

# **Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into FAO Programmes:**

**Process, Achievements, Challenges**

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction .....	2
1.1 Concept, rationale and process .....	2
1.1.1 The concept of mainstreaming .....	4
1.1.2 The rationale of mainstreaming .....	4
Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS at FAO: process, means and achievements .....	6
2. 1 Internal mainstreaming .....	6
2.1.1 HIV/AIDS-related decisions taken by various Governing Bodies of FAO .....	6
2.1.2 Internal fora .....	8
2.1.3 Resource allocation to the HIV/AIDS Programme .....	9
2.1.4 The HIV/AIDS workplace policy of FAO .....	9
2.2 External mainstreaming .....	10
2.2.1 Inter-agency HIV/AIDS-related activities .....	10
2.2.2 FAO's programme response .....	11
Lessons learned, challenges and ways forward .....	14
3.1 Lessons learned .....	14
3.2 Challenges .....	15
3.3 Ways forward .....	16
Annex 1.: List of important FAO publications on HIV/AIDS, by main topic .....	17
Annex 2.: FAO technical divisions working on HIV/AIDS and food security .....	20

## **Introduction**

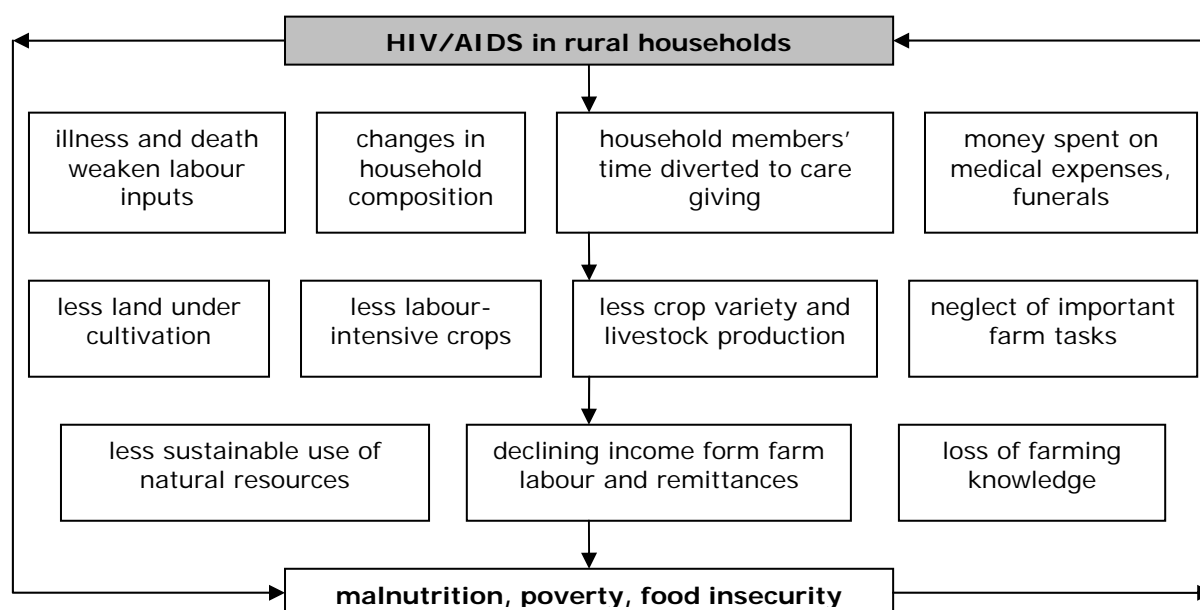
The HIV/AIDS epidemic is not just a public health problem; it is also a major development issue. HIV/AIDS is a unique disease because of its devastating, systemic and cumulative impact of all aspects of human development. The epidemic stands apart from other diseases like malaria or tuberculosis because of the scale of morbidity and mortality among mature age adults. HIV/AIDS poses an exceptionally serious threat to agriculture and rural development, particularly in poor rural communities, because it depletes labour, disrupts livelihoods, upsets inter-generational linkages, increases household and community vulnerability to poverty, and exacerbates food insecurity.

For agencies such as FAO, the pandemic demands change in what is done and in how it is done. Already in the late 1980s FAO recognized the urgent need for action to be able to respond effectively to the impacts of HIV/AIDS on food security and rural livelihoods. HIV/AIDS mainstreaming has become an integral part of FAO's efforts in this area. This report outlines how FAO has mainstreamed HIV/AIDS issues into its activities and what strategic role it plays in the fight against the epidemic.

### **1.1 Concept, rationale and process**

FAO was founded in October 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living; to improve agricultural productivity; and to better the condition of rural populations. FAO's role is global and focuses on advocacy, normative work, and providing technical assistance to countries in the fields of food security, agriculture, and rural development.

The impact of HIV/AIDS on agriculture and food security was neglected for many years. Originally, the epidemic was perceived as a health issues and the potential role of the agricultural sector to assist in the prevention and mitigation of its impacts was not recognized. FAO led the work to identify and describe the interrelationships between HIV/AIDS and agriculture. This was done in a systematic, step-wise way. FAO started by demonstrating the impacts of HIV/AIDS in selected rural settings. Based on this, it gradually moved towards identifying opportunities for agricultural policy interventions, elaborating specific responses, and pilot-testing promising interventions. As a result of this pioneering effort by FAO, it is now widely recognized that HIV/AIDS represents a major obstacle in achieving food security in the today's global context. All dimensions of food security – availability, stability, access to, and utilization of food – are being adversely affected by HIV/AIDS. The epidemic is impoverishing rural households irreversibly, launching many into destitution (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: HOW HIV/AIDS AFFECTS THE LIVELIHOODS OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS**

Gender inequality is one of the driving forces behind the spread of HIV. Biological and social factors make women more vulnerable to HIV, especially in youth and adolescence. Access to productive resources including land, credit, knowledge, training and technology, is strongly determined along gender lines, with men frequently having more access to all of these than women. With the death of her husband, a wife may be left without the access she had gained through him or his clan, and her livelihood and that of her children is immediately threatened. AIDS is thus worsening existing gender imbalances.

