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policy forum

PF

**Mid-Year Progress Report :
January to June 2012**

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Policy Forum Progress Report – January to June 2012

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

The 2012 Annual Plan:

In keeping with objective 1 of the strategic plan for 2011/13 – as outlined above, the following is an update of the progress of implementation of activities agreed upon in the 2012 Annual Plan of the Budget Working Group (BWG).

- **The Budget Working Group Annual Plan for 2010.**

The 2012 Annual plan was drawn and approved by the Budget Working Group in February as the guide for the activities they would be implementing through the year.

- **Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) Advocacy.**

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

- **Drawing a template for the citizen's budget.**

We are in communication with the Ministry of Finance regarding this activity. We have notified the Ministry of our commitment to continue our cooperation with them in preparing the Citizen's budget. We are in the process of gathering the relevant documentation to get us started.

- **Policy engagement.**

We did participate in the Annual Policy Dialogue (APD) that happened on the 26th and 27th January, 2012 at the Blue Pearl hotel. The Annual Policy Dialogue is a forum that provides a platform for constructive and open dialogue between Government, CSOs and Development Partners on topical policy issues that will lead to the making of informed policy decisions. The objective of the APD was to discuss policy issues including their implementation status, challenges as well as

possible ways forward for challenges raised. The meeting attracted good representation from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Development Partners (DPs) the Private Sector and Government representatives. The guest of honour in this year's APD was the Prime Minister, Honourable Peter Kayanza Mizengo Pinda. This year CSOs were given the opportunity to voice their opinion at each and every agenda that was raised. In his CSO statement, the Chairman of Policy Forum highlighted issues of budget transparency, weak tax collection mechanisms and the growing national debt as major contributors of the vicious circle of poverty among Tanzanians. In his recommendations he proposed that government strengthens tax collection mechanisms and thinks of ways of broadening the tax base. He also urged development partners to assist government in initiatives to curb capital flight. Other papers presented were the MKUKUTA II Annual Implementation Report, the Poverty and Human Development report on growth and income poverty, governance and accountability and quality of life and social wellbeing, which were all commented on by CSOs. Other papers were Trend of macro-economic indicators, presentation of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Tanzania (JAST) and the Five year Development Plan all upon which CSO concerns were raised. The two day dialogue was closed by the Minister for Finance who called on all stakeholders to utilize the key messages from the two days in efforts to reshape the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes. He also stressed that Tanzania will work towards reducing aid dependency in terms of its share of the national budget and support building the capacity of the private sector and civil society so they can effectively participate in the country's development agenda.

- **Localisation of the OBI.**

This activity aims to measure the transparency of the budget process at local level looking specifically at the issue of access to budget information as well as the mechanisms that are in place to influence citizen participation in the process. Questionnaires for the survey have been prepared and beefed-up following discussions with the Capacity Enhancement Department and the experience of SIKIKA who have embarked on undertaking a similar study. Owing to issues that arose in the course of the discussions, the approach agreed, as the first step, is to go out and train the Policy Forum member (that we will be working with on the project) on the objective of the project and the local government budget cycle after which we will be monitoring them on the process of data gathering. Data compilation and analyses will follow thereafter and be documented for purposes of advocacy.

- **Other Activities:**

- **Budget working Group pre Budget statement.**

The BWG published a pre-budget statement calling for an equitable and just budget. The statement was published a day prior to the tabling of the 2012/2013 national budget by the Minister for Finance. The key messages that the statement conveyed were: fair distribution of resources, improving the quality of education through better school inspection, effective use of resources in the agricultural sector, budget allocations to key sectors following commitments made under the General Budget Support framework, and honoring its commitment to reduce tax exemptions. This press statement was also translated into Swahili and published in the press on the day the budget was tabled.

Analysis of 2012/13 National Budget.

The Secretariat usually dedicates the breakfast debate of the month of June to analyses of the national budget prepared by the Budget working Group. The June breakfast debate was specific to the state of the health sector and was themed **"Health Sector Budget Allocations: Is the state of the Health sector improving?"** Presentations were made by Dr. Flora Kessy who made a presentation titled **"Health sector expenditure trends from 2006/07 to 2011/12"** followed by a presentation by Simon Moshy of Sikika titled **"10 years of the Abuja declaration and Health Equity"**. The discussant of the debate was Dr. Rufaro Chatora, the WHO representative to Tanzania. The debate was well attended with active participants and received good media coverage. Deliberations of it can be found on our website (www.policyforum.or.tz).

