

## Community Engagement in HIV/AIDS Analysis at Grassroots in Rural Tanzania: The Case of Visual Problem Appraisal AIDS and Rural Development

**Comment [dt1]:** Write in full : Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired immunodeficiency Syndrome

### ABSTRACT

Unsustainable professional training on AIDS and Rural Development problem analysis and policy design from university levels in Tanzania has led to missed ground analysis of HIV/AIDS at grassroots level, hence pandemic persistence in rural areas. This pseudo-experimental study aimed at exploring the potentiality of Visual Problem Appraisal AIDS and Rural Development (VPA A&RD) in supporting grassroots capacity to make informed choices through grounded analysis of HIV/AIDS problem. Primary data was collected through group interviews, VPA A&RD workshops, physical visits and observations. The secretariat of Matombo Division Farmers Groups' Local Network (MVIWATAMA) was involved directly in a strategic selection of 20 (14 males and 6 females) respondents from Kifindike, Tawa, Uponda, Kiswira and and Konde villages. The collected data, narratives and observations were verified and compared with relevant literature for interpretation and interrelations. The tool was found to be useful in empowering and supporting small scale farmers' informed choices. In addition, findings indicate that persistence of HIV/AIDS in rural areas is due to improper analysis of the problem and review of HIV/AIDS policy. The study among other things recommends an establishment of HIV/AIDS policy working paper and incorporation of VPA potential in Tanzania universities' curricula to enhance critical thinking among graduates.

*Key words: Visual Problem Appraisal; problem analysis; HIV/AIDS; small-scale farmers*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Sub-Saharan Africa is the region that is badly affected by AIDS tragedy. Tanzania is within Sub-Saharan Africa. The Tanzania Commission of HIV/AIDS (TACAIDS) [1] through Tanzania HIV/AIDS Indicator Survey (THIS) of 2003-2004, Tanzania was estimated to have about 1,820,000 adults and children living with HIV with high prevalence among women than men with slight decrease from 7% in 2003-2004 to 6% in 2007-2008 as per Tanzania HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey (THMIS) [2]. Morogoro region accounts 5% HIV/AIDS prevalence national wide. The regional hospital data [3] showed the prevalence of HIV infections among blood donors in Morogoro District (most of them from rural areas) to be 24.2% of 10,918 blood donors and clinical notification cases and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) reports indicated that about 73% of people were HIV positive out of 291 people tested in 2008.

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HIV/AIDS has a major impact on economic progress; hence deepening poverty and food security especially in rural areas. Tanzania through her development vision 2025 envisages eradicating extreme poverty by 2025, through attaining a consistent economic growth of 6% for at least 6 years. Under the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS, this growth has not been achieved and will not be achieved. This is also proved by [4] who pointed out that affected households by HIV/AIDS were more likely to be poor than those not affected by the disease and the burden of HIV/AIDS can reduce household income by 66% to 80% (for care giving, funeral costs, etc) in rural areas. Other impacts in agricultural sector includes: indirect loss in crop production and productivity as a result of losing trained personnel and experts such as extension workers, and traditional responsibilities for caring for the sick often rest with women in rural areas. Women in HIV/AIDS affected spend less time on agricultural production [5].

It goes without saying that from policy and institutional framework point of view mandate in terms of facilitating the fight against the AIDS pandemic and a willingness to address a problem exists. Several organizations implement HIV/AIDS interventions in Tanzania so as to mitigate its impact in rural areas. Also at policy level, the government commits countrywide response to HIV/AIDS in terms of prevention, care and support of those affected by pandemic and mitigation of its impacts. These include provision of anti-retro viral therapy, testing and counseling centers. It is clearly stated in the National HIV/AIDS Policy of 2001, HIV/AIDS is a priority issue. Tanzania allocates funds in its annual budgets to central, regional and district government to respond to the pandemic. It also dedicates financial support to civil groups to provide information and services to reduce transmission and to care for the person living with HIV/AIDS.

Disappointingly, the Tanzania Commission of HIV/AIDS (TACAIDS) and the Malaria Indicator Survey (THMIS) of 2007-2008 indicated in everyday new HIV-related infections were being registered in rural areas. Hence; AIDS is a problem in rural areas. This shows that rural-urban divide is high as urban areas receive much attention and accessible to information as compared to rural areas example lethal sex issues on timely availability and use of condoms for safer sex, etc. and no adequate responses from rural development organizations and policies on HIV/AIDS impacts mitigation. The following justify this: the World Health Organization (WHO) report reveals Tanzania has been supported financially by more than twelve international agencies in fight against HIV/AIDS. Besides the huge support, report says only 61 centers provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) covering 64 districts out of 121 districts and 527 testing centers covering 121 districts. Most of the centers are in urban areas. Also [6] estimated that only 25,300 HIV positive persons (approximately to 1.4% out of 7% HIV positive persons) were on treatment on ART countrywide. These problems were exacerbated by missed ground analysis of HIV/AIDS problem at grassroots level. This became a challenge for policy makers and institutional professionals that sought to appropriately addressing a problem, but unfortunately, they didn't know

how due to incompetence in HIV/AIDS innovative issues. This resulted to mal-communication as revealed by [7] who said that mal-communication in AIDS awareness campaign created persistence of pandemic. This is because, in proliferation of methods to disseminate information, values, feelings and cultural ethos get marginalized or completely lost. This led to improper address of the problem due to insufficient capacity building to grassroots level so as to make their informed choices within their values, frame of reference, cultural issues and feelings for proper address of the problem. All these issues rooted from a major problem which relates to lack of sustainable professional training with much focus on AIDS and Rural Development (A&RD) problem analysis and policy design from university levels in Tanzania.

