



policy forum

Annual Report 2013



Policy Forum Progress Report – January to November 2013

Objective 1: The effectiveness of the accountability system including planning, expenditure, performance, integrity and oversight of government at both central and local level is systematically analyzed and monitored, and the resulting evidence is used by a broad base of civil society and advocacy groups to improve the effectiveness and quality of their advocacy.

The 2013 Annual Plan:

In keeping with objective 1 of the strategic plan for 2011 to 2013 – as outlined above, the following is an update of the progress of implementation of activities agreed upon in the 2013 Annual Plan of the Budget Working Group (BWG).

- **The Budget Working Group Annual Plan for 2013.**

The BWG Annual plan for 2013 was drawn and approved by the Budget Working Group in a meeting held in March 2013 as a guide for the activities they would be implementing throughout the year.

- **Preparation of the Citizen's Budget**

There has been a commitment by the Ministry of Finance to produce the Citizens' Budget for every financial year. This initiative was taken over by the Ministry starting with the 2011/12 budget.

The department keeps following up with the Ministry of Finance regarding this activity. Early October this year, the Ministry of Finance contacted PF BWG to input on the draft document of the Citizens Budget for 2013/14. BWG members met with the officials from the Ministry and discussed the draft document for finalization.

The document has been printed and some copies availed to Policy Forum. An effective mechanism is being devised to ensure that copies reach as many stakeholders as possible and that the document is being used to inform the upcoming budget.

- **Localization of the Open Budget Index (OBI)**

This activity aims to measure the transparency of the budget process at local level, looking specifically at the issue of access to budget information as well as the mechanisms that are in place to influence citizen participation in the process. In May this year, a field visit was done in Mbeya rural, Ileje and Mbozi in which filling in of

the questionnaires started. This was done in collaboration with our partner MIICO. The exercise of filling in the questionnaires is still on going.

In October this year a field visit was made and data collection has been done for Mbozi and Ileje districts. As for Mbeya rural, there has been a challenge as the responsible organization that was supposed to collect data has not submitted the questionnaires. A report is being put together to share the findings in the areas where data collection was possible as well as documenting the lessons that were learnt from the pilot study. These will be shared with the officials of the respective LGAs for further discussion and suggest improvement measures to ensure budget transparency at the local level.

- **Budget working Group pre Budget statement**

The BWG published a pre-budget statement condemning the move by the Parliament not to discuss the report by the CAG during the Bunge Budget session. The parliament during a media briefing on Monday, 4th of April 2013, through the National Assembly's Assistant Director of Information, Mr. Deogratius Egidio explained to the journalists that due to limited time and the change of timetable, the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report was not going to be discussed during the ongoing budget meeting.

This decision by the Parliament was condemned because the report carries with it important information that may inform the next budget allocations. The key messages that the statement carried include: Non discussion of the CAG's report despite his revelation of corruption and embezzlement of public funds, consequences of abolishing the Parastatal Organizations Accounts Committee (POAC) and the fact that the Parliament seems to take for granted the trust that has been given to it by the public. This press statement was also translated into Swahili and published in the press on 18th April 2013.

- **Policy engagement.**

PF strategically engages with policy processes with the aim of improving the existing or new policies so that they work better for the marginalized groups in the society. In October this year PF received an invitation from the Ministry of Finance for a meeting with the agenda of discussing the new development assistance framework. Following the completion of the Joint Assistance Strategy (JAST), the Ministry has been in the process of developing a succeeding framework which is known as Development Assistance Framework (DAF).

During the session, the present CSOs provided useful inputs to improve the document. It was especially stressed that the document should clearly state the rationale for the move from JAST to DAF. Again it has to show the need for the shift from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness. The Ministry received the inputs and promised to work on them and sharing the final draft before it comes into use.

- **The Annual Review of Budget Support.**

In October this year, Policy Forum organized for a session between CSOs and Development Partners in preparation of the Annual Review of the Budget Support. This was done ahead of the meeting between government and DPs on the same subject. Since CSOs are not part of the review meeting, it was suggested that they (CSOs) meet with DPs and provide them with inputs for the annual review.

This session between CSOs and DPs was held at the British Council on 11th October 2013. Inputs were provided on what CSOs would like to provide as input to the GBS Annual Review to be held on 18.11.2013 and the future nature of cooperation between CSOs and DPs around GBS issues

It was a good opportunity for CSO to air views and also to lobby DPs to influence the government to open up more space for CSOs in GBS and other relevant dialogue processes.

- **Policy week.**

Every year, the Ministry of Finance organizes Poverty Policy Week (PPW) around selected themes. For this year, the event's theme was **'Scaling up Best Practices and Maximizing Potential Opportunities for Sustainable pro-poor and Inclusive Growth'**. Policy Forum was invited to the event which took place on 25th to 27th November 2013 at Mwl. Nyerere International Conference Centre.

