



Review of the Existing Linkages between HIV/AIDS and Natural Resources Management in Uganda

Workshop proceedings

10th -13th December, 2007, Ridar Hotel, Mukono, Uganda

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List of Abbreviations

AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

IDRC International Development Research Centre

IDPs Internally Displaced People

IGAs Income Generating Alternatives

IUCN International Unionfor the Conservation of Nature

LCs Local Councils

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

NRM Natural Resources Management

OVC Orphans and other Vulnerable Children

PLWA People living with Aids

VCT Voluntary Counselling and Testing

Acknowledgements

This workshop was organized by the IUCN Uganda Country Office. The IUCN Uganda Country Office acknowledges the financial support received from the IDRC and the Ford Foundation through the Linkages of Conservation as Assets for Livelihoods Project.

This workshop was part of a larger project, *Making the Linkages – Conservation as a Core Asset for Livelihood Security in Eastern Africa*, funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The project aims to improve the understanding of the importance of sustainable natural resource management for livelihood security and economic growth in Eastern Africa. The project focuses on the following poverty-environment linkages: HIV/AIDS and the environment, drylands and marine natural resources and livelihoods.

The major activities of the project are: 1) conducting community workshops and producing community lessons learned brochures to improve the understanding and awareness of the linkages at the community level; 2) carrying out more in-depth studies on the linkages; 3) initiating community-policy dialogues and interactions to improve understanding at the policy level and 4) influencing policy at the IGAD level through studies and conferences of directors of conservation and health and economic planners to facilitate the dialogue between the different sectoral senior decision-makers.

This workshop would not have been a success without the technical, logistical and resourceful support of the workshop coordinator, Mr. Jackson Bwagiro Tumwine, who played a pivotal role in designing and conducting this workshop.

We would also like to acknowledge all the workshop participants who took interest and contributed actively to the success of this workshop.

1.0 Background Information

In Uganda in particular and in sub-Saharan Africa in general, AIDS is not only a health crisis, but a challenge to development, since AIDS affects every dimension of social and economic life, especially in the worst affected countries. HIV/AIDS is affecting every person, organization and sector in Uganda, including natural resources where little has been done to address the challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the sector.

With the scourge of HIV/AIDS, there is a threat to the sustainable use of these natural resources. The disease is impacting local and national economies, governance structures, agricultural production, food security and education. In fact, HIV/AIDS is resulting in a new social structure and dynamics affecting every person, organization and sector including biodiversity conservation and natural resources management. However, it has been found that available information on the linkages of HIV/AIDS with the environment is very anecdotal. The linkages have not been well explored and hence cannot provide clear guidance on action in this area. It is this paucity of knowledge and skills in linking HIV/AIDS with the environment and effectively managing such links that has generated the need to explore these linkages.

To gain a better understanding of the linkages between HIV/AIDS and natural resource management, the IUCN Uganda Country Office, in collaboration with IPPF and through financial support from the IDRC, organized and facilitated a three day workshop on "Sharing identified knowledge/information on the linkages between HIV/AIDS and environment in Uganda" from 10th to 13th December 2007 at Ridar Hotel in Mukono District, Uganda. Mr. Alex Muhweezi, IUCN Country Director, Mr. Jackson Bwagiro Tumwine (Consultant) and Ms. Chihenyo Mvoyi, IUCN Programme Officer, facilitated this workshop. The workshop attracted about 30 participants working in the areas of conservation, health, agriculture and HIV/AIDS non governmental organizations, community based natural resource management organizations, Uganda Wildlife Conservation, universities, the private sector, donors and the media.

1.1. Objectives

This workshop was designed to create awareness on the linkages between HIV /AIDS and the environment and to create a forum for lesson learning and capacity building.

Specific objectives of this workshop were:

- To disseminate findings of the IUCN desk study that was previously undertaken to identify linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment;
- To share information on community based lessons learnt in implementing programmes that integrate HIV/AIDS and the environment;
- To enhance skills in integrating environment in HIV/AIDS programmes.

