

## Recent Publications

### Briefs

\* *Transparency in Local Finances in Tanzania, 2003-2009*

\* *Poverty Among the Elderly and Children in Mainland Tanzania*

### Special Papers

\* *Tracer Study on two Repoa Training Courses: Budget Analysis and Public Expenditure Tracking System*

\* *Social Protection of the Elderly in Tanzania: Current Status and Future Possibilities*

### Research Reports

\* *Widowhood and Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS Related Shocks: Exploring Resilience Avenues*

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## REPOA has a new Executive Director



Executive Director, Prof. Samuel Wangwe

Effective January of this year, Prof. Samuel Wangwe was appointed as REPOA's new Executive Director by the Board of Directors.

Prof Wangwe took over this position from Prof. Joseph Semboja who was appointed by the president of Tanzania Hon. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete as the Executive Director of the newly established Government body, The African Leadership Institute for Sustainable Development.

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## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Workshop



Hon PM, Mizengo Pinda officiating the event

This year REPOA celebrated its 16th Annual Research Workshop (ARW) on March 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, at White Sands Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

The theme was Productivity, Employment and Socio-economic Security.

The Honorable Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda was the guest of honor at the event.

In his Opening address, the PM applauded REPOA for the work done in the 16 years since its inception and the use of its research products in policy

discussion, policymaking, improving and guiding resources for poverty reduction, producing reports on poverty and development such as the Poverty and Human Development Report, and in its role in furthering the nation's development and poverty alleviation initiatives as a whole.

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## Outcome Mapping and Progress Markers for 2010-2014 Strategic Plan

This year, REPOA has been re-assessing its way of conducting business in response to recommendations made by various studies and reviews as well as the Board of Directors.

REPOA Management has been developing a monitoring and evaluation framework which will focus more on outcomes and results as opposed to the previous which focused on outputs and activities. While the previous framework provides an opportunity for ensuring efficient utilisation of resources; the new one will focus on long term sustainable benefits for stakeholders.

REPOA is in the process of developing progress markers that will be used in devising strategies for achieving the intended outcomes and form the basis for outcome monitoring and evaluation.

Progress markers will reflect movements toward outcomes which may not be realized immediately and form the basis for designing strategies for moving in the direction of achieving the envisaged outcomes.

The progress markers framework will be the basis for orientation of the strategic plan interventions towards achieving the overall goal of the plan and how these interventions will be monitored, the kind of reviews that will be undertaken over the period, type of evidence based evaluation studies that will be undertaken to show that the interventions have either lead or are leading to achievement of the intended outcome and finally how indicators and progress markers of the various interventions will be reported.

So far REPOA has developed progress markers for stakeholder outcomes and will continue with the development of progress markers for the other outcomes. Progress markers have been developed for the media, NGOs, private sector, universities, local government authorities and central government.

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## Round Five Survey of Afrobarometer to kick off in October 2011



Joanita Magongo, Researcher

Afrobarometer surveys are aimed at capturing citizen's perceptions on how their countries are being managed within the context of economic, political and social aspects in order to inform democratic, economic and other development programmes. The surveys were done in selected African countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and are led by Ghana Center for Democratic Development and are overseen by the Michigan State University. These surveys were conducted in Tanzania in 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2008. Data sets and public reports



in terms of briefs and papers were produced out of these surveys. Round five is scheduled to take place in 2011-2012 and preparations are ongoing. The planning workshop to discuss the protocol for the survey was held in Ghana on 6th -10th June, 2011. Prof. Wangwe and Joanita Magongo represented REPOA in the meeting. The round five survey is scheduled to take place in Tanzania in October, 2011. Previous Afrobarometer data sets and specific country reports can be accessed at [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

END

## REPOA Builds Government Capacity to Implement the UN-CEB Toolkit

REPOA, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO, Tanzania) and Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) piloted the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) Toolkit.

Decent Work is defined as productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. It involves work that delivers a fair income, and which provides social protection, personal development, social integration, equal treatment and workers freedom to organise and participate in decision making.

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## Supporting local government reforms through analysis of data from the 3rd Citizens' Survey (April 2011)

The main purpose of REPOA's formative research programme is to document the processes and outcomes of local government reforms, and to provide key stakeholders with operationally relevant data and analyses of lessons learnt during its implementation. This is done with the aim to promote informed dialogue among stakeholders to ensure that policy making is a consultative process.

In its third round now, the Citizens' surveys under the programme are carried out in six local authorities to provide primary data and information on impacts of the local government reform process to citizens.

This year saw further analysis of the Round 3 data from late 2009 being published in the assessment of the degree of fiscal transparency in local authorities. The publication assessed the extent of fiscal transparency in planning, budgeting, budgetary transfers, implementation and audits of accounts. Overall it was established that there have been modest increases in the extent to which local government authorities share information but challenges remained with voluntary sharing of information on various aspects of local government activities and finances.

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## Resource Center

REPOA's library is a crucial social infrastructure for socio-economic research and access to information and knowledge based on empirical studies. It has been growing in terms of usage and an increase of information resources in various formats – digital, print, audio and visual ranging from books and research reports to journals. We stock information material about poverty and growth/ economics and development, social protection and vulnerability, agriculture and environment including climate change, governance and service provision, gender and technology.

From January this year we have improved our information services especially outreach and products in order to meet our users' needs and expectations successfully:

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## REPOA Training

From January to June REPOA conducted two training sessions for researchers including Training Workshops on Exploratory Data Analysis: Using STATA and Research Report Writing Skills.

### Training Workshops on Exploratory Data Analysis: Using STATA

The objective is to provide practical guidance to beginning researchers on how to use data analysis as a tool for discovery, i.e. getting ideas from the data (hypotheses seeking). The focus of the training, therefore, is on exploration, not inference, i.e. getting ideas from the data (hypothesis searching). The training was attended by 14 participants (6 men and 8 women) from Universities.

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## Ongoing Projects

- **Learning from Reducing Emissions, Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD): a global comparative analysis**
- **Study on ethics, payments and maternal survival in Tanzania**
- **Inflation and the growth - poverty nexus: a structuralist perspective**
- **Assessment of the impact of rising food prices on household welfare**
- **Strengthening capacity of parliament**

To read full descriptions of the above titles click read more.

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## Changes to the Grants Application Process

As a result of a review conducted last year, slight changes have been made to the application process. In the past, REPOA accepted concept notes for research grants throughout the year. From May 2011, the grants department will only be accepting concept notes submitted in response to a Special Call for Proposal, which will be advertised in local newspapers, through the e-brief and on REPOA's website.