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The Visual Problem Appraisal AIDS and Rural Development (VPA A&RD) a film-based methodology as innovative strategy for slow but sustainable long-term empowerment to rural development professionals in problem analysis and policy design was yet to be tapped within Tanzanian universities and rural development institutions. The tool stimulates interaction, analytical capacity; re-create a slow but a long-term sense of empowerment to grassroots so as to due away with a traditional system of trusting and dependence on professionals. In addition, it facilitates mediated-dialogue, and supporting the process of making informed choices for future actions, which leads to meaningful problem formulations and concrete measures to address HIV/AIDS related problem(s) from small scale farmers' grassroots priorities, realities and needs. This supports the argument by [8] that there is a need for communities to have strong sense of ownership of the process from the beginning to be able to maintain motivation and commitment and integrate learning into their future practice (s). This potential was envisaged to minimize the impacts of HIV/AIDS to sustainability in rural development especially in Matombo division. This is a challenge to universities and rural development organizations in Tanzania who are the problem owners on how to tackle AIDS and rural development and institutional incompetence.

### **Framework of the Study: Visual Problem Appraisal As Innovative Learning Methodology In HIV/AIDS Problem Analysis**

AIDS and Rural Development Visual Problem Appraisal (A&RD VPA) is lifelike film-based innovation to explore and facilitate coordination for better decision making through team work. According to [9], VPA uses and follows Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) methodologies and principles, but it deviates from this class of exploratory methods as visual diagramming as is a less prominent tool for extracting information on behalf of the outsiders. In VPA the information is in the story told and, in the visuals, portrays the context of the person being interviewed. They further explain, VPA enhances the analysis of a wicked problem and sharpening the analytical competencies as allows semi-interaction between users and real stakeholders without discomforting or harassing them.

HIV/AIDS complexity needs new approach for analysis. This indicates that organizations and policy makers need to employ new strategies which will help in grounded analysis of HIV/AIDS problem and impacts mitigation in rural areas. However; there is no documentary evidence of non-governmental organizations, community-based projects or governmental organizations especially universities and colleges in Tanzania which use Visual Problem Appraisal (VPA) in HIV/AIDS social learning and HIV/AIDS policy agenda setting at local level. In terms of policy, the study put to the question the development strategy that emphasizes small scale farmers amongst community members to derive their own communication strategy as the central focus of fight against HIV/AIDS and impacts mitigation. This is also true in order to reach Millennium Development Goal (MDG 6) which states combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. According to [10] among the stated key actions in MDG 6 is investing in greater resources in HIV prevention, including provision of accurate information through appropriate media and education systems. The study, therefore, through pseudo-experimental study, tested the potentiality of Visual Problem Appraisal AIDS and Rural Development (VPA A&RD) that was developed through filmed based stakeholders of Zambia, Ghana and Tanzania in supporting grassroots' capacity in rural Tanzania to make informed choices through grounded analysis of HIV/AIDS problem.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Description of the Study Area**

The study was conducted in Matombo division which is located in Morogoro district, Morogoro Region – Tanzania. Five villages out of ten villages of Tawa and Kisemu wards of Matombo division were selected as sample villages for this research. I selected these four villages on their location and eventual high HIV/AIDS prevalence. They are nearby Morogoro-Selous Game Reserve (for tourists) road pass through the division's villages and market centers, this creates high morbidity of people; so, the area is susceptible to HIV infections due to interaction; hence vulnerable to impacts of HIV/AIDS. Most members of MVIWATAMA reside from these villages. These include:

(i) *Uponda*: Is situated North-East of Tawa trading centre. The village is inhabited by crop farmers. It is bordered in the East by Mvuha River whereby small mining activities take place. Bananas, cassava, simsim and maize are major crops grown in this village. Villagers keep livestock like: local chicken, and goats. It has poor road network. This results into few visits by development practitioners and other guests in the area, hence the community not accessible to HIV/AIDS information.

(ii) *Tawa*: Is a center for ward local government administration. Bananas, pineapples and, cassava are major crops. Villagers keep livestock like: local chicken, and goats. It is a fast-growing village to peri-urban center. It has a modern agricultural market constructed by the support from MVIWATA-The

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2.1 Empirical Literature Review  
Theoretical framework

Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania; this makes it as the center of trading activities. There is also one Center for Farmers and Agriculture (CFA) and one dispensary which have just started Voluntary Testing and Counselling (VTC) services. It is situated along Tawa-Morogoro Municipal Road. These infrastructures create high morbidity and interaction among people in the community. The community is vulnerable to HIV infections.

(iii)*Kifindike*: This village is situated along Tawa-Morogoro Municipal Road. The village is inhabited by crop farmers. It has fertile soil and supports such crops as bananas, beans, pineapples, and cassava. Villagers keep livestock like: local chicken and goats. Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the village land is under lease of Matombo Roman Catholic (RC) Mission that acquired 99 years Right of Occupancy lease. They spend almost their households' income in hiring land from the RC mission. In coupling this with HIV/AIDS impacts among affected households, it makes the situation worse especially to small scale farmers among others in the community.