1.2 Anticipated Outputs

The outputs of the workshop were expected to:

- · Provide inputs and feedback into the study findings;
- Through case studies, provide a forum for lesson-learning;

- Develop future action points and recommendations;
- · Chart a clear way forward on "next steps".

1.3 Implemented Activities

In the process of achieving the outputs indicated above the following tasks were implemented:

- The desk study that was conducted on the documented relationships between HIV/AIDS and the environment in Uganda was presented by Mr. Jackson Tumwine who was contracted to undertake the study;
- Presentations on community activities in relation to HIV/AIDS and the environment were presented;
- Lessons learnt, future action points and recommendations from the HIV/AIDS and Environment Workshop were documented.

2.0 Findings of the Desk Study presented by the Consultant

A presentation on the desk study that was commissioned by IUCN was presented by the contracted consultant - Mr. Jackson Tumwine. His presentation gave a background on the existing HIV/AIDS statistics in the country with details on the known risk factors and drivers that accelerate the spread of the pandemic. He informed the workshop that the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment are not well defined and that focus has been on the effects of HIV/AIDS on agriculture, rural livelihoods and the economy.

The consultant also elaborated on documented studies' findings that have been conducted in Uganda demonstrating the impacts of HIV/AIDS on natural resources. His presentation outlined how HIV/AIDS has resulted in decreased availability of productive labour which has ultimately led to changes in land use patterns and agricultural practices. Examples were given on how agriculture and natural resources workers who work in remote areas tend to become vulnerable and are at high risk of acquiring HIV as a result of being far away from their families for a long time.

In addition, the presentation also articulated how traditional knowledge on natural resources management (NRM) is being lost as a result of HIV/AIDS. Documented evidence has also shown that AIDS has contributed towards the unsustainable use of natural resources. Within various communities, women are the resource managers and users and are shown to be disempowered by the lack of equity and rights especially with regards to land use and tenure systems and inadequate policies to support them.

Various measures and activities on interventions that conservation organizations can contribute towards mitigating the pandemic were also mentioned. These included conservation organizations making several responses with regards to protecting their staff and communities they work with at policy, workplace and community levels. At the community level it was noted that conservation organizations could promote the documenting of indigenous knowledge as well as promote the establishment of micro-finance and nature based enterprises

The presentation was concluded by stating the need to determine and establish the role and entry points for conservation and natural resources organizations in the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS. (Refer to the Review of the Existing Linkages

between HIV/AIDS and Natural Resources Management in Uganda for further details).

The following issues were generated during the plenary discussion on the study findings:

- There was general concern about the increasing dependence on natural resources; specific emphasis was laid on the current unsustainable resource utilization practices such as poor fishing methods;
- High risk labourers need to be trained so that they become aware of the risks associated in engaging in their jobs;
- There is need to know how to mainstream HIV/AIDS into government departments especially the Ministry of Environment, This raised the importance of developing guidelines for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into environmental issues;
- Indigenous knowledge should be documented and preserved and ethnobotany gardens established to prevent loss of biological resources;
- The impact of global influences and external factors on the environment should be explored;
- There is need to put in place workable policy frameworks to protect both employers and employees;
- Communication strategies and packaging of HIV/AIDS and environment information should be developed and appropriate dissemination channels promoted;
- Sensitizing other professionals to carry a message concerning HIV/AIDS and environment should be carried out:
- There is need to look at the multiplier effect of conflict in congested settlements, i.e. internally displaced peoples camps, since IDPs also degrade the surrounding environment and other adjacent areas;.
- Medical practitioners should appreciate the role environment and natural resource management contribute towards the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS.

3.0 Presentations of Community Lessons in implementing projects that link HIV/AID S and the Environment

Four community based presentations were given by community members from around the Mt Elgon ecosystem (i.e. Mt Elgon National Park and Mbale District) and Manafwa District (around the Nambale area). These presentations focused on various activities that are being undertaken in relation to HIV/AIDS and the environment and the existing challenges that some of these community based initiatives are facing. The presentations have been structured into lessons learnt and documents generated from this workshop.

