



**MONITORING REPORT
TANZANIA – TZ – POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH THE
PARTICIPATION OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN DECENTRALISED
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND BUDGETING IN TANZANIA.
MR-02226.01 – 19/12/07**

I. PROJECT DATA

Project Number: ONG-PVD/2006/118-910	Task Manager: Ingeborg Veller
Date Financing Agreement signed: 14/12/06	Delegation Advisor: Ingeborg Veller
Start date – planned: 14/12/06	Monitor: Daniel Phiri
Start date - actual: 01/02/07	Project Authority: HelpAge International
End date – planned: 01/02/12	Sector/Subsector: 15150 – Strengthening civil society
End date - likely: 01/02/12	Monitoring visit date: From : 20/11/07 - To: 03/12/07

II. FINANCIAL DATA*

Primary commitment (project budget):	€	745,279
Secondary Commitment (funds contracted):	€	745,279
Funds Disbursed by the Commission:	€	134,771
Expenditure Incurred by Project:	€	Not Available

* As at: 18/12/07

III. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. Relevance and quality of design	b
2. Efficiency of implementation to date	b
3. Effectiveness to date	b
4. Impact to date	b
5. Potential sustainability	b

Note: a = very good; b = good; c = problems; d = serious deficiencies

IV. EXPLANATORY COMMENTS

1. Relevance and quality of design.

This is a budget line project with an European Union (EU) commitment of €745,279 or 75.0% of the total costs while HelpAge International (HAI) is co-financing 25% or €248,426. The project is highly relevant as it is building capacity of civil society and community based organisations to advocate and lobby for concerns and entitlements of older people (64 years and above) in 5 districts of Tanzania. Older people have for a long time being denied their basic rights to health, shelter and food security by both the formal and informal systems governance. The project is addressing a large gap in Government of Tanzania's (GoT) social security system and is contributing to the attainment of indicator targets of the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (or MKUKUTA), the National Ageing Policy as well as the United Nation's (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the EU's policy on social protection as a means of poverty reduction. Prior to project design a needs assessment was conducted in all 5 districts in which the project is implemented. A good quality and elaborate logframe (LFM) exists with clear, logically flowing inputs, activities, result areas, and well quantified objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs) and key assumptions. The project partners and project coordinating unit (PCU) are, however, not fully using the LFM in day to day implementation. While the project staff understand the overall objective and project purpose, some target groups do not seem to differentiate between the two on-going EU funded projects (EU Block Grant/PVD Project) implemented by HAI. The project management has shown flexibility in design by further differentiating the categories of older people for better targeting of interventions.

2. Efficiency of implementation to date.

Project implementation effectively started in January 2007 after which the start-up and mobilisation phase lasted until May 2007. HAI's stringent technical, financial and human resources management system ensures a timely flow of means/inputs to all project partners. Financial flows are made by HAI on a monthly basis after satisfactory retirement of previous grants and Activity Reports by partners. Appropriate staff have been recruited, oriented and trained in project cycle management (PCM), administration and financial management. Project partners are using Activity Plans, budget as well as Activity and Impact Monitoring tools. The project has established Older People's Forums (OPFs) and Older People's Monitoring Groups (OPMGs) who have been trained in lobbying and advocacy for basic rights and

entitlements of older people. OPMGs are members of the Village Government Committees (VGC) and Ward Development Councils (WDC) and so are able to lobby for older people's concerns at village and Ward level. A number of actions planned for the year under review including the Action Management Committee (AMC), the overall Monitoring & Evaluation Plan and District Forums have not been established. There have been delays in procurement of motor cycles and vehicles due to government tax regulations which are affecting operations of project partners. The project is working in partnership with well established organisations such as the Morogoro Retired Teachers' Association (MORETEA) and the Tanga Elderly Women Resources Centre (TEWOREC) TEWOREC, both with long experience in caring and advocacy for rights of older people. TEWOREC has reported escalation of transport costs due to inflationary trends and increasing price of fuel. Although project partners are well monitored by the PCU, they are experiencing problems of concurrent record keeping for the EU Block Grant and PVD projects which have similar objectives and are using the same target groups and problems of communication due to poor access to internet and large distances between Songea and Karagwe districts and Dar es Salaam.

3. Effectiveness to date.

The project has received wide acceptance and recognition from the local government structures – the Morogoro and Muheza District Councils and a number of WDCs and VGCs as well as from the community members. At the district level the project is trying with a good measure of success to influence Councils to ensure that older people have access to both Council financial resources and to funds coming in through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TSAF). These resources might help them meet older people's immediate needs for food, health care, shelter and care for OVCs. The project is also building on on-going work done by Para-legal older persons and is contributing to sector-wide realisation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the Millennium Declaration, the African Union (AU) Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001) on mitigating the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS.

4. Impact to date.

The project is making significant changes in the community's outlook on older people. The establishment of OPFs and OPMGs has helped to break the isolation of older people and have provided them with space to meet and share their grievances, exchange ideas, offer mutual support and draw strength in a collective forum. Older people are now able to engage with local government leadership and are represented in planning and decision-making committees at the village, ward and district levels. Older people are now more aware of their basic rights and entitlements as specified in MKUKUTA and NAP and are successfully influencing Councils to incorporate their needs Development Plans (DPs). Muheza and Morogoro District Councils have allocated in their budgets a total of Ts 24 million and Ts20 million respectively for older people. The International Day for Older People was for the first time celebrated in Muheza and Morogoro Districts during which the Councils provided support-transport, food etc for older people. The project has created hope for a better life, unity and a common sense of purpose among the previously disadvantaged, isolated and marginalised older people who now have free access to health care.

5. Potential sustainability.

The establishment of OPFs and OPMGs that are permanently based in the villages and who have received intensive training in lobbying and advocacy for the interests and entitlements of older people is a positive sign of ownership and that interventions will remain embedded in the communities after project closure. Older people's concerns are clearly mainstreamed/incorporated in the VGC and WDC levels. Gender-balanced representatives of older people, OPFs and OPMGs, are actively participating in planning and decision-making processes and are ensuring that funds are allocated older people DPs. TEWOREC has obtained 150 hectares of land from Muheza District Council to enable older people cultivate cashew nuts and oranges for financial sustainability. In Muheza and other districts older people are creating support groups and opening Savings Accounts (SACCOS) enabling them obtain greater financial support for Income Generating Activities to meet their short term and immediate needs.

V. KEY OBSERVATIONS, ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED AND BY WHOM (IN ORDER OF PRIORITY)

<p>Key Observation/s: The project has started off very well with all systems and procedures for implementation in place although there is urgent need to address the short term needs of older people.</p> <p>Actions recommended: HAI-PMU/Project Partners: (i) Conduct risk assessment/operational research to obtain more background information on older people livelihoods and to highlight the project's risks, (ii) address the unplanned short-term needs of older people such as food, health care, and shelter (iii) expedite procurement of Motor Vehicles to ensure uninterrupted implementation and mobility of project partners, (iv) District Councils should clarify the linkage and flow of TSAF funds to project partners to improve delivery of pro-poor services, (v) create greater awareness of the NAP and similar social protection policies in the wider community.</p>
