

# Lecture Outline: HIV/AIDS in Africa

## Introduction

- Definition
  - The Global Picture
  - Sub-Saharan statistics
- 1) Impact of AIDS in Africa
    - Social Impact
    - Economic Impact
  - 2) African vulnerability
    - Health & Education infrastructures
    - The Economy
    - Culture of Denial
    - Gender inequality

## 3) Dealing with HIV/AIDS

- Preventative Education
- Pharmacology
- Home Care
- International Action

## 4) Lessons learn from HIV/AIDS in Africa?

- HIV/AIDS & human rights
- Epidemics as history
- Global Citizens

**A – ACQUIRED** – means that the virus is not spread through casual or inadvertent contact like flu or chickenpox. To be infected, person has to do something, or have something done to him or her, which results in exposure to the virus.

**I & D – IMMUNODEFICIENCY** – virus attacks a person's immune system & makes it less capable of fighting infections. Immune system becomes deficient.

**S - SYNDROME** - AIDS is not one disease, but presents as number of diseases that occur as the immune system fails.

# **HIV/AIDS STATISTICS: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

- **HIV infection 1-30%, 28,500,000 infected in 2001**
- **Highest rates of infection ages 15-45.**
- **In Zimbabwe 2000+ die of AIDS each week.**
- **In Botswana, 35.8% of adults infected with HIV.**
- **In South Africa 40,000 children born with HIV each year.**

