

# Stigma, gender and generational inequalities in asset inheritance and IGT of poverty for women with HIV and young people with caring responsibilities in Tanzania and Uganda

CPRC / ODI Roundtable on Inheritance  
and the IGT of Poverty

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# Context

- Growing literature on gender inequalities in asset inheritance, few studies of children's inheritance rights
- HIV/AIDS: Lack of resources transfers from middle generation to younger generations leads to fracturing of intergenerational contract (Collard, 2000; Kabeer, 2000)
- Parental ill health/death and lack of alternative support leads to children taking on caring responsibilities at young age, 'skipped generation' and 'sibling-headed households'
- Widows with HIV and their children and young people heading households often stigmatised and in weak bargaining position to safeguard asset inheritance

# Research questions

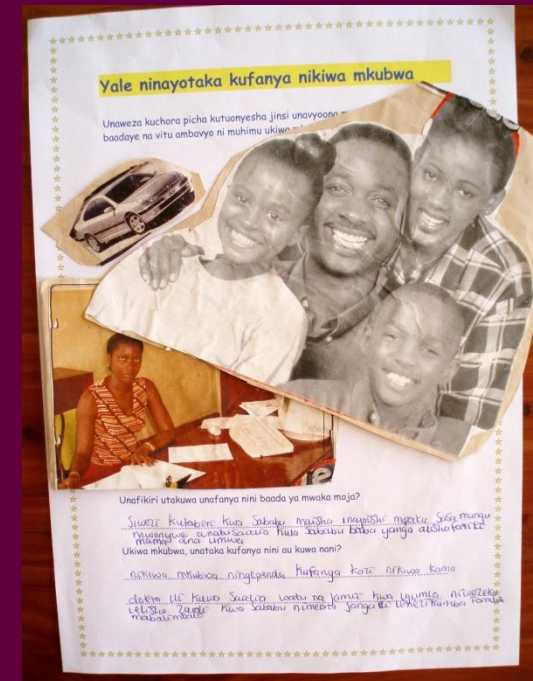
1. To what extent are conventional norms of asset inheritance changing in communities severely affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Tanzania and Uganda?
2. What are the effects of hierarchies of gender, generation and stigmatisation on inheritance practices and the intergenerational transmission of poverty for women with HIV and young people with caring responsibilities in Tanzania and Uganda?
3. What factors, practices and strategies help to build the resilience of women with HIV and young people who care and enable them to safeguard asset inheritance and avoid chronic poverty in Tanzania and Uganda?

# Research methods

- Analysis of 2 qualitative youth-focused studies

## Study 1:

- Interviews with total of 55 participants in rural and urban areas in Tanzania:
  - 20 mothers/relatives with HIV and 1 guardian
  - 22 young people (aged 11-24) who cared for a parent/relative with HIV
  - 13 NGO workers
- Life Story Books and participatory photography with young people.



# Research methods

## Study 2

### Phase 1:

- Interviews in rural and urban areas of Tanzania and Uganda with 30 participants:
  - 13 young people (aged 12-23) from 11 sibling-headed households
  - 1 grandmother and 1 young woman caring for her in skipped generation household
  - 15 NGO workers
- Focus groups with further 15 young people and 5 community leaders/NGO workers

# Research methods

## Phase 2:

- 6 participatory feedback workshops in Mbeya, Kagera and Kampala with:
  - 33 young people in sibling-headed households
  - 39 NGO workers and community members
- Participatory diagramming, focus groups, co-production of creative research outputs



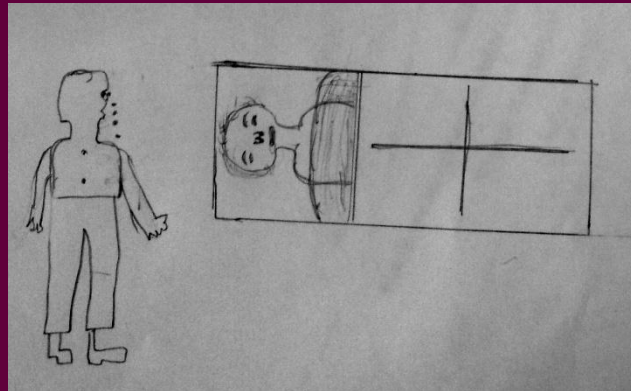
# Characteristics of sample

- 35 case study households (28 in Tanzania, 7 in Uganda), mostly living in rural areas
- Almost all of women with HIV had been widowed or had lost male partner due to AIDS-related illness
- Most of children caring for their mother with HIV living in one-parent households , several in extended family households
- Young people living in child- or youth-headed households, two skipped-generation households
- Diversity of access to assets, property ownership and household circumstances



