



**policy forum**

# Making a Difference through our Intervention



*Initiatives that Work*

2022

# Introduction



**E**arlier this year 2022, the Policy Forum team traveled to the Morogoro region and knocked on the doors of two of its member organization's offices, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Tanzania and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Tanzania. This visit comes a year after Policy Forum conducted two training sessions for its members, in which PELUM and NCA both took part.

The first training on Government Structure and System was held on 16 – 19th March 2021, The aim was to introduce members to the structure and systems of government, the steps of the budget process, and to inform the key actors in this budget process. The nineteen (19) PF affiliated members include PELUM, PELO, Hakikazi Cata-

lyst, UNA Tanzania, TCCD, Interface, NCA Tanzania, KWIECO, and HakiElimu.

Other PF member organizations that attended the training were Restless Development, IECA, Care International, CODEFA, Action Aid, Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability, Open Mind Tanzania, and SIKIKA.

The second training on Gender Responsive Budget Training for PF Working Groups and other stakeholders was held from 19 – 22nd April 2021 at Flomi Hotel in Morogoro. The specific objectives of that workshop were; To equip members and other stakeholders on the steps and tools which will assist in carrying out GRBA better and to strengthen participants' advocacy skills to influence policy and processes.

# Policy Forum Trainings Programs Conducted in Morogoro 2021



Training on Government Structure and System



Training on Gender Responsive Budgeting



16 - 19th March 2021



19 - 22nd April 2021



Flomi Hotel, Morogoro



Flomi Hotel, Morogoro

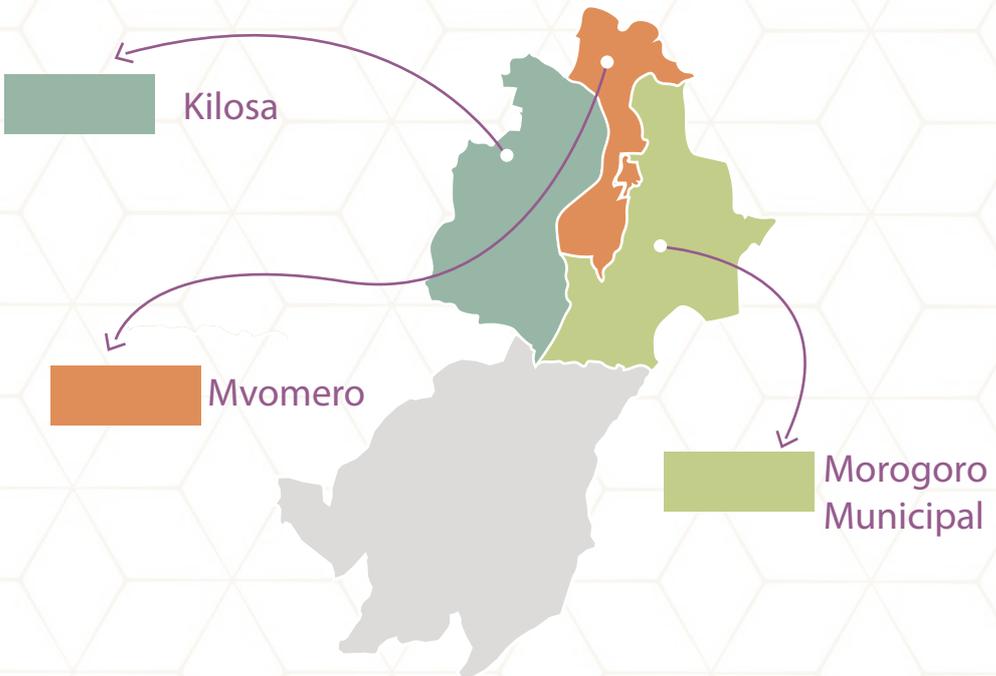


19 Policy Forum Members Organization attends



13 Policy Forum Members Organizations attends

## A Map of Morogoro Region Showing Areas Policy Forum Visit 2022



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*Since the introduction of the PETs committee in our village a lot has happened in a short period. We were able to influence community participation in the construction of school desks, and the village water project, and we're looking forward to starting the village dispensary project in the near future.*

”

**Emmanuel Isaya**





# Bodaboda who Champions the Improvement of Social Infrastructure

**Y**ou might be surprised that at Mandela village in Magole ward in Kilosa District Morogoro I had the privilege to meet Emmanuel Isaya, a local bodaboda guy when I was in search of a bodaboda ride from Mandela village to Dumila center. My encounter with Mr. Emmanuel turned out to be more than just a ride.

In my interaction with Mr. Emmanuel, I learnt that he is a bodaboda driver and has been a committee member of Mandela Village Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETs) for more than a year, after receiving training from the Anglican Church of Tanzania (Diocese of Morogoro) ACDM.

