
- Focus geographically on countries and regions where there is food insecurity and high HIV prevalence
- Explore and assess inequalities as related to food and nutrition security

#### Using our research to inform policy and programming:

- Develop targeted, simplified (language) and action-oriented communication of research results to specific audiences and policy makers
- Develop time-sensitive policy briefs and recommendations that fall within a political lifespan and provide incentives to political figures to engage in HIV/AIDS research
- Develop study designs that triangulate data, so as to increase evidence validity
- Researchers can (and should be) part of the long-term advocacy process, by proactively building relationships and engaging with government bodies such as the NACCs throughout research processes
- Work with partners to:
  - Identify information gaps (research and policy)
  - Evaluate and explore impacts of current policies in order to increase effectiveness
- Researchers present at this workshop will continue with research in the RENEWAL research themes and approaches, regardless of the future institutional structure
- Build relationships with media outlets for public education and engagement, develop communications language relevant for public audiences
- Specialize in review and synthesis of research findings, focusing on specific themes

#### Strengthening our Network:

- Clarify the structure and role of RENEWAL so that clearer relationships with government partners can be established
- Increase centralization, structured institution with a national presence
- Expand beyond being an information hub to become a clearing-house that reviews and synthesizes research in the field, including our own, and makes recommendations to inform policy

- Build connections to high-level decision makers and those influencing policy, i.e. parliamentarians, NACCs, SADC regional forum, academic institutions and media outlets
- Communicate and consult within existing RENEWAL network

#### Structural Issues:

Participants engaged in debate around the institutional structure of the future RENEWAL. Some participants were adamant that the network should become more formalized and/or centralized, with a physical location (i.e. office) in each country. If an office is not feasible, participants still emphasized the credibility and legitimacy garnered by a 'formal' institution and discussed ways this could be coordinated alternatively. This discussion remains ongoing.

IDASA facilitators then wrapped up the session by talking about some of the key lessons they have learned as an organization promoting sustainable democratic societies in Africa. They emphasized the need for: a key driver (group or institution that drives the process, gives clear direction); a clear vision of what the network needs to achieve; and a sense of network ownership of members and stakeholders. IDASA's role is to facilitate and support organizations such as RENEWAL areas where capacity building, particularly in advocacy, is needed. They work with the understanding that a research question is part of the advocacy in itself, and asked participants to consider the following issues in consideration of their future directions:

- How do we (researchers) use information ourselves?
- Media
- Agency
- Knowledge and power
- The take-away message
- A common language
- Different ways of doing business
- Engaging or fighting
- Time to reflect and learn
- Advocacy for what?
- The leverage of HIV/AIDS
- Feedback to respondents

### *3.9 A Decade of RENEWAL*

#### Presentation Highlights

This presentation began with an overview of the work and approach of RENEWAL over the last nine years, emphasizing the importance of capacity strengthening with research and government partners, political engagement and the influence of action research on policy change. Lessons learned from working as a network included: the nature of politics and political engagement, in particular the peculiar politics of HIV/AIDS; the complexity of institutional issues; and a focus on sustaining relationships. Selecting and nurturing 'champions' in government and scientific organizations was seen as a successful strategy for policy uptake. Another important lesson has been to understand the history and context of research topics including the political correctness of terms such as the historical significance of migration in South Africa and its relationship to apartheid. On policy influence, a major lesson has been that is slow process and requires a long-term perspective. There has been a need articulated to reshape how

research is conducted and partnerships are developed so that it moves towards a co-operative learning model with researchers, participants and multiple stakeholders.

#### Discussion:

A short initial discussion followed on the complexity of taking research to policy makers and the need to engage with partners and stakeholders from the beginning. The need to think about how these processes fit within project timelines was highlighted, in order to incorporate them into project planning and evaluation. RENEWAL termed this real-time involvement “inreach”: influence and impacts of activities at the national level are, in part, achieved via the standing National Advisory Panels, which are operational in RENEWAL’s five core countries and which are constituted of key stakeholders from governments, international and local NGOs, donors, civil society, and the private sector. Particularly in the first two phases but also in the proposal development for the third phase, stakeholders prioritize national action research, and engage with outcomes as an ongoing process that encourages debate and technical input to policy and programs, both existing and those being planned. Participants also emphasized the importance of finding solutions and being successful in the research to policy process because of the imperative and serious nature of HIV as a social, health and development issue.

