

POLICY FORUM LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 14TH MARCH 2012

VENUE: OXFAM OFFICES

Attendance:

1. Regina Katabi- Co-Convenor
2. Kidani Magwilla – TNCHF
3. Erick Kalunga – Daraja
4. Tamlyn Munslon – Daraja
5. Lydia Kamwaga – Sikika
6. Gotfried Sangana – CODEFA
7. Nasson Konga – TACOSODE
8. Julie Adkins- SNV
9. Julius Muungano- PELO
10. James Mlali- HDT
11. Joseph Ogana- AP2000
12. Jackline Mlay- PF
13. Alex Modest- PF
14. Semkae Kilonzo- PF
15. Nuru Ngailo- PF
16. Christina Genda- PF
17. Prisca Kowa- PF

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Approval of New Agenda and Confirmation of 10th January 2012 LGWG's Meeting Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Policy Forum and TAMISEMI collaboration: Feedback from the meeting held in Dodoma
4. Decentralization by Devolution (D by D) Brief: Updates so far from the team selected and how this can be taken forward within the LGWG Annual Plan.
5. Updates from REPOA on preparation for CDCF Survey
7. AOB

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The co-convenor opened the meeting at 03:00pm by welcoming LGWG members to the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves

2. CONFIRMATION OF 10TH JANUARY 2012 LGWG MEETING MINUTES, MATTERS ARISING AND APPROVAL OF NEW AGENDA

Members commented on the 10th January 2012 LGWG meeting minutes which were tabled before them and had been sent to them by the secretariat

particularly on agenda number 1, 4, 5 and it was agreed that names of people should not appear in the minutes.

The co-convener read the agenda to be discussed in the meeting and then asked participants to table additional agenda of which two items were added in the AOB.

Members were passed through the matters arising which were tabled before them, no comments were made to it.

3. POLICY FORUM AND TAMISEMI COLLABORATION: FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING HELD IN DODOMA

The secretariat and co-convener who had attended this meeting briefed members on their meeting with TAMISEMI which was slated on 7th March 2012. They started by saying that, in October 2012 there was a meeting between CSO's and TAMISEMI, some of the things that CSO's complained to TAMISEMI were accessibility of public documents and the allowances that CSOs seeks from TAMISEMI when they invite them to workshops, trainings and meetings.

They added that PF has is in the process of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with TAMISEMI which seeks information from it and that TAMISEMI should circulate a circular to the councils. The MoU was sent to them before but it was very difficult to get a meeting with them but when they finally sat with TAMISEMI to talk about it, they promised to read it and get back to them, the rationale behind is to see if the public documents fall on the secretive, open and confidential documents.

PF asked them to give their legal reasons as to why they think the documents are secretive, confidential or open after they have come up with their decision and the cases on these issues so as to know the internal mechanism.

It was agreed in this meeting that, a task force should be made, a comparison between PETS and SAM should be put for them to understand and the teaching curriculum of SAM used by PF and MSTDC should be harmonized.

It was clarified that, this MoU is the same draft that was brought forth before the quarterly meeting and for starters its only PF members who will benefit from it and not all CSO's.

It was further reported that, TAMISEMI urged CSO's to be accountable as they advocate for the government to be (accountability should not be one sided).

A member suggested that, the government should look at their relationship with NGO's before all this.

It was reported that the government's liaison officer was present in this meeting with TAMISEMI.

A member advised that there should be a specific person in the task force who deals with these issues.

A member suggested that, they should be given the minutes of the meeting held with TAMISEMI to see so that they can engage and fully participate. A member suggested that, the MoU should clearly state its main aim which is to see if citizens benefit from the services offered by the government.

4. DECENTRALIZATION BY DEVOLUTION (D BY D) BRIEF: UPDATES SO FAR FROM THE TEAM SELECTED AND HOW THIS CAN BE TAKEN FORWARD WITHIN THE LGWG ANNUAL PLAN.

It was suggested that, it will be good if we go beyond making of a policy brief on D by D as agreed in the previous meetings, we should brainstorm further. Members pointed out that, all this will depend with what is in the brief and the targeted audience.

A member added that, usually the targeted audience when making a brief are the decision makers therefore the brief should be made while other processes continue.

It was further suggested that, the powers of the councils should be included in the constitution because they are not certain.

It was agreed that the group headed by Franscica who are to make the brief should sit down and agree on what to include in the brief so that we could know for sure what to advocate for. For those who were present in the meeting they agreed to meet after the meeting.

The secretariat promised to accommodate them in their offices for their future meetings.

5. UPDATE FROM REPOA ON PREPARATION FOR CDCF SURVEY

The Director of REPOA who was to brief on this agenda could not attend the meeting as scheduled.

Pf secretariat briefed members on their meeting with the Director of REPOA who insisted that we should not rush this process and he raised a query as why the research study is conducted on only two big constituencies, the findings of this study cannot represent the case of all other constituencies in Tanzania instead he suggested that these two constituencies should only be a pilot of the study.

Members suggested that we should be very cautious with time because according to the terms of reference of this study, the time of doing this study has already elapsed therefore the secretariat should sit with REPOA and see their aim of doing this research if it's that of short term or long term (time frame of this activity) and feedback should be sent to members via email and if possible it should be sent together with the invitations/information relating to training.

6. AOB

A member from SIKIKA briefed on how their organization had worked with LGA's to see whether citizen's benefit from the health services at the LGA level, and it was seen that 50% of the council's health committees were not effective, she suggested that the group should do something to help work on this issue.

It was agreed that this can be included in the D by D issue.

Members were told about the relocation of Policy Forum offices from Plot No. 270 Kiko Avenue, Mikocheni B to Plot 14, Sembeti Road, Mikocheni B and were advised to visit the PF website so as to see the map of the new office.

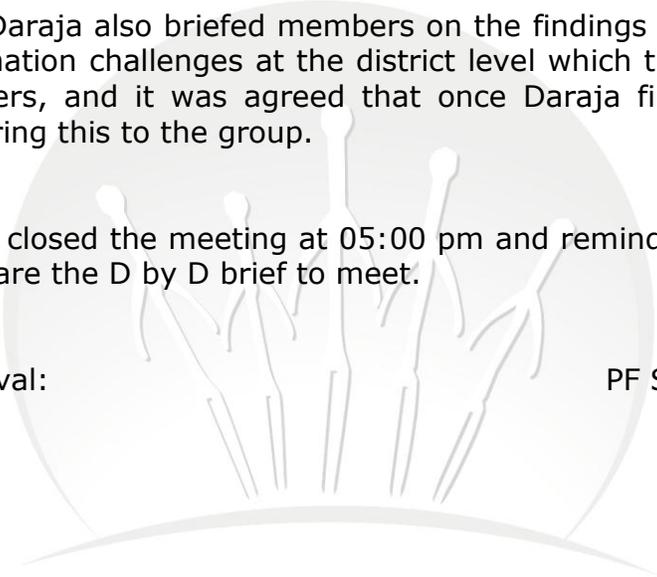
Members from Daraja also briefed members on the findings of their study on access to information challenges at the district level which they gathered via scorecards, letters, and it was agreed that once Daraja finishes its report then they can bring this to the group.

The chairperson closed the meeting at 05:00 pm and reminded the members who are to prepare the D by D brief to meet.

Convener approval:

PF Secretariat:

Date:



policy forum