He insisted that Eighteen Policy Forum members organizations attended the training including NCA-Tanzania, and soon after the training NCA was capacitating ACDM to mobilize and facilitate

refresher training for different communities in Mvomero and Kilosa districts in Morogoro so as to promote community accountability for demanding better and equally resource distribution, as well as the formation of community Scorecard Committees.

Since then, Mr. Emmanuel and his PETs committee colleagues have been in charge of overseeing all local government activities in their village, including influencing the start of community mobilization for the construction of new school desks.

Today, the Mandela village PETs committee works to strengthen development projects while simultaneously bridging the gap between the local government and its residents. The village office called for a community council and meetings, and as a result of policy Forum training, citizens attended and participated.



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*In the beginning, no one attended the village meetings, nowadays after the capacity building training, the villagers are the ones who come to ask for the schedule of village meetings. This is because they know that through the village meetings, they would be able to plan their priorities.*

”

**Neema Tesha, Mandela Village Executive Officer (VEO)**



# Neema Tesha: Four Years of Experience as a Village Leader

**N**eema Tesha has been a Mandela Village Executive Officer (VEO) for over four years, and her commitment to community development has been constant. Since taking office, one of her goals has been to establish a relationship between local government administration and citizens, although she has hit a few barriers now and then.

The villagers did not have a good understanding of the budgeting concerns and the budgeting process, and they were also not involved in the process. The issue wasn't just budgeting; her village was also lagging behind in terms of community members' participation in community development projects, and it had been for some time.

The situation stayed unchanged

until 2021, when Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), in collaboration with the Anglican Church of Tanzania (Diocese of Morogoro) ACDM, provided accountability and budget cycle training and established the Mandela Village Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETs) committee. The purpose of this committee is to supervise all local government activities in Mandela Village.

Since then, at Mandela Village, the situation changed; citizens were more aware and engaged, and they are now participating in village development programs; they were able to build 60 new desks for the school, and they are now working on a village dispensary project; they are expecting to begin the second phase of this project in June 2022.



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*I am very grateful to the Policy Forum through DDS and PELUM for their training programs on using local seeds; Today our farming practices have changed much better than before. In our village, agriculture is now paying off; I harvest enough food for my family and others for business, and I have started a poultry farming and planting trees project.*

”

**Mama Faith Mkwami, Local Farmer  
from Kitarangwe Village Gairo District  
Morogoro.**





# Farmers Who Break the BARRIERS

**P**eople always say everyone is the hero of his/her own story and that has been proved by Mama Faith Mkwami, a local farmer from Kitarangwe Village which is located more than 315 KM from Dar es Salaam in Gairo District Morogoro. Mama Faith has been farming for more than two decades, and it is the only economic activity she relies on to make a living and manage her family.

Despite her tireless efforts in agriculture, Mama Faith and her fellow Kitarangwe villagers could not generate sufficient food and income from farming due to poor farming techniques. Come rain or come shine the situation remained the same until 2021 when Policy Forum held a four-days workshop on Gender responsive budget analysis for members organization in Morogoro.

Mama Faith's name did not appear on the register of Policy Forum training participants, however soon after the training Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Tanzania went one step further and brought the lesson learned to its member organizations and later to the local farmers in different places including Kitarangwe Village where Mama Faith lives.

Mama Faith is now the queen of her own story; she has overcome obstacles to achieve financial and social independence, and her agricultural pursuits are now more profitable than before. Mama Faith is one of many heroes whose lives have been transformed as a result of different organizations' initiatives as Policy Forum does at Morogoro.

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*We appreciate NCA and Policy Forum's burning desire to train local religious leaders, government officials, and PETs committee members from Kilosa and Mvomero to lead our own community transformation programs. As a result, we will be able to affect long-term improvements in our community.*

”

**Rev. Canon Yusuph Mkunda**





## How Religious Leaders can Influence Social Changes in their Communities

Over the years now, our societies have long believed that religious leaders are spiritual and moral leaders who lead their followers on spiritual and moral wellness. Religious leaders influence their local communities by influencing positive changes and working as a bridge between the local government and the citizens. Meeting Rev. Canon Yusuph Mkunda from Anglican Church Kilosa Morogoro cemented this narrative.

Reverend Canon also serves as secretary of the Kilosa Different Religions Association (DRA). The Kilosa Different Religions Association is a coalition of faith-based leaders in Kilosa committed to influencing social change in their community.

The coalition plays a very crucial role in influencing community accountability, many people were not aware and responsible for different social-economic activities in their respective areas for example village meetings concerning the budgeting process that takes place from January to March.

This coalition of religious leaders not only inspired social improvements but also acted as a bridge between the local government and the public. We desire that this faith leader approach be adopted in other communities in different districts and regions within the country to reach more people and ensure that no one is left behind.



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