

# **VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE 2007**

TANZANIANS GIVE THEIR OPINIONS ON:  
GROWTH AND REDUCTION  
OF INCOME POVERTY,  
THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AND  
SOCIAL WELL-BEING,  
AND GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**MKUKUTA MONITORING SYSTEM:**

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP,  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING ECONOMY AND EMPOWERMENT

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ESRF	Economic and Social Research Foundation
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
MKUKUTA	Mkakati wa Kukuza Uchumi na Kupunguza Umaskini Tanzania (National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty)
MMS	MKUKUTA Monitoring System
MPEE	Ministry of Planning, Economy and Empowerment
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PCCB	Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau
PMS	Poverty Monitoring System
PSSS	Policy and Service Satisfactory Survey
RAWG	Research and Analysis Working Group
REPOA	Research on Poverty Alleviation
TT	Technical Team
TWG	Technical Working Group
Tz-PPA	Tanzania Participatory Poverty Assessment
VoC	Views of the Children
VoP	Views of the People

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This study, known as 'The Views of the People 2007', reports results of a major survey commissioned under the Poverty Monitoring System (PMS) of MKUKUTA (the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction). The study and resulting report was supervised by the Research and Analysis Working Group (RAWG), in collaboration with the Communication Technical Working Group (CTWG) of the MKUKUTA monitoring System. At the time that this project was undertaken, the RAWG was chaired by Laston Msongole, Director of the Macro Economy division in the then Ministry of Planning, Economy and Empowerment (MP EE). The CTWG is chaired by Anna Mwash a, Director of Poverty Eradication Division in the same Ministry. Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), as secretariat to the RAWG, coordinated the survey and production of the report under the supervision of Joseph Semboja.

This survey of 7,879 Tanzanians is the largest opinion survey undertaken to date in Mainland Tanzania. Also unique is the range of the ages of the respondents - from 7 to 90 years. Citizen's opinions on matters relating to their development provide valuable information for planning and policy formulation and use by other stakeholders such as the civil society, the research and donor communities. Therefore, it is important that this information is shared amongst us all, in order to foster informed dialogue on the development of our nation.

Readers of this report are also referred to the 'Poverty and Human Development Report 2007' and the 'Views of the Children 2007' - these three publications combine to provide a holistic 'snapshot' of present day Tanzania. The Government intends to continue this series of studies, to inform its decisions and enrich public dialogue on important development issues.

Many people contributed to this study and the resulting report, and their contributions are gratefully acknowledged. Those who worked on differing stages in the design of the VoP survey, the fieldwork, subsequent data analysis and drafting the report include: Servus Sagday, Alana Albee, Brian Cooksey, Rose Mwaipopo, Flora Kessy, Blandina Kilama, Cornel Jahari, Jamal Msami, Dennis Rweyemamu, Lucas Katera and Valerie Leach.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents results of the Views of the People (VoP) survey which sought information about many aspects of people's lives, including their recent economic progress, changes in their standard of living, and the quality and accessibility of economic, (e.g. agricultural extension, road repair and maintenance), and social services. The survey also sought peoples' perceptions of trends in governance including participation in public affairs, policy making, corruption, and trust.

The survey was conducted in March and April 2007, and covered 7,879 Tanzanians aged from 7 to 90 years in ten mainland regions. The sample survey included 512 children, 1,525 youths, 4,987 adults and 855 elderly. Another group of around 1,000 people participated in focus group discussions for in-depth examination of the issues. For the children, the survey sought information on schooling, their role in society and their future ambitions. For the youth, the key issues were education, opinions on policies, employment, personal problems, and future ambitions. For the elderly, the focus of the survey related to the quality of and access to care.

As in many public perception surveys, this survey gathered people's views on the performance of public institutions and stakeholders. While this is vital, it is equally important to acknowledge that opinion surveys may reveal results that differ from data emerging from more conventional household surveys, perception surveys have limitations to the questions which can be usefully asked and the depth of analysis that such a process allows. Nonetheless, trends have emerged about people's views of recent economic progress, changes in standards of living, quality and accessibility of economic and social services, and governance (including participation in public affairs, policy making, corruption, and trust).

The survey generated information on specific indicators of the MKUKUTA monitoring system. It explored people's perceptions about progress according to selected indicators from the three clusters of MKUKUTA: growth and reduction of income poverty, quality of life and social well-being, and governance and accountability. The survey, therefore, provides information about how people discern and interpret policy changes and how they are seen to impact people's lives.

