

Recent Publications

Research Reports

- The Effect of Boards on the Performance of Microfinance Institutions: Evidence from Tanzania and Kenya
- Supporting Tanzania's Cocoa Farmers
- Factors Affecting Participation in a Civil Society Network (Nangonet) in Ngara District

Special Papers

- Why Poverty Remains High in Tanzania: And What to Do About It?
- The Instrumental versus the Symbolic: Investigating Members' Participation in Civil Society Networks in Tanzania
- The Governance of the Capitation Grant in Primary Education in Tanzania: Why Civic Engagement and School Autonomy Matter

Policy Briefs

- Examining the Institutional Framework for Investment in Tanzania: A perspective from the Executive Opinion Survey, 2012-13
- Achieving High Economic Growth with Rapid Poverty Reduction: The Case of Vietnam By
- Socio-Economic Transformation for Poverty Reduction: Eight Key Messages for Unlocking Tanzania's Potential
- Tracer Study for Research Users: The case of TGN Media Training
- Understanding Rural Transformation in Tanzania
- Affordability and Expenditure Patterns for Electricity and Kerosene in Urban Households in Tanzania
- Biofuel Investment in Tanzania: Awareness and Participation of the Local Communities
- Supporting Tanzania's Cocoa Farmers
- The Instrumental versus the Symbolic: Investigating Members' Participation in Civil Society Networks in Tanzania

Governance and Service Delivery

The governance and service delivery research theme focuses on investigation of dynamics of governance, government responsiveness to citizens' needs; the nature of relations that exists between the government and citizens including institutions that shape them and the influence of citizens in shaping policies. Four sub-themes form the thrust of governance and service delivery research:

- **Public expenditure analysis, governance, and accountability:**
Examining how resources are shared/ distributed and public services delivered. This theme also studies approaches to improve public service delivery effectiveness and accountability.
- **Taxation system and revenue mobilization:**
Examining the effectiveness of resource mobilization mechanisms and approaches to strengthening resource mobilization.
- **Economic Governance—Policy Formulation and Execution:**
Study of institutions of governance and processes of power brokering on their own account and in relation to ordinary citizens. In particular how they foster or impinge on inclusive development, and approaches to building capacities with a view to expanding policy space, and bridging policy gap.
- **Local Government Reforms, Community Development and Markets:**
Examining effectiveness of local government reforms; processes for citizens' democratic engagement—their utilisation and dynamics that shape their utilisation and effectiveness, and public service delivery at local level.

Citizens' survey

REPOA carried out a citizens' survey as part of its formative research programme on Local Governments in REPOA's six case study Councils. The data collected will be used towards completing an assessment of achievements and challenges remaining in LGAs after Ten Years of Local Government Reforms. Data analysis has commenced already and the department plans releasing three policy briefs during the remainder of the year, starting September 2013.

An assessment of Demand and Supply of Accountability in Tanzania

This study, mainly a desk review, set out to examine accountability frameworks at local level, and to identify factors that influence demand (by citizens) and supply (by state functionaries) of accountability in Tanzania. Findings suggest that considerable challenges remain in instituting functionality in accountability mechanisms at the local level, and attribute the situation to low levels of transparency, low awareness about roles of democratically elected representative (from village and council/ constituent level), absence of a clear mechanism for holding the representatives to account; corruption and patronage.

As a consequence and coupled with low comprehension of accountability mechanisms in place among citizens, their leverage in demanding accountability remains largely weak. The study also highlights how contextual factors, in particular cultural dynamics and patron-client relations, affect citizens' readiness to demand accountability; and that due to low levels of transparency, there is a tendency to generally blame poor service delivery on failure of accountability mechanisms, while failing to appreciate the role played by financing constraints. The research report is currently being reviewed.

Afrobarometer

Two dissemination events were carried out focusing on constitutional review and union matters, and citizens' perceptions and attitudes towards taxation, tax enforcement and tax authorities. Both events were widely featured on national media. The department also produced two briefing papers using Afrobarometer data.

The analysis on constitutional review and union matters showed that Tanzanians are highly supportive of a constitutional review; that majority of Tanzanians regardless of their place of residence (Mainland Tanzania or Zanzibar) do not want dissolution of the Union; and that majority would prefer that cabinet ministers are appointed from outside the parliament.

On its part, the analysis on taxation issues showed that Tanzanians are increasingly becoming supportive of tax authorities mandate to collect taxes though there is certain among of wariness about integrity of tax officials. This analysis also showed that Tanzanians are largely unaware of their obligation to pay taxes and have difficulty accessing information about fees and taxes they need to pay to the government.