- **Launch of a report on Tax Justice Advocacy.**

The Secretariat also launched a publication entitled *'Tax Competition in East Africa: A Race to the Bottom? Tax Incentives and Revenue Losses in Tanzania'* which it co-published together with Actionaid and Tax Justice Network – Africa. The launch, done on 17th June 2012 at Dodoma Hotel, was attended by 94 Members of Parliament and received great media attention. On the overall, Members of Parliament were of the feeling that it was an important report but one that should have been launched much earlier since deliberations on the national budget were beginning the following day. The report has since been referred to a couple of times during debates on the national budget that followed the launch.

- **Governance Study.**

The governance study focuses on governance and accountability issues that occurred throughout the year. The 2010 – 2011 study is nearing its final stage of preparation. Material input from each of the departments of the secretariat was compiled for input into the report.

Objective 2: The body of evidence produced by Policy Forum through analyzing and monitoring the accountability system is widely used in targeted advocacy strategies to policy makers, the media, civil society, the academic community and the general public in a manner that is accessible, interesting, relevant and useful to the intended target audience.

2.1 Policy Forum Website and branding: Data continues to show that, at least 2000 people visit our website on a monthly basis and a greater part of users are from within Tanzania. We also continue to update and upload various documents including reports, studies and news items regularly as a way of broadening our dissemination. At the beginning of this year we commissioned a website company to maintain and upgrade our website so as to improve it who is still working on it to date.

As part of our branding, we also reprinted and updated our members' directory for 2012 . The purpose of the directory is to provide a contact details list of the organizations who are members of PF for the convenience of horizontal communication within the network.

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

2.3 Popularization of Policy Documents: This year we plan to produce popular versions of 5 publications. The agreed documents for popularization so far are:

1. A simplified version highlighting the major weaknesses of the current constitution. This activity is now underway by a team of members from our Local Government Working Group (LGWG) We are planning to reprint 25,000 copies of this simplified version.
2. Popular version of Tanzania Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (TEITI) Law. We intend to reprint 25,000 copies of the simplified version of the TEITI Law, unfortunately the law is not made yet but hopefully it will be enacted this year.
3. A popular guide for citizens on the Constitutional review. PF commissioned *Jukwaa la Katiba* (CSO Constitutional Forum) to prepare this document prior to the country-wide public hearings planned for the review of the Constitutional Review Bill. The objective of this publication is to enlighten citizens on the propriety of the process of reviewing the constitution and giving background on previous constitutional amendments in Tanzania. It also provides expert opinion as to how the process could be carried forward based on experiences from neighboring jurisdictions that have undertaken successful constitutional reviews due to a great demand of the booklet from our members and the public at large have decided to reprint 12,000 copies of the booklets this year, which is now being reviewed by *Jukwaa la Katiba* so as to rectify the mistakes that were done last year.
4. A simplified version of *Utawala wa Kidemokrasia*. due to an unending demand from PF members and other stakeholders and the public for this document, PF reprinted 13,000 copies for this year for dissemination particularly to areas where members and different stakeholders have reported urgent need, The booklet is in the stage of being finalized by printers and will be out soon
5. Simplified campaign brief on extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI). As part of continued advocacy for transparency in extractive , we intend to reprint 1000 copies of the EITI brief.

2.4 Breakfast Debates: Breakfast debates have continued to take place on the last Friday of each month. During the first half of 2012, the topics discussed have been:

1. January: *The Implementation of Decentralization by revolution in Tanzania: have we achieved?*

2. February: Revenues in the pipeline: How can Tanzania benefit from oil and gas?

3. March: *The Village Land Act: Is it worth protecting?*

4. April: *Inspiring young people into action: What can policy makers do?*

5. May: *Access to Information at the District level: The Experience from Southern Region of Tanzania?*

6. June: *Health sector allocation: Is the state of the health sector improving?*

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

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

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

1. Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) – Documentary. This year Policy Forum will make a documentary with our two SAM partner networks namely, MIICO and TACOSODE, the documentary will capture the findings of social accountability monitoring that was conducted in Ileje district.
2. Press Statements: Up to date Pf has issued three press statements on extractive industries, position of CSO's on doctors strike (Swahili and English) and views of CSO's on what should be taken in the new constitution

