

SOCIAL ECONOMIC PROFILE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1:1 District Profile:

Ileje District Council was re – established in 1984 after a series of landmarks that led to the enacting of Local government Act No. 7 (District Authorities) of 1982. It is one of the ten Councils of Mbeya Region.

1.1.1 Geographical Location:

Ileje District is situated in the south Western part of Mbeya Region. The district lies between latitudes 9° 14' and 9° 37' South of Equator, and between Longitude 32° 80' and 33° 45' East of Greenwich. Kyela District is found on the East of Ileje, while Ileje District lies in the North East. The district also borders with Mbeya Rural district in the North and Mbozi District in North West, Songwe River to the south, marks the boundary between the district and the Republic of Malawi.

1.1.2 Land Area:

The District has an area of 1,908 sq. km of which 1,741 sq. km (91% of the total area) is predominantly open woodland with pockets of high density forests. 60.5sq km of the open woodland is a forest reserve. The area available for agriculture and human settlement is 1,016 sq. km or 53% of total area. However, only about 350 sq. km of this area is used for crop production. In terms of size, Ileje district is the second smallest district in the region after Kyela. The district was inaugurated in 1972.

1.1.3 Administrative units:

Administratively, the district is divided into two divisions namely: Bulambya and Bundali. The two divisions are subdivided into eighteen wards. The 18 wards are in turn split into seventy one villages as table 1 indicates.

TABLE 1: LAND AREA AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.

| DIVISION | LAND AREA SQ KM | % SHARE | WARDS | VILLAGES |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| BULAMBYA | 1,119 | 58.6 | 9 | 34 |
| BUNDALI | 789 | 41.4 | 9 | 37 |
| TOTAL | 1,908 | 100 | 18 | 71 |

Source: Planning Office - Ileje

1.1.4 Ethnic Groups:

The main ethnic groups in the district are the Wandali and Walambya who reside in Bundali and Bulambya divisions respectively. Other small ethnic groups include the Wamalila, Wanyiha, Wanyamwanga and Wanyakyusa. Most of the ethnic groups are predominantly agriculturalist.

1.1.5 Population Size and Growth:

According to the population Census of 2012, the district had a total number of 124,451 people, where 65,988 were women and 58,463 were men. This is about 4.6% of the total (2012) regional population. The 2012 census further reveals that the district house- hold size is 4.0 persons. This is lower than the national average recorded as 4.8 persons per household by the 2012 population census.

TABLE 2: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY SEX AND DIVISION

| S/N | DIVISION | TOTAL | FEMALE | MALE | PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | BULAMBYA | 71,562 | 38,152 | 33,410 | 4 |
| 2 | BUNDALI | 52,889 | 27,836 | 25,053 | 4 |
| TOTAL | | 124,451 | 65,988 | 58,463 | |

Source: National Population Census of 2012

1.1.6 Migration:

Migration has not been a common phenomenon in the communities constituting Ileje District. However, in recent years the district has experienced a notable out migration of youth between 15 and 30 years of age to seek employment in urban centers. Sugar Estates usually provide temporary seasonal employment to the youth when sugar production is at peak. The district authorities also report of people leaving Bundali division where soils are not fertile for new settlements in Mbozi and Chunya district.

1.1.7 Climate:

The district lies at an altitude ranging from 1360 to 2500 metres above sea level. Temperatures range from 60⁰F to 80⁰ F though in some areas like the lowlands, it reaches 90⁰ F. The district receives annual rainfall of between 750mm and 2000 mm.

1.1.8 Topography and Drainage:

In general, the topography of the district is undulating with wide plateau surface, and occasional steep side hills. It is also characterized by a western strip of the Rift Valley along Songwe River which connects Lake Nyasa in Kyela District. The Drainage system of Ileje District involves only one major stream called Songwe River which pours its water into Lake Nyasa. All other small tributaries (Seasonal and permanent) empty their water into Songwe River.