(iv)*Kiswira*: Bananas, pineapples, maize, millet, upland rice and cassava are major crops in the area. Villagers keep livestock like: local chicken, pigs and goats. This village is situated along Tawa-Morogoro Municipal and is also nearby Morogoro-Selous Game Reserve Road (for tourists). Also mining activities take place in the area. It is a collection centre for bananas whereby lorries from Dar es Salaam come to load bananas. The community is vulnerable to HIV infections

(v)*Konde*: It is situated in South-East from Tawa center. It is inhabited by crop farmers. It has poor road network. This results into few visits by development practitioners and other guests in the area, hence not accessible to HIV/AIDS information. Bananas, pineapples, upland rice, cloves and cassava are major crops and local chicken and goats are kept by villagers.

### **Rural Livelihood System of the Area**

In the context of rural livelihood of Tawa and Kisumu small scale famers, HIV/AIDS is a source of deterioration of livelihood. In order to have a good picture of the problem in Matombo division it was necessary to understand the livelihood systems of the area and how analysis and concrete actions can help to preserve these assets and livelihood strategies. According to [11], livelihood comprises of assets like; social, human, physical, financial and natural assets; transforming processes and strategies.

### **Social Assets**

**Social Capital: (the social resources)** in the area includes: small scale farmers' local networks and groups). In almost 5 out of 10 small scale farmers in the area belong to a group. Being in group; they have the opportunity to share information, to helping each other and monthly contribution. The generated amount is saved in small-scale managed SACCOS. This money in later stages is used to support a living of each other. Also, the division has an established small scale farmers' local network called MVIWATAMA which is linked to The National Network of

Farmers' Groups (MVIWATA). They hold monthly meetings on rotational basis to discuss issues which impact positively or negatively on their livelihood. HIV/AIDS is slowly disturbing this kind of capital. Death of some active members and leaders lead to disintegration or under performance of some groups. Recent example is the disruption of road rehabilitation and maintenance group "TWIKINDE" from Tawa to Milawilila villages due to impact of HIV/AIDS. The group secretary was diagnosed and found contracted with HIV/AIDS. He didn't receive any counseling and ARV support. He finally died. He was very active leader. Three years back the group was very strong and the road was passable in all weather. Since his death the group disintegrated and road is mismanaged and left with holes; hence difficult passage during long rainy season.

### **Natural Assets**

**Natural capital-the natural resources stocks:** example: land use. In Uluguru Mountains and adjacent lowlands land is formally owned by women through clan-ship system. But in recent years, it is owned by a man in the household. This limits women and youths to involve in income generation activities for livelihood improvement. This is especially that involving land example cultivation of fruits which might be of use in jam processing; etc. to generate income. The situation has led girls to involve in prostitution to secure income as sources of livelihood and eventually contract with HIV. Also, the situation leads to severe youths' rural-urban migration. Long term future of the youths in towns has been not very fruitful. They end up brought home while contracted with HIV/AIDS and become burden to the family of which they divert their income in caring for the diseased and burial costs.

### **Financial Assets**

**Financial capital-the capital base** includes for example (cash, credit/debt, savings). There are two (2) small-scale farmers' managed SACCOS in Tawa and Kisemu wards. They provide capital for income generation activities. Women and girls take loan to establish small café food vending. This kind of business keeps women and girls up to late hours of night, increases women and girls' susceptibility to HIV infections. Sometimes they may be attracted to well off customers who may have contracted HIV. Also, SACCOS in the area have registered 50% as overstayed loans from small scale farmers. In most cases the borrowed money is diverged to buy medicine or transport to hospital for those caring HIV/AIDS positive people instead of establishing income generation activities.

### **Human Assets**

**Human capital:** include skills and knowledge. People in the areas utilize their indigenous knowledge to meet livelihood. For example, use post harvest pest control methods (using ashes) in controlling Large Grain Stalk Borer in Maize

(Uponda and Kiswira villages). They aim to minimize post harvest losses and reducing the cost of production. Scientific knowledge on the proposed interventions is integrated with the existing indigenous knowledge. In other side, the village is endowed with gold. Small mining activities in the villages create interaction; hence the community are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. This would be a threat to disappearance of the knowledge.

**Physical Assets:**

Matombo is easily accessed by good roads. For example, Morogoro-Selous Game Reserve (for tourists) road pass through the division's villages and there is a famous modern agricultural market at Tawa ward (different people come in the area). These activities not only increase exchange (raising income due of exchange of goods/services with money) but also create a high morbidity and interaction of people; hence the community is susceptible to HIV infections if men and women happen to be involved in unsafe sex with guests and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS impacts.

**Transforming structures and processes**

***(i)Institutions***

HIV/AIDS committees were formed in each village, but they never meet. Also, several seminars on HIV/AIDS awareness have been organised by Morogoro district council NGOs, and TACAIDS but no impacts have been registered. These seminars take place in town areas. The participants who are mostly local government officials get trapped to per diem. There are no feedback mechanisms. People especially small-scale farmers no longer willing to listen to them. They don't see any changes.

