



## **Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL)**

**Regional Workshop, Glenburn Lodge, Muldersdrift, South Africa, 4-5 April 2009**

### **Overview of RENEWAL**

The Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL) is a regional “network-of-networks” operating in southern and eastern Africa. Started in 2001, and currently active in five countries (Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa, and Kenya), RENEWAL comprises national networks of food and nutrition-relevant organizations (public, private and non-governmental) together with partners in AIDS and public health. RENEWAL aims to enhance understanding of the worsening interactions between HIV and AIDS and food and nutrition security, and facilitate a comprehensive response to these interactions. 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.

The Third Phase of RENEWAL (R3) covers the four-year period 2007-2010. The twin goals of R3 are to enhance understanding of the two-way interactions between HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security, and to improve the effectiveness of food and nutrition-relevant policy and programming in the context of HIV and AIDS. Since 2007, activities have intensified in its five hub countries in regards to RENEWAL’s core pillars—policy research, capacity strengthening and communications.

The RENEWAL action research agenda for 2007-2010 aimed to extend and complement its past and ongoing work with a focus on the following three themes:

- AIDS, Agriculture and Livelihood Security
- AIDS, Community Resilience and Social Protection
- AIDS and Nutrition Security

In addition to the continued evolution of its three core pillars, there has also been a shift in emphasis into more direct operationally relevant research. And now, in addition to mainstreaming an understanding of HIV and AIDS into agriculture, food and nutrition policy and programming, RENEWAL is engaging directly with the international AIDS community to demonstrate the relevance of mainstreaming food and nutrition considerations within a truly broad-based response to the epidemic.

## Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives of the regional workshop were to review work in the first two years of R3 and to consider options for a future RENEWAL given persistent challenges in the area of HIV/AIDS, food security, nutrition, and livelihoods and new issues characteristic of the changing landscape. RENEWAL partners and collaborators were invited to provide input into the consultative process.

Stuart Gillespie opened proceedings in welcoming the delegates, explaining the objectives and intended outcomes. Stuart explained the process designed for the two days emphasizing that the first day of the workshop would focus largely on presentations made around key research projects in each of the three pillars followed by more participatory interaction. Stuart then presented an overview of some of the dominant conceptual frameworks that RENEWAL has developed to guide its work in R2. Some of the main issues that were presented included work on HIV, AIDS and inequality and the impacts of the recent food price increases for people living with HIV.

## RENEWAL 3 Highlights

For more information about the ongoing RENEWAL studies and to see the Power Points presented at this workshop, go to <http://www.ifpri.org/renewal/renewalevents.asp>

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THEME 1: AIDS, AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY**

*HIV, migration and urban food security in Addis Ababa, Johannesburg and Windhoek:* This research acknowledges changing systems and increased urbanization, thus examining “livelihoods” as opposed to “rural livelihoods,” focusing on urban-rural linkages including migration. HIV/AIDS, food security, nutrition, and livelihoods are critical concerns in informal urban areas.

This study adopts an “ecohealth” approach to help navigate the complexity and transdisciplinarity of the issue, while utilizing a mix of methodologies. The study compared the settlement types and linkages—people, food, money, and goods—of internal and external migrants. Methodologies include quantitative surveys in Addis Ababa, Johannesburg, and Windhoek and qualitative research with different groups including children. Throughout the process, researchers in this study have engaged with decision makers.

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THEME 2: AIDS, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

*Economic Strengthening for families affected by HIV and AIDS (JLICA):* The primary output of this activity was the comprehensive report, “What is the Potential of Cash Transfers to Strengthen Families affected by HIV and AIDS? A review of the evidence on impacts and key policy debates,” by Michelle Adato and Lucy Bassett. The authors reviewed over 300 documents that covered 20 CCT programs and their impacts on poverty, education, health and nutrition. It also gave significant attention to policy issues on cash transfers in the context of HIV and AIDS, including targeting, conditionality and complementary activities and services.

