



INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

October- December 2023



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".

OUR CONTACTS:

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

Mobile Phone: +255(0)719547460
+255(0)767118816

Email: info@irdo.or.tz

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [irdo_tanzania](#)

www.irdo.or.tz

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ABBREVIATIONS

- **IRDO** - Integrated Rural Development Organization.
- **AGYW** - Adolescent Girls and Young Women.
- **DREAMS** - Determine, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS free, Mentored and Safety.
- **HIV/AIDS** - Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- **DC** - District Council
- **TC** - Town Council
- **HJFMRI** - Henry Jackson Foundation Medical Research International
- **PEPFAR** -US President Emergence Plan For AIDS Relief
- **FY24** - Financial Year 2024
- **GBV** - Gender Based Violence
- **USAID** - United States Agency for International Development
- **FOSENI** - Food Security and Nutrition Improvement
- **DIC** - Drop In Centre
- **MAT** - Medically Assisted Therapy
- **DCEA** - Drugs Control Enforcement Authority
- **RWA** - Rural Women Assembly
- **VMMC**- Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
- **SADC**- Southern African Development Community
- **WAD**- World AIDS Day
- **TAYOA**- Tanzania Youth Alliance
- **UNAIDS**-United Nation Program on HIV/AIDS
- **WHO**- World Health Organization
- **WAC**-World AIDS Campaign
- **AGYW**- Adolescent Girls and Young Women
- **ABYM**- Adolescent Boys and Young Men
- **MLWH**- Male Living with HIV/AIDS

WORD FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Let's approach this year knowing that what the new financial year 2024 brings to us and the community we serve will depend greatly on what we bring to the very implementing season.

Well, what we need to do is always lean into the future; when the world changes around us and when it changes against us – what used to be a tailwind is now a headwind, and so we have to lean into that and figure out what to do because complaining is not a strategy.

We look forward to continuing serving the community on public health improvement especially on HIV prevention, care and support, voluntary medical male circumcision and family planning; economic empowerment to adolescent girls and boys, young men and women; supporting the community on ensuring and sustaining food security and nutrition improvement while imparting knowledge on gender equity and inclusion as well as eradicating gender-based violence in our society.

All these will be done through strategic partnership with our government, donor institutions, implementing partners and the community at large. The Board of Directors and Staff we have at IRDO is committed to deliver the plans and bring about tangible impact to the society we are intervening.

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest!

All the best in Financial Year 2024.

Dr. Simon Chiwanga
Executive Director

WORLD AIDS DAY

Jamii iongoze Kutokomeza UKIMWI



IRDO was privileged to participate in the national World AIDS Day (WAD) event held in Morogoro, represented by the DREAMS program. The IRDO team, led by Ashura Mkwandawire and including Peer Educators, made valuable contributions by showcasing and selling products created by DREAMS Program beneficiaries, such as Batiki, Maasai shoes, and hand-wash soaps. This event provided an opportunity for IRDO to learn from other organizations, including TAYOA and KIZAZI HODARI, and attend various discussions, including the youth scientific conference that emphasized the importance of young people in different events, from community-level to the highest level. The event was graced by the director of HJFMRI, the executive director of PERFAR, and the Minister of Education, Minister of State, and Prime Minister's Office who also visited the IRDO team.

World AIDS Day: Spreading Awareness and Support
December 1st marks World AIDS Day, an annual event that aims to raise awareness about AIDS, a disease caused by the HIV virus. On this day, we remember and honor those who have passed away from HIV/AIDS. This disease has claimed the lives of more than 25 million people worldwide between 1981 and 2007. Sadly, an estimated 33.3 million people were living with HIV worldwide in 2009, with 2.6 million new infections reported each year, and 1.8 million people dying of AIDS. This disease stands as one of the most devastating in recorded history.

Each year, the World AIDS Day campaign focuses on a specific theme, which is chosen following consultations with UNAIDS, WHO, and a number of grassroots, national, and international agencies involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. The Global Steering Committee of the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) chooses the theme for each year's event, starting from 2008.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign calls on citizens to show how much they care about ending violence against women and girls by sharing the actions they are taking to create a world free from violence towards women. This year's campaign also calls on governments worldwide to share how they are investing in gender-based violence prevention. IRDO Team conducted the activity of 16 Days of Community Activism at Tunduma TC. Aim was to create awareness On Gender Based Violence to the community. While violence affects women everywhere, women and girls in certain groups such as those living with disability, adolescent girls and older women - often face even greater difficulty to have their voices heard and to access support and identify Gender based violence Cases to link them for Post GBV Care.



Peer Educators from DREAMS Program giving education on combating gender violence to the community.
“Invest against Gender Based Violence.”

RURAL WOMEN ASSEMBLY IN SOUTH AFRICA.



The Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) is a self-organised network or alliance of national rural women's movements, assemblies, grassroots organisations and chapters of mixed peasant unions, federations and movements across ten countries in the SADC region.

This was the 4th general assembly of Southern African Rural Women's Assembly. IRDO got a privilege to participate in the Regional General Assembly of the members from all over 10 countries whereby the Organization was represented by Miss Fadhila Sendwa (Community development officer) from FOSENI Program. The assembly was held at Johannesburg South Africa for four days where about 480 women and young women gathered. The assembly theme was all about reimagining our world in defense of land, food, seed and our bodies.

