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Photography

Policy Forum Annual Report 2019



policy forum

Making Policies Work for People in Tanzania!

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Abbreviations

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AMV	African Mining Vision
ANSAF	Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum
APF	African Philanthropic Foundation
APNAC	African Parliamentarian’s Network Against Corruption
ASDP	Agricultural Sector Development Program
BD	Breakfast Debate
BOT	Bank of Tanzania
BWG	Budget Working Group
CAG	Controller and Auditor General
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
D by D	Decentralisation by Devolution
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency

DRM	Domestic Resource Mobilisation
DTA	Double Taxation Agreement
EALA	East Africa Legislative Assembly
EGM	Extraordinary General Meeting
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives
ERP	Enterprises Resource Planning
FCS	Foundation for Civil Societies
FY	Financial Year
FYDP II	Five Year Development Plan II
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HAFOTA	Habitat Forum Tanzania
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HSSP	Health Sector Strategic Plan
ISCEJIC	Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation
IT	Information Technology
LAFM	Local Authority Finance Manual
LANGO	Lindi Region Association of Non-Governmental Organisation
LGAs	Local Government Authorities
LGWG	Local Governance Working Group
MDAs	Mineral Development Agreements (MDAs)
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MEMARTS	Memorandum and Articles of Association
MIS	Management Information System
MOFP	Ministry of Finance and Planning.
MoHCDGEC	Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Members of Parliament
NACSAP	National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children

O&OD	Opportunity and Obstacles for Development
OBS	Open Budget Survey
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OiTZ	Oxfam in Tanzania
PETS	Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys
PF	Policy Forum
PGSD	Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development
PM	Prime Minister
PMEL	Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
PORALG	President's Office – Regional Authorities and Local Government
PSAs	Production Sharing Agreements
REPOA	Research on Poverty Alleviation
SAM	Social Accountability Monitoring
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWFF	Smallholder Women Farmers Federation
TADB	Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank
TEITI	Tanzania Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
TENMET	Tanzania Education Network/Mtandao wa Elimu Tanzania
TJNA	Tax Justice Network Africa
TRA	Tanzania Revenue Authority
TSDP	Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform
TTJC	Tanzania Tax Justice Coalition
TZS	Tanzania Shillings
UNA- TZ	United Nation Association of Tanzania
VAT	Value Added Tax
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WIPA	Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability
YPC	Youth Partnership Countrywide

Executive Summary

2019 was both a challenging and a rewarding fast-paced year of advocacy, networking and opening of policy spaces that offered the network an immense opportunity to learn and adapt in a constantly and rapidly changing policy environment. The year provided Policy Forum with adequate scope for reflections to enlighten the 2020 plan and inform the next strategic period.

Despite the current climate of shrinking civic space and political unpredictability, PF continues to push for improved responsiveness from policymakers. In the year under review, the network pursued opportunities to push its agenda particularly on the SDG goals that are in line with its strategic plan. In the run towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the government of Tanzania volunteered to present its Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals implementation in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) that took place from the 9th to 18th of July 2019 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Given the fact that this was the first time for Tanzania to attend, the forum provided a good learning platform to study what other nations are doing on the same. Policy Forum played a convening role as a member of the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP) in leading CSOs Voluntary National Review (VNR) consultations for goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution) and 17 (Partnership for the goals) respectively.

In terms of in-country Sustainable Development Goals interventions, PF in collaboration with APF and UNA TZ (Co-conveners of Tanzania Platform for Sustainable Development) conducted SDGs training to the Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development (PGSD) to strengthen the capacity of the group members to deeply understand the notions of sustainable development and how to integrate SDGs and Agenda 2063 in national development plans (FYDP II) and best ways to monitor implementation progress during the parliamentary discussions. To also support institutional memory in this regard, the SDG trainings were extended to the parliamentary committees' clerks.

The year also saw continued capacity enhancement to individuals from member organisations participating in the two Policy Forum technical working groups (Budget Working Group and the Local Governance Working Group) who were trained on advocacy skills and tracking of results of their advocacy work. Others were trained on the basic skills needed for effective engagement in the election process as well as enhancing their understanding of the laws, guidelines and regulations that guide LGAs elections. As a result, the trainings have enabled members to demonstrate applied proficiency by conducting analysis on various sectoral policies.

In the year under review, PF saw members also showing more effective use of the network's platforms. For instance, upon following up on resolutions reached during PF Breakfast

Debates, Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA) reported that recommendations it had passed on to government following one of the events held in 2018 were acted on. The analysis of the 2017/2018 CAG report had revealed that the government worked on the CAG's 2016/2017 report recommendations including the need for Ministers to follow appropriate procedures in responding to audit queries, parliament to call for special audit of TZS 1.5 trillion mismatch between revenue and expenditures and government to enhance funding of the CAG's office. PF is eager to see similar responses from the decision makers in dealing with systemic issues being raised during the BD and other platforms provided by the network.

Contribution to improving Tanzania's DRM also continued. In supporting efforts that the country is making towards realization of the African Mining Vision (AMV) since its adoption in 2009, in 2019 Policy Forum sought to determine the status of the implementation of the Vision in Tanzania. The analysis done has enabled PF to advocate for improvements and more specifically on what steps mining actors need to take to meet the AMV aspirations at the national level. These include but not limited to reviewing the mineral fiscal regime, measures to address the problem of tax revenue leakage, laws to guide negotiation and renegotiation of contracts, local participation, audit mineral production and exports and sector linkages to the local economy.

In terms of pushing back the shrinking civic space, Policy Forum continued to play a role. PF was one of the co-organisers of the CSOs week which took place from 4th to 8th November 2019 in Dodoma. Under the theme "Progress Through Partnership: Collaboration as a Driver for Development in Tanzania," the network was pleased with the participation of the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Majaliwa Kassim Malaliwa who officiated the opening of the event. Other cabinet ministers attended various other sessions during the week as part of fostering dialogue between civic actors and the government. During the opening of the CSO week, it was encouraging to learn that the government recognises efforts done by PF particularly the Local Government Working Group members in simplifying the local government elections regulations as acknowledged and commended by the Minister of State Presidents' Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PO-RALG) Hon. Selemani Jaffo.

It was also an opportunity for civil society itself as a community to demonstrate further solidarity considering the prevailing trajectory. Following a similar successful event in 2018, the second consecutive civil society week held in November last year proved that coming together more assertively helps not only in showing the intent of pushing back the current trends, but that solidarity can make the topmost echelons of government take the sector more seriously.

On the organisational front, the eventful year saw Policy Forum change its legal status to become a Non-Governmental Organization with a new constitution now in place due to the amendments made to the NGOs Act and the Companies Act in Tanzania through the Written Miscellaneous Laws (No 3) of 2019.

Introduction

Policy Forum (PF) is a network of 79 Tanzanian civil society organizations (CSOs) drawn together by their specific interest in augmenting the voice of ordinary citizens to influence policy processes that help in poverty reduction, equity and democratisation with a specific focus on public money accountability at both central and local levels. PF's network works to influence policy processes through enhanced governance and accountable use of public resources by the Tanzanian government. This report captures progress towards attaining its planned outcomes, notably:

- **Outcome 1:** Strengthened PF members' capacity to influence and monitor the implementation of policies relating to public resources
- **Outcome 2:** Policymakers supportive of PF agenda related to transparent, equitable use of public money and increased DRM.
- **Outcome 3:** Institutional effectiveness and efficiency of the Policy Forum network is sustainably enhanced.

This report has three main chapters. Chapter 1 discusses how the network has built on previous training outcomes and gone for a more focused approach to cover areas of members capacity on advocacy and the documentation of results and/or successes of their interventions with policy makers. This entailed how to package the advocacy messages and how to follow up on the results after advocacy, which is a departure from purely analytical capacity enhancement to building capabilities in messaging and following up on results. Some of the intermediate results are captured here.

Chapter 2 covers the myriad of interventions done and the convening role PF has played in to integrate CSO agenda in the SDGs, particularly on goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution) and 17 (Partnership for the goals), impacting the budget process and how the network contributed to impacting the Statistics Act, to mention several results.

Chapter 3 narrates how PF adapted to new changes in the law following the tabling and parliamentary approval of the Special Bill Supplement Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Act, 2019. This resulted in PF calling an EGM to discuss and adopt a new constitution in a model as stipulated under the NGO Act of 2002, which is now in place.