## **Growth and Reduction of Income Poverty**

Generally, fewer adult Tanzanians think they are enjoying the fruits of economic growth, compared to those who see their livelihoods getting worse. While 24% of adult respondents recorded improvements in their economic situation in the last three years, 26% reported no change, and half, 50%, reported deterioration, in both urban and rural areas. About 32% of young respondents consider their economic situation to have deteriorated over the last three years, while 39% see no change and 26% see an improvement. There was no difference in responses between young male and female respondents.

The main findings on growth and reduction of income poverty concern the state of economic infrastructure, the availability of employment opportunities, the cost of living (the cost of food and of other basic needs), and more specific issues related to access to inputs for economic activities.

## **Economic Infrastructure**

### **Roads**

For rural respondents, poor road conditions and lack of maintenance is a major concern. 70% of the rural respondents consider the condition of the roads a 'major problem,' 47% report a deterioration in the past three years, while 26% report no change and 28% an improvement. 57% of those residing in urban areas outside Dar es Salaam, and 41% of those living in Dar es Salaam reported road conditions to be a major problem.

Improvement in the quality of roads was observed by 56% and 42% of respondents in Dar es Salaam and urban areas respectively. Half of the rural respondents pointed out that due to poor roads, they have difficulties reaching markets and accessing services in towns. As a result of the poor condition of rural roads, rural economic growth is constrained.

### **Telecommunications**

Mobile phone ownership has increased more than fourfold in less than four years, and this has helped improve communication. About 33% of adult respondents owned mobile phones: 65% in Dar es Salaam and 16% in rural areas. In Dar es Salaam, 17% of the poorest respondents own a mobile phone, compared to 86% of the least poor respondents. However, improved telecommunication may not have contributed much to boosting economic growth, as nearly 75% of phone owners across the country reported that they use their phones for personal purposes, and only 25% reported use for both business and personal reasons.

### **Energy**

The major source of energy used by the majority of respondents for cooking is wood fuel and charcoal - 60% of respondents use wood fuel and 35% use charcoal. The use of charcoal is more pronounced in Dar es Salaam, where it is used by 83% of respondents there. Wood fuel is used by 87% of rural respondents and 57% of respondents in urban areas other than Dar es Salaam.

Overall, electricity was used as a source of lighting by only 23% of the respondents. It was used mostly in urban Tanzania - in Dar es Salaam by 59% of respondents, compared to 43% in other urban areas and 11% of respondents in rural areas.

### **Economic Conditions**

People's perceptions of their economic conditions were assessed using several variables including employment and other sources of livelihoods, availability and costs of inputs for productive enterprise, and the availability and costs of food and other basic items. While the cost of living - the cost of food and basic needs - was said to be a major problem by 67% of adults, affecting both rural and urban population, 47% said they never had problems with enough food last year and 63% said they ate three meals a day. About 47% of the youth also considered the cost of food and other basic goods to be a major problem. Although the poor were more worried about the price of food and other basic goods than the less poor, about 66% of the better-off respondents also considered the cost of living to be a major problem. Urban residents said they ate meat or fish nearly three days a week compared to rural respondents where the average was less than two days a week.

On a normal basis, three-quarters of Dar es Salaam respondents, 78%, ate three meals a day, compared to two-thirds, 64%, of the respondents in other urban areas and only 55% in rural areas. When asked if they had ever experienced hunger in the previous year 19% of villagers replied 'frequently' and a further 43% replied 'sometimes.' A third of Dar es Salaam respondents, 32%, reported that they 'sometimes' experienced hunger, and 5% said 'often.'

About 87% of the respondents in rural areas are engaged in farming and livestock-keeping and fishing. 52% reported that their economic situation was worse than it had been three years ago, 25% said it was the same and 23% said it had improved. In general, poor agricultural production as a result of low use of agricultural inputs and implements is evident. About 86% of all the farmers interviewed did not use chemical fertilisers in the past year, 72% did not use chemical pesticides, herbicides or insecticides, and 77% did not use improved seeds. The proportion of the poorest farmers who had not used chemical fertilisers was 98%.

Over 70% of farmers identified the cost, availability and appropriateness/quality of fertilisers and other inputs as the biggest hurdles in agricultural production. Asked what the Government should do to help farmers, 42% said improve availability of inputs and 19% wanted loans or credit. There was little difference in response from the poorer or less poor farmers.

Most pastoralists interviewed also complained about the cost of veterinary medicines - 78%, and the non-availability of veterinary services at 63%. Drought, disease and access to market information were also reported to be significant problems by many respondents. 40% of respondents who are livestock keepers received extension advice during the previous year, a much higher contact rate than farmers' reported receipt of agricultural extension advice, half the sample of pastoralists had never received extension advice. The large majority of pastoralists, 76%, thought that the government was doing nothing to help them. Very few mentioned government provision of extension services, suggesting that the services may have been mainly obtained from private practitioners. Improved availability of veterinary medicines and vaccines was the single most important assistance requested of the Government by pastoralists.

