

“It actually involves changing the way governments conduct their businesses”

Tanzania’s Open Government Action Plan



Introduction

The United Republic of Tanzania joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in September, 2011. The intention is to make government business more open to citizens in the interest of improving public service delivery and government responsiveness, combating corruption and building greater trust.

This leaflet provides details of Tanzania’s First OGP Action Plan. This was submitted in April 2012 at the High Level OGP Event in Brasilia, Brazil.

How the Action Plan was developed

In line with OGP principles, Tanzania ran a number of public consultation processes which involved different actors through a range of outreach activities. Consultations with stakeholders were undertaken using various information collection mechanisms so as to reach as many and as diverse of a group of people as possible:

- The public consultation process was formally launched by the Minister of State, Good Governance addressing the press.
- A one-day consultation meeting was held with representatives from the private sector, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations and the media.
- Online and offline methods were used to collect information or views from the public including websites or online submission, emails, social networks, blogs, a dedicated postal address and a toll-free mobile phone number.



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- Government ministries, departments and agencies were internally consulted and encouraged to submit their priorities.
- The OGP concept was shared with Cabinet Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Parliament.
- A supervisory team composed of members from government and civil society was established.

Due to the limited time allowed for public consultations, the process did not deliver broad involvement of various stakeholders at all levels. However, feedback received from stakeholders to include other areas beyond service delivery, such as a Freedom of Information Act, were considered and included as a commitment in the Action Plan.

Tanzania's OGP Action Plan

The Government realised that, in order for the OGP to have long-lasting value, the plan needed to prioritise areas that make meaningful impact to citizen's lives. For that reason, the OGP Action Plan focussed on three service delivery sectors: **Health**, **Education** and **Water**. In addition, other cross-cutting issues deemed to be of public interest were included. In total twenty-five commitments were made.

Transparency

1. Provide overall dashboard of progress on implementation of Tanzania OGP commitments
2. Post orders and receipts of medical supplies from the Medical Stores Department online and on noticeboards
3. Post online, within one month, all reports, studies, data, circulars, and other public interest data in machine readable format, except those which compromise national security
4. Produce annual citizens' budget document in simplified language and format
5. Review formula based grant allocation system to suit current needs of Local Government Authorities (LGAs), and publish all these allocations online
6. Post quarterly disbursements and execution reports on Ministry of Finance website in machine readable format
7. Ensure LGAs abide by the existing requirements of publishing approved budgets, disbursements and execution reports
8. Publish all tax exemptions granted in health, education and water related sectors quarterly, in machine readable format
9. Encourage donors to exercise greater transparency of donor funding given to Tanzania, in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Likewise, government, civil society and private sectors should post revenues and expenditures online

10. Study global best practice of freedom of information laws, to generate inputs for a potential freedom of information bill
11. Publish Parastatal Organizations', Executive Agencies' and Regulatory Authorities' revenues and expenditure

Citizen Participation

12. Improve citizens' website as a platform for citizens to participate in the running of government
13. Establish a platform for citizens to be able to send comments by mobile phone, emails and other means
14. Establish an open forum with civil society to review quality, integrity, depth and pace of progress against OGP commitments
15. Establish a clear and reliable contact point and address for OGP communication within the government

Accountability and Integrity

16. Improve National Audit Office website to provide data in machine readable format
17. Develop and/or review Client Service Charters of key sectors, and make them accessible to citizens
18. Review existing complaints register to ensure that complaints are attended, and feedback on action taken is documented
19. Strengthen existing LGA Service Boards and Committees
20. Prepare legislative amendments and regulations to strengthen asset disclosures of public officials

Technology and Innovation

21. Finalize Water Point Mapping system for LGAs and make the disaggregated data available online and through other means of communication
22. Strengthen sectoral Management Information Systems, by making disaggregated, machine readable data available
23. Explore the feasibility of a "Nifanyeje?" website, where citizens can get practical information on accessing public services
24. Study global good practice on data disclosure for establishment of an open data portal
25. Foster communities of local ICT entrepreneurs and actors to spur greater innovation, transparency and citizen engagement