1.0. Outcome 1: Strengthened PF members' capacity to influence and monitor the implementation of policies relating to public resources

1.1. Demonstrable strengthened advocacy proficiency by members

During the initial two years of the Strategic Plan, the focus was on improving the analytical skills of members on policy and budget. Thus far, and aided by the new PF PMEL system, there is strong evidence that the two working groups have been able to engage with and influence policy process. Members, based on their areas of interest, have been able to demonstrate applied proficiency by conducting analysis on various sectors and producing analytical pieces that formed policy briefs, positions statements and simplified versions that were shared during various interventions. PF has witnessed several immediate achievements because of these analytical skills. To mention a few, members have managed to analyse new sectors previously unexplored, policy makers have shown support and adopted some of the recommendations from PF analytical pieces which all amounts to quite positive and encouraging feats.

To build upon the training outcomes attained in the previous years, this year's training sessions were much more focused towards the members 'capacity on advocacy and the documentation of results and/or successes of their interventions with policy makers. This entailed how to package the advocacy messages and how to follow up on the results after advocacy, which is a departure from purely analytical capacity enhancement to building capabilities in messaging and following up on results.

A total of 12 members from both the LGWG and BWG have demonstrated this attribute. LGWG members were able to advocate on the implementation progress of SDGs Goal 4 (Quality Education) and goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). This work resulted in the production of a policy brief analysed by the members titled "**Leave No One Behind: Youth and Sustainable Development Goals**". The analysis focused on the extent in which goal 4 and 8 are reflected in key youth development policies, programs, and budgets especially the ones mounted towards addressing unemployment as the most critical youth challenge, and the extent in which the national budget and its implementation has been able to cascade the realisation of the SDGs and related targets at the local level.

On the other hand, the BWG members used the skills obtained from the training to package the advocacy messages of the position statement that took stock of what has been accomplished since the inception of the Second Five Years Development Plan (FYDP II) in 2016/17 and tried to capture information on priority areas addressed in the annual plans, allocations and disbursements based on both domestic revenue, external sources and implementation progress. After publication of this Pre-Budget Position statement which amongst others indicated that the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) had experienced challenges early on during the delivery of its mandate. It was reported to have invested a significant part of its funds in fixed deposits instead of issuing loans to farmers (CAG report 2016/7) an issue that raised concerns of the BWG Members. After publication of the statement in the Guardian newspaper on the 29th of April 2019, the TADB contacted Policy Forum with updates on their implementation of the mentioned concern. The update provides a more realistic representation of the status of loans provided to-date. TADB proceeded to arrange more financing for agricultural projects. The bank adopted the clustering

and value chain financing approach which has identified eight clusters and respective value chains of focus which are in consonance with the country's Agri-ecological zones defined by the ASDP II programme. In terms of outcomes, TADB financed 91 projects in eight of the clusters (21 regions) with loans worth TZS 712.9 billion advanced to over 1.7 million farmers. TZS 600 billion of total loans were advanced to finance the off taking of cashew in the 2018/19 season while 112 Billion have been advanced to other crop value chains. This was a significant feedback to our BWG members, and it is expected that our position statements will continue attracting such reactions from audiences. The TTJC position statement advocated for a reliable, just and transparent tax system and provided views on the current trend in domestic revenue mobilization as well as suggesting alternative options that could be adopted to further reduce donor dependency.

Moreover, Policy Forum through its Budget Working Group developed policy briefs on various sectors with the aim of using them for advocacy. The briefs are a result of analyses that the BWG members have done and were shared with the Policy Makers, donor community and the respective parliamentary committee clerks to sensitize them on different policy issues and provide recommendations on areas that should be worked upon by the Government. PF produced eight policy briefs on Education, NPA-VAWC, Health, Extractives, Water, Taxation, Sustainable Development goals and Youth. One distinctive analysis for this year was on the NPA-VAWC which looked at the costing of the salient plan in the country and share experience on budgetary allocations towards interventions targeting to end violence against women and children. The analysis specifically assessed budget allocation for the two major ministries, the PO-RALG with its overall responsibility of NPA-VAWC implementation and MoHCDGEC with the role of coordination. Instead of generally analysing the costing of the two ministries, this year BWG directed its attention into a specific plan in order to explore the reality at the implementation level.¹

The box below presents a testimony from a LGWG member on how the training contributed towards enhancing her analytical and advocacy skills.²

"The skills I have acquired through the advocacy training have enabled me to train other team members in the Voice Department and develop policy briefs which to be shared with relevant actors. The intention of this document was to inform decision makers on the gaps and areas for improvement. For example at the voice unit we have an accountability programme known as- "Tutimize Ahadi" funded by Gates Foundation that monitors Family Planning 2020 commitments and Gender Based Violence (GBV). Because of the skills we imparted to the department, we have managed to influence them to produce a policy briefs with a focus on budget allocations vis-a-vis FP2020 commitments and GBV. Once it has been finalized we will share with Policy Forum."
Vivian Ngowi – Restless Development

¹ Policy Briefs: <https://www.policyforum-tz.org/budget-briefs>

² The member is from Restless Development and works in the Voice Department aimed at achieving "A world where young people are active citizens, where institutions are accessible, and responsive to young people, and where young people can influence those with power."

In line with this, the LGWG has actively been engaged in the 2019 LGA election process by simplifying the Local Government Authorities Election Regulations, producing a TV and Radio spot and issuing a position statement on the same. The simplified version titled **"Zijue Kanuni za Uchaguzi wa Serikali za Mitaa: Ngazi ya Vijiji, Mitaa na Vitongoji, 2019"** aimed at enhancing citizens understanding of the regulations so as to guide their participation on the election process while the position statement highlighted important matters that the government needs to consider to ensure citizen freely participate on this important democratic process. Some of the recommendation pointed out was calling upon the government to ensure the election is as inclusive as possible by assuring people living with disabilities are effectively participating in the process by setting infrastructure that speak to their special needs.

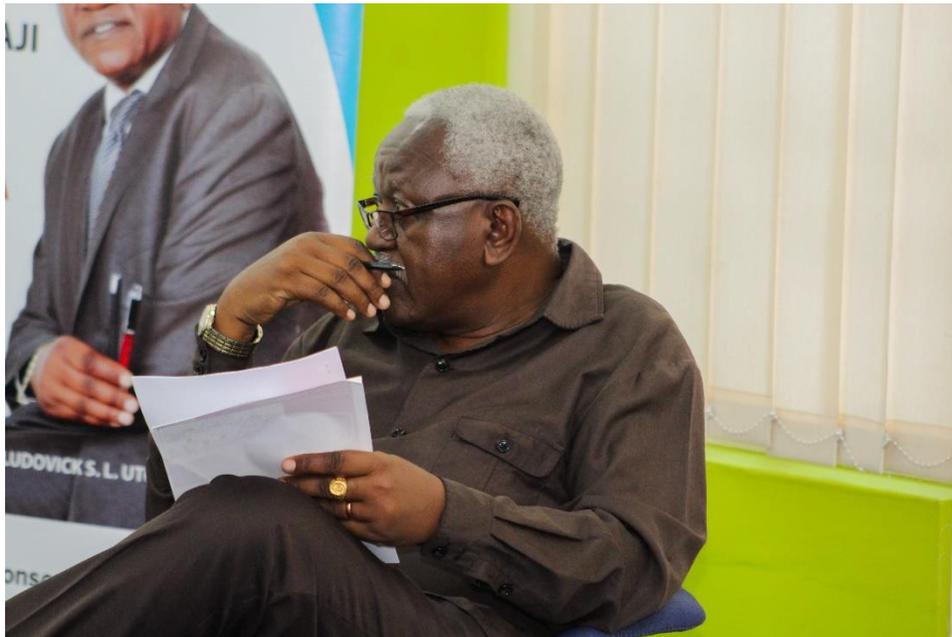
Furthermore, it was encouraging to learn that the efforts done by the LGWG members in simplifying the regulations of the local government elections were acknowledged and commended by the Minister of State Presidents' Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PO-RALG) Hon. Selemani Jaffo. During the opening of the CSO week which took place from 4th to 8th November 2019 in Dodoma, he said: **"Apart from the good job that CSOs are doing in terms of facilitating development to the people, I would like to particularly thank Policy Forum for the significant role you have played in providing civic education on the local government elections to citizens across the country, even in the remotest of villages,"** He further noted that: **"I believe that through your awareness programmes, a lot of people are now more aware and understand better the election process, their right to vote and be voted for. I am very impressed by your efforts, which is a job well done!"**



1.2. Breakfast Debates and their subtle Influence

Owing to improved PMEL, PF has become better at following up on the action points agreed during breakfast debates. After discussions with stakeholders on the CAG's 2016/2017 report during a 2018 breakfast debate, member organisation Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA) submitted to the Assistant Chief Secretary the recommendations emanating from the session to improve its financial accountability. WIPA were notified of confirmation of receipt of the recommendations including the financial accountability gaps that required Ministers to follow the appropriate procedures in responding to audit queries, a proposal to call for a special audit of TZS 1.5 trillion mismatch between revenue and expenditures and the government enhancing funding of the CAG's office. All these three recommendations were acted on.

