

Social Protection

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

The research program on social protection aims to generate knowledge based on a dynamic conceptualization of social protection not only in terms of its role in income and consumption smoothing but also in terms of its transformative potential in both social and economic development as an integral part of the socioeconomic transformation. The research program thus addresses comprehensive social policies that support structural change, social cohesion and voice for the citizens (governance and accountability and democratic politics). The research thus highlights the transformative role of social policy to achieve broader economic, social and political goals, such as distribution, protection, production and reproduction.



Flora Myamba, Director Social Protection

Understanding the Process of Economic Change: Technology and Opportunity in Rural Tanzania

The overall objective of this research project is to examine how culture shapes the economic strategies of rural dwellers in the context of increased social differentiation. Particular focus is on the relation between cultural transformation and economic opportunity. The research explores how changed economic environments and possibilities bring about cultural changes, and considers the extent to which the structural differences in economic integration between the two districts impact on the livelihood strategies of residents. The research aims to contribute to and update existing studies of livelihood strategies in Tanzania, which have not addressed in depth diversification strategies in rural areas and the increasing hybridization of rural economies and build up a comprehensive understanding of drivers of social and economic transformation in the rural areas which can inform understanding of similar processes elsewhere in Tanzania.

Role of Cash Transfers in Social Protection

This (on-going) study addresses the skepticism that is often expressed about the role and effectiveness of cash transfers. The arguments for, and against cash transfers do suggest a need to better understand their role in reducing poverty, enhancing capabilities and transforming lives of the very poor. The study thus explores not only the extent to which cash transfers are smoothing income and consumption, but also the extent to which they are productive and have the potential to empower the poor to overcome social vulnerabilities that generate cumulative processes of deprivation. In addition, the study examines factors that might affect the effectiveness of cash transfers including targeting criteria, institutional/administrative implementation arrangements, and accountability arrangements in place to monitor quality of service delivery, leakages, financial flows, and so forth.

Assessing the Potential of Development Grants as a Promotive Social Protection measure

This is an exploratory study aimed to examine the extent to which social grants provided as productive safety nets have potential of transforming the livelihood capacities of the poor and contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. Specifically the study intends to produce evidence on whether the grants provided to women groups to promote investment ventures has influenced the livelihood activities of the members of the supported groups and if so, through which mechanisms. The key question addressed in this paper is: Under which conditions do community level productive safety nets work as a promotive social protection measure? Specifically, the study intends to understand the manner in which the grant is managed by each group of poor rural women, major promotive aspects of the grant based on the experiences of the group members, as well as conditions that enhances the functionality of the grant.

Ethics, payments and maternal survival



The main reason for designing and undertaking a study on "Ethics, payments and maternal survival in Tanzania" was recognition of the fact that Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in Tanzania remains unacceptably high, and knowing that it is the failures of access to emergency obstetric and post natal care that are major causes of maternal deaths in Tanzania. Research on issues of quality and access to maternal health care in Tanzania show evidence of abuse, bribery and other forms of charges for maternal care which formally is supposed to be provided free of charge, and it has been shown that this influences patients' care-seeking behaviour in all sectors. However, the extent and nature of payments, the interaction of payments with professional ethics and staff behaviour; and the extent to which good management practices can counter or reverse the crisis are all severely under-researched. Undertaking research that would provide evidence on these issues to feed into policy and professional training and practice was therefore deemed crucial.

Results based on the analysis done and working papers produced so far show that the research has added to knowledge about the ethical content and implications of individual payment systems for maternal care, and has generated policy-relevant evidence as to how health management can achieve more ethical and inclusive care through breaking interactive linkages between individual payments, abuse, and collapse in staff morale. We expect to feed these findings into policy and health management debate locally. This will be done, among others, through publication of the results and production of policy briefs by REPOA for wide dissemination and discussion with stakeholders in policy dialogue seminars. Results will also be disseminated internationally through publications in peer-reviewed journals and papers written for international conferences.

Findings of the study were presented at a findings sharing workshop which brought together policy practitioners in health, and researchers on health issues, and an initial set of publications by REPOA is forthcoming. In the medium and long term we expect findings and recommendations of the study that would have been shared and disseminated widely will contribute to interventions that would effectively address the problem of payments for maternal care, which is a key element in an interactive and cumulative set of unethical and damaging behaviour, including abuse and exclusion.

Gendered Nature of Education – Labour Market Linkages

Gender inequality remains an issue of concern in all spheres of life in many countries, including Tanzania. Two sectors, education and the labour market have a strong linkage and are well recognized with no exception. Using a case of higher education, this study used a Social-Cognitive Theory of Gender Development and Differentiation to explore why increased enrolment of females in education is not necessarily a pathway to improved gender equality in employment.

This study was commissioned by FAWE, a pan-African non-government organisation working to promote girls' and women's education in sub-Saharan Africa in line with Education for All (EFA), and funded by NORAD. Findings of the study were disseminated at research workshop in Nairobi with other seven research teams from African countries including Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The purpose was to share the research findings and engage in critical analysis in order to propose recommendations for policy and practice related to gender issues in education. Publication is done by FAWE and it is on the final stage. Results have also been disseminated internationally through international conference papers

Industrial productivity, health sector performance and policy synergies for inclusive growth

Health systems are major purchasers of drugs and other essential medical supplies and equipment. In Tanzania, Shortages and inability to afford such essential commodities are known to be persistent causes of poor quality health care and exclusion from care. One would expect therefore that increasing production of local industries producing pharmaceuticals and other essential medical supplies and equipment would contribute to improved availability and affordability of drugs and other essential supplies hence, improved health sector performance. However, in Tanzania industrial research and policy making tends to be disconnected from health system research and policy. This research project which is being undertaken in Tanzania and Kenya aims to bring the two fields of policy and research closer together by exploring synergies between the two sides that, if addressed could contribute to improved industrial production, which in turn could contribute to improved health service performance.