Preface


The present supplement consists mostly of selected papers presented at workshops held in Mbarara, Uganda and Accra, Ghana. The Mbarara workshop was on ‘Sexual Networking and the Impact of HIV/AIDS in Tropical Africa’ and formed a satellite meeting of the Ninth International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa (ICASA). It was organized by the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, and held from 15 to 17 December 1995 in the Lake View Hotel, Mbarara, Uganda. The Accra workshop was held from 10 to 12 October 1996 in the Golden Tulip Hotel, Accra, organized by the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, and was on ‘Individual and Collective Vulnerability to STD/HIV Infection in Africa’.

A few papers not presented at the above workshops, but on the topic of HIV/AIDS in the Third World, are also included in this volume.

The Health Transition Centre at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, co-ordinated the funding of the workshops with a grant from SAREC-SIDA, Sweden, which also financially supported much of the reported research.

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Statement by SAREC-SIDA Representative at the Mbara Workshop

As a representative of SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency), I am happy to attend this workshop. I extend greetings from the heads of SIDA, Mr. Bo Goransson, and SAREC, Mr. Rolf Carlman, who unfortunately could not attend this meeting. I am proud that most of the papers at the workshop were presented by scientists funded by SAREC (Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries). Since 1989 SAREC has spent about SEK 90 million on a ‘Special Programme of Research on AIDS and Related Diseases’, which was started on the initiative of the Swedish Government with the objective of promoting high-quality research on the HIV/AIDS pandemic in developing countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa. The Programme has focused on projects to prevent HIV/AIDS rather than handle the effects of the disease. Both biomedical and social science research has been promoted by SAREC.

Although this workshop is primarily for SAREC-supported researchers in Australia, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda to present the results of their investigations, I am happy that researchers from other projects in Uganda and countries such as Britain, Kenya, Sweden, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were invited and are participating. Lastly, I thank Prof. John Caldwell for co-ordinating the research group and Prof. James Ntozi for successfully organizing the workshop.

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