Participants then collectively generated a review of successes in communications by giving the following examples of policy influence in areas of: indigenous food; green economy strategy; getting food security into national strategic plan (Kenya); defining the framework for a food and nutrition security strategy at the level of the regional economic communities (SADC); comprehensive approaches to addressing vulnerability; getting subsidies and grants for food for PLWHAs to become part of the ART package; and integrating food in rural areas. Successes were also shared in regards to capacity building in: public education; partnership development between researchers and policy-makers; and in influencing the international HIV, food and nutrition research agenda.

#### Specific impacts in capacity strengthening:

The strongest example of an impact in capacity strengthening was the NetMap workshops held as part of policy communications trainings. Participants reported applying knowledge they had gained in training by organizing training for their directors and other organizations. The knowledge gained from these trainings has filtered outwards and participants now report seeing livelihoods incorporated as a key component of OVC strategies. The final discussion focused on the need to be more strategic in communication and engagement strategies with all levels of government partners, audiences and advisory councils.

#### *3.10 Wrap-up Discussion*

The final session was an interactive discussion facilitated by Stuart Gillespie and Scott Drimie from IFPRI/RENEWAL. They asked the group to consider the following questions:

#### What’s now needed to maximize impact in the field of HIV, food and nutrition security?

Participants emphasized that more robust research is needed into the links between: HIV, food and nutrition security. In conjunction with this is a need to scale-up what has already been demonstrated as successful programming interventions. Advancements are needed in how to measure impacts in complex programs plans, policies and how evidence is used. Links between research, policy and programming must be strengthened and there is a need to break down sectoral silos. Participants discussed

the need for a paradigm shift in how to promote rapid change in policy, via participatory research processes focusing on demand creation and stakeholder involvement. Researchers need to work with partners to synthesize results for dissemination and package appropriately for different user groups. Related to this, there is a need to invest in capacity building to help recipients interpret and apply research results. To maximize impact, strategies should operate at multiple levels, focusing on uptake of interventions at internationally, nationally and locally. Stable funding such as internal government allocations, is required to support the comprehensive nature of advocacy and research-policy work. Lastly, participants emphasized the need to have patience, as this is a long-term process.

#### What should be the research priorities?

Discussion focused on the need for research to assess applicability of interventions to different contexts by observing and documenting the context for research, existing policy, and political and operational realities. Evaluation and operational research that examines costs, institutional mechanisms and human resources needed for interventions would also assist in this area. Research and interventions need to move beyond HIV knowledge, food and nutrition security to understand behaviour change more comprehensively and in relation to contextual risk factors. Research is needed that articulates clear pathways for integrating nutrition and HIV, with a cost-benefit analysis for why policy makers should engage in those pathways.

#### What should be the role of research?

Research should be demand-driven and consider the needs of the stakeholders and those that are affected by the issue. It should systematically document, learn from and inform practice. There is a role for qualitative research and mixed-method study designs in the field of HIV, food and nutrition security. In addition, research should be operationalized in order to contribute to ongoing learning and engagement in the policy response.

#### What will this look like? What is an appropriate structure and institutional arrangement to maximize impact?

Participants discussed the importance of presence and identity of the organization and noted that an institution isn't necessarily physical, but needs to be an entity in order to acquire funding and build legitimacy for advocacy. This could be done by financially strengthening the national office, increasing its power to screen and expand research priorities, monitor ongoing research activities and evaluate outcomes. Future work should involve multidisciplinary teams and power sharing partnerships (including cost-sharing). Research methodologies should be expanded to include participatory approaches and mixed-method designs.

#### Who would be involved in this structure?

Participants suggested a panel secretariat of regional bodies in country, such as CSOs for advocacy, implementing organizations, local institutions (NACCs) and government ministries such as health, agriculture and gender. Full time country coordinators could act as information hubs with clear plans, roles and responsibilities. They would: link with the existing structures within countries such as NACCs; link with a regional secretariat on day-to-day processes; and act as a clearinghouse, taking responsibility of synthesizing research. This structure would increase collaboration with established governmental structures and civil society and assist RENEWAL in identifying champions with influence and leverage such as politicians and implementing entities.

#### Wrap-up Discussion Moving Forward:

The summary and closing discussion explored the challenges and opportunities of moving ahead with some of the ideas proposed above. Important questions were raised around fundraising and the challenges of increasing the institutionalization of the network. It was noted that if the network should have more shared approach to cost and power sharing, there is also a need to get more creative in that model and include stakeholder participation for its development.