3.1 Group Discussions on HIV/AIDS and Environment in Uganda

Participants were then tasked, in break-out groups, to either discuss the activities that they are involved in, that link HIV/AIDS and the environment or the area within which they are currently carrying out specific related activities. In addition, they also discussed how HIV/AIDS has impacted the people and how the environment has contributed towards fighting the scourge. Furthermore, discussions also emanated on the problems that HIV/AIDS have caused to the environment and their possible

solutions. The discussions concluded by assessing what the participants had achieved in the workshop.

The break-out groups were divided according to the regional participants represented as follows: Mt Elgon Ecosystem (Mt. Elgon National Park and Mbale District) and Manafwa District (i.e the Nambale area).

The participants' discussions are summarized in the tables below.

Introduction - area, people and livelihoods	How has HIV/AIDS impacted our people in our area?	How has our environment helped us in our fight against HIV/AIDS?	What problems have HIV/AIDS caused in our environment? What solutions can address them?	What lessons have we learnt about the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment?
Mt Elgon National Park area (1,121 sq. km); natural forested, mountainous park with rugged terrain. - High biodiversity - Endemic flora and fauna, vegetation categorized into montane rain forest; bamboo zone, heath and moorland People and livelihoods: 500 people/sq.km involved in subsistence and commercial agricultural activities and animal production	 Loss of lives Increase in widows and orphans Loss of productivity and productive labour Mismanagement of NRs and available resources Overuse of Natural Resources (NR) Increased household expenditure on medication Low investments in NRM Financial resources Time Labour Migration: rural-urban and vice versa Land tenure abuse Increased child labour Early marriages Overdependence on NRs due to lack of alternatives 	 Building materials Watersheds - clean water Access to food sources - wild fruits and vegetables Medicinal plants, herbs, fruits, mushrooms, bamboo, vegetables (solan spp), honey - reduces symptoms of HIV/AIDS Forest based income generating activities (apiary, tree planting) Carbon sequestration Water - reduced prevalence of water borne diseases Access to clean water - getting water from wells, streams, boreholes, rain Water for production/irrigation Maintenance of water flows Food Security Aquaculture/fish ponds - improved nutrition Animal fodder - animal nutrition Cultivated crops - food and nutrition 	Land degradation - more land being used for burial, use of more timber for coffins and firewood Promote ecofriendly burial practices Over-harvesting of the NRs Promote on-farm tree production Establishment of ethno-botanical gardens Promote reforestation programmes Encourage making of wills Promote land registration Encroachment on natural resources, unsustainable use of natural resources Need for by-laws for mainstreaming health and natural resources	 HIV/AIDS is a challenge to NRM Need to explain the linkage between HIV/AIDS to NRs to stakeholders; sensitize communities on nature conservation purpose and role NR managers lack the capacity to handle HIV/AIDS and vice versa Building of synergies between health practitioners, NRM managers and decision makers Multi-sectoral approach is important It is important to integrate HIV/AIDS into environmental conservation projects Many approaches are required in tackling issues

Introduction - area, people and livelihoods	How has HIV/AIDS impacted our people in our area?	How has our environment helped us in our fight against HIV/AIDS?	What problems have HIV/AIDS caused in our environment? What solutions can address them?	What lessons have we learnt about the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment?
Mbale District (Busidef	 Landlessness Overdependence on the elderly for household responsibilities Increase in school drop-outs Behaviour change Changes in socio-cultural norms- decrease in traditional circumcision and wife inheritance Moral decadence Social discrimination and discrimination and discrimination Overdependence on relief supplies and agencies Loss of biodiversity 	Land: communal land, land hire, income generation Honey - reduces coughs and oral sores - Supporting social infrastructure	Loss of morale - reduced participation in communal activities Increased waste generation and poor sanitation, poor disposal of instruments • Promote waste management and sanitation measures Contamination of water bodies > Provide safe water sources for people Loss of trained human resources and capacity in both health and NRM sectors Other cross-cutting solutions Sensitization of communities Encouraging sustainable agricultural practices	Establish mechanisms of continuity Incorporate MDGs to achieve our goals Guidelines for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS are available but are not in force Guidelines for mainstreaming environmental issues are available but not in force Lack of capacity in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and environment Financial constraints Increased Government participation - is it there or is there need for it? Entry points of establishing linkages
Sub-County) consists of 3 parishes with 26,000 people				