In 2019 WIPA again utilized the BD platform to further influence financial accountability by scrutinising the 2018 Controller and Auditor General's Report highlighting issues such as poor utilization of project funds in Local Government Authorities that hindered the implementation of development projects.



Former Controller and Auditor General (CAG) during the debate on financial accountability

The platform has also enabled one of the PF members (UNA) raise awareness on the linkages between SDGs and the national development agenda which led to engagements with the President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) that successfully helped streamline SDGs into the PO-RALG's strategic plans. The space has also helped sister organisations such as HakiRasilimali, Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and the integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC), Best Dialogue and Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform to discuss various systemic issues including: shrinking civic space, equitable health services for the poor, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and revenue management in the extractives sector.

Apart from bringing policy issues that need attention to the fore, the Breakfast Debates are proving to be a relevant and credible space worth protecting during these constricted times for civil society. To illustrate this, when applicants to the BDs were asked why they opted for the Breakfast Debate, they stated that the platform is a reputable (relevant and trusted platform) and strategic space attracting multi-stakeholders from academia, development groups, journalists, CSOs, legislature and the government. This good mix of participants, they explain, makes issues of good governance, democratic rights and civic participation appropriate for the audience being targeted.

"We chose Breakfast Debate platform due to its recognized reputation and ability to reach out to stakeholders both public and private and discuss issues/topics of common interest and the implications in order to influence policies and improve their implementation." - A quote from one of the Breakfast Debate applicants

1.3. Media partners supporting PF members' community work

Community radio outlets are platforms used by PF members to augment their advocacy messages. In 2019, PF radio programs focused more on relevant issues for members particularly the Local Government Elections and the participation of women, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the FYDP II, anti-corruption, good governance and human rights.

PF Members weighed in this effort by participating as guests in the radio programmes also aimed at empowering citizens to be more active in the decision-making processes and policy spaces in their locales. Habitat Forum Tanzania (HAFOTA) and Lindi Region Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) in discussions regarding roles and contributions of CSOs in the development at the local level, highlighting contributions of the PF-LGWG. A total of five (5) programs were used by LANGO to discuss women participation in the local government elections and motivate them to compete for various positions.

PF through members and partners continued to use radio to sensitize communities on the availability of the Local Government Authorities 10% loan for registered groups of women, people with disability and youth. The programs involved LGAs officials who sensitised on how the loans are facilitated. Feedback on the usefulness of the radio programs include a community development officer in Mtwara town working on the challenges (lack of awareness and difficulties faced by few registered groups) raised in one of the PF's radio program aired by Safari FM. The officer y educating particular communities and putting smooth mechanisms regarding provision of the loans.

In this year a total of 120 radio programs were aired through four (4) contracted community radios; Kahama FM, Nuru FM, Safari FM and Mashujaa FM. The radio programs reached a total

of 1,151,387 people, mostly direct from local communities where the contracted media stations originated. Compared to 2018 (PF's programs reached 865,800 people), the average reach for the contracted media outlets has risen by 33%. In average all four radio stations had a listenership of 56% from male audience and 44% from a female audience. Demographic distribution by age shows PF's programs reached 32% among people within the 15-24 age, while people within the 25-34 age had an average reach of 39%, and people aged 35+ had an average reach of 29%. Observation shows that, deeper and richer programs' content have influenced audience engagement. Interesting topics, professional presentations from radio presenters, involvement of the local community and government officials in the PF programs discussions triggered the audience reach.

Moreover, PF continues sending out monthly information packs. The Members and partners who receive the monthly mailouts also track the relevance and usefulness of the information they disseminate at the community level with some positive response. In the year under review, BOSEDA one of our members shared a report stated how they managed to disseminate PF publications to 70 villages within 17 wards in Biharamulo district as a means of increasing awareness on different matters in the community served.

2.0. Outcome 2: Policymakers supportive of PF agenda related to transparent, equitable use of public money and increased DRM is reflected in the policy process

2.1 Government integrating CSOs agenda on SDGs

Despite the current climate of shrinking civic space and political unpredictability, PF continues to push for improved responsiveness from policymakers. In the first half of the year under review, the network pursued opportunities to push its agenda particularly on the SDG goals that are in line with its strategic plan.

The government of Tanzania was to present its Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals implementation in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The HLPF took place from 9th to 18th July 2019 and was convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations headquarters in New York. This is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

One of the founding principles of the 2030 Agenda "The Future We Want" is the requirement for all implementation and follow-up process for SDGs to be participatory and inclusive. This means, ensuring that all stakeholders, including all levels and sectors of the government, civil society and private sector, among others, are involved in the processes.

It is within the above principle that Policy Forum played a convening role as a member of the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP) in leading CSOs Voluntary National Review (VNR) consultations for goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution) and 17 (Partnership for the goals).

The aim of these consultations was to gather inputs and contributions from CSOs for the write-up of the CSOs VNR report. The report also compiled inputs and recommendations for the National VNR report. It was encouraging to learn that key messages and contributions from CSOs were taken aboard and presented as case studies in the National VNR report which was produced by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. For instance, in goal 16, the National VNR report featured PF contributions regarding budget analysis acknowledging the recommendations have been considered by the government.

PF hopes that this collaboration on the SDG country reporting at the global has set the tone and a template on how to work together in the future and that it will endure to sustain efforts to improve empowerment, equality and inclusion.

Policy Forum participation in the High-Level Political Forum

Apart from contributing to the write-up of CSO and National VNR report for the HLPF, Policy Forum actively participated in coordinating a side event on Tuesday 16th July 2019.

Organised in partnership with Hivos, Africa Philanthropic Foundation, Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform and UNA

Tanzania, the event entitled ***"SDGs Audit: In Focus Africa, Experiences from Africa on institutionalizing partnerships, inclusivity, and accountability"*** was

officiated by Amb. Modest Josephat Mero, Permanent Representative of United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, who re-affirmed Tanzania's commitment towards multi-stakeholder partnership in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Tanzania. He also stressed the importance of institutional frameworks to sustain the momentum and ensure longevity of the sustainable development goals beyond 2030.



The event was also used to launch the Tanzania Civil Society VNR report and share experiences and best practices on institutionalizing partnerships, inclusivity an accountability to achieve sustainable development goals across Africa with specific examples from Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana, and Uganda. Discussions mainly focused on institutional frameworks for sustainable development, the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, the role of youth in delivering sustainable development in Africa, achieving financing for sustainable development, enhancing open public contracting, attaining mechanisms for effective citizens engagement in the realiation of SDGs and curbing shrinking civic space in Africa, and around the world.

Together with this, on Wednesday 17th July 2019, the government of Tanzania presented its Voluntary National Review Report which focused on progress that the country has made towards the implementation of SDGs. The report was presented by Hon. Philip Mpango, Minister for Finance and Planning of United Republic of Tanzania.



Hon. Mpango (MB) presenting the Tanzania VNR report during the HLPF Meeting, New York.

2.2. Review of the Sustainable Development Goal 3 & 4 in the Social Services and Community Development Parliamentary Committee

In efforts to ensure SDGs are central to parliamentary discussions, PF in collaboration with APF and UNA TZ (Co-conveners of Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform) conducted

As a parliamentarian, I can now confidently say that, I can lead the push to improve the implementation, monitoring and review of SDGs in the country through parliamentary debates” this was said by Hon. Augustino Vuma who is a chairperson of the Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development.

