# HIMA PROGRAMME

## REGIONAL PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT (RPMU)

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HIMA-Iringa PMU
Iringa

RE: THE DONKEY SUB-COMPONENT

Attached are 3 copies of the above mentioned report. The study was commissioned by RPMU and done by an Intern.

The report indicates few successes but highlights failure in implementing this particular activity which means that proper preparation of the ground was not done before implementing this intervention. I'm particularly worried about the manner in which some village governments prohibited the women from taking care of their assets. I suggest that the CD unit take this matter seriously with these particular governments and try to understand the reason behind such a behaviour. On the other hand, if HIMA-Iringa intends to continue with this activity, recommendations given in the report should be observed in totality.

This report has been distributed to other HIMA projects to learn about the experience of HIMA-Iringa and to avoid the shortfalls of this intervention and other similar.

Thanks and best regards.

Arif Qaraeen
CTA

cc: All HIMA-PMUs (1 copy each)
✓Royal Danish Embassy, Dar es salaam (3 copies)

I/2/CO./98/1

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# REPORT ON THE WOMEN'S MAZINGIRA FUND

## The Donkey Sub-Component

### in Iringa District

MARCH 1998

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# ABSTRACT

This report is an assessment of one of HIMA-Iringa's Women's Mazingira Fund's assistance projects. The project here described and assessed is one in which donkeys were distributed to women in eight villages in an attempt to reduce their workload, so that they could more fully participate in soil and water conservation activities. The purpose of this assessment was to more fully understand the origin of problems that have arisen in the project so as to provide for improvement in the current situation built on a thorough awareness of the dynamics of the situation. Constructive recommendations for any future efforts to continue this project or another such project have been formulated based on the experience documented here.

Initiated after an assessment of women's workload that showed that the transport involved in household responsibilities was contributing to women's overburdenment, the project distributed a total of fifty-six donkeys to women's groups in Mazombe and Kilolo. Until now, fifteen donkeys have died and the Fund has ceased to accommodate any more requests for donkeys since 1996. Currently, the Community Development Unit is in the process of purchasing some replacement donkeys and a few donkeys to be placed with women who paid their money originally, and is contemplating whether to cease the project indefinitely. Five donkey carts and ten ploughs were also distributed through the Fund in 1997 as supplemental equipment intended to increase the effectiveness of donkeys in reducing women's workload.

This study was conducted in February and March of 1998 through document research and the informal interviews of recipients of donkeys in seven villages and of persons involved in the implementation of the Women's Mazingira Fund. The main findings of this assessment will show that there were some key problems in the implementation of the project and the institution of some of the concepts it was founded on, which showed them to be weak or inappropriate. The problems at fault in the project's implementation have led to and/or contributed to the improper care of the donkeys and mistreatment of the donkeys by other villagers, both of which factors led to the high initial mortality rate of the animals. To ameliorate the problems in the donkey project, it is here recommended that measures be taken to improve the existing situation so that all is not lost with the substantial investment that has been committed to date. In the case of a reimplementation of the project, a higher level of sucess could be achieved if the project was conducted in a manner that includes an examination of the conceptual issues raised by the project, namely: gender isssues involved and the the faulty idea of group ownership, and, in addition, a major revision of the plan and process of implementation that would promote a higher level of training and accountability of the women recipients.