***(ii)Culture***

The ethnic groups found in Matombo division are "Luguru" and "Kutu". The major tribe is "Luguru". It is kind of matrilineal. In Luguru tradition, originally land was passed from the mother to the son. In recent years some conflicts arise and there is a greater tendency to change the power of land to patriarch hence leaving the females small scale farmers being the poorest among others. Sometimes don't access loan from SACCOS. Land is used as mortgage. This force them to involve in prostitution; hence susceptible to HIV/AIDS.

***(iii)Gender issues***

Traditionally in Matombo division men always become married to more than one wife. Also, involvement of female and males in households' works and income generation is unequal. Women spend more time in managing farms as cheap labourers. Men responsible for selling of agricultural produce either within local area or transport them to Dar es Salaam city. This morbidity and interactions keep them at high risk of HIV infections if they happen to practice unsafe sex.

### **(iii)Laws and Policies**

The village government especially in Matombo division distributes land to poor small-scale farmers ranging from ½- 1 acre per household. However, in Kifindike village small-scale farmers are becoming overwhelmingly poor. Almost ¾ of the village land is under lease. Matombo Roman Catholic (RC) Mission acquired 99 years Right of Occupancy lease. The small-scale farmers spend almost their households' income in hiring land from the RC mission. In coupling this with HIV/AIDS impacts among affected households, the situation is made worse especially to small scale farmers among others in the community.

### **(iv)Private sector**

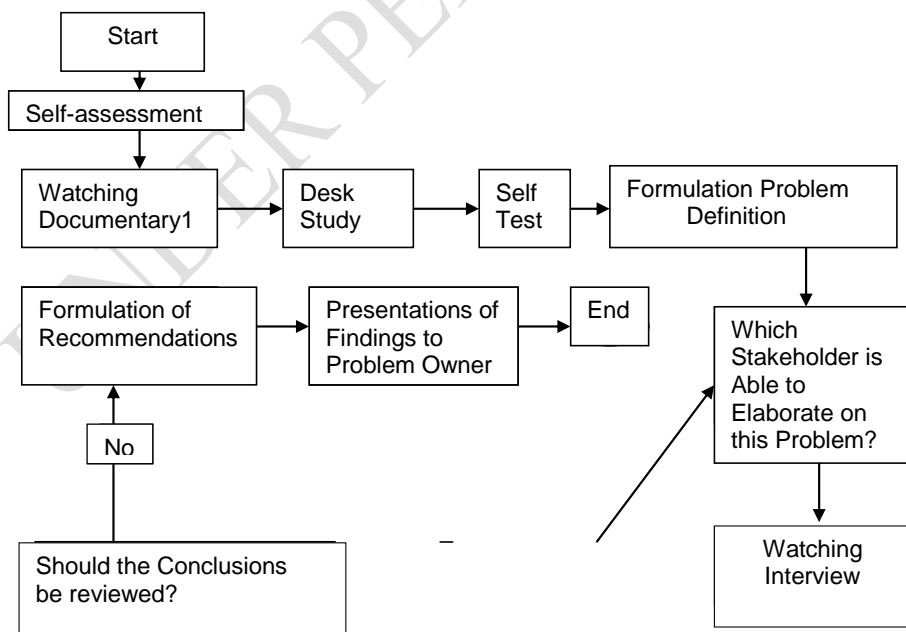
The private investor in Morogoro town has constructed a fruit processing industry. It started operations in 2005. The industry attracts youths from rural areas to seek for employment, hence increases interactions. This morbidity and interactions keep them at high risk of HIV infections if they happen to practice unsafe sex.

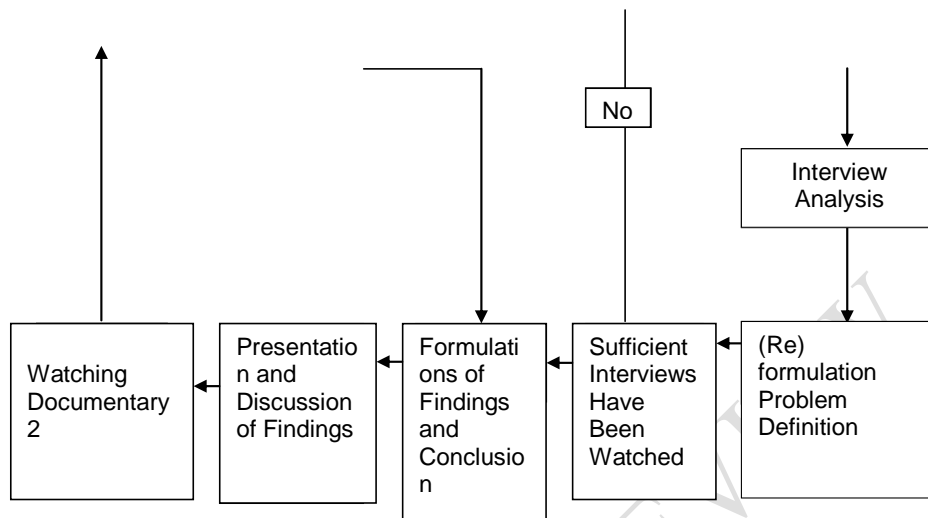
### **Livelihood strategies**

*Livelihood Diversification:* Agriculture is the major economic activity in Matombo division. Only half of the total area of the division is put under gainful production. Small scale farmers own not more than 1- 2 acres of land. Very few small-scale farmers undertake a wide range of off farm activities such as running retail and semi-retail shops, petty businesses, "Mama nitili" (food vendors) cafe, medium rest houses and handy craft (masonry) works to enable them to survive in fragile and ever challenging agro-social setting environment. These activities not only increase exchange (raising income due of exchange of goods/services with money) but also create a high morbidity and interaction of people; hence the area is susceptible to HIV infections and hence the community is vulnerable to impacts of HIV/AIDS

