

April 2007

Dear ASCI Research Community,

Below please find the AIDS, Security & Conflict Initiative Research Update which contains a variety of recent research and other resources related to ASCI's four thematic areas: 1) HIV/AIDS in uniformed services, including military, peacekeeping and policing; 2) HIV/AIDS, humanitarian crises and post-conflict transitions; 3) HIV/AIDS, fragile and crisis states; 4) Cross-cutting issues of gender, data collection & measurement, and media representation. These updates are a regular supplement to the ASCI Newsletter which will be distributed over the duration of the Initiative. Please email asci@ssrc.org if you would like us to include other relevant resources and materials in future Research Updates. For more information and resources on AIDS, security and conflict please visit the ASCI website at <http://asci.ssrc.org>.

The April 2007 ASCI Research Update includes:

1. Recent academic and policy publications
2. Web resources
3. Events - conferences, CFPs, etc
4. Relevant Partners

1. Recent academic and policy publications

Ambrosio, Thomas. "The Geopolitics of Demographic Decay: HIV/AIDS and Russia's Great-Power Status." *Post-Soviet Affairs*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 1-23, Jan-Mar 2006.

A specialist in international relations examines the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the context of Russia's security interests & status in the international system. Sources from the international news media's coverage of HIV/AIDS in Russia & the social science literature on the epidemic in Russia are used not only to outline the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Russia in terms of trends in the last decade & those factors promoting the spread of the virus but also to focus on the social, economic, & military consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Russia. These consequences are analyzed in terms of how they might affect Russia's international position in the coming decades.

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bell/soviet/2006/00000022/00000001/art00001>

Baro, Mamadou; Deubel, Tara F. "Persistent hunger: perspectives on vulnerability, famine, and food security in sub-Saharan Africa." *Annual review of anthropology*, vol. 35, pp. 521-538, 2006.

This review examines the persistence of chronic hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa in the twenty-first century and reviews dominant famine theories, concepts of vulnerability, and household livelihood security and responses to recent food crises in the region. The authors argue that famine occurrences are linked to historical and contemporary socioeconomic processes that have increased over time the vulnerability of African households to hunger and reduced their resilience to environmental and economic shocks, political conflict, and the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS. Approaches to famine need to move away from the 'emergency relief' framework to better address the underlying conditions that make food shortages endemic. Future food security for Africa requires an integrated long-term response to household vulnerability on the part of African governments, civil society, and international partners by incorporating new technologies, local expertise, and active involvement of African communities living with the realities of recurrent famine.

<http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.anthro.35.081705.123224>

Betsi, N.A.; et al. "Effect of an armed conflict on human resources and health systems in Côte d'Ivoire: prevention of and care for people with HIV/AIDS." *AIDS care*, vol. 18 no. 4, pp. 356-365, May 2006.

In September 2002, an armed conflict erupted in Côte d'Ivoire which has since divided the country in the

government-held south and the remaining territory controlled by the 'Forces Armées des Forces Nouvelles' (FAFN). There is concern that conflict-related population movements, breakdown of health systems and food insecurity could significantly increase the incidence of HIV infections and other sexually-transmitted infections, and hence jeopardize the country's ability to cope with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Our objective was to assess and quantify the effect this conflict had on human resources and health systems that provide the backbone for prevention, treatment and care associated with HIV/AIDS. We obtained data through a questionnaire survey targeted at key informants in 24 urban settings in central, north and west Côte d'Ivoire and reviewed relevant Ministry of Health (MoH) records. We found significant reductions of health staff in the public and private sector along with a collapse of the health system and other public infrastructures, interruption of condom distribution and lack of antiretrovirals. On the other hand, there was a significant increase of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), some of which claim a partial involvement in the combat with HIV/AIDS. The analysis shows the need that these NGOs, in concert with regional and international organizations and United Nations agencies, carry forward HIV/AIDS prevention and care efforts, which ought to be continued through the post-conflict stage and then expanded to comprehensive preventive care, particularly antiretroviral treatment.
<http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/QQ3N745080567403.pdf>

