

HIV AND FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY: Building Sustainable Responses



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TASO Background

- The largest indigenous HIV/AIDS service organization in Uganda founded 1987
- Complements the public health systems and is a key actor in the national HIV response
- Actively involves people living with HIV and local communities

- Provides a holistic range of services, including:
 - ▣ Prevention of HIV Through prevention with positives & youths
 - ▣ Medical Care Treatment of OI & ART
 - ▣ Counseling services
 - ▣ Social support services
 - ▣ Training in Management and Care for PLHIV

HIV, Food and Nutrition Security Interactions



- Degree of malnutrition clearly linked with mortality risk in adults and children
- Malnutrition compromises ART outcomes
 - ▣ Higher mortality risk on initiation, low adherence, side effects
- Deterioration of food security when chronically ill adult member through reduced income, increased expenditures, loss of labor productivity, time for care-giving

Integrating Livelihoods Security Interventions into HIV Treatment and Care

- A significant response of food assistance programming to people affected by HIV & AIDS
 - WFP, ACIDI/VOCA

- TASO attempts to integrate livelihood interventions to improve food security
 - Integrated HIV and Livelihoods Programs (IHLPs)
 - Partner with local and international NGOs
 - Agricultural & small animal husbandry interventions
 - Rationale for these programs is the dependency on agriculture as a livelihood source

- Evidence base on effectiveness of these programs still quite weak

Understanding Livelihood Program Processes

- Partnership of TASO & RENEWAL
 - ▣ to engage program managers & implementers in a process of dialogue which was ultimately aimed at improving the effectiveness of these interventions

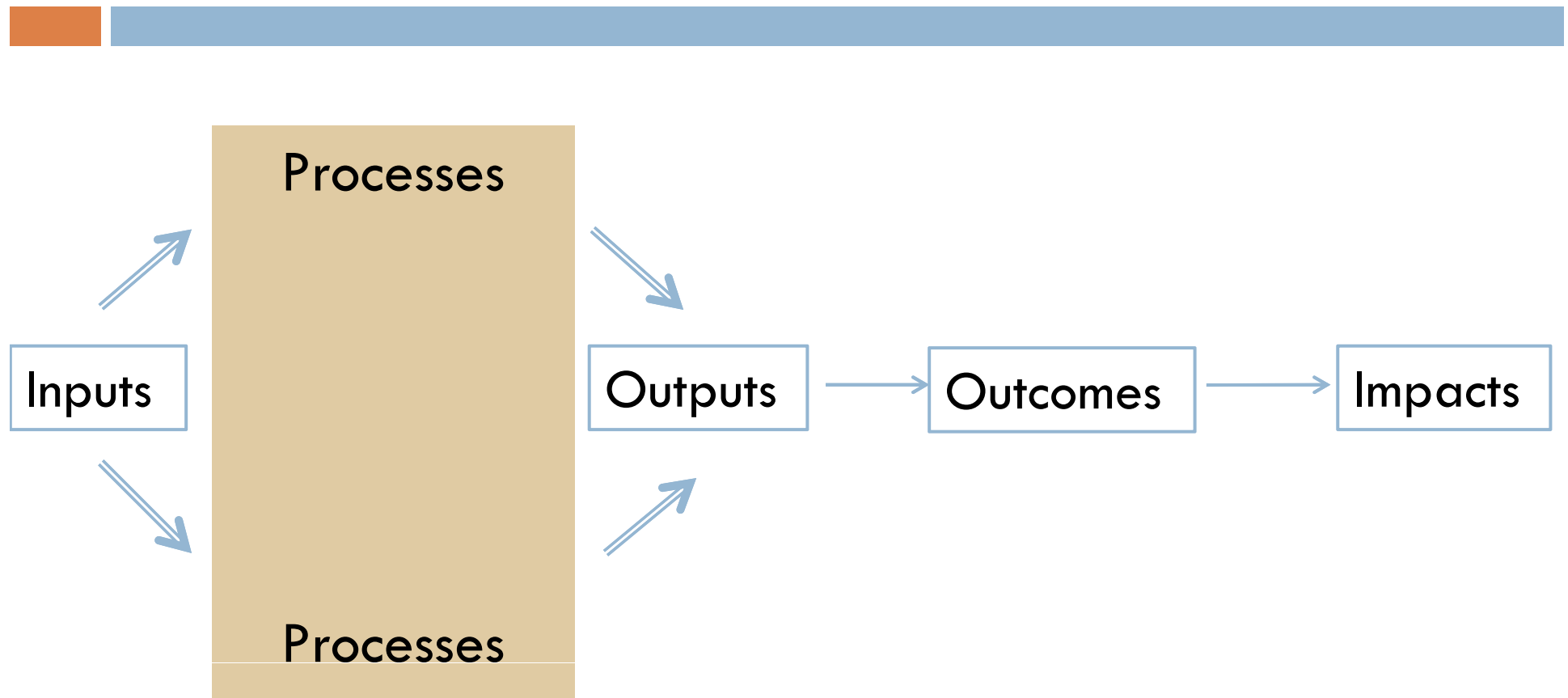
- Operations research (OR) is critical in 2 ways:
 - ▣ providing scientific evidence for health and disease control programs
 - ▣ to improve the quality and “learning” as the programs scale up

Objectives of the study



- ❑ Examine the *causal pathways* to improving food security of IHLP partner organizations
- ❑ Identify *critical components of IHLP processes* necessary to achieve the intended outcomes
- ❑ Investigate the approaches taken to adequately address the articulated challenges in IHLP processes.

We studied the process “black box”



We examined 16 organizations & 72 HH using in-depth case study approach

Findings

Quality of program conceptualization along livelihood
program chain



Causal Pathways to Impact



- Causal pathways are, in theory, plausible
 - ▣ Program activities & inputs (material, intellectual) were consistent with, & appropriate to, program objectives.
 - ▣ However, there are strong & unfounded assumptions that program implementation would be optimal

- IHLP program personnel could not consistently articulate coherent program objectives
 - ▣ Key program personnel lacked substantive information on key program design components

Findings

Key identified process components & quality of implementation of the identified components

Process Theory Results

Key identified processes

- Client and community involvement
- Joint monitoring & feedback with clients and partners
- Working within local community structures
- Integration of Livelihood program services with other complementary
- Effective group management

Key challenges in processes

- Lack of *meaningful* client involvement in program design
- Lack of institutionalized monitoring
- Lack of proactive planning & implementation to integrate with complementary services
- Strong assumption that IHLP programming through “groups” is most appropriate; evidence is mixed

Key Recommendations



- Strengthen and institutionalize:
 - Program conceptual foundations along program chain
 - Processes to enable clients to have meaningful participation in program operations
 - Partnership with complementary services e.g. agriculture and vet extension programs
 - Program monitoring systems

Conclusions

- There is no doubt that malnutrition and food insecurity are compromising AIDS care and treatment objectives
- The rationale for providing agricultural livelihood interventions is clear; integrated programs are playing a crucial role in improving the welfare of PLWHA
- An emphasis must be placed on strong program design focusing on:
 - ▣ Causal pathways to impact
 - ▣ Program implementation and service utilization processes

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