**PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

AND

CROWN AGENTS

AFRICA COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMME

**CHALLENGES IN DELIVERING IMPROVED COMMUNITY
ACCESS IN RURAL TANZANIA**

**SHORT REPORT ON RESEARCH PRIORITIES WORKSHOP HELD 28th MAY,
MOROGORO,**

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TABLE OF CONTENT

ATTACHMENTS.

Table 2:   Workshop Plenary Agreed Top 5 Challenges and Solutions by Group.

Table 3:   Agreed challenges and Solutions by order of importance in Group Presentation

Table 4:   List of Workshop Participants

Table 5:   List of invited organizations

1 Background

The African Community Access Programme (AFCAP) is a research programme designed to promote safe and reliable access for poor rural communities in Africa. AFCAP is based around a portfolio of research and demonstration projects that identify solutions for rural access and maximize the use of local resources. AFCAP will support the uptake of these solutions, thereby influencing national and regional rural transport policies and practice. AFCAP is funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID).

The United Republic of Tanzania wishes to participate in AFCAP and therefore needed to identify its research priorities to address the challenges of delivering improved community access in rural Tanzania .This identification of priorities was facilitated through a workshop involving various participants of the Government of Tanzania and other stakeholders.

2 Objectives

The objective of the workshop was to identify, evaluate and prioritize potential challenges and solutions for research projects.

3 Schedule of workshop

The workshop was held on 28th May 2009.

4 Workshop Proceedings

The workshop was officially opened by the Chairperson of the Road Fund Board. This was followed by presentation on what is AFCAP and what it is intended to do in Tanzania. The presentation was done by the AFCAP Technical Manager, Mr. Rob Geddes. An overview of experience and challenges in rural access was presented by different practitioners to create an enabling environment for conceptual understanding of the nature of rural access barriers and problems. Plenary and group discussions on challenges to rural access to identify, evaluate and prioritize potential research projects was done, followed by a plenary session for presentation and agreement on priorities. Two presentations were also made on areas for AFCAP Research projects in Tanzania covering: outcome of Low Volume Sealed Roads workshop held in Arusha, presented by Road Fund Board; Demonstrations Sites for District Road Improvements and District Road Maintenance System.

5. Resolutions for priority potential research project.

In order to resolve on the needs for potential research projects, four groups of workshop participants were formed to generate, discuss and rank challenges and solutions by order of importance. The group results were then presented to the plenary session, where ranked challenges and solutions were discussed. After the plenary discussion, a resolution was made to take the top five challenges and solutions from each group as priority areas for potential research projects. The merged result of Agreed Challenges and Solutions for Priority Potential Research Projects is presented under section 6 below, **Table 1.**

6 Agreed Challenges and Solutions for Priority Potential Research projects

The agreed priority potential challenges and solutions for research projects can be summarized in 8 categories of **barriers/problems** as detailed and presented by **Table 1**. They are:

1. Financing
2. Planning

3. Policy and Institutional
4. Ownership
5. Standards
6. Technical Capacity and skills
7. Sustainability
8. Affordability

Table 1: Agreed Challenges and Solutions for Priority Potential Research Projects