## **2.2 Data Collection Tools**

The data was collected using VPA A&RD (through interviewees films from Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania), workshops, group discussions and observations. The study followed under pseudo-experimental and case study strategies. This is because as per [12], pseudo-experiment guarantees internal and external validity of the results. It is carried out in many more situations than laboratory experiment and its variants are usually more life like. Data collection was performed to test some steps in the flow chart below (Fig. 1):





**Fig.1:** Flow chart of Visual Problem Appraisal Process (Adapted from Witteveen and Enserink, 2007)

### Tested Steps in the Flow Chart

**Steps:** Which stakeholder is able to elaborate in this problem? watching interview, interview analysis ;( re) formulation problem definition; sufficient interviews have been watched? Watching documentary 2

This meant to test small scale farmers' analytical capacity in making choices and their reactions towards the interviewees and their level of interaction in problem analysis as a way of social learning.

**Steps:** Formulations of findings and conclusions; presentation and discussion of findings; should the conclusions be reviewed; Formulation of recommendations & presentations of findings to problem owner

This meant to test the ability of small-scale farmers at grassroots level on problem framing. To what extent does VPA A&RD facilitate dialogue and ownership of the process and solutions among small scale farmers? To what extent do they rely on outsiders in problem formulations and agenda setting? Also to determine mandate issues regarding the follow up of outcome of the

research. Finally; how VPA A&RD does bring about mediated public participation in decision making process.

### **2.3 Sampling and Primary Data Collection Process**

Collected through a holistic triangulation method i.e. group interviews, VPA A&RD workshops, physical visits and observations. The secretariat of Matombo Division Farmers Groups' Local Network (MVIWATAMA) was involved directly in a strategic selection of 20 (14 males and 6 females) respondents (both non-affected and HIV/AIDS positive individuals) from Kifindike, Tawa, Uponda, Kiswira and Konde villages. The criteria of selection include: The local network is supported by Uluguru Mountains Agricultural Development Project (UMADEP) a Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) supported project and Tanzania Farmers' Groups Network (MVIWATA) for more than seven years. Second; these were reasonable research units for internal validity of the information from VPA A&RD and external validity of the literature review on impacts of HIV/AIDS in the area. Also, among other activities, the local network carried out lobbying and advocacy works; hence research outputs are meaningful if are incorporated in future lobbying practices. They were divided into four (4) separate groups of females and males. First; this method helped to gather more information from people with similar experiences and background with regard to a situation and their feelings of VPA A&RD portraits in relations to their situations. Second; it helped in open expression of ideas; hence better decision making.

Three (3) workshops on VPA A&RD were organized. Workshop method allows not only gathering and describing information but also examine why they were taken and how will be implemented. First, workshop was conducted to train facilitators. It also meant to pretest the VPA A&RD analysis questions and adjustments were made whenever possible. Three (3) co- facilitators from Uluguru Mountains Agricultural Development Programme (UMADEP) under The Department of Agricultural Education and Extension of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and one (1) recorder who was an undergraduate student in B.Sc. Agricultural General from the Department of Crop Science and Production of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) were trained. The training on VPA A&RD was divided into the following categories: First; scoping (reflective journal form one) and problem analysis. Second category dealt with technicalities, coordination/organizational issues and facilitation (how to facilitate A&RD and facilitation skills). A separate questionnaire was used to gather their reactions after second and third workshops.

Second and third workshops were organized for further testing VPA A&RD at small scale farmers' grassroots level. They meant to compare responses (similarities and differences). The workshops were divided into the following phases: Scoping phase (filling reflective journal form one and workbook/film orientation). Second phase: Problem analysis (use of workbook with pictures and particulars of interviewees, watching film into groups and technicalities) and phase three: Developing alternative strategies. The concrete objective of the VPA

A&RD workshop was to support small scale farmers through MVIWATAMA farmers' groups local network to make their informed choices through HIV/AIDS grounded problem analysis which led to better decision-making process. The objective sought to build institutional problem ownership, hence generating research data which is useful for recommendations for government, rural development organisations and farmers' organisations to address HIV/AIDS problem in new innovative way. During the workshops, a work book translated in Swahili was used. The workbook in form of worksheet, it contained interviewees' information (picture, name, title, place of residence and other particulars). The participants made choice of three interviewees at justified manner. Also, for every interview session they filled out the reflective journals (in form of questionnaire) and presented the findings in plenary sessions on flipcharts. The reflective journals had open questions in relation to their knowledge on HIV/AIDS, main issues in relation to HIV/AIDS and Rural Development in Africa and Asia and problem formulations. The competence of facilitators was identified during the facilitation processes. Furthermore; some observations were made of what people feel inspired like: If they had to ask more questions? Whether they did ask for more interviewees? Whether they had interest to continue the process? Whether they had evaluated the process at the end? Etc.

