

Update on the Tanzania PPA Process - 22/5/02

This edition of our regular *Update* includes information about:

1. Local Level Impact of the PPA in Ilala District
2. The Mid-term Synthesis & Analysis Workshop
3. Stakeholders' Feedback Session
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1. Local Level Impact of the PPA in Ilala District

Routine PPAs in Tanzania are a fundamental part of Government's Poverty Monitoring System and, as such, are primarily intended to inform national level policy planning. However, since its conception, stakeholders have also hoped that the PPA process could lead to timely, direct benefits at the local level.

In its present form, the TzPPA has neither the mandate nor resources to provide the type of sustained support to Local Authorities that could ensure local level benefits. Nonetheless, the many design features of the PPA purposefully selected to encourage and facilitate immediate change *are* bearing fruit. Some of the best examples of positive change put in motion by the PPA are in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region.

Mr. Renatus Kihongo, the Ilala Municipal Council Economic Planner, joined the Urban-based Livelihoods Team from 4th to 20th March. Following his enthusiastic involvement in the PPA, Mr. Kihongo returned to his office and followed the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government's instructions to explore how results from the PPA could be translated into immediate action at the municipal/district level.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Kihongo's ideas were presented to the Municipal Management Team; where it was decided that the way forward should be determined together with community members. Accordingly, six municipal staff were assigned to work with six community representatives – none of whom could be from local government. To date, this has culminated in the following:

- Provision, at Amana Hospital, of counselling services to drug-users seeking to break their addiction
- Provision, as of June 2002, of counselling services to drug-users at Mnazimmoja Health Centre¹

¹ Government's IADG-Interministerial Anti-Drug Commission is primarily pursuing a "supply-side approach" emphasising indictment and punishment of drug-sellers/users. In contrast, the Ilala Municipal Council has (in the wake of Mr. Kihongo's PPA experience) adopted a demand-side approach that prioritises helping drug-users become addiction free. According to Mr. Kihongo, this reflects the Municipal Director's conclusion that, "These are our people. We need to help them, not punish them."

- ❑ Provision, beginning in 2003, of counselling and other forms of targeted assistance (such as training in alternative employment and soft loans) to Commercial Sex Workers
- ❑ Formulation of new sensitisation strategies encouraging the equal provision of schooling opportunities to girl and boy children. These strategies, unlike those in the past, begin from an understanding of local ideas about gender and education.
- ❑ The creation *by community members* of transparent criteria for priority support from “good Samaritans” to especially poor local households. The criteria to select these households are: (1.) affected by long-term illness, (2.) female-headed, (3.) four or more children (4.) faced with frequent hunger. So far, ten households meeting these conditions have been identified and provided with regular assistance.

We congratulate the Ilala Municipal Council and members of Mtambani B on their collaborative work!

2. The Mid-term Synthesis & 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 paused halfway through their itinerary to regroup in Dar es Salaam for a Mid-term Synthesis & Analysis Workshop, lasting from 6th to 10th May. The specific goals of the weeklong Workshop included:

- ❑ 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.”

In order to realise these goals, Team Leaders, Research Interns and Research Partners worked with specialists from the National Environmental Management Council, Save the Children, the Rural Food Security Group (University of Dar es Salaam), UNI CEF and Research for Poverty Alleviation (REPOA).

A range of participatory methods was used to help Researchers express, assemble and reflect upon information gathered during the last two months (see photo at right). Each session culminated in an opportunity for Research Teams to assess what they needed to clarify, verify and/or further explore when they return to the field.



Four “principles” were chosen to help guide their next round of work. These are:

1. Always desegregate
2. Always ask, “Why, why, why”
3. Identify changes - and their causes - over time
4. Identify the effectiveness and costs of people’s response to impoverishing shocks & processes

3. Stakeholders’ Feedback Session

On 13th May, results from the Synthesis and Analysis Workshop were presented to stakeholders in a ½ day Feedback Session that drew nearly seventy invited guests from Government, Civil Society and other Development Partners.

Researchers gave brief, focused presentations highlighting the relationship between impoverishment and, amongst other things, HIV/AIDS, good governance, gender, age and the environment. Afterwards, guests were given time to ask questions and write on colour-coded cards the issues they felt needed clarification, verification or further exploration during the 2nd Round of Field Work. This approach allowed everyone’s opinions to be noted.

Minutes from the meeting can be accessed via the PPA website at:

<http://www.esrftz.org/documents.htm/feedback.pdf>

4. Current Activities

Research Teams departed Dar es Salaam on 20th May to begin the 2nd Round of Field Work. They are expected to finish and return in time for the Final Synthesis & Analysis Workshop by 5th July. More information about the various methods they are using to learn about “vulnerability” can be accessed via the PPA website at: <http://www.esrftz.org/methodology.htm>