Suggestions were made by Irish Aid to explore funding opportunities through the Global Fund, as it's funding for evidence based interventions is expanding and has broadened its mandate to include other elements of health and nutrition. In order to move forward and set itself apart from other organizations, RENEWAL must define its niche.

IFPRI/RENEWAL representatives reminded participants that the session wasn't intended to generate conclusions. The intent was to hear feedback and generate ideas, thinking through, from our own perspectives, whether, how and if we want to take work in this area forward. It was noted that an external evaluation and synthesis of the RENEWAL's work and lessons learned in the last decade will be undertaken in the latter half of 2011. IFPRI/RENEWAL staff will follow up with workshop participants regarding developments in the institutional framework design and funding proposals.

#### **4.0 Workshop Evaluation**

As noted above, the objectives of the workshop were to: review the work of RENEWAL over the past nine years; showcase some of the most recent research findings; stimulate discussion amongst participants; identify research gaps in HIV/AIDS, food and nutrition security; reflect on the network processes of RENEWAL; and discuss what a fourth phase RENEWAL could become.

Participants came to the workshop with a variety of learning and experiential objectives. These included: to learn how to operationalize research findings for program design; to learn about background of RENEWAL; to expand and increase knowledge on HIV, food and nutrition security and related research areas; to learn how to translate research into policy; to network with partners and fellow participants; to learn from one another's research and research-to-policy experiences; to learn about RENEWAL's future as an organization.

A brief evaluative questionnaire was distributed at the close of the workshop to assess participant learning, satisfaction and experiences. Using a Likert scale of 1-5 where 1= strongly disagree and moving towards 5 = strongly agree, average answers to the questions are summarized below:

<b>Question</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
1. This workshop has strengthened my understanding of key thematic areas related to HIV, Nutrition and Food security.	4.1/5	30
2. This workshop has provided a review of RENEWAL's history and research accomplishments	4.4/5	30
3. This workshop has promoted discussion and collaborative learning amongst participants.	4.4/5	30

4. This workshop has enabled me to reflect on how I will move forward with the core research and advocacy issues beyond RENEWAL's current structure.	3.9/5	28
5. This workshop has encouraged me to take actions in my own organization/network/environment on research, advocacy and capacity building related to HIV, Nutrition and Food Security	4.2/5	30
6. This workshop has strengthened my relationships with other RENEWAL representatives.	4.3/5	29

Participants reported learning in the following areas: the relevance of context (country and local) in research findings and implementation; the complexity of the research-policy process and the importance of multi-sectoral approaches that engagement policy-makers throughout research process; numerous learning insights were reported in relation to specific research presentations on HIV, food and nutrition security, social protection, vulnerability, migration, policy and practice; the history and synthesis of RENEWAL's work since 2001; the complexity of networks; IDASA's experiences and role; capacity strengthening and communications; group discussions and engagement during tea and lunch; and possibilities for moving forward 'beyond RENEWAL'.

In addition, twelve participants sent follow-up emails to workshop organizers, thanking them for the opportunity of participating in the workshop, stating their positive experiences and commitment to future work with RENEWAL. One participant stated:

*"Many thanks for this and thank you for facilitating what was, I believe, an excellent workshop – well done indeed...A reasonable conclusion which can be drawn from this is that there is definitely a relevance for RENEWAL or whatever (in whatever form it has to morph into) – and that it is certainly worthwhile at this juncture to take time and space to explore how this might be structured to allow members and other stakeholders to continue to experience the benefits of the network!"*

While another participant added:

*"I would also like to take the opportunity to thank both of you for organizing the meeting. It was great, very informative and well thought through. At the end of it, I felt that people discussed issues openly and passionately. I feel more encouraged that RENEWAL is doing great and certainly has made an impact, particularly in my country. Looking forward to the report and the way forward"*

Assessing the intended workshop objectives from the organizer's perspective (to review the work of RENEWAL over the past nine years; showcase some of the most recent research findings; stimulate discussion amongst participants; identify research gaps in HIV/AIDS, food and nutrition security; reflect on the network processes of RENEWAL; and discuss what a fourth phase RENEWAL could become), the workshop was a success. Participants reported substantial learning, networking, reflection and discussion about a way forward. In addition, a number of interviews and press releases were given to media representatives in order to report proceedings to the public and the wider research and policy communities. Please see Appendix 6 of this report for their details and locations.