In response to this, PF collaborated with the Foundation for Civil Society to ensure that there is representation of CSOs in this event. Together, we prepared an opening statement on behalf of Non State Actors which presented during the opening day. The event offered an alternative platform to stakeholders to reflect on the researched issues and provide their views towards achieving development targets as spelt out in different short and long term government strategies.

- **Analysis of 2013/14 National Budget**

The Secretariat usually dedicates the breakfast debate for the month of June to be prepared by the Budget working Group. For this year, the breakfast debate that will be prepared by the BWG will fall on July 2013 because of the changes in the budget cycle. It has been agreed by the group that for this year, we try finding one of the Members of Parliament (MP) to attend and share with the audience views on the new budget cycle. There will also be a discussion on the Parliamentary Budget Office which has been an agenda for the CSOs for quite a while. The presentations and discussions will all be uploaded on our website (www.policyforum.or.tz).

In addition to that, the BWG is the process of preparing policy briefs based on the 2013/14 budget. The document will be widely shared and discussed amongst stakeholders to better inform the budgeting exercise. Four Policy briefs have been produced topics covered are on:

Education the brief examines some of the missed opportunities that if taken, can help transform education in Tanzania.

Tanzania and the problem of Tax exemption: it looks at whether the government's budget is in line with the declared revenue policies, particularly from the perspective of tax exemption reduction.

A brief on Health: explain the perspective on the ministry of Health social welfare in their budget proposal for 2013/14, and urge the ministry to elaborate more on how funds will be spent.

Water brief: Tanzania Water sector Budget analysis for phase 1 of the water sector development programme.

All these policy briefs can be found on our website through this link. <http://www.policyforum-tz.org/budget-briefs>

- **Analytical think piece**

Following the changing landscape of Tanzania's development cooperation, especially by the emergence of new players Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, collectively known as BRICS, PF has been enthusiastic to analyse the current interest of the BRICS- on Tanzania (and vice versa - Tanzania's enthusiasm with these countries), by providing a perspective on increasing knowledge and understanding of BRICS' role and impact in Tanzania, an East African and low-income nation.

This analysis has been finalized and is now with the printers. It is expected that launching of the document will be done early next year during a monthly breakfast debate.

- **Governance Study**

Policy Forum produces the Tanzania Governance Reviews (TGR) report every year focusing on governance and accountability issues that occurred throughout the year. Preparation and production of the 2012 report was done this year and the report has mainly featured more prominently the work our members do particularly focusing on evident success and challenges faced by organizations doing advocacy work at both local and national level, on topics to do with demanding accountability and articulating citizens' voice.

The report was launched on 29th November 2013 during a breakfast debate at the British Council which was well attended. It stimulated discussion amongst different stakeholders ranging from academicians to ordinary citizens. It is expected that the report will be disseminated widely as well as preparing a brief based on it for advocacy purposes.

Objective 2: Analysis and monitoring information produced by Policy Forum is widely disseminated to policy makers, civil society and the general public in a manner that is accessible, interesting, relevant and useful to the intended target audience.

Policy Forum Website and branding: Data continues to show that, over 2000 people visits our website on a daily basis and greater part of users are within Tanzania. We also continue to update and upload various documents including reports, studies, publications and news items regularly as a way of broadening our dissemination. This year we decided to do a backup of our website in our server and this activity was completed at the end of June. Also, we migrated more information from our old website to the new upgraded version of the website. This was due to our host changing the script interpreter (PHP) of the old website. This year, we updated our members directory which gives a list of all our members, their contact address and a description of their activities and hence we produced it in the form of a booklet for our members and other stakeholders. We also printed a wheel cover carrying general information on what PF is and what it does so that the general public can have a grapple of about PF.

Evaluation of Policy Forum Publications: This activity will take place towards the end of the year. Hence, Policy Forum will commission an independent consultant to do this activity.

Popularization of Policy Documents: The documents that were planned to be produced for popularization for the year 2013 were 3 publications (and 1 upon members demand). These agreed documents for popularization are:

1. A simplified and abridged version of the 2013 Resource Governance Index which measures the quality of governance in the oil, gas and mining sector of 58 countries. This activity is underway. We plan to print 5000 copies of the brief which will be disseminated to PF's members, public and different stakeholders.
2. A popular version of the Guideline on Good Governance (*Mwongozo wa Utawala Bora*) produced by the LGWG in collaboration with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), the publication is on good governance, it aims at sensitizing both leaders and the community on good governance and accountability, the publication was launched on 25/09/2013 where the guest of honor was the Deputy Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Hon. Angellah Kairuki who said that she was very proud to be associated with the collaboration.
3. **Reprint of *Utawala wa Kidemokrasia katika Jamii*** booklet. Due to great demand, this year the publication on *Utawala wa Kidemokrasia katika Jamii* was reprinted and has been disseminated to members
4. A simplified version on the roles and responsibilities of councilors. It was suggested, in one of the LGWG meeting, that we should produce a hand booklet highlighting the major role and responsibilities of the councilors so that to enable councilor and citizens engage fully on issues pertaining to governance both at national and local level. The draft booklet has been produced and is currently being reviewed

Breakfast Debates: Breakfast debates have continued to take place on the last Friday of each month. During the year 2013, the topics discussed have been:

January: The Natural Gas Policy of Tanzania: Does it address the interests of citizens?

