

Introduction to the Survey: 'Views of the People' 2007

Chapters 4 to 8 provide a summary of the key findings from the Views of the People Survey conducted in March and April 2007 throughout Mainland Tanzania and the complementary survey of Views of the Children. A total of 7,879 Tanzanians aged from 7 to 90 years in ten regions participated in this study, including 512 primary school children, 1,525 youths, 4,987 adults of 25 to 59 years of age and 855 elderly people age 60 years and older. In addition, a sub-sample of 1,000 people was involved in focus group discussions to examine important issues in greater depth. Representative samples of males and females and of urban and rural residents were selected, and among the adult rural samples, specific selection was made of agriculturalists, livestock keepers and fishers. Full reports of the Views of the People and of the Views of Children surveys are forthcoming.

The survey sought information about many aspects of people's lives, including their recent economic progress, changes in their standard of living, and the quality and accessibility of economic services, such as agricultural extension and road repair and maintenance, and social services. The survey also sought peoples' perceptions of trends in governance, including participation in public affairs, policy making, corruption, and trust.

In-depth interviews were also conducted with samples of youth and elderly people. For the young people, the focus of the inquiry included education, employment, personal problems, future ambitions, and their opinions on government policies. The sample of young people included those aged 15 to 24 years, whether in school - primary or secondary - or not. Of the 1,525 young people in the survey, 552 were still in school. For the elderly, the survey focused on the quality and accessibility of services that are vital for safeguarding their welfare and livelihoods.

The complementary children's survey sought the views of primary school children aged 7 to 14 years on schooling conditions, relations with adults and their involvement in their local communities, as well as their future ambitions. A different methodology was used for this survey to take into account the young age of the participants. In the 10 regions of the VoP survey, a sample of 10 communities was selected with consideration of urban/rural area and poverty level. Ten primary schools were selected, and then a sample of pupils was selected randomly by the researchers from attendance lists at each school. Two groups of children were formed, one for those 7 to 10 years, another of those 11-14 years. Since this was the first time such an attempt has been made in Tanzania to undertake such a large survey of children which could be nationally representative, there will be a full report of the methodology use to solicit the Views of Children.

As is common for public perception surveys, VoP 2007 gathered participants' views on the performance of public institutions and actors. While this information is vital to national policy debate, it is important to acknowledge that results from opinion surveys may differ from data collected in more conventional household surveys. Perception surveys often encounter limitations in the questions which can be usefully asked and, in turn, limitations in the depth of analysis allowed.

Nonetheless, trends have emerged about people's views of recent economic progress; changes in standards of living; the quality and accessibility of economic and social services; and governance, including participation in public affairs, policy making, corruption, as well as trust, cooperation and security within communities. Discussion of these findings is organised according to MKUKUTA's three clusters with additional information presented for some of the national indicators analysed in Chapters 1 to 3. A full report of the survey is available separately.

Key Findings from the 'Views of the People' Survey: MKUKUTA Cluster I Growth and Reduction of Income Poverty

Overall, few adult Tanzanians think they are enjoying the fruits of economic growth. Only 24% of adult respondents reported an improvement in their economic situation in the last three years, compared with 50% who reported deterioration and 26% who reported no change in their circumstances. Among youth respondents, about 32% felt their economic situation had deteriorated over the last three years, while 26% noted an improvement. There was no difference in responses between young male and female respondents.

The other main VoP findings relevant to MKUKUTA's first cluster relate principally to the state of economic infrastructure, particularly roads, telecommunications and energy; and to economic conditions as indicated by availability of employment opportunities, the cost of living (both cost of food and other basic needs), and the status of different livelihoods and their potential to support movement out of poverty. These findings are discussed in the following two sections.