SDGs training to the Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development (PGSD) and to the Parliamentary committee Clerks in June and September 2019 respectively. Among other things, the training aimed at strengthening the capacity of the group members and clerks to broadly understand the concepts of sustainable development, deepening their understanding of the synergies between national development plans for SDGs and Agenda 2063 and providing them with tools necessary to follow up and monitor the sustainable development implementation progress during the parliamentary discussions. 30 MPs attended the training out of which 15 were women and 15 were men. On the other hand, a total of 33 clerks attended out of which 16 were men and 17 were female. After the training MPs and clerks committed to champion the SDGs agenda within the parliamentary discussions.

Following the training, for the first time in parliament, in August 2019 the Social Services and Community Development Committee reviewed the implementation progress of the SDG

goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and 4 (Quality Education) respectively. In the review the committee noted some areas that needs more attention if the country is to attain SDG 3 & 4 respectively. One of the target pointed out was SDG target 4.1 which calls for the Nations to ensure by 2030 all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes of which the committee members recommended to the relevant ministry to ensure this is attained by increasing girls' secondary schools since girls ordinary level schools have been upgraded to high level schools.

The box below shows a section from the Parliamentary Committee report recommending how the government can facilitate equality in education.

d) Equal access to Education

One of the targets of goal 4 is to ensure that by 2030, all girls and boys access and complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. The Committee noted that, equal access to education is still a challenge hence recommended to government to guarantee this is achieved by deliberately increasing a number of girls' secondary school considering the fact that most schools of this nature were upgraded to high level.

Source: The Social Services and Community Development Parliamentary Committee report. Pg.6

Furthermore, the committee recommended to the ministry of education the importance of upgrading curriculum to fit the current global needs as shown in the box below.

g) Education provision should be aligned with the current needs

The Committee recommended that the education provided in schools should ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development by 2030 as outlined under target 4.7. The committee highlighted that, it is important to review curriculum to fit in the current national and global needs.

Source: The Social Services and Community Development Parliamentary Committee report. Pg.7

On the side of SDG 3, the committee noted that, despite the achievement presented by the ministry towards realising the goal, there are still challenges in attaining the same. For instance, target 3.1 aims at reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030 of which the current status shows that maternal mortality rate is still high, hence the committee recommended to the ministry to take deliberate efforts to address the same.

2.3 Impacting the Statistics Act 2015

The Parliament of Tanzania passed the Statistics Act of 2015 during its 19th session which introduced severe restrictions on the publication or communication of any contentious statistical information. It made it illegal to publish or communicate statistical information, and

to publish or communicate statistical information that “may result in the distortion of facts” which to the views of many ignores the fact that disputes around statistics are an essential part of academic and policy debates. The Act resulted in considerable regression towards closing down of democratic space such that various agencies had been restricted to publish research findings and some being sanctioned for going against the procedures set by the Act. It was also illegal to question or fact-check official statistics, which may serve to discourage independent statistics; and the bureau held sole power to decide which statistical information can be published.

Since then, there have been efforts by various stakeholders including CSOs and the donor community seeking to amend the act. In 2018, the BWG analysed the Act and came up with recommendations that were presented before the Parliamentary Budget Committee while the LGWG also held a press conference on the same.

In 2019, the BWG and partners provided inputs to the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on the 21st June 2019 on the various laws that were proposed to be amended through the written laws (Miscellaneous Amendments No.3) Act of 2019 under the certificate of urgency including the Statistics Act. The bill under amendment 56 eased some of the strict rules and provided as follows:

Notwithstanding subsection (1), the following statistical information may be published without consultation:

(a) surveys or researches in natural sciences, technology or innovation conducted by recognised academic and research institutions such as universities and other academic and research institutions;

(b) researches conducted using administrative data or statistics from Government institutions such as ministries, independent departments, authorities and regional administration;

(c) surveys or researches conducted for programmes by international organisations, regional bodies, intergovernmental organisations bilateral institutions, diplomatic missions or international development organisations; and

(d) surveys or researches conducted purely for internal or personal use by institutions or organisations which are not intended to be published.

Despite BWG members welcoming the relaxation of the rules and permission to publish statistical information collected by a range of actors compared to the previous highly restrictive one, they believed the law hinders researchers of some categories who will still require consultation and raises questions as to why they are treated differently and severely. These include recognised academic and research institutions conducting socioeconomic household surveys or knowledge, attitudes and perception surveys; local civil society organisations conducting research for raising awareness, generating public debate or advocacy; and monitoring and evaluation data often collected by NGOs. They therefore proposed for a fair treatment of research from all categories. When the Act was passed the whole section 24B was repealed and replaced with the words:

“Every person shall subject to the provisions of this Act, have a right to collect and disseminate statistical information”

24B.-(1) Every person shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, have a right to collect and disseminate statistical information.

A scan extracted from the Act

The repeal of the section is a milestone towards challenging the regression in several dimensions including the environment in which advocacy CSOs and researchers work.

2.4 Advocating for the formalisation of the informal sector

For over a decade, researchers have been looking for ways to capitalise on the informal sector to raise domestic revenues in Tanzania. In line with the strategic plan to contribute to enhanced DRM by encouraging the debate amongst policymakers, PF weighed in on the issue by contributing to knowledge on ways to sustainably raise taxes from the sector.

In 2018, PF launched a report on "*The Nexus between Taxation of the Informal Sector and Inequality in Tanzania*" which addresses the informal sector and inequalities in domestic resource mobilization and in May 2019, PF Budget Working Group (BWG) shared the informal tax report with its recommendations on controlling the leakage of revenues to 31 members of the African Parliamentarian's Network against Corruption.

Among the recommendations were that government should formalise the informal sector to increase revenue collection base which will ultimately decrease the dependency from the formal sector.



Small businesses require favourable policies to grow and contribute to the economy

In an interview with Hon. Hasna Mwilima MP, member of APNAC, she said the following: “*The report is highly informative and we thank Policy Forum for setting time to share it with the African Parliamentarian’s Network against Corruption, however the document is too intricate hence I recommend PF to simplify the document and I will see to it that the recommendations are well represented in the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania*”.

Policy Forum considered the recommendation and through the Tanzania Tax Justice Coalition (TTJC), produced a brief that summarised the findings of the study that analyses the trends of the growth-decline of the informal sector in Tanzania and revenue collections foregone over the years 2010/11-2016/17, the level of inequality due to taxation or non-taxation of the informal sector and has provided recommendations on how to improve revenue collection from the informal sector while at the same time reducing inequality in Tanzania.

Below is a link of a video showing Hon. Hasna Mwilima recommending the simplification of the report:

<https://youtu.be/juhhrrRjvHc>

2.5. PF’s Recognition and Contribution in the 2019/2020 budget process

The BWG organised a one-day session that brought together members of the Parliamentary Budget Committee to put forward CSO submissions on the health and agriculture budget with some key policy recommendations that warrant policy makers attention if some desired objectives of the current plans including the FYDP II are to be realised. Some of the key discussions included the Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP IV) estimate of financial resources required to enable its implementation in improving health and wellbeing of citizens. There is a notable financing gap as the trend of fiscal budget allocation to the health sector has been

lower than the annual targets by about 50%. Therefore, significant policy and systemic measures need to be undertaken to cover the gap.

During the discussion, members of parliament seemed to have appreciated the insights that were provided from the analyses presented before them.

Hon Hasna Mwilima specifically said: *"these findings have come at the right time since we have not yet approved the budget for the two sectors, thus we have obtained vital information to present during the budget discussion in parliament."*

Hon. Chenge added: *"we learn new things each passing day, my fellow MPs and I have learnt a lot through this seminar. These sectoral findings will assist the MPs during their ongoing deliberations in the parliament"*

PF is yet to document results of the engagement, however, a close follow up with the MPs is ongoing to ensure that the agendas presented are taken on board.

2.6. Pushing Gender Aspects in the Finance Bill

To ensure that the Government is more accountable in the use of public resources and takes into account gender budgeting, on the 21st of June 2019, BWG members met with the Parliamentary Budget Committee and shared their inputs on the 2019/20 Finance Bill. The recommendations included reinstating VAT exemption on girls' sanitary pads that was removed in the previous financial year on the count that businessmen had not reduced their prices as it was expected.

The BWG recommended that one year was too short a time to evaluate the impact of the exemption and the efforts of the government to press for new prices. Members suggested an alternative, that the taxes attained from sanitary pads be included in the capitation grant package so that they are distributed freely to girls in schools.

Despite this recommendation, the BWG was unsuccessful in pushing the agenda and hence hampering efforts towards the realisation of gender equality in education. The challenge has been taken as a lesson learned and a strategy to continue with this determination will be discussed.

