

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY STOCKTAKING EXERCISE FOR AFRICA

POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY MONITORING IN TANZANIA

Methodology Type	Specify whether (i)PB, (ii)IBA, (iii)BPET, or (iv) PPM (can select more than one option as some SA initiatives do not fit neatly into these categories)	
Basic Information	Name of Intervention	<p><i>Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Monitoring</i></p> <p><i>PRS Monitoring Consortia; civic societies working in 7 districts with technical and fiscal supports from Action Aid Tanzania.</i></p> <p><i>These consortia exist to track the extent to which progress is being made amongst PRS priority sectors in terms of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Examine harmony between national level plans and budgets under PRS and local level plans and budgets</i> • <i>Implementation of local level annual plans (planned inputs, outputs and outcomes Vs actual).</i> • <i>Advocate for pro-poor policy, systems, plans and budgets and</i> • <i>Increased transparency and accountability on the side of the beneficiaries and government.</i>
	Location	<p><i>Urban: Kigoma, Unguja and Pemba</i></p> <p><i>Rural: Kibondo, Kigoma, Liwale and Tandahimba</i></p> <p><i>Country: Tanzania</i></p>
	Sector or Level of Focus	<p><i>Priority Sector:</i> <i>Education, HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Food Security. Gender is taken on board as a cross cutting issue and mainstreamed into sector issues.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The consortia can select at least three priority sectors of their interest out of the seven national priority sectors including: governance, rural roads, health and water depending on their resources.</i></p>
	Type of Engagement	<p><i>It is a continuous engagement, which began 2 and half years ago in Pemba and Unguja and about a year in the rest.</i></p>

Context and Scope	What is the driving force behind the SA initiative?	<p><i>This initiative owes its origin with global movement/campaign on debt relief to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) in 2001. This relief went into basic education under the Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP), as performance of this sector was increasingly experiencing a downward spiral due to limited resources and poor governance, political commitment, transparency and accountability.</i></p> <p><i>This implies that PEDP was given the first priority amongst the seven PRS priority sectors in Tanzania. It also became mandatory for civic society participation in the monitoring of PEDP implementation-inputs, outputs and outcome. The first one was done by TEN/MET on the In-service Teachers Training and School Management Committees in 2002/03. The output of which was shared with the government for further affirmative actions.</i></p> <p><i>Since then civic society has been steadily participating in programme cycle at the same time re-enforcing commitment, accountability and transparency on the side of government as main public service provider, policy maker and planner.</i></p>
	What are the main objectives and what key accountability problems does it seek to address?	<p><i>To increase active civic society participation in the programme cycle including monitoring and evaluation in the PRS for them to exercise their responsibility at the same time,</i></p> <p><i>Enhance government's commitment, accountability and transparency in the planning and delivery key public services.</i></p>
	Who is the target audience or demographic focus?	<i>The local and central governments, as the main public service providers and Civic society, communities in the named seven areas. However, this intervention will finally and in future have multiplier effects nationally.</i>
	What is the political culture or environment?	<i>It's a democratic, unified and multi-party society with increased devolution of power at the same time central and local governments are becoming more proactive and responsive to civic society initiatives including PRS monitoring.</i>
Tools and Methodologies	What specific SA tools and methodologies are being used?	<i>Community Score Cards (PIMA Cards in Kiswahili)</i>

