

# INFLUENCING TANZANIA'S POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY - PRSP, PRS AND THE PMMP

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As part of the NGO Policy Group Consultancy  
[www.hakikazi.org](http://www.hakikazi.org)

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) was a one-time document and although it is a 'living document', which is modified on an ongoing basis, it is now more common to talk simply of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).

The PRSP was produced originally as one of the conditions for achieving Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) debt relief. Having been produced very quickly the level of consultation and participation was not all that it might have been but there is a genuine intention to involve more stakeholders in its revisions and ongoing development.

The PRS is bigger than the PRSP. Its origins can be traced to at least the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the National Poverty Eradication Strategy (NPES), and it was heavily influenced by the Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS). All policy influencers should make themselves familiar with the contents of these three, core documents.

Part of the poverty reduction strategy is to establish a Poverty Monitoring System (PMS). This has now been developed and its details are well described in the Poverty Monitoring Master Plan (PMMP)<sup>1</sup>.

Part of the poverty monitoring strategy is to make information about policy and progress widely available in user-friendly forms. Two of the consultants on this study have been closely involved with this process and, rather than repeat what has been written and published elsewhere we have listed the documents which potential policy influencers should 'digest' before preparing their policy briefs.

## ***Channels of influence***

Those who have evidence and/or ideas with which to influence poverty reduction policy have a variety of direct and indirect channels which they can use:

### **Direct Influencing**

- provide inputs to the four PMMP Technical Working Groups (TWG) – make a case for becoming a member of the various groups - 'Surveys and Censuses', 'Routine Data Systems', 'Research and Analysis', and 'Dissemination, Sensitisation and Advocacy'.
- send materials direct to the Poverty Monitoring Secretariat at the Poverty Eradication Division of the Vice President's Office (raw data is an option but it is better to analyse it in advance (eg see Hakikazi Catalyst's 'Bouncing Back' [www.hakikazi.org/bouncing](http://www.hakikazi.org/bouncing) )
- lobby the relevant officials and elected representatives at the higher levels in the system eg the PRS Technical Committee and the Poverty Monitoring Steering Committee when dealing with particular issues and the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee (made up of Permanent Secretaries) and the Committee of Ministers when dealing with 'big picture' issues
- make evidence-based and well analysed presentations at public meetings and consultations whenever there is an opportunity. It would be useful for CSOs to form a strategy in advance of any such meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> the organogram is reproduced on page three of this document

## Indirect Influencing

- become involved with poverty monitoring at various levels in society and make the results of your data collection and analysis available to other advocacy and lobbying groups
- encourage and support independent research on poverty issues wherever and whenever the opportunity presents itself
- help to 'popularise' the information which exists about policies and programmes and encourage 'critical' analysis of the 'facts' whenever this seems appropriate
- make use of a wide range of channels and methods to promote popular discussion and analysis of issues ie booklets, posters, newspapers, radio, TV, popular theatre etc (eg see Hakikazi Catalyst's 'Dialogue for Change' about the 4D model - at [www.hakikazi.org/papers01](http://www.hakikazi.org/papers01) )
- form networks and coalitions and position yourself under umbrellas so that your small voice becomes louder and better coordinated within civil society as a whole
- stimulate a social movement and lose control<sup>2</sup>

## Reading list:

Original	User friendly version
The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 <a href="http://www.tzonline.org/pdf/thetanzaniadevelopmentvision.pdf">www.tzonline.org/pdf/thetanzaniadevelopmentvision.pdf</a>	
National Poverty Eradication Strategy (NPES) <a href="http://www.tanzania.go.tz/poverty.html">www.tanzania.go.tz/poverty.html</a>	
The Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS) <a href="http://www.tzdar.or.tz/Harmonisation/TAS.doc">www.tzdar.or.tz/Harmonisation/TAS.doc</a>	
The URT Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) <a href="http://www.tzonline.org/pdf/FinalPRSP25.pdf">www.tzonline.org/pdf/FinalPRSP25.pdf</a>	Tanzania without Poverty <a href="http://www.hakikazi.org/eng">www.hakikazi.org/eng</a>
The URT Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report 2000/01 <a href="http://www.tzonline.org/pdf/prspprogress01.pdf">www.tzonline.org/pdf/prspprogress01.pdf</a>	First Progress Report on Tanzania without Poverty <a href="http://www.hakikazi.org/eng2">www.hakikazi.org/eng2</a>
The Poverty Monitoring Master Plan <a href="http://www.tzonline.org/pdf/povertymonitoringmasterplan.pdf">www.tzonline.org/pdf/povertymonitoringmasterplan.pdf</a>	Measuring Poverty Reduction – understanding Tanzania's Poverty Monitoring System (soon to be online)

NOTE: - most of the above are available in Kiswahili.  
Copies of all documents are available from:

Poverty Monitoring Secretariat  
Poverty Eradication Division  
Vice President's Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Maktaba Complex  
PO Box 5380  
Dar es Salaam  
Tel: 022 2151688

<sup>2</sup> ref Prof Mbilinyi's presentation in 'Dialogue for Change' [www.hakikazi.org/papers01](http://www.hakikazi.org/papers01)

### Organisational Structure of the National Poverty Monitoring System