A recent response from the TRA after following up on the matter, acknowledged to have had poor design on the matter because exemption was granted when the business people had already stocks in place which they incurred costs hence it was difficult for them to reduce the prices since that would have been a loss on their part.

2.7. Extractives Caucus Committee in the pipeline

Extractives in Tanzania are crucial catalyst for economic growth, driven by considerable increases in investment. Like other resource rich countries, Tanzania faces challenges of how

best to manage value chain generated from the extractive industry. The challenge can be traced from decision to extract to expenditure of the revenues generated from the public resources. Recently, the government through parliament passed legislative changes which meant to address several issues including curbing loss of revenues from the extractive industry, existing Mineral Development Agreements (MDAs) and Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) have not been fully aligned to the new statutes, this could create chances of revenue losses, tax evasion and illicit financial flows.

Based on the rationale, Policy Forum and HakiRasilimali coordinated a session with MPs and other stakeholders in Dodoma to discuss on how the country can avoid effects of resource curse. The session ended with a decision to establish a caucus committee on extractive issues which will involve MPs, CSOs and mining companies. Hon. Said Kubenea (MP) who initiated the idea suggested that the caucus will be a catalyst for strengthening value chain in the extractives sector.



Hon. Said Kubenea (MP) suggested an establishment of the extractives industry caucus

The caucus committee is envisioned to be responsible for coordinating dialogues and advising the government on matters affecting the extractive industry this including governance of the extractive industry revenues, broadly-based economic strategies, allocation of resources and distribution.

2.8. Government commits to publish mining contracts

For several years Policy Forum (PF) and other likeminded organisations such as HakiRasilimali (HR) have been advocating for transparency and accountability in the extractives sector. Through various engagements with the decision makers, PF and HR have been pushing for

transparency in the contracting processes which will allow citizens to access contracts between extractive companies and the government. Contract transparency will enable citizens to monitor implementation of contractual obligations which will enhance effective governance of the natural resources.

In this first half of the year, Policy Forum and HakiRasilimali in collaboration with other likeminded organizations conducted a session with the African Parliamentarian's Network Against Corruption (APNAC) to discuss the analysis of the ministries of energy and minerals national budget of 2019/2020. The analysis indicates importance of pushing for Open Extractives Contracts, strengthening of Tanzania Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TEITI) and proper allocations and utilization of public money.

One of recommendations provided to MPs to submit during the discussion of the Ministry of Minerals was, the Government, through the Ministry of Minerals, should speed up availing people with information and ensure transparency with regards to contracts on mining, oil and natural gas projects. This was in concord with the fact that the main objective of establishing TEITI is to facilitate growth of the extractive sector and enhance transparency and accountability.

A recent follow up on the matter shows that the government through the Minister of Minerals Hon. Dotto Biteko (MP) has committed to publicly avail mining contracts. The commitment given during the EITI Global Conference, says that the government is in the process of establishing a portal for mining contracts which will be displayed on the Ministry of Mineral website. The portal will enable the government to publish and annotate mining contracts. The commitment lines with the agenda of Policy Forum which asks for more transparency and accountability in the extractives industry.

2.9. AMV Recommendations Reflected in the Policies

In 2017, the Tax Justice Network-Africa (TJN-A) in collaboration with Policy Forum launched a study in Dodoma entitled **Where is the Money? Taxation and the State of Africa Mining Vision Implementation: A case of Tanzania and East Africa** and engaged decision makers (MPs, TRA official and Ministry of Minerals officials). The Study made recommendations to enhance the pace towards meeting the AMV aspirations at the national level in Tanzania. The recommendations include (a) maintaining the current efforts towards developing a country mining vision formulated along the AMV (b) strengthening mineral audit capacity (c) utilise the AMDC, including the capacity to negotiate mineral concessions as well as the best regime with respect to BITs and double taxation (d) establishment of sovereign wealth fund and (e) devising strategies for investing part of the mining revenue to local communities.

An analysis conducted to establish current status of the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision in Tanzania (Tanzania adopted the vision in 2009 and its action plan for implementation in 2011) Tanzania has performed some activities towards realization of the AMV and some developments have taken place since 2017. Tanzania has undertaken some major reorganization of the fiscal regime applicable to the mining sector over three years. These areas include review of mineral fiscal regime, measures to address the problem of tax revenue

leakage, laws to guide negotiation and renegotiation of contracts local participation, audit mineral production and exports and sector linkages to local economy.

There are, however, areas which need further improvement. These areas include: lack of a special fund that can be used to effectively manage windfall revenues; lack of procedures for renegotiation of unconscionable terms; the law does not provide for transfer of part of mineral revenues to the mining host communities; and local content Regulations are of general application and do not deal with specific host communities.

The table below shows key issues recommended by AMV and current implementation status in Tanzania

Issues	Implementation
Review of the mineral fiscal regime	mandatory 16% non-dilutable free carried interest for the Government, tax incentives into government equity, increased rates of royalties for gemstone and diamond (5%-6%) and gold (4%-6%), 1% inspection fee, abolished VAT reliefs for export of raw minerals
Addressing revenue leakages	Adoption of Transfer Pricing Regulations, Establishment of mineral trading centres, imposing a ban of export, integrity pledge, establishment of the Mining Commission, increased security around mine sites (Mererani Wall)
Negotiation and renegotiation of unconscionable terms	Prohibition of unconscionable terms, review of unconscionable terms.
Local participation	local content (preference to goods and services by Tanzanians), floating at least 30% at DSE, beneficiation done locally, obligation to submit CSR plan, requirement to plough back profit

2.10 BWG works with MOFP to Simplify the 2019/2020 National Budget

PF has maintained its collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MOFP) in preparing the Citizens Budget Document which provides them with an understanding of the national budget so that they effectively participate in the budget process thus increasing transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

This activity involved members of the Budget Working Group going through the draft Citizens' budget document that was prepared by MOFP and recommended better ways of improving it so that it is more user-friendly to the citizens. The exercise created room for the participants to agree on the way the content was presented and accuracy of the figures. The document is

online although it has only been recently uploaded. PF has received hard copies of the same on 20th December and is looking forward to distributing them amongst her members.

<https://mof.go.tz/index.php/budget/citizens-budget>

Going forward, members have resolved to have a courtesy visit suitable in understanding the challenges that MOFP encounters causing the delay of the production of the books so that BWG as important stakeholders could assist if it is within their capacity. This is hoped to address the constant delays that have been happening making the booklet redundant.

2.11 Harnessing CSO Solidarity to push back shrinking civic space

Following last year's successful 2018 CSO week, in November in the year under review, PF was among 17 NGO partners that came together under the stewardship of the FCS to organise the second such event. The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Majaliwa Kassim Malaliwa officiated the opening of the event followed by other cabinet ministers who attended various sessions during the week as part of fostering dialogue between civic actors and the government.

Under the theme "Progress Through Partnership: Collaboration as a Driver for Development in Tanzania," participants discussed amongst others, the role and value of civil society organisations as a central player in Tanzanian society, showcased the evidence from what has been learned about state - CSO relations, the state of the extractives sector, particularly to look at the mining sector and natural gas projects in the country and revenue management issues and collaboration towards advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Different sessions which took place during the week offered an opportunity for the CSO and government to strengthen their partnership. For instance, in the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP) session, a commitment was made by the NBS office to develop a simple form to collect SDG interventions by Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and local CSOs. This form will be developed in collaboration with NGOs register office and the platform.

On the same occasion the Minister of State Presidents' Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PO-RALG) Hon. Selemani Jaffo made a commitment for his ministry to process the permits to work on the Councils and other subnational level timely and with no delays. This is a big step for the CSOs working in the country and shall not only strengthen collaboration between them and the government but shall also benefit the public who are the major target for most of these donor-funded projects.

- Ruzuku (PM)
- IKULU – Tamayamali – CSO participation in NACSAP III

Demonstration of adaptation of civil society – more engagement.

2.12 Parliamentary Officials sensitized on the National Plan of Action to end Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC)

Policy forum conducted a meeting with the parliamentary budget office officials, parliamentary clerk/staffs from nine committees and the BWG members. The main objective of the meeting was to raise awareness on the falling trend of allocation of the plan that is meant to address the difficulties that are encountered by the marginalized groups as an example that proves challenges in gender responsive budgeting.

