



INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

# NEWSLETTER

July - September 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](mailto:info@irdo.or.tz)

    [irdo\\_tanzania](#)

 [www.irdo.or.tz](http://www.irdo.or.tz)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## VISION & MISSION

1. WORD FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2. NANE NANE DAY

3. FY24 PLANNING AND BUDGETING SESSION WITH PARTNERS

4. PELUM TANZANIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5. IRDO IN UHURU TORCH RACE

6. CAPACITY BUILDING Trainings

7. USAID-LISHE ENDELEVU CLOSE OUT MEETING

8. DC ILEJE AT IRDO HQ

9. SOUTH TOURISM EXHIBITION 2023

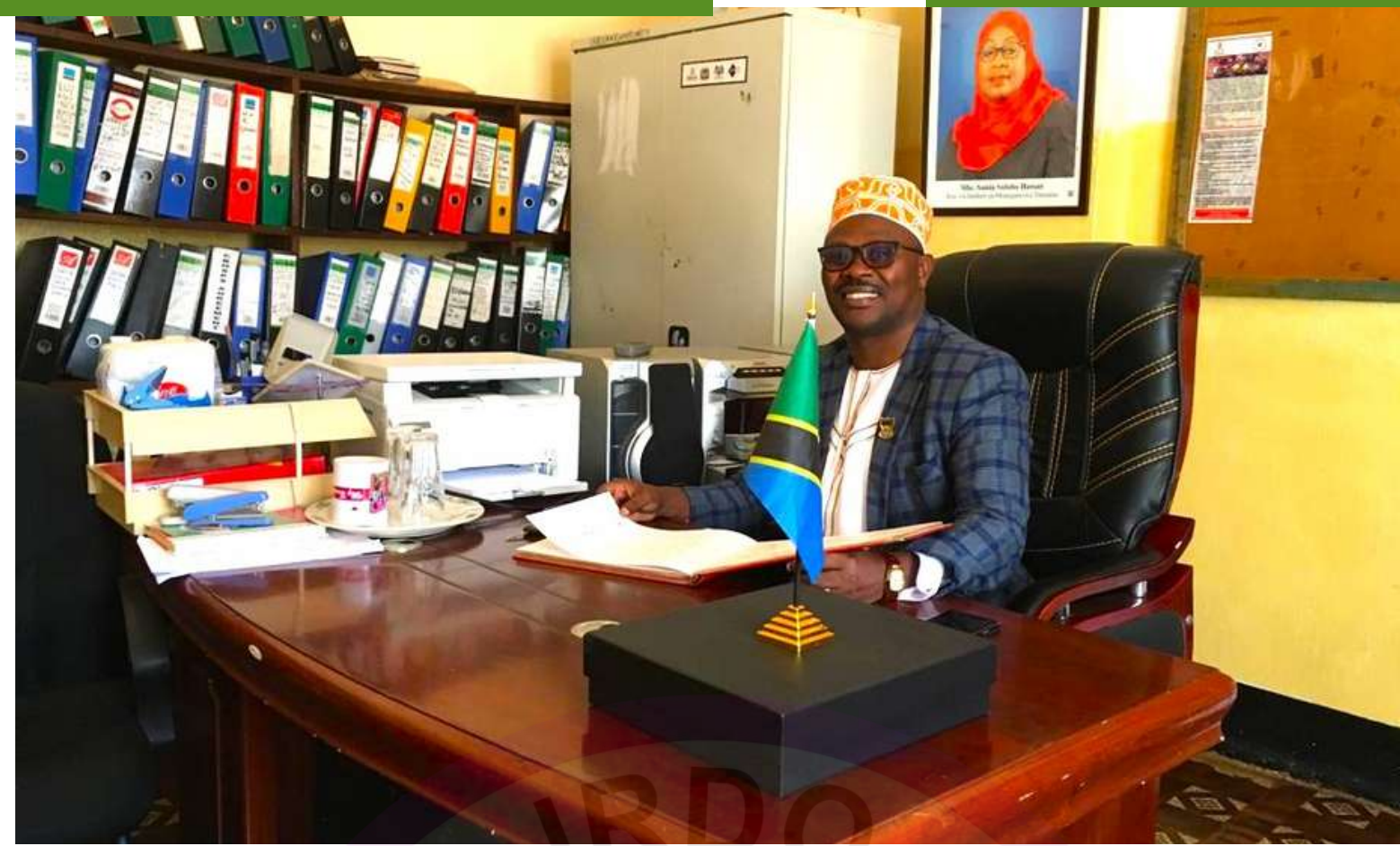
10. IRDO BOARD MEETING

11. APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS, SPECIAL THANKS

# ABBREVIATIONS

- **IRDO** - Integrated Rural Development Organization.
- **AGYW** - Adolescent Girls and Young Women.
- **DREAMS** - Determine, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS free, Mentored and Safety.
- **TAMISEMI** - Tawala za Mikoa na Serikali za Mitaa
- **BRELA** - Business Registration and Licensing Agency
- **SIDO** - Small Industries Development Organization
- **MEL** - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- **HIV/AIDS** - Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- **DC** - District Council
- **TC** - Town Council
- **HJFMRI** - Henry Jackson Foundation Medical Research International
- **PEPFAR** - US President Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief
- **MOHCDGEC** - Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.
- **PORALG** - President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.
- **FY24** - Financial Year 2024
- **RHMTS** - Regional Health Management Teams.
- **CHMTs** - Council Health Management Teams.
- **PELUM** - Participatory Ecological Land Use Management.
- **GBV** - Gender Based Violence
- **TACAIDS** - Tanzania Commission for AIDS
- **UNICEF** - United Nations International Children's Fund.
- **CSOs** - Civil Society Organizations
- **AfriYAN** - Africa Youth Adolescent Network on Population and Development of Eastern and Southern Africa.
- **NGOs** - Non Governmental Organizations
- **FAM** - Finance and Administrative Manager
- **USAID** - United States Agency for International Development
- **SCI** - Save the Children International
- **FOSENI** - Food Security and Nutrition Improvement
- **DIC** - Drop In Centre
- **MAT** - Medically Assisted Therapy
- **DCEA** - Drugs Control Enforcement Authority
- **RWA** - Rural Women Assembly