In addition, HIV/AIDS creates a significant institutional capacity gap, particularly in national agricultural and service organizations, research organizations, and higher education and training institutions. In its consequences, HIV/AIDS has a profound effect on hunger- and poverty-reduction strategies and their implementation in rural areas because it:

- increases rural poverty at both household and community levels;
- reduces rural productivity and production levels;
- sets in motion new, long-term processes of impoverishment;
- leads to new forms of poverty;
- reorders the prioritization of vulnerable groups and produces new ones;
- diminishes human resource capacity in executing agencies.

Given the above, it is clear that HIV/AIDS has a direct bearing on FAO's mandate. In order to adequately respond to the multiple challenges brought about by the epidemic, FAO has identified eight strategically important areas of intervention to prevent and to mitigate the

impact of HIV/AIDS on rural people (Box 1). It is against this programmatic background that FAO undertook a systematic effort to mainstream HIV/AIDS into its activities.

**Box 1: FAO's STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION AGAINST HIV/AIDS<sup>1</sup>**

- improving food security and nutrition;
- strengthening social and economic safety nets and protecting access by vulnerable households to productive resources;
- promoting labour-serving practices and technologies;
- ensuring the preservation and transmission of agricultural knowledge, practices, skills;
- addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities, needs and interests;
- building the capacity of formal and informal institutions to respond to needs by developing and implementing effective agricultural-sector responses;
- raising awareness among policy-makers, programme-planners and practitioners.

### 1.1.1 The concept of mainstreaming

“Mainstreaming” has been conceptualised differently by different development agencies, and sometimes the term is used interchangeably with terms such as “the multi-sectoral response” or “integrating HIV/AIDS concerns”. In FAO, mainstreaming is understood as a process composed of several elements:

- (a) systematically analysing how HIV and AIDS impact on agriculture and food security systems in various rural settings;
- (b) identifying how the agriculture sector – defined broadly as also including the forestry, fisheries and livestock sectors – should respond based on its comparative advantage;
- (c) creating awareness among staff of the scale of the HIV/AIDS problem and of its implications for food security and agriculture;
- (d) re-focusing the work of FAO to ensure that those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are included in, and able to benefit from, its activities;
- (e) screening all FAO programmes with an HIV/AIDS “do no harm” lens to ensure that programmes are not increasing people’s vulnerability to HIV.

### 1.1.2 The rationale of mainstreaming

The rationale for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS issues into FAO technical programmes has been based on the following starting points:

- a clear understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS on agriculture, rural livelihoods, and rural development in general;
- the awareness of the intractable interaction between food insecurity and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS;
- the need for FAO to lead the agricultural sector’s<sup>2</sup> strategic role in contributing to the prevention, care, and mitigation of the impact of HIV/AIDS.

<sup>1</sup> Source: FAO (2003). *Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and rural poverty, results of a multistakeholder meeting and outcomes of subsequent strategy development.*

FAO was aware, since the very beginning of the HIV/AIDS crisis, that the epidemic would pose a major threat to the lives and livelihoods of rural populations, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where the epidemic had been growing faster than anywhere else in the world. Thus in 1988 FAO commissioned a study to look at the potential impact of HIV/AIDS on farming systems. The output paper<sup>3</sup> confirmed most of FAO's long held fears about the impact of the epidemic on rural agricultural productivity and food security. Building on this knowledge, during the 1990s FAO undertook a number of analytical studies on various rural social groups and sub-sectors of rural livelihoods: commercial agriculture, livestock, fisheries, agricultural production, youth, etc<sup>4</sup>. FAO thus became the first UN agency to initiate detailed sectoral analysis of the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on rural economies. The main conclusion emerging from these studies was that HIV/AIDS was not only a health issue, but has become a developmental problem in which food and nutrition [in]security play a critical role.

As the above overview shows, FAO began addressing HIV/AIDS through research. It was a deliberate effort to first understand the nature of the problem – interaction between HIV/AIDS on the one hand and food security, nutrition and rural livelihoods on the other hand – and then to use the information generated to influence attitudes and policies within and outside the Organization, as well as to develop and implement evidence-based agricultural-sector responses.

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<sup>2</sup> Defined broadly to include fisheries, forestry and livestock sub-sectors.

<sup>3</sup> Gillespie, S. R. (1989). Potential impact of AIDS on farming systems: a case study from Rwanda. *Land Use Policy* 6 (4): pp 301–312.

<sup>4</sup> See Annex 1.

## **Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS at FAO: process, means and achievements**

FAO undertook a two-track approach to mainstreaming HIV/AIDS, namely internal and external mainstreaming. This section offers a description of the process through which mainstreaming was, and still is, being undertaken. It also offers a glimpse of the means and resources expended in the process as well as the achievements.

### **2. 1 Internal mainstreaming**

Within FAO, internal mainstreaming corresponds to the process of creating awareness among staff of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS problem and of its impact on food security and agriculture, as well as of motivating them to integrate HIV/AIDS in their respective programmes. It also encompasses the process of creating political commitment in terms of bringing the HIV/AIDS issue to the attention of FAO Governing Bodies (as described below).

Thus, internal mainstreaming has been, and remains, an institutional process through which the Organization has taken a strong commitment to addressing the food and agriculture dimension of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Internal mainstreaming has been greatly aided by the formation in 1997 of an Inter-Departmental Group on HIV/AIDS. The Group provides an informal institutional forum to address HIV/AIDS issues in relation to agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods. It brings together FAO experts from a number of technical areas, including sustainable rural development, agricultural engineering, nutrition, education for rural people, agricultural extension, land tenure, field and emergency operations, legal affairs, and the forestry, fisheries and livestock sectors. The Group has enabled in-house discussions on how to mainstream HIV/AIDS concerns into FAO technical programmes and facilitated effective sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

#### **2.1.1 HIV/AIDS-related decisions taken by various Governing Bodies of FAO**

This section details key decisions regarding HIV/AIDS taken by various FAO governing bodies – notably the Conference, the Council, and the specialized Committees<sup>5</sup> – which

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<sup>5</sup> As stated in the FAO Constitution, the Conference determines the policy and approves the budget of the Organization. The Conference, in which each FAO Member Nation is represented by one delegate, meets once in every two years. The Conference usually delegates some of its powers to the Council. In the performance of its functions, the Council is assisted by a Programme Committee, a Finance Committee, a Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, a Committee on Commodity Problems, a Committee on Fisheries, a Committee on Forestry, a Committee on Agriculture and a Committee on World Food Security. These Committees advise on the formulation and implementation of the FAO policies and coordinate the implementation of these policies. The Committees report to the Council and their composition and terms of reference are governed by rules adopted by the Conference. For more information on the FAO Governing Bodies, see [http://www.fao.org/documents/show\\_cdr.asp?url\\_file=/docrep/003/x8700e/x8700e01.htm](http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/003/x8700e/x8700e01.htm)

indicate the strength of political and programmatic commitment of the Organization to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis. These decisions by high-level FAO bodies illustrate the accomplishment of HIV/AIDS mainstreaming efforts undertaken so far.

