



INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Word from the Executive Director

I'm excited to be writing to you as the new Executive Director of the Integrated Rural Development Organization (IRDO). Since I joined the organization on 1st of January 2023, I've been inspired and energized by the team's passion and commitment to the organization's vision. We have spent the month of January planning for an impactful and engaging 2023, and we have hit the ground running with several exciting programs, which you will see in the rest of this newsletter and you will eventually hear more about over the coming months. I'm therefore delighted to bring my diverse non-profit experience to IRDO at this significant time in the organization's history.

Many thanks to the support from my predecessor Mr. Simon Mwang'onda; Senior Managers, Coordinators and Officers of IRDO. Special thanks to the



Simon Chiwanga
Executive Director

Government of the United Republic of Tanzania under leadership of the President, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and through the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government, for linking the organization with other key ministries to our work, and creating a conducive environment for us to carry out our programmed interventions

in the regions of Songwe, Mbeya, Rukwa and Ruvuma.

The communities we serve would never be with all these successes today if the development partners that have supported us consecutively and in sequence since 1989 did not devote their resources and love to our organization. All together, have worked tirelessly to make fundamental progress over the last 33 years.

Well, we are now working hard on the coming new strategic plan (2023 - 2028) covering areas of strategic fundraising, public relations, community livelihood improvement priorities, food security and nutrition improvement, public health improvement, government system strengthening for service sustainability as well as strengthening our finance system and human resource professionalism for best programs delivery.

We are looking forward to work together with all development like-minded partners to reach our goals!

May God bless you all.

Simon Chiwanga

Prepared by IRDO
Communications Unit

.....

TABLE OF CONTENT:

- WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- ORGANIZATION'S BACKGROUND
- OVERVIEW OF OUR MAJOR PROGRAMS
- IMPLEMENTATION OF DREAMS PROGRAM IN TUNDUMA
- SUCCESS STORIES
- NEW APPOINTMENTS

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Integrated Rural Development Organization (IRDO) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1989 legally registered in Tanzania under ACT 2002. Our Headquarters are located at Ileje District in Songwe region and its physical offices are in Tunduma Town council and Sumbawanga District

Council. Our The organization has more than 30 years of service in Tanzania with 34 staff with diverse professional backgrounds in fields of agriculture, nutrition, health, community development, project management, communication, human resource management, procurement, accounts and finance.

Our main strategic focus is to strengthening development initiatives in Songwe and Mbeya regions. Our Vision is to improve livelihoods and sustainable resource management amongst the Tanzanian society. Our Mission is to empower disadvantaged communities by diversifying their quality of life. Goals of the

organization is to improve food security, improved livelihood of vulnerable groups, increased access to markets, reduced HIV infections together with financial and organizational sustainability.

OVERVIEW OF OUR MAJOR PROJECT HIV CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

IRDO has been in Partnership agreements with HJFMRI to implement Community HIV Prevention, Treatment and Retention interventions in close collaboration with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health (MoH) and the President’s Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), through the Regional and Council Health Management Teams in the two councils of Songwe Region which are Momba District Council and Tunduma Town Council with the aim of reaching 95-95-95 goal to Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030. The Program covers 13 wards of Momba District Council and 16 wards of Tunduma Town Council with their respective health facilities.

IRDO has been implementing this program since 2017.

The HIV Care and Support Program is implemented with a yearly budget value of USD 153,767 for the Financial Year 2022/2023 (FY23) financed by PEPFAR through WRAIR and HJFMRI. Up to date the program has reached more than 30,000 People Living with HIV (PLHIV).

Positive Health Dignity and Prevention (PHDP) services. IRDO uses community based approaches whereby the volunteers provide services to the clients and make



HIV Care And Support Team together with Beneficiaries.

referrals and linkages to other services at health facilities.

DREAMS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

In 2023, IRDO got a privilege to implement DREAMS program in Tunduma DREAMS program aims at reducing new HIV infections among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) 15-24 through impactful and evidence-based approaches. Under these interventions, evidence-based approaches/curriculums such as Stepping stone, SASA! and SI-NOVUYO are used in bringing about positive behavior change, mobilizing the communities against harmful norms.

gram includes Empower AGYW and reduce risk through youth friendly reproductive health care and social asset building, mobilize community for change with school and community based HIV and violence prevention, also reduce risk for sex partners through PEPFAR programming including HIV testing, treatment and voluntarily medical male circumcision (VMMC) and lastly strengthening families/ caregivers of AGYW with social protection and social economic support.

“The project aims at reducing new HIV infections and gender based violence among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (15-24 years) .”



DREAMS peer educators

The Core packages for DREAMS pro-

FOSEN I& II PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Food Security and Nutrition Improvement FOSEN 1 project, supported by DKA/WELTHUS Austria, was implemented from 2019 to 2022 and covered 12 villages in Ileje District. It is a continuation of a 10-year intervention that has been implemented in Ileje since 2009 under the Sustainable agriculture for Food Security Program. The project aimed at improving the nutritional status and food security of third-category households in Ileje district. We're excited to share that the FOSEN I project has achieved success in improving nutrition for over 650 households in Ileje District. By targeting 600 small farmers

in the third category across 12 villages, the project provided comprehensive training on essential topics such as GAP, poultry keeping, environmental protection, establishment of fruits and vegetable gardens, nutritional counselling, and gender sessions. The project also helped increase household income and improve nutritional practices while promoting gender role changes. To ensure that the acquired knowledge was applied at the household level, beneficiaries were closely tracked.