Economic Infrastructure

Roads

The poor condition of roads and the lack of maintenance is a major concern, especially in rural areas. Seventy percent of adult rural respondents considered the condition of the roads a 'major problem,' compared with 57% of respondents in other towns and 41% of Dar es Salaam residents. This finding is corroborated by perceptions of quality of rural roads. Only 28% of rural respondents perceived improvement in road quality over the last three years, while 47% reported deterioration. As a consequence of the poor state of rural roads, economic growth in these areas is seriously constrained. Half of the rural respondents pointed out that due to poor roads, they have difficulties in reaching markets for their produce and in accessing services in towns.

Telecommunications

Mobile phone ownership is four times higher than it was four years ago, which has helped bridge the large gap in telecommunication services between rural and urban areas. Thirty-five percent of adult respondents own mobile phones; 65% in Dar es Salaam and 16% in rural areas. However, improved telecommunications may not have contributed significantly to boosting economic growth or reducing poverty as nearly 75% of phone owners across the country reported using their phones for personal purposes. Only 25% use them for business. Moreover, in Dar es Salaam, only 17% of the poorest respondents own a mobile phone compared with 86% of the richest.

Energy

The major sources of energy for cooking are wood fuel (60%) and charcoal (35% of adult respondents). Use of charcoal is more pronounced in Dar es Salaam (83%) while wood fuel is the principal source of energy for cooking in rural areas (87%) and in other urban areas (57%).

Overall, electricity was used as a source of lighting by only 23% of respondents. Usage was more common in Dar es Salaam (59%) compared with other urban areas (43%) and rural areas (only 11%). Availability of electricity was mentioned as a problem in both urban and rural settings.

Economic Conditions

People's perceptions of their economic conditions were assessed by several variables including employment and other sources of livelihoods, availability and costs of inputs for productive enterprise and the availability and costs of food and other basic items.

Cost of Living

While the cost of living - the cost of food and basic needs - was said to be a major problem by 67% of adults, affecting both rural and urban population, 47% said they never had problems with enough food last year and 63% said they ate three meals a day. About 47% of the youth also considered the cost of food and other basic goods to be a major problem. Although the poor were more worried about the price of food and other basic goods than the less poor, about 66 % of the better-off respondents also considered the cost of living to be a major problem.

Urban residents said they ate meat or fish nearly three days a week compared to rural respondents where the average was less than two days a week. Three-quarters of Dar es Salaam respondents (78%) ate three meals a day, compared with two-thirds (64%) of the respondents in other urban areas and only 55% in rural areas. When asked if they had ever experienced hunger in the previous year 19% of adult villagers replied 'often' and a further 43% replied 'sometimes.' A third of Dar es Salaam respondents (32%) reported that they sometimes experienced hunger, and 5% said 'often.'

Livelihoods/Employment

Rural

About 87% of rural adult respondents are engaged in farming, raising livestock and fishing. Just over half (52%) said that they felt their economic situation was worse than it had been three years earlier; 25% said it was the same and 23% said it had improved.

Crop Production

For the farming sector, poor agricultural production as a result of low use of agricultural inputs and implements was evident. About 86% of farmers interviewed did not use chemical fertilisers; 72% did not use chemical pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides; and 77% did not use improved seeds. Inputs were either in short supply or unaffordable for the majority of farmers, including better-off farmers. The cost and availability of fertilisers and other inputs, and the unavailability of extension services were all frequently mentioned as major hurdles in agricultural production.

Asked what the Government should do to help farmers, 42% said improve the availability of inputs and 19% wanted loans or credit. There was little difference in response from poorer or less poor farmers.

Pastoralists

Livestock-keepers were asked about the same issues and problems as discussed with farmers, and most of them complained about the cost of veterinary medicines (78%) and the non-availability of veterinary services (63%). Drought, disease, distance to markets, market prices for their animals, access to grazing areas and access to market information were also cited as problems by the majority of pastoralists. Forty percent of livestock keepers reported receiving extension advice during the previous year, a much higher contact rate than reported for agricultural extension services. Half the sample, however, said they had never received advice. The large majority of pastoralists (76%) thought that the government was doing nothing to help them. Very few respondents mentioned that the government was supporting extension services, indicating that these services may have been largely provided by the private sector or non-governmental organisations.