70% of fishers interviewed said that catches were falling, with only 16% saying the catches were improving. When asked why they thought catches were getting smaller, a third said there were too many small fishers, and that fishers are using smaller mesh nets. Some respondents also mentioned commercial fishing, the arrival of fishermen from other areas, and the use of dynamite as an explanation for falling yields. When asked whether they would benefit more from exporting fish rather than selling exclusively to local markets, a slight majority, 53%, favoured exporting, compared to 38% who said they prefer to sell to the local market.

For urban respondents, finding work was more frequently reported to be a serious problem than for rural respondents. While finding work was a major problem for 55% of urban adult respondents, it was reported to be a problem for 39% of rural adults. The problem is more significant for young people in both urban and rural areas: 63% of all young respondents (urban 65%; rural 61%) considered it to be their most pressing problem.

The survey also considered the livelihoods of individuals at different stages of the lifecycle. Among the young people (15-24 years old) who were no longer in school, 35% were unemployed/ inactive, while 26% had rural occupations and 11% were self employed. Almost 40% of young people said they planned to continue with their studies. On the whole, gender differences were not very large. Both young males and young females were generally optimistic about their future. Asked whether they expect their economic situation to change over the next three years, about half said that it would be better, 13% of males and 18% of females said it would be the same, and 23-31% said they didn't know.

While the majority of those older than 60 years, women in particular, depend on their immediate family for their subsistence, 34% of the men and 20% of the women declared that they were still working full-time. Nearly 40% of the elderly respondents reported that they were caring for a grandchild, most commonly because of the death or sickness of the child's parents. In caring for their grandchildren, almost three-quarters said that they were helped by their immediate family.

Almost all, 88%, of the elderly said that their immediate family would help if they had a serious problem. Nonetheless, 75% of the elderly are concerned with losing the strength to work as they grow older, 66% fear hunger and poverty, and losing their independence through ill-health. These concerns are common among older men and women alike.

## **Quality of Life and Social Well-being**

### **Education**

Pupils and parents were asked to assess the state of education. Improvements were noted in the number of primary school classrooms by about 60% of respondents, with a larger proportion of the sample in urban areas identifying improvements compared to the rural population. Slightly more than half of the respondents also said that secondary school classrooms were sufficient, though the response was more positive in urban than in rural areas. However, shortages of classrooms in both primary and secondary schools were reported by 22% of respondents, indicating that some schools have not yet been able to establish adequate learning facilities. Provision of desks followed the same

pattern as provision of classrooms, with more shortages noted by rural and primary school respondents as compared to urban and secondary school respondents.

Other notable improvements were in relation to classroom conditions, and participation of both pupil/students and teachers in classroom activities. About 54% saw improvements in classroom conditions, while 34% perceived the conditions to be the same as before. More primary school respondents, 60%, saw improvements in classroom conditions, compared to secondary school students at 48%.

A large majority of both primary and secondary students in the survey said that some or most of their teachers encouraged them to ask questions in class. Girls were just a little less likely than boys to say that teachers encouraged them to ask questions. Some teachers failing to attend lessons was reported to be an issue in 18 of the 20 surveyed schools. However, 59% of students said teachers were 'rarely or never absent.' Absenteeism was perceived to be higher in rural than in urban areas. Differences in rates of absenteeism by gender or primary/secondary school dimensions were not found to be significant.

Textbooks are in shorter supply in rural than in urban areas, but even in Dar es Salaam 61% of respondents were dissatisfied with textbook supply. Close to 80% of the children surveyed, aged 7 to 14, mentioned that there were not enough textbooks, with only 15% saying that there were enough. About 66% of upper primary and secondary school respondents said textbooks were too few and 16% of secondary schoolboys and 19% of secondary schoolgirls claimed that they learnt without access to textbooks.

Corporal punishment, or fear of it, is an issue for younger school children in 18 of the 20 sampled schools in the children's survey. Among older primary school and secondary students, only 20% reported no corporal punishment. In 16% of cases, 'all or most' teachers were reported to use corporal punishment on their students, more in rural than in urban schools.

Children reported that they rarely miss school. Over 70% said that they rarely or never miss school, and only 20% said that they sometimes do so. In both primary and secondary schools personal sickness is by far the major reason for absenteeism, about 61%, with a higher incidence in rural than urban areas. The cost of education and no money for school fees was mentioned by 28% of both primary and secondary school students. Attending marriages and funerals also takes a toll on pupils' time, cited by 41% of secondary school girls and 31% of boys.