Some key findings include the importance of rapid scale-up social protection for families affected by AIDS, the effectiveness of cash transfers at protecting human capital, the heterogeneity of AIDS-affected families requiring a mix of social protection approaches, and the relative ease of quick scale-up of CCT

programs. The results of this report have undergone extensive policy outreach, though it was suggested that national-level engagement through the National Advisory Panels would also be valuable. In the discussion of how to promote widespread adoption of effective social protection policies, it was suggested that we may not need more evidence, but rather the development of effective messages, targeted to the appropriate actors.

*Cash transfers to reduce HIV-risk among adolescent girls:* In this proposed research the Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit (RHRU) with RENEWAL will attempt to address the high HIV incidence and prevalence among young South African women, despite a low reporting of “high risk” sexual activity. As such, this intervention will attempt to address other potential causes for high prevalence. Recent reviews indicate a protective association for women between higher education and HIV infection, particularly as the epidemics matures.

This study will attempt to unpack the possible causes for the association between education and HIV prevalence. Researchers hypothesize that the association is due to: exposure to HIV messages, better understanding of those messages, increased self-esteem and decision-making power, different social and sexual networks, structured time in school, and socio-economic status. Thus, the study will focus particular attention on two responses: a conditional cash transfer to promote school attendance and community mobilization to communicate messages.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THEME 3: AIDS AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

*Integrating food and livelihood security programs with HIV care and treatment programs:* There has been an increasing move towards food assistance programming for people affected by HIV & AIDS (mostly by WFP, USAID programs incl. PEPFAR). However, the evidence base for these programs is still weak. This study, implemented jointly with The AIDS Service Organization of Uganda (TASO) and RENEWAL aims to develop this evidence by implementing an operations research study to examine programmatic elements and traditional impact evaluation to derive quantitative evidence of the effectiveness of an integrated care, treatment, and food aid program. Researchers are analyzing the results of the operational research and continuing data collection for the impact evaluation.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS**

Communication is implicit in the design of a network. In coming together for collaboration, all parties exchange information and learn from one another. In this context, it is hard to delineate where capacity strengthening ends and communication begins.

R3 involved a significant increase in capacity strengthening activities. The core objective of this activity is strengthening capacity of local researchers and organizations to generate meaningful results and promote excellence in research. The local networks selected the individuals trained. An indirect objective is to empower communities to take charge of their own environment and health through the research itself. The ‘legacy’ of RENEWAL is being taken very seriously with considerable time invested in capacity strengthening both for high-quality research, and the capacity to make effective use of such research through targeted advocacy and communications in a multidimensional way, stressing the importance of empowering individuals and institutions through thematic and technical knowledge enhancement and experience.

Activities were implemented at the local, national, regional and international levels. They included direct collaboration with local and national organizations, research and communications training sessions,

network meetings, conferences, and workshops at the regional and international level. The RENEWAL/ISNAR team developed the bulk of the training activities.

## **Roundtable Presentations from Participating Organizations**

RENEWAL's key partner organizations were asked to describe their relevant activities, as follows:

### **REGIONAL HUNGER AND VULNERABILITY PROGRAMME (RHVP)**

RHVP is a regional program funded by DFID and AusAID. It seeks to provide SADC, and national governments in southern Africa, with tools, skills, and knowledge to enable them to reduce hunger and vulnerability – while promoting a shift from emergency relief to long-term, institutionalized social protection. In terms of collaboration with RENEWAL, RHVP is well-placed to communicate and advocate evidence on social protection. In particular, RHVP policy retreats will be a great venue for disseminating the findings from the Adato and Bassett report described above.

