

# A CBPR Approach to Exploring Transportation Barriers and Neighborhood Dynamics in HIV Care in Kenya: Protocol

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## BACKGROUND

**HIV in Kenya:** Kenya has a high burden of HIV, with prevalence rates exceeding global averages. Ensuring that people living with HIV (PLHIV) achieve viral suppression is essential for improving individual health outcomes and reducing transmission rates. Achieving viral suppression depends on consistent adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART).

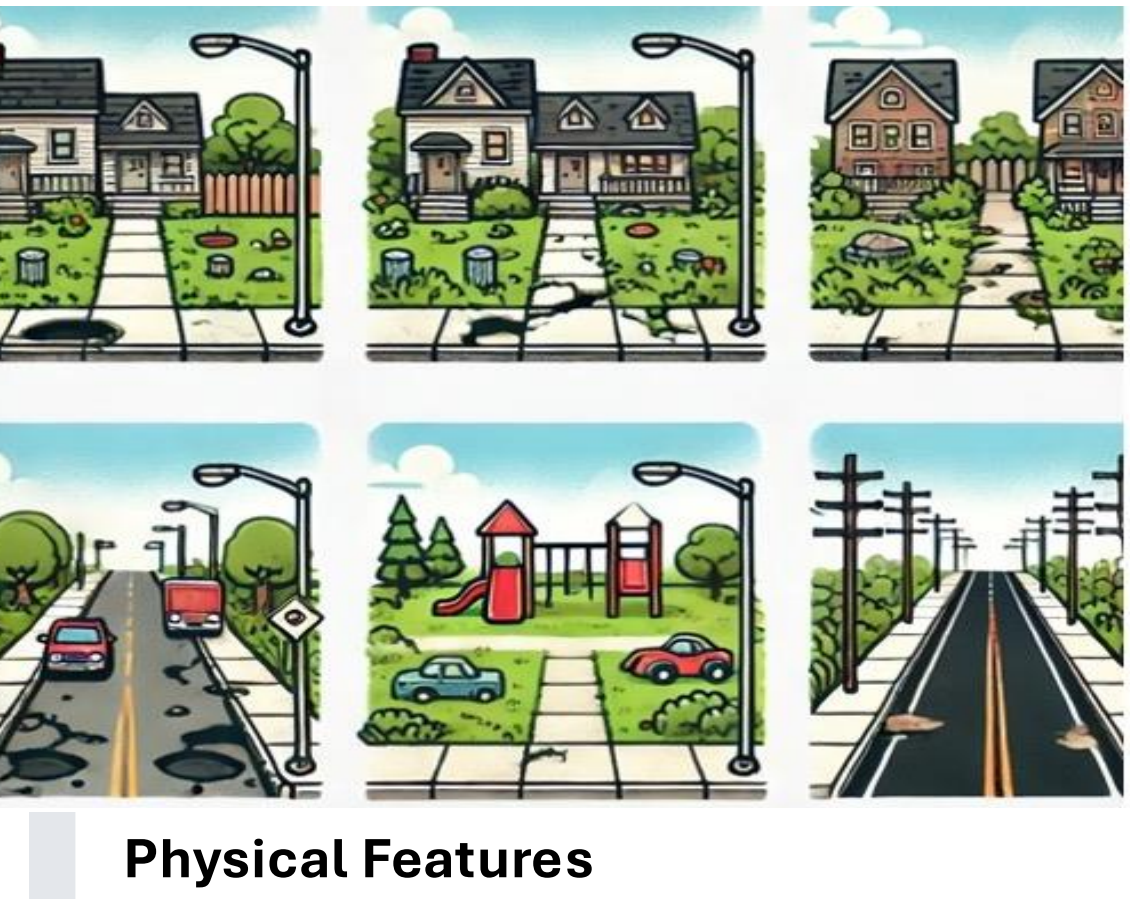
**Neighborhoods:** Neighborhoods play a significant role in shaping health behaviors. Research shows that individuals in neighborhoods perceived as disorderly often experience lower self-efficacy for ART adherence.

**Transportation :** Reliable transportation is a key determinant of healthcare access. Transportation barriers such as long travel distances, high costs, poor infrastructure, and safety concerns affect access to HIV care. Research has shown that PLHIV who face transportation barriers are less likely to remain engaged in care.

**Knowledge Gap:** Despite the importance of neighborhood dynamics in shaping health behaviors, this area is under-explored in low- and middle-income countries, especially regarding transportation barriers.