# WORD FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On behalf of both the Board of Directors and the Management of IRDO, I would like to take this moment to thank all the IRDO staff members, all the stakeholders including the communities we are serving, the government and all development partners that we are working together in the districts of operations.

My great appreciation covers your guidance on operations and advices on strategic move towards a successful society in community health, food security and nutrition improvement as approaches to defining our race on sustainable development.

IRDO is about all of us, united in our commitment to shape a better world for children, young people including adolescent girls and young women and the adults, no matter where they live and belong, no matter the challenges they pass through.

Nothing is more inspiring than seeing this united commitment being transformed into results in communities around that we serve. Over the nine months, we have witnessed not only meeting most of the targets from our annual plans, but also realizing positive changes of lives in the communities we are intervening.

Let's hope for the best future ahead of us.

**Dr Simon Chiwanga**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

# NANE NANE DAY



IRDO staff and beneficiaries in collaboration with Tumaini Community Services Organization, under HJFMRI support, showcased their activities and displayed products that were crafted by Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) of 15 - 24 years of age through established DREAMS Program workshops. FOSENI Program under Mbozi, Ileje and Isangati Consortium (MIICO) showcased their agricultural products including traditional seeds, technologies in livestock keeping and compost manure preparation; land rights and gender equity. Learning was well grasped through various booths including PO-RALG, BRELA, VETA and SIDO in networking and gaining creativity and innovation skills in developing new advanced technologies.

On August 8th every year, Tanzania normally commemorates a national event (Nanenane/Peasant's Day) as a climax but preceded by a week of exhibitions by farmers, business stakeholders (private companies), government respective ministries, entrepreneurs and various stakeholders on agricultural technologies, innovations and products for public learning and trading. "Vijana na Wanawake ni Msingi Imara wa Mifumo Endelevu ya Chakula" was the theme for 2023 Nanenane Exhibitions held at John Mwakangale grounds in Mbeya City insisting on investing in youth and women for sustainable food systems.



# FY24 PLANNING AND BUDGETING SESSION WITH PARTNERS



Photo ; showing IRDO team with Partners.



IRDO Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Manager, Mr Abbas Siraji presenting on progressive performance of DREAMS and HIV Prevention, Care and Support Programs implemented by IRDO at Momba DC and Tunduma TC during the FY24 Planning meeting.