Subsequent reflection and discussion with IFPRI/RENEWAL staff emphasized the positive outcomes of the workshop in moving forward with a fourth phase of RENEWAL. Staff reported being pleasantly surprised with the overwhelmingly positive feedback and encouragement from participants. The reflections, discussions and debate, coupled with positive encouragement from all stakeholders, provide a wealth of knowledge from which to envision and strategize a way forward for RENEWAL.

### **5.0 Workshop Summary, Conclusions and Next Steps**

From November 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 thirty diverse participants gathered in Cape Town, South Africa to celebrate and reflect on the achievements and challenges of nearly a decade of work in HIV/AIDS, livelihoods, food and nutrition security. Participants discussed and identified research gaps in the field and shared experiences in research and policy practice. The workshop was structured to provide time and space, both formal and informal, for participants to engage in dialogue about a way forward for a fourth (possible) phase of RENEWAL. Following a review of RENEWAL's work and research approach, new research findings were presented in the areas of: HIV and Nutrition Security; Social Protection, HIV and Children; AIDS and Agricultural Extension; and HIV and Vulnerability: Poverty, Inequality and Multiple Stressors. The subsequent sessions moved towards reflecting on the strengths of RENEWAL and envisioning a way forward in potential with IDASA. These discussions focused on identifying key research gaps, organizational needs and action areas. In order to maximize impact in the field of HIV, Food and Nutrition security, participants suggested that continued research is needed into the links between the three areas, while scaling up and evaluating known programming successes. Participatory research approaches and dissemination of synthesized and appropriately packaged research results for different user groups could promote policy uptake. Multi-sectoral and multi-level policy strategies are needed to provide comprehensive responses to these complex issues. Stable funding is required to support the comprehensive nature of advocacy and research-policy work.

Participants articulated the following research priorities: operational, implementation and evaluation research. Behaviour change needs to be understood more comprehensively and in relation to contextual risk factors. Research is needed that articulates clear pathways for integrating nutrition and HIV, with a cost-benefit analyses targeted at policy-makers.

In a fourth phase of RENEWAL, research as envisioned by participants, would be demand-driven, operational and consider the needs of all the stakeholders. It should systematically document, learn from and inform practice.

Participants suggested that in the next phase of RENEWAL, the presence and identity of the organization is increasingly important in order to acquire funding and build legitimacy for advocacy. Future work should involve multidisciplinary teams and power sharing partnerships. Research methodologies should be expanded to include participatory approaches and mixed-method designs.

To implement this proposed structure, participants suggested a panel secretariat of diverse regional bodies in country, such as CSOs, implementing organizations, local institutions (NACCs) and government ministries. Full time country coordinators would link with existing structures in country and a regional secretariat on day-to-day processes. RENEWAL would act as a clearinghouse by synthesizing, conducting and disseminating research. This structure would increase collaboration with established

governmental and civil society partners while assisting RENEWAL to identify champions for policy change.

Next Steps:

The closing discussion explored the challenges and opportunities of moving ahead with some of the ideas proposed above. Important questions were raised around fundraising and the challenges related to further institutionalizing the network. Creativity is needed in developing a model to include stakeholder participation to facilitate cost and power sharing between partners. The Global Fund was suggested as a potential funding agency to approach given that it is now focusing on evidence based interventions and has broadened its mandate to include elements of health such as food security and nutrition.

Feedback, reflections and ideas from the workshop will be used to assess how the work in this area will be taken forward. It was noted that an external evaluation and synthesis of the RENEWAL's work and lessons learned in the last decade will be undertaken in the latter half of 2011. IFPRI/RENEWAL staff will follow up with workshop participants regarding developments in the institutional framework design and funding proposals.

## 6.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1: Agenda



**RENEWAL Regional Workshop:  
A decade of work on HIV, food and nutrition security**  
*The Protea Breakwater Lodge, Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa*

