

Child Participation

Skills-building session on child-adult partnerships:

Lessons emerging from consultations leading up to the Regional Inter Agency Task Team (RIATT) conference: “Getting it Right for Children: Moving towards universal access, prevention, care and treatment for children affected by HIV and AIDS



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Session Objectives

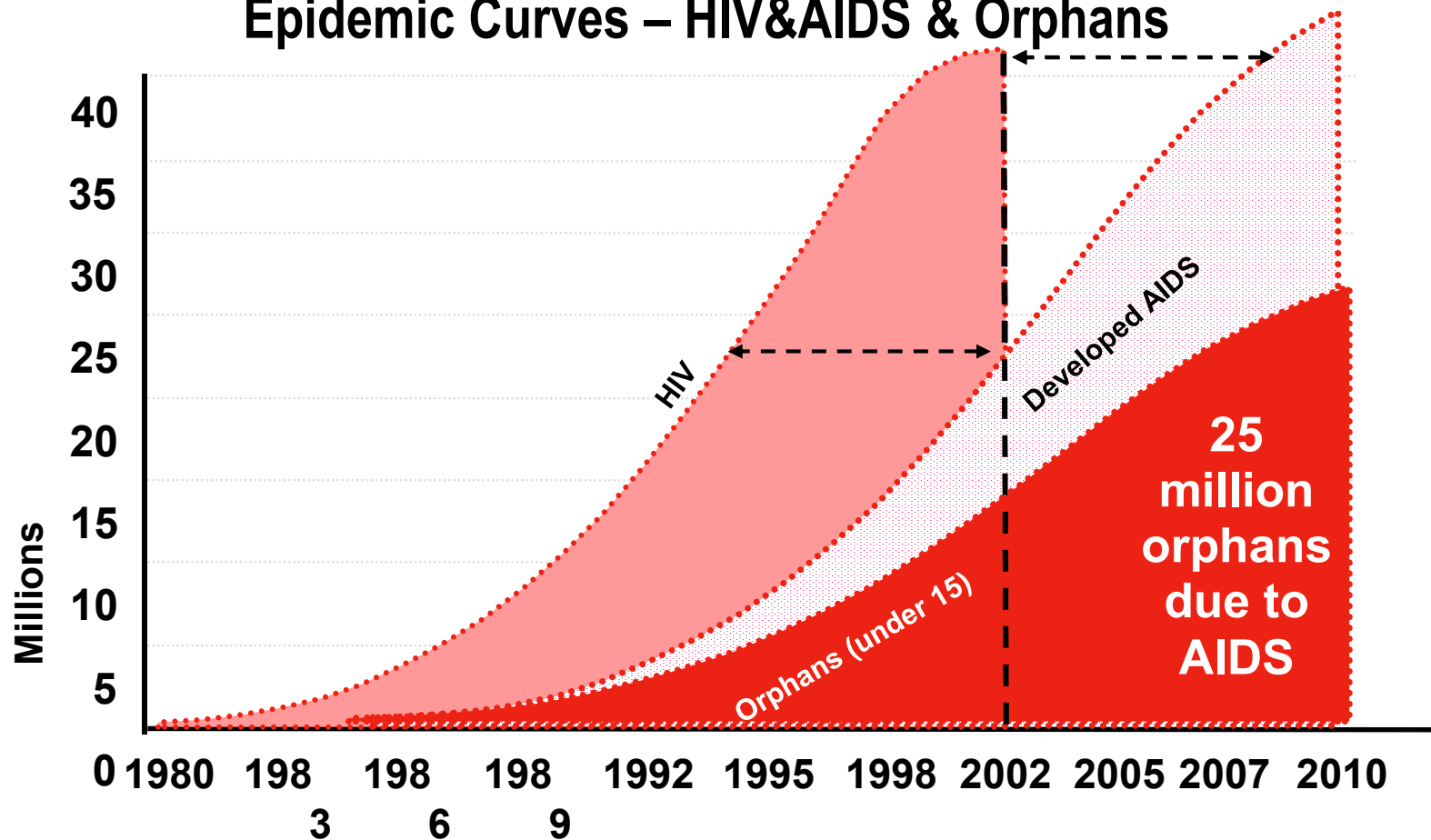
▶ Participants will:

