



WELCOME NOTE FROM CENTER:

Welcome to the fourth Newsletter from the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA), a training and research collaboration between researchers at Makerere University (MUK) and the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) in Kampala, Uganda, at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Mbarara, Uganda, and at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. CeSSRA began in September 2007 through funding from the US National Institute of Health (R24HD056917). CeSSRA is housed in the Department of Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University and the Faculty of Social Sciences at Makerere University in Kampala. The CeSSRA Kampala office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

The center's aim is to train social scientists to carry out social science research on HIV/AIDS collaboratively and also conduct a longitudinal study on the social context of HIV/AIDS treatment. Under the fellowship component, the Fellows are reviewing their individual mentoring plans and are concretizing their areas of research interest. Fellows are undergoing initial preparatory training and have been introduced to AIDS 201 module. Other subsequent modules to follow include, Anthropology 501, and Research Design and Methodology using interactive web-based and classroom learning. Fellows continuously receive free-critique as they present their research work. This will enable them publish papers in scientific journals and prepare grantable proposals.

CeSSRA Office

A new staff was recruited as Administrative Assistant.



Birungi Judith

Judith has a Diploma in Human Resource Management (DHRM) from Makerere University Business School (MUBS), a diploma in Office Management

/Administration from The College of Professional Management (U.K.) and a Diploma in Stenography. Judith attended short courses in ICT, records management and Planning. She has worked as a secretary for 11years now. She has worked with Government institutions including Kawolo Hospital handling the Hospital Management Information System and was involved in the hospital outreaches for people with HIV/AIDS; on top of her secretarial work.

During her career, through trainings; she has amassed extensive knowledge and skills in participatory planning and budgeting for Local Government Councils, community mobilization and sensitization and data collection.

Judith has good interpersonal relations, multi-skilled, can work with teams, under minimum supervision and is result oriented. Judith was admitted for a degree in Public Administration, but will commence next year.

RECENT EVENTS:

Webcam Sessions at UMI

The center commenced online/web-based Research Design and Methodology with fellows on 12th September 2008.



Research fellows and staff during the webcam session at UMI

UPCOMING FELLOWS EVENTS

Research Design Course:

This in-person session at the centre was held on 29th September 2008 and web session at UMI on 10th October 2008. During the In-person session, George Kitatta and Joseph Kyebuzibwa made presentations, abstracts are below.

Presentation in the next Monthly meeting

Dorothy Akurut will present in our next fellows meeting on

31st October 2008. Her topic will be “Adherence to HAART Regimens in low resourced settings” A case study of Joint Clinical Research Centre Mbale Branch in CeSSRA Office at 5pm. All fellows are invited to attend.

PROFILE

Kitatta George, a Fellow with CeSSRA, is a sociologist with a B.A in Social Sciences of Makerere University. He also holds a Diploma in Environmental Health Science from Makerere University, a Certificate in Principles of Decentralization, a Certificate in Participatory Rural Appraisal Techniques, and a Certificate in Computer Skills Training. He is currently working with the Department of Sociology, Makerere University as a Teaching Assistant. Through various trainings, tasks, responsibilities and assignments over a period of time, he has amassed extensive knowledge, skills and abilities in participatory planning and budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, data collection, training, facilitation, and presentation techniques, and organizational management. He has also participated in a few baseline and evaluation studies such as assessing socio-cultural gender practices that promote the persistence of HIV/AIDS among communities in Kooki; a baseline survey to assess the livelihood of child headed households and female headed households in Rakai, needs assessment for asset and animal loan schemes for the poor in Rubaga Division and assessing factors responsible for persistence of diarrhea in under fives. He is keen to learn, self-motivated, and capable of working with minimum supervision. He has good analytical skills, good oral and written communication skills, with desirable interpersonal and team building skills. He hopes to gain a lot from the CeSSRA training programme especially in terms of developing research questions and analyzing data, besides writing publishable manuscripts.

Below is a summary of George Kitatta's presentation:

“Effects of AIDS on Families: A Case Study of Child Headed Households in Rakai District”.