This was fueled by the fact that despite the budget guidelines for FY 2019/20 instructing LGAs to set budget for NPA-VAWC implementation, there was no significant change in terms of allocation between FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20 for the sampled LGAs which are Kinondoni Municipal Council and Mbozi District Council.



BWG Members and the Parliamentary Clerks in a photo

Some of the recommendations raised during the session included purposive measures to raise awareness on budget guidelines to LGA officials once are released by Ministry of Finance and Planning since they are the actual implementers of the Government policies and directives. And more so, reviewing LGAs own source revenues administration, as it is overwhelmed by spending directives such as 40% to development and 60% to development activities, 20% of revenue generated from Agriculture to be allocated in Agriculture and 15% revenues from livestock to be spent on livestock. This affects other sectors and plans such as NPA-VAWC which relies on own source revenues for its full implementation.

From an evaluation that was conducted after the event, 11 out of 23(48%) participants strongly agreed that as the parliamentary clerks/staffs they are willing to mainstream gender in their committee plans and reports and scrutinize performance reports with a gender lens/eye, 10 out of 23(43%) agreed, 2 out of 23(9%) were neutral, none of the participants disagreed.

The clerks further requested for a similar engagement in January 2020 when the plans are on their desks from the LGA level. It will hence become easy to incorporate the discussed agendas.

2.13 A study on Marginalisation and Gender Inequality within Tax Regimes in Tanzania

Policy Forum contracted a consultant to undertake a study titled " Marginalization and Gender Inequality within Tax Regime in Tanzania" aiming to enlighten the understanding of the manifestation of tax disparities through gender lenses by identifying the factors enhancing marginalisation of women and minority groups due to unfair tax regimes or bad governance; pinpointing the forces behind resource leakages, and how women and other minority groups are excluded within mitigating measures.

Bearing in mind that despite notable progress in terms of their status and rights, females in Tanzania still lag behind males; it is therefore critical to work towards solving this problem by engendering tax, budgeting and public finance policy processes through mainstreaming strategies.

The study ultimately aims to recommend relevant actions that should be taken by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), government and other stakeholders and developing a strategy and plan of action to ensure gender mainstreaming in tax governance is realised.

The draft of the study is in place, PF will be holding a validation meeting in early 2020 before it is printed for advocacy.

2.14 Beneficial Ownership Registry underway

Policy Forum had a meeting to discuss on the Maximization of the Extractive Resource Benefits in Tanzania and the need for A Beneficial Ownership Registry. The main participants were Members of Parliament, APNAC Committee members, TTJC and HakiRasilimali Members as well as representatives from the Secretariat.

From the discussions, the MPs stipulated that the Government is making progress in the whole aspect of Beneficial Ownership because OECD published a Guide to implementation of transparency in corporate ownership reports (beneficial Ownership implementation Toolkit) to support 153 Member States of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes.

Hon Richard Mbogo while contributing to the discussion said that "*people are becoming rich through grand corruption, hence to establish a registry is a good initiative which will positively affect the economic growth, the multiplier effect of this is that various sectors will benefit. I*

think the problem is poverty which forces us to commission foreign companies in salient sectors like gas that in turn affects our fair share.”

From an evaluation that was conducted after the event, 14 out of 20 (70%) participants strongly agreed that as Members of Parliament, they are willing to put an effort and push the Government to attain its commitment to establish the BO register., 5 out of 20(25%) agreed, 1 out of 20 (5%) was neutral, none of the participants disagreed.

Another strategic engagement was proposed by APNAC as a result of this engagement in 2020 to take them through some immediate measures that ought to be taken in updating and harmonising the existing legal framework in order to achieve the extractive industries beneficial ownership disclosure in Tanzania.

2.15 Opportunities for Agricultural Growth and Transformation Unlocked

Policy Forum in collaboration with Action Aid Tanzania, Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Forum Climate Change (Forum CC, Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) and Oxfam in Tanzania (OiTZ) organized a National Peoples Agriculture Budget Summit. The summit brought together voices and experiences of women smallholder’s farmers and other players who presented their recommendations before the guest of honour that they believe will influence national policies by enhancing meaningful policy and institutional supporting systems for public and private investment in agriculture, agri-business and agro-industries.



The summit had the honour of having the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Mr Hussein Bashe who was accompanied by the Chairperson for Parliamentary Standing committee for Agriculture, Water and Irrigation. In his speech Hon. Bashe acknowledged the receipt of the Small holder farmers recommendations and shared with the audience that the fifth government is in the process of reviewing the leading political party’s manifestos for the

coming general election. He assured the participants that he will be sharing them with the party secretariat so that they can be worked upon.

“let me use this opportunity to promise you that these recommendations will directly be delivered to the secretary General of the CCM party so that together with his team may incorporate them in the manifesto”, he said.

2.16 Stop the Bleeding Campaign

Driven by her common agenda on DRM, PF continues to advocate for informed actions and political will by the government to put in place interventions that will reduce and eventually stop all acts that contribute to loss of resources. PF acknowledges the efforts that are already in place to combat IFFs such as review of legislations; however, more has to be done especially on the natural resources sector which has the potential to significantly boost mobilization of domestic resources if well-handled and managed.

During the engagement, participants were in agreement that the paucity of strong local planning and governance institutions is one of the key reasons for Tanzania’s suffering from the resource curse, coupled with incoherence and poor implementation, monitoring, controlling and evaluation systems.

It was also highlighted that the country lacks effective own approaches to natural resource governance to embrace principles that aid the realization of transformative outcomes which include the centrality and role of national development planning, ownership and control of resources, economic diversification strategies and the effects of international markets on natural resource governance.



While contributing to the discussion Hon. Ngeleja was also of the view that the failure of the mining sector to create strong linkages with the domestic economy has led to the perception among Tanzanians that it has failed to have an impact on the sustainable development of the country. He mentioned a case in point being tanzanite which has a high domestic resource mobilization potential because of the fact that Tanzania has a monopoly position in the market, instead it has squandered this opportunity by allowing large scale foreign private mining which has led to oversupply in the world market which has lowered prices more than would have been the case with small-scale mining.

He therefore acknowledged saying *“these meetings are essential in reminding the Government the importance of not only strengthening collection of domestic revenue but also to ensure the revenue is not lost through IFFs for the benefit of the country as a whole”*

3.0. Outcome 3: Institutional effectiveness and efficiency of Policy Forum network is sustainably enhanced.

3.1. Documenting MEL experience on SAM and other stories

This year PF ventured into a storytelling approach to documenting contribution and impact of its various activities. The documentation covers the case stories of the SAM Councillors trainings³, Breakfast Debate⁴ and community radio programs⁵.

The case stories outline the impact of the Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) Councillors trainings in Kiteto and Mafinga Districts. The case stories provide major highlights on how SAM has contributed to increased revenues in Mafinga and enhance the capacity of the councillors which has also contributed to efficient and proper management of resources in Kiteto District Council.

The other coverage includes how the morning debate contributed in the establishment of the first parliamentary SDGs caucus and improving financial accountability through provision of recommendations stemmed from the analysis of the CAG report of 2016/2017. With regards to community radio stations, the stories include increased awareness of the public (Iringa town-based public) and participation in municipal full council's meeting as well as contribution of the radio programs in completion of classrooms construction in Mtwara.

Considering the above, during the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) Conference held in Washington DC from 18th to 21st November 2019, PF had an opportunity to tell a story on how the social accountability training to councillors contributed to the improved resource management at sub-national level. The story highlights how the decision to focus on training councillors was informed by the evaluation of the previous SAM intervention which PF had. The biggest lesson over the last five years has been that we can only fail if what we learn fails to change us. We hence keep learning and we keep changing and hope to continue telling our story in the course of our journey.

For a complete story kindly click this link <https://www.policyforum-tz.org/what-doesn%E2%80%99t-kill-you-makes-you-stronger>

3.2 The Learning story behind collaboration with Policy Makers.

To promote the learning culture within and beyond the network, Policy Forum took part in organizing the CSO week. Her being in the steering committee the network also conducted Annual Learning Event on 5th November 2019 which fed into the broader CSO week. The event intended to share best practices and learnings stemmed from collaborations and partnerships that PF and her partners have had with the government and other actors who contribute to the realisation of the network's overall goal which ultimately add into the Tanzania's social-economic development initiatives. The session starred discussions which showcased how collaboration with government at both national and local level can drive positive impact in policy making processes and enhance accountability in the use public resources. The session also featured a learning story behind the collaboration between the

³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yO06R_adnk
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDRTtS-DL5A>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POPb7XeYXy0&t=51s>

⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5yb_z04Vg
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCBX5rgoonU&t=2s>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcjwz6HWxWQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QTfgISWEW0>

CSOs and the government during the SDGs Voluntary National Review which aimed at reporting the status in which the country is in implementing the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. Dr. Lorah Madete from the Ministry of Finance presented to audience on how the process was inclusive and diverse to ensure no one is left behind.