**Research Question:** How do transportation challenges and neighborhood dynamics impact HIV care among PLHIV?

## WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD?



**Description:** The tangible aspects of a neighborhood  
**Examples:** Homes, streets, parks, roads

**Disorder:** Deteriorated buildings, abandoned lots, poorly maintained parks, pothole-filled roads, cracked sidewalks, lack of streetlights



**Description:** The relationships and organizations present  
**Examples:** Community events, friends, family, neighborhood residents and what they do

**Disorder:** loitering, public intoxication, fights, presence of crime



**Description:** Essential facilities and services

**Examples:** Schools, clinics, shops, transport, etc.

**Disorder:** Deteriorated school and clinic buildings, insufficient transport infrastructure, lack of essential services



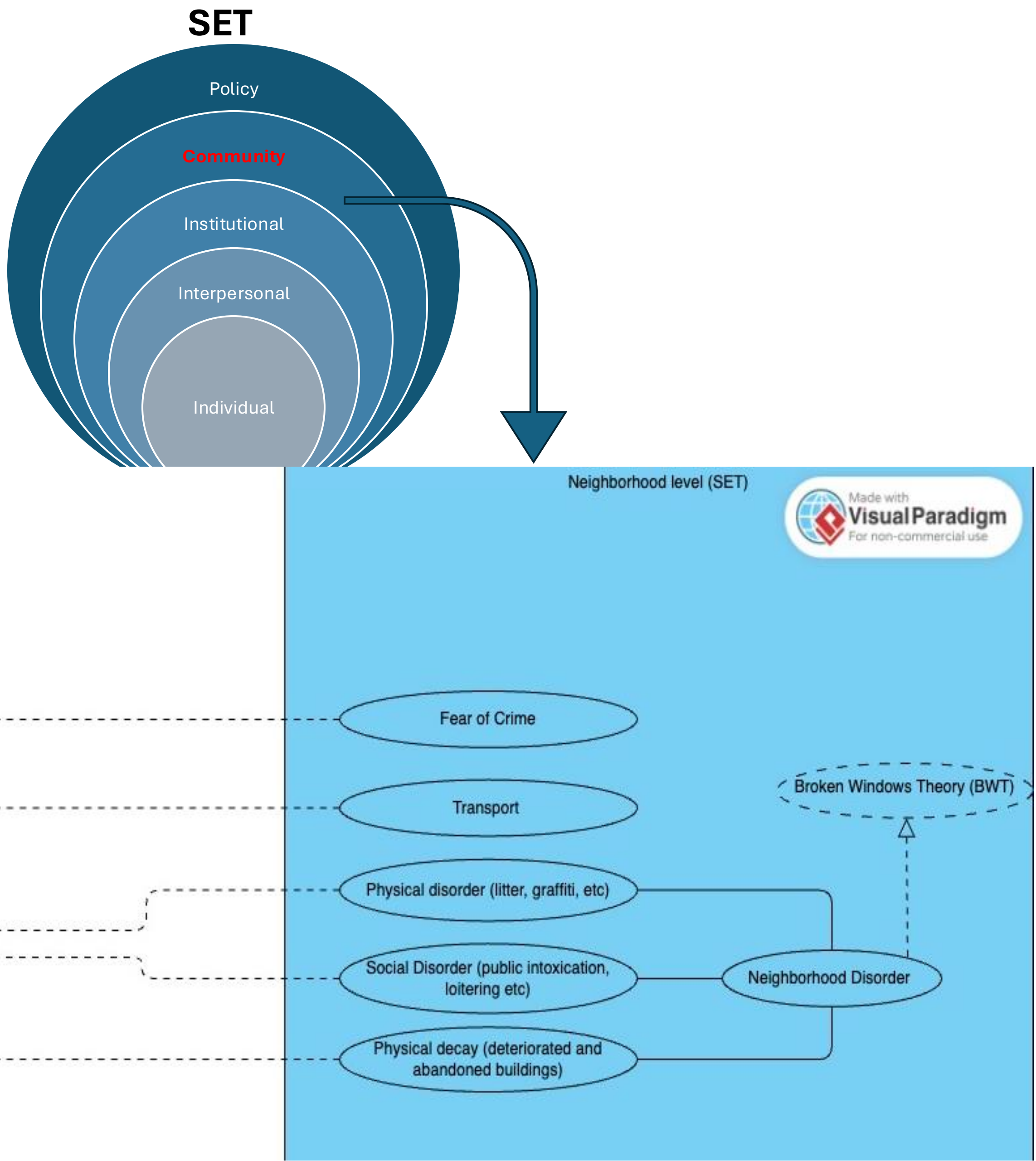
**Description:** Conditions impacting the area