IRDO discovered that youth are actively involved in agriculture and participate in various platforms in their respective countries. Elder women are teaching younger generations about herb use and inheritance. Several RWA member countries prioritize the use of indigenous seeds. Tanzania needs to campaign for the use and preservation of indigenous seeds, beginning with farmer groups. The IRDO team, along with other organizations, worked towards this goal.



Photo shows IRDO staff member Miss Fadhila Sendwa at RWA in South Africa during practical training where she plants a tree which symbolize growth of nature.

WAD PEPFAR MARKET

Visit by IRDO at HJFMRI Headquarters in Dar es Salaam.



Every year, in honor of World AIDS Day on December 1st, the US Embassy in Tanzania invites Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) supported by various organizations implementing the DREAMS program to participate in the WAD PEPFAR MARKET EXHIBITION located on embassy premises. This event provides program beneficiaries with a platform to showcase their products, including but not limited to Batiki, cultural baskets, and Maasai shoes, to US Embassy employees and other visitors.

IRDO, represented by DREAMS Program Coordinator Eva Rweyemamu and two program beneficiaries, participated in the exhibition. The exhibition provided an opportunity for our beneficiaries to gain skills and experience in promoting and selling their products, with the proceeds going towards supporting their group fund.



IMPLEMENTATION OF VMMC AND ENABLING DREAMS INTERVENTIONS



In FY24, IRDO received the Enabling Program award from PEPFAR to implement the Enabling DREAMS program at Momba DC, which aims to reach a wider group of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and Adolescent Boys and Young Men (ABYM) in Tanzania. The program will support the Tanzania National Minimum Package of Services for Adolescents, mainly focusing on structural and system changes to strengthen Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), increase the number of facilities providing youth-friendly health services, and support demand creation for HIV prevention services to adolescents. Additionally, the program will create partnerships to link vulnerable AGYW to economic strengthening opportunities.

Also In FY24 IRDO was awarded to implement VMMC intervention as part of HIV Prevention, Care and Support Programme. Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) is the complete surgical removal of the foreskin. It's a one-time primary prevention intervention that reduces the risk of HIV transmission from women to men by 60 percent. It offers men substantial lifelong partial protection against HIV and a number of other sexually transmitted diseases, and reduces risk of penile cancer and cervical cancer in female partners of circumcised men. By preventing new HIV infections in men, male circumcision indirectly protects women. VMMC offers an excellent opportunity to bring men into health care, link HIV-positive men and their families to treatment, and expand men's access to the full range of other clinical services. VMMC services are provided as a package of prevention interventions, including safer sex education, condom promotion and provision, HIV testing, and linkage to care and treatment for men living with HIV (MLWH), and management of sexually transmitted infections. As of December 2023, IRDO created demand for accessing VMMC services to 3,368 men in Momba District.

DEMAND CREATION ON HIV/AIDS SERVICES



Workers, community health providers, and beneficiaries of IRDO projects came together to celebrate World AIDS Day in Tunduma ward, Tunduma TC. The event aimed to raise awareness and support to the community on HIV/AIDS prevention, education on the use of PrEP, and the provision of condoms and HIV self-test kits (JIPIME).

Parents, Guardians and partners of MAT Clients in the photo listening to The Commissioner for the Control and Fight Against Drugs, Mr. Adrick Ndelwa, along with Dr. Frida Herman, the social welfare officer of Tunduma MAT Clinic, and Miss Happy Matao, the trainer and service provider for drug addicts at MAT Clinic (not shown at the photo), visited the DIC (Drop-In Center) managed by Integrated Rural Development Organization (IRDO) to assess the rehabilitation progress of MAT clients and facilitating the needs assessment process on the Income Generating Activities (IGA). During the visit, Mr Adrick Ndelwa expressed his commitment to educating MAT clients who meet specific criteria, such as demonstrating good discipline at MAT Clinic and following prescribed methadone treatment protocols.



Photo showing IRDO staff member Miss. Hoffu Kipindula providing condoms to beneficiaries of ENABLING DREAMS at Senga village in Kamsamba ward at Momba DC.



APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

IRDO Executive Director promoted few staff members into different positions.

- **MR.AMON MLAWA**
Promoted from Linkage & Retention Officer to HIV Care & Support Program Coordinator.
- **MISS.HOFFU KIPINDULA**
CBHS Focal Person to HIV Prevention Focal Person (HIV Prevention Care & Support Program).
- **MISS.GLORIA MSAKI**
Office Attendant (DREAMS) to CBHSP Focal Person (HIV Prevention Care & Support Program).
- **MR.GODFREY MINJA**
CBHSP to Linkage & Retention Officer (HIV Prevention Care & Support Program).
- **MISS.MOURINE MAARIFA**
Peer Educator to Office Attendant (DREAMS Program)

"CONGRATULATIONS TEAM KEEP ON THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WORK IN YOUR NEW TASKS ASSIGNED".

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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Editor: Gloria Msaki, Abbas Siraji, Gaster Kihwello & Eufrasia Malocha

Design & Layout: Gloria Msaki, Gaster Kihwello & Eufrasia Malocha
Ileje-Songwe, Tanzania.

Email: info@irdo.or.tz

www.irdo.or.tz

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