

5th Update on the Tanzania PPA Process - 2/9/02

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

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2. Additions to the PPA Management Team
3. Advocacy Activities
4. Networking & Capacity Building
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1. The End of Field Research and Concluding Synthesis & Analysis Workshop

After nearly four and a half months working in rural and urban communities throughout mainland Tanzania, PPA Researchers returned to Dar es Salaam in July. Our sympathy went out to the Team that survived *two* serious car accidents on their way home. *Pole sana!* Fortunately, their injuries have since healed.

A Concluding Synthesis and Analysis Workshop, held at the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) Conference Hall on the 8th through 12th of July 2002, marked the end of field research. The Workshop was composed of Implementing Partners and external specialists from key Government institutions - including the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security, Ministry of Finance and National Environmental Management Council - and the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, U.K. The Workshop's overall objective was to identify key issues and messages to weave into the National PPA Report and Topical Briefing Papers. Specific Goals included drawing on fieldwork experiences to:

- Identify the most powerful and pervasive impoverishing forces (both at local and larger levels) in Tanzania
- Interpret the meaning of vulnerability in relation to impoverishing forces
- Explore when, how and why impoverishing forces affect various social groups differently
- Explore when, how and why people in different social groups react to impoverishing forces as they do
- Understand the complex consequences of diverse coping strategies
- Explore historical changes in the nature of impoverishing forces and how people have responded to them
- Recommend a framework for the National PPA Report
- Recommend priority subjects for Topical Briefing Papers
- Identify institutions and individuals outside the Implementing Consortium to involve in elements of the writing-up process

Following fieldwork, the next task of the TzPPA will be to generate clear, useful and compelling reports. This Workshop was designed to involve participants in

ordering, analyzing and interpreting field data as well as in developing and evaluating alternative organizational models for communicating research results.

As such, the Workshop aimed to ensure that Research Partners play a larger role in the production of final reports than merely providing field data to a core group of analyst/authors. This purpose reflects the PPA's commitment to:

- Sharing real decision-making power amongst Implementing Partners (and, in particular, Research Partners) so that information developed during fieldwork is accurately re-presented in PPA reports
- Engaging researchers in all aspects of the process so that they gain a *holistic* repertoire of participatory policy research and advocacy skills.



In order to tap the knowledge and creative potential of Workshop participants, discussions took place in plenary and small-groups using a variety of visual methods to facilitate and triangulate critical thinking.

A summary description of the Workshop is on the web at: http://www.esrftz.org/ppa/SA_Summary.pdf.

2. Additions to the PPA Management Team

In August, ESRF hired two temporary staff members to complement the PPA Management Team during the writing-up period. Ms. Emmy Metta was a Research Intern during fieldwork and will now work as a Research Assistant. She will be responsible for helping to identify and collect secondary information (such as relevant data from Government's recently completed Household Budget Survey) for PPA reports. This information will contribute to contextualising, enriching and triangulating data generated by the PPA.

Meanwhile, Mr. Loserian Ole Sangale will work with the Technical Advisor and Assistant Technical Advisor as an author/analyst. Mr. Ole Sangale was a Team Leader, concentrating on Livestock-keeping Livelihoods, during fieldwork. He has worked as senior, regional staff for Oxfam-GB and undertaken consultancy work for the World Bank, UK Department for International Development and Save the Children. We know that Mr. Ole Sangale will help us to write reliable, thought-provoking reports.

3. Advocacy Activities

3.1 VIP Visits to Field Sites

The Implementing Consortium for the 2002/3 TzPPA invited a small number of very important persons (including key policymakers, approvers, implementers and collaborators) on brief site visits in order to:

- Provide them with an opportunity to meet and speak with rural villagers about their experiences of “vulnerability”
- Better prepare them to receive, understand and act on research results

Visitors came from the President's Office-Planning and Privatisation (PO-PP), Vice President's Office -Poverty Eradication Division (VPO-PED), and DfID East Africa Mentoring Group. They participated in research activities as co-learners with PPA team and community members.