February: Tanzania Governance Review 2010-2011: Economic Growth without Poverty Reduction

March: Cashewnut: A Door to Poverty Reduction in Tanzania?

April: Water Sector Budget Allocation: Is the State of the Water Sector Improving?

May: Improving Forestry Governance in Tanzania: The Role of the Private Sector

June: Human Rights in Tanzania: are we doing enough to help the poor?

July: The New Budget Cycle in Tanzania: Has it provided more space for stakeholders to engage?

August: Youth Participation: Is enough being done to ensure the next generation owns development and policy processes?

September: Local Content: enhancing the subnational benefits of oil and gas sector

October: Problem of Sustainable Water Accessibility: Is it an issue of technology or accountability?

November: Tanzania Governance Review 2012: Transparency with Impunity

Attendance has generally been good and media coverage has been encouraging too. Most of participants have been from public sector, high learning institutions, academia, civil society, development partners and the private sectors. Also, requests from PF's members and other stakeholders for slots in these debates have increased considerably from last three years. This signifies the understanding and value of these discussions and influence and impact that can bring in the general public.

Communication with Members: The communication strategy developed in 2008 continues to guide us in our day to day activities. For six months, we have continued sending weekly updates after thorough section to suit our objectives and which are more relevant to our members. We, also, continue sending information packs with key documents to members with information that may be of interest on a monthly basis and also to assist our members whose access to internet connectivity and mobile phones is limited such information packages are either PF related publications or different publications from our members that are of relevance.

We also post different information related to our activities in our facebook and twitter accounts as a way of reaching more people.

Also, Budget Working Group (BWG) and Local Government Working Group (LGWG) meetings have continued to be held regularly.

Strategic Use of the Media: For six months, Policy Forum and its members have continued working with the media in the following ways:

1. Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) – Documentary. This year PF decided to produce a SAM documentary which is a continuation of the previous documentary on SAM in Ileje-Mbeya to capture the success story of the healthcare centre which is now functioning after some SAM interventions. The documentary was previewed at the international conference on SAM slated on August 2013.
2. *TV spot:* This year the idea of the TV spot that came out from Policy Forum members was to produce a TV spot on tax justice and transparency, the spot has

been produced and has been pretested to members during the November 2013 Quarterly meeting, soon after the comments are incorporated it will be aired in ITV and StarTV

Press Statements: This year we have produced 4 press statements; on Government's Decision to Nullify 2012 Form IV Results, Statement by the Policy Forum's Budget Working Group (BWG) on the 2011/2012 CAG's Report, Open Letter to EITI Chairperson on Consultation for Contract Transparency and 4th Tanzania Offshore and North Lake Tanganyika Licensing Round.

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Objective 3: The capability of civil society organizations to understand and systematically monitor the accountability system is progressively enhanced, and the ability to engage more effectively in governance processes at both local and national level through evidence- based advocacy is improved.

Institutionalizing SAM within Government Institutions

Policy Forum has long been working with its member organizations to open up spaces for civic actors and communities to participate in policy and planning processes at the local level. As a network of civil society organizations, we also believe communities should have the opportunity to obtain justifications and explanations for the use of public resources from those entrusted with the responsibility for their management and the performance of officials if service provision at the local level is to be progressively improved.

To this end, Policy Forum has continued to collaborate with the government institutions, and in this year of implementation Policy Forum has established the working relation with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance with the aim of strengthening the realization and adherence to human rights as far as service provision is concerned. To influence this in March 2013, Policy Forum and CHRAGG conducted a meeting with the aim of identifying key areas for collaboration. To do this PF presented on Social Accountability Monitoring approach with the focus to The Right Based Approach to service delivery. The approach base on the assumption that, states have the obligation to protect, respect and promote human rights, therefore through the national and international commitments which the states have signed the ultimate goal is the realization of people's social economic rights through the use of maximum available resources.

SAM at local level

Although opening up spaces for participation and facilitating an enabling environment for communities to monitor service-delivery is important to enhance government responsiveness, improving the capability of CSOs to understand and systematically monitor the accountability system is crucially pivotal in progressing governance processes at the local level.

Social Accountability Monitoring interventions have continued in 2013 building on work we have done in previous years. In the areas we have intervened, we are gradually witnessing LGA officials collaborating more with communities than before. A case in point is in Kisarawe, Pwani where the community have been empowered towards the monitoring of Natural Resources.