1.1.9 Agro-Economic Zones:

The landscape of Ileje district makes it possible to divide the land into three main Agro-economic zones as follows:-

(i) The Lowland Zone:

This lies between 1300 and 1500 meters above sea level. A big portion of it is in Bulambya Division. The zone has temperatures ranging from 80⁰ F to 90⁰ F. It receives annual rainfall of between 750- 100 millimeters. Soils are sandy and relatively poor and therefore suitable only for cultivation of seasonal crops such as maize, finger millet, groundnuts and beans.

(ii) The North Eastern Highland Zone:

The area lies between altitude 1500 and 1600 meters above and extends to both Bulambya and Bundali divisions. Temperatures range between 60⁰ F and 70⁰ F. Rainfall varies from 900 mm to 1200 millimeters. Soils are clay and relatively fertile for the cultivation of crops such as coffee, pyrethrum, maize and potatoes. Average farm size is 3 hectares.

(iii) The High Eastern Highland Zone:

The zone is generally hilly ranging between 1600 and 2500 meters above sea level. Average annual rainfall varies from 1500 to 2000 millimeters while temperatures range from 70⁰ F to 80⁰ F. Soil is volcanic making it possible for cultivation of a wider variety of crops for cash and subsistence.

1.2.0 DISTRICT ECONOMY

The District main economic activities include farming and animal husbandry. These constitute over 95 percent of total Gross Domestic Product of Ileje district. Main food crops grown are maize ,bananas, beans ,sweet potatoes, round potatoes and finger-millet, while main cash crop grown in the district include; coffee, pyrethrum, sunflower and cardamons . Both farming and livestock keeping (Mostly indigenous) are practiced on a small scale by individual farmers. Other activities undertaken on small scale are timber production, carpentry, weaving, gold mining and business transactions.

1.2.1 SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STATUS

1.2.1.1 AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the backbone of economy of Ileje district. The district has an arable land of 101,600Ha. suitable for agricultural development, but only 77,093 Ha. are under cultivation. Apart from dependence on rain-fed agriculture the available perennial River Songwe and its tributaries, could usefully be exploited for irrigation farming particularly in Bulambya division. About 2,086 ha out of 101,600 ha have potential area for irrigation but only 1,570 ha have been utilized.

Agricultural production in the district is medium and varies from year to year depending on the availability of rains and crop husbandry methods used. The farming season commences between November and December in the low land zone and between October and November in the highland zone.

Main food crops grown in Ileje district include Maize, Paddy, Banana, Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Round Potatoes, Wheat, Cassava, Finger Millet, Sorghum, Fruits and Vegetables, the major staple food crops are maize, sweet potatoes and banana which counts for 85.6 percent of all food crops produced in the district (2014/15)

Food Crops

1. Maize

Maize is by far the most important crop grown in the district. The cereal is grown by small holders in virtually villages in the district. However, the main producing wards are Bupigu, Isongole, Itale, Itumba, Mbebe, Ndola, Mlale and Chitete in Bulambya division and Malangali, Kafule, Lubanda, Itale and Ikinga in Bundali division.

TABLE 3: ESTIMATED MAIZE PRODUCTION IN ILEJE DISTRICT

| Year | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Production (Tons) | 80,728 | 93,925 | 90,928 | 97,448 | 98,496 |

Source: DAICO – Ileje District 2014/15

2. Other Food Crops

Other important food crops grown in the district, albeit on small scale, are: Beans, Bananas, Sweet Potatoes and Cassava.

TABLE 4: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF OTHER FOOD CROPS IN ILEJE DISTRICT 2014/15

| Crop | Production in Tons |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Beans | 27393 |
| Cassava | 35560 |
| Bananas | 83256 |
| Sweet Potatoes | 123,394 |

Source: DAICO – Ileje District 2014/15

Cash Crops:

Principal cash crops grown in the district include: Coffee, Pyrethrum, Cardamon and Sunflower. The production of these crops is generally low and subject to weather changes as the tables below indicate.

