

STRENGTHENING POLICY FOCUSED RESEARCH TO ACCELERATE POVERTY REDUCTION IN TANZANIA



**Funded by
the European Union**

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

October 2022

1. Background

Since independence in 1961, Tanzania has continuously implemented reforms¹ and programmes to improve service delivery and provision of conducive environment for enhancing inclusive and sustainable social economic development of the citizens. Largely, the programmes and reforms have been geared towards addressing poverty and improved service provision. Progress has been registered in the poverty indicators in both rural and urban areas.

However, for the programmes and reforms to address poverty better in Tanzania, interventions need to be evidence based and focused. The recently generated set of high-quality surveys data offers a unique opportunity for carrying out high-quality policy analysis and strengthening research-policy linkages. These recently completed surveys include the Integrated Labor Force Surveys (ILFS) 2020/21, the 2019/20 National Sample Census on Agriculture (NSCA) and the five waves of the National Panel Survey (NPS).

The newly available data could enable high quality and relevant policy analysis to feed into the preparation of policy reform measures by the government. The data also offer a strong diagnostic basis – grounded in evidence - for the national development plan. More broadly, the data provide an opportunity for the development of stronger linkages between government officials in charge of statistics, policy development and policy researchers, through a carefully facilitated process.

In collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), the World Bank, with financing from the European Union, has launched an initiative for carrying out high quality policy research on strategic topics using newly generated data by NBS and OCGS. Policy research to be undertaken will be determined by successful research proposals. Research proposals on the selected topics will undergo a two-stage selection process, namely the concept note development stage, which will be followed by full proposal development of the successful concept notes. The selected topics have been carefully identified in collaboration with technical policy departments of relevant ministries and agencies in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

¹ A process in which changes are made to the formal “rules of the game” – including laws, regulations and institutions – to address a problem or achieve a goal such as economic growth, environmental protection or poverty alleviation. Usually involves a complex political process, particularly when it is perceived that the reform redistributes economic, political, or social power.

2. Research Topics

The research topics for concept note development have been identified along the following six broad areas.

2.1 Addressing the effect of climate change in agriculture sector (crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry)

Crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors are affected by climate change. For example, the increasingly unpredictable rainfall has affected farm production, while higher temperatures and rising sea levels are already affecting fisheries with consequences in the fishing industry in general and artisanal fishermen in particular. Although various technologies and means to adapt and cope with the effects of climate change are available, adoption has lagged behind in Tanzania. Based on available data from NBS and OCGS, including administrative data, targeted policy interventions can be identified to support investment and interventions to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Areas of policy research focus for the concept note development are the following:

- i. Climate change and agriculture;
- ii. Climate change threats and adaptation strategies in the livestock subsector;
- iii. Climate change and aquaculture development; and
- iv. Adoption of climate smart agriculture

2.2 Agriculture, productivity, growth, and employment

Smallholder farmers dominate agriculture in Tanzania with low productivity that can be attributed to a number of factors. Data show that productivity differs between smallholder and medium and large-scale farmers. Similarly, levels of investment and access to inputs, services and output markets are likely to vary between these farmer categories. Using available data, factors behind low productivity and other differences among farmers' categories can be explored to come up with policy measures to address the dynamics and low productivity in agriculture generally and in smallholder farming in particular. Areas of policy research focus for concept note development are the following:

- i. The contribution of agriculture to growth and employment;
- ii. Drivers of agricultural productivity: smallholder vs medium and large-scale farmers;
- iii. Labour dynamics in agriculture;
- iv. Linking agricultural output with domestic market and export markets;

- v. Role of agricultural mechanization in production and productivity;
- vi. Irrigation and agricultural productivity;
- vii. Agricultural extension services (public/private) accessibility and its role in productivity;
- viii. Availability, access and utilization of improved input markets; and
- ix. Linking tourism with the agricultural sector – focusing on high value crops

2.3 Agricultural markets, trade and competitiveness

Competitive agricultural markets and trade play an important role in improving incomes and reducing poverty in agricultural economies. Participation in agricultural value chains is one of the main policy thrusts. Thus, there is a need to identify constraints in the domestic markets and trade (including cross border trade) for agriculture and livestock products and propose measures to address these. Areas of policy research focus for the concept note development are the following:

- i. Constraints for linking farm producers to processors and markets in crop and livestock sub-sector;
- ii. Determinants of low livestock productivity and its contribution to GDP; and
- iii. Livestock animal and products commercialization and marketing

2.4 Land use planning, surveying, mapping, titling, administration, and management

The government of Tanzania has strengthened efforts in surveying land for different purposes, including enabling owners to use titled land (Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy - CCROs and Certificate of Right of Occupancy CROs) for economic purposes, such as accessing bank loans. However, use of titled land to access loans has met a number of challenges, including limited acceptability of titled land in rural areas, as a collateral against commercial bank loans. Areas of policy research focus for concept note development are the following:

- i. Land management and land use conflict and its impact on agriculture;
- ii. Land as collateral in rural areas, the role of CCROs;
- iii. Contribution of surveyed land to poverty reduction; and
- iv. Land ownership, its distribution and women empowerment.