Fishing

In the fishing sector, 70% of fishers interviewed said their catches were declining; only 16% said they were improving. Of those who said catches were getting smaller, half (51%) said there were too many small fishers, though half disagreed that this was the cause. There was a similar disagreement about whether fishers using finer mesh nets were the cause of declining catches. Fewer respondents mentioned commercial fishing, the arrival of fishers from other areas, and the use of dynamite as reasons for falling yields. When asked about problems facing fishers, nearly half 47 % saw the use of beach nets as problematic. Asked whether they favoured exporting their catch or selling exclusively to local markets, a slight majority (53%) favoured export while 38% favoured local sale. As for farmers and livestock-keepers, a large majority of respondents believed that the government is doing nothing to help them.

Employment

Finding work is a more serious problem in urban than in rural areas: 55% of urban adult respondents cited finding work as a major problem compared with 39% of rural residents. The problem is even more significant for young people. Almost two-thirds of all young people no longer in school considered finding employment a major problem (65% of urban out-of-school youth and 61% of rural). They considered this to be their most pressing problem.

Perceptions of the Future

Both young males and young females were generally optimistic about their future. Asked whether they expect their economic situation to change over the next three years, about half said that it would be better, 13% of males and 38% of females said it would be the same, and 23-30% said they didn't know. Many young people would continue with their studies if they had the resources. On the whole, gender differences were not very large.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the majority of elderly respondents (over 60 years), especially women, depend on their immediate family for their subsistence, while 34% of men and 20% of women still worked full-time. Nearly 40% of the elderly respondents reported that they were caring for a grandchild, most commonly because of the death or sickness of the child's parents. In caring for their grandchildren, almost three-quarters said that they were helped by their immediate family. Almost all (88%) of the elderly said that their immediate family would help if they had a serious

problem. Nonetheless, security in their old age is a big concern among the elderly, with 75% of respondents concerned about losing the strength to work as they grow older, and 66% fear hunger and poverty and losing their independence through ill-health. These concerns were commonly held by both older men and women.

Summary of Findings from the 'Views of the People' for Cluster I

Peoples' perceptions about their recent economic situation are that they are worse off now than three years ago. In all income groups, including the least poor, more people perceive falling rather than rising living standards. The survey findings also show that the majority of farmers, pastoralists and fishers consider that they receive virtually no support from the state and most complain about the cost of living (particularly the cost of food). They call for improved availability of inputs and greater access to loans and credit.

The state of rural roads also emerged as a critical constraint on economic activity and poverty reduction efforts, though in urban areas more citizens acknowledged improvements.

Key Findings from the 'Views of the People' Survey: MKUKUTA Cluster II Improvement of Quality of Life and Social Well-Being

Improvements in the quality of life and social well-being of Tanzanians were investigated in the 'Views of the People 2007' by asking for participants' perceptions on progress for indicators in three key service sectors-the education system, health services and water supply.

Education

The VoP examined the state of education especially from the perspective of children and young people. Adults also included responses about education to more general questions about the state of social services. In addition to their educational experiences, school children were asked about their household and extra-curricular activities, their community involvement, and their hopes for the future. The MKUKUTA monitoring process focuses on quantitative, physical measures - classrooms, textbooks - as well as enrolment and examination results. The Views of the Children provided an opportunity also to explore more qualitative aspects of pupils' experiences with learning and teaching, which will be reported below.

School Facilities

Among the young people still in school, 60% noted improvements in the number of primary school classrooms, with a larger proportion of urban youth citing improvements compared with rural youth. Slightly more than half of the young respondents also said that the number of secondary school classrooms was sufficient. Once again these positive perceptions were higher among urban respondents. However, these findings should not be interpreted to mean that no further investment in school infrastructure is needed. Indeed, given that the school age population will continue to grow rapidly in the future, the number of classrooms will likewise need to expand. Furthermore, 22% of respondents reported shortages of classrooms in both primary and secondary schools, which indicates that some schools do not fare equally and are yet to have adequate learning facilities. Shortages of desks followed the same pattern as shortages of classrooms, with more shortages noted by urban and secondary school respondents, especially female students.