In a debriefing interview, Mr. Pascal Assey (VPO-PED) said the experience increased his expectations about the PPA's contribution to the upcoming PRSP Review Process. In particular, he felt that the TzPPA probably gathered more genuine views – and had a better opportunity to deepen them – than possible in the context of Zonal Consultative Workshops, such as those initially conducted to inform Tanzania's PRSP.

3.2 *Hali Duni*

TzPPA Research Teams used many techniques to gather, develop and verify information. Mr. Charles Kadonya, of the Economic and Social Research Foundation, and Ms. Annette Ngaiza, of ActionAid, designed one of the most innovative and interesting of these. They wanted to bring youth together to analyse the special difficulties faced in Dar es Salaam. This research is difficult because it demands a lot of time and hard work to think through complex issues, such as the real causes of drug abuse, domestic violence, the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS and other forces depressing urban communities. The question was how to interest young people in committing themselves to such a long process.

The answer was music. Eight boys rose to the challenge and spent a week in their communities observing, asking tough questions, discussing and developing their own conclusions. In other words, the boys themselves became the “researchers” responsible for writing and communicating a message from the streets to the offices of local and national policymakers.

Mr. Ahmed Dola (a.k.a. *Balazi*), who is a socially committed hip-hop star in Dar es Salaam, taught the boys how to transform this message into powerful rhythmic lyrics. The result is a hard-hitting song called *Hali Duni*.

In July, the song reached number two in the Dar es Salaam music charts, and the boys have subsequently been interviewed by three radio stations and will soon be featured on two television shows. The song also sparked several newspaper articles about the TzPPA and the special vulnerability of urban youth.

To listen to and learn more about *Hali Duni*, visit the PPA website or click on the following hyperlink: http://www.esrftz.org/ppa/hali_duni.htm. *Hali Duni* is also featured in a very special article at: <http://www.africanhiphop.com>.

3.3 Additional Advocacy & Awareness Raising Activities

At this time, advocacy activities continue to focus on building stakeholder understanding of the PPA's research agenda, the strength of its methodology and expected outputs. To this end, articles about the TzPPA have also been published in *Mapambano*, a bi-annual newsletter published by the Vice President's Office, and in the Tanzania Quarterly Economic Review.

4. Networking & Capacity Building

4.1 Conference on Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Development Research

In early July, the PPA Technical Advisor attended the *Conference on Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Development Research*, held at the University of Wales, Swansea (U.K.).

The goal of this important Conference was to draw out emerging best practices in combining different approaches to development research. The Technical Advisor presented a paper, entitled "Combining Methodologies to Improve Pro-poor Public Policies in Tanzania." This paper, and the presentation based upon it, is located on the web at: <http://www.esrftz.org/ppa/documents>.

The Conference proved to be an immensely valuable opportunity to speak with researchers from different fields and discuss nascent approaches to site sampling vis-à-vis programmes like the TzPPA. The outcome of these provocative discussions will:

- Feature prominently in the methodological section of the National PPA Report
- Provide a firm foundation for evolving technical elements of the 2004/5 TzPPA Cycle

More information about the Conference can be found on the web at: http://www.swan.ac.uk/cds/research/SDRC/conference_on_combining_qualitat.htm.

4.2 Programme Formulation Workshop on Mainstreaming the Environment in the PRSP

The PPA Assistant Technical Advisor, Dr. Rose Mwaipopo, and Mr. Ole Sangale, recently participated in the Programme Formulation Workshop on Mainstreaming the Environment in the PRSP. Convened by the Vice President's Office -Poverty Eradication Division, this intensive Workshop was designed to:

- Educate key policymakers on linkages between poverty and the environment
- Generate a logical framework for mainstreaming the environment in the PRSP and other Government processes

