

Contextualizing Women's Risks and Vulnerabilities Using an Ethnographic and Network Assessment Approach

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for the

The STARR Study Team



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Sexual Transactions and Risk Reduction (STARR)

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Presentation Overview

- ❑ **Study Background**
- ❑ **Study Design**
- ❑ **Study Methods**
- ❑ **Preliminary Findings**
- ❑ **Further Exploration & Next Steps**
- ❑ **Application of Findings**

Presentation

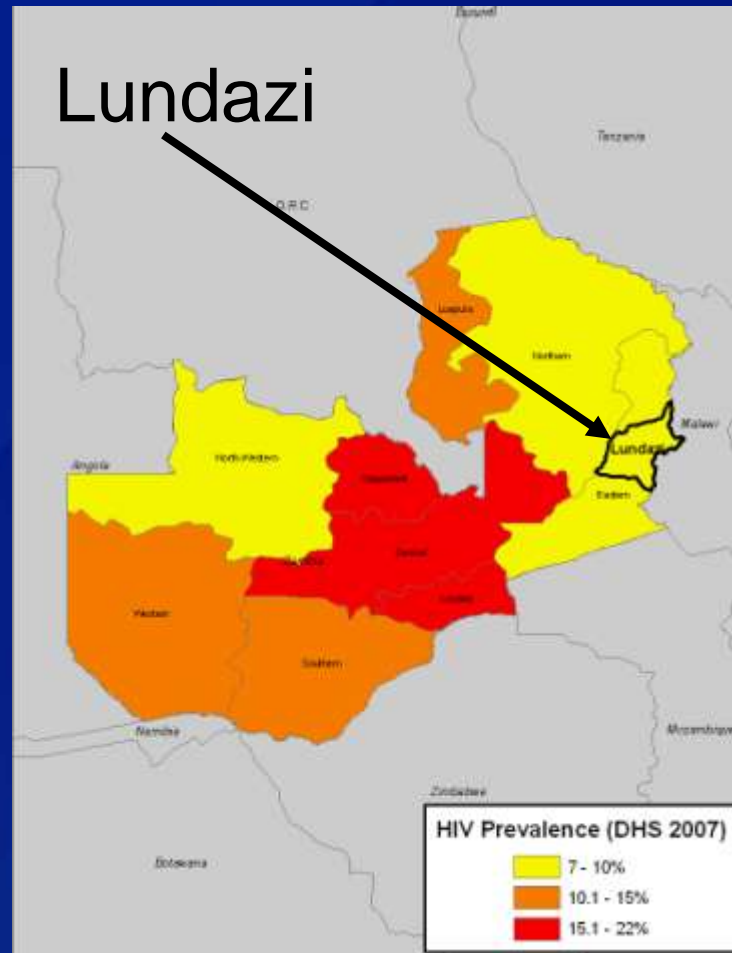
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Study Background

- ❑ **One-year rapid assessment**
 - *Use mixed methodology*
 - *Women involved in agricultural production in the Lundazi District, Zambia*
- ❑ **Carried out April-October, 2011**
- ❑ **Focused on transactional sex and HIV risk**



HIV Prevalence in Zambia



Transactional Sex (TS): Definition

- ❑ **Relationship in which resources of financial worth (material goods, services or money) are provided to a woman**
 - *Receiving these resources is a deciding factor in starting and/or maintaining the sexual relationship*
- ❑ **Other dimensions explored:**
 - *Affective relations*
 - *Social sanctioned behavior*
 - *Relative power in relations*
 - *Reproductive intentions*
 - *Gender-based violence*

Study Purpose

- ❑ Understand conditions and attitudes that may compromise the health of women ages 18-34 who work in the production and sale of agricultural products
- ❑ Describe the social, sexual, and economic networks of these women and determine how network characteristics relate to the occurrence of HIV risk behavior and transactional sex
- ❑ Develop appropriate interventions and prevention messages that address transactional sex and the risk for HIV among these women

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Study Design

❑ Mixed methods assessment

❑ Target population

- *Sexually active women 18-34 years of age engaged in farming from the Magodi and Zumwanda chiefdoms*

❑ Additional input from:

- *Community leaders and members in the Lundazi District*
- *Sexually active men 18 years or older in the Lundazi district*



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Data Collection Methods

Method	Sample
Structured Observations	<i>Market areas and surrounding villages, retail centers, transport nodes</i>
KII: Influentials	<i>-Representatives of health, local governmental and NGOs and agricultural sector, community stakeholders</i>
Intermediaries	<i>-Agricultural extension agents, buyers, haulers, truckers, border guards, police, government officials</i>
Community Members	<i>-Members of the Lundazi community</i>
Focus Groups	<i>Women and men ages 18-34 in the study communities</i>
IDI-Pre-survey	<i>Women ages 18-34 engaged in agricultural production</i>
IDI-Post-survey	<i>Women and men engaged in transactional sex</i>
IDI-Cognitive Testing	<i>Women ages 18-34 engaged in the production and sale of agricultural products</i>
Geospatial Visualization	<i>Political layers, physical layers, community institutional resources, points of social and economic interaction</i>
Structured Survey	<i>Sexually active women age 18-34 involved in farming in Magodi and Zumwanda chiefdoms (n=200); network data to understand the structural context of risk</i>

