



TANZANIA CHAPTER

Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS)

Public expenditure tracking helps governments, citizens and CSOs ensure that allocated public resources effectively reach their intended beneficiaries. It can help identify and address problems and weaknesses in systems of public expenditure, transfer and service delivery. It is also effective in revealing corruption and detecting the exact location of leakages.

Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) are increasingly used at district level to make budget flows transparent from local government to service delivery agents. A Public Expenditure Tracking Survey at District level typically compares allocated budgets by the District Council, which in Tanzania has the delegated authority to decide on budgets, with actual spending at beneficiary level. It traces the flow of resources through the different bureaucratic layers and demonstrates how much of the intended budget reaches each layer. This exercise is carried out to increase accountability and responsiveness of local governments. The rationale is that with demonstrating how money is transferred or spent at different bureaucratic levels, the local decision makers can be held to account by the trackers. By making the tracking information available to local decision makers they can be empowered to hold their administrative bureaucracy to account.

The ultimate goal therefore of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) is to improve service delivery in a way that it better responds to the needs of citizens. There is a general consensus among Tanzanian citizens that the issue of service delivery has to be addressed in the effort reduce poverty and vulnerability.

On this background, SAHRiNGON Tanzania Chapter has been implementing the PETS exercise in Muheza and Mufindi districts; and under our auspices, an elected committee did the monitoring and tracking of funds meant for Agriculture within the two districts. This was done with the vision of promoting dialogue between the Government (including Local Government) and the society in regards to public financial management and service delivery.



Committee members in Kisiwani-Muheza



SAHRiNGON Research & Documentation Officer (2nd right) assessing a rice farming accessory as farmer (far left) looks on.