

# **1. Overview of Findings**

## **1.1 Purpose of Participatory Action Research**

The intention of holding public meetings and gathering information with PIMA Cards in grassroots communities in Arusha Municipal and Arumeru District, was to get answers to the following two questions -

- What can communities learn by looking at PRSP targets and indicators versus resources (budgets), allocated and disbursed?
- What are the perceptions of communities on priority sectors of the PRSP?

## **1.2 Perception of Budgets (Resources Allocated)**

The monitoring communities are not being provided with information on funds allocation or expenditure for poverty reduction activities. They also are not participating in development processes – from design to implementation to monitoring.

Communities have found out with Participatory Action Research that resources allocated are not adequate to meet the demand of services required. One reason for this is there is limited participation when budgets are prepared at the lowest local government level. Normally budgets are supposed to go through a village council that involves all adults of 18 years and above before submission to the ward level.

What actually happens is that only a few people (and in most cases these are those with pre-determined priorities) prepare these budgets. Then at the district level, Local Government has a limited opportunity to influence budget ceilings that are determined by national level. As a result, budgets are not reflecting reality in the grassroots communities.

## **1.3 Perception of Equity**

The analysis of information collected from community public meetings and PIMA Cards has shown that resources for poverty eradication are not always allocated fairly. Some locations such as those in rural Arumeru appear to be receiving an equitable allocation. Others, especially the squatter areas of Unga Limited, are not getting enough resources.

As an example, there is an imbalance in terms of outputs of adequate classrooms between a school located in a squatter area and another school in a developed area. In a squatter area such as Unga Limited, there are classes of up to 100 pupils per class and a shortage of more than 20 teachers per school.

A further observation is that some of the most vulnerable members of the public, such as single and widowed women, orphans, youths and those living with HIV/AIDS, have difficulty accessing basic services such as education and water.

## **1.4 Progress on PRS**

In all the grassroots communities, community members have confirmed that the government is making a difference in priority sectors. People see new classrooms as evidence of government commitment to poverty eradication.

“Tumetoka mbali” meaning “We have come a long way” is a quotation of a woman in Terrat village that indicates progress compared to the situation three years ago.

## **1.5 Efficiency of PRS Funding**

The findings show a lack of transparency in terms of comparing what resources have been allocated versus actual expenditure. Data obtained is not disaggregated as amounts are in totals of personal emoluments and other charges without showing what goes with these totals.

Actuals on expenditure have been difficult to obtain and are no breakdowns of expenditure for individual items.

## **1.6 Perceptions of Implementing PRS Priority Sectors**

### **1.6.1 Primary School Education**

The Local Governments have allocated expenditure to many poverty reduction strategies such as training of teachers, construction of new classrooms, distributing textbooks and recruiting extra teachers. The abolition of the primary school education fees has had a positive effect on Standard 1 enrolment rates. However, it will be difficult for the government to construct and rehabilitate enough classrooms and to supply teachers and other resources to cater for these children as they move through the Standards.

The allocations to the poor communities, particularly the squatter area of Unga Limited, are inadequate and more provision needs to be made to fund activities to improve the quality of education. Sensitisation of rural communities about the benefits of education may improve enrolment rates of older rural children. Food insecurity is affecting attendance at school by children from some poor families and providing lunch at school may increase attendance.

Providing classrooms, teachers and resources is essential to improve education. However, the quality of construction and teachers are also issues. Local Governments and communities need to collaborate on designing and implementing quality control systems.

### **1.6.2 Health**

The Local Governments are giving emphasis to a number of health PRS activities. However, Arusha Municipal has no building programme for the district which means there will be no progress on the critical PRS activity of providing quality health care within reachable distance of all people. The PRS activities of malaria control, improved reproductive health and family planning are getting little attention.

HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitization programmes are not having the desired impact in the grassroots communities. Education on HIV/AIDS is therefore top priority for budget allocation. Malaria and typhoid are rampant due to poor sanitation and lack of money and staff for preventative drugs and equipment.

The government has adopted the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related diseases by setting a target of allocating 15% of its annual budget to improve health. More transparency and accountability is needed in order to get disaggregated information about this commitment.

### **1.6.3 Agriculture**

Agriculture is the mainstay of the rural areas that participated in this participatory monitoring. The quality and quantity of the crops produced by the grassroots communities is highly affected by shortage of rainfall, poor roads, farmers' inability to buy inputs, lack of extension services, lack of credit and the absence of effective marketing infrastructures.

There is minimal budget allocation for development. Urgent allocation is required for top priority activities such as development of credit schemes, provision of inputs, provision of skilled extension experts, and development of markets. There are concerns about the lack of subsidies for inputs and volatility of prices for agricultural outputs.