The use of computers in schools was reported to be very low, even in secondary schools. More than half of the surveyed secondary schools, 55%, had no computers, and in schools with computers, they were mostly meant for administration purposes and not for use by students.

### **Health Services**

The survey sought information on people's overall health status and their perceptions of availability, quality and cost of the health services provided by the state, and their access to these services. 66% of adult respondents reported that they had suffered from malaria in the previous year; with 60% suffering from coughs, colds or flu, and 32% had one or more bouts of diarrhoea. Malaria was reported more frequently in Dar es Salaam, whereas diarrhoea was more common in rural areas. Almost three-quarters, 73%, of respondents reported having used mosquito nets, the majority of which were said to have been insecticide treated. The use of mosquito nets was much higher in urban than in rural areas.

Asked about the most important issues for the health services, 32% of the adult respondents identified the quality/availability of the service, 16% said distance, 13% said availability of drugs and medicines and 10% their cost, Over a quarter of the respondents had no response to this question.

Of the adults who reported use of health facilities, 62% said that the cost of medical treatment and drugs was a major problem. The availability of drugs and the time people had to wait for service were also reported, especially by the majority of urban respondents, to be major problems. Only a few complained about the politeness of health facility staff, availability of maternity and immunization services, and cleanliness of facilities.

Among the elderly, about 65% said they had health problems requiring regular attention, mostly concerning their mobility/walking and slightly more women than men. About 66% of the elderly had sought medical treatment during the three months prior to the survey, 70% of the elderly women and 60% of the men. Of those seeking treatment, 35% paid themselves, 27% were paid for by family, 15% received free treatment, and 14% did not undergo treatment. Nearly half of the over 60s, 48%, declared that they did not know that they are entitled to free treatment in government facilities, 42% of men and 58% of women. Approximately one fifth, 18%, of elderly respondents said that they had been refused treatment in a government facility because they could not afford to pay for services, and 13% indicated that they had been refused free treatment due to lack of proof of their age.

Young school children in the survey reported that they are taught about health issues as part of the curriculum, but their schools are unable to provide many aspects of care to meet the needs of the learners. Only half the schools sampled had some kind of first aid provision. In other cases, a sick child is sent to a nearby hospital or dispensary.

Nutrition and eating patterns are known to affect the school performance of children. Yet, a large majority of students, 85%, eat only when they return home from school. Only three of the twenty sampled schools provide food on a regular basis for children, one high income school and the other two middle income, and even in the latter information suggested that the programme was in abeyance at the time of the survey. In two other schools, (in Arusha and Dar es Salaam), food is available for sale from small shops (*dukas*) in the vicinity of the school. When asked about their eating habits, only about 30% of pupils in the 15 year old and above sample said they always ate before going to school, ranging from 26% of rural students to 48% in Dar es Salaam. A similarly small proportion, 15%, said they ate snacks during break at school.

## **Water**

Between 80 and 90% of adult respondents access their drinking water from community or neighbours' water points. While 73% of rural adults do not pay for their water, water is free for only 8% of Dar es Salaam respondents - 77% of them pay private providers (pump attendants, kiosks, neighbours or water vendors). Only 13% are billed by the public utility (DAWASCO).

Over the year prior to the survey, the most commonly cited problem with water supply was dry season shortage. More respondents saw deterioration rather than an improvement in water supply, cleanliness, cost, and queuing time. Dirty water was a more serious problem in rural areas, cost and queuing time in Dar es Salaam.

Only two of the twenty primary schools surveyed had piped drinking water available for the children. In Dar es Salaam children either brought water with them from home or bought it at kiosks near the school. In Mtwara, children only had water during the day if they went home during break times or at lunch time. About 44% of the overall sample of young people still in school reported no water at all in their school, and 64% of rural school children reported no water at their school.

## **Governance and Accountability**

Variables used in this survey 'Views of the People' to gauge perceptions about governance and accountability include: participation of citizens in public affairs, efforts in making government official accountable, presence of a functional information and communication system, knowledge and opinions about politics and policies, corruption and accountability, community, trust, cooperation and security, and national cultural identity.

### **Participation in Public Affairs**

Just over a fifth, 22%, of the rural respondents said they had participated in a local-level planning exercise, and 16% had worked on public works projects, in particular road building and maintenance. Similar rates of participation were reported by respondents in urban areas other than Dar es Salaam - 18% and 13% respectively. Many fewer respondents in Dar es Salaam reported such participation - 7% and 6%. Relatively few rural or urban adults, 9%, had attended a local full council meeting.