TABLE 5: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF CASH CROPS IN THE DISTRICT (In Tons)

| CROP | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Coffee | 592 | 510 | 507.59 | 670.79 | 369.4 | 521.4 |
| Pyrethrum | - | 668.3 | 765 | 1,198 | 1,052 | 1,049.8 |
| Cardamon | 210 | 235.1 | 274 | 268.2 | 285 | 291 |
| Sunflower | 2988.2 | 3046.7 | 3331 | 3339.4 | 3343 | 4032 |

Source: DAICO – Ileje District 2014/15

Irrigation:

Irrigation potential in the district comprises about 2,875 hectares of the total arable land. Currently, land under irrigation is only 1,560 hectares or 54 percent. The main crops grown under irrigation include Paddy, Vegetables, Beans and Maize. Paddy production increased from 3545 tons in 2008 to 7504 tons in 2014/2015. The district strategy continues with improvement of irrigation infrastructure, to date Sasenga, Jikomboe and Mapogoro irrigation schemes are full under production and their infrastructure were improved. The district managed to supply 10 power tillers in these schemes in order to improve agro mechanization and 6 rice planter to simplify transplanting of paddy.

Food Storage Facilities

The district has 23 godowns which can store 5,850 tons. Family households also have their own storage structures.

Markets

Four types of marketing channels are found in the district. These constitute the Primary Society, Private Dealers and Farm Markets where agriculture produce is sold and where livestock are marketed locally. The district managed to construct 1 market for maize (food crops) and 1 livestock market at Katengele where farmers and livestock keepers sale their produce. The former two types of markets deal mainly in cash crops such as Coffee, Cardamon, Cocoa, Sunflower and Pyrethrum. Most food crops are bought and sold in small grower's village markets within a few kilometers from the villages, whereas vegetables, fruits, bananas and round potatoes are carried to the near border, particularly Tunduma for sale. Itumba and Isongole Towns have now become increasingly potential markets for food crop consumption due to their central location along the road between Isongole (Tanzania) and Malawi.

Food Adequacy:

The annual production of carbohydrate food crop in the district is estimated at 285,196 tons, while the requirement stands at 43,396 tons. On the other hand, the district has sufficient source of protein due to high levels of annual production of beans in the district is estimated at 22,627 tons, while the demand for protein food hovers around 14,386 tons.

1.2.1.2 LIVESTOCK:

Distribution:

Livestock production is second to agriculture as reliable source of income for the population of Ileje district. Most of households in the district have some form of livestock on small scale. The villagers usually keep indigenous breed of the livestock which are mainly Goats, Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs characterized by low growth rate and low productivity in terms of red meat and milk. Most livestock are grazed in communal grazing grounds, village woodlots, open farms (after harvesting) and alongside the roads. Table 6 shows types of livestock kept in the district since 2010/11-2014/15.

TABLE 6: LIVESTOCK BY TYPE 2010/11-2014/15 IN ILEJE DISTRICT

| YEARS | CATTLE | GOATS | SHEEP | PIGS |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 2010/11 | 32,577 | 27,953 | 4,891 | 5,352 |
| 2011/12 | 37,937 | 30,561 | 5,375 | 5,871 |
| 2012/13 | 38,739 | 31,552 | 5,463 | 6118 |
| 2013/14 | 39,254 | 31,662 | 5,682 | 6,172 |
| 2014/15 | 39,598 | 31,878 | 5,902 | 6,758 |

Source: Livestock Development Office-Ileje

Fishing

Fishing in ILEJE district is of small scale and mainly carried out along rivers Songwe, Itumba, Chiya, Kiwira, Mwalisi and Tumwisi. The first fish project was started at Itumba in 1992. Under the fish project, 217 fish ponds were constructed. For the time being there are 402 fishponds in the district where 10 are primary school ponds, 30 are group's ponds and 362 are privately owned. Fish supplies are also brought from Rukwa region to supplement the small catch in the district. Fingerlings are currently available in Bwenda, Itumba, Ishenta and Isoko within the district.

2.0 NATURAL RESOURCES

2.1 Forest

Ileje district is not endowed with natural resources in terms of trees. The district has only 60 sq km of its land areas covered with forest reserve, thus it persistently faces shortage of fuel wood.