- The **FAO Council** session in November 1994 was the first such meeting to address the issue of HIV/AIDS with implications for agriculture and food security. The Council urged FAO to continue monitoring HIV/AIDS and to cooperate with other agencies.
- The signing of the **FAO-UNAIDS Cooperation Framework Agreement** in July 1999 formalised the cooperation between UNAIDS and FAO at the global, regional and country levels in their respective areas of work as they relate to HIV/AIDS and gave FAO a renewed impetus to lead the agricultural sector response to HIV/AIDS.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the **Committee on World Food Security** in June 2001 urged FAO to support Member Countries in their efforts to prevent the worsening of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to mitigate its negative effects on food security and nutrition, and to strengthen their collaboration with UNAIDS and other UN agencies.
- The 22<sup>nd</sup> **Regional Conference for Africa** in February 2002 called upon FAO and its member countries in the region to strengthen the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic which threatens the lives and livelihoods of millions of rural dwellers and jeopardizes rural development in the region.
- The final declaration of the **World Food Summit: five years later** in June 2002 underlined the need to address the acute threat of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its devastating impact on all sectors and levels of society and, consequently, on food security. It also stressed the need to respond by developing new approaches, technologies and crops for labour-deficient farming households affected by HIV/AIDS.
- The **World Summit on Sustainable Development** in August 2002 highlighted the impact of HIV/AIDS on development and the FAO Director-General identified HIV/AIDS as one of the three corporate Priority Areas for Inter-disciplinary Action.
- In November 2002 the **FAO Council** decided that all technical divisions of FAO have to address HIV/AIDS based on their respective areas of mandate and comparative advantage.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> session of the **Committee on World Food Security** in May 2003 took notice of the evidence on the linkages between food emergencies and HIV/AIDS, and concluded that AIDS and famine are directly linked.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> session of the **Committee on Forestry** in March 2003 recognized that HIV/AIDS affects all economic sectors and requested FAO to elaborate elements of a strategy to address its impacts in the forest sector.
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> **FAO Conference** in November/December 2003 considered the negative impact of HIV/AIDS on farming households' productive capacity, and

recommended that such effects of HIV/AIDS be addressed in national strategies for food security and agricultural development.

- The 23<sup>rd</sup> **Regional Conference for Africa** in March 2004 identified HIV/AIDS as one of the key constraints to reducing hunger in Africa, emphasized the importance of improving the nutrition of HIV-infected individuals, and highlighted the need to combine awareness-raising and education programmes with interventions that address the social and economic needs of those who are already infected as well as their families, including AIDS orphans.
- The 26<sup>th</sup> session of the **Committee on Fisheries** in March 2005 noted that high incidence rates of HIV/AIDS, malaria and bilharzias are taking their toll on fisherfolk, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and recommended that this issue be addressed in order for small-scale fisheries to make a greater contribution to rural development and sustainable livelihoods.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the **Committee on Agriculture** in April 2005 reiterated that FAO must continue developing and implementing activities to prevent and mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS as part of its programme on sustainable agricultural and rural development, as well as its work towards achieving the MDGs.
- The **Medium Term Plan 2006-2011** emphasizes the coordination of normative outputs, technical assistance and policy guidance given to countries regarding the ways in which the agriculture sector can contribute to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

### 2.1.2 Internal fora

Another strategy for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in FAO technical programmes involves organising various HIV/AIDS thematic seminars, workshops, symposia and the observance of special days – namely, World AIDS Day, World Women’s Day, and World Food Day – in which specific aspects of HIV/AIDS are highlighted.

- Since 1994 FAO has marked World AIDS Day each 1<sup>st</sup> of December by organising a symposium. Normally this is done in cooperation with other Rome-based agencies, notably the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food programme (WFP). Speakers are invited from within and outside the Organization to lead discussion on HIV/AIDS and food security, within the framework of the year’s theme. Over the years, staff interest and participation in the World AIDS Day has grown in response to FAO’s expanded programmatic focus on HIV/AIDS.
- Since 1979 FAO celebrates World Food Day (WFD) on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. The HIV/AIDS programme took advantage of this activity to explore the link between HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security, and introduced relevant HIV/AIDS topics either as part of the main event or as side events.

- International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and World Rural Women's Day (WRDWD) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. The FAO HIV/AIDS Programme supports these events and their annual themes through co-organizing events in member states, or by organizing symposia at its headquarters in Rome. These fora have proved useful in highlighting gender issues related to HIV infection and the impact of AIDS, particularly the ever-increasing burden on rural women in respect to HIV infection, care and support of the sick and the survivors.

### **2.1.3 Resource allocation to the HIV/AIDS Programme**

As with most activities and processes, HIV/AIDS mainstreaming cannot be achieved without funds and dedicated human resources. The amount of funds for FAO's work on HIV/AIDS has significantly increased over time, although given the structure of the FAO departmental/divisional budgets, it is very difficult to give a precise estimate of the funds directed to this work.<sup>6</sup> Although some are implemented as self-standing HIV/AIDS activities, many agricultural projects in fact have HIV/AIDS as one of the major components, reflecting the progress made in the mainstreaming process. Current estimates of budgetary allocations for FAO's HIV/AIDS activities are provided in Annex 3.

Human resource allocation is another important aspect in the HIV/AIDS mainstreaming effort. In 1988, no staff member of the Organization was working full-time on HIV/AIDS, nor did FAO have a dedicated technical unit addressing HIV/AIDS *per se*. In the early 1990s, the Director General assigned the Gender and Development Division the role of corporate focal point on HIV/AIDS. Thereafter technical officers were assigned to the Division to work specifically on HIV/AIDS, while technical staff in other divisions started working on HIV/AIDS as it became a part of their regular work programmes. At present, total FAO staff time (both in headquarters and in the field) dedicated to HIV/AIDS corresponds to about 32,000 person-hours per year, which is equivalent to about 18 full-time staff. That the role of spearheading the HIV/AIDS effort was assigned to the Gender and Development Department proved to be an opportunity, in that the nascent HIV/AIDS programme capitalised or borrowed heavily on the accumulated experience in gender mainstreaming.