#### AGENDA

#### November 9, 2010

- 9:00-9:30 Introduction  
Welcome, introductions, objectives of workshop *Chair: Anne Anamela, Irish Aid*  
Scott Drimie, IFPRI/RENEWAL
- 9:30-10:30 RENEWAL retrospective  
Observations: Stuart Gillespie, IFPRI/RENEWAL  
Francesca Erdelmann, WFP  
Bibi Giyose, NEPAD
- Plenary discussion
- 10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee/tea*
- 11:00 – 13:00 **HIV and nutrition security** *Chair: Chantell Witten, MRC*
- RENEWAL-Kenya collaboration Margaret Wagah, RENEWAL Kenya  
Food and nutrition assistance to PLHIV Rahul Rawat, Suneetha Kadiyala, IFPRI/RENEWAL  
Nutrition and livelihoods in Uganda: the case of TASO Robert Ochai, TASO  
Implications for Programming Francesca Erdelmann, WFP
- Plenary discussion
- 13.00-14:30 *Lunch*
- 14:30-16:15 **Social Protection, HIV and Children** *Chair: Peter Atekyereza, RENEWAL Uganda*
- RENEWAL and JLICA – key findings from collaboration Scott Drimie, IFPRI/RENEWAL  
Adolescents, social protection and HIV in South Africa Rhian Twine, RHRU  
Food safety net innovations in Zambia Purnima Kashyap, WFP
- Plenary discussion
- 16.15 *Tea*
- 16.30-17.30 Group synthesis work

## November 10, 2010

08:30-9.00 Report back from synthesis groups Group Chairs

09.00-10:30 **AIDS and Agricultural Extension** Chair: Jean Mtethiwa, NRC

Agricultural Extension and AIDS in Zambia  
Agricultural Extension and AIDS in Malawi

Petan Hamazakaza, RENEWAL Zambia  
Sam Bota, RENEWAL Malawi

Plenary Discussion

*10:30-11:00 Coffee/tea*

11:00-12:30 **HIV and Urban-Rural Linkages in Southern Africa** Chair Medson Chisi, ZARI

The hidden links of ill health: reflections from Agincourt  
Key findings from Johannesburg study (2008, 2010)

Mark Collinson, Wits  
Khangelani Moyo, Wits

Plenary discussion

*12:30 – 13.30: Lunch*

13.30 – 15.00 **HIV and vulnerability: poverty, inequality and multiple stressors**

*Chair: Joe Muriuki, NAP+ EAR*

HIV and vulnerability  
Food prices and HIV: 2008 regional assessments  
HIV, vulnerability and multiple stressors

Stuart Gillespie, IFPRI/RENEWAL  
Scott Drimie, IFPRI/RENEWAL  
Tim Quinlan, HEARD

Plenary discussion

15.00 – 17.30: **Beyond RENEWAL**

*Chair: Vincent O'Neill, Irish Aid*

Future Directions Plenary discussion

Mario Claasen, IDASA and  
Scott Drimie, IFPRI/RENEWAL

Plenary Discussion

## November 11, 2010

09.00-10.30 **A Decade of RENEWAL** Chair: Stuart Gillespie

Mainstreaming in Malawi: 10 Years Retrospective  
The RENEWAL "Approach": Crossing Boundaries  
Capacity strengthening and communications:

Sam Bota, RENEWAL Malawi  
Scott Drimie, IFPRI/RENEWAL  
Noora-Lisa Aberman, IFPRI/RENEWAL