Further, only 15% of all respondents indicated that they made a request for information at the village/street level of local government in the year preceding the survey, with two thirds of these requests being reported to have been successful. Rural residents appear to be keener to seek information from government offices, with 20% of respondents requesting information, compared to 10% in Dar es Salaam.

In all of the research sites a small majority of respondents, 53%, (with no urban-rural differences), thought that citizens publicly expressing their views make a difference, while 39% thought that government officials do not listen to what people say.

### **Efforts in Making Government Officials Accountable**

The survey looked into whether Tanzanians consider that there is progress in making government officials more accountable. Respondents were asked if anything that has happened in the last three years involving government or local government officials has suggested to them that services and accountability are improving. More than 30% of respondents replied in the affirmative, with little variation between urban and rural areas. By far the most common response, from about 56% of respondents, concerned improvements in relation to schools, classrooms and teacher housing.

As evidence of accountability, 32% of the respondents said that they had observed government officials being accused of misusing public resources and of officials being dismissed for poor performance and corruption.

### **Information and Communication**

The radio constitutes the most important source of information across the country, more so in urban than in rural areas. Newspapers and television are much more important sources of information in Dar es Salaam than in the rest of the country. Very few rural respondents, 6%, access them. 'Word of mouth' is an important source of information for about 20% of respondents in both urban and rural areas. Churches and mosques were reported by few, 7%, to be sources of information. Overall, Dar es Salaam citizens have greater access to information than others.

### **Knowledge and Opinions on Politics and Policies**

Opinions on a few selected specific policy issues were also sought, the idea being to examine how informed people are of recent policy debates and whether they follow up on these. About one-third of the sample of adults said they were not very interested or not interested at all in politics or economics. About half of the adults could not say anything about whether mining companies were paying enough taxes, about what caused the power crisis of 2006, or about the pros and cons of relocating *machingas* (street traders) away from city centres. Of the half of those respondents who had offered opinions, almost all, 96%, were convinced that mining companies should pay more taxes, 74% believe the electricity crisis was caused by drought, while opinions were more divided on the *machinga* issue, with 58% supportive of the policy, and 34% critical of the government's initiative, others were undecided.

Respondents were also asked about their views on whether foreign aid benefits government officials or poor people. Of the 86% of respondents who offered an opinion, 81% believed that 'foreign aid mostly benefits government officials,' and 64% of respondents strongly agreed with this view.

A number of questions were asked in an attempt to assess public opinion on the performance of the

top leaders, politicians and government officials. Most respondents offered very favourable opinions on the performance of the President.

### **Corruption and Accountability**

About 40% of adult respondents offered no opinion about the extent of corruption. Of those who did, similar percentages perceive petty, grand and political corruption to be 'very common' (50%) or 'quite common', about 20%, in Tanzania. Further, about 43% of respondents thought corruption affected their lives, business and politics. Only 8% of respondents believed corruption does not affect these three areas. A large group of respondents, about 40%, offered no opinion, therefore of those who offered opinions, a large majority thought their lives, business and politics are affected by corruption. However, it is possible that many of those who had no opinion may not have been affected. A similar 38% of respondents offered no opinion on the current government's performance in combating corruption. 45% thought the government is effectively combating corruption and only 17% thought the government's anti corruption efforts to be ineffective.

The police and the legal system stand out as the most corrupt services in public perceptions. In general, urban perceptions of corruption in the public sector are more negative than are rural perceptions, perhaps due to high media coverage of corruption allegations. Better-off citizens perceive the incidence of corruption to be significantly higher than do poorer respondents.

Survey respondents were quite positive in their assessment of recent responsiveness of the government to public order, peace and security concerns. A majority, 55%, considered that public order, peace and security had recently improved. Another 44% and 40% respectively mentioned that the quality of basic services and respect for the law by government has improved. 44% of the sample, however, gave no response. Concerns over the incidence of crime, violence and insecurity are nonetheless still high.

### **Community, Trust, Cooperation and Security**

The level of general mistrust is reported to be high. Relatively few respondents 22% believe that these days most people can be trusted, while 78% believe they cannot. Mistrust is higher in Dar es Salaam, 85%, than in rural areas, 75%. However, when questioned about attitudes towards specific groups of people, lower levels of mistrust were reported. Not surprisingly, respondents were much more likely to trust relatives and clan members than more socially distant groups. 40% of respondents considered Tanzanian strangers untrustworthy, and about the same percentage thought the same of young men. 60% considered foreigners untrustworthy.

