



Strategies, Activities and Challenges in Adequately Addressing Food/Nutrition in HIV/AIDS Programs



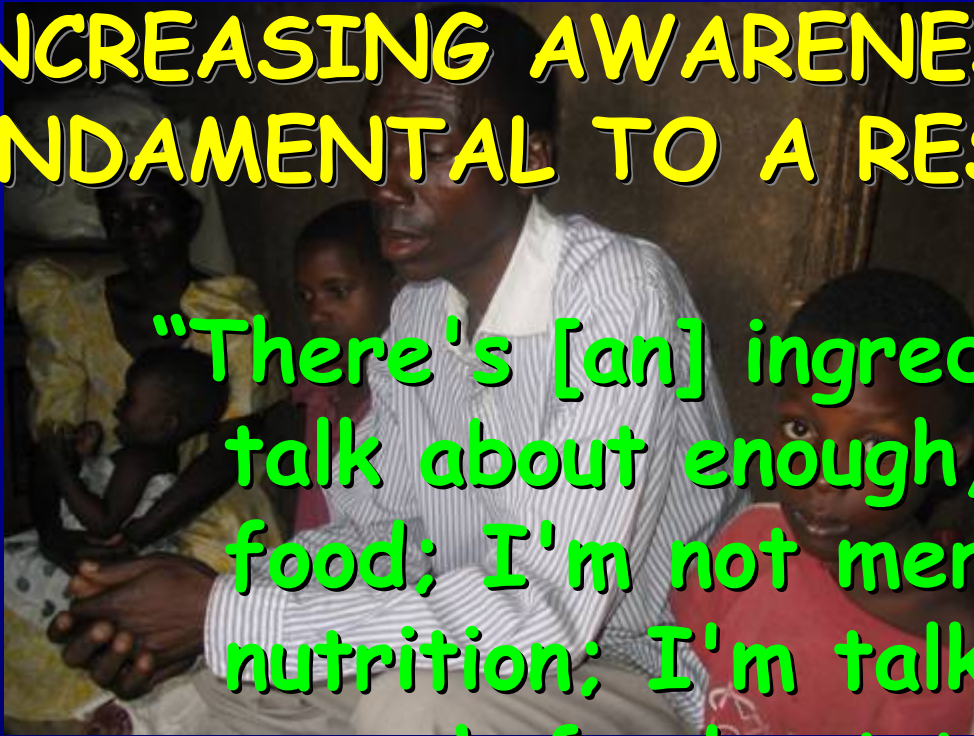
*Bridging the Gap:
Food & Nutrition as a Foundation for
HIV/AIDS Response*

WISHH

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INCREASING AWARENESS OF FOOD AS FUNDAMENTAL TO A RESPONSE TO HIV...



"There's [an] ingredient people don't talk about enough, and that's food; I'm not merely talking nutrition; I'm talking survival - enough food not to be starving and perpetually hungry; so hungry it robs your immune system of its ability to fight the virus."

Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy on AIDS



"The problems of HIV/AIDS and food security can not be separated".

**Secretary of State Colin Powell
at the 50th Anniversary of
Food for Peace**

To succeed in this battle (against HIV/AIDS) we must recognize the important relationship between nutrition and HIV/AIDS."

Randall Tobias

U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Ambassador, May 11, 2004

Testimony before Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Three Stories



Care/Support

Nutrition

Food and Livelihood Security

Ideally...a community-based program that uses food as a resource and integrates HIV contains:

- Careful assessment
- Entrance and graduation criteria
- Best prevention strategies
- Links to health and HIV services
- Integration of livelihood strategies
- A solid plan for monitoring and evaluation
- Leveraged support from a variety of sources to provide all of these elements

Challenges...

- How do we help all mothers and especially HIV+ mothers to be able to feed themselves and their infants adequately?

- IF HAART helps to protect mothers and infants, how can we make it more widely available to HIV affected families in our food security programs?



Challenges...

- How can we assure her food and nutritional security?



Some Macro Challenges to FFP's Capacity to Respond to HIV

- Finite resources are increasingly stretched by greater numbers of food insecure due to more complex emergencies natural disasters and "new variant famine"
- Increases in shipping costs stretching resources even more
- Political environment questioning use of food as a resource (i.e. WTO)

Some Macro Challenges to FFP's Capacity to Respond to HIV (2)

- Most available foods on the commodity list are not ideal for nutritional impact in HIV and the process of developing new foods or modifying existing foods is complex.
- OGAC needs food to assure success of ARV rollout, but has limited budget for food.
- Inter-sectoral coordination within the agencies and inter-agencies is in initial phase.

What are FFP resources supporting in HIV affected communities?

- Nutritional care, support and counseling for HIV/AIDS-infected individuals as well as prevention;
- Improved infant and young child feeding for HIV/AIDS-affected households;
- Strengthening food access and livelihoods strategies of households and communities affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Food and nutritional support for orphans and vulnerable children;

In Support of this, FFP has worked with multi-sector team to develop...

- Basic Principles as guidelines for PVOs and WFP when incorporating HIV/AIDS
 - Principles provide framework for assessment, for collaboration, for focus on food insecure HIV-affected populations addressing long-term food security, with an emphasis on nutritional care and support.
 - Principles call on partners to adjust rations to the objectives of the program and to have an integrated program.
- Principles provided framework for evaluating WFP Southern Africa PRRO and now incorporated into FY06 Interim Guidance.

Activities in Progress

- 16 Existing country programs have HIV components and these are being increasingly monitored.
- FFP investment in HIV components of food security programs estimated at more than \$20 million in FY04.
- Emphasis on HIV increased in new proposal guidelines
- PVOs strongly encouraged to develop partnerships including Global Development Alliances, to leverage additional funds.
- Participation in inter-bureau, interagency working groups such as Food and Nutrition WG developed together with OGAC and others to share lessons learned.

TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES, FOOD AND ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY AT ALL AGES AND STAGES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A BASIC COMPONENT OF OUR HIV RESPONSE



Thank you