2.5 Investment and contribution of fisheries sector to food and nutrition security

Despite the increase in proportion of households engaged in fishing, available data show that the quantity of fish supplied is still low. Fish farming seems to have started to grow as an alternative way of increasing fish supply, but the pace is slow. In

addition, seaweed farming is increasingly becoming important in Zanzibar and one of the major export earnings. Exploration of the data may reveal drivers of fish farming and fish production and possible policy implications. Areas of policy research focus for the concept note development are the following:

- i. Factors limiting the contribution of fisheries to the economy (GDP);
- ii. Impediments to aquaculture development;
- iii. Contribution/effectiveness of fish policies on fish farming challenges; and .
- iv. Costs of production for seaweed farming.

2.6 Labour dynamics, demography, and inter-sectoral employment shifts

As an economy grows people tend to move from agriculture to other sectors such as manufacturing and services sectors where productivity is typically higher. Recent data indicate an increased movement of labour from the agricultural sector to other sectors, in particular the service sector. The youth appear less attracted to engage in agricultural production. Similarly, unemployment and inactivity among women in some parts of the country remains high compared to men. Available data from ILFS can be used to explore these dynamics and the reasons behind this. Areas of policy research focus for the concept note development are the following:

- i. Curbing youth unemployment and employability;
- ii. Informal sector development;
- iii. Drivers of urban to rural or rural to urban migration;
- iv. Child labour dynamics and its causes;
- v. Labour market behaviour (demand and supply);
- vi. Drivers of rural industrialization; and
- vii. Rural farm and non-farm small and medium enterprises

3. Concept note development

The concept note must be a concise document with relevant information and persuasive arguments to facilitate the selection process. The concept note is expected to give a clear idea on the objectives and nature of the research to answer specific policy questions using the available data (NSCA, ILFS and NPS) complemented with other official statistics and data. The latter could include administrative data collected and stored by relevant government institutions or other reliable data. Applicants should be as specific as possible to qualify for the next stage of developing a full research proposal.

3.1 Concept note requirements

A successful concept note must briefly but clearly and explicitly bring up the following:

- i. Policy issue: A description of the problem and the poverty-related policy issue to be addressed;
- ii. Objective (s): A statement of the specific objectives of the study;
- iii. Methodology and Data: A description of the methodology to be applied and the specific datasets to be used that include the NSCA, IFLS or NPS and where relevant supplementary data sets; and
- iv. Composition of the research team: names of the team leader and the team members and their institutional affiliation, accompanied by their current CVs as annexes;

Note: If an individual or a team intends to research on more than one topic, they must submit a different concept note for each research topic.

3.2 Concept note size and format

The concept note should be 3 pages maximum, single -spaced. As a guide for uniformity and to facilitate the assessment of submitted concept notes, all applicants should consider the following guidelines and structure:

- i. Introduction – a brief account of the area of proposed policy research area and its significance. Justify why the area of research is important for improving policies and public spending to accelerate poverty reduction in Tanzania;
- ii. Problem statement - briefly state the problem that the investigation will address. Provide evidence of the magnitude of the problem by either giving the statistics where applicable or citations. Indicate the specific policy issue that needs to be addressed to solve the problem;
- iii. Research questions, objectives and hypotheses - formulate the specific research questions that the study intends to explore. The questions should be in harmony with the formulated objectives and the hypotheses if any. Not more than 6 research objectives and questions should be formulated;
- iv. Literature - briefly show the main sources of the literature reviewed to inform the proposed area of research;
- v. Methodology - briefly describe the exact methodology that will be followed in conducting the proposed research;
- vi. References - the last part of the concept note should show the preliminary list of references (all works cited in the text); and
- vii. CVs of proposed research team members

4. Eligibility

The call is open to statisticians, economists, researchers, analysts and decision makers from government agencies, academia, business and private sector, who are directly or indirectly involved in production, use and dissemination of statistics in domain of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, labour, poverty and rural development, with priority given to teams that include Tanzanian researchers. Proposed research team should include experts from NBS/ OCGS and from sector and other ministries and agencies in their teams. This will be important to establish cross-agency collaboration and will facilitate a good understanding of the datasets as well as of the specific policies to be analysed. Funding will be provided through World Bank consultancy contracts.

5. Data sets

The call focuses on the use of available anonymized household survey micro-data from the NSCA, ILFS and NPS, complemented with other high-quality datasets including administrative data collected and stored by relevant government institutions or other reliable data. Data sets are available in the weblink shown below.

Data	Year of Publication	Weblink
National Sample Census on Agriculture (NSCA)	2019/20	https://www.nbs.go.tz/index.php/en/census-surveys/agriculture-statistics/744-national-sample-census-of-agriculture-2019-20-dataset
Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS)	2020/21	https://www.nbs.go.tz/tnada/index.php/home
National Panel Surveys	2008/09 2010/11 2012/13 2014/15 2020/21	https://www.nbs.go.tz/index.php/en/census-surveys/poverty-indicators-statistics/national-panel-survey

6. Concept note submission

All submissions of concept notes should be made to the following email address: PolicyResearchTanzania@gmail.com. The deadline for the submission is 16th October 2022. The teams of the selected concept notes will be notified and invited for development of a full research proposal within two weeks after the submission deadline.

7. Budget and time

The time for full proposal development will be four weeks (to include literature review and presentation) and the research and write-up in working papers as well as brief policy notes is expected to be completed in 12 weeks. The funding allocation for the winning policy research proposals will not be more than US\$5,000.