People's readiness to trust each other reflects, and is in turn reflected by, the level of crime, violence and personal security in society. The survey investigated public perceptions of the incidences of and trends in these and related social problems. Alcoholism (as related to crime) is considered a serious problem by 63% of respondents, particularly in rural areas. On average, the incidence of alcoholism is thought to be increasing, while the incidence of other social or community problems, including disputes over land ownership and inheritance, drug taking, witchcraft accusations and domestic violence, is said to be declining, often significantly. Theft of property is considered a serious problem by more than half of respondents, particularly in Dar es Salaam. Drug abuse and mob justice are also considered more serious problems in Dar es Salaam (by about 40% of respondents there) than elsewhere.

More respondents saw a decline rather than an increase in community care for the poor, the sick and the old, protecting children against violence and abuse and teaching them good behaviour. Community maintenance of roads and bridges, and the practice of cooperative land clearing and crop harvesting are also perceived to be on the decline. Overall, there were only minor differences in views between urban and rural respondents, all point to decreasing community collaboration, care and support for the old and collective community involvement in bringing up young people.

## **Conclusion**

The following major conclusions may be drawn from the respondents' perceptions.

### **Poverty Reduction and Growth**

Using the peoples' perceptions about their recent economic situation, three main conclusions can be drawn. First, more people report themselves to be worse off now than three years ago; second, the inequality between the 'rich' and the 'poor' is perceived to be growing, and third, the 'urban-rural gap' in poverty seems to be growing.

In all income groups, including the least poor, more people perceive falling rather than rising living standards. The survey findings also show that the majority of farmers, pastoralists, and fishers consider that they receive virtually no support from the state and most complain about the cost of living (particularly the cost of food). They call for improved availability of inputs and greater access to loans and credit.

The state of rural roads also emerged as a critical constraint on economic activity and poverty reduction efforts, though in urban areas more citizens acknowledge improvements.

### **Service Provision**

The survey confirms popular appreciation of public investment in education, although concerns on quality remain (for example, continued shortages of textbooks at both the primary and secondary levels). However, other basic services were reported to be getting worse by the majority of respondents. The cost of medical treatment and drugs and availability of drugs were among the major impediments in accessing health care. Many senior citizens also have difficulties accessing free health services. In both urban and rural areas, domestic water supply continues to be a chronic problem as measured by unavailability of clean and safe water, and increased cost for urban dwellers of accessing water.

### **Governance**

Sustained growth, poverty reduction and improved service provision are unlikely to occur in the absence of improvements in governance at both central and local levels. Although the Government is committed to private sector led growth, the survey findings suggest that the public expects the state to provide effective economic support services, in particular access to productive inputs. Thus, there is much scope here for further reflection on the role of the state vis-à-vis the private sector.

The survey shows that the public has a high level of confidence in the capacity of the incumbents of state power to develop and implement policies in the public interest. Despite this, the survey also highlights the pervasiveness of corruption and citizens' direct experience of official corruption in a number of key services. People report that corruption is pervasive among the police and in the legal system. A large majority of respondents also do not see benefits from development assistance accruing to them. The majority consider civil servants to be the main beneficiaries of development aid, rather than the public.

In the face of widespread reported declining community solidarity and co-operation, developing collective means of addressing governance deficits in which the state, the public, the private sector, civil society organisations and communities work together to realise a common, national vision will remain amongst the major challenges facing Tanzania in the years to come.



# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

## 1.1 Background

The implementation of national strategies<sup>1</sup> to reduce poverty in Tanzania is subject to monitoring through the national MKUKUTA Monitoring System by three Technical Working Groups (TWGs)<sup>2</sup>. The Research and Analysis, Surveys and Routine Data, and Communications Technical Working Groups are responsible for collecting, analysing and disseminating information on MKUKUTA.

In May 2006 the Communications TWG drew up terms of reference to undertake a major survey to capture the 'Views of the People' on the implementation of MKUKUTA and the Tanzanian government's performance more generally. A Technical Team (TT) drawn from the three TWGs was set up to develop the methodology for the survey, known as 'Views of the People 2007'. The Research and Analysis Working Group (RAWG) commissioned Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) to undertake the survey. The questionnaires were developed through an iterative process involving members of the Technical Working Groups, being representatives from the government, civil society, research and academia, facilitated by a REPOA consultant.

In recognition that half of the Tanzanian population is under the age of 18 years, REPOA's Children's Research Programme undertook a complementary 'Views of the Children survey'. This was the first time the views of children in a nationally representative sample have been sought systematically in Tanzania.

