

## 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 Capitalisation 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

## Policy Research Training Workshop for Zanzibar MDAs



Research is central to economic growth and the reduction of poverty, as it establishes an insightful foundation for making decisions and designing interventions. REPOA does research focusing on informing policy for development purposes, and believes in determining local solutions for national issues, drawing upon national and international research to produce knowledge.

Therefore, the organisation facilitates and undertakes economic and social research; provides training for researchers and users of research findings; and supports the development of policy. Thus the organisation's contribution is wider than within the sphere of research per se; it fosters the advancement of local intellectual capacity, encourages the improvement of knowledge, and the effective use thereof. REPOA serves the Government of Tanzania, development partners, academics, members of civil society, the media and private sector; it is well recognised as a key contributor to development issues for Tanzania.

The overall objective of REPOA is to deepen the understanding of the causes, extent, nature and rate of change, and the means of combating poverty in Tanzania. One of the specific objectives of REPOA is to build and strengthen to undertake poverty research and effectively disseminate results of research for public use.

For the Period of six months REPOA had organized 2 training, for researchers and research users.

### 1. TRAINING WORKSHOP ON REPORT WRITING SKILLS

REPOA organised a capacity building training workshop on "Research Report Writing Skills", whose objective was to provide practical guidance to beginning and intermediate researchers on how to write good quality research reports with potential for publication. This training took place at REPOA Conference Hall in Dar es Salaam from Monday, 28 January to Friday, 02 February 2013.

#### Course Content and Organisation

The training programme was based on and content of the course and on the daily proceedings proposed by the trainer/facilitator. The course comprised of a set of the following interconnected components:

- Why writing is not about 'getting it right the first time'
- How to structure your article or report more effectively
- How to structure your introduction to show the research in context
- How to focus a text so that readers will understand the message
- What must be done to a text before language editing

The course targeted **beginning** and **junior researchers** in Tanzania. There were thirteen (13) participants out of who only three (3) were women. Participants comprised of lecturers, (PhD student, an MA student, and research officers).

The facilitator for this training was Professor Linda McPhee, a lecturer in academic writing from Linda McPhee Consulting. She holds a permanent part-time teaching position at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) The Hague in The Netherlands.

### 2. POLICY RESEARCH TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR ZANZIBAR MDAs

One of the specific objectives of REPOA is to build and strengthen capacity to undertake policy research in order to inform the policy-making process in Tanzania. It is in this light that REPOA conducted a capacity building training workshop on "**Policy, Planning and Research**" for **Directors of Planning, Policy and Research (DPPRs)** from **Zanzibar**. This five-day training took place at REPOA Conference Hall in Dar es Salaam from Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May 2013.

The main objective of this training was to improve the quality of policy-making processes with the view to overcoming policy implementation challenges.

#### Course Content and Organisation

The training programme was based on five modules, one module for each of the five days. Participants engaged in interactive lectures and were also "hands-on" computer-based practical exercises using two types of statistical packages, namely SPSS and STATA. The following are the five modules that were presented, one each day of the workshop:

- **Policy Process**
  - Policy Overview (definition, qualities, and models)
  - Policy-making Process (level)
- **Research Design**
  - Concept
  - Rationale/Justification
  - **Research Methodology**
    - Concept
- **Data Management and Analysis for Policy**
  - Data Entry (quantitative and qualitative)
- **Linking Research and Policy**
  - Policy Research

The interactive lectures equipped participants with skills for the comprehensive process of policy making; expected learning/desired results included: Enhanced skills in policy making, in identifying (national) issues, capacity in policy design (with emphasis on comprehensiveness and deepened knowledge on policy making in Tanzania).

The **expected output** of the training was improved quality of policy at places of work and/or the nation as a whole.

The workshop had 22 participants coming from 16 Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The lead facilitator for this training was Prof Ammon V Y Mbelle from the Department of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam. He was assisted by three co-facilitators: Dr Nicas Yabu, an Economist from the Bank of Tanzania; Mr Mbayani Saruni, Principal Economist from the Ministry of Finance; and Dr Nassor Suleiman Nassor, a Statistics Lecturer from Department of Statistics at the University of Dar es Salaam.