The data was also collected through semi-structured questionnaire. Ten (10) UMADEP, governments and others rural development organisations staff were interviewed to ascertain their competences in addressing HIV/AIDS problem and its impacts in rural development.

Finally; physical visits were done to ascertain on small scale farmers' views on how condoms use catalyze new infections. This activity was achieved through visiting pharmaceuticals in Dar es Salaam city, Morogoro municipality, Ngeregere and Matombo divisions (buying condoms and observing expiry dates) and other organizations to cross-check on small scale farmers' responses and the potentiality of A&RD VPA. Other field work activities were to cross-check information in different organizations and within different communities.

### **Secondary data collection**

Several up-to-date literatures from peer reviewed and specialized scientific journals, scientific books, etc on media, HIV/AIDS policy and rural development studies and internet were reviewed. The information search focused merely on: the impacts of HIV/AIDS in social learning and agricultural productivity within a community, the coping strategies for HIV/AIDS affected small scale farmers' households and local community's mandate in problem formulations and ownership of solutions that help in minimizing HIV/AIDS impacts within the community.

### **2.4 Data Analysis and Framework of Analysis**

The potentiality of VPA A&RD in HIV/AIDS problem analysis and policy design is an object of analysis. The key points to analyse were responses (narratives) and

observations during the workshops. The framework of analysis is based on the fact that involvement in VPA A&RD analysis supports grassroots level community capacity in making their informed choices for better problem formulations and eventually become effective tool for facilitating small scale farmers' dialogue and agenda setting. Data analysis tools were: VPA A&RD (through interviewees films from India, Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania) was applied to analyze HIV/AIDS meaningful problem formulations and concrete measures and actions to address those problem(s) and impacts, UMADEP, governments and others rural development organisations and small-scale farmers feeling and perceptions of the ownership of the alternatives and validity of VPA A&RD tool. Finally; the results were verified and compared to relevant literature whereby interpretation and interrelation of the data (similarities, conflictive and inconsistencies) is discussed in order to draw conclusions and recommendations.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Validity of VPA A&RD Tool in Problem Formulations

##### Coincidence of VPA A&RD Stories with a General Problem Understanding

**Table 1** Coincidence of VPA A&RD stories with a general problem understanding

S/NO	Major finding	Narratives	Observation
1.	Claim on expired condoms catalyzes new HIV infections in rural areas	" We always use expired condoms several times that's why do burst when we're having sexual intercourse with our beloved partners."	All condoms bought in rural areas were expired as compared to those in town and city.

##### Expired condoms catalyze new infections

Following claim that "expired condoms catalyze new HIV infections in rural areas" as responses from small scale farmers, a deliberate effort was undertaken to ascertain the truth so that to make interpretation. On August, 2007 condoms were bought from four different areas. That's at Morogoro Municipal, Dar es Salaam city, Mtamba village (Kisemu ward Matombo, Morogoro District) and Ngerengere village Morogoro District. With regards to condoms expiring dates, it was found that: Morogoro Municipal (September, 2011), Dar es Salaam city (February, 2012), Mtamba village (September, 2005) and Ngerengere (February, 2007). Again, what was observed is that, people in rural areas didn't bother to check for expiring dates. They seem to be hurry. Whenever a person reached a pharmacy or shop ask the seller for rapid wrapping of the condom on piece of paper and then he left a premise quickly and didn't care about checking on expiring date. It was observed that customers did ask on expiry dates in towns unlike in rural areas where sellers took the advantage of people's ignorance, they sold expired condoms. Lack of knowledge on condom expiring dates do

accelerate their burst during sexual intercourse; hence catalyzed new infections. This argument is supported by group members during group discussion, they claimed that expired condoms were several times in use. They further said that condoms did burst when having sexual intercourse with their beloved partners.

Basing on the finding, expired condoms contribute to new infections. This shows that the impact of HIV/AIDS will continue to be very devastating in rural areas if no action is taken especially on awareness on lethal effect of expired condoms and education on their use.

### 3.2 The Role of VPA A&RD in Fostering Grassroots' Future Actions

**Table 2** The role of VPA A&RD in fostering grassroots' future actions

S/NO	Major findings	Narratives	Observation
1.	Small-scale farmers lack confidence among themselves as depend on outsiders for future actions	"Since we believe you're our experts and you brought to us this innovative approach please helps us on how to convince MVIWATA, relevant government bodies and other national and international bodies on realizing our solutions".	They kept insisting to researchers to take action on convincing MVIWATA and other relevant bodies on their behalf through out the study
2	VPA A&RD is communication strategy to convey information to illiterate	"I didn't know if HIV/AIDS have huge impact in rural areas. I couldn't get this information as I don't know how to read or write as most information are written in booklets and posters"	Majority participants could not afford to write. Their fellow farmers assisted them in writing especially in filling self-assessment forms.

### 3.3 Confidence of grassroots to take action

It was observed farmers still have a traditional system of trusting and depending on professional responsibility. This is evidenced when more than 50% small scale farmers during discussion on initiatives to realize the solutions. They agreed that since the researcher brought them with innovative approach, hence, he should help them on how to convince MVIWATA and relevant government

bodies and other national and international bodies so that their suggestions should be put into practice.