This report summarises information on many aspects of people's lives, including their recent economic progress, changes in standard of living, and quality and accessibility of economic and social services. Information is also incorporated about people's perceptions of trends in governance including participation in public affairs, policy making, corruption, and trust. It further highlights trends by cross-referencing survey findings with those of other similar surveys, in particular the Participatory Poverty Assessment (Tz-PPA, by Vice President's Office, 2004), the Policy and Service Satisfaction Survey (PSSS, by REPOA, 2003) and Afrobarometer surveys (REPOA, 2003, 2005) which were also based on people's opinions on policies and political and social issues. This report incorporates the highlights of the 'Views of the Children' (VoC), a fuller report is forthcoming.

The survey generated information on specific indicators of the MKUKUTA monitoring system. It explored people's perceptions about progress according to selected indicators from the three clusters of MKUKUTA: growth and reduction of income poverty, quality of life and social wellbeing, and governance and accountability. The survey, therefore, provides information about how people discern and interpret policy changes and how they are seen to impact their lives.

As is common for public perception surveys, VoP 2007 gathered participants' views on the performance of public institutions and actors. While this information is vital to national policy debate, it is important to acknowledge that results from opinion surveys may differ from data collected in more conventional household surveys. Perception surveys often encounter limitations in the questions which can be usefully asked and, in turn, limitations to the depth of analysis allowed.

Nonetheless, trends have emerged about people's views of recent economic progress; changes in standards of living; the quality and accessibility of economic and social services; and governance, including participation in public affairs, policy making, corruption, as well as trust, cooperation and security within communities.

1 The Poverty Reduction Strategy (2000/01-2004) and its successor the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (*Mkakati wa Kukuza Uchumi na Kupunguza Umaskini Tanzania, MKUKUTA, 2005-2010*)

2 There were four Technical Working Groups under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Poverty Monitoring System. The Routine Data and Census and Surveys Groups have been merged into one group for monitoring MKUKUTA.

## 1.2 Methodology

The survey sought the views of more than 7,879 Tanzanians aged from 7 to 90 during March and April 2007. It covered ten mainland regions, namely, Arusha, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara, Iringa, Singida, Rukwa, Shinyanga and Mwanza. These regions were selected on the poverty headcount status criteria as depicted from the Household Budget Survey 2000/01. They were grouped into three categories, those at the bottom with highest headcount poverty, those at the middle, and those at the top with lowest headcount poverty. Table 1 below summarises this clustering:

**Table 1.1 Poverty Headcount Distribution of Sample**

Poverty Headcount	Regions		
High	Mwanza	Iringa	Lindi
Medium	Singida	Mtwara	Shinyanga, Rukwa
Low	Dar es Salaam	Tanga	Arusha



The survey included children, young people, adults and the elderly. In addition, around 1,000 youths, adults and elderly people joined focus groups discussions.

Three districts within each region were chosen to represent a mix of urban (with the three districts of Dar es Salaam specifically selected) and rural areas, and from three income strata: the poorest areas, middle and least poor. For the survey of children, a primary school was selected in each of the ten selected district survey sites, again keeping a balance between Dar es Salaam, other urban and rural sites and a mix of income groups.

The categories of respondents are:

**Children aged 7-14:** 512 primary school children (245 boys and 267 girls), selected randomly from lists

of attendance at 10 schools, were involved in research using participatory methods suitable for their age. They were divided into two groups - one for 7-10 year-olds and the other for 11-14 year-olds. The VoC specifically explored issues of education, relations with adults and children's involvement in their local communities, as well as their future ambitions.

**Youth aged 15-24:** The survey involved holding face-to-face interviews with 1,525 young people,(885 girls and 640 boys), one third of whom were still at school. Topics focused on were issues of education, opinions on policies, employment, personal problems, and ambitions.

**Adults aged 25-59:** A total of 4,967 adults (2,560 women - 51% of the sample - and 2,427 men - 49% of the sample) responded to questions concerning trends in their personal economic circumstances and welfare; performance of official health, water, and roads services; their participation in public affairs, views on government policy options, trends in corruption, accountability and trust. Rural adults were interviewed extensively on their use of natural resources, and their livelihoods derived from agriculture, livestock, and fishing.

**The elderly (60 and older):** The survey interviewed a total of 855 elderly people (39% of whom were women and 61% men) over the age of 60 concerning their welfare and livelihoods, the care they receive, and provide for others, and personal aspects of growing old.

The survey employed a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. The central component of VoP's fieldwork consisted of a detailed questionnaire, covering specific issues for specific groups of respondents as summarized below. Qualitative explorations of key research themes took place in Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs). These were held with different age groups to provide more in-depth analysis of selected themes from the various modules of the questionnaire. Quantitative and qualitative data from the respondents were analysed along the themes relevant for MKUKUTA's three clusters. Box 1 summarizes the scope of the survey

#### **BOX 1 SCOPE OF THE SURVEY: 'VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE 2007'**

##### **Whose views?**

Views from 512 primary school children aged 7-14, 1,525 young people aged 15-24, 4,967 adults aged 25-59 and 855 elderly people aged 60 and above were collected in ten mainland regions - Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Lindi, Mtwara, Mwanza, Rukwa, Shinyanga, Singida, and Tanga during March and April 2007.

