

TANZANIA DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION CENTRE

SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A MULTI-PARTNER'S TANZANIA DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION CENTRE (TDIC)

BACKGROUND

The Government of Tanzania is making deliberate efforts to better improve communication with the public and to enhance its relations with key stake holders and development partners as part of its overall commitment to good governance, openness and accountability. Such efforts are meant to increase involvement of the public and the development partners in the development agenda including the ongoing reform programmes.

The need to increase the level of development information is shared among Government, development partners, civil society and the general public, and has thus led to the idea of collaborating in establishing a multi-partner development information centre.

Having recognized the need for broader sharing and dissemination of development information, the Government of Tanzania is supporting the creation of a multi-partner development information hub – the **Tanzania Development Information Centre (TDIC)**.

The TDIC is a joint effort of The Office of the President, Public Service Management, the Institute of Finance Management (IFM), development partners, civil society, academia and the private sector.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of TDIC is to create a one-stop centre of information on development issues, activities and results from interventions by various actors and partners, including constraints and lessons learnt. By making such information readily available, the Centre will support better coordination, reduce duplication of efforts, and thus enhance time efficiency and effectiveness of interventions of the different partners.

The TDIC will provide a platform for:

- Public access to information on development issues of the virtual and physical collection as well as internet access to global development concerns
- Participation to events such as launch of publications, roundtables and consultations
- Dialogue events on development topics
- Dissemination of vital Government's information
- Encouraging writing of documents in a less technical language and when – appropriate – translating them into Kiswahili and availing them to the public
- Forming partnerships with local institutions to effectively reach out to every region of Tanzania

As part of the harmonization efforts in Tanzania, the TDIC will provide a one-stop place for accessing multi-partners' information and will be a platform for knowledge sharing and feedback gathering on the national development process.

TARGET GROUPS

The TDIC will provide its services to different clients, including:

- Government Departments
- Development Partners
- Private Sector
- Academic Institutions
- Civil Society
- Non-Governmental Organizations, including Faith based organizations, and the Media

BENEFITS

The establishment of such a facility will generate some benefits to the user groups mentioned above. Such benefits will include:

- A better understanding of projects undertaken by the multi-partners and their overall performance in Tanzania
- Offering to the stakeholders the opportunity to be engaged with and participate in discussions on the current portfolio, results achieved, and lessons learned
- Improved performance and a climate of openness between the Government, multi-partners and stakeholders as a result of informed feedback
- Facilitate sharing of knowledge and building capacity of informed decision makers.
- Increase the reach to desired participants in global dialogues and videoconferences delivered by the Tanzania Global Distance Learning Centre
- Access to information at all levels can help the government in its fight against corruption, as well as ensure greater accountability
- Wider dissemination of Government's achievements on the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)

MANAGEMENT

The TDIC will be hosted by the Tanzania Global Development Learning Centre (TGDLC) at the Institute of Finance Management. The TGDLC is one of over 120 networked development communication hubs under the Global Distance Learning Network (www.gldn.org). TGDLC is expected to manage the TDIC and ensure the envisaged sustainability and will be monitored through the existing TGDLC Board. The Permanent Secretary – President's Office, Public Service Management is the Chairman of the TGDLC Board.

Proposed performance indicators for the TDIC are expected to include:

- Reference/Reader services records and visitor statistics
- Number of new publications
- Feedback and service evaluations

Reporting on performance will be made quarterly and shared with stakeholders.

The TDIC multi-partner initiative faces a number of challenges in its operations. One key challenge is the need to move towards sustainability. The Centre will thus need to identify ways and means of

generating revenue from its operations to cover the running costs. In this connection, cost recovery categories under consideration will include those for printing, photocopying, promotional wall banners, sale of partners' publications and use of the briefing room.

ACTION PLAN/MILESTONES

Completed events

The Government has made a contribution of prime space to accommodate the TDIC at the Institute of Finance Management and funds for consultancy services to design and supervise refurbishing and retrofitting work. The World Bank has provided support to the tune of 35,000 USD towards retrofitting costs and equipment, including 5 computers and accessories.

Other completed activities include:

- Engaged Consultant to supervise work.
- The first phase of the reconstruction and retrofitting is nearly completed.
- Space for TDIC at ground floor of Samora Avenue/ Shaaban Robert Street.
- Full time staff/librarian for the TDIC provided by IFM.
- Five Computers and accessories have been provided by the World Bank.
- Publications from the World Bank has been received, (old consignments) from WB PIC.
- Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) provided InMagic Software for the Centre. They have migrated data from the World Bank's Global Jolis Programme).
- TACAIDS have contributed computer and accessories for the Blind, LCD TV system (TV set, VHR and DVD Player), Intelligent Colour Photocopier machine and Overhead Projector.

The Government through the President's Office- Public Service Management (PO-PSM) has provided the funds for extension works, furniture, ducting and signage.

Pipeline commitments

The following commitments have been confirmed:

- Internet Connectivity for six months and barcode scanner provided by the World Bank, One year by PO – PSM, and another year by TGDLC.
- The Government through the President's Office- Public Service Management also supports for erecting a booth for publications at the Saba Saba Trade Fair Ground as part of the promotional activities.
- The World Bank will provide between 200-250 publications of the World Bank per year.
- The following have also promised to subscribe publications PO-PSM, British Council, NEMC, GTZ, Tanzania Public Service College (TPSC) and Canadian high Commission to Tanzania.
- TDIC staff training and exchange with British Council and World Bank.

Appendix II

COMMENTS AND SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF MULTI-PARTNERS INFORMATION CENTRE (TDIC)

Name of Organization: _____

Phone: _____ e_mail: _____

Input / Comments:

Commitments on areas of support and collaboration in addition to publications (tick/add):

- Online resource
- Staff stipend
- Computers and peripherals
- Use of the venue for development dialogues
- Contribute publications (specify titles)
- Staff Time
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Authorized by:

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