- ▶ Brief review of issues and impacts on children affected by HIV and AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa
- ▶ Learn about the RIATT Conference Child Participation process
- ▶ Learn about various Child Participation models
- ▶ Be exposed to tools and methods being used by RIATT for child participation and for strengthening child-adult partnerships at a national level



Growing Impact of HIV

Epidemic Curves – HIV&AIDS & Orphans



Source: UNAIDS/UNICEF 2002

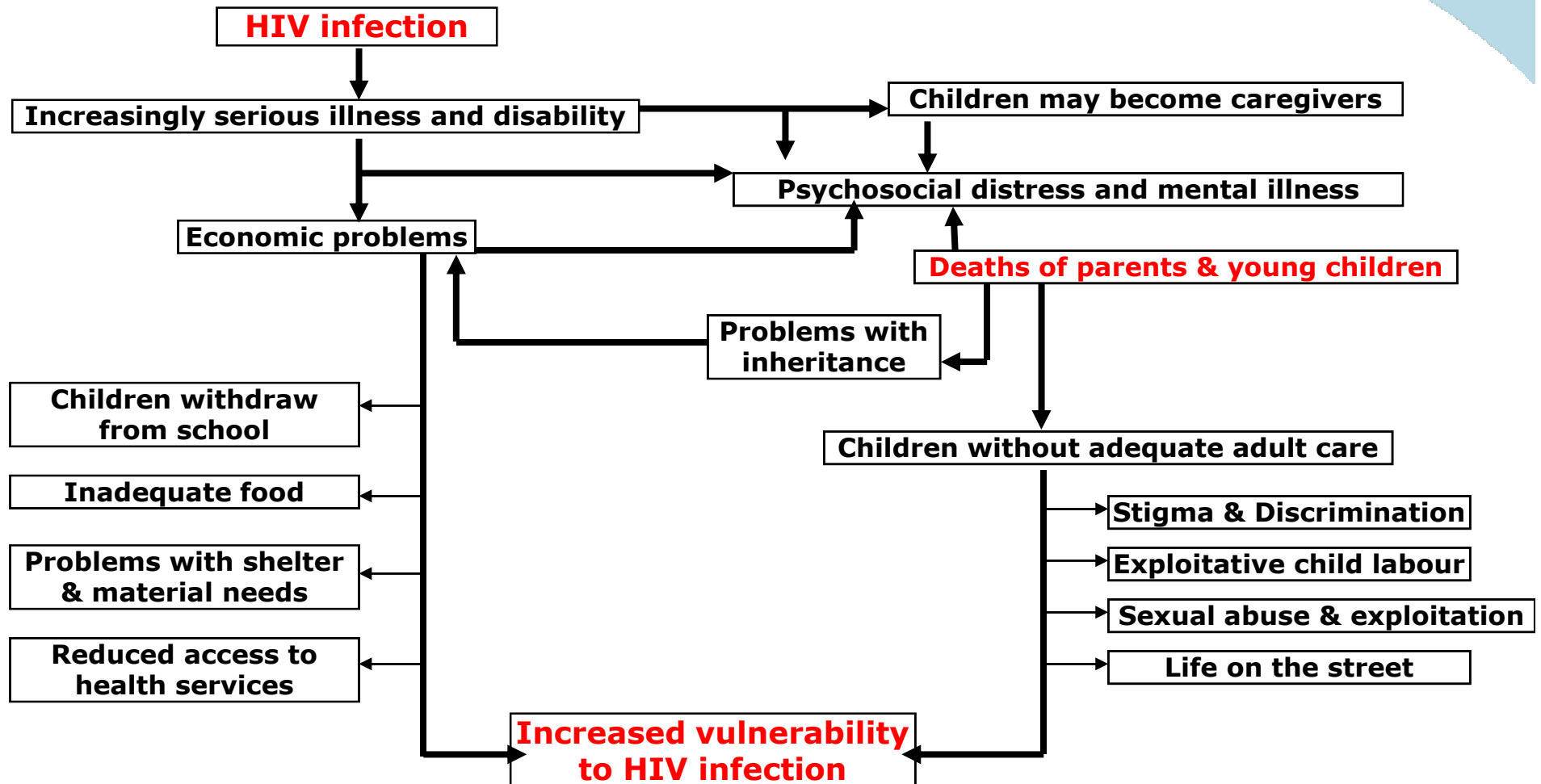
Impact of HIV&ADS on Children

- ▶ HIV/AIDS is having a devastating impact on the world's children and adolescents:
 - **Children and adolescents infected:**
 - Child deaths due to AIDS in 2007:
330,000
 - Child death in SSA due to AIDS (2005 estimates)
370,000
 - New HIV infections among children in 2007:
420,000
 - Children living with HIV:
2.5 million
 - **Children affected:**
 - Children orphaned by AIDS: **15 million**
 - Children orphaned in SSA: **11.4 million**
 - Systems affected: health, education, etc., all have direct impact on the wider group of children affected by HIV/AIDS
- ▶ HIV/AIDS is undermining all efforts in the areas of child health and nutrition, education, protection and childhood care.



Problems Among Children and Families Affected By HIV and AIDS

Source: John Williamson, (2000)



Impacts of HIV and AIDS on children

Material Problems:

1. Livelihood
 - i. Increased poverty
 - ii. Loss of property & inheritance
 - iii. Loss of food security
 - iv. Loss of shelter
2. Health
 - i. Lower nutritional status
 - ii. Less attention when sick
 - iii. Less likely to be immunised
 - iv. Increased vulnerability to disease
 - v. Less access to health services
 - vi. Increased vulnerability to HIV and AIDS
 - vii. Higher child mortality
3. Education
 - i. Withdrawal from school to care for others and save costs
 - ii. Increased skipping of school
 - iii. Lower educational performance

Non-Material problems:

1. Decreased adult supervision
2. Decreased birth registration
3. Decreased affection, encouragement
4. Grief and depression
5. Stigma and social isolation
6. Anti-social and difficult behaviour
7. Harsh treatment
8. Increased labour demands
9. Forced early marriage
10. Sexual abuse and exploitation
11. Abandonment
12. Emergence of child or adolescent headed households
13. Separation of siblings