### **2.1.4 The HIV/AIDS workplace policy of FAO**

The FAO recruitment and staffing policies are fully in line with the ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS. FAO's national and international staff and dependants are covered by the FAO

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<sup>6</sup> Based on the information available on FAO budgets, the expenditures currently devoted to self-standing HIV/AIDS activities correspond to about 0.5% of FAO's annual Regular Programme funds. The HIV/AIDS Programme is in the process of collecting precise information from all of FAO units, including regional offices, concerning HIV/AIDS components in their work programmes. It is expected that this exercise will show considerable staff time and non-staff resources being expended to fight the non-health impact of the disease on agriculture and household food security.

medical insurance (through Van Breda & Co. International) for treatment and care. As mentioned previously, a symposium on HIV/AIDS issues for FAO staff and their families is held annually at headquarters on the World AIDS Day. FAO would like to extend this event to non-headquarters staff in the future. The UNAIDS handbook *AIDS and HIV Infection: Information for UN Employees and Their Families* is distributed through the FAO medical service at headquarters and has been sent to the field offices. Information on AIDS, including on HIV testing and counselling in Rome, is available through FAO's internal webpage which also has a link to the UNAIDS webpage.

## **2.2 External mainstreaming**

Given the mandate of FAO and the concentration of its programme activities in developing countries, some of which are hard hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the need for a strong external mainstreaming approach cannot be overemphasized. FAO operated on the assumption that in high HIV prevalence regions the people targeted by FAO technical programmes were either at risk, already infected, or affected by HIV/AIDS. It was realised that without deliberate efforts to address the underlying vulnerabilities and mitigate impacts, it would be difficult for FAO projects and programmes to set goals and achieve results. Also, the fact that FAO works with governments, NGOs and other stakeholders in agriculture and rural development, there was need to reach out to these institutions in order to build partnerships for better effectiveness in responding to the epidemic. A sample of activities included in this thrust is described in the following sub-sections.

### **2.2.1 Inter-agency HIV/AIDS-related activities**

FAO has held several important multi-stakeholder consultations:

- In December 2001 FAO organized, in cooperation with other Rome-based agencies and UNAIDS, a technical meeting on mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and rural poverty.<sup>7</sup> The goal was to develop an agriculture sector strategy on how to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural development.
- Another key workshop was held in Bangkok in December 2002. Organized by FAO and UNDP and attended by African and Asian government officials, aid workers and UN specialists, the workshop focused on developing strategies to encourage farmers on both continents to use their agricultural know-how and traditional knowledge in order to help communities survive the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS.
- In May and in November 2003, FAO organized two key policy consultation workshops – in Pretoria and Maputo, respectively – with participants representing

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<sup>7</sup> FAO, the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in coordination with Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) held a consultation with the participating countries Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. For more details, see FAO 2003.

governments, international and local NGOs, UN bodies, academic institutions and donors. The goal was to facilitate sharing experiences in mitigating the impacts of HIV and AIDS through agriculture and rural development, with the longer-term objective of developing good practices and influencing policies.

These consultations have played an important role in solidifying inter-agency collaboration between FAO and IFAD, WFP, and other partners.

### **2.2.2 FAO's programme response**

This section supplies examples of selected programmes and strategies developed by FAO so far in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In FAO, workplans are implemented on a biennial basis. The existing Programme of Work and Budget (PWB 2004-2005) includes one programme entity under the Gender and Population Programme whose primary thrust is to develop appropriate interventions and policy instruments to counter the effects of HIV/AIDS on the rural and agricultural sector. A number of other HIV/AIDS-related activities are carried out within a range of programme entities – as illustrated by the examples below. The next FAO Conference, which will decide on the PWB for the biennium 2006-2007, will be held in late November 2005.

The Gender and Population Division (SDW), in its capacity as the FAO focal point for HIV/AIDS issues, uses a variety of means to mainstream HIV/AIDS into the technical programmes of the Organization. Examples include: sharing good practices and lessons learned (often through the Inter-Departmental Group on HIV/AIDS); providing specialized training to FAO staff whose technical expertise does not include HIV/AIDS; initiating technical seminars targeting specific divisions/services of FAO working on sectoral issues; providing comments on project documents and programme proposals in order to ensure that HIV/AIDS issues are properly addressed; developing guidelines, handbooks and other tools for HIV/AIDS mainstreaming in different technical areas; informing FAO staff of existing efforts in HIV/AIDS mainstreaming and actively seeking their feedback, etc.

#### *Agricultural Sector Policy Support*

Since 2002 FAO has been supporting member countries to formulate Agricultural Sector Strategies on HIV/AIDS. It is within this framework that the 2003 Maputo workshop cited above was organised. Other efforts have included technical support to formulate the HIV/AIDS Mitigation Framework for the Ministry of Agriculture (Zambia); the Agricultural Sector Strategy on HIV/AIDS (Tanzania) and draft strategies for Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Rural Areas (Lao PDR and Myanmar). This is an expanding area of work as many other member countries have shown interest in this kind of technical support

#### *Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools*

This initiative was set up in 2003 in partnership with the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). UNICEF has recently joined the partnership. The Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) targets children orphaned by HIV/AIDS as well as other vulnerable youth aged between 12 and 18 years to improve their agricultural knowledge and skills. The knowledge and skills acquired by the young girls and boys also help them to develop positive values regarding gender equality and human rights. FAO has set up 34 JFFLSs for orphaned children in Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia, targeting a total of around 1,000 young people. Plans for establishing more Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools are underway in Swaziland, Malawi and Tanzania.

#### *Women's Property and Inheritance Rights*

There is no doubt that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has tremendous gender dimensions, most of which are skewed against the female gender. Using the experience gained through many years of gender analysis and programming, FAO has been able to highlight the gender dimensions of the epidemic and to advocate for advancing gender equality and property rights as a means to reduce the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Currently, FAO is a significant partner in the multi-stakeholder partnership - the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA). In this coalition, FAO has since 2004 been a co-convenor of the thrust on Property and Inheritance Rights. The other convenor is the Washington D.C. based International Center for Research on Women (ICRW).