Other notable improvements were in relation to the state of classrooms. About 54% of in-school youth respondents reported improvements in classroom conditions, while 34% perceived conditions had not changed. More primary school respondents (60%) perceived improvements in classroom conditions compared with secondary school students (48%).

Availability of Textbooks

With regard to availability of textbooks, students perceived minimal improvement. About 80% of primary school pupils 7-14 years old said that there were not enough textbooks, while only 15% mentioned that they had enough. Among older students, about two-thirds said textbooks were too few. Indeed, about 16% of boys and 19% girls in secondary school claimed that they learned without access to textbooks. Textbooks are in shorter supply in rural areas, but even in Dar es Salaam 61% of pupils 15 years and older were dissatisfied with the supply of textbooks.

Availability of Computers

The use of computers was very low, particularly in primary schools where 90% of older pupils said that there were no computers in their schools. More than half of the surveyed secondary school pupils (55%) said there were no computers in their schools, and those who reported having computers in their school, the computers were said to be used mostly for administration and not available to students.

Absenteeism

Children reported that they rarely miss school. Over 70% of the in-school youth said that they “rarely” or “never” miss school, and only 20% said that they do “sometimes”. “Personal sickness” was by far the major reason for absenteeism for both older primary and secondary students (about 61% of respondents) with a higher incidence in rural than urban areas. “No money for fees” was the second most cited reason, reported by 36% of secondary school students. Exigencies of marriages and funerals also take a toll on students' time, cited by 41% and 31% of secondary school girls and boys respectively.

Teachers

A large majority of both primary and secondary students in the sample of young people said that “some” or “most” of their teachers encouraged them to ask questions in class. Slightly more than 85% of secondary students interviewed gave these responses. Girls were slightly more likely than boys to say that teachers did not encourage them to ask questions.

Almost 60% of students said teachers were “rarely” or “never” absent, and only 4% of students reported that teachers were “often” absent. Teacher absenteeism was reported to be higher in rural than in urban areas, but differences in rates of absenteeism by gender or level of respondent were not significant.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment, or fear of punishment, is an issue for school children. Among older primary school and secondary students, only 20% reported no corporal punishment, 16% of them reported that “all or most” of their teachers beat them and 64% reported that “some” or “a few” teachers did so. More respondents reported beatings from rural rather than from urban schools. In addition, older primary school girls were more likely to report beating than older primary school boys, and secondary school boys more than secondary school girls.

Children's Desires for Education

The experience of learning, as described by the younger primary school children, 7-14 years, is one of heavy reliance on notes copied from the blackboard and on textbooks. The need for teachers to have good handwriting on the blackboard was frequently mentioned by the children, showing how important it is to the children that they are able to read the writing. Textbooks are highly valued and liked by the children, but also a source of frustration, because whilst the supply is generally improving, there are still far too few to go around. Children would like to be able to read books in their own time, but books are generally collected at the end of each lesson.

The children also made clear the qualities they want in a teacher. A teacher should be someone who really wants to teach, likes children, makes an effort, and ensures pupils understand. It was clear

from the survey that some children did have teachers of this calibre. However, every school in the sample reported problems which amount to teachers not meeting basic contractual obligations, or at best having poor professional standards. Teachers failing to attend lessons is a significant issue. Children talked about teachers who gave notes, but didn't explain what they meant, or told them just to ask an older pupil if they don't understand. The fear of corporal punishment - engendered, for example, by teachers who carry a stick in class - was expressed by the children as a significant obstacle to learning.

The overall picture emerges of schooling being a rather limited closed exercise with teachers explaining a fixed body of knowledge to a largely passive body of children. The children in the study were not familiar with active teaching learning methodologies.