Brouwer, A. de, Reparation to victims of sexual violence: possibilities at the International Criminal Court and at the Trust Fund for Victims and their Families, Leiden Journal of International Law, Issue 1, Volume 20: 207-237, 2007:

The author explores the reparation possibilities for victims of sexual violence at the International Criminal Court and at the Trust Fund for Victims and their Families. She shows the necessity of reparations for victims of sexual violence due to the devastating physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences they experience. Special attention is given to the effects of HIV infection through sexual violence. The case of Rwanda is discussed as an example of a situation in which many women are believed to have been infected with HIV through sexual violence and have not received any or sufficient reparation. Possibilities to reparation offered by the ICTY and the ICTR are discussed, to conclude with an extensive overview of the International Criminal Court's reparation regime. In the final remarks the author argues for thorough analysis of needs of victims in order to determine the form of reparation which will be offered. In cases in which the convicted was found guilty to infecting the victim with HIV, ARV drugs should as a minimum be included in the reparation order.
<http://journals.cambridge.org/production/action/cjoGetFulltext?fulltextid=848116>

Chynoweth S, Preserving Health, Saving Lives: Priority Reproductive Health Services in Emergencies, HealthLink, Issue 143, March 2007

Reproductive health in emergencies emerged as an important component of emergency response in the mid-1990s when the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda underscored the need for reproductive health services for conflict-affected women and girls.
<http://www.globalhealth.org/publications/article.php3?id=1625>

DeWaal, Alex. 2006. AIDS and Power: Why There is No Political Crisis – Yet. Zed Books UK and Palgrave MacMillan US.

AIDS and Power explains why social and political life in Africa goes on in a remarkably normal way, and how political leaders have successfully managed the AIDS epidemic so as to overcome any threats to their power. Partly because of pervasive denial, AIDS is not a political priority for electorates, and therefore not for democratic leaders either. AIDS activists have not directly challenged the political order, instead using international networks to promote a rights-based approach to tackling the epidemic. African political systems have proven resilient in the face of AIDS's stresses, and rulers have learned to co-opt international AIDS efforts to their own political ends. AIDS and Power concludes that without political incentives for HIV prevention, this failure will persist.
<http://press.ssrc.org/DeWaal/index.html>

Dolan, K., Kite, B., Black, E., Aceijas, C., & Stimson, G. V. HIV in prison in low-income and middle-

income countries, Lancet Infectious Diseases, Issue 1, Volume 7: 32-41, 2007:

High prevalence of HIV infection and the over-representation of injecting drug users (IDUs) in prisons combined with HIV risk behaviour create a crucial public-health issue for correctional institutions and, at a broader level, the communities in which they are situated. However, data relevant to this problem are limited and difficult to access. The authors reviewed imprisonment, HIV prevalence, and the proportion of prisoners who are IDUs in 152 low-income and middle-income countries. Evidence of HIV transmission in prison was found for seven low-income and middle-income countries. HIV is a serious problem for many countries, especially where injection drug use occurs. Because of the paucity of data available, the contribution of HIV within prison settings is difficult to determine in many low-income and middle-income countries. Systematic collection of data to inform HIV prevention strategies in prison is urgently needed. The introduction and evaluation of HIV prevention strategies in prisons are warranted.

<http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1473309906706855>

Fabiani M, Nattabi B, Pierotti C, Ciantia F, Opio AA, Musinguzi J, Ayella E, Declich S, HIV-I prevalence and factors associated with infection in the conflict-affected region of North Uganda, Conflict and Health, Current Issue, Volume 1, March 2007:

Study aimed to estimate the HIV-I prevalence among the internally displaced population living in protected camps and the factors associated with infection. Tests were conducted in June-December 2005 in 3051 antenatal clinics attendees in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts. It was concluded that the HIV-I prevalence in North Uganda is still high, despite the declining prevalence trend at the national level since 1993. Internally displaced women have a lower risk of being infected probably because of their reduced mobility and accessibility, and increased access to health prevention services.

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/pdf/1752-1505-1-3.pdf>

Fourie, Pieter. (forthcoming) "The Relationship between the AIDS Pandemic and State Fragility." Global Change, Peace & Security.