“The process of preparing the report was inclusive so various development stakeholders were involved. It took 9 months to prepare the report. Hence CSOs took part in inputting in the report. It was not the first time for the government to work together with CSOs. Even in the preparation of the FYDP II, CSOs were involved. The process involved 500 CSOs and looked at all the 17 goals. This has enabled the voice of those who would not have been heard, be heard.” said Dr. Lorah Madete-Ministry of Finance and Planning

Presenting the impact realised at the local level as a result of government and CSO collaborations, Hon. Cosato Chumi, a member of parliament from Mafinga town council narrated that, after the capacity enhancement from PF, the council managed to raise their revenue collection from 86% in the financial year 2015/2016 shortly after the social accountability monitoring trainings provided by Policy Forum to 100% revenue collection in 2018/2019. On the other hand, Kiteto council through his councillor Paul Ole Tunyoni affirmed to have a well-functioning council committee which plays a very good oversight role to ascertain value for money. The councillor however admitted that there were still a number of challenges need to be addresses and urge for Policy Forum and other institutions to arrange a similar intervention since there are more than 100 councils that need such training.

3.3 Measuring results through Strategic Plan Mid-term Review

Approaching the final year of Policy Forum Strategic Plan implementation, the network has been progressively working on strengthening the result-based approach to realize the participatory Monitoring Evaluation and Learning strategy. PF hired Engage Consult Co. Ltd to undertake the review of its fifth SP covering two and a half years (January 2017 to July 2019). The main focus of an external mid-term review was to assess the extent to which progress towards the Policy Forum Strategic Plan outcomes have been achieved. The assessment used a mixed approach method to address the strategic issues under study by the use of key informant interview, round table discussions, desk/document review and self-administered questionnaire through an online survey software.

The preliminary report revealed that there has been a notable increase in the capacity of members to analyse policies and a growing use of tools such as social accountability monitoring (SAM) and Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS). The current evidence from PF member's survey shows that 98% of surveyed members found the PF network useful for them to influence and monitor policies related to Public resources. It is through the network they managed to form a coalition to advocate for their agenda and have a single strong voice on policies that relate to public resources. With regard to monitoring of policies related to public resources, 100% of the surveyed members have been participating in monitoring policies related to public resources compared to before launching the current Strategic Plan

where 79% of the respondents were participating by then. Despite majority claimed to have effective monitoring of policies, there are number of challenges that were recorded during key informant interview with some members from the working groups. These include, limited space for advocacy; members joining the policy and budgeting process late, strict statistical enforcement, data on expenditure not being readily available, inconsistent of data from national budget each year, and inadequate capacity of members to do policy monitoring.

For ages now, the government has been in support of the PF agenda related to transparent, equitable use of public money and increased Domestic Resource Mobilization. A number of legislations have been incorporated in PF agendas such as Amendment to the Budget Act of 2015, Written laws (Miscellaneous Amendment) No. 4 of 2017, Natural Wealth and Resources Contracts (Review and Renegotiation of Unconscionable terms) Act, 2017 and Natural Wealth and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act, 2017. In the course of conducting this review, it was learnt that some of the PF's agendas were taken into consideration by the government and were reflected in some of the legislations, policy and frameworks including cross cutting themes.

To increase critical mass for policy impact, the review has urged for PF to expand their engagements beyond members and traditional stakeholders and include other non-state partners in policy analysis, budget analysis and advocacy in various sectors that contribute to the revenue generation, and improvement of GDP.

3.3. Strengthening Policy Forum Governance

Major changes in how PF is to be governed have been witnessed in 2019. Although PF has continued its tradition of progressively strengthening governance through its many mechanisms like continuous systems review through the AGM, Board meetings, the external audit process and funders' risk assessments, the year under review saw the tabling and parliamentary approval of the Special Bill Supplement Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Act, 2019. This brought changes to eight provisions of the law that governs areas such as among others the Non-governmental Organisations Act 2002, The Tanzania Societies Act 1995 and the Companies Act 2002.

The implication for PF lies in the new legal definitions of NGOs and Companies (PF previously being the latter). The new law deletes the existing definition of the term NGOs and substitutes it with a new definition that does not recognise the aspect of human rights protection and promotion. Also, the definition excludes Companies limited by guarantee, Trusts formed by Trustees Act, microfinance groups and religious organizations. On the same note, the definition of what is a company is now narrowly defined to ensure that NGOs will no longer be Companies Limited by Guarantee.

Considering this, PF had to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on the 16th of August to discuss and adopt a new constitution in a model as stipulated under the NGO Act of 2002. The New constitution is now in place, PF is now registered as an NGO and the according to the new law, PF will be deregistered as a company.

To this end, the previous resolution reached during last year's AGM to review the PF MEMARTS has now been succeeded by events. Related processes that were awaiting the

culmination of this exercise are still relevant (e.g. ongoing discussions with funders regarding and joint coordination mechanism) and will continue in due course.

As usual, PF holds regular meetings jointly with its core funders with a view of updating them on progress in implementing annual plans and exchanging ideas on how best to be effective in their support to Policy Forum. One meeting has been held in 2019 and these impending major changes were communicated.

3.3. Inspiring Other CSOs Through First Paperless Audit at Policy Forum

There is buzz surrounding Policy Forum use of MIS and has continually shared the potential that come with it. As previously reported in the 2018 annual report, Policy Forum had employed Policy Forum Management Information System (PF MIS) that makes management processes agile and the collection and management of data more automated, accurate and reliable. The web-based Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP) platform seems to reduce the inconvenience and need for constant physical presence to complete simple office processes. There was also a need for one-stop destination and source of all the network's information related to finance, membership, program & PMEL, human resource and donor management whereby these facets would be integrated to work seamlessly to help with quick decision making.

After conducting assessments of the PF MIS and internal IT environment as the whole in 2018, management has been working on all recommendations addressing weaknesses and challenges in 2019. MIS has created an opportunity to redress policy aspect of ICT and seeking robust environment. We now have accountable IT support team in place, IT strategy and business continuity policy and plan waiting for Board approval. Continue use of MIS has created environment of learning to exploit opportunities that comes with technology. The dimensions of growth and innovation has opened due to Success that came with MIS, we are learning more/ exploring more/ asking more questions and demand more of ourselves as the secretariat to improve the platform. The use of PF MIS has proven to increase effectiveness and efficiency for the network as compared to before its launch. As a result, it has inspired some many organizations such as WAJIBU, PELUM and HakiElimu, TENMET, FCS and SIKIKA who are our members and partners.

Conventionally PF has been audited traditionally on premise, but since January 2018 roll-out of PFMIS platform majority of records are, any audit would have relied on the information. During the first half of the year Policy Forum was audited by HLB MEKONSULT which for the first time in its history, PF underwent an audit off the premises. This was done by granting a read-only access to the MIS giving the auditors an all-site entry to verify and assess all the relevant information, thus reducing inconvenience and the need for constant physical presence to complete the exercise. The only instance they needed to make an o-site verification is when they had to assess PF assets. This is a milestone that Policy Forum aimed for when it designing the cloud-based management system. 2018 Financial year, Policy Forum was given unqualified opinion.

3.4. Funding and Annual Budget Implementation

Overall 2019 has been a very successful year in terms of funding and donor relations. Policy Forum had secured significant funding from Four (4) partners whose support will Passover to 2020. 2019 being a third out of four years of implementing the current strategic plan our partners are appreciated for their constant and reliable support.

At the start of the year budget for the whole annual plan was TZS 2.6 billion, this total didn't change even after post mid-year review. Partners such as Swiss Development Corporation, DANIDA, Foundation for Open Society Institute, Action Aid Tanzania among others have supported the 2019 Annual Budget.

