

No.

**STUDY REPORT  
ON  
THE PROJECT FOR  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES CONTROL  
IN  
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**JUNE 2002**

**Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

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## PREFACE

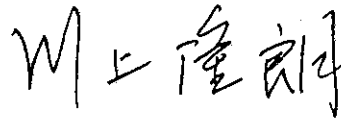
In response to a request from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Government of Japan decided to conduct a study on the Infectious Diseases Control and entrusted the study to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

JICA sent to Tanzania a study team from February 23 to March 15, 2002.

I hope that this report will contribute to the promotion of the project and to the enhancement of friendly relations between our two countries.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the officials concerned of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for their close cooperation extended to the study team.

June 2002

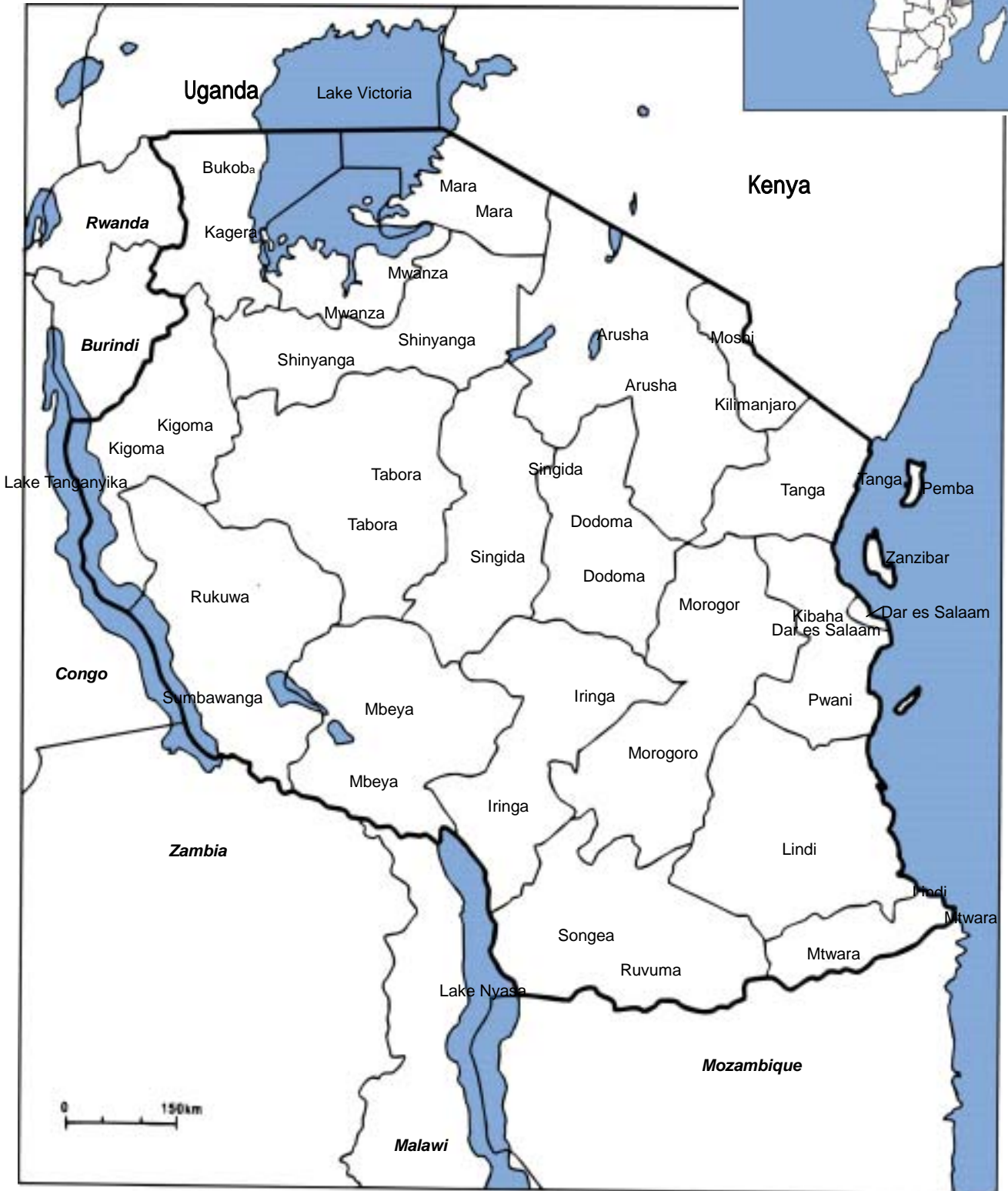
Handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Japanese characters: 川上隆明 (Kawakami Takao).