No	Barrier/Problem	Priority Challenge area	Potential Solutions	Priority
1	**Finance**	Inadequate financial support to sector	Raise % allocation of funding for each sector to improve rural community access including commitment from road fund	1
		Inadequate budget allocation at National level and erratic disbursement	Enhance advocacy to increase amount and reliability of resources for rural community access infrastructure.	5
2	**Planning**	Planning is based on economic returns and does not consider social aspects	Ensure planning is based not only on economic returns but also on social aspects through training	1
3	**Policy and Institutional**	Weak implementation of national policies for rural community access.	Improve policy monitoring and evaluation at national, local government and community levels	4
		Inadequate management and accountability by Local Government Authority	Local Government capacity building and strengthening of downward accountability	1
		Weak policies at district levels to improve/support implementation of community access	Encourage district leaders to devise local policies to ensure continuity of projects	1
4.	**Ownership**	Inadequate Community Ownership of Road Projects	Involve Community in project planning and implementation. Use non state actors to mobilise community.	1
		Unclear ownership of basic access infrastructure at community level.	Ensure regulations in place to operationalise Road Act 2007, for community access infrastructure	3
5	**Standards**	Lack of awareness of standards for community roads, footpaths, footbridges, water transport access landing points.	Harmonize standards, repackage in more useable formats, and disseminate to district and community levels.	2
				2
6.	**Technical capacity and skills**	Inadequate technical capacity and skills to implement rural access projects	Appropriate capacity building, skills development and training	1
7	**Sustainability**	Unsustainable rural infrastructure and projects	Enhancing mobilization of local resources and community ownership	5
8	**Affordability**	Financial constraints in rural communities to contribute to infrastructure works	Involve Non-State Actors to mobilise community resources.	3

7   The Prioritization Process.

The identification, evaluation and prioritization of potential research projects was done by 4 different groups, each with 8-9 members, using the Nominal Group Method and process steps described below.

Step 1. Formulation of a Leading Question to participants
A question was formulated to lead the individual participant in thinking and developing a challenge and a solution. Each participant was required to respond to a question by identifying one challenge and one solution for discussing with the group.

The QUESTION: *What do you want to know from the Rural Community Access on challenges and solutions to potential barriers/problems?*

●*Each individual identify 1 potential challenge*
●*Each individual identify 1 potential solution*

Step 2: Recording of identified potential challenges and solution
Each individual participant in the group presented one identified potential challenge and one identified potential solution for clarification and recording in the flip chart.

Step 3: Evaluation and Ranking of identified potential challenges and solutions
Each individual participated in group discussions to evaluate the challenges and rank them in order of importance on the flip chart/or typed in computer for presentation to the plenary.

The agreed challenges and solutions ranked by importance in the Group presentations are given as **Table 3.**

Step 4. Prioritization of potential challenges and solutions
Each group presented the list of challenges and solutions ranked in order of importance to the plenary session. The members in the plenary assessed, discussed and agreed on the challenges/solutions, and endorsed five priorities from each group. This is presented as **Table 2.**

Step 5. Discussion, Resolution and Agreement on challenges and Solutions
The members of the plenary discussed and agreed on potential challenges and solutions ranked by order of importance from 1-5 for each group as agreed challenges and solutions for potential research projects. They also resolved that the facilitator merge them accordingly as reflected by Table 1 above.

8   Discussion on Outcome of the LVSR workshop, Arusha.
The LVSR technology presentation was appreciated. However, the participants' main concern was on the availability of resources for replication, future maintenance capacity and prioritization of roads by Local Government Authorities. . Although the implementation will be done within the Decentralisation by Devolution (D by D) organizational setting, it was observed that decisions on road selection for upgrading using LVSR can better be done at central government level in order to establish good synergy with either lower community access roads or other higher level rural roads under TANROAD. This would take account of economies of scale and spillover management costs for example, which would be of particular importance to the rural community access roads relative to roads under local government authority. The LGA can remain with works management tasks.

9   Participants.

Participants to the workshop were invited from a diverse range of government, private and NGO, institutions, which included representatives from academic and research organizations. A total of 41 people participated. **List of participants is attached.**

10 Conclusion.

The workshop was held to facilitate identification and evaluation of challenges and solutions in delivering improved community access in rural Tanzania. This required reaching agreement on priority challenges and solutions for identification of potential research project in rural community access. From the feed back above, it is the view of the facilitator that the workshop participants achieved the task assigned to them within the allocated one day time frame.

It was not possible within the time available to identify specific research activities that could be funded by the Africa Community Access Programme. The output of the workshop will, however, guide AFCAP, PMO-RALG and their partners in Tanzania on the priority areas that such projects should seek to address.

