

TANZANIA EVIDENCE ECOSYSTEM: EXPERIENCE OF SOCIO – ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND M&E INSTITUTIONS.

Sector: Overall Social Economic

I. Main evidence players: The Tanzania Data Ecosystem Key Actors

| Components of National Statistical System (NSS) | |
|---|--|
| Data Users | Government, MDAs, Researchers, Private Sectors, NGOs, Development Partners, International Community/ Organizations, Media and the Public in general |
| Data Collectors | National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Public Sector, NGOs, Think Tanks, Researchers, Donors and Others |
| Data Sources | Households, Establishments, Institutions, LGAs and others |
| Research and Training Institutions | Research Centres, Universities, Think Tanks and Others |
| Data Funders | Government, USAID, World Bank, UNDP, AfDB, UNICEF and others |
| Others players/regulators | Commission of Science and Technology (COSTEC), The Tanzania National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), President Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Planning Commissions and Ministries of Finance |

2. Background and context

Tanzania has made significant progress in building its capacity around its data ecosystem. Currently, there are number of data tools in the National Statistical Systems (NSS). Examples are: Tanzania Socio-economic Database (TSED); Disability Statistics Database; Africa Information Highway; Tanzania National Data Archive (TNADA); Food and Agricultural Statistics; Local Government Monitoring Database (LGMD); and Sector/Thematic based MIS.

NBS has a system of centralized dissemination and distribution of statistical information which is coordinated by the IT and Marketing Department. NBS disseminate anonymized data files to users and the level of anonymity will vary by level of geographic and characteristic details.

3. Gaps/bottlenecks

Tanzania has also made success in data production at national and sub national levels. However, the following are major challenges:

- Growing gap between data production and uses in planning;
- Limited demand for evidence in planning;
- Limited capacity, motivation, in demanding utilization of evidence by evidence users
- Limited demand for evaluations and lack of standard definition and procedures
- Limited utilization of the evaluation findings
- Limited coordination and collaboration between evidence producers
- Lack of regular platforms for stakeholder engagement/debate – e.g. M&E week, evaluation policy etc
- Insufficient statistical capacity in terms of man-power and technical knowhow; Limitations in Statistics Act on generating official Statistics; funding data revolution activities; existing information technology infrastructure; Over reliance on traditional data collection systems; low coordination of routine data sources; and insufficient political will on overall data revolution in Tanzania

4. General Characteristics & relationship between research producers and users in Tanzania

Formalization of statistics/data by national law:

- ✓ The Tanzania's Statistics Act, 2015 defines formal statistics as information produced, validated, compiled and disseminated by: The National Bureau of Statistics; Government institutions and agencies.
- ✓ Section 20 (2) of Tanzania's Statistics Act, 2015 emphasizes that statistics produced by agencies shall qualify to the official statistics if they meet the criteria and standards set by the Bureau and approved by the Director General.
- ✓ The Act, insists on a need for provision of high quality, reliable and timely official statistical information to the public.
- ✓ In data collection, the NBS provides methods, standards and concepts, and definitions for the production of official statistics and to also regulate the official information.
- ✓ Generally, the Act provides both **challenges and opportunities on producing Official Statistics**. either Act is silent on how the issue of generating the so called "big data" should be handled.
- ✓ Several data producers have spearheaded the collection of Governance data but their operating terrain has changed significantly under the Statistic Act 2015.
- ✓ The Act makes it illegal to (i) publish or communicate (what is labelled) false or misleading statistical information and (ii) without lawful authorization of the NBS, publish or communicate statistical information that may result in the distortion of facts.

6. Conclusion:

Tanzania has relatively robust national statistical systems, which benefited from reforms carried over the past two decades. Nevertheless, further enhancement of the system for delivering data for monitoring development initiatives are needed. Thus, the Tanzania evidence system would benefit from the following interventions:

- Improved coordination among actors
- Strengthened capacity for data utilization and demand for evidence in policy and program formulation at national and sub national levels.
- Address transparently the contribution and participation of non-state actors (NSAs) in the National Statistical System given the restrictions provided in the Statistics Act 2015.
- Harmonize Survey Methodologies;
- Integrate Local Government Data sources into the National Statistical System
- Coordinate routine data sources, Promote the use of data for decision-making, allocate more funding on data activities as well as strengthening capacities of NBS and OCGS.