Communication between schools and parents was weak.

Contributions in cash and kind were expected in all the schools in the sample, and children are being excluded from lessons for non-payment.

The children held a wide variety of opinions in whether education overall was better than the year prior to the year of the survey. The vast majority of children felt that the best way to improve education is to increase the supply side inputs, including infrastructure, teachers, school supplies. They also wanted to have better teachers, a more diverse curriculum, and other services in school such as health.

The children from Dar es Salaam who participated in the survey were assertive in saying that increasing their own commitment to study and listening to teachers and parents would also be a factor to improving their education.

Health Services

The survey sought information on people's overall health status and their perceptions of the availability, quality and cost of basic services provided by the state.

With respect to their health status, 66% of adult respondents said they had suffered from malaria in the previous year; 60% suffered from coughs, colds or flu; and 32% had one or more bouts of diarrhoea. Malaria was reported more frequently in Dar es Salaam whereas diarrhoea was more prevalent in rural areas. Significant usage of mosquito nets was noted. Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) reported using nets, the majority of which were said to be insecticide treated. Net use was much higher in urban than in rural areas.

Asked about the most important issues for the health services, 32% of the adult respondents identified the quality/availability of the service, 16% said distance, 13% said availability of drugs and medicines and 10% their cost. Over a quarter of the respondents had no response to this question. Of the adults who had used health facilities, almost two-thirds cited the cost of medical treatment and drugs to be a major problem. Over two-fifths of adults (44%) also complained about the availability of drugs. More urban respondents (more than 50%) complained about waiting times, while more rural residents (42%) complained about access to health facilities. Few respondents complained about the politeness of health facility staff (18%), availability of maternity (13%) and immunisation services (2%), and cleanliness of facilities (10%).

Among elderly respondents, about 65% said they had health problems requiring regular attention, with slightly more women giving this response than men. The most commonly reported problem concerned walking/mobility, reported by 42% of both men and women who had health problems. About 66% had sought medical treatment during the three months prior to the survey, with significantly more women than men seeking treatment. Of those seeking treatment, 35% paid for it themselves, 27% had costs paid by family members, 15% received free treatment, and 14% did not undergo any treatment. Critically, nearly half of the over 60s (48%) did not know that they were entitled to free treatment in government facilities (42% of men and 58% of women). In addition, approximately one-fifth (18%) of respondents said that they had been refused treatment in a government facility because they could not afford to pay for services, and 13% indicated that they had been refused free treatment due to lack of proof of their age.

Data on the availability of health-related curriculum and first aid services within schools was also sought. Results show that young school children are taught about health issues as part of school curriculum, but only half of the primary schools surveyed had first aid provision. In other cases, sick children are sent to nearby hospitals or dispensaries.

Moreover, only three of the schools surveyed were reported to provide food on a regular basis for students, one school in the least poor sample and the other two middle income, and even in the latter the programme was in abeyance at the time of the survey. For two other schools (located in Arusha and Dar es Salaam) food is available for purchase from small shops (*dukas*) near the schools. When asked about their eating habits, only about 30% of students aged 15 years and older said they always ate before going to school. This response varied by residence, ranging from 26% of rural students to 48% of students in Dar es Salaam. Fifteen percent of students ate snacks during breaks at school, while a large majority (85%) ate when they came home from school.

Drinking Water

Between 80 and 90% of adult respondents access their drinking water from community or neighbours' water points. While 73% of rural adults do not pay for their water, for only 8% of Dar es Salaam respondents is water free - 77% of them pay private providers (pump attendants, kiosks, neighbours or water vendors). Only 13% are billed by the public utility DAWASCO. Over the year prior to the survey, the most commonly cited problem with water supply was dry season shortage.

More respondents overall saw deterioration rather than an improvement in water supply, cleanliness, cost and queuing times. Dirty water was considered a more serious problem in rural areas, while cost and queuing times were reported as the most serious problems in Dar es Salaam.