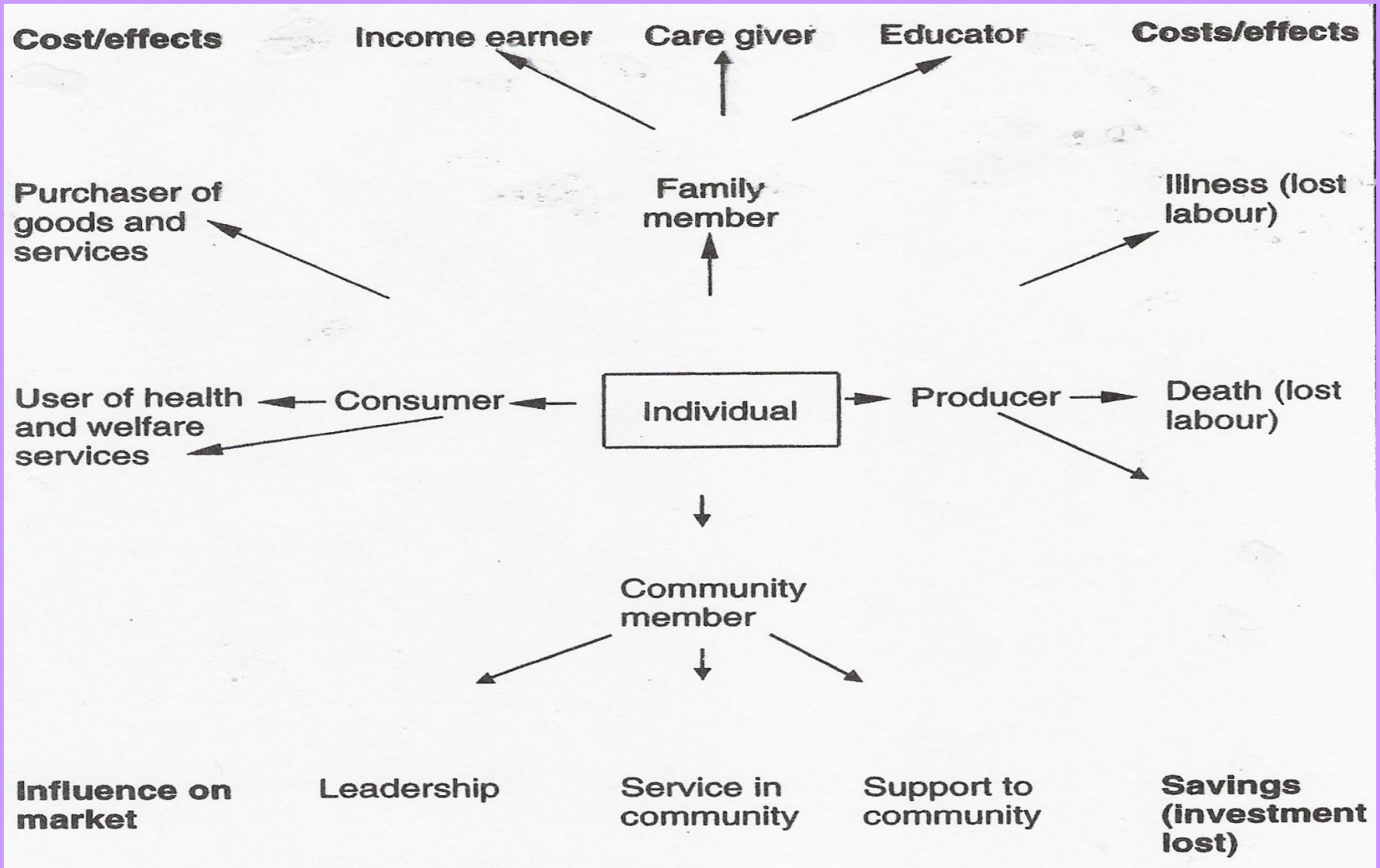
# **HIV/AIDS in Africa**

- 1. What has been the impact of AIDS on African people?**
- 2. Why has Africa been so vulnerable to AIDS?**
- 3. How are people & health care systems coping with HIV/AIDS? What is working? What are the barriers to positive action?**
- 4. What lessons can we learn from HIV/AIDS in Africa?**

# **Long-term events associated with HIV/AIDS epidemic:**

- 1. HIV infection**
- 2. AIDS illness & death**
- 3. Social & economic impact, including household poverty, orphaning, etc.**

# The individual as an economic & social actor:



# **AIDS in Africa: Social Impact**

- **adults die 5-10 yrs post-infection - children die ages 1-5**
- **'households that disappear'**
- **by 2010 35% of Malawian children will be orphans**
- **1990s World Bank study in Tanzania found 50% orphaned children very low weight**

# **AIDS in Africa: Social Impact**

- **children from HIV/AIDS households less likely to attend school, especially orphans**
- **children become caregivers**
- **older people – loss of traditional support**
- **old people - caregivers for children & grandchildren**



# **AIDS in Africa: Economic Impact**

- **African household fundamental economic unit**
- **loss of productive member + cost of caring for sick**
- **rapid shift from relative wealth to relative poverty**
- **'coping' pattern includes borrowing money, sale of assets**

# **AIDS in Africa: Economic Impact**

- **loss of workers at most productive age group**
- **national decline in economic productivity**
- **corresponding decline in national income & national economic growth**

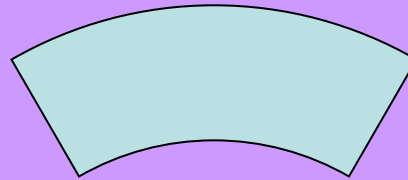
# **African Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS:**

- **500 years of slave trade & colonialism**
- **1970s-90s exodus of health workers**
- **Colonial Economic Patterns – gender, work & the spread of HIV**

# **African Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS:**

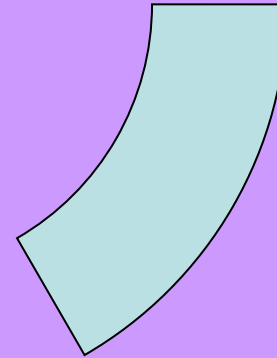
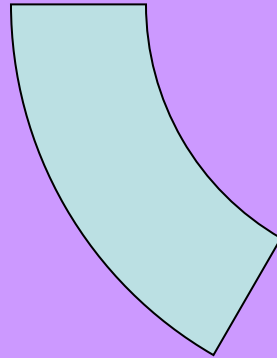
- **Poverty & HIV/AIDS**
- **Cultural of Denial - case of Gugu Dlamini in South Africa, 1998**
- **Gender inequality - 60-80% of African women with HIV have only one partner**

# Dealing with HIV/AIDS:



**Ownership**

**Identification**



**Empowerment**

# **Dealing with HIV/AIDS – Preventative Education**

- **Uganda – successful National Policy from 1986**
- **Malawi - part of national curriculum, US Christian program of Biblical study & abstinence**

# Dealing with HIV/AIDS - Access to Drugs

- **1990s – development of anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs)**
- **1999 - 36 drug companies sued South African government over generic ARVs**
- **Treatment Action Committee est 1998, strongest social movement in post-apartheid South Africa**

# UN priority areas for HIV/AIDS funding (2001)

- Preventing further horizontal transmission
- Reducing vertical transmission
- Care & treatment for all
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Delivering scientific progress



# **What lessons can we learn from HIV/AIDS in Africa?**

- **racist stereotyping & bad science re AIDS**
- **importance of cultural & material conditions**
- **importance of social & economic elements in health – global citizens**