2. The Relations to evidence 2018 conference theme: engage, understand, impact.

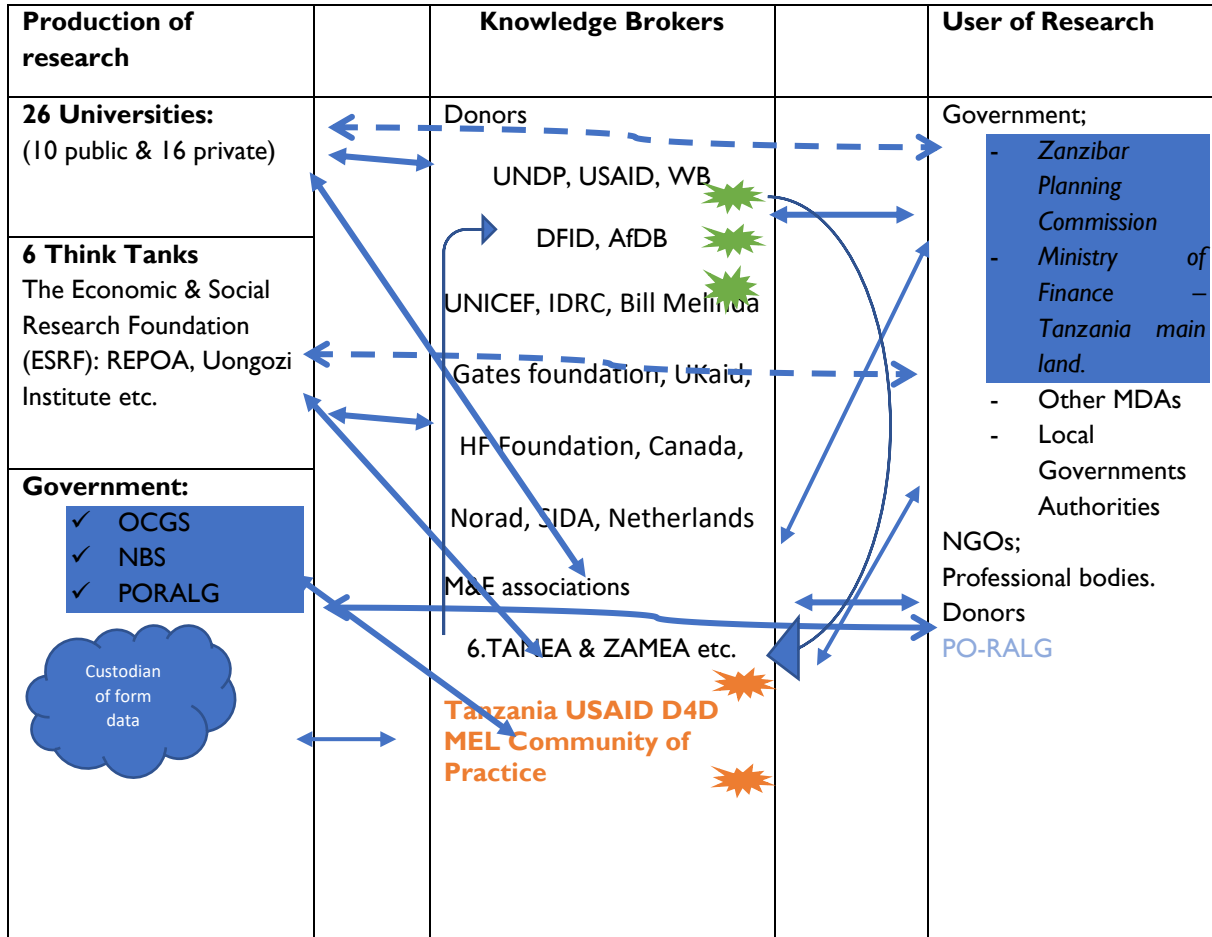
- ✓ The actors need to **engage** more often and in a more meaningful open discussion and coordinate their efforts and share experiences.
- ✓ They need to **understand and appreciate** available wealth of information at the LGAs and stored at NBS and OCGS
- ✓ The need to **demand utilization** of this information to inform plans and policies.

3. Aspects of engagement with potential for scaling up:

- ✓ The USAID Data for development Monitoring and evaluation community of practice – bring together all MEL practitioners on regular basis to engage in debate and discussion for learning and adaptation, this include the MEL week, annual learning fora, quarterly MEL training and engagement workshops;
- ✓ Capacity building of the LGAs in M&E: to produce, analyses and uses local disaggregated data for local planning.

"The Tanzania Evidence Tropic Jungle".

5. Position and interactions between key role players in the Tanzania evidence ecosystem



Key:

- ✓ Arrows: relationship between role players.
- ✓ Green: player that engages in capacity-building to support evidence use
- ✓ Orange: Highlight network or a community of practice to support evidence use