TNRF/ MAMA MISITU CAMPAIGN STORY

Increased capacity to CSOs and Communities in Monitoring Social Accountability

Policy Forum facilitated training on Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) to various groups including councillors and district staff, CSOs members and citizens in Rufiji, Kilwa and Kibaha districts to empower communities to participate effectively district governance based on clear understanding on their right to social accountability. The training participants were such as follow:

SAM training attracted 43 participants (Male 27, Female 16) where a good mix of participants from the Local Government Authorities (LGAs), Councilors, CSO's and communities provided an opportunity for interactions and experience sharing. SAM empowered local communities to demand for explanation and justification on issues related to income and expenditure management at district level.

Subira Juma Mndili - secretary general for the forest network in Ruvu south (Shirikisho la wakulima na watetezi wa mazingira msitu wa Ruvu Kusini-SHIWAMARU).

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Subira demonstrated a clear understanding of his responsibilities on conserving forest resources in his village. He received Mama Misitu Campaign (MMC) as a positive challenge in ensuring community members understands their accountability on conserving their resources. Initially, Mr. Subira believed Government was the only body responsible with forest management. "Forest resources were not important to me; I used to see officers from the district doing patrol, apprehending poachers and taking their resources including sacks of charcoal, bicycles. Everything was taken to the district and nothing was left in the village," he said.

"Theories of MMC have changed my thinking, judgement and practice", he said. Through Social Accountability Monitoring training, which was conducted by Policy Forum, Subira has realised his accountabilities on sustainable forest management. He is among the active members of the committee, responsible with implementing environmental village by-laws such as participating in patrolling the forest and apprehending whosoever will be in the forest without the notice from the village. Soga village has successfully entered into informal agreement with the Government. 20% of the revenue accrued from the forest resource remains in the village for development activities and 80% goes to the district. Forest resources have become one of the sources of income.

The analysis of the district annual progress reports in Kisarawe (2010/11) revealed an apparently delay in gazetting six CBFM by-laws in Kisarawe district due to inability of the district council to approve Village by-laws. On the other hand it was noted that there is absence of sustainable plans of replacing distorted forests by planting trees. During a follow up visit SAM committee found only 32,150 seedlings that were planted in the district nursery which is far below the 3,000,000 seedlings targeted by the district Councils.

In relation to delays in approving Forest Management by-laws as an issue raised by village communities - the District Council has introduced a new procedure that will facilitate swift approval of Village By-Laws. The District has narrowed the process by forming a Sub Committee comprised of Council Chairman, DED and the District Attorney who will endorse submitted by-laws and same will be confirmed as a formality in the Full Council Meeting.

- Partners in collaboration with District Forest Officers are now validating by-laws at Village and Ward level before being submitted to the approval committee at district level

To address the issue of depletion of natural forests species - the District have planned to distribute Miombo species such as Mikengemaji as traditional trees. 80% of the supported tree seedling will focus on traditional tree species and the other 20% will carter for improved tree species.

Other lessons include inability of the District Councils to allocate funds for forest management activities despite increased revenue from forestry resources.

SAM findings uncovered that in 2010/11 Tshs. 261,332,872 equivalent to 96.8% of expected collections was collected from forest resources but nothing was re-invested in the forest sector in Kisarawe district.

In connection to benefit sharing of forest royalties - Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) has conducted stakeholders meetings in their four zones to solicit opinion on what would be the benefit sharing percentage between the government and communities. Stakeholders are proposing for a 50% benefit sharing ratio. Advocacy campaigns are continuing to ensure the guideline is finalized and has more benefits to forest adjacent communities.

Field findings during SAM further acknowledged that there are no updated harvesting plans in Kisarawe District and issuance of harvesting permit are being done without proper coordination as to where harvesting should be done. During field visit in Mafumbu and Sofu village the team learned on increased illegal logging in these villages despite the fact that legal harvesting of timber resources has been prohibited due to land conflicts.

District Natural Resource Officer for Kisarawe confirmed that some un-faithful government staff are colluding with business people to continue harvesting forestry resources in areas not recommended by harvesting committees something that needs community awareness to address the challenge.

Other issues noted during SAM process in Kisarawe include un-attended boundary conflicts which has demised the morale and efforts taken by communities in governing the forests. Villages under conflicts include Visiga vs Marui Ngwata with its neighbour centers of Kibuyuni, Yozole , Ng'ole from Mkuranga. Moreover village leaders lacking accountability of reading revenue and expenditure reports during village assembly meetings and some leaders have been questioned on their ability to document village minutes as they have not following up issues that were raised in previous meetings.

Pictures of illegal harvesting in Sofu and Mafumbi village in Kisarawe



(Photo by: MMC Field Visit, May 2013)

SAM findings were presented to the Council Management Team as well as the Council's committee for Planning, Economy and Environment and to communities in Sofu village so as to develop strategies to address these challenges. The Mama Mitsu Campaign has started addressing various challenges in Kisarawe. Some of its intervention include mobilizing and training local communities and their institutions to fight illegal logging. The district authorities have been engaged to discuss potential of approving village by-laws for community based forest management.