IRDO in partnership with HJFMRI implements PEPFAR HIV care and treatment interventions (DREAMS and HIV Prevention, Care and Support Programs) at Tunduma Town Council and Momba District Council under the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), and the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) through the respective Regional and Council Health Management Teams. A planning session was conducted from 9th to 11th August 2023 at Royal Tughimbe Hotel, Mbeya City aiming at orienting partners on FY24 Programmatic, Contract Terms and the changes based on program alignment with the donor changes as stipulated in the PEPFAR's COP 23 and plan for the FY24 interventions in compliance with PEPFAR's COP 23 guidance. The session involved all community and health facility partners (RHMTs and CHMTs) partnering with HJFMRI in the Southern Highland regions including Songwe, Mbeya, Katavi, Ruvuma and Rukwa.

# PELUM TANZANIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



IRDO is one among the historical and active members of PELUM Tanzania. It's key in decision making and implementation of various programs/projects in the country including sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and climate change mitigation and control. This year IRDO participated in the 25th annual general meeting on 17th and 18th August in Morogoro and came up with election of members of Board of Directors, active membership with insistence of timely fee payment as organizational running machinery. IRDO is benefiting from the consortium having assurance of grasping grants from the platform and acquiring organizational management capacity building.



**New office premises for PELUM Tanzania supported by the Bread for the World was inaugurated with action points on income generating activities within the building and beautification of the area including landscaping, tree planting and gardening.**



# IRDO IN UHURU TORCH RACE



IRDO participated in Uhuru Torch race in Momba, Tunduma and Ileje Councils where health and economic services were provided including, positive behavioural change and economic strategy awareness to AGYW. HIV/AIDS counselling and testing was conducted reaching 370 clients (140 female and 230 male) whereby 6 of them turned positive (5 female and 1 male). In positive behavioural change, we based in elimination of drug use. Some success stories were shared from Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) beneficiaries who previously used to inhale and inject drugs on how worse and dangerous their lives used to be, the health education they gained from IRDO leading to quitting from using drugs. The health education package for dug users include demand creation in self determination, resilience and self awareness. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and economic strengthening were a crosscutting matter throughout the activity sessions.

**Uhuru Torch Race - National Leader 2023, Comrade Abdalla Shaib Kaim attentively listening to details about the preventive education services against drug use provided by Community Outreach Worker, Shaban who is also a beneficiary of the project during stationing of the Uhuru Torch in Tunduma Town.**





# CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS



## YOUTH ADVOCACY CHAMPION

Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) in collaboration with UNICEF facilitated a 3 day training for building capacity to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and for equipping young people, LGA officials from the AGYW programs (DREAMS) Southern Highland Councils (Njombe, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya). The main aim was providing knowledge and skills in engaging young people by working together as partners, addressing issues that impact adolescent girls and young women wellbeing. Also the training identified advocacy challenges affecting young people from respective regional authorities and develop actionable plans for appropriate intervention. Getruda Kasege, Social Welfare Officer - DREAMS attended the trainings.

## AFRIYAN TANZANIA

AfriYAN Tanzania is Non-Governmental Organization which focuses on increasing Meaningful Youth Participation in African development including Tanzania by enhancing friendly environment that will enable young people to fully participate in youth and national development agenda through 3 interventions; empowerment, public awareness and youth participation.

On 9th to 12th August 2023 AfriYAN Tanzania hosted a training whose members were NGOs from Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mbeya, Songwe, Shinyanga, Kahama and Zanzibar. The training aimed at improving NGOs capacity on preparation and submission of concept notes and proposals for funding of appropriate youth development interventions and reviewing challenges faced by youth on accessing loans as approach to economic empowerment. IRDO participated in the training, represented by Getruda Sepochi - HIV Prevention Focal Person.



## RURAL WOMEN ASSEMBLY

The Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) is a self-organised alliance of national rural women's movements, assemblies, grassroots organisations and chapters of mixed peasant unions, federations and movements across 10 countries in the SADC region.

In September 2023, RWA hosted a Feminist School in Maputo - Mozambique whereby member organizations including IRDO, represented by Fadhila Sendwa (IRDO RWA Representative) participated. Fadhila presented on the theme of land, violence and body autonomy to other RWA country representatives. During discussions and gallery walk, it was clear that women across the region face common challenges on land rights and ownership, gender-based violence, body autonomy and access to social services; all these look similar to RWA members from different parts of Africa.



