

Terms of Reference for:

Stakeholders' Site-Selection 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 faced by poor people. Instead, it is the result of poor people – the “everyday experts on poverty” – reflecting on, theorising about, debating and explaining the world in which they live. Second, Participatory Policy Research contributes to social democratisation by engaging poor people 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.

Four Working Groups – each composed of representatives from Government, Civil Society and Tanzania’s other Development Partners – manage the Poverty Monitoring System. One of these, the Research and Analysis Working Group (R&AWG), is responsible for overseeing implementation of PPAs.

The 1st PPA Cycle began in January 2002 and will run through December 2003. A Consortium composed of the following fourteen institutions is implementing the PPA:

1. The President’s Office, Planning and Privatisation (PO-PP)
2. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
3. Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC)
4. The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)
5. Concern for Development Initiatives in Africa (forDIA)
6. The Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Dar es Salaam

7. Maarifa ni Ufunguo
8. Women's Research and Documentation Project (WRDP)
9. ActionAid, Tanzania
10. Agency for Cooperation in Development (ACORD)
11. African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF)
12. CARE International, Tanzania
13. Concern Worldwide, Tanzania
14. Save the Children, UK

ESRF is the Lead Implementing Partner. As such, it is responsible for co-ordinating and facilitating the Consortium's activities

2. Site-Area Selection

The Research Agenda for the 2002/3 PPA is being developed through an inclusive process engaging Government policymakers, Civil Society and other development partners. The Stakeholders' Workshop on the Research Agenda, which will be held 4th February, is one critical step in this process.

The priority issues and questions identified in this Workshop will be explored in up to thirty research sites spread throughout the country. These sites will seek to capture the diversity of circumstances and experience in Tanzania, rather than focus exclusively on the very worst conditions in the poorest communities. Thus, we will learn about poor people's/communities' vulnerability to destitution and the vulnerability of better off people/communities to *becoming* poor.

Site Selection, like the Research Agenda, will be determined through a Stakeholders' Workshop. In this case, participants will use a series of progressive exercises to identify "site areas" where communities indicative of diverse variables (e.g. livelihoods and social, cultural and/or ecological circumstances) are found. The PPA's Implementing Consortium will then work with Local Authorities in each of these areas to select specific communities exemplifying the total "package" of sought after characteristics (e.g. a pastoralist community with good access to water and little land pressure but remote from markets and social services).

The event will be prefaced by a brief presentation on *Approaches to Site Selection*.

4. Venue

The presentation and the *Stakeholders' Site-Selection Workshop* will be held in the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) Conference Hall on Tuesday, 5th February. The event will last from 9:00 a.m. until roughly 5:00 p.m. and be attended by members of the PPA Implementing Consortium, key policymakers and appropriate specialists on the geographic spread of vulnerability and poverty in Tanzania.