Despite the perversely high levels of AIDS in Africa, there are few indications that the pandemic is directly leading to imminent state failure amongst the 53 countries on the continent. Of the factors that threaten the ability of governments to govern, AIDS (or any other health threat, for that matter) is seen to be a derivative threat—at most. However, there has been significant conjecture about the purported link between the pandemic and state fragility. This polemic has been fuelled by the securitization of disease that has become so prevalent in the multilateral arena since 9/11 in particular. However, social science has for the most part left the key concepts in this arena uncomfortably unexplored, and there have been few attempts to speak intelligently about empirical or other indices of the epidemic's impact at the macro (state) level. This article is an attempt to come to grips with some of these issues, not only in the context of the mature epidemics ravaging Africa, but elsewhere as well.

François, Monika and Inder Sud. 2006. "Promoting Stability and Development in Fragile and Failed States." Development Policy Review. 24:2, 141.

There is a growing recognition of the threat to international security posed by failed and fragile states, often marred by serious internal conflict that also has the potential of destabilising neighbouring states and providing ungoverned territory that can provide safe haven for terrorists. The inability of their governments to provide basic services is considered a significant contributory factor. Considerable donor efforts have been mobilised in recent years to help with the post-conflict reconstruction of states emerging from failure, and to halt the slide of fragile states towards failure, but with mixed effect. The international community needs to focus much more squarely on strengthening the emerging state and increasing its domestic legitimacy, rather than on promoting democracy.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-7679.2006.00319.x>

Gruber, Janet. "Does conflict increase vulnerability to HIV infection? Issues for a research agenda." African Journal of AIDS Research. Vol 5(1), 2006, pp. 41-48.

Much action has been taken in the last ten years to prevent and mitigate HIV infection in times of conflict, yet two fundamental questions remain unanswered: Does conflict always and everywhere increase

vulnerability to HIV infection, and are women and girls always disproportionately affected? This paper considers the ways in which conflict, gender inequality and HIV prevalence and infection rates may or may not be connected; its intention is to map key areas for a research agenda addressing issues of HIV/AIDS, gender and conflict. Consideration is also given to how HIV prevention and mitigation activities in times of conflict, transition, and the post-conflict reconstruction and development phase might best serve vulnerable populations. In the worst instance, failure to achieve some consensus on the best way forward might contribute to reduced attention by the international community and donors to civilian populations' vulnerability to HIV infection during times of conflict.

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/nisc/ajar/2006/00000005/00000001/art00005>

Happymoon, Jacob. HIV/AIDS as a Security Threat to India (RCSS Policy Studies 28)

HIV/AIDS is a security threat to India because it threatens the economic, human, societal, and even the traditional notions of security. This study seeks to build up this argument with an understanding of security and how these various sectors of India's security are threatened by HIV/AIDS.

[http://www.manoharbooks.com/BookDetails.asp?bookid=42386&Page=1&subjec=%20%20%20%20Health%20%20Medicine%20.%20Economic%20Reforms%20.%20Epidemics/disease%20%20%20%20%20\(HIV/AIDS%20as%20a%20Security%20Threat%20to%20India%20\(RCSS%20Policy%20Studies%2028](http://www.manoharbooks.com/BookDetails.asp?bookid=42386&Page=1&subjec=%20%20%20%20Health%20%20Medicine%20.%20Economic%20Reforms%20.%20Epidemics/disease%20%20%20%20%20(HIV/AIDS%20as%20a%20Security%20Threat%20to%20India%20(RCSS%20Policy%20Studies%2028)

McGinn, T.; Allen, K. "Improving refugees' reproductive health through literacy in Guinea." *Global public health*, vol. 1 no. 3, pp. 229-248, Oct 2006.