2019 BUDGET FUNDING SUPPORT		
PARTNERS	FUNDING IN TZS	FUNDING IN USD
SWISS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	685,950,000	300,000
DANIDA	680,842,106	297,441
FOUNDATION FOR OPEN SOCIETY	170,890,815	74,985
ACTION AID TANZANIA	49,289,037	21,533
OTHER FUNDERS	683,400,000	300,000
TOTAL	2,270,371,958	918,974

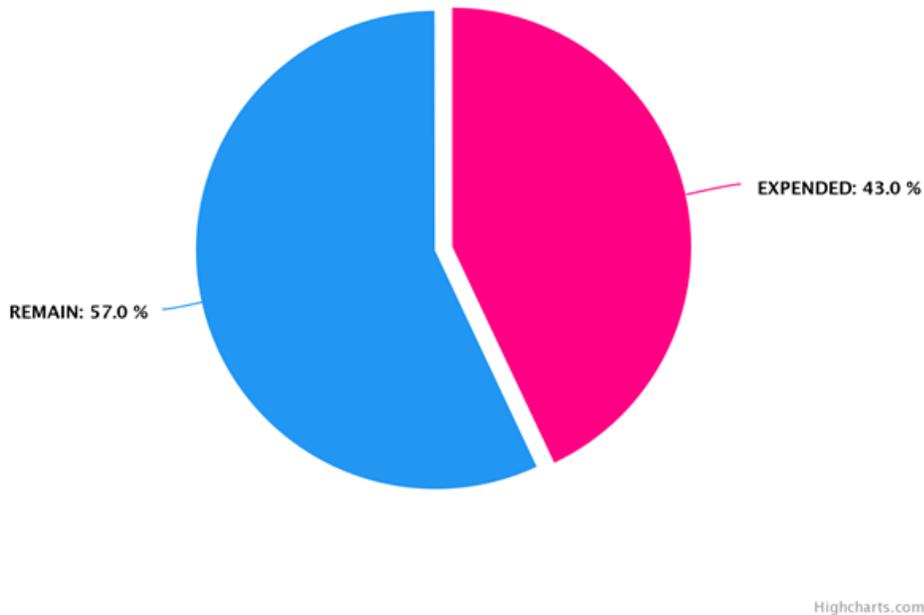
At TZS 2.6 billion budget was supported by 99.6% according to the scheduled contracts, therefore of the funds expected at the start TZS 2,590,747,214 only 87.6% was disbursed.

As at the end of the year the actual disbursements supported 87.3% of the total annual budget, the difference being due to the rescheduled fund to 2020 by one of our partner. The rescheduled disbursement will help fund some of the activities that will be carried forward in 2020.

In the execution of 2019 Annual Budget there are few activities that are rescheduled for 2020. Significantly planned activity such as governance review had to be redesigned for 2019 in order to build on the last Governance review on corruption. As at 31 December 2019 comparably Policy Forum had spent 76% of the budget to 85.5% in 2018.

In total, Policy Forum has spent 1,976,687,901.59 of its total budgets. T

ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET



4.0. Lessons Learned and Challenges

4.1 Further interventions following Breakfast debate recommendations is vital to achieving the intended objectives

The analysis of the 2016/2017 CAG report by Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA) highlighted the financial accountability gaps that required Ministers to follow the appropriate procedures in responding to audit queries; the parliament to call for a special audit of TZS 1.5 trillion mismatch between revenue and expenditures and the government to enhance funding of the CAG's office.

WIPA, a member that has the capacity, credibility and ability to tackle financial accountability issues was provided a Breakfast Debate platform to stir a discussion with the relevant stakeholders on the analysis that was undertaken. However, a further step was taken by submitting the recommendations to the Government. This influenced the acceptance of the recommendations of the analysis of the CAG's report of 2016/2017 by the Government.

Thus, to attain intended advocacy goals one needs to take further action by engaging with a respective Government institution after one intervention to bring about results.

4.2 Capacity enhancement to Parliamentary Committee Clerks is key towards sustaining SDGs agenda.

In 2018, PF with other partners championed the establishment of the Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development which was officiated by Hon Job Ndugai. Group members have committed to champion sustainable development matters in the national parliament. The established caucus had a limited understanding of the SDGs and how the goals have been domesticated in the National Plans such as FYDP II. Given this knowledge gap PF, in collaboration with UNAT and TSDP, conducted a training with a purpose of enhancing their understanding on SDG and how they will contribute in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the same in the country.

From the training recommendations, the team learned that, to ensure institution memory and SDGs agenda within the parliamentary discussion is sustained, it is equally important to effectively engage all parliamentary committees' clerks in the parliament. Hence, flexibility of the advocacy planned activities is necessary to facilitate the attainment of intended goals since PF did not plan to train parliamentary committee clerks on SDGs.

4.3 Advocacy for policy change requires years of implementation to effectively catalyse change processes and track the results.

One of the key recommendations into the Finance bill this year was advocacy for policy change in favor of VAT exemption on sanitary pads for school going children. This activity was informed by research nationally and internationally which demonstrate that availability of sanitary towels improved school attendance by 45% for girls from poor families.

The VAT exemption did not push through in this year's budget however the activity leveraged the momentum, networks, partnerships and advocated to ensure public participation and made it through to the parliamentary committee on constitutional and legal affairs. PF was also extremely lucky to have dedicated and committed members and staff, Whom, without these factors, it was unlikely that PF would have achieved the results it posted.

This target on tax exemption was therefore very ambitious to achieve in a year. It is recommended that in future, such targets require longer interventional period to ensure the results are achieved with the participation of all stakeholders

4.4 Learning from failures to influence positive change in SAM

For over the last five years Policy Forum has been working with different stakeholders in undertaking social accountability initiatives in Tanzania. A disappointing impact evaluation in 2016 motivated our decision to take part in a Learning Pilot Exercise, both of which influenced our decision to rethink our strategic approach to SAM. Instead of merely providing formal training to a growing ecosystem of SAM actors and assuming that this

would change behaviour at scale, we decided to be deliberate about which capacities to build, for whom, and why and how to determine whether it is worthwhile. We did this because we wanted to define for ourselves what our impact would be measured against through a fit-for-purpose MEL strategy so that future evaluations contained no surprises. We then redesigned our SAM strategy to reflect our new strategic approach which among other focused on strengthening councillors' capacity to perform their oversight role at the sub national level.

To date, 106 Councillors have been trained on the social accountability monitoring tailored for their oversight role. The feedback from both councillors and the local government officials they oversee has been overwhelmingly positive on the impact of training on their ability to implement their role. In fact, we are now getting requests from councillors from other LGAs who have heard from their colleagues about how this capacity building has benefitted them. Earlier this year, our work with councillors was evaluated and the findings recommended that we consider mechanisms to scale up the intervention and ensure its sustainability.⁶

4.5 Challenges

Promoting members participation in different engagements with no regular updates on the progress has been hampering the joint advocacy efforts to PF network. Being a member led organization, Policy Forum has been working with and through members when implementing her programs. Despite having the Participatory Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (PMEL) strategy which was developed in 2018 with the purpose of strengthening members participation and reporting, the network still faces challenge of feedback from members engagements related to policy and public money accountability as a result it becomes difficult for the secretariat and members to know when they are influencing policies and accountability, what are the challenges they are encountering and how do they resolve them to enhance learning within the network.

Conclusion

It is worth noting that despite the regressing environment for CSOs in Tanzania, a lot can still be done within what is realistically possible. The shrinking civic space and its devastating effects on the ability of organisations to impact positively on development may be evident, but PF experiences in 2018 and 2019 thus far show that civil society can respond by stating 'the spaces will be protected' and is able to rethink what intermediate outcomes in the face of challenging times ought to be: stopping things from regressing further.

PF work with parliamentarians, technocrats in government and the media shows that there is something worth protecting. On matters where the incentives for civil society and

⁶ <https://www.policyforum-tz.org/sites/default/files/Policy%20Forum%20Piece%20Blog%20USA.pdf>

policymakers are aligned, there seems to be less friction and apprehension and collaboration on SDGs, implementation of the CAG's recommendations and normalising the formal sector to mention but a few. These areas of common interest should be cultivated to help ensure the regression is halted.

It should also be noted that, civil society itself as a community needs to demonstrate further solidarity considering the prevailing trajectory. Following a successful event in 2018, the second consecutive civil society week held in November this year proved that coming together more assertively helps not only in showing the intent of pushing back the current trends, but that solidarity can make the topmost echelons of government take the sector more seriously.