Comments by AFCAP Country Coordinator Tanzania.

Dear Workshop Participants.
The Agreed Priority Challenges and their Potential solution is strongly linked the direction within existing Policies and concepts of ongoing initiatives.
Regarding the **Finance** it is well known that the authorities and local governments are financially poorly resourced. In consequence of that the identification, **planning** and implementation of projects at community level are based on self help initiatives prevailing within the community and future sustainability is based on commitments by community to maintain the investments.

The Government of Tanzania formulated the National Transport Policy in 2003. The **policy** among other things provides directions and guidance as listed below at various levels of administration for the development of the road sector in the country.

Directions at the community and village levels include:
- Involve the households in infrastructure planning, financing and maintenance and
- Develop capacity in terms of skills and other resources to enhance quality of infrastructure at the household and village levels.

Directions at Ward and District levels are:
- Mobilize and involve the communities in infrastructure development,
- Increase public and private sector investment in village and district access roads,
- Properly define institutional structure to enable capacity building and smooth exploitation of available physical, financial and human resources in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and
- Involve local communities which ultimately will be entrusted with the bulk of the execution as well as maintenance in the planning process at the district or regional levels

The National Transport Policy clearly supports the involvement by communities to enhance the **ownership** of projects.

Community roads, paths, tracks etc in general do not need advanced engineering design. However gang leaders are trained in basic access road **standards** for various terrains as well as culvert installation and maintenance, camber construction, required road widths and drainage requirements. Through training the **Technical capacity and skills** are developed and Gang leaders are provided with templates for such community access infrastructure including community roads, paths, tracks and foot bridges.

The Methodology and Operational Guidelines has been prepared by PMO-RALG for the National Rollout of VTTP. Most priority areas have already been addressed herein; however, as the workshop reviled dissemination of this knowledge may not have been successful.

To improve on this issue of dissemination it is recommended that the Government of Tanzania through the district councils will collaborate with AFCAP, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sector agents active in this field. In other words, a corporation committed to knowledge transfer and to develop awareness and even fundraising initiatives. Through this initiative specific issues that contribute to poor access will be identified during the individual planning processes.

Elina Kayanda

Group 1: Agreed challenges and solutions for priority potential research projects				
No	Barrier	Agreed Challenge	Agreed Solution	Rank
1.	**Ownership**	Ensuring Community Ownership of various Road Projects	Preparing and Involving Community in Planning and Implementation	1
3.	**Local Policy**	Ensuring LGAs have local policies at their level to improve/support implementation of community access	Encouraging LGAs level leaders to device local policies that will ensure continuity of various projects	1
14.	**Technical Capacity**	Ensuring adequate technical capacity to implement rural access projects	Ensuring appropriate skills development and training	1
15.	**Planning**	Planning is based on economic returns and does not consider social aspects	Ensuring planning is based on economic returns and social aspects through training	1
6.	**Standards**	Disseminating knowledge on national adopted standards and specifications	Adopting and continuously devising suitable standards and disseminating them to the district and community levels	2

GROUP 2: Agreed challenges and solutions for priority potential research Projects				
No	Barrier	Agreed Challenge	Agreed Solution	Rank
1	**Institutional**	Improving Local Government Authority in management and accountability	Ensuring Local Government capacity building and strengthening of downward accountability	1
2	**Ownership**	Improving community ownership of access measures	Improving community organization and involvement of non state actors to mobilise community	2
3	**Affordability**	Enhancing general affordability by rural communities including financial constraint	Ensuring affordability by rural communities and involvement of Non-State Actors to mobilise community	3
4	**Policy M&E**	Ensuring implementation of rural community access policy actions	Improving policy monitoring and evaluation mechanism at national, local governments and community levels	4
5	**Finance**	Ensuring adequate budget allocation at National level and elimination of erratic disbursement	Enhancing advocacy to increase resource for rural community access infrastructure	5