Adult literacy programmes, particularly literacy-for-health programmes that integrate health material in their curricula, are gaining momentum as a means to improve women's and children's health and increase women's empowerment. However, the relationship between literacy skills and these benefits remains unclear. This paper presents results from a study on the Reproductive Health Literacy (RHL) Project among Sierra Leonean and Liberian women in refugee camps in Guinea. Literacy classes met for 2 hours twice per week for 6 months, with content focused on safe motherhood, family planning, STIs/HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. A closed-ended interview and a written test of literacy skills were administered to 549 former RHL students to understand the programme's effects. Results indicate that participants had a high level of reproductive health knowledge after participation, and reported an increase in literacy skills. Respondents' current use of modern contraception was 48%, of which 23% reported using a condom at last sex. Findings suggest an increase from reported pre-RHL behaviour. Participants also reported a dramatic increase in 'boldness', the phrase used to describe empowerment. While only a third (32%) of respondents considered themselves 'more bold' than other women before RHL, a clear majority (82%) so considered themselves after RHL. A comparison of schooled and unschooled women indicates that those who had previous schooling did better in RHL than their non-schooled colleagues, but both groups had good knowledge retention, positive behaviour levels and felt more bold after RHL participation. <http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/W2151266270L3100.pdf>

Mills, Edward J, Jean B Nachega. "HIV infection as a weapon of war." *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* 2006; 6:752-753

The effect of violent conflicts on HIV/AIDS infection is poorly understood. The current epidemiological evidence is complex and suggests that HIV/AIDS prevalence in conflict-affected populations is lower than expected.¹ What is agreed, however, is that certain groups, particularly women and girls, are made vulnerable by sexual violence.² There has been considerable documentation of the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war,³ and it has also been feared that purposeful HIV infection has been used as a weapon of war. A recent human rights commission finding adds further concern to this speculation.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309906706351/fulltext>

Mills EJ, Singh S, Nelson BD, Nachega JB. The impact of conflict on HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. *Int J STD AIDS*. 2006 Nov;17(11):713-7.

Sub-Saharan Africa disproportionately represents the largest incidence of both HIV/AIDS and internal conflicts. The impact of conflict on HIV incidence is largely unknown. Current epidemiological evidence paradoxically suggests that in most populations affected by conflict, HIV prevalence is lower than

surrounding communities. However, in situations of conflict, the most vulnerable populations, such as women and children, are at increased risk for HIV through sexual violence, forced occupational exposure and an absence of access to health care or testing. Together, these dimensions of conflict create a complex and challenging situation for prevention of HIV/AIDS and delivery of care to conflict-affected populations. We examine the complexity of monitoring HIV/AIDS in conflict settings. We argue that increased efforts are needed to protect vulnerable populations and design health-delivery systems that are sustainable in settings of conflict.

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/rsm/std/2006/00000017/00000011/art00001>

Seeley, Janet and Kate Butcher. 2006. "Mainstreaming' HIV in Papua New Guinea: putting gender equity first" *Gender and Development* 14:1, 105-114.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has a rapidly worsening HIV and AIDS epidemic. Gender-based violence is common and is, in part, fuelling the spread of HIV. We argue that the situation in PNG illustrates very clearly why 'mainstreaming' HIV into all aspects of development simply cannot happen without serious attention to gender inequities. We describe a scheme in the oil palm industry in PNG that specifically targets women to ensure that they benefit from playing a part in the harvesting of oil palm. This scheme is not only giving women economic independence but is also reducing conflict and gender-based violence and in so doing can begin to contribute to the arresting of the spread of HIV.

<http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/JGV3423U603W4163.pdf>

Todd CS, Abed MS, Strathdee A, Scott PT, Botros BA, Safi N, Earhart KC, Association between expatriation and HIV awareness and knowledge among injecting drug users in Kabul, Afghanistan: a cross-sectional comparison of former refugees to those remaining during conflict, *Conflict and Health, Current Issue (5), Volume 1, March 2007:*

Differences in HIV awareness and knowledge are explored between Afghan IDUs who were refugees compared to those never having left Afghanistan. It is concluded that accurate HIV knowledge among Afghan IDUs is low. However, among former refugees HIV awareness is greater. Returning refugees engage in high-risk injecting practices despite HIV awareness, potentially influencing drug users that never left Afghanistan. Both groups should be included in increased efforts to reach these vulnerable populations with HIV prevention programs. These increased efforts are needed despite the low prevalence level of HIV in Afghanistan: the low level of knowledge and high level of risky behaviours among IDU may precipitate a concentrated epidemic with devastating public health consequences in this post-conflict setting. <http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/pdf/1752-1505-1-5.pdf>