Introduction - area, people and livelihoods	How has HIV/AIDS impacted our people in our area?	How has our environment helped us in our fight against HIV/AIDS?	What problems have HIV/AIDS caused in our environment? What solutions can address them?	What lessons have we learnt about the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment?
Activities/livelihoods Agriculture - subsistence and commercial farming; livestock keeping (cattle,				
goats, poultry) Area: Nambale - Eastern Uganda, in Manafwa				
District , Bubulo County, Bukusu Sub-County, Bunyinza Parish,				
Bumalalele and Nambale villages Coverage- 2km ²				
Population: 2,000 people; 52% (f); 48% (m); Activities: Subsistence				
farming (beans, maize millet, bananas) animal production, other on-farm				
activities - Inguli distillation, block/brick making, malwa, charcoal				
burning, firewood collection, sand mining, stone quarrying, small scale business				

4.0 Community Action Plans/Recommendations

In the same four break-out groups, participants were then tasked to either discuss the activities that they are involved in that link HIV/AIDS and the environment or the area within which they are currently carrying out specific related activities and how they measure or can measure their success and monitor their progress. In addition they also discussed how they could influence others and share their experiences and lessons.

These discussions were conducted as a basis for future community action points or recommendations.

The participants' discussions are summarized in the tables below.

GROUP ONE: MT ELGON NATIONAL PARK AREA

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
Collaborative resource management	Active involvement of households headed by widows, children, care takers of OVC.	Resource off-take; monitoring data; attendance lists of community meetings.	Share reports; monetize resource off-take; advocacy	Dissemination of reports on timely basis; involve stakeholders in planning meetings; review meetings.	Target UWA policy makers.
Intend to: Mainstream HIV/AIDS impacts on environment in community conservation programmes (i.e. retooling the education centre, staff capacity, material development).	Education centre curriculum integrating messages on the linkages; X number of beneficiaries i.e. staff trained; Material developed.	Records that capture the linkages; Number of staff trained; Number of materials developed.	Advocacy; Reporting; Development and dissemination of the guidelines on HIV/AIDS and environment mainstreaming.	Review meetings.	Build networks with technical institutions.
Intend to: Include HIV/AIDS and environment linkages as a criteria in the national development agenda	Number of activities that are responsive to HIV/environment linkages and dissemination.	Link IGAs to market.	Support income generating activities.	Number of beneficiaries (i.e. households headed by: children, widowed and care takers of OVC).	Through financial, physical and technical audits.
Information sharing, dissemination, reports	Network with other organizations	Selection of beneficiaries and the targeted sites/activities should bring out the HIV/AIDS and environment linkages	Facilitate experiential learning (exchange visits).	Beneficiaries adopting the experiential exposure	Field visits, products on the market.

GROUP TWO: MBALE DISTRICT- BUSIDEF DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
Activities currently involved in: Construction of shallow wells, rain water harvesting tanks; Public health and hygiene promotion i.e. sanitation, waste management and disposal; Established millennium village; MDGs are being localized, poverty reduction, mortality reduction, education. Environmental conservation, i.e. bee keeping, fruit tree growing, pig farming	Detailed below	Detailed below	Detailed below		Need to ensure sustainable approaches and incentives and introduce activities on prevention
Tree planting	Number of trees planted and acreage covered	Number of trees that have grown	Meetings; Reports; Publications, Local Government LCs, NGOs.	Networking; Seminars; Exchange visits.	-
Bee-keeping	Number of apiaries established; Amount of honey harvested by infected or affected households.	Number of bee-hives colonized; Amount of honey harvested or produced; Records.	Records on sales; Interviews.	As above	Value addition to by-products like wax to make candles
Making rain water harvesting tanks	Number of tanks built in HIV infected/affected	Number of tanks that are functional;	Meetings; Interviews;	Networking; Exchange	