# Changing inheritance practices

- Changing familial responsibilities and emergence of new household forms , esp. in rural areas
- Fracturing of intergenerational contract and increasing role for maternal relatives
- Some young people gained access to land and property at a younger age than usual





# Changing inheritance practices

- Land and property crucial for sustainability of livelihoods in rural and urban areas
- Difficulties in maximising productivity of land in rural areas:
  - Lack of money for agricultural inputs
  - Lack of assistance in digging the land
  - Time poverty combining work with schooling
  - Ill health
  - Distance to land and lack of transport
  - Climatic shocks.

# Stigma, gender and generational inequalities

- Women and young people experienced multiple layers of stigma that reproduced existing gender and generational inequalities
- Young women heading households and those caring for parents with HIV vulnerable to sexual harassment and exploitation leading to unwanted pregnancy and STIs
- Households headed by grandparents and young mothers particularly vulnerable to chronic poverty, fragile access to land
- Women with HIV and their children had few assets, lived in poor quality rented housing in urban areas, high levels of insecurity and chronic poverty

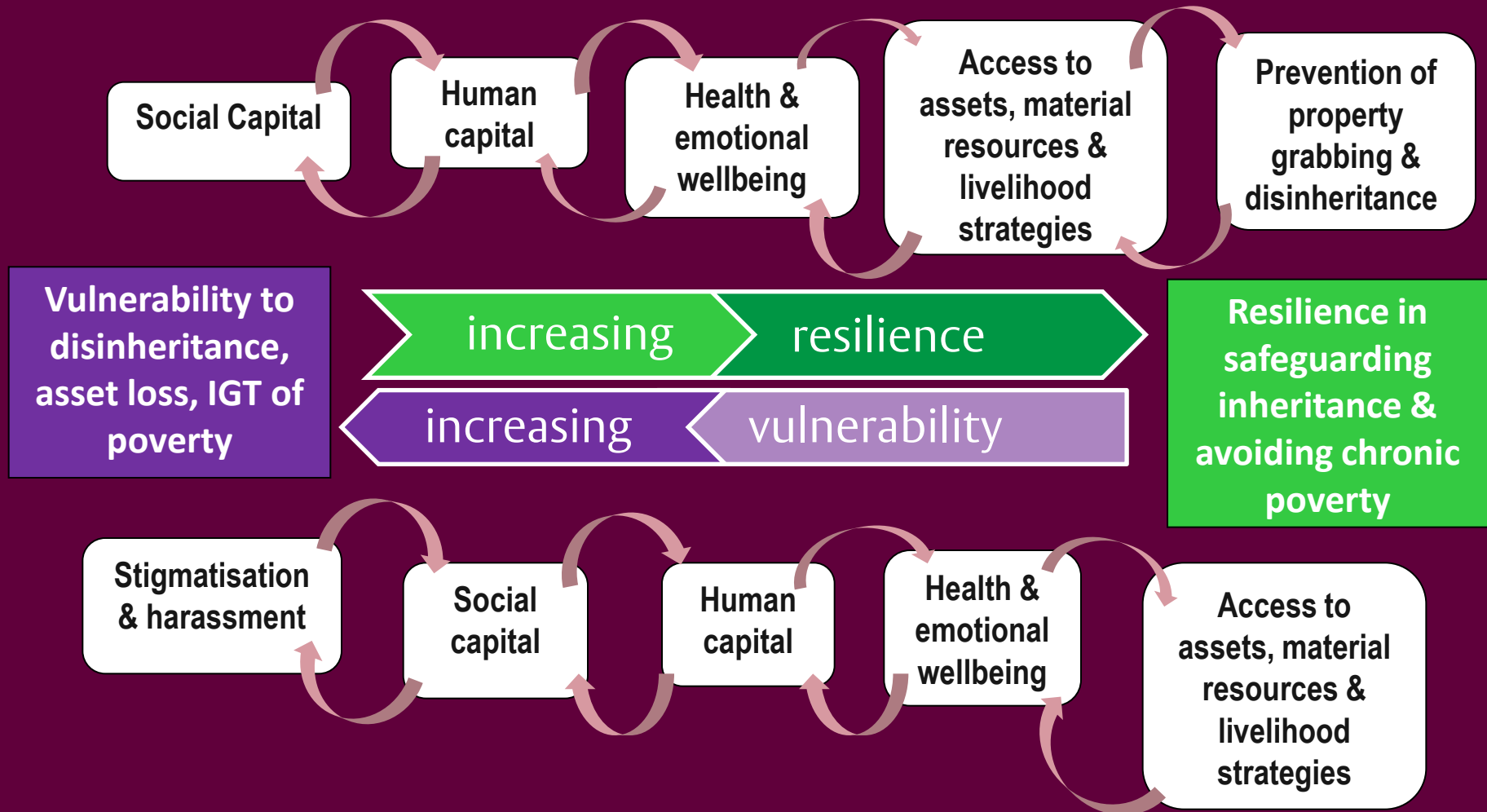
# Stigma, gender and generational inequalities