UNESCO/UNHCR Discussion Paper for decision-makers: Educational responses to HIV and AIDS for refugees and displaced persons. January 2007: It examines the current situation with regard to conflict, displacement and HIV, and notes the protection risks faced by refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It recognizes the importance of education for affected populations, and refers to the existing and significant work undertaken to develop minimum standards for education in emergency situations. The paper then focuses on the key components of education sector responses to HIV and AIDS, and addresses the policy and programmatic measures required to address the prevention, treatment, care and support needs of refugees and IDPs as well as the HIV-related stigma and discrimination that they often face. The paper concludes with a number of recommendations. Read online at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001493/149356e.pdf>

Whiteside et al. 2006. AIDS, security and the military in Africa: A sober appraisal. *African Affairs* 105 (419): 201.

This article examines four accepted wisdoms about HIV/AIDS and African armies and in each case concludes that substantial revision is necessary in the light of emerging evidence. First, it appears that military populations do not necessarily have a higher prevalence of HIV than civilian populations. HIV levels in armies depend on many factors including the demographics of the army, its pattern of deployment, the nature and stage of the epidemic in the country concerned, and the measures taken to control the disease by the military authorities. Second, although the epidemic has the potential to

undermine the functioning of national militaries, and may have done so in isolated instances, armies in general are well placed to withstand the threat. Third, evidence that war contributes to the spread of the virus is meagre and suggests that we should be concerned primarily with specific risks that conflict may entail including population mobility and changing sexual networks. Lastly, the hypothesis that AIDS has the potential to disrupt national, regional, and international security remains speculative.

<http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/105/419/201>

Worth, Heather; Henderson, Klara. "AIDS is a tear in the social fabric of Papua New Guinea: HIV and its impact, 2005-2025." *Health sociology review*, vol. 15 no. 3, pp. 293-304, 2006.

Using epidemiological data, this paper discusses the social impact of HIV in Papua New Guinea over the next two decades. It shows that the country will be facing an adult prevalence rate of nearly 11% by 2025, and that over 300,000 adults will die of AIDS related illness. HIV will impact particularly at the family and community levels, and women may bear a disproportionate burden of that impact. Immense pressure will be placed on families to cope with illness and death - both in terms of caring work and coping financially. This, in turn, will place pressure on village systems. These systems will be undermined by the loss of social capital that comes with widespread illness and the negative impact of the epidemic on the agriculture, education and health sectors. The major governance and security impacts will also be felt at village level - how to sustain viable local governance systems in the face of HIV.

2. Web Resources

SSRC BOOK BLOG: AIDS and Power: Why There is No Political Crisis - Yet

Follow the conversation among international AIDS experts regarding issues raised in Alex DeWaal's "AIDS and Power."

<http://press.ssrc.org/DeWaal/index.html>

How to Promote Global Health: A Foreign Affairs Roundtable

In this special Web feature, Paul Farmer, Jeffrey Sachs, Alex de Waal, Roger Bate & Kathryn Boateng, and Laurie Garrett discuss Garrett's essay "The Challenge of Global Health" and debate how best to help the world's poor and sick.

http://www.foreignaffairs.org/special/global_health/

Forced Migration Review: Sexual violence, weapon of war, impediment to peace: January 2007:

The latest issue of Forced Migration Review is dedicated to sexual violence. Many articles discuss this theme in the context of conflict or post-conflict situations. Although HIV is of course given attention throughout the review, an article of DeLargy and Klot 'Sexual violence and HIV/AIDS transmission' is especially dedicated to the theme. Read the whole journal at:

<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR27/full.pdf>

IRIN PlusNews Special: Winning the Peace, the post-war AIDS Challenge: In this online special, information about the post-war AIDS challenge in Burundi, Liberia, Uganda and Rwanda is presented. Read about the HIV positive refugees in Tanzania who are urged to come home, about the HIV risks for drop-outs of the Liberian DDR program, and about the difficulties of distributing medicines among people outside camps and cities in Uganda.

