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# **Towards the Socio-Ecological Model: Home-Based Care for OVC with HIV/AIDS in Uganda**

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# Presentation Outline

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- Introduction
- Socio-ecological vs. Biomedical
- Home-based care for OVC with HIV/AIDS
- Key issues



# Health?

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...the fact of 'health' is a cultural fact in the broadest sense of the term, which is to say at once political, economic, and social. Which is to say that it's bound up with a certain state of individual and collective consciousness. Each period has it's own notion of 'normality'...

(Foucault 1983)



# Perspectives on Health, Disease and Illness

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- Contrasting views
- Socially constructed
- Subject to contestation
- Continual redefinition of meanings and usage



## Bio-medical model of health

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“... the body as *machine*, disease as the consequence of *breakdown of the machine*, and the doctor's task as *repair of the machine...*”

(Engel 1977)

- Basis for most Western hospital medical treatment
- A useful conceptual tool for analysis of diagnostic behaviour



## Assumptions of the Biomedical model

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1. Disease as *deviation* from 'normal' biological functioning
2. The doctrine of *specific* etiology
3. Diseases are generic
4. Scientific neutrality and rationality of medicine



## However...

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- Increasing tendency for individual health to be regarded in more holistic manner
- Emphasis on treatment and care of the whole person, and not just a component subsystem
- ... the Socio-ecological model





# The Socio-ecological model

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- Recognises interwoven individual - environment relationship
- Reflected in WHO health definition
- Emphasis on health as a positive quality-holistic and wide in scope
- Combines the *perceptual* and the *functional/adaptational*
- Emphasises context!