#### *Labour-Saving Technologies*

One of the critical impacts of HIV/AIDS on households is the loss of labour due to prolonged illness and death of prime-age adults. Innovative interventions are required to address this impact so as to restore the productivity of affected households. FAO in partnership promotes labour-saving technologies and practices to overcome labour shortages particularly in farming operations. This work was preceded by analytical studies conducted in Kenya and Tanzania. FAO is supporting a number of conservation farming initiatives in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia as part of the solution to farm labour shortages. A field guide book on labour saving/spreading technologies and practices is in preparation.

#### *Nutritional Support*

The cause-effect interactions between nutrition and HIV/AIDS are central to any HIV/AIDS intervention whether it be medical, economic or social. Poor nutrition lowers the body immunity and heightens the body's susceptibility to HIV infection and early onset of morbidity and mortality. Good nutrition, on the other hand, is essential for longevity and productivity of people living with HIV/AIDS. In the last ten years FAO has undertaken a

range of activities to address the nutritional dimensions of HIV infection and impact, including the following:

- FAO has, in collaboration with WHO, produced a user-friendly manual on nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- FAO, in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF, has promoted school gardens and school feeding programmes as means of improving the nutritional status of schoolchildren particularly in areas hard hit by HIV/AIDS.
- A number of FAO Trust Fund projects on nutritional support are on-going in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia

### *Communication*

FAO understands the need for a good communication strategy, partly to keep the Organization's stakeholders informed about the activities of the Organization vis-à-vis HIV/AIDS, and partly to raise awareness about the gravity and impacts of HIV/AIDS on agriculture, nutrition and rural livelihoods. A combination of communication methods are utilized including interviews by the major media houses, electronic articles, and increasing, a section in the FAO flagship publication – The State of Food Insecurity, published annually to coincide with World Food Day. The HIV/AIDS programme has, in collaboration with the BBC produced a 30 minute video "Sowing Seeds of Hunger" which was broadcast worldwide in 2003 and now is available to national broadcasters and advocacy groups.

In 2003 FAO launched a website<sup>8</sup> dedicated to the Organization's work HIV/AIDS. The website is targeted a wide array of stakeholders including FAO staff. More important, it seeks to inform joint partners, governments, donors, NGO's, and others about the work being undertaken by the Organization in response to HIV/AIDS. The website is also a channel for accessing FAO's research papers on the interaction between HIV/AIDS, agriculture, rural livelihoods and rural development. Since the launch of this website, the visits have been growing continually<sup>9</sup>. Linked with this central webpage are several sector-specific websites which individual technical divisions of FAO use to publicise their work on HIV/AIDS.<sup>10</sup>

These and other communication tools have greatly helped the FAO HIV/AIDS Programme to promote the mainstreaming process.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.fao.org/hiv aids](http://www.fao.org/hiv aids)

<sup>9</sup> Average hits a month in 2003: 14695, in 2004: 14878.

<sup>10</sup> [www.fao.org/sd/seaga](http://www.fao.org/sd/seaga) ; [www.fao.org/es/esn/nutrition](http://www.fao.org/es/esn/nutrition) ; [www.fao.org/forestry/site/hiv-aids](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/hiv-aids)

## **Lessons learned, challenges and ways forward**

Despite the increased commitment both in terms of human resources and funding, FAO's effort to mainstream HIV/AIDS has not always been a smooth ride. In an institution as large as FAO, a variety of challenges had to be overcome. In this section, we describe the lessons learned in the process, the challenges encountered, and the future of the HIV/AIDS work at FAO.

### **3.1 Lessons learned**

1. HIV/AIDS mainstreaming has to be opportunistic as well as strategic. Opportunities for mainstreaming have to be actively searched for, but specific mainstreaming efforts need to be coordinated in a strategic manner. The experience of FAO shows that the most effective way to mainstream HIV/AIDS is to utilise existing institutional arrangements rather than create new structures. The FAO HIV/AIDS programme capitalised on the work and infrastructure created by the gender mainstreaming effort. Surprisingly, evidence shows that mainstreaming HIV/AIDS is easier than mainstreaming gender.
2. HIV/AIDS mainstreaming is not a one-off activity, it is not an event, it is rather a process. In FAO, this process has developed over time and undergone various changes, reflecting the Organization's growing role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Mainstreaming continues to be one of the priorities of the FAO HIV/AIDS Programme.
3. For mainstreaming to be effective, a supportive policy environment is needed within the implementing organization as well as in programme countries. Over the years the FAO HIV/AIDS Programme has benefited greatly from the support its work has received from the FAO Governing Bodies – see section 2.1.1.
4. Creating staff awareness and building the technical capacity of staff to address HIV/AIDS in their respective areas of work are essential preconditions for successful mainstreaming.
5. A dedicated HIV/AIDS unit within the Organization is indispensable to give overall intellectual guidance on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming and provide technical inputs to projects and programmes for HIV/AIDS-affected groups.
6. The participation of FAO Country Representatives in the UN Theme Groups of HIV/AIDS is a particularly effective way of mainstreaming the role of agriculture in national strategies on HIV/AIDS.

7. Mainstreaming cannot be undertaken without adequate funding, disbursed in a timely manner. Budgetary allocations can sometimes help to break HIV/AIDS mainstreaming inertia in some parts of the Organization. In FAO, we have discovered that some 'seed money' is required to support departments/divisions that otherwise would have been struggling to incorporate HIV/AIDS into their work programmes.
8. An effective communication strategy can contribute greatly to the success of mainstreaming activities. Communication for internal mainstreaming usually requires different tools and messages than communication for external mainstreaming.
9. In non-medical technical agencies such as FAO the linkage between the Organization's work and epidemics such as HIV/AIDS is not always obvious. This calls for an innovative approach to HIV/AIDS mainstreaming. A body of evidence demonstrating the linkages has to be assembled, mindset have to be overcome, and clearly defined programmes have to be designed and implemented. This approach is helping the Organization to extend its reach in responding to other diseases – especially malaria, TB, and avian influenza – whose (potential) impact on rural livelihoods have implications for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