Various factors including natural and human activities have contributed to the reduction of the natural vegetation cover in the District. Poor farming practices like shifting cultivation , bush and mountain fires and indiscriminate cutting of trees for timber and fuel wood are some human activities which have played a major role in the deforestation of a large part of the natural vegetation in the district. This deforestation has caused heavy and partly irreversible destruction of natural resource and thus causing serious impact on the environment. Other problem that have emanated from deforestation include, less precipitation and unreliable rainfall, scarcity of wood for fuel , poles, timber and for burning bricks and decline in agricultural production.

Under an Agro forestry project by EC, WWF and PFM (1990-2014), the District Council surveyed and demarcated 35, 504.54 hectares of new forest reserves in the district. The new reserves are in the process of being gazetted, Forest reserves have been major sources of timber, poles, energy and wood for the people. Conservation is therefore needed in order to protect both the natural trees and water catchments areas.

Apart from demarcating forest reserves afforestation is also needed and can be achieved by joint efforts among villages, individuals, NGOs, school and Public institution concerned. A total of 667.4 hector of soft wood trees have been planted with a larger shares of 194.3 ha (36%) being planted by villagers. The District council planted 248.4ha (32% while schools planted 224.7 ha (29%). The district is however trying to involve more people in the aforestation program by providing them with seedlings awareness creation on tree planting. Tree nurseries should be established possibly in every village in order to have enough seedlings to meet the district requirement.

Forest products

Among important products of forest sector include timber, poles, fuel wood, and charcoal. Normally, the district Natural Resources department control and supervise exploitation of all forest resources.

Demand for wood products in the district is very high. Annual fuel wood consumption is about 240,000 cubic meters, sawn wood 150 cubic meters and charcoal 1,200 cubic meters. The great demand for fuel wood led to widespread felling of trees. The massive felling of trees in turn has led to decrease in soil fertility which has seriously affected agriculture activity, particularly in Bundali Division. The table below indicates the volume of woods harvested in the districts between the year 2010 and 2014.

VOLUME OF WOOD HARVESTED FROM FOREST IN ILEJE DISTRICT 2010-2014

| YEAR | SAWN WOOD(M³) | FUELWOOD (M³) |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2010 | 154.7 | 214,002.4 |
| 2011 | 157.5 | 215,008.6 |
| 2012 | 165.4 | 227,115.8 |
| 2013 | 187.2 | 237,118.9 |
| 2014 | 223.6 | 239,678.5 |

It has been observed that many village settlements, particularly in the highland areas, are experiencing an acute shortage of fuel wood. With the increase in the number of population this shortage is expected to rise considerably. The current consumption of fuel will unlike be reduced unless measures are undertaken by introducing more efficient fuel wood energy saving devices and alternative sources of energy like hydro-eclectic power , solar energy, bio gas and the use of coal which is available in the district . The district authority should enforce by-laws relating to control of shifting cultivation, bush fire and protection of water sources (catchments areas). Individual households should also be guided and assisted by the district extension staff to embark on agro-forestry farming.

2.2 Bee-keeping:

Bee-keeping is another economic activity undertaken in the district. Although it has been practiced for many years, it is less developed compared to district in the region like Chunya and Mbozi. Bee-keeping is undertaken by individuals at subsistence level, and it is characterized by traditional methods of production and preparation of honey and beeswax. Areas with relatively bigger number of beekeepers in the district are within Ipande,Yuli, Shinji,Ntembo, Mlale,Ishenta, Kapelekesi, Itale and in the Ikinga, Luswisi, Kafule, Ndola, Itale, Mlale, Chitete and Mbebe wards. For example in 2014, Ipande village in Luswisi ward had 355 beekeepers with more than 6,107 beehives while 568 beehives are modern ones. Beehives are locally made by using available local materials and sometime honey is collected from caves. Thus, production of honey and bee-wax in the district is very low most of the honey produced is consumed locally within the district.

There have been attempts by the district authority to establish a project with the aim of introducing modern techniques of bee-keeping with success and up to 2014 the District has about 1,045 improved beehives. With the potential that exists in the lowland areas of the district bee-keeping can become a very lucrative business thus becoming another source of income for the households living in the lowland areas.

2.3 Mining

Ileje district has minerals deposit which include coal, gold, amethyst, green tomaline and mica. Save for coal, other minerals existing in the district are yet to be fully exploited. Thus, to date the district has only one big industrial activity which is coal mining. This is being undertaken by an individual company known as TANZACOAL from Australia and the project is on the process waiting the certificate from NEMC and government permits.

