

Terms of Reference for:

1st Synthesis and Analysis Workshop for the 2002/3 PPA

1. Introduction

Institutions committed to poverty alleviation must have ideas about why it occurs, why it persists and how it can be overcome to guide their work. Indeed, they have always operated on the basis of specific theories about poverty that reflect their understanding of cultural, social and economic realities.

Since the second half of the 1980s, public institutions have developed increasingly sophisticated multi-topic surveys as their preferred means to measure, analyse and learn about poverty. In contrast with single-topic surveys (such as Employment, Income and Expenditure Surveys), these multi-topic Household Surveys are designed to generate information on a wide range of issues intimately linked to household welfare. At the same time, private development aid institutions and, to a lesser extent, academic institutions were rapidly pioneering a “participatory approach” to developing information and understanding about poverty. In their current forms, both methodologies involve poor people in the production of data. The primary difference between participatory and survey-based research is that the former systematically involves poor people in the *analysis* of its findings. It is this analysis, as much as the raw data, which is then synthesised to inform pro-poor policies.

Some of the advantages to Participatory Policy Research are obvious. First, data analysis does not depend on speculation by urban elites about the conditions poor people face. Instead, it is the result of ordinary people reflecting on, theorising about, debating and explaining the world in which they live. Second, Participatory Policy Research contributes to social democratisation by engaging ordinary citizens in policymaking processes.

On the basis of these characteristics, the Government of Tanzania has decided to make Participatory Policy Research, in the form of Participatory Poverty Assessments (PPAs), a routine part of its Poverty Monitoring System.

The 1st PPA Cycle began in January 2002 and will run through December 2003. Research will be conducted from March to July 2002 in thirty sites distributed throughout mainland Tanzania (see <http://www.esrftz.org/ppa/about.htm> for further details). Writing-up will take place from July to December, while work during 2003 will focus on pro-poor public policy advocacy and planning the next PPA Cycle.

2. Mid-term “Synthesis and Further Analysis” Workshop

Perhaps the most significant difference between participatory and other research methodologies is that the former involves *en situ* analysis. Thus, in Participatory Policy Research, information and understanding is developed through the critical examination of data by and with ordinary people (i.e. the “everyday experts” on poverty/poverty-related phenomena). Though invaluable, this is insufficient because concepts and conclusions cannot, in such a context, be readily brought into relation with results from other sites.

Thus, the PPA Research Teams will break halfway through their itinerary to regroup in Dar es Salaam for a Mid-term Workshop in which they will synthesise and conduct further analysis of preliminary results.

Afterwards, the Teams will disperse to their 2nd round of fifteen sites. When they return to Dar es Salaam in July, they will meet for a final Synthesis & Analysis Workshop.

Each Workshop will conclude with a ½ day Feedback Session with Stakeholders.

2.1 Goals

The specific goals of the weeklong Mid-term Workshop include:

- Synthesising preliminary results
- Identifying emergent patterns
- Assessing the degree to which specific research questions have been reliably answered or need verification/elaboration
- Re-assessing the Research Agenda in light of field experiences (this may entail refining, changing, adding or subtracting items)
- Improving, through collaborative brainstorming, methods and procedures on the basis of 1st round experiences
- Developing a summary of 1st round results and 2nd round plans to share with stakeholders in an interactive, ½ day “Feedback Session.”

2.2 Participants

In order to realise these goals, Team Leaders, Research Interns and Research Partners are expected to attend all sessions. In addition, each institution in the Implementing Consortium is welcome to send one additional staff member to any or all sessions.

A small number of “external specialists” will also be invited by the PPA Management Team to attend – and, in some cases, help facilitate – the Workshop.

2.3 Venue

The 1st Synthesis & Analysis Workshop will be conducted daily, 8:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. from the 6th to 10th May in the ESRF Conference Hall.

3. Stakeholders’ Feedback Session

Team Leaders, Research Interns and Research Partners will present conclusions from their weeklong Synthesis and Analysis Workshop to stakeholders in a ½ day Feedback Session.

Though this entails the flow of significant information from researchers to session participants, the event will encourage discussion. As such, the purpose of this meeting is equally to:

- Share preliminary findings
- Improve 2nd round research activities through critical, constructive dialogue with stakeholders

3.1 Participants

Members of the Implementing Consortium are welcome to send two staff (in addition to their Research Partner) to the Feedback Session. Other invitees include:

- The Research and Analysis Working Group
- Representatives from other Working Groups responsible for coordinating Government's Poverty Monitoring System
- VPO-PED
- TASAF
- TACAIDS
- NEMC
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- PO-RALG
- Institute for Resource Assessment, UDSM
- Rural Food Security Group, UDSM
- TGNP
- TCDD
- TANGO
- TACOSODE
- The Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata)
- Agha Khan Foundation
- Hakikazi Catalysts
- Haki Elimu
- HelpAge International
- Oxfam-GB
- World Bank
- Development Partners funding the Tanzania PPA Process

3.2 Venue

The Stakeholders' Feedback Session will be conducted 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on 13th May in the ESRF Conference Hall. Mid-morning tea and bites will be provided.