### **3.2 Challenges**

1. FAO's capacity to mainstream HIV/AIDS has been, to certain extent, limited by lack of staff in headquarters, regional and country offices, as well as by a continuing lack of non-staff resources. This is the case despite impressive improvements alluded to earlier. Such scarcity naturally curtails FAO's ability to expand the scope and scale-up promising approaches.
2. Despite all information/education campaigns, perceptions about HIV/AIDS not being a development issue continue to persist. Efforts to overcome such misconceptions will have to be incorporated more systematically in FAO's future mainstreaming work. At the same time, the types of food and agriculture interventions which have effectively contributed to the fight against HIV/AIDS need to be publicized and built upon.
3. At project level, the comparatively short time frames of many HIV/AIDS projects represent a significant constraint. Furthermore, a few FAO technical projects are still formulated in a narrowly understood sectoral manner. This tends to limit the FAO HIV/AIDS Programme's opportunities to expand its mainstreaming work.

4. Despite the willingness to fund HIV/AIDS activities, most funds currently available are only for medical and behavioural related interventions. The role and niche that agriculture, nutrition, and food security plays in prevention and impact mitigation is still largely under-appreciated by funding agencies. This is one example of the practical problems that have bearing on FAO's capacity to expand its HIV/AIDS-related services to more countries and regions.

### **3.3 Ways forward**

Mainstreaming is a tool and a vehicle for placing HIV/AIDS considerations in the technical work of an organization. FAO has used this tool for almost two decades with clear achievements. FAO still needs to work hard to consolidate these achievements and even add more to the achievements register. With this in mind, the Organization is working on two very important tools which further cement the HIV/AIDS mainstreaming process.

FAO is working on the formulation of a Corporate Strategy on '*Addressing the Impact of HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases of Poverty on Nutrition, Food Security and Rural Livelihoods 2005-2015*'. The integration of other infectious diseases –malaria, TBC, diarrhoea, etc. – in its programmes will be one of the priority areas for FAO in the future. Interventions should pay special attention to the economic and psycho-social needs of agricultural households affected by killer diseases.

From 2006, the FAO Inter-Departmental Group on HIV/AIDS, which is mentioned in section 2.1 above, shall be reconstituted into a fully-fledged PAIA. This means that the group will be a formal forum with a modest budget. The decision to create this PAIA is the outcome of a considerable effort by the Group to change the erstwhile perception that the epidemic and its impact were peripheral to the work of the Organization, to the present state of affairs where HIV/AIDS is seen as a priority area. Thus, the PAIA is a clear product of HIV/AIDS mainstreaming at FAO.

It is clear that FAO needs to *expand the scope of its response to HIV/AIDS* as well as to scale-up some of the promising approaches including Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools. But for this to happen, a concerted effort to *mobilise resources* is indispensable. Despite some improvements in the regular programme budget allocation, the HIV/AIDS programme cannot be sufficiently funded by the regular programme budget and hence the drive to attract extra-budgetary resources.

## **Annex 1: List of important FAO publications on HIV/AIDS, by main topic**

### Rural development policy

- ✓ Strengthening institutional capacity in mitigating HIV/AIDS impact on the agricultural sector - potential mitigation interventions  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe1/pe1\\_041201\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe1/pe1_041201_en.htm)
- ✓ African Asian Agriculture against AIDS  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe3/pe3\\_040502\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe3/pe3_040502_en.htm)
- ✓ Interactions between the Agricultural Sector and the HIV/AIDS Pandemic: Implications for Agricultural Policy <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/ae061e/ae061e00.pdf>
- ✓ Sustainable Agriculture/Rural development/and Vulnerability to the AIDS Epidemic  
<http://www.unaids.org/publications/documents/sectors/agriculture/Jc-fao-e.pdf>
- ✓ *AIDS and agriculture in Africa: can agricultural policy make a difference?*  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/WPdirect/Wpan0048.htm> /  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/x4390t/x4390t03.htm> /  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/x4390e/x4390e02.htm>
- ✓ *The implications of HIV/AIDS for rural development policy and programming: Focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Sustainable Development Department, FAO, and HIV and Development Programme, UNDP. by Daphne Topouzis, 1998:*  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/WPdirect/WPre0074.htm>
- ✓ *AIDS and agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa:*  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/wpdirect/wpre0003.htm>
- ✓ *The impact of HIV/AIDS on rural households / communities and the need for multi-sectoral prevention and mitigation strategies to combat the epidemic in rural areas (with special emphasis on Africa)*  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0259e/x0259e00.htm#TopOfPage>
- ✓ *The Impact of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic on Agricultural Production and Productivity and the Role of Extension Services in Combating the Disease in Rural Areas (Especially in Africa): Issues and Challenges*
- ✓ *Les populations rurales d'Afrique face au SIDA: un défi au développement (Synthèse des travaux de la FAO sur le SIDA)*

### Farming Systems

- ✓ *The effects of HIV/AIDS on farming systems in eastern Africa:*  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/v4710e/v4710e00.htm>
- ✓ *The effects of HIV/AIDS on farming systems in western Africa (only in French)*
- ✓ *Effect of HIV/AIDS on Agricultural Production Systems in West Africa:*  
<http://www.fao.org/focus/e/aids/old/west-e.htm>
- ✓ *Report of a Workshop on the effects of HIV/AIDS on Agricultural Production Systems in Zambia*

### Gender

- ✓ *TSS thematic workshop on Male Involvement in sexual and reproductive health programmes and services:* <http://www.fao.org/sd/WPdirect/WPre0123.htm>
- ✓ *Culture, agriculture and rural development: A view from FAO's Population Programme Service, including the example of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in rural communities:*  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/wpdirect/wpre0132.htm>
- ✓ *Population and gender in rural societies from the perspective of FAO's Population Programme:* <http://www.fao.org/sd/wpdirect/wpre0128.htm>
- ✓ *Module III: Gender, rural fertility/mortality & farming systems, including "Mortality and HIV/AIDS":* [http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0252e/x0252e03.htm#P715\\_84691](http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0252e/x0252e03.htm#P715_84691)