<p>Used</p>	<p>Briefly describe the methodology (/ies) or tools used.</p>	<p><i>A good number of representatives from various CSOs with different sector and faith organizations have formed consortia and acquired basic and relevant skills for tracking achievements made under specific priority sectors, namely health, HIV/AIDs, education, agriculture, rural roads, water and good governance.</i></p> <p><i>These consortia received training that featured on PRS covering the concept of poverty, priority sector and corresponding intervention activities, basic applied budget skills, central and local government budget cycles, features of pro-poor budgets and how to progressively engage with the government in budget monitoring process,</i></p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p><i>Exposed them Community Based Budget Monitoring/Research Tools called Community Score Cards Translated into Kiswahili, these cards are called PIMA Cards, which means measure or to measure. It measures both the inputs and outputs as per as indicated in PRS Document and the extent to which Local Government Plans and Budgets translate these PRS inputs and outputs in addressing poverty.</i></p> <p><i>Senior officials from Local Government Departments have had opportunity to also attend these training sessions in order for them to heighten their understanding on PRS and aims, roles and responsibility CSOs and LGA with regards to PRS Monitoring.</i></p> <p><i>These consortium members, in a group of six, do go to sample areas and expose the communities to PRS and let the communities identify their priority areas for research and form their Monitoring Committees. These Community Monitoring Committees (CMCs) learn how to fill in the PIMA Cards and finally submit them to the Budget Tracking Consortia for analysis and report writing. However, the PIMA Cards are pre-tested to check their reliability and validity.</i></p> <p><i>The Local Government Department Officials do fill in special PIMA Cards for Self Assessment. In deed these cards provide district level performance report in relation to community level assessment. Finally, being the main service provider, the District Authorities interface with Budget Tracking Consortia to discuss and deliberate on the way forward.</i></p>
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	What advocacy and media activities support the initiative?	<i>Consultative meeting with stakeholders including local governments and sector ministries and later on media involvement and lobby by other like-minded activist local and international NGOs</i>
	How inclusive was the intervention?	<i>By its very nature PIMA is popular monitoring/tracking tool by the public service beneficiaries; civic society. So the intervention is by and large quiet inclusive, transparent and participatory.</i>
	Participation	<i>As pointed in the preceding sections, monitoring of PRS with the PIMA card is participatory. It starts with the capacity building on various programme, budget, applied research, analysis, report writing, lobby and advocacy related activities. It aims at empowering civic society to exercise its responsibilities and claim accountability, transparency from the government in the delivery of pro-poor programmes.</i>
	Other Important Information or Comments	<i>Local and sector ministry officials ought to be enlightened more regarding roles, responsibilities and the legitimacy of civic society on PRS Monitoring. This removes barriers and gives room to the CSOs to exercise their responsibilities at the same claiming for their rights from service providers.</i>
Results and Impact	What (if any) has been the impact of the initiative? What have been the incentives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The findings shared with local government authorities at the dissemination meetings have been instrumental in influencing plans and budgets</i> • <i>The planning process is increasingly becoming more inclusive, responsive, result oriented and people-centered</i> • <i>Inputs from the consortia during the PRS review were incorporated, albeit not all, into the review process, which is coordinated by the Vice President's Office. This is likely to influence plans, budget and policy in the revised PRS (2004)</i>
	Is the methodology or initiative institutionalized? Are there any institutional linkages and partnerships been established with the government, parliaments, media, NGOs, communities etc.? Describe.	<p><i>The methodology has not been institutionalized. However, as noted earlier inputs from the consortia are mainstreamed into the centralized Participatory Poverty Assessment System.</i></p> <p><i>There have been growing institutional linkages and partnerships with NGO and communities growing. Possibilities of engaging with individual parliamentarians and media are underway.</i></p>

	(If applicable) Has the initiative been scaled up? Repeated?	<p><i>Action Aid Tanzania plans to extend support to three new operational areas.</i></p> <p><i>It is also plans to explore possibilities of partnering with another like minded organization at the national level to increase synergy with local level PRS work</i></p>
	What were the main outcomes of the SA initiative	<p><i>Increased grassroots participation in monitoring and evaluation of their development under PRS along with claiming government commitment, transparency and accountability in the delivery of public services.</i></p> <p><i>Enhanced local and central government plans, budgets, policies and systems to ensure they are as inclusive and pro-poor as possible.</i></p>
	Bottlenecks/Problems What difficulties did the agency or NGO face, and how did they resolve them. (COMMENT: This section will yield rich insights on innovations that can be shared.)	<p>It is sometimes construed as an operational audit-subjecting the governments to tension and</p> <p>Politics, especially when the majority of the members are from opposition parties.</p> <p>At times it is difficult to access requisite documents such as district comprehensive plans and budgets.</p> <p>These bottlenecks were solved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive engagement of district officials right from the inception of the project • Mindful and cognizant of inclusive representation from the civic society; to avoid political overtones.
Further References	Web sources	www.actionaid.org/Tanzania
	Documents and Reports	
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