In addition, adequate water supplies for schools are almost non-existent. Only two of the primary schools surveyed had safe drinking water available for the children. Children in Dar es Salaam either brought water from home or bought it from kiosks near their schools while, in Mtwara, children only had water during the day if they went home during breaks in classes or at lunch time. About 44% of the young people still in school reported no water at all in their schools; 64% of those in rural areas reported no water in school.

Summary of Findings from the 'Views of the People' for Cluster II

The survey confirms popular appreciation of public investment in education, although concerns on quality remain (for example, continued shortages of textbooks at both the primary and secondary levels). However, other basic services were reported to be getting worse by majority of respondents. The cost of medical treatment and drugs and availability of drugs were among the major impediments in accessing health care. Many senior citizens also have difficulties accessing free health services. In both urban and rural areas, domestic water supply continues to be a chronic problem, as measured by unavailability of clean and safe water, and increased cost for urban dwellers of accessing water.

Key Findings from the 'Views of the People' Survey MKUKUTA Cluster III: Governance and Accountability

Broadly defined, governance relates to the manner in which public affairs are regulated and conducted to manage resources, deliver essential services, and protect the rights and well-being of all Tanzanians.

Many VoP findings provide valuable data on progress towards achieving the goals of MKUKUTA's goals of good governance and increased accountability, including: the participation of citizens in public affairs; perceptions of efforts to improve accountability of government officials; access to information and media; popular knowledge and opinions on politics and policies; perceptions of corruption; and community beliefs about trust, cooperation and security within Tanzanian society.

Participation in Public Affairs

Findings show that citizens' participation in public affairs in Tanzania is still low. Over one-fifth (22%) of rural adults said they had participated in a local-level planning exercise, and 16% had worked on public works projects, in particular road building and maintenance. Similar rates of participation in planning and public works were reported by respondents in urban areas other than Dar es Salaam (18% and 13% respectively). Fewer respondents in Dar es Salaam reported such participation (7% and 6%). Relatively few rural or urban adults (9%) had attended a local full council meeting. Moreover, only 15% of rural and urban adults indicated that they made a request for information at the village/street level of local government in the year preceding the survey. Of these requests, two thirds were successful. Rural residents seem keener to seek information from government offices, with 20% of rural respondents requesting information, compared with 10% in Dar es Salaam. But only a small majority of respondents overall (53%) thought that citizens publicly expressing their views made any difference, while 39% thought that government officials do not listen to what people say.

Access to Information and Media

Radio is the most important source of information across the country, and slightly more so in urban areas where nearly two thirds of adults said radio was their most important source of information; in rural areas, 56% said it was their most important source. Newspapers and television are much more important sources of information in Dar es Salaam than in the rest of the country (about 44% for each source in Dar es Salaam, compared with just over 20% in other urban areas and 6% in rural areas). 'Word of mouth' is an important source of information for 21% of respondents in both urban and rural areas. Churches and mosques were reported by few adults (7%) to be sources of information. Overall, Dar es Salaam residents have greater access to information than respondents in other areas.

These questions of adults in the survey imply that there is important information to be shared with the public. The survey of primary school children highlighted another important aspect of information sharing - that of listening. From the research with young primary school children, it is clear that 'institutionalised' listening to children is weak. The overwhelming impression of teachers is that their model of education is teacher, not learner, centred: their job is to explain well, so that a body of knowledge is understood rather than to facilitate children in a more open ended approach to understanding the world they live in.

Only one school in the sample of ten primary schools had an active school council - a *baraza*. In the rare cases where pupils were represented in school committees, the pupils' perception is that they are not seriously listened to. Where they are not directly represented, pupils tended not to know about when meetings were held and what was discussed.