### Nutrition

- ✓ *HIV/AIDS and nutrition: helping families and communities to cope*  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/x4390t/x4390t04.htm>
- ✓ *Living well with HIV/AIDS: a manual on nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS*  
[http://www.fao.org/documents/show\\_cdr.asp?url\\_file=/DOCREP/005/Y4168E/Y4168E00.HTM](http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/DOCREP/005/Y4168E/Y4168E00.HTM)

#### Rural children and youth

- ✓ *The empowerment of Farmer Life Schools: Mobilization and empowerment of rural communities along the Asian Highway (Route 5) in Cambodia to reduce HIV vulnerability:* [http://www.communityipm.org/docs/Farmer\\_Life\\_Schools.doc](http://www.communityipm.org/docs/Farmer_Life_Schools.doc)
- ✓ *Rural Children Living in Farm Systems Affected by HIV/AIDS: Some issues for the rights of the child on the basis of FAO studies in Africa:*  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/WPdirect/WPan0026.htm>
- ✓ *Children orphaned by AIDS: improving their Food Security through Junior Farmer Field Schools:* [http://www.fao.org/sd/hivaids/publications/jffs\\_zimbabwe.doc](http://www.fao.org/sd/hivaids/publications/jffs_zimbabwe.doc)
- ✓ *Training HIV/AIDS orphans in sub-Saharan Africa: Field schools fight hunger and poverty with farming know-how and life skills:*  
<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2005/102183/index.html>
- ✓ *Socio-economic impact of HIV and AIDS on rural families in Uganda: an emphasis on youth:* <http://www.fao.org/docrep/t2942e/t2942e00.htm>

#### Rural institutions and participation

- ✓ *Theme: Impact of HIV/AIDS on agricultural and rural development institutions:*
- ✓ *Farmer's Life School Manual:* <http://www.hiv-development.org/text/publications/FLS%20Manual.pdf>

#### Mobility of rural populations

- ✓ *Population movement, development and HIV/AIDS: looking towards the future*  
[http://www.undphiv.apdip.net/se/sea\\_pub\\_querny.htm](http://www.undphiv.apdip.net/se/sea_pub_querny.htm)

#### Agricultural Extension and Rural Education

- ✓ *HIV/AIDS Resource Guide for Extension Workers*  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/ip/resources/publications/hivaids\\_resourceguide\\_web2004.pdf](http://www.fao.org/sd/ip/resources/publications/hivaids_resourceguide_web2004.pdf)
- ✓ *Report of the Inter-Country Workshop on Population Education for the Rural Youth - Discussion of country papers: China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam:*  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/x5630e/x5630e06.htm>

#### Communication

- ✓ *Strategic approaches to HIV prevention and AIDS mitigation in rural communities and households in Sub-Saharan Africa* [http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/KN0402\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/KN0402_en.htm)

#### Commercial Agriculture

- ✓ *HIV/AIDS and the commercial agricultural sector of Kenya: Impact, vulnerability, susceptibility and coping strategies:* <http://www.fao.org/sd/EXdirect/EXre0026.htm>

#### Forestry and Natural resources

- ✓ *Addressing HIV/AIDS through Agriculture and Natural Resource Sectors: A guide for extension workers* [http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe1/pe1\\_050103\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe1/pe1_050103_en.htm)
- ✓ *Miombo woodlands and HIV/AIDS interactions: Mozambique Country Report*  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/j5251e/j5251e00.htm>
- ✓ *Miombo woodlands and HIV/AIDS interactions: Malawi Country Report*  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/j6038e/j6038e00.htm>
- ✓ *Understanding the interface between natural woodlands and HIV/AIDS-affected communities in Southern Africa* <http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/j4827e/j4827e00.htm>
- ✓ *Firewood, Food and Medicine: Interactions between Forests, Vulnerability and Rural Responses to HIV/AIDS.*

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/common/media.jsp?mediaId=9718&langId=1>

- ✓ Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS and the forest sector  
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/data/hiv/ForestryHIV-AIDShandout.pdf>

#### Livestock

- ✓ Linkages Between HIV/AIDS and the Livestock Sector in East and Southern Africa  
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/subjects/documents/hivlivestocksector.pdf>
- ✓ Livestock Production and HIV/AIDS in East and Southern Africa  
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/subjects/documents/livestockprodhiv.pdf>
- ✓ Livestock: Planning with a Gender and HIV/AIDS Lens  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/seaga/downloads/En/livestocken.pdf>
- ✓ HIV infections and zoonoses <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5516e/y5516e00.pdf>
- ✓ *HIV/AIDS in Namibia: The impact on the livestock sector:*  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/WPdirect/WPan0046.htm>
- ✓ *Is HIV/AIDS a threat to livestock production? The example of Rakai, Uganda:*  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/t4650t/t4650t17.htm> /  
<http://www.fao.org/livestock/agap/frg/feedback/war/t4650b/t4650b17.htm>