The facilitators tried their level better to foster a sense of ownership and insisted on their personal responsibility but they kept insisted on the same. This shows that; they lack confidence to take actions. This is quite different as observed in international class setting. During Visual Problem Appraisal class; students formulate problems and solutions and bring a sense of ownership [13]. This implies that a form of institutionalization is important to exert political influence to minimize this traditional dependence on professionals so as to re-create a sense of empowerment.

#### **3.4 VPA A&RD as means of developing grassroots' communication strategies**

In their views small scale farmers believe that VPA A&RD helps to foster participation and is a means to re-create communication and empowerment among stakeholders. As revealed by [14] participation is not just about getting people to do projects-it is about empowering them so they can sustain their development process into the future. In this way; MVIWATAMA members through VPA A&RD workshops developed their own communication strategies to formulate problem and integrate them into their actions for the betterment of their fellows at national and international levels. This is because, [15] peasants cannot and must not be confined themselves to their local development needs and problems. They are concerned with, and actually involved in, national and international issues and problems.

The VPA A&RD workshop participants further pointed out VPA A&RD convey information in accessible way, even to illiterate people can access and understand the information. One female small-scale farmer said that:

***“I didn't know if HIV/AIDS have huge impact in rural areas. I couldn't get this information as I don't know how to read or write as most information is written in booklets and posters”.***

The idea is strongly supported by [16] who pointed out that video is a tool to both reflect the participant's reality and highlight their potential to change this reality. In this research, participants framed problems and solutions basing on the information provided by distant interviewee(s)

#### **3.5 The Role of VPA A&RD in Influencing Informed Choices**

**Table 3** The role of VPA A&RD in influencing informed choices

S/NO	Major findings	Narratives	Observation
1.	VPA A&RD interviewees' portraying issues in participants' own language encourage participation and interaction as compared to foreign ones	"As a Tanzanian he could have told his story in Swahili. I feel uncomfortable to take his words and advice seriously".	Small scale farmers did ask several questions interactively whenever they watched interviewees' portraying their own situation in the language they used to. That's Swahili language
2	VPA A&RD is a dialectic tool in public participation and problem framing		All solutions were agreed upon on consensus

### 3.6 VPA A&RD and language issues in problem framing

It was noticed participants showed fear in choosing English speaking interviewees despite of the presence of translators. Participants wondered how comes a Tanzanian Doctor use English language in his interview. They expected him as a Tanzanian to tell his story in Swahili language. One group member said:

***"As a Tanzania he could have told his story in Swahili. I feel uncomfortable to take his words and advice seriously".***

Finally; they found a methodology very promising whenever they watched interviewees' portraying their own situation in the language they used to. That's Swahili language. They felt o.k and became motivated and interested to continue with the process. It made them to keep on asking questions like: What is the next step? Where is the next interviewee(s) to fulfill our ambitions? etc. The results imply that, VPA A&RD interviewees' portraying issues in participants' own language encourage participation and interaction as compared to foreign ones. This is an important aspect as far as agenda setting and rural transformation is concerned.

### 3.7 VPA A&RD as dialectic tool in public participation and problem framing

According to [17] collaborative approach has the following stages: understand the problem, develop a long-term vision for the future, generate alternative solutions, evaluate and debate the alternatives, select and agree on a preferred alternative and finally agree on mitigation measure. It can be deduced from the above explanations that, the use of VPA A&RD can be seen as collaborative approach in public participation as it encourages interaction, generating agreed solution and mitigation measures for future action.

### 3.8 Institutional Related Factors in Facilitating Decision Making and Agenda Setting

**Table 4** Facilitators competence *versus* decision making

S/NO	Major finding	Narratives	Observation
1	Professionals can facilitate VPA A&RD processes when their capacity is enhanced		-The co-facilitators clarifying key points and important steps and let the process of making decision live and free. -Co-facilitators gave participants opportunity to re-watch VPA A&RD during the workshop.
2	Challenging the idea rather than personal criticisms during VPA A&RD problem analysis encourages participation in decision making	“But the member could not offer concrete solutions and his group members reacted to him and demanded more clarification. They did it in person. In order to avoid discouragement from participation of the group members, I firmly insisted they attach the ideas for better solutions not a person during discussion”.	A man who was criticized in person and wanted to withdrawal after facilitators’ intervention continued

#### 3.8.1 Facilitating the decision-making process for meaningful problem analysis

While making some observations, the co-facilitators were seen clarifying key points and important steps. They let participants to determine their destiny and didn't interfere during discussion. Also, they let participants to involve in a live discussion. They also gave participants several chances to re-watch VPA A&RD video during the workshop. This skill is needed in VPA A&RD facilitation and fosters social and experiential learning. As it is reported by [18] that experiential learning can be enhanced by actively supporting the basic steps and translations that take place during learning, and by offering new learning opportunities. The results imply; professionals can facilitate VPA A&RD processes when their capacity is enhanced

It is also important to intervene the process of decision making for the grassroots to make collective decision making and informed choices. An interview was made with one of co-facilitator who said that:

***” I strongly agree with one of the group members during discussion who said it is possible the current HIV/AIDS crisis will escalate to calamity on scale not before as seen and heard from the interviewees on VPA A&RD films”*** He further said that: ***“members could not offer concrete solutions and his group members reacted to him and demanded more clarification. They did it in person. In order to avoid discouragement from participation of the group members, I firmly insisted they attach the ideas for better solutions not a person during discussion”.***

This might indicate that; in order VPA A&RD facilitation to contribute to better decision as a way of public participation in their endogenous development, facilitators and professionals should let the process free and should intervene whenever possible.