2.4 Energy:

Fuel wood and charcoal remain the only reliable sources of energy for cooking and other domestic energy needs both in rural and urban areas in Ileje district. It is estimated that an average house hold requires between one to two tons of fire wood each year.

Alternative sources of energy are relatively expensive and this makes small portion of the population, especially with township influence, use kerosene as an alternative energy for cooking. This means expanding village populations raise firewood demand so fast that the regenerative capacities of many forests may not be able to cope and this in turn may lead to a complete deforestation. Adopting other sources of power as earlier mentioned, is of vital importance in arresting the alarming situation of environmental degradation. Continued use of fuel wood and charcoal will have an adverse effect on the existing forests as deforestation without afforestation continues.

Since wood consumption has a negative impact on the environmental ecosystem, there is a need to encourage the people to embark on alternative source of power, particularly biogas, solar energy, coal and electricity whenever available, though all of these alternative sources of energy have not been exploited.

2.5 Land and Housing:

With regards to rural housing, most of the individual homesteads have poor quality houses and this is more pronounced in Bulambya division. Many houses are erected using poles and thatched with grass. They have poor ventilation. The situation is much better in Bundali division where houses are built with burnt bricks with a large number of homesteads roofed by galvanized iron sheets.

In 1996/1997, Ileje District Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development prepared the Master Plan for Itumba/Isongole Township. This is a comprehensive land use plan which is important for effective development and utilization of land in the township areas of the district.

Boundaries for 68 villages in the District are surveyed. Each of them has its Land Certificate. Until 2014, 700 title deeds (Customary Right of Occupancy) have been given to land holders as per requirements of the Village Land Act, 1999.

Itumba/Isongole Township is the only urban centre and the headquarters of the District. Most of the residents in the township have improved housing facilities. The demand for surveyed plots is encouraging particularly at the areas near the Tanzania – Malawi border. Currently, the Council has a program of surveying 300 plots each year to meet the entire demand.

Plots surveyed at Itumba and Isongole Township since the commencement of Ileje District Council is shown in table below.

PLOTS SURVEY AT ITUMBA/ISONGOLE TOWNSHIP SINCE 1982 TO DATE

| YEAR | NO. OF PLOTS SURVEYED |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1982 - 1990 | 1020 |
| 1991 - 2000 | 1530 |
| 2001 - 2010 | 2002 |
| 2011 – to date | 1502 |
| TOTAL | 6054 |

3.0 ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE:

Road Network

Ileje district is one of the remote districts in the country served with roads only. It has an estimated total kilometer 972.689 of roads. Out of which 248 km are regional roads, 252.8 km are district roads and 383.8 km are village or feeder roads. These roads link the district headquarter with its hinder land and with other district in Mbeya region. All these roads facilitate movements of goods and services to people within and out of the district. The district is now linked with the neighboring country of Malawi. After the completion of Isongole Bridge and construction of tarmac road from Mpemba to Malawi border, this will enhance border trade at Isongole and Itumba town respectively.

ROAD TYPE AND DISTANCE:

| TYPE OF ROAD | DISTANCE (KMs) |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Village access Roads | 383.8 |
| District Roads | 242.4 |
| Urban road | 88.089 |
| Gravel Regional Roads | 248 |
| Tarmac Regional Roads | 10.4 |
| Total Roads Network | 972.689 |

Road Conditions and Plans:

The existing big road network in the district is still undeveloped. Some roads are narrow with temporary bridges, culverts and side drains. Many parts of the district are accessible from the district headquarters and small parts are inaccessible during rainy season. The overall annual traffic volumes in all seasons are quite low. After the completion of Isongole Bridge at river Songwe and construction of tarmac road from Mpemba to Malawi border, traffic volume is anticipated to increase and boost up the border trade.