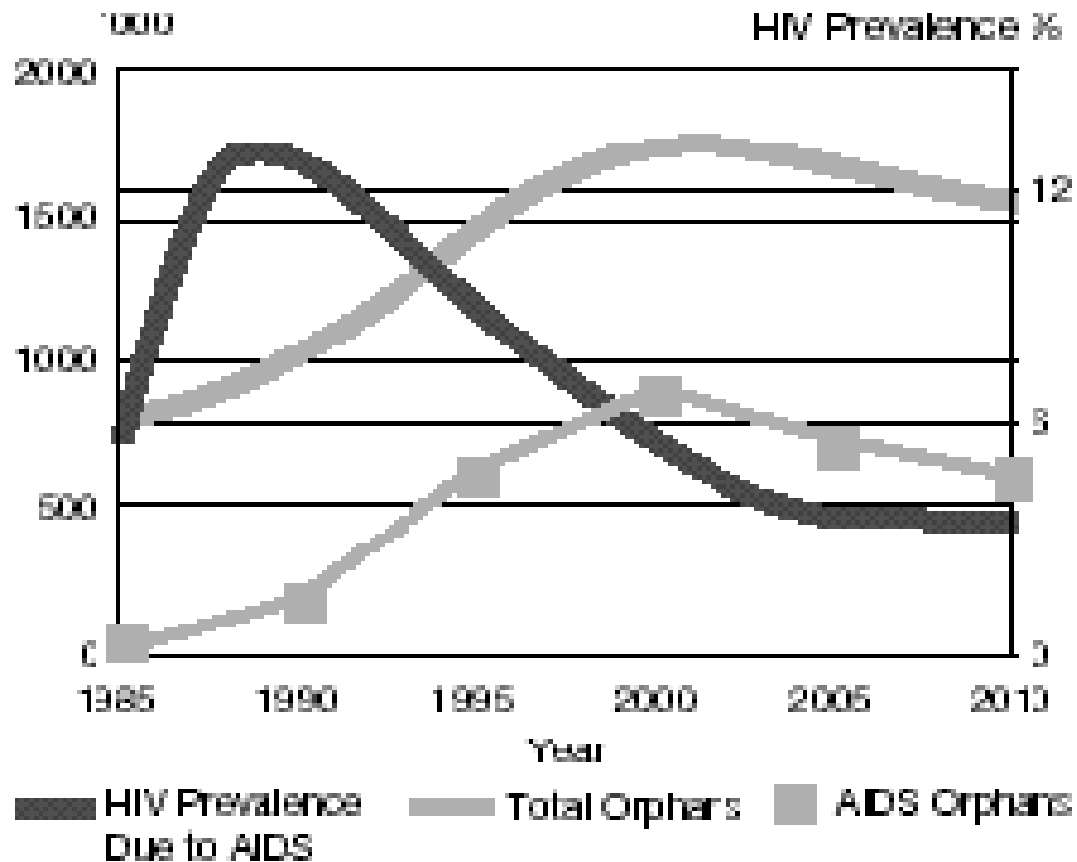
# HIV/AIDS and OVC

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- In 2007, 33 million people lived with HIV/AIDS worldwide. 22 million of them lived in SSA. Number increased to more than 40 million people in 2008
- HIV/AIDS affects mainly 15-49 age group resulting in increased numbers of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)
- Some OVC are HIV positive
- Globally, orphan number stands at more than 15 million and is forecast to rise to 24 million by 2010

(WHO,2008)

# OVC due to AIDS by HIV prevalence for Uganda

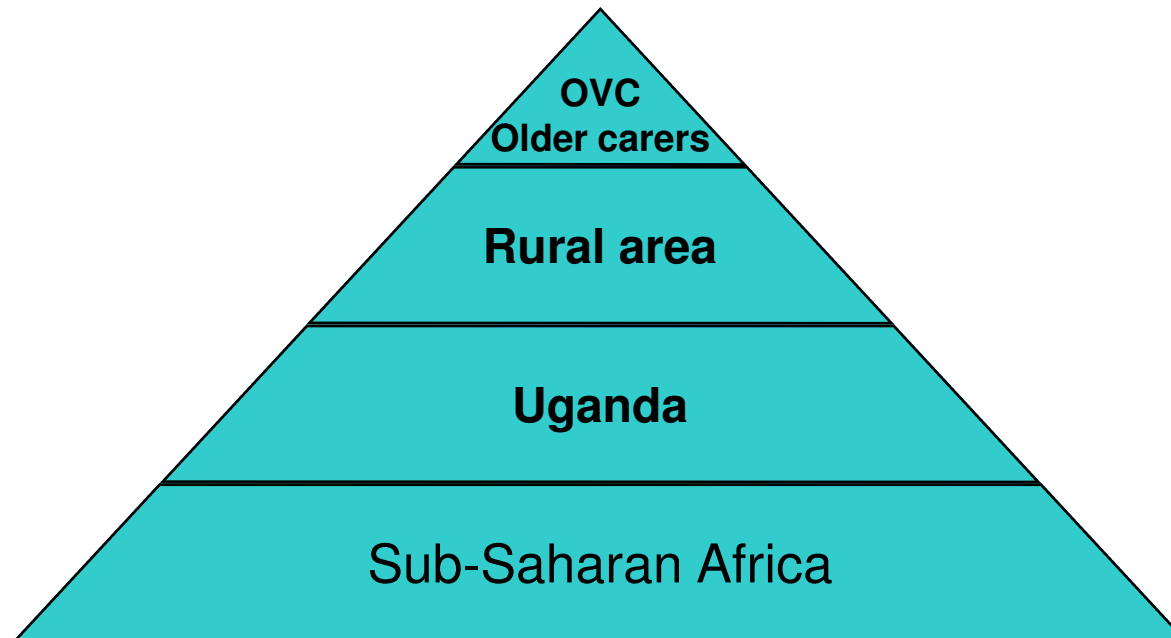


(Source: Wakhweya et al, 2003)



# Spectrum of Vulnerability

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More complex at all levels!



## HIV/AIDS care in Uganda

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- In 2007 OVC number was 2.3 million (15% of the total children in the country)
- Rose to 7.5 million (46% of all children) in 2008
- Two thirds of all PLWA, HIV-related illnesses nursed at home
- Older people (aged 60 and beyond) are primary carers for PLWA and OVC

(HelpAge and WHO, 2008)



## Care for OVC in Uganda

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- Social welfare approach (1970s-85)
- Now tacitly acknowledged that OVC care best within extended family
- 49% of the total population access health services
- Critical issues: health care, emotional well-being, nutrition and resources
- Issues broader than health or HIV/AIDS



## Key issues

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- Understanding the different views
- Impact on policy
- Integrated approach?
- Whose views drive service design and delivery?
- Support / advocacy for OVC and older carers (gender aspect – older carers mainly women?)
- Context!



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The end

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Questions?