- ▶ **Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS (RIATT)** - composed of 23 organisations including representatives from the AU, SADC Parliamentary Forum, international cooperating partners, civil society partners, and academia, UNICEF, UNDP and FAO.
- ▶ Purpose of RIATT - to promote a scaled up and sustained response to achieve universal access to prevention treatment care and support for children living in a world with HIV and AIDS in East and Southern Africa.
- ▶ In Tanzania from **29th September - 1st October 2008**, the Government of Tanzania together with the RIATT are hosting a Children's Conference entitled:

Getting it Right for Children

**Moving towards universal access, prevention, care and treatment
for children affected by HIV and AIDS**

Getting it Right for Children

Moving towards universal access, prevention, care and treatment
for children affected by HIV and AIDS

- ▶ The Conference is a follow up conference to the OVC conferences held in Lusaka (2000), and Windhoek (2002)
- ▶ The conference design has a strong child participation component woven through out to enable adults and children to share thinking and ideas for future action
- ▶ Children will be involved as speakers, leaders and delegates in an ethical and meaningful manner
- ▶ Children's participation has started with individual country forums where children engage with policy makers and key messages feed into the conference process.
- ▶ Capacity building is an essential element to ensure that policy makers and children can interact meaningfully around policy issues concerning children affected by HIV and AIDS
- ▶ Post-conference national level follow-ups to ensure continuity and support for these child-adult partnerships at all level.

Getting it Right for Children

Moving towards universal access, prevention, care and treatment
for children affected by HIV and AIDS

- ▶ National Level Consultations with children
- ▶ Media training for 1 child representative and adult
- ▶ Additional consultations with children
- ▶ Consolidate report and choose two representatives from each country
- ▶ Finalize child presentation and present to adult country delegation
- ▶ Child pre-conference to build skills and develop consolidated findings and recommendations (child friendly version of research results to be presented)
- ▶ RIATT conference with both adults/children – children have time to meet and discuss issues separately and with adults; every session has a child component
- ▶ Sessions designed with child participation in mind, using different media and child-friendly processes

Q&A

Summary and Way Forward