The joint presentation made by Mwaipopo and Ole Sangale was central to the Workshop, as it provided a mutual reference point to ground participants' subsequent discussion and planning activities. The PowerPoint presentation made by Rose Mwaipopo can be found, in un-narrated form, on the web at:

http://www.esrftz.org/ppa/documents/mainstreaming_environment.ppt

4.3 Colloquium on Popularizing Policy and Influencing Change Through Action Research, Advocacy and Creative Communication

This Colloquium was the most significant event to date, in Tanzania, on the capacity and aims of CSO engagement in public policy research. The PPA Technical Advisor and Assistant Technical Advisor attended the Colloquium and made two presentations:

1. Demystifying "Policy" - Experiences from the TzPPA
2. Participatory Action Research to Inform Public Policy

Contributing to this Colloquium represented an important opportunity for the TzPPA to help CSOs reflect on their role in public policy research and appreciate the importance of conducting *legitimate* and *credible* work.

A handout, explaining some of the key ideas behind Participatory Action Research, was distributed at the Colloquium and is now available on the web at:

<http://www.esrftz.org/ppa/documents/par.pdf>.

4.4 African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) Training in Participatory Research

In early August, Ms. Marya Plotkin (AMREF's PPA Research Partner), Ms. Emmy Metta and Ms. Atuswege Mwangomale (PPA Research Interns) teamed up to provide AMREF staff with a two-day training Workshop on Participatory Research Methods.

The Workshop exposed staff to the theory and practice of participatory research and challenged them to think of concrete ways to mainstream the approach in AMREF programmes.

This is an excellent example of how involvement in the TzPPA can positively affect the ideas and wide ranging activities of its Implementing Partners!

5. Current Activities

5.1 Site Reports

The thirty Site Reports written by PPA Research Teams whilst in the field have been released by ESRF. These Reports are not 'official' publications in the sense that they only represent first-stage thinking about research topics. Obviously, the ideas they put forward need to be refined and brought into relation with data from other sites, etc.

Even so, the Reports contain a tremendous wealth of information. This news seems to have spread, and ESRF has already received an unwieldy number of requests for single reports *and* the whole portfolio! Unfortunately, the combined size of the thirty Reports is too great to fit on our web site. Therefore, we will be placing ten "sample" Reports on the web and will send others as we receive special requests.

5.2 Topical Briefing Papers and the National Report

Work has already begun on selecting priority subjects for Topical Briefing Papers and writing the National PPA Report. In order to inform the PRSP Revision and PRE/MTEF processes, the National Report and a majority of Briefing Papers will be published by mid-March 2003.

Though ESRF will be responsible for delivering these outputs, the writing-up process will involve Research Partners and Specialists from outside the Implementing Consortium. Through participation in "Round-table Discussions," they will:

- Help puzzle through particularly difficult concepts, cause & effect relationships, etc.
- Advise on the current status of Government's pro-poor initiatives
- Ensure that draft reports/papers accurately reflect what people in research sites said about their conditions, capacities, etc.

5.3 Outreach Support and Awareness Raising

In addition to its other activities, the PPA Management Team continues to build stakeholder understanding of the TzPPA and provide strategic outreach support

to institutions promoting pro-poor policies. Thus, in the month of September, Management Team members will:

- Work with CARE-Tanzania (one of our Implementing Partners) to help it incorporate research findings into its Annual Programme Planning Meeting
- Help the Women's Dignity Project fine-tune its research agenda
- Contribute to the Ilala Municipal Council's planning process
- Present an overview of the TzPPA process to participants in Government's Poverty Policy Week
- Present an update on the TzPPA to members of the Tanzania International NGOs Forum

In Conclusion

Yes, we have been very busy with this long list of activities! Nonetheless, we have tried hard to make ourselves available to those of you who have stopped by to talk about poverty, vulnerability and public policies.

Our door remains open. Also, as some of you have already discovered, ESRF has a growing library of books available for reference on the theory and practice of participatory research, the involvement of poor people in policy debates, etc. Karibuni! Welcome.