# USAID-LISHE ENDELEVU CLOSE OUT MEETING



Save the Children International handed over the USAID Lishe Endelevu (Sustainable Nutrition) project activities to the Government Authorities. The event was held at Venance Mabeyo Complex in Dodoma. IRDO was awarded a Certificate of Recognition being a successful partner that implemented the project in Sumbawanga Municipal and Sumbawanga District Councils (Rukwa Region) for 5 years. The guest of honor during the handing over event was the Deputy Minister in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Hon. Deogratus Ndejemi who alongside, launched a story book prepared by Save the Children International going by the name "Voice of Beneficiaries" telling the achievements of the project and how to sustain the services to the community. IRDO was represented by Mr Mawazo Mbuba, Finance and Administrative Manager.

# DC ILEJE AT IRDO HQ

Hands over bicycles to paraprofessionals



The Ileje District Commissioner, Hon. Farida Mgomi, visited the IRDO Headquarters at Msia-Ileje, Songwe Region on 8th September 2023 where she managed to meet the Executive Director, Administration and Program Staff, government officials at different levels and project paraprofessionals. The Executive Director and Program Staff oriented the delegate on program phase design and management, and lastly the District Commissioner handed over bicycles provided by IRDO to the Food Security and Nutrition Improvement (FOSENI) Project paraprofessionals as tools for their supportive supervision and monitoring of all the activities in the respective villages. She insisted on sustainability of the tools under village administrative authorities





**SOUTH TOURISM EXHIBITION 2023** was held at Kihesa - Kilolo ward in Iringa region. The Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources through the Tanzania Tourist Board hosted the event which existed for 6 days from 23rd to 28th September 2023. This fame was used to introduce the tourism exhibitions in the southern highland aiming at rising local as tourism development response as well as attracting international tourism interest and inviting investors in various sectors of development. Various tourist sites were visited for recreation and learning.

IRDO participated in the event, represented by Gloria Msaki - Communication and Branding Officer. IRDO is well recognized as NGO that has a Communication and Branding Unit and has a role to attracting investors in the thematic areas of our interventions including public health, food and nutrition as well as climate change control. In the exhibition booths of the Songwe Region, health education was provided more on encouraging the youth to voluntarily get tested on HIV for individual health status concern and for the national development interest. In this way, IRDO was informing the mass, government and investors through tourism industry of the activities we are doing and their implication in development especially in the Southern Highland zone.

### Tourist Visit at Mkwawa Museum

IRDO team along with other organizations got a chance to visit tourist attractions found in Iringa region, to watch sports, games and entertainments that were prepared by Iringa Regional Secretariat for the purpose of selling the south tourism corridor. Among them was Mtwā Mkwawa memorial museum in Kalenga which is found in the former Hehe capital where the skull, personal effects and other relics of Chief Mkwawa including war tools and newspaper written by Germans are found.



# IRDO BOARD MEETING



The last meeting of the year of the Board of Directors which comprised the Chairman, Secretary and Members together with IRDO staff was held on 21.09.2023 at IRDO offices in Tunduma.

## VISIT IN TUNDUMA OFFICE



The board of directors got an opportunity to visit and get recognition of IRDO Tunduma offices and to see the performance of the staff.



## VISIT IN DIC

Board of Directors had the opportunity to visit the Drop In Center (DIC) for MAT clients that is managed by IRDO where they had the opportunity to meet and talk to the beneficiaries of the project.

# APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

IRDO is excited to announce new staff members who joined us during final quarter of July–September this year 2023.

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

- **FREGASON ISAACK**  
HTS Counsellor(HIV Care & Support Program).
- **TUMAINI NYANDA**  
HTS Counsellor(HIV Care & Support Program).
- **WITNESS NDUNGURU**  
Social Welfare Officer (MAT).

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.

- **ZUHURA MGALA**  
Promoted from HIV Prevention Focal Person to HIV Care & Support Program Coordinator.
- **EVA RWEYEMAMU**  
Promoted from HIV Care & Support Program Coordinator to DREAMS Program Coordinator.
- **GETRUDE SEPOCHO**  
CBHS Focal Person to HIV Prevention Focal Person (HIV Care & Support Program).
- **HOFFU KIPINDULA**  
HTS Counsellor(DREAMS) to CBHS Focal Person (HIV Care & Support Program).

## 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.





© Integrated Rural Development Organization

Newsletter 2023

Produced by IRDO Communication Unit

Editor: Gloria Msaki, Gaster Kihwello & Eflasia Haule

Design & Layout: Gloria Msaki, Gaster Kihwello &  
Eflasia Haule

Ileje-Songwe, Tanzania.

Email: [info@irdo.or.tz](mailto:info@irdo.or.tz)

[www.irdo.or.tz](http://www.irdo.or.tz)

**IRDO** | *For Better Change*