Transport bottlenecks resulting from poor road network are identified as one of the major constraints to overall performance of productive and non productive sectors of the district economy. The eastern and north eastern highlands zones which cover much of Bundali division are the most affected parts in the district. The district future plan is to improve the roads network so that the roads are passable throughout the year. Community participation, through self help, particularly on the maintenance and rehabilitation of the roads should be emphasized. The question of construction of inter-village roads should seriously be addressed.

Negotiations with the regional Authority to upgrade some of the district roads to be Regional roads should also be undertaken to reduce the burden of the district as it has not enough funds to maintain the roads.

Other Communication Facilities:

The communication network found at Ileje District are TTCL, TIGO, AIRTEL and VODACOM Therefore no problem in case of communication network. The district also has one post office situated at Itumba town and two sub post offices are operated by private agencies.

4.0 SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR

4.1 Education sector

4.1.1 Pre Primary School Education

The District has 83 pre-primary classrooms with a total number of 3710 Pupils including 1798 boys and 1912 girls.

4.1.2 Secondary Education:

The district has 19 day public/government secondary schools and 2 private secondary schools are possessed by Roman Catholic mission.

4.2 WATER SECTOR:

The National Water Policy (NAWAPO, 2002) puts more emphasis on accessibility to clean and safe water for everybody within a distance of 400 meters by the year 2002. The population of Ileje district is far from being served with clean and safe water. The present data available shows that 34.7% of the population is served with natural sources. The population access to clean and safe water within minimum distance of 400 m is 65.3%. This figure is below the regional average of 53%.The main sources of water supply in the district include rivers, streams, springs, boreholes, tube wells and dug wells. Most of these water sources are permanent and therefore reliable. There have been an increasing number of people getting clean water raising from 2,022 people (1976) to 82,485 (2015).

4.2.1 RURAL WATER SUPPLY

The district has nineteen functioning gravity schemes, fifteen boreholes, two pumping schemes, eight shallow wells and 184 dug wells. The schemes cover 34 villages or 47.8% of the total number of villages in the district which is 71. Total population receiving water from the schemes is only 82,485 people or 65.3% of the population in the district.

4.2.2 URBAN WATER SUPPLY:

Water demand in the two urban centers of Itumba and Isongole is estimated to be 1,265,680 liters per day while water supply is 949,260 per day. Therefore the two trade centres are not well served with water. It is estimated that the number of people served with clean and safe water by 2015 in the two trade centers is 12,365 people.

SANITATION:

The district rural sanitation status is as shown in table below. Most of the households use tradition pit latrines which can expose people to health risks. Households should be advised and encouraged to build pit latrines within the household premises.

RURAL SANITATION STATUS – ILEJE DISTRICT 2010 - 2014

| YEAR | POPULATION | HOUSEHOLD | PIT LATRINES | VIP PIT LATRINES | SEPTIC TANKS |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2010 | 140,397 | 28,079 | 19,812 | 420 | 74 |
| 2011 | 148,490 | 32,619 | 22,634 | 431 | 74 |
| 2012 | 152,383 | 32,818 | 22,869 | 435 | 78 |
| 2013 | 124,451 | 31,113 | 26,381 | 442 | 84 |
| 2014 | 131,262 | 32,815 | 31,719 | 507 | 105 |

4.3 HEALTH SERVICES

Health Situation.

Primary Health Care services form the basement of the pyramidal structure of the health care services with the number of village health posts, dispensaries, health centre's and 2 hospitals of Isoko V.A and Itumba district hospital at District head quarter. Currently the health facilities for both public and private include 2 hospitals, 1 health centre and 32 dispensaries of which five dispensaries are under construction. The health facilities are owned by government, and voluntary agencies. No private health facilities.

Health facilities and services are among the prerequisites for human growth and development. It is evident that Ileje district has considerably enough number of health facilities constructed in most villages. The health situation in the districts is similar to other districts in Mbeya Region and the country as a whole. The Majority of the people especially, in rural areas, live under unhygienic conditions. The most common diseases in the district include ARI, Malaria, Pneumonia and Diarrhea. Table 24 shows the ten top common diseases in the district year 2014.

(i) Hospitals:

Ileje District have 2 hospitals named Itumba district hospital and Isoko V.A hospital, Isoko V.A hospital is about 65 km from the district headquarters (Itumba), which is owned by the Moravian Church. Isoko V.A hospital has 110 beds while Itumba district hospital has 69 beds.