"FOSEN II Project Continues to Improve Food Security and Nutrition in Ileje District"

The Food Security and Nutrition Improvement (FOSEN II) project is a 3-year initiative aimed at improving the nutritional status and food security of third-category households in the Ileje district. It is a continuation of FOSEN I intervention that has been implemented in Ileje since 2019 under the Sustainable agriculture for Food Security program. The project will work with paraprofessionals and select target households based on motivation, interest, and commitment to participate. each village, with a focus on improving gender relations and promoting balanced diets. Though there has been positive change in gender roles, some traditional and cultural norms still negatively affect gender relations. The project will incorporate additional elements suggested in the evaluation report and depend on gathered information and experiences from former projects and recommendations of external evaluations and stakeholders' gathered information during reflection meetings.

USAID's /Lishe Endelevu Activity

"IRDO Successfully Implements USAID's Lishe Endelevu Project, Achieves Significant Nutrition Milestones in Tanzania".

USAID's Lishe Endelevu Activity is a five-year, \$24.65M project aimed at improving the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women, children under five, and adolescent girls in 4 regions of Tanzania. IRDO successfully implemented the project in two districts, Sumbawanga MC and Sumbawanga DC, Targeting total of 19 wards, and 189 street and village in Sumbawanga MC and 27 wards, 114 villages in Sumbawanga DC.

In year 4, the project reached a cumulative 93% of under-five children with nutrition-specific interventions, exceeded the target for community-level nutrition interventions for children under two by 155%, and reached 103% of the life-of-project target for adolescents reached with nutrition-sensitive interventions. However, there were challenges in reaching targets for improved management practices in agriculture, but the project implemented a new tracking tool to improve performance in this area.

Additionally, the project achieved 76% of the target for female participation in Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) groups designed to increase access to economic resources, which is above the

target of 56%. It's important to note that year 5 is a transition period as the project is phased out with no cost.

The project's success is a result of collaborations with local government authorities, civil society organizations, and other implementing partners. The project focused on social and behavior change for optimal infant and young child feeding, promoting nutrition-sensitive livelihoods, and shifting gender norms and equitable household decision-making. The project's package of interventions built around capacity development, social and behaviour change, and a strong enabling environment has ensured sustainable change at all levels, from the national government to individual households.



Beneficiary of Lishe Endelevu Ac-

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS:

Our organization is excited to welcome on board new team members from our implemented program the DREAMS Team. Congratulations and welcome on board!!

* Jackline John Mhegi

Program Coordinator

* Acken Kubetta

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

* Janeth Mahona

Field Officer

* Erasto Kihwaga

Field Officer

* Getruda Kasege

Social welfare Officer

* Tunu Shandu

HIV Testing Services Counsellor

* Aganyira Wilson Tilwetwa

HIV Testing Services Counsellor

* Alieth Achard Ntagalinda

HIV Testing Services Counsellor

* Hoffu Kipindula

HIV Testing Services Counsellor

* Ashura Mkandawile

DREAMS Mentor

* Oliver Luseke

DREAMS Mentor

* Judith Mwalukoba

DREAMS Mentor

IRDO Executive Director also promoted few staff members into different positions. CONGRATULATIONS TEAM KEEP ON THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WORK IN YOUR NEW TASKS ASSIGNED.

* Mr Patrick Mwalukisa

Program Manager promoted as Environmental Health and Safety Manager.

* Mr Noely Mponzi

CBHS Focal Person promoted as Human Resorce Officer.

* Mr Abbas Siraji

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer promoted as Public Relation and Fundraising Coordinator.

* Mr Sinda Gasheka

Program Manager promoted as Senior Program Advisor.

FAREWELL TO OUR FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Simon Hobokela Mwang'onda
Former Executive Director.

December 31st 2022 was Mr. Simon Hobokela Mwang'onda last day as IRDO's Executive Director. With more than 22 years of amazing leadership and commitment to IRDO's Mission and Values. Mr. Simon Mwang'onda has achieved extraordinary progress and accomplishments. From the considerable increase in number of District and Region covered by Projects implemented by IRDO, increased number of Development partners, Donors, Consortium and Networks and increase of resources to facilitate projects implementation. "Rural Communities' Livelihood" has always been in your heart.

We acknowledge your hard work towards our organization and salute you for all the years you had led our organization. We wish you all the best of luck in this next chapter of your life.



OUR OFFICES

Head Office

Msia-Ileje,
Songwe-Tanzania.

Field Offices

Chapwa, Tunduma
Former Tunduma Town Council Buildings

Sumbawanga Municipal Council
Bomani- Katandala
Rukwa region.

CONTACT US:

Integrated Rural Development Organization,
P.O. Box 160, Msia-Ileje,
Songwe-Tanzania.

+255719547460

+255767118816

Website: www.irdo.or.tz

Email: info@irdo.or.tz

Instagram: [irdo_tanzania](https://www.instagram.com/irdo_tanzania)

Facebook: [IRDO Tanzania](https://www.facebook.com/IRDO.Tanzania)

Twitter: [irdo_tanzania](https://twitter.com/irdo_tanzania)

YouTube: [Irdo-tz](https://www.youtube.com/irdo-tz)