Takao Kawakami

President

Japan International Cooperation Agency

# Location Map



## Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guerine
BHN	Basic Human Needs
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.)
CSW	Commercial Sex Worker
DANIDA	Danish International Development Assistance
DfID	Department for International Development (U.K.)
DHMIS	District Health Management Information System
DHMT	District Health Management Team
DMC	District Management Committee
DPT	Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus Combined Vaccine
EU	European Union
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Development)
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Reconstruction Loan Corporation)
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
MOH	Ministry of Health
MO	Medical Officer
MSD	Medical Stores Department
MTP	Medium-Term Plan
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OPV	Oral Polio Vaccine
SAREC	Swedish Agency for Research Co-operation with Developing Countries
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TACAIDS	Tanzania Commission for AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WHO	World Health Organization

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## Chapter 1      **Background of the Project**

In order to improve the grave situation that ensued from the increase in number of HIV-positive patients, President Mkapa in the United Republic of Tanzania announced his decision that he would strengthen a preventive program against HIV infections to control of the epidemic of HIV in Tanzania during the next 5 years and appealed for international assistance on a United Nations meeting in July 2001. The Ministry of Health (MOH), in response, is in the process of formulating the 4th medium-term program, which should follow the MTP-III after its conclusion in 2002. The aims of the 4th program are: thorough HIV testing of blood for transfusion, strengthening of counseling and HIV tests in VCT<sup>Note 1</sup> services, routine (regular) execution of HIV tests of pregnant women to prevent vertical mother-to-child transmission, and the reduction of HIV infection risk through the treatment of STIs.

Although the medications for the treatment of STIs have been procured and supplied by EU assistance, EU decided in 2000 to discontinue this procurement. As the result of the strong negotiation between the MOH and EU, EU agreed to continue procurement for 2 years until the end of the MTP-III, but MOH has not succeeded in finding a prospective assistance donor for the procurement in and after 2003. While Germany has been conducting an HIV control project in Mbeya Region since 1998, this project will also be terminated in 2002. The MOH has also been using its own budget and a Common Basket Fund for the procurement of HIV test kits and other equipment, as well as staff training, but these resources are insufficient for the provision of

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Note 1      VCT: Voluntary Counseling and Testing. VCT services are conducted at VCT facilities and include the following:

To detect HIV-positive persons, HIV tests are offered to those who want to receive them. Counseling is given before and after testing.

To prevent the spread of infection, counseling is given to HIV-positive persons aiming at providing support to them and educating them in the prevention of transmission to others. HIV-negative persons are also educated in the measures to avoid infection.

necessary equipment, and many laboratory rooms (VCT facilities and hospitals) are not capable of performing tests in accordance with the standards defined by the MOH.<sup>Note 2</sup> Coming nationwide reinforcement of HIV testing, as MOH is planning, would require the procurement of even larger quantities of equipment, but no prospective assistance donor has been still far from certain. In addition, a Japan-US joint project formulation study in the health sector was conducted on January 1, 2001 as a part of the Japan-US Common Agenda, and this study highlighted inter alia the reconstruction of the logistic system concerning the distribution of HIV control resources including pharmaceuticals for treatment of STIs that has been undertaken by USAID in Tanzania since December 2001. While the joint study reemphasized the importance of equipment as tools for verification and stabilization of the distribution system, the securement of the equipment for distribution has not been identified.

On the other hand, the cold chain, a important system for the distribution of vaccines under appropriate temperature conditions, requires controlling appropriate temperature strictly; however there is urgent need for replacement of many superannuated refrigerators at vaccination sites. The Project for Expanded Immunization and Malnutrition Control, conducted in fiscal 1999 under Japanese assistance, decommissioned 697 refrigerators that had been used at vaccination sites for 15 years or more and replaced them with kerosene/gas dual-fuel refrigerators. These number of refrigerators corresponded to about 22% of all refrigerators used at vaccination sites. In later years down to 2002, the MOH renewed only about 150 refrigerators.

During the same period starting from 1999, the MOH promoted a program for the conversion to LP gas-powered refrigerators. The aim was to decrease the cold chain troubles due to the use of kerosene and improve the effectiveness of immunization. The progress of this program is shown in Fig. 1-1.

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Note 2 MOH's HIV test standards specify that each patient should be tested twice using 2 different types of HIV test kits (either Capillus, Determine, or ELISA method).



So far, the conversion to gas-powered refrigerators has been completed in the 6 provinces around Dar es Salaam where a gas supply station was established and Mtwara where a gas shop was established. The current target area is the Target Area I shown in Fig. 1-1. A gas supply station has been established in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region, as well as a gas shop in Iringa, and the conditions to progress the planned conversion to gas-powered refrigerators in the surrounding 6 regions of Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Singida, Mbeya, Iringa, and Ruvuma have been prepared. While the procurement of equipment has been supported mainly by DANIDA, the assistance related to the improvement of cold chain equipment was diminished recently when the DANIDA fund was converted to a common fund, resulting in a difficulty in the timely procurement of equipment in required quantities.

In this situation, the government of Tanzania requested Japanese grant aid for the implementation of HIV control and EPI programs, which are the most urgent and prioritized issues in Tanzania.