Rural Health Centre's.

There is only one functioning rural health centre in the District, named Ibaba health centre which has 15 beds, owned by Government. Three (Itale, Lubanda and Ndola) health centre's are under construction. Ibaba health centre has only one clinical officer and two assistant nursing officers, Ibaba health centre are supplied with electricity (Solar power).

(ii) Dispensaries.

There are 27 dispensaries altogether, 23 of them are owned by the Government, 4 by Moravian church, one belongs to Ileje secondary and one is owned by the Itumba prison. With exemption of the two dispensaries owned by Ileje secondary school and Itumba prison, the other 25 dispensaries offer maternity and child health care (MCH) services. Five dispensaries (Mbebe, Ikumbilo, Msia, Isongole and Ileje secondary) are served with electricity (national grid) while 12 dispensaries are served with solar power.

(i) MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE IN THE DISTRICT:

Death of pregnant women or those dying after giving birth to a child is one of the major health problem facing all districts in Mbeya region and other region in the country. However, the maternal mortality rate of Ileje district was moderately lower than that of Mbeya Urban, Mbozi, Kyela, and Ileje during the year 1994, was lower than that of Mbozi and Mbeya urban in 2014.

(ii) Immunization (percentage) coverage in Ileje district 2011 and 2014:

IMMUNIZATION (PERCENTAGE) COVERAGE IN ILEJE DISTRICT 2011 TO 2014 FOR DTPHepB-Hib3

| YEAR | TARGET | VACCINATED | % |
|------|--------|------------|----|
| 2011 | 6,174 | 3778 | 61 |
| 2012 | 6,178 | 3,559 | 58 |
| 2013 | 3,982 | 3,480 | 87 |
| 2014 | 4,042 | 3,596 | 89 |

Source: Health Department- Ileje District.

Generally the percentage provided in the table above shows that there is an improvement in immunization in the district, particularly of children under one year.

(iii) HIV- INFECTION AND AIDS DISEASES:

HIV infection and Aids disease is still threat to people as it has no cure. Ileje district like other district in Mbeya Region is having a number of cases of HIV infection and Aids cases. However, in quantitative terms, the situation up to 2014 was less serious in the district compared to other district in the region as the table below indicates. No survey has been done to know the prevalence in the district but we use the regional prevalence which is 9%.

HIV INFECTION AND AIDS DISEASES BY HTC-ILEJE 2011- 2014;

| 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | JUNE 2015 | |
|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Case | Death | Case | Death | Case | Death | Case | Death | Case | Death |
| 953 | 47 | 1231 | 69 | 1751 | 45 | 2071 | 21 | 2163 | 34 |

. Source: Health Department- Ileje District.

(III) NUTRITION STATUS IN THE DISTRICT 2010-2014:

According to the figures below shows that, with increased population the number of case of severe malnutrition also increased from 0.1 percent (2010) to 2.1 percent (2014). The launching of child survival, protection and Development programme in 1993, has contributed a lot towards reducing cases of malnutrition in the district.

NUTRITION STATUS- ILEJE DISTRICT 2010-2014

| YEAR | >5 YEARS | NUTRITON STATUS | | | | | | DEATHS |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----|----------|-----|--------|------|--------|
| | | NORMAL | % | MODERATE | % | SEVERE | % | |
| 2010 | 25,271 | 23,426 | 92 | 1,769 | 7 | 76 | 0.3 | 57 |
| 2011 | 26,728 | 25,017 | 93 | 1,604 | 6 | 107 | 0.4 | 50 |
| 2012 | 28,127 | 26,383 | 93 | 1,688 | 6 | 56 | 0.2 | 39 |
| 2013 | 28,549 | 27,051 | 94 | 1,427 | 5 | 71 | 0.25 | 23 |
| 2014 | 26,961 | 25,941 | 96 | 968 | 3.6 | 52 | 0.19 | 51 |

Source: Health Department- Ileje District.

Future plans in the health sector in the district should concentrate on preventive measures rather than curative. Family planning, nutrition, sanitation and immunization should also be given the emphasis they deserve.

