

Update on the Tanzania PPA Process - 23/2/02

On the 17th and 18th of January, the Implementing Consortium (IC) worked with external specialists to design a framework for the 2002/3 PPA. Detailed conclusions were circulated to the IC and other stakeholders in an eleven page document entitled, *Minutes from the 17th/18th January Design Group Workshop*.¹

Key decisions included to:

- Organise a week of presentations and discussions about key poverty-oriented policies
- Convene two "Stakeholders' Workshops" to develop a Research Agenda and select up to thirty sites for the PPA
- Conduct a two-week long Training Programme in Participatory Policy Research
- Dedicate a week to pulling together the ideas/skills gained since 28th January and making practical plans for fieldwork
- Begin fieldwork on 4th March
- Spend ten days in each site
- Conduct ½ day "Feedback Workshops" (allowing further verification of research results, etc.) at site and district levels
- Subsequently write and present "Preliminary Results" to both site and district stakeholders
- Hold a two week-long Break halfway through the fieldwork period in order to (1.) synthesise and analyse early results, (2.) address any methodological challenges that may have arisen, (3.) adjust, as necessary, research plans for the second fieldwork period and (4.) provide Research Partners with an opportunity to feedback information and experiences to their Home Institutions
- Hold a second week-long Synthesis and Analysis Workshop at the end of fieldwork (Note: both this and the first Synthesis and Analysis Workshop will end with a presentation to the Implementing Consortium)

The Policy Seminars were held at the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) from 29th through 31st January and were attended by Research Partners, Research Interns, Team Leaders and other staff from our Implementing Partners.

¹ All documents cited in this Update can be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.esrftz.org/ppa>

On Monday, 4th February, the Implementing Consortium convened a full-day workshop with multiple stakeholders to develop a Research Agenda reflecting policymakers' real information needs. Following further consultation with specialists, the IC was able to refine this draft Research Agenda into a workable framework approved by the Research & Analysis Working Group on 15/2/02. The final Research Agenda – to be used by PPA Research Teams as a starting and continual reference point – reflects policymakers' interest in learning about:

1. The concept of “vulnerability” and who is vulnerable
2. The forces that make people vulnerable and lead to (further) impoverishment
3. “Coping mechanisms” at individual, household and community levels

The Stakeholders' Workshop on Site Selection was held Tuesday, 5th February at ESRF. This inclusive event culminated in the recommendation of four research site-areas for Urban-based Livelihoods, four research site-areas for Fishing-based Livelihoods and six site-areas for Livestock-keeping and Hunter/Gatherer Livelihoods. Additional consultation with experts in these livelihoods mostly reaffirmed decisions made on the 5th. However, some slight changes were made to better reflect the principles of site selection agreed upon by stakeholders.

Participants in the Workshop also developed an analytical framework for selecting Agriculture-based site-areas. Nonetheless, it was agreed that a small team of highly knowledgeable specialists should be convened by ESRF to refine this framework and cooperate in choosing appropriate research sites. (This meeting will be held on Thursday, 28th February.)

The Training Programme in Participatory Policy Research was conducted by IDS-Dar es Salaam and Development Research and Training (a Ugandan NGO) in Bagomoyo from 5th through 16th February. Extensive notes from this period – including a *Training Manual* and four *Fieldwork Reports* – have been circulated to our Research Partners. A detailed *Field Guide*, currently being written by the trainers, will supplement these documents.

During the Planning Week, researchers were challenged to draw on the information, skills and experiences gained during the preceding three weeks to determine proper procedures and processes for fieldwork. Their decisions are set forth in the *Fieldwork Manual* (to be distributed by email on 27/2/02).

Other News:

In mid-January, ESRF hired four Team Leaders and five Research Interns to work with our Research Partners. The Team Leaders are:

1. Dr. Rose Mwaipopo (also the PPA's Assistant Technical Advisor)
2. Mr. Charles Kadonya
3. Mr. Patrick Simon Ngowi
4. Mr. Loserian Sangale
5. Ms. Fortunata Temu

The Research Interns are:

1. Ms. Emmy Metta
2. Ms. Pauline Mroso
3. Ms. Atuswegele Mwangomale
4. Mr. Samuel Onesma
5. Ms. Flora Protas

Contracts have already been signed with our new Team Leaders and Research Interns. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are currently being agreed upon between ESRF and the Implementing Partners.

Mr. Luther Mpanda, formerly a PPA Research Partner from the President's Office-Planning and Privatisation, was transferred in late January to the Macro Section of the Policy Analysis Division, Ministry of Finance (Note: this is the section within the MoF responsible for drafting and revising Government's PRSP). The Ministry of Finance has agreed to keep Mr. Mpanda on the PPA and we, therefore, have a new Implementing Partner: the Ministry of Finance.

Meanwhile, ACORD announced that - for wholly internal reasons - it is withdrawing from the Implementing Consortium. ACORD hopes, however, to continue collaborating with the IC and contributing to the PPA in other ways. Though we will miss ACORD, their seat has been ably filled by the Pastoralists and Indigenous NGOs Forum (PI NGOs Forum).

As a result of these significant changes, the Implementing Consortium is now composed of the following fifteen institutions:

1. The President's Office, Planning and Privatisation (PO-PP)
2. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
3. The Ministry of Finance (MoF)
4. Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC)
5. The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)

6. Concern for Development Initiatives in Africa (forDIA)
7. The Institute of Development Studies, University of Dar es Salaam
8. Maarifa ni Ufunguo
9. The Pastoralists and Indigenous NGOs Forum (PINGOs Forum)
10. The Women's Research and Documentation Project (WRDP)
11. ActionAid, Tanzania
12. African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF)
13. CARE International, Tanzania
14. Concern Worldwide, Tanzania
15. Save the Children, UK

As per its agreement with the PPA Steering Committee, ESRF will submit a Quarterly Report to the R&AWG in early April. This Report (and those that follow) will be shared with all members of the Implementing Consortium.

Shorter Monthly Updates, like this one, will also be sent to IC members and other stakeholders on a regular basis.²

The next full meeting of the Implementing Consortium is scheduled for Monday, 13th May. This full-day Workshop will follow a week of "Synthesis and Further Analysis" by the PPA Research Teams of data from their first fifteen sites. The Workshop will include space for sharing and discussing emerging ideas about vulnerability, as well as addressing operational issues.

A similar meeting, tentatively scheduled for Monday, 15th July, will mark the end of fieldwork and the beginning of writing-up and regular advocacy work.

² To request being put on this mailing list, please write: ppa@esrf.or.tz