

# **Session 7.3: Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning in Malawi**

- Background of the Local Level Planning using IRAP Interfaced with GIS Maps.
- Existing District Planning System – Malawi case
- IRAP Planning Tool
- Integration with GIS Maps
- Development of SEP and DDP
- Conclusion

- The Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) tool was first field tested in a step by step process in Dedza District under PIRTP from 1994 -1997.
- The IRAP process enabled development and publishing of the guidelines entitled, *“A Guide to Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning in Malawi, 2000”*. These have been useful beyond the borders of Malawi.
- RAMPA was implemented in Ntchisi District Assembly from June 2004 to December 2005.

- The main objective of RAMPA was to strengthen the planning capacity of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development as well as the selected district assembly through the integration of the Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) tool into the current District Development Planning System in support of the decentralisation policy.
- Thereafter, the lessons drawn from this pilot activity would be propagated to the rest of the local authorities.
- After the completion of the project, the Government and the World Bank agreed that the exercise had to be replicated to other district assemblies and the first being those under ISP – Rumphi, Nsanje, Mangochi, Zomba, Ntcheu and Chitipa.

- **Production of socio-economic profile involving data collection & analysis:**
  - Primary Data – not usually done due to lack of resources and mainly lack of a common planning tool;
  - Secondary – the main data used for planning purposes;
  - Data entry, processing and analysis – not all use electronic data management.
  
- **Formulation of District Development Planning Framework (DDPF):**
  - Need/Gap analysis following data analysis;
  - Issue identification;
  - Cause-effect analysis; and
  - Formulation of objectives & respective strategies.
  
- **Approval of the DDPF;**
  
- **Feed-back and project identification – Village Action Plans (VAPs):**
  - Presentation of DDPF to communities to appreciate the general situation of the district; and
  - Formulation of VAPs in line with the DDPF.

## EXISTING DISTRICT PLANNING SYSTEM CONT'

- Consolidation of sectoral plans, appraisal, fine-tuning & costing of VAPs whose output is now the DDP;
- Project proposal preparation & appraisal;
- Formulation of District Development Plan (DDP);
- Approval of the DDP;
- Plan & projects implementation; and
- M&E.

- Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning is a multi-sectoral and comprehensive local level participatory planning tool that identifies and prioritizes access needs of rural households in relation to basic social and economic services;
- IRAP is based on the premise that the ease or difficulty of access to basic social and economic services among households determines their well being, and capacity to move out of poverty;
- The transport sector is the entry point because this sector facilitates all the other sectors regarding access and use; and
- IRAP effectively unifies two key approaches to improving access, i.e. *proximity* and *mobility* planning - in a sensible manner.



- Transport and travel for the rural h/h include means of travel, availability and quality of services.
- **IRAP** data bank is used to develop an integrated approach.
- ***Mobility & Accessibility.***  
Accessibility is the ease or difficulty of reaching and using a facility.
- Mobility is the ease or difficulty with which people or goods move from one point to another.

# AFCAP Mobility & Accessibility



- Within IRAP location of socio-economic services could be optimised using *proximity* criterion.
- Link to Decentralisation Process.  
The link is evident through its practical application of the rationale for decentralisation.

- Rationale For IRAP :
  - Being pro-active communities are involved through out the process, plans are people focussed.
  - Creates a platform for community participation and collaboration with DEC.
  - Enhances coordination
  - IRAP helps to address gender issues

- The steps are slightly modified in consideration to some limitations.
  - (i) Data collection
  - (ii) Data entry
  - (iii) Data analysis
  - (iv) Mapping
- IRAP steps cont'd.
  - (v) Validation and further investigations.
  - (vi) Access profiles.
  - (vii) Interventions.
  - (viii) Integrating sectoral plans.
  - (ix) M & E.

## Roles of the DA in the IRAP Process

- Being custodians of the data bank, the SEPs and the District Development Plan (DDP), the District Authority should take the leading role.
  - Coordination of the whole process.
  - Mobilising communities and organising the District Executive Committee (DEC).
- Integrating IRAP into the District Planning system.
  - IRAP strengthens the development plan process as follows.

- IRAP tool can be integrated into the existing district planning process at the production of socio-economic profile. Indeed, IRAP will add value especially at the data collection stage. While the existing process depends mainly on secondary data for the sector, IRAP tool will collect, process, and analyze primary data for all the sectors using:
  - Village level questionnaire based on access & mobility covering all socio-economic aspects;
  - Mapping of access profiles based on access indicators derived from the IRAP data bank developed in Micro Soft ACCESS program

- Furthermore, the outputs of data analysis using secondary data sector sources only are socio-economic indicators at district level only such as literacy levels, poverty levels mortality rates, food security. However, IRAP will add value by providing the following in addition:
- Cross tabulation of socio-economic facilities for sectors;
- Accessibility Indicators for sectors: reports can be generated from the electronic data base for various sectors;
- Access profiles: an overview of the most important information from the household & village surveys.

- Regarding interventions prioritization, IRAP can bring value to the utilization of the existing and planned socio-economic facilities by interventions to only two categories:
  - Mobility Interventions:
    - Transport infrastructure;
    - Intermediate means of transport and related services; and
    - Motorized transport services.
  - Proximity interventions: Spatial location of services & facilities.

- IRAP is a planning tool and not a planning process or system that is in competition or meant to replace the existing district planning process.
- Rather IRAP will strengthen the delivery of some of the key steps of existing planning process to make planning at this level more responsive to the needs of the population, and able to address accessibility and mobility needs of the rural population.

- Another area of strength to the current system is introduction of GIS Maps linked to the social economic data base
- This shows an updated location of facilities on district map down to village level using GIS.
- However, most of the existing district level maps are outdated showing scanty distribution of socio-economic services and physical features, mainly main roads, major village centres, and a few socio-economic facilities.
- The updated IRAP map will show distribution of all socio-economic facilities such as schools, health centres, water sources, markets, grinding mills as well as village centres with roads and major tracks used by the villagers in the whole district.
- This assists to increase the visual impact of location of social economic facilities against the location of people (spatial data)
- And is a very good aid to the explanation of proposed projects in an area.

## DEVELOPMENT OF A SEP AND A DDP

- Train Participants in using the IRAP tool in production of DDPs.
- Integration of secondary data: Sectoral, district and national level into IRAP databank;
- Integration of GIS with IRAP and secondary databanks;
- Integration of land use planning issues;
- Needs Gap Analysis;
- Formulation of Planning Framework; and
- Way forward to produce SEP & DDP using IRAP primary data, secondary data and GIS in the production of a SEP & DDP

## CONCLUSION

- IRAP tool gives opportunity to discuss accessibility problems to socio-economic facilities as low as village level compared to the situation before when data was available at national and district levels only
- Integrating of primary data with GIS adds a visual aspect to provision/access to socio-economic facilities and eliminates claims by villagers of absence of such facilities

- **Integration of GIS in Local Level Data base assists to:**
  - Improve data management from various sources (spatial, non-spatial, primary and secondary datasets); and
  - Assist in production of various digital maps which:
    - Serve in the review of DDP
    - Enriches the SEP
    - Enhance the processes of needs-gap-analysis and formulation of targets and projects location for the DDP.
    - Buffer feature created to show spatial relationships to selected social economic facilities to identify needy areas.



See Further  
Reading on the  
course CDs for  
papers on IRAP!