Methods: Initial Rapid Qualitative Analysis

- ❑ Synthesize data quickly after qualitative data collection**
- ❑ Explore key concepts, themes and terms using results from daily debriefing sessions (concept matrices)**
- ❑ Feed initial findings into revisions of the structured survey and post-survey in-depth interview guides**
- ❑ Initiate in-depth qualitative analysis**

Methods: Structured Survey

❑ Survey assesses

- *Individual characteristics*
- *Types and characteristics of sexual relationships*
- *Network components: social, economic, sexual, organizational*

❑ Conducted pilot (n=12)

❑ Implement and conduct analysis of survey participants (n=200)

- *Triangulate with qualitative findings*

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Summary of qualitative interviews by type and number of participants

Interview Type	No. of Interviews	Participants Interviewed	
	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	%
<i>KII Influential</i>	10	10	8.9
<i>KII Intermediary</i>	10	10	8.9
<i>KII Community members</i>	11	11	9.8
<i>FG – Male</i>	3	24	21.4
<i>FG – Female</i>	3	25	22.3
<i>IDI Pre-survey</i>	20	20	17.9
<i>IDI Cognitive testing</i>	12	12	10.7
Total	69	112	100

Preliminary Qualitative Rapid Analysis Results

- **TS is reported as common and involves individuals from different economic, social and demographic backgrounds**
 - *Community viewed TS as normative and held negative views towards those engaging in TS (pejorative terms were sometimes used)*
 - *Complexity of TS:*
 - *TS present in a variety of relationships but TS is not always the primary characteristic of the relationship*
 - *No terminology was identified that specifically describes TS*
 - *Distinctions between “want” and “need” in the context of TS were not clear*

Preliminary Qualitative Rapid Analysis Results

- ❑ STI/HIV infection and discovery of the relationship viewed as key problems in TS relationships
- ❑ Relationships described as having a power differential, with the man economically and/or socially advantaged
- ❑ Men viewed as typically initiating TS
- ❑ TS relationships viewed as temporary, though varying in duration
- ❑ In return for help or support, women indicate paying back the giver, including having sex, and providing meals or just saying thanks
- ❑ Key motivations identified:
 - *Men: Sexual satisfaction and pleasure*
 - *Women: Support of family and receiving gifts such as clothing, food, soap, and money*

Pilot Results: Demographics (Mphanda Chiefdom)

Characteristic	Total (N=12 women) N (%)
Mean Age	26.3 (range 20-33)
Education Level	
<i>Some Primary</i>	3 (25%)
<i>Completed Primary</i>	1 (8.3%)
<i>Some Secondary</i>	1 (8.3%)
<i>Completed Secondary</i>	2 (16.7%)
<i>More than Secondary</i>	5 (41.7%)
Religion	
<i>Catholic</i>	5 (41.7%)
<i>Protestant</i>	6 (50%)
<i>Other</i>	1 (8.3%)
Mean lifetime sex partners	5.8 (range 4-7)
Marital Status	
<i>Married</i>	10 (83%)
<i>Separated</i>	1 (8.3%)
<i>Never Married</i>	1 (8.3%)

Characteristic	Total (N=12 women) N (%)
Mean size of HH	5.6 (range 1 - 8)
Mean number of children	1.6 (range 0 - 5)
Amount of HH income provided	
<i>All of it</i>	3 (25%)
<i>Most of it</i>	6 (50%)
<i>About half</i>	2 (16.7%)
<i>Less than half</i>	1 (8.3%)
Not enough food, past 4 weeks	
<i>No</i>	7 (58.3%)
<i>Yes</i>	5 (41.7%)
How often lack of food, past 4 weeks	
<i>Rarely</i>	5 (41.7%)
<i>N/A</i>	7 (58.3%)
How often worried about place to stay, past 12 months	
<i>Never</i>	9 (75%)
<i>Sometimes</i>	2 (16.7%)
<i>Often</i>	1 (8.3%)

Network Descriptors

- ❑ **Total number of people named ranged from 2 to 9**
 - *Total number of men named ranged from 1 to 4*
 - *Total number of women named ranged from 1 to 5*
- ❑ **Network overlap as reported by respondent**
 - *All men named in the sexual network; one was also named in the social/economic networks*

Network Descriptors

❑ Sexual Network:

