

COMPARING AIDS, CANCER, LEPROSY, TB

18 EXERCISE



OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:
Make comparisons among the forms of stigma associated with different illnesses.



TIME

1-2 hours

ACTIVITIES

Individual Work

Ask each participant to complete the matrix below.

Disease	How does the person with the disease feel?	How are they treated?
Cancer		
Leprosy		
AIDS		
TB		

Report Back

Complete the matrix on flipchart with input from participants.

Discussion

Ask: “What are the differences in the way different illnesses are regarded? How does this affect the stigma towards those affected?”

Summary

In Vietnam when this exercise was used, participants produced the following analysis:

- Cancer is not a communicable disease and there is no association with sex—so there is no stigma.
- Leprosy is a communicable disease but not associated with sex—so there is a low level of stigma
- AIDS can be transmitted and is associated with sex—so there is a high level of stigma.

MATRIX OF HEALTH COMPARISON (Youth Focus Group)—ZAMBIA

Disease	Stigma rating	Why stigma?
Diarrhea	XXXXX	Fear of contagion. Diarrhea linked to AIDS. Change brings about stigma.
TB	XXXXX	Fear of contagion. Economic burden. Associated with HIV.
Malaria	X	Not contagious.
Cancer	XXX	Stigma only when disease becomes physically offensive.
AIDS	XXXXX	Fear of contagion. Fear of stigma by association. Fear of offering help. Family starts the stigma—then community follows their lead.