<http://www.plusnews.org/webspecials/post-conflict/default1.asp>

SOMALIA-KENYA: Making headway with the HIV message in refugee camps: 26 February 2007:

Awareness messages are falling on fertile ground in Dadaab refugee camp, in northeastern Kenya, where more than 140,000 Somalis who have fled insecurity in their home country have found a safe haven. Read about awareness campaigns about HIV risks caused by female genital mutilation, HIV education to girls in the camps and problems that are encountered in breaking the taboo and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS. Read online at:

<http://www.plusnews.org/aidsreport.asp?reportid=6719>

Wessells, M, Beating Death in Combat: girl soldiers face danger from HIV/AIDS, AIDSLink, Issue 101, February 2007: For a long time girl soldiers and their children were neglected by the international community. They were not included in DDR programs. Empowering girls and supporting their strengths is ultimately the best HIV prevention. However, these girls face exceptional high risks of HIV infection due to sexual enslavement during the war and social stigma and economic hardship after the war. Improved healthcare, supporting rituals to fight the social stigma and empowerment through loans and education have proved to be successful and are the best available method of AIDS prevention. The full text article can be found online at:

http://www.christianchildrensfund.org/uploadedFiles/Public_Site/news/Newsroom/Current/Aidlink_Wessells.pdf

3. Events - conferences, CFPs, etc

Conference on Gender, Globalization, and Governance (April 12-13, 2007 at University of Texas-Austin)

In many ways, the twentieth century could be considered the "women's century." From the suffrage associations of the early twentieth century to the current feminist third wave, the modern women's movement has resulted in some of the most significant societal transformations of the twentieth century. Equally transformative and controversial in nature has been the rise of globalization in the late twentieth century. Although both phenomena have been extensively researched and debated, it is the intersection of these two forces, the gender-globalization nexus, which has produced far more complex and contradictory results. <http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/genderglobalization/>

IV Latin American and Caribbean Forum in HIV/AIDS and STD: Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-20 April 2007.

The Forum is the most important place in the Region for the exchange of experiences and the discussion of challenges and opportunities to give answer to the epidemic. It allows us to fortify the autonomy of the Region, raising the participation of the community and making possible a regional project that can show the efforts and goals that we set out in the day to day work. One of the intentions is to generate material that we can take to world Congresses and thus acquire greater visibility so that all the Latin American and Caribbean countries can be listened to and be benefited. More info:

<http://www.forovihsida2007.org/siteen/index.asp?IdSeccion=16>

Medical Aspects of Disaster Management: Lessons Learned in Disaster Medicine from Recent Natural and Manmade Catastrophes: Arlington, VA, USA, 18-19 April 2007.

The threat of pandemic disease, mass casualty events or terrorist use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high explosive (CBRNE) weapons of mass destruction (WMD) have created a complex operational environment across the spectrum of the National medical community—from first responders providing initial support to an affected population, all the way up to strategic-level planners formulating the response strategies for federal, state and regional planning teams. This conference will bring together the leading experts in the field of medical planning and consequence management in order to help Federal, state, local and private stakeholders become better informed, and ultimately help shape their organization's role in the medical consequence management mission through a thorough discussion of recent events and what responders and medical experts learned from their experiences in the field.

More info: <http://governmenthorizons.org/Medical-Aspects-Disaster-Management.htm>

Innovations in Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care in HIV/AIDS: 4th African Conference on the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research: Kisumu, Kenya, 24 April- 3 May 2007.

The Social Aspect of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA) is a network of partners who conduct, support and use social sciences research established to prevent further spread of HIV and mitigate its

impact in sub-Saharan Africa. The SAHARA Annual conference aims to share information, best practices and innovations in order to find a range of robust, home-grown HIV/AIDS-related interventions. The conference has attracted abstracts from all over Africa and parallel sessions will be held over three days to explore the themes of access to prevention, treatment and care. We also aim to move this conference beyond the traditional 'talk shop' by broadening the participants to include community members who are the end-users of innovations and interventions. More information: <http://tichinafrica.org>

Asian Regional Dialogue: Phnom Penh, Cambodia, May 1st - May 4th 2007.