In addition, around 1,000 people aged 15 and above participated in focus groups.

##### **Views about what?**

Children: Schooling, information, communication, participation in decision-making, ambitions

Youth: Education, opinions on policies, employment, personal problems, ambitions

Adults: Trends in personal economic circumstances and welfare

Performance of official health, water, and roads services

Participation in public affairs

Views on government policy options

Trends in corruption, governance and trust

Natural resources, agriculture, livestock, fishing

Elderly: Welfare and livelihoods

Care for and from others, aspects of old age

##### **Who wants to know?**

VOP addresses public policy and government performance, including MKUKUTA implementation, from a citizen's perspective.

Government, researchers, and civil society representatives have provided inputs into VOP and will make use of the results.

VOP 2007 presents its findings for males and females, by level of poverty/wealth, and by urban and rural residence.

### **1.3 Overview of the Report**

This report presents the most general analysis of people's opinions, feelings and behaviour by locality, gender, and poverty levels and provides comparisons with previous studies. Summary measures of wealth/poverty in urban and rural areas were developed to facilitate data analysis. The background is presented in Chapter 1 followed by:

**Chapters 2 to 7:** Perceptions of MKUKUTA Cluster I issues including economic growth and poverty reduction. These include perceived trends in economic services, urban and rural income and livelihoods, and main dimensions of the livelihoods of the youth.

**Chapters 8 to 12:** Trends in MKUKUTA Cluster II issues, including the provision of social services, taking as examples primary and secondary education, healthcare, and domestic water supply, giving attention to the situation of children, young people and the elderly.

**Chapters 13 to 14:** Governance from a citizen's perspective, including an assessment of Tanzanians' knowledge of information and participation in public affairs. It also investigates views on economic and sectoral policies and their impact. Finally, the chapter documents respondents' views and experience with corruption and trends in accountability in public service delivery. Also reported are the findings on the degree of trust between individuals and groups influences the extent to which people address common problems collectively and systematically or individually and opportunistically. Chapter 14 also maps out peoples perceptions on who is and who is not to be trusted.

**Chapter 15:** draws the main conclusions from the survey overall.

# CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

## **Poverty and Growth**

Based on survey findings, more people appear to be worse off now than three years ago. In all income groups, including the least poor, more people perceive falling rather than rising living standards, and most Tanzanian adults consider the cost of living to be a major problem (particularly cost of food). The majority of farmers, pastoralists, and fishers report that they receive virtually no support from the state, and would like much more support from Government in improving access to inputs for production and for loans/credit.

The state of the nation's rural roads emerged as a critical constraint on economic activity and poverty reduction efforts in rural areas, though urban residents did acknowledge some improvements. Improving roads, therefore, should go hand in hand with increased investment to reduce input constraints and raise productivity in the agricultural sector, and people are clearly asking for strong government action to improve the rural economy. At the same time, the Government is committed to private sector led growth. Thus, results offer much scope for reflection on the role of the state vis-à-vis the private sector.

## **Service Provision**

The Government has been increasing budget allocations to social services for some years, and VoP 2007 confirms the popular appreciation of public investment in education. In the health sector, the cost of medical treatment and drugs and availability of drugs were cited as major impediments in accessing health care, and many senior citizens also have difficulties accessing free health services. Domestic water supply, in both urban and rural areas, also remains a chronic problem as measured by reported shortages of clean, safe water and higher water costs. Clearly, public spending on basic social services is still needed, with available resources utilised effectively and efficiently.

## **Governance**

Sustained growth, poverty reduction and better service provision all depend on advances in governance at both central and local levels. The VoP 2007 reveals widespread public concern on the incidence and impact of corruption but it also reveals that over two-fifths of respondents felt that the Government is doing an effective job in combating corruption.

Most encouragingly, the survey shows a high level of public confidence in the capacity of the current government to develop and implement policies in the public interest. This is a valuable asset that is unlikely to continue indefinitely in the absence of better service delivery and greater accountability.

In the face of widespread reported declining community solidarity and co-operation, developing ways of improving governance in which all stakeholders - the state, the public, the private sector and civil society organisations, adults and children alike - work together to realise a common, national vision will, therefore, remain one of the biggest challenges facing Tanzania in years to come.

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