

Terms of Reference for:

The 2002/3 PPA “Concluding Synthesis and Analysis Workshop”

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. 1st Synthesis and 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.

Therefore, the PPA Research Teams paused halfway through their fieldwork itineraries to regroup in Dar es Salaam for a Mid-term Workshop. The specific goals of the Workshop included:

- Synthesising preliminary results
- Identifying emergent patterns
- Assessing the degree to which specific research results needed to be clarified, verified or pursued further
- Developing a summary of 1st round results to share with stakeholders in a ½ day “Feedback Session”

Following this Workshop, Teams dispersed to their 2nd round of fifteen research sites.

3. Concluding Synthesis & Analysis Workshop

By 5th July, the PPA Research Teams will have returned to Dar es Salaam. The following Monday, they will assemble for a “Concluding Synthesis & Analysis Workshop.” The Workshop’s overarching objective is to identify key issues and messages to weave into the 2002/3 National Report and Policy Briefing Papers.

3.1 Specific Goals

Specific Goals of the Concluding Synthesis & Analysis Workshop include drawing on fieldwork experiences to agree on an appropriate agenda and, tentatively, 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 these and other impoverishing forces
- Explore when, how and why impoverishing forces affect diverse 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 various coping strategies
- Explore the relationship between specific policies, impoverishment and coping strategies
- Explore historic changes in the nature of impoverishing forces and how people have responded to them
- Recommend a framework for the 2002/3 National Report
- Recommend priority subjects for Policy Briefing Papers
- Identify the special interests of Research Partners and their Institutions to guide priority consultation during the process of writing-up the National Report and Policy Briefing Papers
- Identify institutions and individuals outside the Implementing Consortium to involve in elements of the writing-up process

3.2 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 observers and external specialists will also be invited by the PPA Management Team to attend – and, in some cases, help facilitate – the Workshop.

3.3 Venue

The Concluding Synthesis & Analysis Workshop will be conducted daily, 9:00 a.m. sharp through 5:00 p.m. from the 8th to 12th of July in the ESRF Conference Hall.