Research on drought resistant crops that will thrive in Northern Tanzania and sensitisation amongst rural communities about those crops are essential for improvement in food security.

#### **1.6.4 Roads**

Passable rural roads are fundamental for communication and transportation in grassroots communities. However, the quality and quantity of rural roads, bridges and culverts is extremely poor. Although the Arusha Municipal and Arumeru District Councils have funds for construction and rehabilitation, little has been done at the grassroots communities level.

Of serious concern is that for some of the construction and rehabilitation that has been done, the standard of work is poor. The communities call for grassroots participation at all levels of road activities from design to construction.

#### **1.6.5 Water**

Lack of access to safe water in rural grassroots communities is a major factor in the perpetuation of poverty. These communities have limited access to safe water. The distances and time involved in collecting water are immense and leave little time for participation in development activities.

With unsafe water having a major effect on health, life expectancy and well-being, strong representation needs to be made to obtain funds for providing safe water sources.

#### **1.6.6 Other PRS Sectors**

Transparency and accountability of government officials and community leaders is lacking at all levels. Corruption is a cost to grassroots communities and is hindering poverty reduction. Taxes and fees, and their collection, are not fair and equitable.

Development in monitoring communities is adversely affected by gender issues. Women are not involved in decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods and work long hours which leave them with little chance to participate in development activities. Female genital mutilation continues in rural monitoring communities.

Vulnerable groups such as the elderly are not being supported by communities or the government. Youth unemployment is resulting in social problems in squatter areas and there is a lack of self-development, vocational and technical training for youths.

In squatter areas, good work practices are not being followed by employers. The environment is unclean and the lack of security is resulting in an increase in crime.

### **1.7 Realised Benefits**

#### **1.7.1 Empowerment**

With Participatory Action Learning, Hakikazi Catalyst has facilitated the empowerment of local grassroots communities to monitor poverty eradication initiatives and demand accountability.

The democratic development process that enhances the chances of communities to raise their voices and choices on matters affecting their lives has been broadened.

### **1.7.2 Capacity Building**

Community leaders, Local Government officials, representatives from CSOs and members of grassroots communities have had capacity building in monitoring and evaluating PRS budgets, targets, indicators and activities.

With this knowledge, they can now recognize whether or not allocated resources for poverty are made against disbursements and spending. They are able to make a link between the national poverty reduction strategies and how local communities can enforce accountability for pro-poor growth and prosperity.

### **1.7.3 Hearing the Voices of the Grassroots**

The Participatory Action Learning has provided a framework for creating understanding of macro policies, enabling collective analysis on how macro policies impact local actions, and facilitating dialogue as a means to provide feedback. Useful records of local discussions have been generated, shared with local authorities and are being used as a negotiating tool.

### **1.7.4 Gender**

Women and men were included equally in the monitoring and evaluation. Women were encouraged to participate in all activities, and were proportionately represented on the monitoring grassroots committees.

The recognition that poverty sectors that have a major effect on women would be monitored, particularly health, water and education, helped to raise women's interest and participation.

The budget analysis determined that information on resources available for poverty reduction is not disaggregated by gender, resulting in a critical awareness of the need for a gender sensitive budget.

### **1.7.5 Environment**

The 14 monitoring communities were able to associate that implementation of the poverty reduction strategy would produce sustainable livelihoods through equitable access to and better use of surrounding natural resources.

### **1.7.6 Sustainability**

In all 14 locations, there is one PRS monitoring committee of 15 people. Village Governments (represented by the Village Executive officer and elected councillors) at the ward level are also stakeholders. The existence of committees and the participation of Village Governments will sustain monitoring and evaluation of budgets, targets, indicators, activities and expenditure, as long as PRS exists.

### **1.7.7 Innovative Monitoring and Evaluation**

Hakikazi Catalyst developed and used a modified Community Score Card, called a PIMA Card, to monitor and evaluate PRS. Rather than facilitators collecting information via focus groups, information was collected from the community by people from the community.

Hakikazi Catalyst has trialled the PIMA Card process with success and will extend it into further monitoring and evaluation. The process is also one that could be adopted by others, both in Tanzania and internationally, to exact social and public accountability.

## **1.8 Proposed Improvements**

### **1.8.1 Accurate Data**

It was difficult for the monitoring committees to collect accurate data for some of the information requested. Some questions in the PIMA Cards were poorly understood. Improvements to the PIMA Cards will be made and committee members retrained on the importance of accurate data collection for analysis and feedback.

### **1.8.2 Gender Issues**

Improving pro-poor and gendered analyses of sectors directly affecting women is an important step to empower communities to participate in monitoring PRS activities. With this improvement, local communities will have an opportunity to hold the government accountable to its stated priorities.