### **CARE**

CARE brings experience in multiple countries and contexts and works to translate knowledge across experiences. They focus on capacity building, project and program design, implementation and evaluation, and advocacy. Some current priorities and goals are to build the capacity of civil society actors to provide social protection and to evaluate the livelihoods and child development outcomes of various social protection programs throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

### **FAO**

The FAO is focusing on social protection in Southern Africa and is partnering with other UN organizations to do so. In Malawi, their work focuses on how agricultural strategies can mitigate the impact of HIV, malaria, and other health issues. It is also working on gender and climate change. FAO are increasingly emphasizing operational research particularly in terms of institutionalizing promising interventions e.g. Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools.

### **AFRICAN CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY (ACFS)**

The ACFS is based within the University of KwaZulu Natal. Its fundamental goal is to contribute towards eradicating food deprivation and promoting sustainable livelihoods among the people and nations of sub-Saharan Africa. By facilitating and conducting professional training and transdisciplinary research, and through targeted information dissemination and informed advocacy, it seeks to establish, support and sustain a critical mass of personnel, as well as a network of collaborating institutions and organizations, equipped to lead effective food security policy and practice across the sub-continent. Partnering with RENEWAL, ACFS has contributed to the capacity of African officials and practitioners to engage regional and continental policy debates, into which RENEWAL feeds.

## **Small-Group Discussions**

To facilitate discussion about the future direction for RENEWAL, three small working groups were formed. Working groups focused on issues that should “define the focus of RENEWAL in the future”.

Getting a sense of the current and emerging challenges is critical for RENEWAL members and collaborators and an important process in determining Renewal's future priorities. Ongoing challenges identified included issues of gender, mobility and risk, conflict, persistent poverty, food insecurity, and governance.

*Governance:* It was noted that there has been a lack of leadership in creating some necessary policy shifts. In particular, promoting multisectoral buy-in and action were seen as lacking. Policies detrimental to food production and security persist in many settings, and physical and institutional infrastructure requires further development. Thus, a priority research area discussed was determining the requirements for developing the institutional governance capacity for integrating HIV/AIDS, food security, nutrition, and livelihoods.

*Nutrition:* Linkages between nutrition and HIV were seen as critical areas requiring more research. In particular: what are appropriate feeding practices for adults and children; what is the necessary context and what are the required underlying determinants for successful intervention at scale; and how can a sufficient local capacity around public nutrition be attained.

*Emerging challenges:* Emerging challenges also require attention. All the working groups noted the need to research the impacts that the financial and food-price crises will have on HIV and AIDS-related issues. In addition, climate change was seen as an increasingly critical topic of research, particularly as it relates to food production, clean water, and energy supply.

*Poverty:* Given that the poorest are hit hardest by the financial crisis, food-price crisis, and HIV, lead to the idea of mainstreaming HIV within the context of poverty. That is, address poverty generally, and then frame HIV issues within that.

*Policy Impact:* The success of RENEWAL endeavors was noted, as well as a need to intensify the time and resources devoted to dissemination of results, action- and result-focused NAP initiatives, and increasing policy take-up. Approaching policy communications as a research area illuminates the need to examine how policies are taken up and how researchers can impact them.

Other priority research areas mentioned include: examining the gap between awareness and adoption of preventive and positive-living behaviours; the interactions between HIV and women's empowerment, food security, control of assets and decision-making power; and continuing to examine how to improve livelihoods for long term food security.

#### **TRANSLATING RESEARCH TO ACTION**

A major point emphasized by many at the workshops was the need to focus in translating research results—those already completed and future results—into action and impact.

It was noted that more resources should be funneled specifically into strategic dissemination of results. Research results and research briefs should be translated into clear policy briefs. In addition, messages will differ according to the audience; stratified communication strategies can be developed for researchers, policy makers, and implementers.

Also, ensuring the buy-in of various key actors will ensure follow-up action and results. One vision of these examined the possibility of restructuring the NAPs to strengthen stakeholder engagement and collaboration. This would contribute to empowering civil society and grassroots organizations to take on

research-based “action” communication. The formation of Policy Advisory Group for each NAP would also support this effort.

Developing a system to monitor policy impact would help us learn when and why we succeed in these efforts and learn from situations when we do not.