Community Action to address illegal harvesting in Sofu Village

SAM processes has awakened communities in Kisarawe district particularly of Sofu and Kola villages that communities have all the necessary resources and capacity to address issues of illegal harvesting.

It was noted that after the SAM team visited Sofu village and raised a concern on illegal logging a community meeting was called to develop collective action to reduce forests degradation. During the meeting it was noticed that some government staff are involved in those illegal actions and thereby Villager's selected a small committee to support the Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC) to undertake patrol to evict forest criminals. The committee also

reported to the district council seeking their support to address their boundary conflicts with nearby village called Malumbu so they can develop plans for sustainable harvesting. As a result the District authorities have agreed to organize a meeting involving village under conflict in order to resolve the matter. So far sustainable patrols have been established by villagers where seven forest criminals were caught and fined. The patrol confiscated 312 bags of charcoal which were sold and generated income to the village.

In addressing illegal logging - Six Joint patrols involving Village Forest Committees, Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), District Officials, Police and the Military was undertaken in areas with high reported incidences of illegal logging including Sofu Villages between June and September 2013 .TFS has increased the budget for these patrols and their conduct has been inclusive and transparent. From July 2013 one - two Joint patrols are being implemented in a month and local communities are represented.

Also in Ukerewe district after SAM intervention and feedback meetings done to officials, councilors and general public, the Ukerewe SAM TEAM has witnessed some changes as a results of the SAM intervention. One of the finding was on the Community Health Fund, whereby it was found that most villagers are not aware of the fund, and also to the villages into which the villagers have started to contribute, the fund has remained unused. When the matter was presented to the Ukerewe district official – and to the District Medical Officer, they have now developed a plan to educate and sensitize the community on the importance of CHF. Moreover it was revealed that, there was incomplete of many project funded by TASAF, after the feedback meeting, the TASAF department in collaboration with the Department of Works has evaluated all projects in progress and request an amount Tshs 24 million for the financial year 2012/13, also the District Planning Office has prepared a plan to visit all the projects which were not completed for the 2010/11 Financial year.

Other interventions aimed at helping local Government Authorities create space for communities to participate in planning.

Development of a Capacity Enhancement strategy, a local SAM training course and SAM fundamentals course:

To further deal with the demand for SAM, Policy Forum has adopted a local SAM course with help from the PSAM which will be used to develop the capacity of its members and partners. Facilitator's Guide has been developed and reviewed so as to confirm with laws and regulations of the government of United Republic of Tanzania that relate to accountability and monitoring activities. PF hopes that the SAM Facilitator's Guide will help maintain the quality of training on SAM. This year's Local SAM training was conducted in July 15 to 26, 2013 where by it involved 17 participants among them 4 were female and 13 were male. The participants involved were from LGA's, CSO's and one staff from the Commission for human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG). Regarding SAM Fundamentals PSAM course, five members have attended the course in South Africa (1 participant from WATER AID, 2 participants from ANSAF and 2 participants from HakiElimu,).

For this year up to November 2013, PF members have continued to use SAM tools in monitoring public resources. For example in 2012 PF partnered with TNRF and FORUM SYD to implement SAM in Kisarawe and Ukerewe respectively. More over for this year TNRF has continued to expand its site for SAM implementation to Kibaha District Council, Rufiji District

Council and Kilwa District council, to all the site in which TNRF implement SAM the focus is on Natural Resource Sector into which the aim is to improve the Forest Governance and hence increasing the revenue collection to both Local and Central Government

In this year, Policy Forum through its AGM has also add up one member- WATER AID for SAM partnership, the implementation of SAM with WATER AID took place in early September 2013, and the training involved three districts in Dodoma which are Mpwawa, Bahi and Chamwino. Initially the idea was to add two partnerships and of course two members were selected during May 2013 AGM, the other member selected was RANGO, however the partnership will not be taken forward, due to funding problems at RANGO.

In this view of capacitating the members to effectively engage with and influence national and local policy processes, Policy forum has continued to provide technical assistance to its members whenever needed. In implementing its annual plan, Policy Forum has been assisting MIICO to train SAM in Ludewa district – MIICO once partnered with Policy Forum to undertake SAM in Ileje District – Mbeya Region, as part of the capacity that was established by Policy Forum, MIICO has been awarded fund by SDC to undertake SAM in LUDEWA, something which Policy Forum is proud of since it once trained MIICO and its staffs on Social Accountability Monitoring approach.

Policy Forum's Quarterly Meetings

Up to June 2013, Policy Forum has conducted four quarterly meetings; the first QM was in February 2013 total participants were 64 in which 42 participants were male and 12 female and among them 28 participants were from upcountry members. Another meeting was AGM- which is also regarded as QM and was conducted in May 2013; total participants were 62 among them, 20 were female and 42 were male and among them 30 participants were from upcountry who participated in the meeting. The third QM was conducted in August 2013 which was also regarded as Policy Forum Constitution Review Fora, participants were 49 among them 14 were female and 35 were male. Among the total participants 24 were upcountry members. The last QM was conducted in November 2013 whereby the total participants were 44 among them 13 were female and 31 were male. The upcountry members participated were 28.