Popular Knowledge and Opinions on Politics and Policies

Opinions on selected policy issues were surveyed to assess how well informed people were of recent policy debates and whether they follow up on these. About one-third of the sample of adults said they were not very interested or not interested at all in politics or economics. About half of them could not say anything on whether mining companies were paying enough taxes, what caused the power crisis of 2006, and the pros and cons of relocating '*machinga*' (street traders) away from city centres. Of the respondents offering opinions, almost all (96%) were convinced that mining companies should pay more taxes, while opinions were divided on the issue of '*machinga*': 58% were supportive of the government's policy whereas 34% were critical. In addition, as discussed earlier, nearly half of over 60s (48%) declared that they did not know that they are entitled to free treatment in government facilities (42% of men and 58% of women).

Adult respondents were also asked for their view on whether foreign aid benefits government officials or poor people. Of the 86% of respondents who offered an opinion, over four-fifths (81%) believe that 'foreign aid mostly benefits government officials,' and 64% of respondents strongly agreed with this view.

A number of questions were also asked to assess public opinion on the performance of politicians and government officials in the past few years. A majority of adult respondents offered favourable opinions on the performance of the most senior central government officials and Members of Parliament. Over 40% of respondents also saw improvements in the performance of local government officials, councillors and village government and the police.

Efforts to Improve Accountability of Government Officials

The survey looked into whether Tanzanians considered that progress was being made in making government officials more accountable. To start, adult respondents were asked to think of anything that had happened during the last three years involving central or local government officials that suggested to them that services and accountability were improving. More than 30% of respondents replied 'yes', with little variation between urban and rural areas. Of those, about 56% noted major improvements in relation to schools, classrooms and teacher housing.

As evidence of increased accountability, 32% of respondents cited examples of officials being accused of misusing public money and the same percentage cited examples of officials being dismissed for poor performance and corruption. A further 24% reported examples of road improvements resulting from public complaints.

Overall, survey respondents were quite positive in their assessment of recent trends in public order, peace and security. A majority (55%) considered that public order, peace and security had recently improved. In addition, 44% respondents mentioned that the quality of basic services had improved, and 40% felt that respect for the law by the government was higher. At the same time, 44% of the adults offered no opinion on these questions.

Corruption and Accountability

About 40% of adult respondents offered no opinion about the extent of corruption. Of those who did, similar percentages perceive petty, grand and political corruption to be 'very common' (50%) or 'quite common' (about 20%) in Tanzania. Furthermore, about 43% of respondents thought corruption affected their lives, business and politics. Only 8% of respondents believed corruption does not affect these three areas. Significant proportions of respondents offered no opinion on these three topic areas (ranging between 38% and 43%).

About 38% of respondents offered no opinion on the current government's performance in combating corruption, 45% thought the government is effectively combating corruption. Very few respondents thought the government either 'doesn't fight corruption' or that it 'encourages corruption'.

The police and the legal system stand out as the most corrupt services in public perception. In general, urban perceptions of corruption in the public sector are more negative than rural perceptions, and better-off citizens perceive significantly higher incidence of corruption than poorer respondents. Questions were asked of those who reported that they had paid bribes about the amount they had paid. However, the number of responses was very low, and the range of reported payments was wide, making an analysis of these responses difficult.

Community Trust, Cooperation and Security

Only a minority of Tanzanians (22%) believe that, in general, most people can be trusted, while 78% believe that most people can't be trusted. Mistrust is higher in Dar es Salaam (85%) than in rural areas (75%). Not surprisingly, respondents were more likely to trust immediate family (66%) and clan members (39%) than more socially distant groups. Forty per cent of adult respondents considered Tanzanian strangers untrustworthy, and about the same percentage thought the same of young men. Sixty per cent considered foreigners untrustworthy.