- Experiences of stigmatisation:
  - disinheritance and property grabbing
  - appropriation of financial assets, rental income and personal belongings
  - verbal, physical or sexual abuse and intimidation
  - abandonment, eviction, ostracism and a refusal to provide care and support
  - misappropriation of external support
  - mistreatment and neglect in foster households
  - accusations of wrong-doing that were subject to community punishments

# Stigma, gender and generational inequalities

- Impacts:
  - Food insecurity and loss of/ insecure access to assets
  - Health & emotional wellbeing
  - Weakening of social ties and access to support
  - Lack of investment in children's education and care
  - Perpetuation of conditions of chronic poverty for younger generations

# Framework of vulnerability and resilience processes in safeguarding assets and avoiding chronic poverty



# Young people's messages

Drama stories about need to safeguard orphaned children's inheritance rights:

- Kampala: neighbours forged a land title to try to seize orphaned children's land
- Mbeya: aunt mistreated orphaned children in order to chase them out of the house and seize her brother's property



# Conclusions

- Changing inheritance practices and familial responsibilities result in young people heading households and gaining access to land and property at a younger age than usual
- Physical assets crucial to sustainable livelihoods in rural and urban areas
- Multiple levels of stigmatisation of widows with HIV and young people who care reproduce existing gender and generational inequalities in access to assets
- Property grabbing, loss of usufruct rights to land and misappropriation of financial and other assets represent additional layers of disadvantage



# Policy and practice implications

- To build women's and children's capacities to safeguard assets and avoid chronic poverty in present and future, need for:
  - Legal reforms, advocacy and education about women's and children's inheritance rights
  - Rights-based social protection measures
  - Opportunities for participation, peer support and collective mobilisation to challenge stigma and enhance emotional wellbeing.

# Further information...

- Research report available from UoR website:  
<http://www.reading.ac.uk/ges/Aboutus/Staff/r-evans.aspx>
- Evans, R. (in press) “We are managing our own lives...”: Life transitions and care in sibling-headed households affected by AIDS in Tanzania and Uganda’, *Area*
- Evans, R. (2010) ‘Children’s caring roles and responsibilities within the family in Africa’, *Geography Compass*, 4(10): 1477-1496
- Evans, R. and Becker, S. (2009) *Children Caring for Parents with HIV and AIDS: Global Issues and Policy Responses*, Bristol: The Policy Press
- Contact: [R.Evans@reading.ac.uk](mailto:R.Evans@reading.ac.uk)

## Children caring for parents with **HIV and AIDS**

Global issues and policy responses



Ruth Evans and Saul Becker

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