

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



**STATUS OF POVERTY REDUCTION  
STRATEGY PAPER (PRSP)**

*Prepared for the  
Consultative Group Meeting for Tanzania*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In recent years the Government of Tanzania has been placing more emphasis on measures to address poverty more directly following severe decline in social indicators. In 1997, the Government developed the National Poverty Eradication Strategy (NPES) through a participatory process. The strategy set out long-term poverty reduction goals consistent with the International Development Goals. Since then we have focused on translation of these goals into short and medium – term policies. In 1999 the Government developed the “Poverty and Welfare Monitoring Indicators”, a document intended to provide the basis for monitoring the implementation and evaluation of the impact of poverty eradication programmes.

In line with the National Poverty Eradication Strategy, the Government has identified priority areas for public expenditure in the context of the Medium – Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), whose implementation is monitored under the annual public expenditure review (PER) process, involving a wide range of stakeholders. This process has guided the budget framework for the past three years.

## ***Preparation of PRSP***

In September 1999 the Executive Boards of the IMF and the World Bank determined that Tanzania was eligible for debt relief under the enhanced HIPC initiative and that a Decision Point would be reached early in year 2000, subject to a number of conditions being met. One of the conditions was a preparation of an Interim PRSP.

- In October 1999 the Government began working on the preparation of Interim PRSP.
- A high-level cabinet committee was established in October 1999 to guide the preparation process, and a technical committee was set up to prepare the document through consultations with stakeholders using the structures set up in the context of TAS.
- Interim PRSP was prepared and submitted to World Bank and IMF in February 2000.
- The Interim PRSP briefly explains the content and process of preparing the PRSP.
- It also sets out short – term poverty reduction targets for the completion point.

- Conducting a Household Budget Survey
- Conducting a pilot Labour Force Survey
- Undertaking school mapping
- Campaign to raise awareness against HIV/AIDS
- Development of Poverty Indicators and a Poverty Data Bank.
- Preparation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

1.5 Progress on implementation of each of these targets is given below.

(i) ***Household Budget Survey (HBS)***

- This is a nation-wide exercise designed to generate baseline data on poverty. It is the largest ever undertaken in Tanzania. The HBS is expected to generate both regional and national estimates on incomes and several other poverty variables.

- Training of enumerators was completed at the end of April 2000.
- User workshops, protesting and listing was completed in March.
- Data collection started on May 1 and is expected to end on April 30, 2001.
- Data will be collected on a monthly basis, and results will be used to develop poverty indicators as they come in.
- The project is funded by seven donors including UNDP and World Bank.
- The survey is being undertaken by the NBS.

(ii) ***Pilot Labour Force Survey:***

- The Labour Force Survey goes hand in hand with a survey on child labour and youth.
- Preparation for the survey began in December 1999.

- Training of enumerators ended on May 6, 2000.
- Data collection started on 15 May 2000 covering all 20 regions of mainland Tanzania.
- Data will be collected on quarterly basis
- Data collection is planned to end in April 2001
- Funding is provided by DANIDA and ILO
- Project to define poverty baseline using existing survey data is under implementation. Poverty line has been defined in terms of minimum expenditure needed to provide an adult with basic nutritionally adequate diet.

**(iii) School Mapping:**

- School mapping already done in 29 districts
- The exercise is continuing
- The target of mapping at least 50 districts will be met.

(iv) ***Campaign to Raise Awareness on HIV/AIDS:***

- This is a continuous process done through the National AIDS Control Programme
- Government has also decided to set aside a budget to support HIV/AIDS activities in each Ministry and Government Department for the purpose of creating awareness among employees and identifying other necessary actions that might contain the spread of AIDS.
- District multi-sectoral plans for combating HIV/AIDS have been prepared.
- Government has also made a decision that requires all political leaders to campaign against AIDS whenever they address public rallies.
- More action on addressing the AIDS epidemic will be elaborated in the PRSP.

**Immunization of Children under 2 years**

Immunization of under 2 children is in progress. The aim is to raise the coverage from the current 71 percent to 75 percent.

- A Draft prospectus of the PRSP has been prepared by the technical committee. It has already been shared by some stakeholders. It will be refined when views from grassroots stakeholders have been analysed.
  
- Zonal workshops to solicit views from grassroots stakeholders were conducted on May 11 – 12, 2000 in seven zones covering the whole of mainland Tanzania. The zones include:
  - (i) **Lake Zone** for Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions;
  
  - (ii) **Western Zone** for Shinyanga, Kigoma and Tabora regions;
  
  - (iii) **Northern Zone** for Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions;
  
  - (iv) **Central Zone** for Dodoma and Singida regions;
  
  - (v) **Southern Highlands Zone** for Mbeya, Ruvuma, Rukwa and Iringa regions;
  
  - (vi) **Southern Zone** for Mtwara and Lindi regions; and

(vii) **Eastern Zone** for Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Coast regions.

Over 60 percent of participants in these workshops were villagers. Other participants included council chairpersons, district executive directors (DEDs), municipal and town council directors, NGO representatives, pressmen and observers from several development partners including UNDP, World Bank, Netherlands and from Tanzania Gender Networking.

- Views from these workshops are still being analysed to get an overall picture of the priorities, constraints and opportunities aired by stakeholders for each zone. Analysis of these views are expected to be completed this week.
- The views are also being translated into English to enable us share them with other stakeholders in subsequent stages of the PRSP process.
- A first draft of the PRSP that reflects the views of grassroots stakeholders is expected to be in place by first week of June, 2000.

- This will be presented and discussed at a national technical workshop planned for mid-June 2000, to be followed by a policy level workshop at the end of June or early July 2000.
- The resulting draft will be presented to cabinet at the end of July before official submission to the Boards of the IMF and World Bank.

### **Preliminary Assessment of the Zonal workshops**

In our view, the Zonal Workshops were very successful, largely because they were organized in a manner that allowed people complete freedom to air their views.

- The Grassroot participants were more active and expressed appreciation for being asked to speak freely about their perceptions regarding poverty.
- Women participants were particularly active.
- Views that came from the participants included, in nutshell the following.
- Weak leadership at local level.

- Poor education – including adult education.
- Misuse of resources.
- Poor health – particularly malaria, TB, and HIV/Aids.
- Customary laws which overwork women, while many men spend most of their time loitering, idling and boozing.
- Yet, women have no right to output of their sweat, including heritage.
- Polygamy was also responsible for poverty and spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Poor infrastructure.
- Poor policy on agriculture.
- Poor nutrition.
- Dependence on aid.
- Lack of markets for agricultural produce.

- Too many taxes.
- Lack of credit.
- Water shortage for livestock and human use.
- Food insecurity, due partly to misuse, and family planning.
- Lack of transparency on the use of cost sharing contributions.  
Parents do not understand why they have to pay.
- Teachers salaries too low.
- Girls to be given more opportunity in education.
- Jobs- particularly in construction and maintenance of roads and other projects.
- Division of labour between men and women is unfair.
- Corruption
- and many more.

The PRSP process has experienced some delay due to funding problems resulting from the fact that this process was not provided for in the 1999/2000 National Budget.

In order to ensure that we remain on schedule, we wish to appeal to all partners to provide funding for the process ahead. We would also like to encourage you to participate in the process through contribution of ideas regarding the content of the PRSP, and its integration with TAS.

***May, 2000***