Women In Development:

Women development fund:

A special fund has been set by district council to provide credit to women income generating activities, and the council has committed it self to set aside 10% of its development levy collection. From financial year 2007/2008 the council contributed Tsh. 20,000,000 and loan has been given to different groups, whereby up to date 4 groups benefited with a total amount of Tsh. 7,400,000 for the financial year 2013/2014.

Women Income Generation Groups:

The council has sensitized people to form IGA in order to raise the standard of living of the people by then 150 groups were formed and registered within the District.

Gender Issues Advocacy and Sensitization:

Colaboration with other sectors and NGOS, the district has a special gender sensitization programme at all levels aimed at increasing gender awareness of the community so as to change their attitude on gender issues, particularly those which related to women. The council already sensitized 18 wards on GBV through drama groups.

Non- Government Organizations (NGOs):

Ileje has three giant local NGOs: ILEJE development fund which started in 1987 and is concerned with promotion of transport, Education and Agricultural development activities.

With assistance from NGOs, the district has established women group in 18 Wards which own different income generating activities. Apart from reducing women workload the project also increased women empowerment, self confidence in decision making and greatly supplements their home incomes.

The second NGOs is HOSSANA formed in 1996 and is concerned with promotion and awareness on HIV and AIDS, VCT and support of OVC in 9 wards in Bulambya Division. Up to date the NGOs supported 5 groups of PLHAs with piggery and nutritional food. Kimawambe is another NGO which deals with supporting vulnerable children and is working in 3 wards namely Itale, Ndola and Isongole.

PLHAs IGA

The District has succeeded to create awareness to people living with HIV to form groups in order to support and change ideas, up to date 9 economic groups were formed namely SHIMBEMTIMA, CHITETE, JISHUGHULISHE, UPENDO, NURU, AMANI, JIPE MOYO and CTC ISOKO. Either these groups were supported seed money amounted 7.500.000 to develop their projects. Either 10 workers were also supported money for nutritious food each whereby 2,300,000 was used.

Potential Areas For Investment:

The district is endowed with abundant wealth of human and natural resources which if fully exploited could lead to remarkable economic growth and development. Among these potentials are:-

(i) Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry:

- Increased agricultural production through expansion of area under cultivation (75% of arable land is currently cultivated)
- Increasing productivity by improving crop husbandry practices.
- Utilization of irrigation potentials. Out of 2,086 ha. With potential for irrigation only 1,270 ha. Are being utilized. The available perennial rivers and Songwe river could usefully be exploited for irrigation
- Increased livestock production by adopting modern livestock keeping.

(ii) Industry and Trade:

- Establishment of small scale Agro-processing industries, edible oil and grain mills.
- Establishment of commercial enterprises in the district.

(iii) Roads and telecommunication:

- Increased road network accessible to every village for easy haulage of goods and service.
- Improved modern telecommunication system especial at the district headquarters and Isongole trading centre.

- Establishment of garages and workshops.

(iv) Education

- Establishment of sound and well staffed primary and secondary schools.

(v) Mining

- Mineral prospecting and small scale artisanal mining, for example, Coal, gold, amethyst, green tomarine and mica.

(vi) Energy

Lusalala falls at Sange area one of the highest fall in the District and Luswisi falls at Bwenda, with full of water throughout the year can be source of hydroelectricity production in the District. The falls are waiting to be developed for production of electricity which is the vital source of power in most of the areas.

(vii) Tourism

Ileje District endowed with attraction areas which can be developed as tourist areas. Most of these areas are found in Bundali areas. In this area there are several attractions such as: Waterfalls at Sange Ward by the name of Lusalala falls, Luswisi falls at Bwenda area in Lubanda ward and Kyosa falls at Ngulilo Ward, the highest point of the District bordering Ileje District. At this area you can clearly see buildings at Tukuyu town from the lowland. These areas are very attractive with magnificent features full of water for the whole period of the year. The availability of natural springs in several areas of the District can be a stating point for establishment of mineral water industries.

OUR MOTTO

***“Hard Working and Knowledge is the Key to
Sustainable Development”***