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

- 3.1 Non-Dar based Members to effectively participate in quarterly meetings in 2012:** Policy Forum has facilitated the attendance of its up-country members to the Annual General Meeting which was held in May 2012 (30 members attended). The second quarterly meeting will be done on the 27th of July, 2012 and we expect to also invite about 30 up-country members.
- 3.2 Institutionalization of SAM within GoT and its embedment in PF member activities:** Policy Forum has continued to collaborate with the PMO-RALG and this year in March, PF held a meeting with the PMO-RALG management team in Dodoma with the aim of discussing the formalization of our collaboration with them. PF submitted a MoU which charts the nature of the collaboration and stipulates the need for the Government to write a circular to all LGAs outlining the type of council documents that should be made accessible to CSOs doing accountability monitoring. The MoU, however, has not been signed as yet but PF continues to push for its approval by the PMO-RALG management.
- 3.3 Two additional partners identified for Social Accountability Monitoring in 2012:** Two new partners were selected by members during the Policy Forum's AGM, namely TNRF and Forum Syd who will work with the PF Secretariat in 2012 and 2013. The MoUs with the two partners have been developed but not yet signed. We expect to start the implementation of SAM with these new partners by July 2012.
- 3.4 Strengthening and monitoring of the 2011/2012 SAM partnerships with TACOSODE & MIICO:** The Backstopping for TACOSODE & ANSAF was done consecutively in September and October 2011; the mentoring was on data analysis and scrutinizing budget documents. Two preliminary reports of the findings have been written and in April 2012, stakeholders' feedback meetings have been done. The finalization of the implementation reports is underway.
- 3.5 Development of a Capacity Enhancement strategy, a local SAM training course and a ToT SAM fundamentals course:** To further deal with the demand for SAM, Policy Forum has adopted a local SAM course with help from the CSA which will be used to develop the capacity of its members and partners. A draft Facilitator's Guide has also been developed and is currently under review so as to confirm with any changes in laws and regulations of the government of United Republic of Tanzania that relate to accountability and monitoring activities. PF hopes that the SAM Facilitator's Guide will help maintain the quality of training on SAM. This year's Local SAM training is scheduled to be conducted between September and October. Regarding SAM Fundamentals CSA course, five members have attended the course in South Africa (those members are LHRC, ANSAF,

TACOSODE, HakiElimu, Mzeituni Foundation/Forum Syd). Training of Trainers (ToT) is scheduled to be conducted in August 2012.

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

4.1 Strategic and Selective Policy Engagement: In seeking to influence Tanzania's governance structures and policy spheres, PF continues to coordinate the participation its members in these spaces. This year, we have engaged in the following ways:

Annual National Policy Dialogue: In January 2012, The Annual Policy Dialogue is a forum that provides a platform for constructive and open dialogue between Government, CSOs and Development Partners on topical policy issues that will lead to the making of informed policy decisions. The objective of the ANPD was to discuss policy issues including their implementation status, challenges as well as possible ways forward for challenges raised. The meeting attracted good representation from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Development Partners (DPs) the Private Sector and Government representatives. This year's ANPD was different in that CSOs were given the opportunity to voice their opinion at each and every agenda that was raised.



In his CSO statement, the Chairman of Policy Forum highlighted issues of budget transparency, weak tax collection mechanisms and the growing national debt as major contributors of the vicious circle of poverty among Tanzanians. In his recommendations he proposed that government strengthens tax collection mechanisms and thinks of ways of broadening the tax base. He also urged development partners to assist government in initiatives to curb capital flight. Other papers presented were the MKUKUTA II Annual Implementation Report, the Poverty and Human Development report on growth and income poverty, governance and accountability and quality of life and social wellbeing, which were all commented on by CSOs. Other papers were the Trend of macro-economic indicators, presentation of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Tanzania (JAST) and the Five year Development Plan all upon which CSO concerns were raised. The two day dialogue was closed by the Minister for Finance who called on all stakeholders to utilize the key messages from the two days in efforts to reshape the implementation of

policies, strategies and programmes. He also stressed that Tanzania will work towards reducing aid dependency in terms of its share of the national budget and support building the capacity of the private sector and civil society so they can effectively participate in the country's development agenda.

Tax Justice Network – Africa: In June 2012, Policy Forum, in collaboration with the Tax Justice Network – Africa and Actionaid Tanzania, unveiled a report on Tax incentives and revenue losses in Tanzania to over 90 members of parliament in Dodoma. The report, entitled: "Tax Competition in East Africa: A Race to The Bottom?", shows that the government of Tanzania is providing a wide range of tax incentives to businesses to attract greater levels of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) into the country which leads to very large revenue losses and may not necessarily be needed to attract and retain FDIs. Policy Forum has also consciously decided to bring in issues of tax justice in its parliamentary advocacy, particularly with the purpose of raising awareness amongst MPs and parliamentary staff (institutional memory of parliament) and understanding of the issue of tax competition in East Africa, the use of tax incentives and the revenue losses from tax incentives in Tanzania, denying the government badly-needed funds for service-delivery.