## AGENDA

### 4 April

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 Introduction to workshop, and update on RENEWAL  
Self-introduction Stuart Gillespie  
All participants
- 9.45 Integrating food and livelihood security programs with HIV care and treatment programs  
Suneetha Kadiyala, Frances Babirye, Robert Ochai
- 10.45 Coffee/tea
- 11.15 Economic Strengthening for families affected by HIV and AIDS/Joint Learning Initiative on  
Children and AIDS (JLICA) Scott Drimie
- 11.45 Cash transfers to reduce HIV-risk among adolescent girls Catherine MacPhail
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 HIV, migration and urban food security in Addis Ababa, Johannesburg and Windhoek  
Scott Drimie, Jo Vearey
- 14.30 Roundtable (brief presentations from participating organizations, and discussion)
- 16.30 RENEWAL Capacity Strengthening and Communications Noora Aberman
- 17.00 Introduction to working groups (objectives, terms of reference) Stuart Gillespie
- 18.00-19.30 Reception

### 5 April

- 9.00 Working Groups: Defining the Future
- 10.30 Coffee/tea (within work groups, as needed)
- 11.00 Work group feedback and discussion, conclusions
- 12.30 Close of workshop and lunch

## Participants

Margaret Wagah, Kenya RENEWAL National Coordinator, Kenyatta University, Kenya  
Regina Ombam, Kenya National Advisory Panel (NAP), National Aids Control Council, Kenya  
Peter Atekyereza, Uganda RENEWAL National Coordinator, Makerere University  
Rose Nalwadda, Uganda NAP, Uganda AIDS Commission  
Robert Ochai, Executive Director, The AIDS Support Organization (TASO), Uganda  
Frances Babirye, TASO, Uganda  
Samuel Bota, Malawi RENEWAL National Coordinator  
Catherine Mkangama, Malawi NAP, Department of Nutrition and HIV and AIDS, Government of Malawi  
Daimon Kambewa, Bunda College of Agriculture, Malawi  
Crispin Kapunda, Zambia RENEWAL National Coordinator, Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)  
Mukelabai Ndiyoi, Zambia NAP, Farming Systems Association of Zambia (FASAZ)  
John M. Msuya, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Tanzania  
Mutale Chileshe, University of Cape Town, South Africa  
Timothy Quinlan, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa  
Benny Sikhakhane, Department of Health, Government of South Africa  
Sheryl Hendriks, University of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa  
Josee Koch, Regional Hunger & Vulnerability Programme (RHVP), Johannesburg  
Jean-Francois Aguilera, European Commission, South Africa  
Fadzai Mukonoweshuro, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Johannesburg  
Catherine Macphail, Reproductive Health & HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand  
Coleen Vogel, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
Julia Mambo, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
Jo Vearey, FMSP, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
Lorena Nùñez, FMSP, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
Hannah Dawson, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
Chantell Witten, Medical Research Council, South Africa  
Leah Berkowitz Nchabeleng, CARE Southern and West Africa Management Unit, Johannesburg  
Davies Chitundu, Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) regional office, Zambia  
Anne Anamela, Irish Aid, Embassy of Ireland in South Africa, Pretoria  
Cáit Moran, Irish Aid, Embassy of Ireland in South Africa, Pretoria  
Samantha Yates, Department for International Development (DFID) – Southern Africa, Pretoria  
Aline Philibert, CINBIOSE, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)  
Marie Ruel, Director, Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division (PHND), IFPRI, Washington DC  
Stuart Gillespie, Director, RENEWAL, PHND, IFPRI, Geneva, Switzerland  
Scott Drimie, RENEWAL Regional Coordinator, PHND, IFPRI, Johannesburg  
Suneetha Kadiyala, PHND, IFPRI, New Delhi  
Futoshi Yamauchi, PHND, IFPRI, Washington DC  
Noora-Lisa Aberman, PHND, IFPRI, Washington DC