Objective 4: Engagement by Policy Forum in national policy processes particularly on issues pertaining to the implementation of effective accountability systems is systematic, selective and strategic in order to enhance the quality of engagement and to engage where impact is most likely to be achieved.

Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) Advocacy

For this year, the department has continued to pursue advocacy work to enable the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO). On early June 2013, the Parliament of Tanzania in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program under their Legislatures Support Project extended an invite to Policy Forum (PF) to a session on Budget Committees and Parliamentary Budget Office. The meeting was chaired by Honorable Andrew Chenge, chair of the newly established Parliamentary Budget Committee.

At this particular meeting, PF made a presentation regarding the challenges facing budget committees and budget offices in Africa and their solutions. Owing to the fact that in Tanzania the concept of a budget committee is new, and also the fact that budget office is yet to be established, experiences were shared from other countries which have had these institutions for a while now. These include our neighbors Kenya and Uganda.

During the discussion, it was interesting to find out that most of the MPs are in favor of establishing this office. Unlike the previous year where this idea was new to most of the MPs, this time it was clear that the importance of establishing the office is well known. For example, during the 2013/14 Bunge Budget session, one of the MPs when contributing to the government's income and expenditure, he made several recommendations aiming to improve the oversight function of the Parliament. Amongst them was the recommendation to establish a PBO. This can be verified by looking at the Hansard of Parliament for the session held on 31st May 2013.

Through the BWG, the department is now planning to develop another brief about PBO, as well as seeking an opportunity to have a session with the clerk and members of the budget committee to keep convincing them on the importance of having this office. The International Budget Project has also expressed interest in terms of PBO literature. It is expected that with more and more MPs stressing for the establishment of the office, the responsible authority may likely adhere to this demand.

Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance



International Networking

Advocacy in Budget Transparency and Tax Justice: Fostering links at the World Social Forum: Policy Forum attended the World Social Forum in Tunis, Tunisia as part of the network's desire to form solidarity and strategic alliances with organisations that assist us in meeting our objectives. As an organisation that advocates for open budgets in Tanzania, it was a remarkable opportunity to join forces and connect with other groups under the Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation (BTAP) and launch the Make Budgets Public NOW! Campaign aimed at advocating governments and parliaments across the world to be more transparent about the budget.

The BTAP members also linked up with other organisations like the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation and the Global Policy Forum to organise a workshop on "Eco-social fiscal justice as part of a holistic Post 2015 agenda" which gave opportunity for participants to share experiences on how public budgets can be designed to address human rights, social and environmental objectives simultaneously and hear about how tax justice and environmental justice can be coupled.

Semkae Kilonzo of the Policy Forum presented the Social Accountability Monitoring System as being applied in Tanzania, Rocio Moreno of BTAP, Iara Pietricovsky of INESC in Brazil and Diego de la Mora of Fundar in Mexico also shared lessons on budget monitoring initiatives in their countries. BTAP also organised a workshop on "Why it is time to Make Budgets Public NOW?" where Policy Forum presented a case study from its Social Accountability Monitoring work in Southern Tanzania as a way of providing practical examples of how budget transparency and participation can help improve citizens' rights and lives.

Another opportunity for Policy Forum at the World Social Forum was on tax justice campaigning. The network believes that effective and just tax collection is essential in improving the lives of all people in Tanzania, especially the socially disadvantaged and impoverished particularly through redistributing wealth within society the delivery of quality social services. In Tanzania, Policy Forum has conducted executive and parliamentary advocacy on tax justice so that government can reduce the excessively generous tax incentives to multi-national companies especially those in the mining sector in Tanzania and it can enhance its internal capacity to deal with illicit capital flight from the country. PF hence participated in tax justice activities organised by the Tax Justice Network – Africa which included workshops on illicit financial flows from developing countries and tax competition between developing countries. Policy Forum also connected with tax justice campaigners from Europe who have shown interest to build strategic links with organisations in Tanzania. The World Social Forum ran from 26th – 30th of March, 2013 and brought together an estimated 20,000 people from about 130 countries.

Urging East African Legislative Assembly members to address harmful tax competition:



Policy Forum was part of a civil society contingent from Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda that met with the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Committee on Communications, Trade and Investments (CTI) in Bujumbura in February to discuss harmful tax competition between their countries that deny governments critically needed revenue.

The representatives, who are all members of the Tax Justice Network – Africa (TJN-A), urged the East African Community legislators to focus fresh attention on taxation and look at ways in which more domestic resources can be raised and channeled to provision of improved public services and development.