**Examples:** Cleanliness, noise levels, safety

**Disorder:** Litter, pollution, unsafe public spaces

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

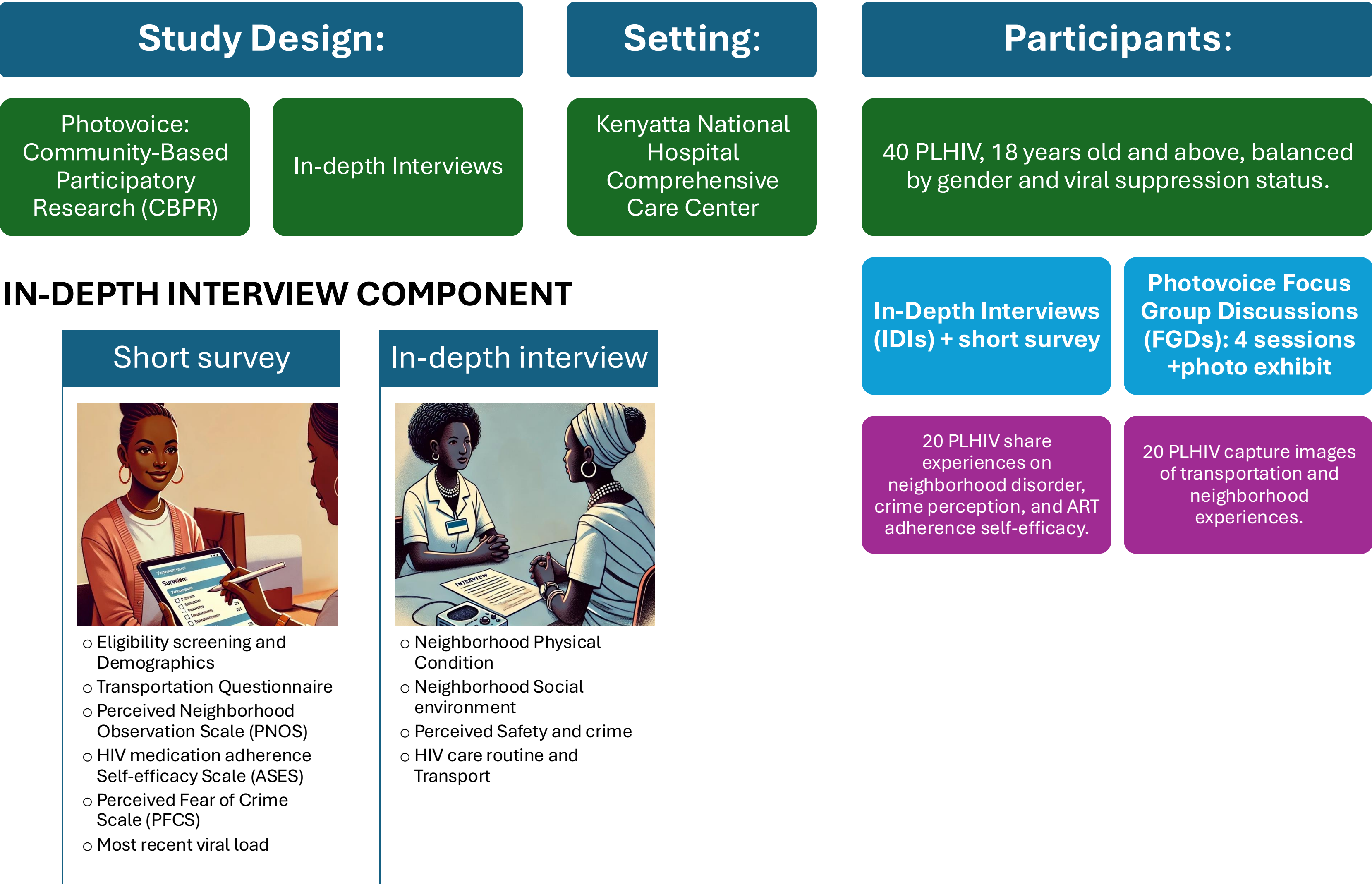
- Social-Ecological Theory (SET):** suggests that health outcomes are influenced by environmental factors
- Broken Windows Theory (BWT):**Wilson & Kelling, 1982 state that visible disorder (e.g., broken windows, graffiti, crime) weakens social control, leading to further deterioration and crime. Visible sign of neighborhood disorder—such as neglect and decay—can lead to a diminished sense of control over one’s environment which in turn can translate to a diminished sense of control over one’s health
- Combining SET and BWT, this study provides a framework to understand how the physical and social environment jointly shape HIV care.