This Dialogue is part of a two year project sponsored by a grant from the Ford Foundation to bring together major regional networks from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean on issues of HIV/AIDS; sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); women's rights; sex worker rights and HIV/AIDS; and Drug User rights with the objective of developing an interdisciplinary approach to HIV/AIDS, improving international advocacy and identifying possibilities for future collaboration across movements.

WIDER Conference: Fragile States - Fragile Groups, Tackling Economic and Social Vulnerability (Helsinki, Finland, 15-16 June 2007)

Many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries are classified as fragile states. In these states more than 350 million people live in extreme poverty and more than four million children die each year before reaching the age of five. Such outcomes will persist unless the vulnerability of fragile states to adverse shocks is reduced, and their capacity to absorb external funds and to mobilize internal resources for sustained poverty reduction and improved economic security is increased. Yet it is not only countries that are vulnerable. Within countries there are often large groups of people that are vulnerable to a range of events and lack the assets or other means to cope with the impact of adverse shocks. This conference will bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss different concepts and measures of fragility and vulnerability, to analyze causes and consequences of vulnerability, to consider appropriate policy options, and to identify future research directions.

<http://www.wider.unu.edu/conference/conference-2007-1/conference-2007-1-announcement.htm>

Call for Papers: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Women in Violent Conflict (June 17-19, 2007 - Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

The Netherlands Defense Academy and Emory University Law School's Feminism & Legal Theory Project have joined together to sponsor a symposium regarding the sexual abuse and exploitation of women and girls in violent conflict. Since the 1995 UN World Conference on Women in Beijing there have been many conferences and political debates, yet a need for systematic investigations of the causes and consequences of violence remains. This conference will serve to provide a series of comprehensive perspectives on the problems arising from the sexual abuse and exploitation of women and girls in violent conflict. To that end, in June 2007 experts from the military, politics and the academy will be brought together to exchange ideas, discuss perspectives, and think about ways to move forward.

<http://www.iaffe.org/resources/article.php?id=277>

8th International AIDS Impact Conference, Marseille, France , 1-4 July, 2007

Registration and abstract submission is now open for AIDS Impact 2007. The AIDS Impact conference is specifically devoted to Human and Social Sciences in the field of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The last conference, held in 2005 in Cape Town, South Africa, attracted more than 700 participants from all over the world. It was also a unique opportunity to give more space to research in social sciences dealing with the HIV epidemic in developing countries. Abstract Deadline: 22 January 2007, late Breaker: 1 April 2007, abstracts are to be submitted in English only and must not have been previously published or presented. They should be no longer than 300 words.

4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, 22 – 25 July 2007, Sydney, Australia

As the fourth conference in the HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention series organised by the International AIDS Society, IAS 2007 will feature reports on the latest developments in the areas of basic, clinical and prevention science. IAS 2007 will continue its strong emphasis on treatment and pathogenesis, while building upon the biomedical prevention agenda introduced in Rio de Janeiro in 2005. IAS 2007 will examine how scientific advances can, in very practical ways, inform the global response to HIV and AIDS. Registration and submission of abstracts are now available online. Abstracts are due 7th March 2007. For more information, go to the IAS 2007 conference website:

<http://www.ias2007.org>

First International Conference on Child Sexual Abuse in Africa (Monday, September 24, 2007)

The specific objectives of the conference are to: (a) identify the causes, nature and magnitude of child sexual abuse in Africa; (b) create a forum to identify strategies to deal with sexual violence against children; (c) provide an opportunity to share information and experiences with a view to enhancing partnership and networking. <http://www.anppcankenya.co.ke/>

4. Relevant Partners

The Research Partnership on Postwar State-building (RPPS)

<http://state-building.org/2.html>

IDS Governance Team

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/govern/index.html>

The AIDS, Security and Conflict Initiative (ASCI) is a global research initiative convened by the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' and the Social Science Research Council. To learn more about ASCI, please visit our website at <http://asci.ssrc.org>.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please write to asci@ssrc.org with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Social Science Research Council • 810 Seventh Avenue, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10019