In particular, TJN-A members advised that improved tax policies should focus on the reduction in the use of tax incentives designed to attract investments to a country. "The popularity of these incentives is due, firstly, to the assumption that corporations and other investors make decisions about where to invest, or even what business to engage in, in large part on the basis of calculations of the tax obligations they would incur, and secondly on the competition that develops among countries, particularly those in the same region, for investment, particularly from foreign investors," reads part of the briefing not prepared for the legislators.

The tax justice advocates believe that there is enough evidence to demonstrate that even though companies and investors lobby for incentives, tax bills are a relatively minor consideration in their investment decisions, and that the tax competition among East African countries is costing them an unacceptable volume of revenues that would be crucial for improving public services and advancing development plans. They cite a 2006 report by the IMF which focuses on East Africa and notes that "investment incentives' particularly tax incentives – are not an important factor in attracting foreign investment." More important factors are good quality infrastructure, low administrative costs of setting up and predictable macro-economic policy, the IMF study advises. Similarly, a 2010 report found that the main reasons for firms investing in Kenya are access to the local and regional market, political and economic stability and favorable bilateral trade agreements. Fiscal concessions offered by Export Processing Zones (EPZs) were mentioned by only 1% of the businesses sampled, TJN-A notes.

The Tax Justice Network – Africa believes that the EAC is best placed to break the stalemate in which no East African country wants to risk being the first to withdraw some of its

incentives, for fear that other countries will hold back in order to benefit from investors looking for greener pastures. Although that fear is probably misplaced, it is precisely in this sort of situation that a regional body like the EAC is invaluable, for it requires a decision that will only work if it is made collectively.

The EALA CTI committee members received the tax justice advocates' message warmly and were keen to learn more about the harmful nature of tax competition in East Africa and more particularly, what they could do address the problem. TJN-A and Actionaid International commissioned studies on the impact of tax incentives and exemptions in each of the EAC countries under the collective title 'Tax Competition in East Africa: a race to the bottom?'

The Tanzania study was unveiled by Policy Forum in June 2012 to Members of Parliament who are part of the Tanzanian chapter of African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC). The Tanzania report is available here: <http://www.policyforum-tz.org/files/ARacetothetBottom.pdf>

The 2013 the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings: Policy Forum was invited to attend the 2013 the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington DC that brought together thousands of government officials, journalists, civil society organizations, academics and private sector representatives. The meetings are held annually to discuss progress on the work of the World Bank and the IMF and include a series of seminars, regional briefings, press conferences, and many other events focused on the global economy, international development, and the world's financial markets.

For CSOs attending, there were pre-Civil Society Forum events including orientation sessions on the IMF, aimed at introducing IMF policies and programmes, and the World Bank, which focused on the three major agencies of the World Bank Group – IBRD, IFC and MIGA – and its four independent compliance mechanisms. CSO representatives in attendance also met Washington-based NGO speakers and other CSOs who shared lessons on engaging the WB and IMF around development policies including key issues such as climate change, safeguards and open development.

The meetings also offered CSOs attending an opportunity to meet with the Executive Directors of the World Bank Group to exchange views on policy issues such as poverty eradication, governance and climate change.

The IMF was keen to demonstrate tools to support its policy advice to low-income countries so they held a session on this and gave some country examples of their application and how they help strengthen financial sector surveillance, manage natural resource revenues and assess the linkages between scaling up of public investments, growth and debt sustainability.

Social Accountability Practitioners Conference: Policy Forum in collaboration with Action Aid- Tanzania, Forum Syd, Public Service Accountability Monitor- A unit at Rhodes University in South Africa, MS-TCDC and SDC-Tanzania hosted a conference on Social Accountability from August 27th to 29th 2013 at in Dar es Salaam - Tanzania. The conference brought together Social Accountability practitioners together to dialogue on the best ways to monitor public resources for the interest of communities and to learn from one another on different ways of advocating for changes that lead to improved service delivery

to the people and realize their social –economic and political rights. The conference also gave the practitioners an opportunity to learn more from other actors who use PETs as an approach in tracking public expenditure and to share on how the approach is integrated in the Social Accountability System.

Global Financial Transparency: Policy Forum and the Financial Transparency Coalition cohosted that brought together global leaders in the development and finance communities to draw attention to the growing problem of illicit financial flows. The conference addressed how to increase global financial transparency and bolster equitable economic development.

Among the key recommendations delegates made at the conference were a call for public registries that reveal the identity of the beneficial owner of companies; the harmonisation of anti-money laundering laws; the implementation of so-called country-by-country disclosure rules so citizens can see a major company's sales, profits, costs and the tax paid in every country they operate in; the introduction of automatic information of tax so revenue authorities can tackle tax evaders; and the reform of the international corporate tax system to close loopholes that allow companies to legally take an aggressive approach to their cost base and shift profits into tax havens.