GROUP TWO: MBALE DISTRICT- BUSIDEF DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
	households.	Reduced number of cases of waterborne diseases.	Publications.	visits.	
Construction of shallow wells and protected springs	Number of wells built and springs protected in available distance.	Records	Net working		
Kitchen gardening (to promote vegetable growing as nutritional supplements.	A well maintained garden	Amount of vegetables harvested and consumed; Improved health status	Records	Publications	Support needed from government
Formulating environmental management by-laws that integrate HIV/AIDS	By-laws developed and endorsed.	By-laws implemented.	By-laws in place and adopted also by LC, religious leaders		
Pig farming	Number of piggery units established; Number of piglets distributed to HIV affected/infected homesteads	Number of mature pigs; Number of pigs ready for market	Records	Public exchange visits	

│ GROUP THREE: MANAFWA DISTRICT - NAMBALE WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION (CBOI
I GROUP THREE, MANAFWA DISTRICT - NAMBALE WIDOWS ASSOCIATION (CDCI

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
Agro-forestry (Bananas	Percentage of farmers	Field/home visits	Field days;	Review	Creating clear
and trees)	adopting agro-forestry	Questionnaires	Use of mass media;	workshops;	linkages i.e.
,	technologies;	Reports	Demonstrations;	Exchange visits	Water and
	Improved yields;	Community talks	Farmers' exchange	and field tours;	sanitation;
	Food security		visits;	Newsletters;	Yields and

GROUP THREE: MANAFWA DISTRICT - NAMBALE WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION (CBO)

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
	improvement; number of meals per day; variety, nutrition status; quality of food accessibility; Income		Drafting of by-laws; Networking, collaboration and building synergies; Award schemes	Emails; Radio; TV talk shows.	nutrition Incomes and micro- enterprise development.
Horticulture (Vegetables and fruits	As above	As above	As above	As above	
Bee Keeping Fuel saving technology	Reduced amount of fuel wood used; Increased production and demand; Improved household hygiene; Hospital visits and frequency of falling sick,	As above	As above	As above	
Goat rearing	Percentage of households keeping goats.				
Micro-finance or revolving funds	Improved households; Improved income earnings; Improved health conditions i.e. reduced hospital visits	Socio-economic assessments on livelihoods; hospital records.	As above	As above	
Reforestation on hill slopes	Reduced landslides, Reduced erosion, Increased yields and productivity	Improved productivity; increased crops; better catchment management	As above	As above	

GROUP FOUR: KABALE DISTRCIT- GREEN BELT MOVEMENT

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
Needs assessment (Livelihood needs)	Problems and needs identified	Surveys; intervi ews; on spot observations; support supervision	Get community, leaders to identify the problem and get involved	Avail or share information or report	Keep the community active and vigilant
Mobilisation and sensitization on the existing linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment	X number of community members aware of the existing linkages;	Decrease in environmental degradation from HIV/AIDS related impacts	Drama; Other demonstrations Direct interventions	Collaboration and partnerships	Multi-sectoral approach is needed; Community motivation e.g. awards, presents, debates, games.
Identification and recruitment of contact persons	Presence of recruited contact persons	Involvement and submission of reports	As above	As above	Contribute to the welfare of PLWHAs, Encourage PLWHA, volunteers to spread the information to others using personal experiences
Identification of PLWHAs	Presence and record of PLWHAs	Record of members	Encourage positive living in PLWHAs	As above	As above
VCT and treatment	Presence of record of VCT programmes; Number of people accessing VCTs	Records and progress of activities	Involve technical people i.e. counsellors and medical workers	As above	As above

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
Provision of seedlings to the beneficiaries	PLWHAs engaged in tree planting	Visits to the sites	Set demonstration sites and extension services	As above	As above
Provision of mosquito nets to PLWHAs	Presentation, recording and distribution of nets	Surveys, interviews and observations		As above	As above
Provision of clean water and sanitation	Presence of safe water points	Visits to sites Surveys Interviews	Sensitisation on best use of clean water and management	As above	As above

Note: Some of the group work indicators suggested are not measurable so the consultant will develop measurable indicators on how to monitor the progress.

