FOREWORD

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), of the United Republic of Tanzania, is pleased to present the "Health Atlas: Health Service Availability in Mbeya Region - Tanzania". This first atlas offers, a comprehensive overview of service availability, at the health facility level in Mbeya Region, as displayed on different thematic maps. The Atlas allows health policy makers, decision makers and health managers, to detect deficits and to counteract them with specific measures. The maps were issued, as part of the project, "Health-GIS for the Mbeya Region," a collaboration between the Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin, the UDSM, ARU and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR). TGPSH, also facilitated data collection.

The Health-GIS is a tool that generates and analyses data, on the availability of specific health services, health infrastructure and human resources for each health facility (HF), in Mbeya Region. The tool allows the storage, visualisation, as well as, interpretation of data and can play a crucial role, in monitoring and evaluation at the level of health facilities themselves. Indeed, GIS supports decision-making processes and efficient resource allocation.

We believe that, this atlas and the concomitant availability of the health data, will provide valuable information to all stakeholders. The remaining challenge is to use this information effectively, in order to improve the health situation in Mbeya Region. As a Permanent Secretary I am happy that, Mbeya Region, has the first Health Atlas, that can serve as a reference to others and be built upon in the future, by further developments in the area of information systems.

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DIBAJI

Wizara ya Afya na Ustawi wa Jamii (MoHSW), ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania inayo furaha ya kutoa, "Atlasi ya Afya: Upatikanaji wa Huduma za Afya katika Mkoa wa Mbeya Tanzania". Atlasi hii ya kwanza inatoa maelezo ya kina, juu ya upatikanaji wa huduma za afya katika Mkoa wa Mbeya, zikiwemo picha na ramani. Atlasi hii, inawawezesha watunga sera za afya, wanaofanya maamuzi na wasimamizi wa shughuli za afya, kuona udhaifu na kuushughulikia kwa kuchukua hatua maalum. Ramani hizo zimetolewa kufuatana na mradi wa "GIS ya Afya kwa Mkoa wa Mbeya", kati ya Chuo Kikuu cha Sayansi Tumizi cha Beuth, UDSM, ARU na Taasisi ya Utafiti wa Magonjwa ya Binadamu (NIMR). Shughuli za mpango huu zimefanyika kwa msaada wa TGPSH.

GIS ya Afya, ni chombo kinachokusanya na kuchambua, data juu ya upatikanaji wa huduma maalum za afya, miundombinu ya kiafya na rasilimali watu, kwa kila huduma ya afya katika mkoa wa Mbeya. Chombo hiki kinatunza, kinatengeneza vielelezo na kutafsiri data, na kinaweza kuwa na jukumu maalumu katika mchakato wa kufuatilia na kufanya tathmini, katika ngazi ya utoaji wa huduma za afya. Shughuli zinazofanywa na GIS ya Afya, zinasaidia katika mchakato wa kufanya maamuzi na matumizi mazuri ya rasilimali.

Tunaamini kuwa, atlasi hii itakuwa na manufaa kwa wadau wote. Changamoto iliyobakia ni namna ya kuzitumia habari hizi ipasavyo ili kuboresha hali ya ki afya katika Mkoa wa Mbeya. Mimi Katibu mkuu, nina furaha kuwa, Mkoa wa Mbeya, una Atlasi ya Afya, ambayo inaweza kutumiwa na watu wengine, kuwa ni rejea na kuchangia katika kuleta maendeleo zaidi, katika uwanja wa mifumo ya habari.

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Health Atlas Mbeya Region