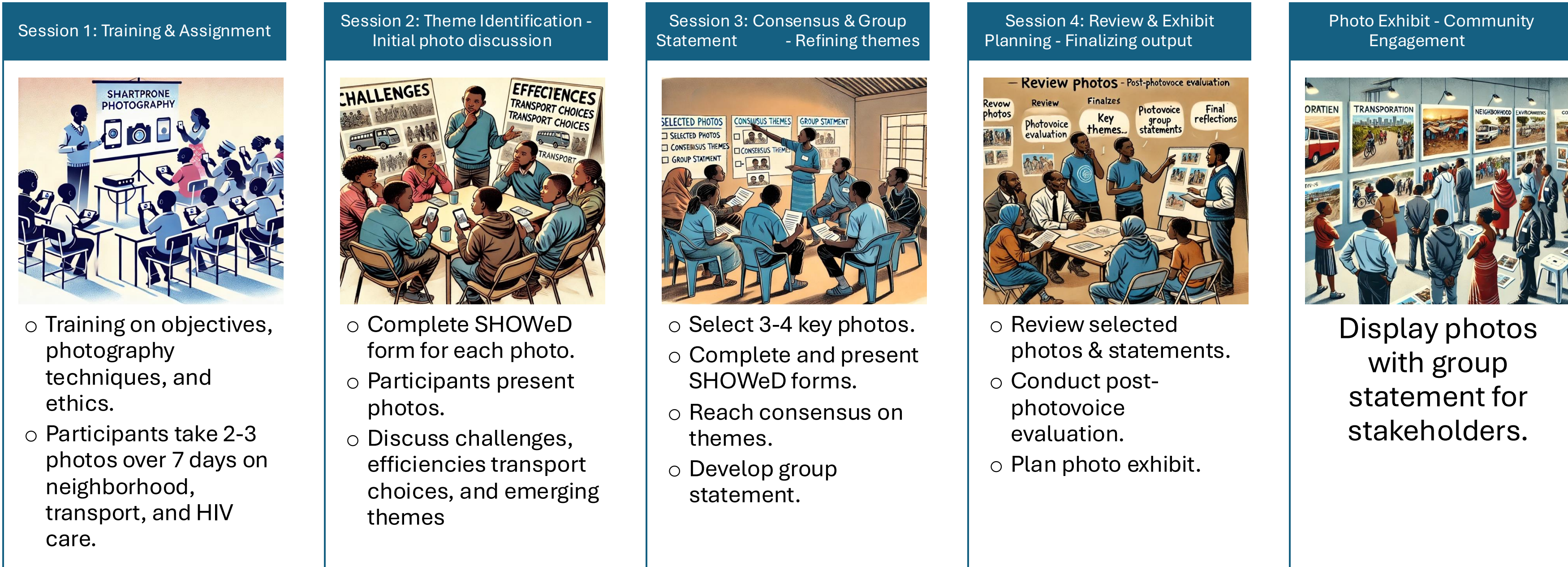
## OBJECTIVES

- Explore how transportation challenges and neighborhood disorder, fear of crime, and transportation challenges influence ART adherence self-efficacy and HIV care engagement
- Utilize the photovoice methodology (using photographs to tell a story) to provide a multi-dimensional understanding of these influences.

## METHODS



## PHOTOVOICE COMPONENT



## EXPECTED FINDINGS

- We hope to identify socio-ecological and structural barriers to HIV care management. We also hope to provide insights for policy adjustments and interventions to improve HIV care in disordered environments as well as transportation.
- This study protocol uses a theory-informed innovative combination of photovoice and IDIs within a CBPR framework to explore socio-ecological barriers to HIV care. Placing PLHIV perspectives at the center enhances cultural relevance and impact.
- The innovation lies in amplifying participants' voices by integrating visual and narrative data, providing a multi-dimensional understanding of how environmental factors influence HIV care.

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