Extractives Industry: Policy Forum is a member of the Extractives Industry Working Group (EIWG) that consists of a number of national NGOs working on mining, oil and gas issues. In 2013, the working group has issued a number of commentaries on issues around extractives policy in Tanzania. For instance, in we released a statement on the draft gas policy. Mainly, we observed that it was important to ensure strategic and efficient state participation while being cautious of inefficiencies inherent in state monopoly that may undermine resource development. We also stressed that upstream issues concerning exploration agreements in particular, and environmental issues, were not dealt with. We endorsed the idea of establishing a wealth fund to 'ring-fence' gas revenues against political predation, and proposed that civil society should be taken seriously as a national stakeholder and not just an intermediary with local communities. The EIWG also urged a clear definition between state commercial and regulatory functions, the target being the TPDC.

Financial Issues

The total approved annual budget for 2013 is **Tsh. 1,437,445,793/=**. We began the year with a balance brought forward from previous year of **Tsh. 481,114,146/=**.

During the year, we received disbursement amounting to **Tsh. 1,489,723,688** from **SDC, American Jewish, and PF member TNRF**. As at 30th November 2013, Policy Forum had an equivalent bank and cash balance of **Tsh. 687,605,172**

Disbursements only

In Tanzanian shillings

Year	Amount Budgeted	Amount disbursed	Amount spent
2013	1,437,445,793	1,489,723,688	1,013,288,990.

Budgeted Disbursements and pledges

These are revised total pledges that have been realized in the 2013 financial year. As shown in the table below the total budget is equivalent to **US\$ 871,179** compare to **US\$ 902,862**, amount obtained as at November 30th 2013

<i>In Tanzanian shillings</i>			
Year	Amount Budgeted	Amount obtained and pledged for year 2013	Budgeted Surplus/ (Deficit)
2013	1,437,445,793	1,559,223,688	121,777,895

The pledges and Disbursement for 2013 are summarized in the table below. The disbursement from American Jewish for 2013 was received at the end of year 2012 and reported as a deferred income (other payable) on 2012 Financial Statements.

Summary of Disbursement Status for year 2013

Funding Agency	Amount Agreed in 2013 (in currency of agreement)	Status of Pledges for year 2013
Swiss Development Cooperation	Tsh. 1,117,200,000	Tsh. 1,128,374,971. Disbursed (Include Tsh 563,600,000 2012- installment and Tsh. 11,174,971 of 2011)
American Jewish World Service	US \$ 150,000	\$ 150,000 disbursed (Tsh 236,700,000)
Revenue Watch Institute	US\$ 30,000	US\$ 31,858 (Tsh. 49,500,000) Not Disbursed
TNRF (PF Member)	52,810,000	Tsh. 35,998,717 disbursed

Membership Contributions	Tsh. 85,000,000	Tsh. 70,000,000 by Action Aid Tsh. 20 000,000 paid directly to TGR consultant by Water Aid Tsh, 15,000,000 by Forum Syd
Other		Tsh 3,650,000 Annual membership fees
	Total disbursed in 2013	Tsh. 1,489,723,688

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Secretariat is continuing its familiarization with a new progress measurement system known as Outcome Mapping (OM) which focuses on behavioural change demonstrated in those targeted for advocacy. The OM for PF that was designed in 2012 is now being implemented through constant follow-up and documentation using journals that record performance, strategy and anecdotes of outcomes.

At the beginning of the second half of 2013, an external review will be carried out with the purpose of assessing the extent to which the objectives and expected outcomes of the current Strategic Plan (2011-13) have been achieved. The review will be carried out by an external reviewer with extensive experience in carrying out such work. The reviewer is expected to be acquainted with Policy Forum's results-based management (RBM), Theory of Change (Impact Planning) and Outcome Mapping (OM) approaches and practices. The reviewer is also expected to be acquainted with gender mainstreaming and supply-side accountability work in Tanzania. The secretariat and PF members' participation (reviewer will use opportunities like the PF Members Quarterly Meeting) will be fundamental in the review but the lead consultant is also expected to involve board members, strategic partners, donors and other stakeholders. The review will be completed in 27 days (end of August) and by end of September a draft Strategic plan will be ready for presentation and comments before finalisation for fund-raising in January 2014.

Governance Issues

Policy Forum held its AGM in May 2013. Among other things, the AGM selected the auditor for the financial year ending 31st of December 2013 and elected a new Board of Directors. The list below details the composition of the new Board:

- i. Aida Kiangi – Chairperson (Actiona Aid Tanzania)
- ii. Nemence Iriya – Vice Chairperson (MACSNET)
- iii. Semkae Kilonzo – Secretary (Coordinator - POLICY FORUM)
- iv. Israel Ilunde (YPC Kibaha)
- v. Godfrey Wawa (Forum Syd)
- vi. Godfrey Boniventura (HakiElimu)
- vii. Martina M. Kabisama (SAHRINGON)
- viii. Hellen Bisimba-Kijo (LHRC)

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