*10.30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea*

11.00 – 12.30 Wrap-up discussions

12.30 Close of workshop, and lunch

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

Name	Affiliation
Noora-Lisa Aberman	Program Analyst, Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division, IFPRI, Washington, D.C.
Anne Anamela	Regional HIV and AIDS Advisor, Irish Aid, Pretoria
Peter Atekyereza	Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda. RENEWAL National Coordinator - Uganda
Samalie N. Bananuka	Senior Nutritionist, Ministry of Health Headquarters Kampala, Uganda
Samuel Bota	Lilongwe, Malawi, RENEWAL National Coordinator – Malawi
Medson Chisi	Deputy Director, Research Services, ZARI, Zambia
Mario Claasen	Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA), Johannesburg
Mark Collinson	Senior Researcher, MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand
Scott Drimie	Regional Coordinator, RENEWAL, Research Fellow, Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Johannesburg, South Africa
Francesca Erdelmann	Program Advisor HIV/AIDS, Nutritionist, HIV/AIDS technical support team, Regional Bureau for Southern, Eastern and Central Africa, World Food Program. Johannesburg
Stuart Gillespie	Director, RENEWAL, Sr. Research Fellow, Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), c/o World Health Organization, Geneva
Bibi Giyose	Food and Nutrition Security Advisor, NEPAD secretariat
Katharine Hagerman	Human Sciences Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa.
Petan Hamazakaza	Zambia Agriculture Research Institute, Mochipapa Research Station, P.O. Box 630090, Choma, Zambia. RENEWAL National Coordinator – Zambia
Douglas Hamilton	Senior HIV and AIDS Adviser, Thematic Sectors and Special Programmes, Irish Aid, Ireland
Gareth Haysom	Research Fellow, Sustainable Agriculture Programme, Sustainability Institute, South Africa
Suneetha Kadiyala	Research Fellow, Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division. IFPRI, New Delhi
Purnima Kashyap	Deputy Country Director, United Nations World Food Programme, Lusaka, Zambia
Milla McLachlan	Director, Research and Information, Division of Human Nutrition, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Maritha Marais	Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Blackson Matatiyo	Head/Coordinator, Research. NAC, Lilongwe, Malawi
Khangelani Moyo	Forced Migration Studies Programme. University of the Witwatersrand , Johannesburg
Mrs. Jean Mtethiwa	Vice Principal, Natural Resources College, Lilongwe, Malawi
Joe M. Muriuki	Executive Director for Network of African People Living with HIV East Africa Region, Nairobi, Kenya
Mildred Mushunje	HIV/AIDS and Livelihoods, FAO. Zimbabwe
Jeffer Mxotshwa	Executive Director for Southern Africa, Network of African People Living with HIV Southern Africa Region, Johannesburg
Robert Ochai	Executive Director, TASO, Uganda
Marietjie Oelofsen	Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA), Johannesburg
Regina Ombam	National Aids Control Council, Nairobi, Kenya
Vincent O'Neil	Head of Development, Malawi. Director of Regional Strategy, Southern Africa Irish Aid
Samwel Otieno	Coordinator, AIDS Control Unit, Ministry of Livestock Development, Kenya
Timothy Quinlan	Research Director, HEARD, Cape Town
Rahul Rawat	Research Fellow, Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division. IFPRI Washington, D.C.
Delilah Takawira	FAO, Zimbabwe
Lillian Tatwebwa	Coordinator Policy and Research/GLIA Coordinator. Uganda AIDS Commission, Kampala, Uganda
Gilbert Tshitauzi	National Department of Health, Johannesburg, South Africa
Rhian Twine	MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), University of Witwatersrand
Margaret Akinyi Wagah	Dept. of Educational Communication & Technology, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya
Harold C. Witola	Research Specialist, National AIDS Council, Lusaka Zambia
Chantell Witten	Medical Research Council, Cape Town

### Appendix 3: Learning Objectives Questionnaire



**RENEWAL Regional Workshop:  
A decade of work on HIV, food and nutrition security**  
*The Protea Breakwater Lodge, Waterfront, Cape Town South Africa*  
**November 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Welcome! We are delighted that you have joined us for this important session. We hope that the next few days will provide you with an opportunity to review the successes of RENEWAL's work over the last ten years, reflect on your personal involvement, engage in some lively discussions and think about how you will incorporate the lessons learned into your own work beyond RENEWAL.

Please take a few moments to fill in the questions below and hand them during the first tea break today. Many thanks!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Briefly describe the history of your involvement with RENEWAL (e.g. years and type of collaboration)

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2. What are three key things you have learned from your involvement with RENEWAL?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are you hoping to gain by participating in this workshop? What would you like to contribute to the discussion? (e.g. how you hope it will influence your work, what you would like to learn)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!**

## Appendix 4: Workshop Evaluation Form



**RENEWAL Regional Workshop:  
A Decade of Work on HIV, Food and Nutrition Security**  
*The Protea Breakwater Lodge, Waterfront, Cape Town South Africa*  
**November 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

### Workshop Feedback

Thank you for participating in this forum. We would appreciate your feedback as it will help us to appropriately assess the impact of and gain valuable lessons from the activity. Please take a moment to complete this questionnaire and return it before you leave the workshop. Kindly check the box that indicates your response:

This workshop:

1. Provided a review of RENEWAL's history and research accomplishments.

[1] Strongly agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree  [5] Strongly disagree

2. Has strengthened my understanding of key thematic areas related to HIV, food security and nutrition.

[1] Strongly agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree  [5] Strongly disagree

3. Promoted discussion and collaborative learning amongst participants.

[1] Strongly agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree  [5] Strongly disagree

4. Clarified my understanding of the short-term future of RENEWAL.

[1] Strongly agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree  [5] Strongly disagree

5. Enabled me to reflect on how I will move forward with the core research and advocacy issues beyond RENEWAL.

[1] Strongly agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree  [5] Strongly disagree

6. Encouraged me to take actions in my own organization/network/environment on research, advocacy and capacity building related to HIV, Nutrition and Food Security.