- *11 women named 1 man in her sexual network*
- *1 woman named 2 men in her sexual network (one boyfriend, one husband)*
- *The men named in the sexual network were categorized as:*
 - *Husband (n=9)*
 - *Live-in partner (n=2)*
 - *Boyfriend (n=1)*
 - *None of the above (n=1)*

Pilot Results: Transactional Sex

Question	Total (N=12 women) N (%)
<i>Had sex with any named partner in the past 12 months because he gave you or you expected him to give you something you wanted or needed</i>	
Yes	2 (16.7%)
No	10 (83.3%)
<i>Likelihood of continuing sex with any named partner if he stopped helping you with listed activities</i>	
Very or somewhat likely	7 (58.3%)
Not very likely or not at all likely	5 (41.7%)
<i>Importance of help with listed activities in starting a relationship with any named partner</i>	
Very important/somewhat important	7 (58.3%)
Not very important/not at all important	5 (41.7%)

Pilot Results: Transactional Sex & Risk

- ❑ **4 of 12** women reported definitely or probably that at least one named partners had sex with another person at the same time she was in a relationship with him
- ❑ **3 of 12** women reported that they had sex with someone else at the same time that they were involved with at least one named partner
- ❑ **8 of 12** women reported that at least one person named in their network was at medium or high risk of HIV

Pilot Results: Transactional Sex Norms

Characteristic	Total (N=12 women) N (%)
How common do you think it is for women you know through work to have sex with men they interact with to grow, plant or sell produce?	
<i>Very common</i>	3 (25%)
<i>Somewhat common</i>	1 (8.3%)
<i>Not very common</i>	8 (66.7%)
<i>Not at all common</i>	0
How common do you think it is for women you know to have sex with a man just because he gives her support, money, gifts or other things?	
<i>Very common</i>	3 (25%)
<i>Somewhat common</i>	5 (41.7%)
<i>Not very common</i>	4 (33.3%)
<i>Not at all common</i>	0

Violence Analysis

- ❑ **Within network violence**
- ❑ **Violence norms**

Within Network Violence - Questions

□ Violence Questions:

- Verbal/Emotional: Has [NAME] ever **insulted you, belittled or humiliated, threatened, or done things to scare you**? Has this happened once, more than once, or never?
 - How many times has this happened in the past 12 months?
- Physical: Did [NAME] ever **push, shove, hit, slap, punch, or bite you, throw something at you, or do anything else to physically hurt you**? Has this happened once, more than once, or never?
 - How many times has this happened in the past 12 months?
- Sexual: Did [NAME] ever **force you to have sex** when you did not want to? Has this happened once, more than once, or never?
 - How many times has this happened in the past 12 months?
- Sexual: Did you ever have **sex with [NAME] because you were frightened** of what he might do? Has this happened once, more than once, or never?

Pilot Results: Within Network Violence

- ❑ **Verbal/Emotional: 7 of 12 women had ever experienced emotional/verbal abuse from at least one person named in their networks**
 - *3 of the 7 had this happen in the past 12 months*
- ❑ **Physical: 4 of the 12 women had ever experienced physical abuse from at least one person named in their networks**
 - *All 4 had this happen in the past 12 months*
- ❑ **Sexual:**
 - Forced sex: *6 of 12 women had ever been forced to have sex with at least one person named in their network*
 - *6 of the 6 had this happen in the past 12 months*
 - Sex because frightened: *6 of the 12 women had ever had sex with at least one person named in their network because they were frightened of what he might do*

Pilot Results: Violence Norms

Characteristic	Total (N=12 women)
	N (%)
Most of the women in your community have been forced to have sex when they did not want to (n=12)	
<i>Definitely agree</i>	2 (16.7%)
<i>Sometimes agree</i>	4 (33.3%)
<i>Sometimes disagree</i>	2 (16.7%)
<i>Definitely disagree</i>	4 (33.3%)

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Considerations for Further Exploration

- ❑ **Complexity of the concept of TS**
 - *How do we factor in the husband/main partner?*
 - *Asking if they have a transactional partner provides limited information – asking about the dynamics of the relationship is what elicits the transactional nature of the relationship*
- ❑ **Gender power dynamics**
- ❑ **Main sexual partner almost always named in economic and/or social networks – perhaps speaks to dependency**
- ❑ **Getting help or assistance was very important for 50% of these women in initiating their sexual relationships – perhaps speaks to agency for women**
- ❑ **Small networks, overlap, dependence – dependency however, introduces vulnerability such as violence and gaps in income generation/livelihood activities and poverty**
- ❑ **Main sexual partner reported as sexual perpetrator -- perhaps speaks to gender-based violence**

Next Steps

- ❑ Structured survey among target population (n=200)**
- ❑ Follow-up IDI with a sample of women in the survey who engaged in TS to elicit more in-depth understanding**
- ❑ IDI with men referred by women participating in the survey to provide male perspective**

Thank You!

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