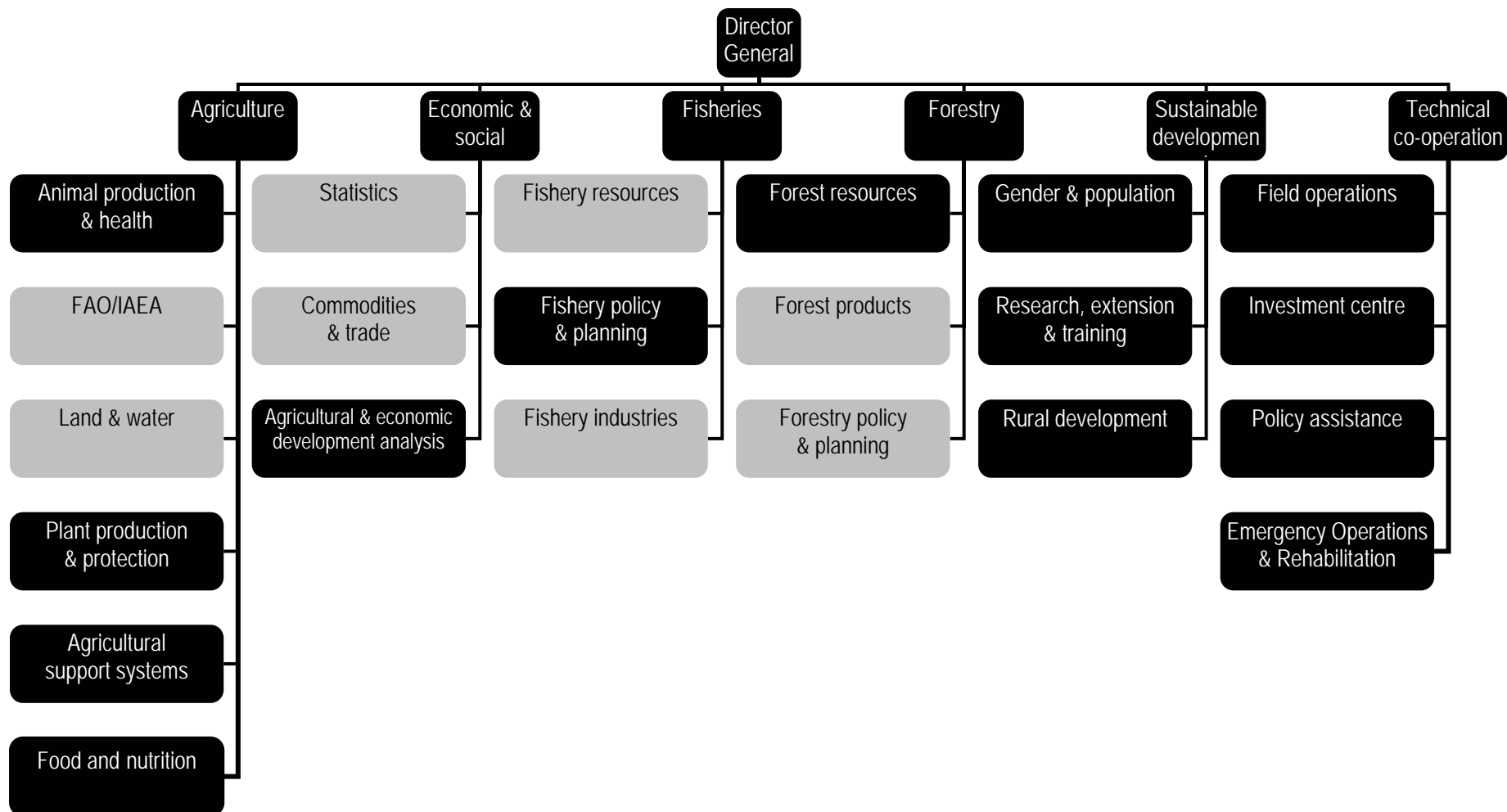
#### Fisheries

- ✓ The susceptibility and vulnerability of small-scale fishing communities to HIV/AIDS in Uganda [http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe3/pe3\\_040101\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe3/pe3_040101_en.htm)
- ✓ HIV/AIDS prevention in Benin and Congo: small-scale fisheries communities a priority:  
<http://www.sflp.org/eng/007/pub1/124.htm>
- ✓ Fighting AIDS in the fishing communities of West Africa:  
<http://www.sflp.org/eng/003/fightaids.htm>
- ✓ *Impact of HIV/AIDS on fishing communities: policies to support livelihoods, rural development and public health.*

#### Case Studies

- ✓ *The impact of HIV/AIDS on rural livelihoods in Northern Province, Zambia, 2004*  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe1/pe1\\_040602\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe1/pe1_040602_en.htm)
- ✓ *The impact of HIV/AIDS on land rights: Case studies from Kenya, 2004*  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe3/docs/pe3\\_040902d1\\_en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe3/docs/pe3_040902d1_en.pdf)
- ✓ *The Effects of HIV/AIDS on Agricultural Production Systems in Zambia, 1993*
- ✓ *The Effect of HIV/AIDS on Agricultural Production and Rural Livelihood Systems in Uganda, 1993*
- ✓ *The potential Impact of HIV/AIDS on Agricultural Production and Consumption in Malawi, 1991*
- ✓ *The Socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on Food Production and Consumption: Tabora region, Tanzania Case Study, 1989*
- ✓ *Potential impact of AIDS on farming systems: A case study from Rwanda, 1988*  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/PE1101\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/PE1101_en.htm)

**Annex 2.: FAO technical divisions working on HIV/AIDS and food security**



**Annex 3.**

<i>2,847,000</i>	<i>Gender and Population Division (SDW) annual Regular Programme Budget</i>
500,000	Staff, non-staff resources for implementing HIV/AIDS (annual, approximately)
<14,235	Projects with HIV/AIDS components run by other divisions (annual, approximately)
<b>514,235</b>	<b>Total money spend by SDW (annual, approximately)</b>

<i>Extra budgetary resources of SDW</i>	
600,000	UNAIDS; for the FAO-UNAIDS Partnership
170,000	Government of Ireland; extensive research on non-health impact of HIV/AIDS in Northern Province, Zambia. 2003-04
600,000	the Netherlands; substantive work in Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, especially on JFFLS and AFFLS. 2005
400,000	FAO-Norway Partnership Programme; substantive work in Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, especially on JFFLS and AFFLS. 2005
80,000	FAO-Netherlands Partnership Programme; work to counter the impact of the disease on agrobiodiversity. 2003-04
120,000	Norway; for the project LinKs (GCP/RAF/338/NOR), supporting three studies on local knowledge, agrobiodiversity and food security in Mozambique, Swaziland and Tanzania
<b>1,970,000</b>	<b>Total of extra budgetary resources</b>

<i>Extra budgetary resources not directly linked to SDW</i>	
200,000	Finland; funded to national partners in Namibia to continue working on JFFLS and AFFLS. 2004-05
1,500,000	Belgian Survival Funds (BSF); to the project of The Nutrition Programmes Service (ESNP) for addressing HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and Zambia.
3,500,000	Belgian Survival Funds (BSF); for a project of ESNP in Mozambique <i>Improving food and nutrition security in the context of HIV/AIDS</i> . Money is currently underway.
2,000,000	Germany; for piloting an interagency project of ESN <i>Protecting and improving food and nutrition security of orphans and HIV/AIDS affected children (phase 1)</i> in Lesotho and Malawi. Joint partnership with UNICEF and WFP.
<b>7,200,000</b>	<b>Total of extra budgetary resources not directly linked to SDW</b>

*Notes:*

All the numbers given are US\$.

For more information, see: 'Fact sheet: FAO Programme on HIV/AIDS and Food Security, September 2005', or contact: FAO Programme on HIV/AIDS (hivaids@fao.org)