[1] Strongly agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree  [5] Strongly disagree

7. Strengthened my relationships with other RENEWAL representatives.

[1] Strongly agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree  [5] Strongly disagree

8. Please list your key learning moments or insights from this workshop:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

9. What key actions will you take in the next six months to move forward with your work in relation to HIV, Nutrition and Food Security?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

10. What key actions will you take in the next six months to move forward with the 'new' RENEWAL?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

11. My affiliation is best described as:

<input type="checkbox"/>	High-level policymaker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmer/farmer association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy advisor/ ministerial staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business/Industry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bilateral/Multilateral/ UN organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business/Industry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Academia/University	<input type="checkbox"/>	Media
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional/sub-regional institutions/networks	<input type="checkbox"/>	

12. I work:

<input type="checkbox"/> [1] in South Africa	<input type="checkbox"/> [2] in Southern Africa	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> [3] in East Africa	<input type="checkbox"/> [4] in Europe or North America	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> [5] Other		<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Please share any other comments, questions or concerns about this workshop and the future of RENEWAL.

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return the questionnaire before you depart the Conference.

## Appendix 5: Sample Synthesis Group Guide



**RENEWAL Regional Workshop:  
A decade of work on HIV, food and nutrition security**  
*The Protea Breakwater Lodge, Waterfront, Cape Town South Africa*  
**November 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Group Synthesis Work: HIV and Vulnerability: Poverty, Inequality and Multiple Stressors**

Please talk through the following questions with your group. Try to keep to the order in which they are listed so that you can reflect together.

**Objective**

1. What do you remember about the session on HIV and Vulnerability: Poverty, Inequality and Multiple Stressors? What were some of the key words and concepts discussed?

**Reflective**

2. What was especially interesting about session?
3. What new questions or challenges did the session raise for you about HIV and vulnerability?

**Interpretive**

4. What are the core issues in HIV and vulnerability?

**Decisional**

5. What recommendations can you make for researchers and policy makers in their efforts to effectively address the core issues and challenges?

## Appendix Six: Workshop Press Releases

11/9/2010	Coverage of RENEWAL research and workshop in South Africa: Relief Web "Africa: The HIV/AIDS -- Food Insecurity Nexus" Quotes Scott Drimie, Stuart Gillespie, and Suneetha Kadiyala <a href="#">Click here for Article</a>  Monitor (Uganda) "Experts Meet to Discuss Effect of HIV on Agriculture" Quotes Scott Drimie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a>
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	<p>Zodiak Broadcasting Station (Malawi) "Meets Screens Food Insecurity Links to HIV" Quotes Stuart Gillespie, Suneetha Kadiyala, and Scott Drimie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p> <p>Zodiak Broadcasting Station Radio story aired PanAfrican News Agency "AIDS Accounts for 13 pc of Agric Staff Deaths in Zambia" Quotes Stuart Gillespie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p> <p>Voice of America "Food Security, HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention Closely Linked" Radio interview with Stuart Gillespie and article that quotes him <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p> <p>PanAfrican News Agency "Santé-Zambie: Le SIDA Chez les Travailleurs Agricoles" Quotes Scott Drimie and Stuart Gillespie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p> <p>Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report "Meeting Addresses Links Between Hunger, HIV" Quotes Scott Drimie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p> <p>South Africa Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) Current Affairs and Newsbreak programs Interview with Suneetha Kadiyala Joy Radio (Malawi) Channel Africa (SABC) Radio interviews with Stuart Gillespie and Scott Drimie</p>
11/14/2010	<p>Additional coverage of RENEWAL workshop: South Africa Broadcasting Corporation, "Current Affairs" radio program Interview with Scott Drimie New Agriculturist "HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Hunger Critically Linked" Quotes Stuart Gillespie and Scott Drimie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p>
12/1/2010	<p>InterPress Service "Threat of a Perfect Storm - AIDS and a Fresh Food Crisis" Quotes Scott Drimie and Stuart Gillespie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p> <p>Slash food "Food Insecurity on World AIDS Day" Quotes Stuart Gillespie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p> <p>InterPress Service "Tormenta Perfecta Amenaza África: Crisis de Alimentos y Sida" Quotes Scott Drimie and Stuart Gillespie <a href="#">Click here for Article</a></p>