

Session 7: Reportage

Chair: Dr. Dr. Francis Amin

Botswana presentation:

Question about situation of where women are the head of household prior to illness: The Botswana case was looking at those factors associated with crop production, considering factors as the independent variable affecting crop production. They were looking at trends rather than determining characteristics of the victim of AIDS. The analysis sought to determine the shift of work from men to women/children; requires sharing of technologies within region. Questions were raised on these gender aspects since the analysis assumes that it is the husband that becomes sick. What happens when it is the wife that becomes sick?

The modeling used logistical regression while others used OLS. Logistical modeling has certain advantages, but the region should have a standard approach. There are certain rules; where OLS requires normal distribution.

What about food security? Food security was not measured directly, but the study was interested on the impact of HIV/AIDS on crop production as an indirect indicator of food security. Questions were raised regarding the issue of climatic conditions when the study took place may have had an effect on the outcome of the study; productivity and area planted. Even with drought, it would affect household income, but was not considered a key issue.

Food security—should be the key focus of the study. How can food security be achieved whilst Botswana is self-sufficient outside of agriculture. It is true that Botswana is food secure at the macro level, but access at the household level is problematic because of the lack of income. Farmers' best bet is to feed themselves. The study looked at quality of diet in terms of food groups, which showed that consumption of micro-nutrient food sources is generally low.

Survey . Villages selected to take 10% of households. Selected infected household through snowball interviews, getting referrals from initial household interviews. It was noted that the Government of Botswana has released a population-based surveys of HIV/AIDS and would like comments. Prior information was from pregnant mother tests. Now the rate is set at 17%.

Regional Analysis of impacts and mitigation interventions.(presentation 2)

We will look at the databases because the outcomes were presented in plenary.

The collection of data was established on Epi Info platform

10 pp of fields
1930 records

Family characteristics

Impact of illness on household
Death in the family
Assets/ animals
Community/soc assets
Household costs/exp

Outputs in html file and analysis can be written in program editor,

Selecting data, variables
Statistics and advanced statistics.

The data base has also been put into an Excel file

Country-level data analyses were done in-country and are quite similar to the regional level data indicating:

1. shift from male to female headed households
2. A significant reduction in production
3. Need exists for consistency among variables and analytical approaches

Discussion: What is the next the next step on the study? This will be up to FANRPAN, but he recommends that the teams put a little more effort in, particularly to agree on the methodology of the more advanced analysis. Fred said that the processing of these data will be determined later.

How will data be distributed? The data set will be determined by FANRPAN. FANRPAN will distribute the data, but the committees are still working on the data and it is excellent for regional work since it is near 2,000 and Fred will talk about advanced analytical approaches. FANRPAN will host this on their web site and will be accessible through password protection.

Is this the most recent data available? No update has been provided since August, though we know there are more data.

Fred: the first presentation much be linked to the data to determine the recommendations

Do you have capability and plans to determine counter-factual cases; i.e., understanding how positive adaptations occurred which go against the reported trends in order to identify mitigating approaches

What is the credibility of the analysis? Field teams have the capacity to gather more information.

Only three countries had a control sample.

The overall picture is a skeleton and we need to gather information that allows us to see trends and the context in order to move into the policy recommendations level. Other data and documentation will be used. Some good data have been collected in this process and reflects baseline data, which may be used in a longitudinal analysis. Study provides the basis in which we might move to longitudinal study. More clean up work

needs to be done, but the study should not be pushed beyond the baseline nature of the work.

Country-level data have more information, but regional level eliminates indicators that are either not included or not in an appropriate format for comparison and are therefore not included in the national baseline.

Some of the methodologies are open to question. Each country uses different methodologies. How will we conduct regional analyses when the data are stored according to national standards?

We are concerned that key information may not be analyzed because of dissimilar data. The data base is a starting point.

Fred (presentation 3)

Quantifying vulnerability:

The Household Vulnerability Index: Social protection implies that we can demand Government to respond, but we must make specific recommendations.

Why are we only looking at households? All SADC countries have a communal farming system which implies the need to look at the impacts on farming communities. The household is the best way to start on the analysis because the community is an aggregation of the effects, similarly to other levels of spatial aggregation

Is impact too mechanical? Perhaps it is more meaningful to use the term "effect."

What will guide in the distinction between categories and the logical framework in which this categorization will take place? The 17 dimensions measure the livelihood and they fall into five livelihood assets. We also look at the production system and gender situation. Consumption patterns will indicate. I.e., livelihood assets=>production system=>gender consideration=>consumption patterns. The index is compounded because we are looking at the different asset categories. The point is that we must be able to tell government that specific households have been gravely impacted and are in dire need of assistance.

In the seven countries, what was the process of carrying these out in terms of the teams that were employed and how they were linked to other studies that have already been carried out, particularly in terms of the relative sizes of the samples? IFPRI conference on food security and AIDS, how has this been linked? The IFPRI conference had significant impact on the formulation of this particular study. This study will be compared to existing literature.

How is the ARV program having an impact on food security? The ARV has not yet come through, possibly because the program is not yet trickling down to the village level.

One participant encouraged that we beware of orphans as child labor rather than full members of their adoptive households.

Focus on social protection: does it allow us to think broadly about agricultural policy measures? We need to emphasize longer-term development approaches and that Government must come in as strongly on this development aspect as they have on the health aspect.

Is there a certain standard to give weights to the dimensions and will these be applied consistently across the countries involved? They use the Human Development Index. This is based upon the literature to identify potential impacts in the area and then a score is developed. Weights allow for differentiation according to national practices (e.g., relative importance of livestock).

Specific Recommendations:

1. As this study is moved forward and built upon, we should harmonize the data through the agreed framework with follow-up to countries to fill in possible gaps in data.
2. A task force should be brought together to adapt the survey tool to regional needs, using the present study as a benchmark that may be the basis for a longitudinal study. This task force may wish to use the recent population-based studies to create context for further studies.
3. FANRPAN should continue to research and elaborate a vulnerability index to describe levels of household vulnerability and need that can motivate Government intervention for agriculture-based development in a similar manner as they do on direct health-related impacts of HIV/AIDS.
4. FANRPAN must link to the to similar programs such as the DFID-funded RHVP.