



POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY REVIEW - TANZANIA

Hakikazi Catalyst, together with several other key NGOs, organised and facilitated workshops in Arusha and Mbeya to generate understanding and participatory action on the PRS Review, and on the linkage between poverty reduction and governance.

In Tanzania, the first Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) was produced in October 2000. It was based on development plans that already existed, and on consultations with a wide range of people. It set out a strategy for poverty reduction which included measurable targets, activities and indicators. The three pillars of PRS are to –

- Reduce income poverty.
- Improve quality of life and social well-being.
- Reduce vulnerability amongst the poorest groups.

For the past three years, the PRS has been updated on an incremental basis through annual PRS Progress Reports. It was originally envisaged that the PRS would be reviewed every three years. During the Public Expenditure Review (PER) annual consultation meeting on 13 May 2003, the Government confirmed its intention to review the PRS. Since then, the Government in collaboration with other stakeholders has engaged in series of consultative process on the PRS review.

PRS Review Focus

The overall purpose of the review is to update the current PRS by making it more comprehensive and pro-poor. Also, the review is expected to expand and deepen interventions to reduce poverty and raise awareness on the PRS.

There is still a lack of awareness and ownership of the PRS across all levels and sectors of government. A review of the PRS should help focus on government (including local government) ownership of the PRS, and more fully integrate the PRS into the day-to-day working of government.

The current mechanism does not provide the opportunity for a "bottom up approach" and there is a need to increase the participation of civil society, public and grassroots organisations in the development and implementation of the PRS. The review of the PRS should be a vehicle for further broadening participation at the district and community levels as poverty is mainly a rural phenomenon.

Consultation Process

The 2004 PRS Review intends to collect information from a wide range of stakeholders in a participatory manner in which all participants during the consultations have to be involved and participate fully. Participation is defined as "a process through which stakeholders shape and share control over development initiatives".

Stakeholders collecting information from the grassroots are required to collect data as stipulated in the "Guide for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Reviews". This includes gathering



PRS Review Workshop - Arusha

the views of marginalised groups such as pastoralists, the disabled, women and children.

Information to be collected from the grassroots includes –

- Most critical issues and recommendations for the next PRS
 - Sectors and issues
 - Problems and challenges (situational analysis)
 - Causes (constraints analysis)
 - Solutions and coping strategies.
- What are the five most important outcomes that must be in the new PRS if the quality of life is to improve and human rights realized? And why?

Key PRS Review Questions

The objective of PRS is poverty reduction.

- How well is this being achieved?
- What are the gaps or areas for improvement in the PRS?

PRS Review Workshops in Arusha

A PRS Review Workshop in Arusha from 23-24 March 2004 was organised and facilitated by Hakikazi Catalyst, Wildlife Working Group, Pastoralist Indigenous NGO's Forum (PINGOS), Tanzania Pastoralist and Hunter Gatherers Organisation (TAPHGO), Sand County Foundation - Tanzania, and Arusha NGO Network (ANGONET).

This workshop was held as a follow up event to the workshop, *Mapping Government: Understanding Key Policy-making Processes and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Review, held in Arusha from 17-18 February 2004.*

The *Mapping Government Workshop's* objectives were to provide participants with information and understanding of government structures, the PRS and its on-going review, and to formulate an action plan for grassroots consultations in order to provide participatory feedback into the PRS Review.

The *PRS Review Workshop* collected feedback according to the action plans formulated and agreed upon at the initial workshop. The feedback involved consultations by the participating organisations with a total of 1,803 people at the local level in 12 districts¹.

The most widely discussed issue in terms of consultation reports as well as plenary discussions during the workshop was that of governance. It was repeatedly observed that progress in poverty reduction at national and local levels will not occur without more effective ways of addressing governance and spreading corruption.

PRS Recommendations from Arusha Workshop

1. **Increase the budget support** to education, water, health, roads and agriculture sectors, and also improve standards and training for service providers.
2. **Clarify, strengthen, and secure local rights** to lands and resources, which often requires changes in the legal or policy framework for sectors such as land, mining, wildlife, and forestry.
3. **Improved governance** through more effective anti-corruption policies and institutions.

PRS Review Workshop in Mbeya

Following the successful workshop in Arusha, Hakikazi facilitated a *PRS Review Workshop* for 135 participants in Mbeya for the Southern Highlands from 30-31 March 2004, in consultation with CSO networks in Mbeya, Rukwa, Ruvuma and Iringa.

Participants placed themselves into discussion groups according to their areas of expertise and interest, and received feedback from each group member on the consultations they had made within their organisation and programme area.

Again, in the discussions governance and corruption were raised as key issues that need to be more effectively in the next PRS and other policies.



PRS Review Workshop Participants - Mbeya

¹Arumeru, Arusha, Hanang, Karatu, Mbeya, Mbulu, Monduli, Morogoro, Mwanza, Ngorongoro, Same, Simanjiro.

PRS Recommendations from Mbeya Workshop

1. **Access to quality basic services for all**, including more and better trained personnel, supported by improved quality and quantity of equipment and consumables.
2. **Adequate budgets** to cover such services.
3. **Transparency and accountability** in management and use of resources.
4. **Improve leadership** and enforcement of laws and policies; more competent government.
5. **Stronger partnership** between government and CSOs.
6. **Improve public knowledge and understanding**, so people are informed and can take action as appropriate.
7. **Reduce harmful practices**, whether traditional (such as female genital mutilation) or more recent (such as drug abuse and family breakdown).

Key Benefits of Implementing Recommendations from the Arusha and Mbeya Workshops

- Poverty reduction.
- Peace and harmony, because of the reduced vulnerability of marginalised groups.
- A stronger, healthier, better educated population promotes economic development.
- Increased outputs from production leading to increased income both for individuals and for government.
- People oriented open government systems, with stronger accountability, and full recognition of rights.
- More effective ownership of policies and more effective implementation of plans.
- Equal opportunities for all to contribute to the social and economic development of the country.
- National welfare and pride.
- Reduction in crime.
- Economic stability and the sustainability of development.

Key Message

Good governance is central to many issues, including for the effective development and improvement of social services such as education, health, water, and roads, as well as for the management of lands and natural resources.

Next Step

The PRS Review is a stakeholder driven process.

The full workshop reports have been presented to the Vice President's Office (Poverty Eradication) as input and feedback into the PRS Review.

The financial support of the Vice President's Office (Poverty Eradication), Oxfam Ireland, UNDP and PACT Tanzania for the workshops is gratefully acknowledged.