



# Poverty, ageing and HIV in Wakiso district Uganda

Janet Seeley, Flavia Zalwango, Joseph Mugisha, Eugene Kinyanda, Caitlin Wake and Francien Scholten

School of International Development, University of East Anglia and  
MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS

# Objective

- We describe the health and well-being of older people living in poverty and living with HIV in a resource-constrained setting in Uganda.
- Through both qualitative and quantitative data we describe:
  - the support older people receive, their care-giving burdens,
  - the experience of other illness related to ageing, as well as HIV, and
  - their access to care and support.

# Methods

- This paper draws on data from two studies in and around Entebbe town, Uganda.
  - 1) a cross sectional, quantitative survey with 254 older people aged 50 years and above living in a radius of 20 km of Entebbe town.
  - 2) twenty HIV-positive older people, aged 60 and above, were purposively selected from the quantitative study population, chosen to represent different age groups, as well as gender.
    - Nine men and eleven women took part.
    - All participants were receiving HIV care from The AIDS Support Organization (TASO).

# Map showing location



# Background

Age of participants

<b>Age</b>	<b>Qualitative sample</b>		<b>Quantitative sample</b>	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<b>50-59</b>	-	-	95	37
<b>60-69</b>	9	45	80	32
<b>70-79</b>	10	50	63	25
<b>80+</b>	1	5	16	6
<b>Total</b>	20	100	254	100



# Case studies

- Grace
  - 71 years old. Lives with 90 year old husband and 14 year old granddaughter. Grace provides for the family through agricultural production. Struggles with ill-health and lack of resources/support
- Denis
  - 60 years old. Lives alone in a rented room. Earns money through agricultural labour. Neighbours some times help with food and support when he is sick. Lonely. Has few assets (sold off for treatment).

# Social support, access to care, poverty and ageing

- Family, friends and neighbours all important sources of support
- Most respondents were care givers and well as being recipients of care
  - Not everyone was happy with the care giving role
- However, poverty undermined the health and well-being of the majority of participants



# Social network index findings

- HIV infection in older persons who were not yet on treatment is associated with an impaired social network
- people on ART do better than HIV infected people not on ART, and score equally as well when the Social Network Index is calculated as HIV negative people on almost all other indicators.

# Discussion

- Older people on ART have access to care and support not available to other older people
- Most people worried about how to cope as they grow older
- Most people faced problems accessing material and social support at some point during the year of study

# Conclusion

- The relationship between poverty, ageing and HIV is complex
- However in addition to HIV, the older people in the study also faced health-related problems of ageing compounded by poverty and the constant worry about getting food and support