5.0 Future Action Points and Workshop Recommendations

The workshop reflected on possible future action points that could continue supporting efforts in HIV/AIDS campaigns and promote sustainable natural resources management.

There was consensus that participants who represented various organizations and institutions should go back and think about interventions that link HIV/AIDS and the environment that could be included in their programmes. Participants were also keen on establishing networks amongst themselves for further lesson learning and synergies in their activities. One immediate key output of interest was the establishment of a mailing list-serve that could enhance information sharing. Concerns were, however, raised about who would manage it and keep it functioning.

Furthermore, multi-sectoral approaches between communities, health and environment related organizations, civil society, Government and related programmes were seen as necessary to ensure a holistic approach towards involvement and participation of all stakeholders.

In conclusion, the workshop recommended that all participants would commit themselves to promote the above future action points. To enable the establishment of this network, participants provided their full contact details and the physical location of their institutions for easy sharing of the information.

Annex 1: Workshop Programme

1.1 Day One: 10 th	December 2007						
Time	Activity						
10:00 p.m6:00 p. m.	Checking in						
1.2 Day Two: 11 th	December 2007						
1.2 Day Two: 11 th December 2007 Session One: Introduction							
8:30 –9:00 a.m.	Registration						
0.30 -3.00 a.m.	Chair	Alex					
9:00 – 9:15a.m.	Introductions and Introductory remarks	Alex					
3.00 3.104.111.	introductions and introductory remarks	Alex					
9:15-9:45 a.m.	Workshop Objectives, Process and	Chihenyo					
	Output						
10:00-10:30a.m.	Presentation of findings on the study on	Jackson					
	HIV/AIDS and Environment						
10:30-11:00a.m	Break						
10 0 1 -							
	Validating Study - Chair: Alex						
11:00-1:00p.m	Discussion on Study	Jackson					
4.00 0.00	Longh						
1:00 – 2:00p.m.	Lunch ee Experiences and Lessons – Chair: Ale	<u> </u>					
2:00 – 5:00p.m.	Plenary: Presentations of Community	Jackson					
2.00 – 5.00p.m.	Lessons in implementing projects that	Jackson					
	link HIV/AIDS and environment						
	mik Thy//tibo and environment						
1.4 DAY THREE: 1	2 th December 2007	<u></u>					
1.5 Session one: I	Documentation of Lessons Learnt						
8:30 - 9:30a.m.	Recap of Day One	Chihenyo					
9:30 - 11:00a.m.	Introduction to Lesson Learnt by	Jackson					
	Community Members						
11:00 – 11:30a.m.	Break	Hotel					
1.6 Session One C							
11:00- 1:00p.m.	Documentation of Lessons Learnt by	Chihenyo					
	Participants continues	(with					
4.00.000		Alex)					
1:00- 2:00p.m	Lunch						
Session Two: Continued							
2:00 –4:00p.m	Developing Wider and Common	Jackson					
	Lessons, Future Actions Points and Recommendations						
	DAY FOUR: 13 th December						
8:30-11:00 a.m. Conclusion and Departure							
o.so- i i.oo a.iii. Conclusion and Departure							

Annex 2: List of Participants

	NAME	MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION	DESIGNATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TEL. CONTACT
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19	Fiona Namutebi	RHU - HQTRS	Medical Officer	fionanamutebi@yahoo.com	782279701
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21	Carolyne Akello	MU-UCSF - Mulago	Study Coordinator		772530250
22	Marianthi Vezertzi	GTZ	Aids Focal Point	mairanthi.vezerti@gtz.de	414303936

	NAME	MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION	DESIGNATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TEL. CONTACT
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