

Impact of HIV/AIDS on Food Security in Pala Sub-Location, Bondo District, Kenya

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Abstract : Background: HIV/AIDS is leading to the loss of labor through sickness and subsequent death, this is leading to the neglect of farm and off-farm activities, with the subsequent loss of potential income and food security. The situation is sensitive to seasonal labour peaks in agriculture. This study was done to determine the impact of high HIV prevalence in farming systems and food security in Pala Bondo District, Kenya. Methods: In this study, 386 respondents were randomly chosen in Pala Sub-Location. The respondents and key informants were interviewed using structured questionnaire. The data were entered and analyzed using SPSS version 16. Results: It was established that majority of respondents (67%) were between 18 and 35 years $\{\chi^2 = (1, N = 386) = 13.430, p = 0.000\}$ (chimney effect). The study also established that 83.5% of respondents were married $\{\chi^2 = (1, N = 370) = 166.277, p = 0.000\}$ and predominant occupation being farming and fishing (61%), while 52.8% of farm labour was by hand, 26% by oxen, and 4.9% mechanized. 73.2% of respondents only farm 0.25 to 2 acres, 48% mentioned lack of labour in land preparation $\{\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = 113.146, p = 0.000\}$, in planting $\{\chi^2 = (1, N = 321) = 29.28, p = 0.000\}$. Majority of respondents lack food from January to June, during which 93% buy food. Conclusion: The high HIV prevalence in Pala has affected the farm labour leading to food insecurity.

Keywords : food security, HIV, AIDS, labour

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