### **3.9 VPA A&RD production related factors in shaping problem analysis and policy formulation**

The related production issues foster policy and problem analysis. This is because it encourages participation and goes beyond analysis. Clear sound analysis encourages interactions. The compact discs with good audibility received more attention. Also, those with interviewees in local language of the participants received more attention and the discussion was very intense compared with a group with foreign interviewee in form of video.

**Table 5** VPA A&RD production related factors in shaping problem analysis and policy formulation

<b>S/NO</b>	<b>Major finding</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Observation</b>
1	VPA A&RD is empowering as small-scale farmers have mandate and solutions ownership	“Always outsiders come here to extract information from us and they end up formulating projects for their own interest that is all. They only frame their problems and bring their interventions so that we act upon their needs. Thanks to this approach (VPA A&RD) it is empowering and it’s our national constitutional right to formulate problems and take actions ourselves”	Small scale farmers reacted with angrily face and blamed the traditional system of information extraction
2	VPA A&RD encourages more interaction among participants	“Please say something. Why are you so quite?”	shy man cooperated and interacted positively with constructive contributions in group works

### **3.10 Mandate in problem formulations and ownership of solution**

The issues of mandate were figured out. This meant to have a follow up of energy and full consent of the participants. MVIWATAMA farmers' groups local network and Kisemu and Tawa wards executive officers were asked about mandate of study in fostering problem formulation and ownership of solutions, they all agreed small scale farmers have mandate as per Tanzania's constitution and they seem they could support the follow up from problem owners. In addition; it's mandatory for designing their own communication strategies for future action and when small-scale farmers asked to what extent have mandate in problem formulations and ownership of solutions they narrated as follows:

***“The government and some HIV/AIDS related development organizations formulate problems and ask us to implement and we don't have to formulate problems since we don't have support to make things happen”.*** They added: ***“Always outsiders come here to extract information from us and they end up formulating projects for their own interest that is all. They only frame their problems and bring their interventions so that we act upon their need. Thanks to this approach (VPA A&RD) it is empowering and it's our national constitutional right to formulate problems and take actions ourselves”.***

A sense of empowerment is as accordance to [19] assertion that through documentation the “realities”, situations can be confronted, and subsequently remedied. The above responses show that grassroots especially small-scale farmers are unwilling to participate in traditional method of information extraction. They feel mandate and ownership of the solutions if interactively and actively involved in generating their own solutions. This is possible if they feel trusted to take concrete action themselves. The results show that VPA A&RD is empowering as small-scale farmers have mandate and ownership of solutions.

### **3.11 VPA A&RD encourages more interaction among participants**

The use of A&RD at grassroots level encourages interaction among participants. During group discussion it was observed group members kept awaking passive participants. One group member said to her fellow that:

***“Please say something. Why are you so quite?”***

Finally, a shy man cooperated and interacted positively with constructive contributions in group works. This is indicated by [20] who reported media as a social activity can bring benefits associated with better information, insights, and understanding and, encourages interaction among stakeholders.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

With regard to the use of Visual Problem Appraisal AIDS and Rural Development (VPA A&RD) in HIV/AIDS problem analysis in Tanzania, the tool was found to

enhance social learning, through encouraging interaction and communication among small scale farmers as it reflects their realities, background and feelings. It serves as mediated public participation in decision making process through empowerment as small-scale farmers have mandate and ownership of solutions as they are interactively and actively involved in generating their own solutions. The tool further reinforces agenda setting as it leads to development of new insights of identifying key problems that allows for future actions. For example, the expired condoms and policy inactions. Generally, the study found out that in order to achieve grounded analysis instead of rush and sustainable results in HIV/AIDS analysis, fight and impacts mitigation; there must be a follow-up energy and well established institutional set up. That's VPA A&RD potential can not be useful as stand-alone method. Institutional facilitation increases its effectiveness. Professionals can facilitate VPA A&RD when their capacity is enhanced. Therefore, regarding the efforts to reduce the new HIV infections in rural areas and the policy confrontation; there is a need of establishment of HIV/AIDS policy working paper among Tanzanian universities which will contribute in policy analysis, fostering and promoting wider understanding of the relevant HIV/AIDS policy gaps, inactions and creating a debate in confronting lethal effects of condom use (example issues of expiry dates) and also incorporation of VPA methodology in their curricula so that to facilitate training to future HIV/AIDS policy analysts and advisors as a way to create sustainability. In addition, VPA A&RD proved to encourage participation, foster action and ownership of solutions. The government should strive to incorporate the VPA methodology in the current HIV/AIDS policy that will be of use in grounded analysis for minimizing HIV/AIDS impacts. In order to have reality interviewees and the films should be from the same country with same language use to stimulate agenda setting. The organizations' frontline field workers should be trained on filming and production of site specific VPA A&RD and facilitation skills. This will support proper grounded analysis of problems and solution instead of rush so as to achieve proper mitigation of AIDS pandemic.

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**Comment [dt5]:** Avoid numbering. You may need to learn more on (American Psychological Association) APA style of referencing. And be current in your literature.

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