

BWG MEETING -28TH JUNE 2013.

VENUE: POLICY FORUM SECRETARIAT – BOARD ROOM.

Attendance

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| 1. REGINA KATABI | M-WACOD CODEFA |
| 2. NICHOLAS LEKULE | PF |
| 3. MICHAEL DALALI | ACTIONAID TANZANIA |
| 4. LINDA | KEPA |
| 5. CHRISTINA GENDA | PF |
| 6. FLORIAN SCHWEITZER | SIKIKA |
| 7. JANE MUMINA | UNA |

Agenda

1. Update on progress of activities
 - Policy briefs and think pieces
 - The PBO
 - Measuring budget transparency at local level
 - The citizen's budget
 - Training: tax justice, writing lab and action aid seminar
 - Activities for next year
2. Members activities on budget transparency.
3. AOB.

1. Welcoming note

The meeting was opened and chaired by Johnson Kaijage he started by welcoming BWG members to the meeting. He then passed members through the agenda from the secretariat which were matters arising from previous meeting and progress updates there after the meeting started.

2. Update on progress of activities

- Policy brief and analytical think pieces

Division of labor was made as the usual practice in previous years work on policy briefs:

SIKIKA- Health,
ANSAF -Agriculture,
HAKIELIMU – Education
KEPA-Revenue.

The question is for this year we would like to think further on how better we could use our policy briefs in advocacy.

Comments:

- The brief was suggested to be timely published and content provocative
- Another idea was to issue a statement that will include issues raised in post budget statement
- It was suggested another opportunity id to write a comprehensive statement of post budget and publish it in the newspaper Mwananchi using HakiElimu's space.

Resolution:

It was agreed by members to have a post budget statement written launch and issue to press.

3. PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

Advocacy for the establishment of a PBO is still on-going. We have held meetings with the Clerk of the National Assembly, Private Assistant to the Speaker, Director of Planning and ICT, Chief Parliamentary Legal Counsel and Director of Parliamentary Committees. The advocacy approach has been to approach the Office of Parliament and secure their buy-in from the bottom up starting with the officials of the office of Parliament heading up to the Speaker. The approach registered good feedback which necessitated re-printing of the brief ("*Strengthening Parliament's Budget Oversight Function: The case for a budget office*") for distribution through the office of the Director of Planning and ICT. To date we have registered the endorsement of the establishment of the PBO by the Speaker. This was stated in the sixth meeting of the eighth session of Parliament held on 20th June, 2012 after the budget had been presented. In line with that Speaker has also endorsed the creation of a Committee for the Budget, which is also a good initiative in as far as advocacy for budget transparency is concerned.

The meeting came up with two suggestions one is to write an official letter to speaker's office to follow up and to make presentation on how best it has and still works in countries where PBO is established ie: Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, India and the like, it was further suggested to have a study visit in one of the countries that PBO has proven to work better.

4. MEASURING BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AT LOCAL LEVEL (PBO)

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. Questionnaires for the survey have been prepared and beefed-up following discussions with the Capacity Enhancement Department and the experience of SIKIKA who have embarked on undertaking a similar study. Owing to issues that arose in the course of the discussions, the approach agreed, as the first step, is to go out and train the Policy Forum member (that we will be working with on the project) on the objective of the project and the local government budget cycle after which we

will be monitoring them on the process of data gathering. Data compilation and analyses will follow thereafter and be documented for purposes of advocacy Policy Forum secretariat have commented and added up to suit the need and now are planning to go for a pilot study in September in Mbeya, with our member organization MIICO whom we partnered with on Social Accountability Monitoring program

5. CITIZENS BUDGET.

We are in communication with the Ministry of Finance regarding this activity. We have notified the Ministry of our commitment to continue our cooperation with them in preparing the Citizen's budget we have also communicated with the team that we worked with the BWG members in making the last year Citizens' Budget and have responded informally that they have a plan to make one for 2012/2013.

Comments:

Internal arrangement of the Government seem to delay hence its important a formal letter is written again and reference to Development partners and reference to cluster 3 working group so that the issue is taken into consideration.

6. CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT.

- Training: Policy forum will hold a capacity building training on Tax Justice trainers will be from organization country member of Tax justice-Network in Africa on 6&7th of August, and Action Aid PF member organization has shared with us that they will conduct a training on Tax issue in September Members of the BWG and LGWG are asked to confirm and attend the two trainings the emails with details is already sent.
Another capacity building will be on executive's engagement and writing session on sharing experiences on advocacy better strategies, how best we could work better, also will base on ways to improve writing advocacy material, presentation. The BWG will be informed on the details this activity is planned for October.

policy forum

7. ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

Members were informed by secretariat that it will be good if we could plan ahead think ahead activities for the next year together as members since the BWG is guided by members the need should come from them, have a session and plan on activities on what should be included in the BWG work plan for the next year before closure of the year.

Members agreed on the idea and are looking forward to it.

8. MEMBERS ON GOING ACTIVITIES

Members were asked to inform others on what they're doing; members must know what other members of BWG do. Whatever they are doing must report to they're fellow member. Members were advice to lean from they are fellow and appreciate what other member doing.

AOB

Members were informed that PF in its advocacy work is planning to have television spot. The LGWG have suggested the TV spot should address the important of citizen's engagement in the making of constitution and therefore wanted to hear from the BWG Members if they agree on the same issue.

The BWG agreed with the idea and are looking forward to see the TV spot advert.

CLOSURE.

Johnson thanked members for their attendance and said the next meeting date will be communicated and urged members to submit the policy briefs task work on time.

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SECRETARY

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