

The Tanzania Governance Noticeboard

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The Tanzania Governance Noticeboard (TGN)

1. A Dynamic Database accessible from the Internet
2. An Initiative to promote Access to Information and Budget Monitoring at District and Village level

TGN - The database and website

- Key governance related indicators for Tanzania, with an emphasis on financial data, including:
 - ◆ Budgets
 - ◆ Expenditure data
 - ◆ Audits
 - ◆ NACSAP indicators

The Database on the website – the user interface

- The data is presented in a way that allows the user easily to:
 - ◆ Generate charts and tables with the selected indicators arranged according to sectors, institutions or districts
 - ◆ Track developments over time
 - ◆ Generate relative rankings to compare resources and/or performance among ministries and districts

Use of the website

- Training in how to use the database will be provided to members of civil society, journalists and MPs
- Will also actively assist CSOs to share and disseminate information on the budget process at district and sub-district level
- Share policy information, consultancy studies and academic work relating to finance accountability at the national and local level in Tanzania

TGN – Access to Information:

The outreach component

- Explore and develop models for better access to information and monitoring of finances at district and village level
- Work with organisations that are active at the local level to find better ways of making key information easily available and useable
- Provide training to key user groups (professional associations, media, councilors, communities) on how to access, interpret and follow up on information

Establishing Public Expenditure Tracking Systems

- Partnerships between local authorities and stakeholders to improve the transparency of financial management and transactions at the district level;
- Adoption of improved uses of official notice boards at the district and/or village level; and
- Regular reporting by civil society on public expenditure at district and sub-district level to be linked with website

A2I – Making noticeboards useable

- At District level:

- ◆ At the moment: a lot of information is posted, but it is not in context. Consequently, usefulness of data is very limited.
- ◆ Proposed improvement: by organising financial figures in a dynamic spreadsheet on the noticeboard – informed stakeholders would find it much easier to use data for monitoring and advocacy.

A2I – Making noticeboards useable

- At Village level:

- ◆ At the moment: there is no enforced requirement to post financial information in a systematic manner.
- ◆ Proposed improvement: village can decide to make it mandatory to post all key financial and administrative information on a village noticeboard, to function as an official village gazette

The vision

- The adoption of routine practices that are:
 - ◆ low cost
 - ◆ user friendly
 - ◆ not reliant on technical support
 - ◆ possible to replicate, and
 - ◆ likely to change the way that information is viewed and used at the local level

The outreach component: the way forward

- Select a limited number of pilot districts to start work (4-6) and expand on demand
- Work with partners already active in these districts
- Explore approaches, develop material and disseminate experiences through website and publications
- Provide training in analysis, monitoring and tracking for CSOs, media and other key stakeholders, also linking up with the database and internet site at the national level

How to change the world

- Projects come and go, as do workshops, seminars and reports
- Change needs to be anchored in the institutions and ongoing processes that shape people's lives
- When people realise what resources belong to them and how they can claim them, it will be very difficult to stop change