



INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

March - June 2023

SECOND QUARTER

BY COMMUNICATION UNIT



VISION AND MISSION

Vision: " A Capable IRDO, Improved Livelihoods and Sustainable Resource Management amongst Tanzania Society".

Mission: " Empowering Disadvantaged Communities in Collaboration with CSOs and Other Stakeholders by Diversifying their Resources Base and Improving their Quality of Life Through Promotion of Better Livelihood Systems".

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IRDO

Shirikisha la Uviano wa Maendeleo Vijiji

ABBREVIATIONS

- **IRDO** - Integrated Rural Development Organization.
- **FOSENI** - Food Security and Nutrition Improvement.
- **MAT** - Methadone Assisted Therapy.
- **DREAMS** - Determine, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS Free, Mentored and Safe.
- **KVP** - Key Vulnerable Population.
- **PP** - Priority Population.
- **PrEP** - Pre Exposure Prophylaxis.
- **CBHSPs** - Community Based Health Services Providers.
- **GBV** - Gender Based Violence.
- **ART** - Antiretroviral Therapy.
- **HJFMRI** - Henry Jackson Foundation Medical Research International.
- **TACAIDS** - Tanzania Commission for AIDS.
- **DCEA** - Drugs Control Enforcement Authority.



WORD FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Good health and nutrition empower children, families, and communities, spurring them to live fuller, freer lives. Good health is transformative and it therefore assures development gearing.

We want every community member to experience better health. Everyone deserves and has the right to access adequate health and nutrition. We want to see better access, and lasting behavioural change, and connect communities to what works so families can survive and thrive.

We are therefore making progress in helping severely malnourished children make a full recovery and do the same to adults through the Food Security and Nutrition Improvement Program (Phase II) in Illeje District, while realizing equity and inclusion of the gender system in decision making.

We are fighting against HIV infection and we invest in AIDS control through the HIV Prevention, Care and Support Program in Tunduma and Momba District while making sure we control other roots of infection including application of Methadone as Treatment to People Who Inject Drugs. Vulnerable Adolescent Girls and Young Women are a group that is of our priority in enabling them economically and socially, realize their health management against new HIV infections through voluntary testing and counselling. Currently they are served under DREAMS Program in Tunduma Town Council.

Well, all the infected individuals by HIV are eventually linked to care and treatment services in the healthcare facilities around their community. Gender Based Violence eradication is a core business in all our interventions as we realize human rights being the engine to drive all these development platforms.

Many thanks to the IRDO Staff members government and development partners for their support in doing all these and assuring sustainability of the very services.

Dr Simon Chiwanga
Executive Director

FOSENI II PROGRAM



VISIT FROM DKA/WELTHAUS GRAZ-AUSTRIA REPRESENTATIVE

Food security and nutrition improvement is a crosscutting matter towards poverty eradication in Tanzania. Enhancement of the same shall eventually approve socio-economic strengthening and welfare sustainability.

Food Security and Nutrition Improvement (FOSENI) Project monitoring activities done by Sigrun, a representative from DKA/Welthaus Graz -Austria who managed to visit Project beneficiaries at their households after visiting the District Executive Director(DED) and District Commissioner(DC) Offices in Ileje district where the project is being implemented. She was accompanied by the IRDO Executive Director, Senior Program Advisor and the Program Officers.

The whole field trip was organized by the District Community Development Officer who was also leading the team throughout.

SUCCESS STORY

Mr Ibrahim mpota lives at Ibubi hamlet in Iwala village-Ileje district, Ibrahim is a FOSENI beneficiary managed to practice programme activities such as gardening, poultry keeping, manure decomposition and food budgeting with the support from Programme Field Officers in practical trainings which apparently led to his success. He gained capability to improve his livelihood through selling vegetable from his garden and chicken, He managed to build a modern house for his family and sending his children to school, he eventually provide basic needs in the family. Ibrahim is very grateful to the IRDO Organization and the Local government for implementing FOSENI programme at Iwala Village because it has brought tangible development in the community.



HIV CARE & SUPPORT PROGRAM



Project Achievements

SUCCESS STORY



The major achievements for the quarter 3 (April-June)

1. IRDO reached 1664 KVP (KP & PP) who were provided with HIV prevention packages.
2. IRDO reached 420 and 456 clients on PrEP and GBV respectively
3. IRDO through CBHSPs managed to trace back to care 266 clients who were lost into ART
4. IRDO through CBHSPs and Peer Educators managed to provide HIV Testing Services to 3724 and 128 clients were tested HIV positive and were all linked to ART services.

Anty Mwamlima is a girl child from Ivuna Ward in Lwate Village she is 11 years of age, she is living with her mother. On May 10th 2023, peer educator was on her daily routine on providing prevention packages (GBV knowledge) when she met with Anty and her mother at the street, during their conversation peer educator elaborated on the issue of GBV meaning, types, effect and where to seek help/assistance when you encounter GBV. Condom and PrEP education was provided to them as preventive. Eliza recognized that Anty needs help because after provision of GBV education, Anty's mother emotionally said "my daughter was raped yesterday and I didn't know what to do and how to report this issue".