The study used a cross-sectional descriptive design which involved child-headed households (CHHs) as the study sample that were purposively selected from Kyalulungira, Byakabanda, Dwaniro, and Lwanda Sub-Counties, Rakai District. Data was collected through individual interviews with heads of CHHs using semi-structured questionnaires, observations using checklists, case narratives, focus group discussions, and reviewing existing projects' documents and reports, and other relevant literature.

Quantitative data was analyzed using the SPSS, while qualitative data was analyzed using thematic and content approaches. The study was intended to assess the magnitude of CHHs in Rakai District; assess the survival/coping mechanisms that orphans living in CHHs adopt; assess accessibility of children in child headed households to basic social services; assess the levels of awareness of children living in child headed households regarding HIV/AIDS and rights; and to identify and suggest appropriate interventions aimed at improving the welfare of children living in child headed households.

144 CHHs were found in Kyalulungira, Byakabanda, Dwaniro and Lwanda Sub-Counties. 60.7% of the CHHs were orphans living on their own, while 39.3% were children living with incapacitated guardians. 91.4% of the parents had succumbed to AIDS. 63.2% of the CHHs were found headed by boys, while 36.8% of the households were headed by girls. All the CHHs had a total population of 773 people (average family size of 5 people per household). 54.7% of these people were female, while 45.3% were male. 5.6% of the CHH heads were less than 14 years old, 27.7% were aged between 14 – 16 years! 64.6% of the heads of CHHs were not attending school; only 35.4% of the CHHs heads were found to be attending school. The CHH heads often have to drop out of school to work and fend for the younger ones, and have to worry about where the family's next meal is coming from. 4.2% of the CHHs heads had never been to school at all. The male: female ratio CHHs heads that had attained education beyond the primary level was 75:25. 64.6% of the CHHs were found basically living off subsistence farming (crop farming), while 11.1% were hiring out their labour to earn a living. 79.4% of the households were earning less than Shs.1,000 per week (an average family of 5, imagine!). These households were found to have an average of only one hoe per CHH; an average of ten coffee trees; the bicycle: CHH ratio was 1:12; the cattle: CHH ratio was 1:13; the goat: CHH ratio was 1:2; while the chicken: CHH ratio was 1:1. All these are pointers to the insecure livelihood of the CHHs.

Below is an abstract for Kyebuzibwa Joseph's presentation:

“Challenges Facing HIV Positive Women in ‘Meeting’ Food and Nutrition Needs”

Meeting immediate food and nutrition needs is essential if HIV/AIDS infected persons and their households are to live with dignity. In resource poor settings, women are faced with many challenges when it comes to making decisions about their own nutrition and nutrition of their families. Women shoulder much of the burden of HIV infection in terms of their responsibilities for providing food

to themselves and other family members who are infected or affected with HIV/AIDS.

As access to AIDS drugs increases in resource poor settings, a great number of HIV infected individuals especially women are facing problems in meeting the required food and nutrition necessary for supplementing drugs and reduce drug side effects. Therefore as drug interventions scale up in resource poor settings, food and nutrition remain critical priorities for drug programs. People living with HIV/AIDS need special nutrition, and maintaining adequate food and consumption is critical especially for women. It is therefore imperative to propose this research to understand the challenges faced by HIV positive women in resource poor settings in obtaining adequate nutrition. This study is intended to capture the dynamics in obtaining food and nutrition particularly focusing on women who are actively involved in providing food.



On screen is Prof. Rwabukwali, one of the facilitators from Cleveland

RESOURCES/ OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CeSSRA Resource Centre:

CeSSRA has established a Resource Center and it is equipped with electronic and hard copy materials from different sources like Research fellows work, UNAIDS, JCRC among other institutions and individual investigators. The soft copies from the recently-held AIDS Conference by USHS and the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico are also available. The centre is open to students, Lecturers, researchers among others.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://www.case.edu/artsci/anth/CeSSRA.html>