People's wariness to trust each other is reflected in perceptions of personal security as well as their views on the levels of crime, violence and other social problems in society. The VoP survey found that alcoholism (as related to crime) was considered a serious problem by 63% of adult respondents overall, with this perception more widespread among rural residents. On average, the incidence of alcoholism is thought to be increasing, while the incidence of other social or community problems such as disputes over land ownership and inheritance, drug taking, witchcraft accusations and domestic violence are perceived to be declining, often significantly (see Table 19 in Chapter 3). However, theft of property is considered a serious problem by more than half of respondents, with more respondents in Dar es Salaam citing this problem. Drug abuse and mob justice are also considered more serious problems in Dar es Salaam than in other areas.

In addition, more respondents perceive declines rather than increases in community care for the poor, the sick and the old; the protection of children against violence and abuse; and efforts to teach children

good behaviour. Community maintenance of roads and bridges as well as cooperative land clearing and crop harvesting are also perceived to be on the decline. Overall, only minor differences were recorded in views between urban and rural respondents. Rather, people in all parts of the country point to deteriorating trends in community collaboration, in care and support for the old, and in collective efforts to bring up young people.

Summary of Findings from the 'Views of the People 2007' for Cluster III

While interest in politics is high (66% of adults expressed interest) and about half of the adults surveyed reported being a member of a political party, citizens' active participation in local government planning and community work is low. Half the adults thought citizens' publicly expressing their views make a difference and two thirds think that ordinary people should be more involved in decision making.

The majority of adults expressed favourable opinions of the performance of senior central government officials and members of Parliament in the last few years and were extremely positive in their assessment of recent trends in accountability, in improvements in public order, peace and security, in the quality of public services, in respect for the law by government.

At the same time, 40% of adults believe petty, grand and political corruption to be very or quite common now and that it directly affects their lives. The police and legal system were most commonly perceived to be corrupt. Forty five per cent said that they thought the government's actions in combating corruption to be effective; 17% said they were not effective, and 38% expressed no opinion.

Of adults who expressed an opinion, almost all believe mining companies should pay more taxes and 81% believe that foreign aid mostly benefits government officials.

Conclusions from the 'Views of the People 2007' and Policy Implications

Based on survey findings, more people appear to be worse off now than three years ago. In all income groups, including the least poor, more people perceive falling rather than rising living standards, and most Tanzanian adults consider the cost of living to be a major problem (particularly cost of food).

The majority of farmers, pastoralists, and fishers report that they receive virtually no support from the state, and would like much more support from Government in improving access to inputs for production and for loans/credit.

The state of the nation's roads also emerged as a critical constraint on economic activity and poverty reduction efforts in rural areas, though urban residents did acknowledge some improvements. Improving roads, therefore, should go hand in hand with increased investment to reduce input constraints and raise productivity in the agricultural sector, and people are clearly asking for strong Government action to improve the rural economy. At the same time, the Government is committed to private sector led growth. Thus, results offer much scope for reflection on the role of the state vis-à-vis the private sector.

The government has been increasing budget allocations to social services for some years, and VoP 2007 confirms the popular appreciation of public investment in education. In the health sector, the cost of medical treatment and drugs and availability of drugs were cited as major impediments in accessing health care, and many senior citizens also have difficulties accessing free health services. Domestic water supply, in both urban and rural areas, also remains a chronic problem as measured by reported shortages of clean, safe water and higher water costs. Clearly, public spending on basic social services is still needed, with available resources utilised effectively and efficiently.

Sustained growth, poverty reduction and better service provision all depend on advances in governance at both central and local levels. The VoP 2007 reveals widespread public concern on the incidence and impact of corruption but it also reveals that over two-fifths of respondents felt that the government is doing an effective job in combating corruption.

Most encouragingly, the survey shows a high level of public confidence in the capacity of the current government to develop and implement policies in the public interest. This is a valuable asset that is unlikely to continue indefinitely in the absence of better service delivery and greater accountability.

In the face of widespread reported declining community solidarity and co-operation, developing ways of improving governance in which all stakeholders - the state, the public, the private sector and civil society organisations, adults and children alike - work together to realise a common, national vision will, therefore, remain one of the biggest challenges facing Tanzania in years to come.