Her mother explained that Anty was subjected to sexual abuse by a man from her village but they didn't know what to do after the victim disappeared from the village.

Peer Educator escorted them to Kamsamba Health Centre to get post GBV treatment and PEP support and all services were successful, After that she linked her to Police gender desk in order to get legal support.

Anty's mother was thankful for the help and support she got from Peer Educator and the program and how even after the service peer educator visits to see Anty's progress and she provided to us knowledge on Prevention Package because we are at high risk of acquiring HIV infections and convincing us to go and test for HIV Status because previously we didn't see it as necessary and Currently my daughter has recovered and doing well with her health, she thanked peer educator and IRDO for the assistance given to her. She said "We will be the ambassador for any sign of violence and report any kind of GBV by calling 116 free call or to report to the local government office".

DREAMS PROGRAM



SUCCESS STORY

My name is Atuswege William Mwakajumile. I'm the fourth born out of five children. I was born in Kyela district in Mbeya region. My educational level is up to class seven this is because I didn't perform well and my family could not afford my further studies. After I finished class seven I went to live with my sister and her family which was in the same district but far from home. One day when my sister travelled, my brother-in-law forced me for sexual intercourse and threatened me that if I refuse he will kill me; He came to my room holding a knife as a threat. I tried to defend myself without success; I was raped I lived in fear. I was 14 by that time, I became afraid of my brother-in-law and could not find courage to tell my sister. I decided to run away from my sister's house because I was pregnant. When I returned home my mom asked why I ran from my sister's house but I was scared to tell her the truth because I was afraid it would affect my sister's marriage. Months passed by and all the signs of pregnancy started showing that's when my mother took me to the hospital. It was confirmed that I was four months pregnant, she was so hurt but mostly was when I told her I was raped by my brother-in-law. The family sat and talked about it and decided to solve it secretly for the reputation of our family. I stayed with my mother and she gave me some money to start business so that I earn money for labour preparation. Nine months soon came and my mother was the only support and I heard nothing from my sister and the father of my child. Two months passed by and that is when I heard about DREAMS program that aimed at supporting young girls in Kyela in 2020. I joined the group and continued with the trainings at all levels. Fortunately, I was selected to go for studies at VETA; my mom was so happy and insisted that I work hard for this grand opportunity. I learned needle-work and soap making. I attended many seminars and I managed to buy my own sewing machine; that is when I started becoming independent.

In 2022 I came to Tunduma after my relative told me she found a job for me, but I didn't see any progress until my brother-in-law asked me to be their house-girl. In November my brother-in-law passed away and I wasn't paid my salary. In December my sister told me to assist her in selling food. As life got harder I started engaging in prostitution in order to send money to my mom and my child at home.

In May 2023 I heard that DREAMS was in Tunduma I applied as a peer educator since I was also one of those who benefited from the program back in Kyela, I was so contented to join back to the organization that saved my life.

DREAMS program has helped to change my life and gave me strength as a mother and as a young woman. As peer educator I would advise young girls that are facing problems like mine to find assistance from the organizations like IRDO and they should never give up for their dreams.



OFFICIAL VISIT FROM HJFMRI SENIOR PREVENTION DIRECTOR

DREAMS Tunduma is a program funded by HJFMRI- WRP-TZ and implemented by IRDO. The visit was meant to assess how the program is implemented at initial stage including office set up of DREAMS project in Chapwa ward. Dr. Enicko together with the team from HJFMRI, TACAIDS and IRDO team paid a courtesy call meeting to the District Executive Director and presented a briefly introduction of the DREAMS project and its implementation in Tunduma TC.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



How we celebrated Women's day at Songwe Region

takes place on the 8th March each year. A day celebrated around the world, It is a time to reflect, a time to mobilise and a time to act. explore the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities. The event also spotlight the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online and ICT- facilitated gender-based violence.

Our Organization supports Gender Equality and strongly oppose every kind of GBV in the society.

IRDO fully participated in the event in Songwe region was celebrated at Mbozi district where all the public and private sector stakeholders participated.



APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTIONS

IRDO is excited to announce new staff members who joined us during second quarter of march-june this year 2023.

Warmly welcome on board!!! Let us work together to build a better future for our Organization.

- **RAMADHANI ABDALLAH**
Methadone Assisted Therapy(MAT) Officer.
- **SHABANI MASOUD**
Community Outreach Worker (MAT).
- **GETRUDA SEPOCHO**
Focal Person Community Based HIV/AIDS Services.
- **DAUDI MSUKWA**
Field Officer (DREAMS).

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.

- **ABBAS SIRAJI**
Promoted from Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
To Monitoring Evaluation & Learning Manager and Member of Senior Management Team.
- **GASTER KIHWELLO**
Assistant Communication & Environmental Officer Ranked
To Fleet Officer.

SPECIAL THANKS:

This newsletter would have not been successful without team cooperation and support from our esteemed Executive Director, Communication Unit together with all IRDO staff members lets keep the spirit of hard working.

Our special thanks also goes to:

- The Government of Tanzania through Songwe Regional Administration, Ileje and Momba District Administrations.
- Public & Private Hospitals.
- HJFMRI through PEPFAR Funding.
- DKA/Wealthus.
- DCEA.





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