HIV-related stigma, asset inheritance and chronic poverty: vulnerability and resilience of widows and caregiving children and youth in Tanzania and Uganda

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Social capital

- Supportive relations with extended family, neighbours, community leaders
- Access to financial, material, practical, emotional & peer support through NGOs, FBOs, other initiatives
- Opportunities to participate in community
- Community awareness of HIV, property grabbing & women’s & children’s rights

Human capital

- Gender, birth order, age
- Co-resident adults to provide labour resources & care
- Close loving relations in family
- Access to education, funds for school fees & expenses
- Time for private study
- Strong value attributed to girls’ & boys’ education
- Opportunities for training & skills development

Health & emotional wellbeing

- Good health & access to healthcare
- Nutritional food
- High aspirations & positive outlook for future
- Strong faith
- Confidence & capabilities of household members

Access to assets & material resources

- Ownership of house, farm, livestock, personal belongings
- Food security
- Regular income, pension, financial/material support
- Remittances
- Investment capital
- Access to resources via move to relative’s house

Preventative measures

- Written will
- Land title/written evidence of property ownership/access
- Succession planning for children
- Legal support, advocacy, advice
- Awareness of rights & inequalities in inheritance

Disinheritance, asset loss, chronic poverty

- Written will
- Land title/written evidence of property ownership/access
- Succession planning for children
- Legal support, advocacy, advice
- Awareness of rights & inequalities in inheritance

Asset inheritance & resilience to chronic poverty

- Reduction/loss of parental income
- Liquidation of assets
- Poor quality, insecure housing
- Migration, separation of siblings
- Insecure usufruct land rights & food insecurity
- Limited livelihood opportunities
- Lack of investment capital
- Risk of young people engaging in theft & survival sex

Stigma & harassment

- Disinheritance & property grabbing
- Appropriation of financial assets, rental income, personal belongings
- Eviction
- Verbal, physical or sexual abuse & harassment
- Abandonment, ostracism, refusal to provide support
- Misappropriation of material support
- Misreatment of children in foster households
- Accusations of wrongdoing & community punishment of youth

Social capital

- Weak social ties
- Geographical distance from relatives
- Limited external support
- Little involvement in community
- Stigma & gender- & age-related discrimination

Human capital

- Gender, birth order & age
- Large number of co-resident children, older/ill adults requiring care
- Lack of co-resident adults to provide income or care
- Difficult relations & conflicts within the family
- High levels of children’s unpaid & paid work
- Little priority placed on girls’ & boys’ education
- Disrupted school attendance, poor attainment & risk of dropping out
- Poor educational outcomes & future life chances

Health & emotional wellbeing

- Chronic ill health/impairments & lack of access to health care
- Insufficient nutritional food
- Mental health problems
- Low aspirations & hopelessness about future

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Figure 1: Conceptual framework of risk and protective factors to stigma, asset inheritance and chronic poverty for widows and caregiving young people in households and communities affected by advanced HIV epidemics in eastern Africa

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