Mama Misitu Campaign: Policy Forum is a campaign partner of the Mama Misitu Campaign which is aimed at improving the governance of Tanzania's forestry resources and reducing illegal forest harvesting. It is an effort to ensure that Tanzanian citizens increasingly benefit from sustainably managed forest resources. The launch was coordinated by PF members Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG) and the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF). Policy Forum is also training Mama Misitu partners on Social Accountability Monitoring.

Global Financial Integrity: In May 2012 Policy Forum held a special half-day discussion on illicit financial flows from Africa with two international experts on the topic. Raymond Baker, the founder and CEO of the Global Financial Integrity, the leading global institute on illicit financial flow studies was joined by Alvin Mosioma, Coordinator of the Tax Justice Network for Africa, an institution which aims to promote socially just, democratic and progressive taxation systems in Africa. It was an opportunity for PF members to learn how the global shadow financial system was impacting negatively on poor countries. The system included tax havens, offshore secrecy jurisdictions, disguised corporations, anonymous trusts, fake foundations, falsified pricing, money laundering and loopholes left in laws of Western countries.

Financial Issues

The total approved annual budget for 2012 is Tsh. **1,303,780,445/=**. We began the year with a balance brought forward from previous year of **Tsh. 944,352,483**.

During the year, we received disbursement amounting to **Tsh. 730,220,482** from **CIDA, American Jewish, Christian Aid and PF member KEPA**. As at 30th June 2012, Policy Forum had an equivalent bank and cash balance of **Tsh. 870,521,855**

Disbursements only

In Tanzanian shillings			
Year	Amount Budgeted	Amount disbursed	Amount spent
2012	1,303,780,445	730,220,482	484,612,098

Budgeted Disbursements and pledges

These are revised total pledges that have been realized in the 2012 financial year. As shown in the table below the total budget is equivalent to **US\$ 814,863** compare to **US\$ 456,388**, amount obtained as at June 30th 2012

In Tanzanian shillings			
Year	Amount Budgeted	Amount obtained and pledged for year 2012	Budgeted Surplus/ (Deficit)
2012	1,303,780,445	1,293,326,104	10,454,341

The pledges and Disbursement for 2012 are summarized in the table below. The disbursement from American Jewish for 2012 was received at the end of year 2011 and reported as a deferred income (other payable) on 2011 Financial Statements.

Summary of Disbursement Status for year 2012

Funding Agency	Amount Agreed in 2012 (in currency of agreement)	Status of Pledges for year 2012
Canadian International Development Agency	CAN\$ 225,000	US\$ 263,448 disbursed (Tsh 413,877.452)
Swiss Development Cooperation	Tsh. 563,600,000	Tsh. 563,600,000
American Jewish World Service	US \$ 150,000	\$ 150,000 disbursed (Tsh 244,950,000)
Christian Aid	US\$ 31,858	US\$ 31,858 Disbursed (Tsh. 50,781,652)
Kepa (PF Member)	€10,000	Tsh. 20,117,000 disbursed
Other		Tsh 494,377
	Total disbursed in 2012	Tsh. 730,220,482

Monitoring and Evaluation

PF is planning to towards engaging a consultant with expertise in documentation, research and learning processes to draft a proposal or develop a framework that would enable us to systematically generate empirical evidence on accountability outcomes.

Governance Issues

Policy Forum elected its new Board of Directors during its 2012 Annual General Meeting held in Dar es Salaam on the 4th of May. The outgoing board members are Julie Adkins of SNV Tanzania, Esther Mongi of World Vision Tanzania, Emmanuel Kallonga of HAKIKAZI-Catalyst and Kellen Mngoya of HAFOTA who retired during this AGM leaving behind Sr. Rita Toutant - The Tanzania Network of Community Health Funds (TNCHF), Ben Taylor – Daraja and Audax Rukonge- Agricultural Non State Actors' Forum (ANSAF) to stay on for another year so that there is a balance between replacement and continuity on the Board.

Hence, the new line up is as follows:

New Board Members

1. Aida Kiangi – ActionAid Tanzania
2. Godfrey Wawa- Forum Syd
3. Hellen Kijo-Bisimba – Legal and Human Rights Centre
4. Nemence Iriya/ Asia Lembariti - MACSNET

Board Members staying on for another year

5. Sr. Rita Toutant - The Tanzania Network of Community Health Funds (TNCHF)
6. Ben Taylor - Daraja
7. Audax Rukonge - Agricultural Non State Actors' Forum (ANSAF)