No	Theme	Agreed Challenge	Agreed Solution	Rank
GROUP 3: Agreed challenges and solutions for priority potential research projects				
1	**Finance**	Enhancing funding and budget tracking	Ensuring provision of adequate funding and downward accountability	1
2	**Mobility and Access**	Improving mobility and access to social and economic services	Studying to unravel issues for decision support on appropriate actions	2
3	**Technical**	Improving technical capabilities for rural access infrastructure	Building the technical capacity at relevant levels	3
4	**Standards**	Ensuring design standards and guidelines of rural community access infrastructure	Adopting existing standard guidelines to suit the rural access infrastructure and environments	4
5	**Sustainability**	Ensuring sustainability of the rural infrastructure and projects	Enhancing mobilization of local resources and community ownership	5

No	Theme	Agreed Challenge	Agreed Solution	Rank
GROUP 4: Agreed challenges and solutions for priority potential research projects				
1	**Finance**	Ensuring adequate financial support	Raising percentage allocation of funding for each sector to improving rural community access including commitment from road funds	1
2	**Standards**	Ensuring existence of clear standards for footpaths, footbridges, water transport access landing points.	Harmonizing standards and communicating to where they are needed in easy language for use at any time.	2
3	**Ownership**	Clarifying ownership of basic access infrastructure at community level and operationalising Road Act 2007 requirements.	Ensuring regulations in place to operationalise Road Act 2007, and recognising jurisdictions of community as road authority	3
4	**Skills**	Enhancing skills for basic community access construction and maintenance to communities	Improving capacity building initiatives	4
5	**Knowledge**	Ensuring awareness by community on access infrastructure improvement	Enhancing awareness creation to community	5

TABLE 3: Agreed challenges and solutions by group ranked by order of importance

Group 1: Agreed Challenges and Solutions ranked by order of importance

No	Barriers/Problems	Agreed Challenges	Agreed Solutions	Rank
1.	**Ownership**	Ensuring Community Ownership of various Road Projects	Preparing and Involving Community in Planning and Implementation	1
2.	**Financing**	Enhancing community ability to contribute financially to various Road Projects	Educating community on income generating activities	3
3.	**Local Policy**	Ensuring local policies at district levels to improve/support implementation of community access	Encouraging district leaders to device local policies that ensures continuity of various projects	1
4.	**Environmental**	Improving areas of difficult terrains, variation in environment such as steep slopes, climate change(high rainfalls, low rainfall) etc.	Enhancing use of appropriate and affordable designs in social, technical d economic and environmental terms	3
5.	**Non Motorized Transport**	Enhancing appreciation for non motorized means of transportation.	Sensitizing and demonstrating on appropriate means of transport.	3
6.	**Standards**	Disseminating knowledge on national adopted standards and specifications	Adopting and devising suitable standards and disseminating them to the district and community levels	2
7.	**Standards**	Ensuring use of standards and specifications in rural access designing	Enforcing measures in the use of standards and specifications.	3
8.	**Technical**	Improving technical skills in implementing rural access projects.	Training of staff involved in various Rural Access projects	2
9.	**Financing**	Ensuring adequate financing of community access projects	Improving prioritization in implementation of projects and use of bylaws to collect local revenue.	2
10.	**Right of way**	Preventing Road Encroachment	Enforcing authority for right of way for road reserve areas.	2
11.	**Road designs**	Ensuring environmental and social consideration in Road project designs	Institutionalizing Community Involvement in road Projects	3
12.	**Planning**	Disseminating existing methodology for rural access planning	Ensuring dissemination of a planning methodology for rural access.	2
13.	**Maintenance**	Ensuring adequate maintenance of existing infrastructure.	Device a proper maintenance system including additional financing	2
14.	**Technical**	Ensuring adequate technical capacity to implement rural access projects	Ensuring appropriate skills development and training	1
15.	**Planning**	Planning is based on economic returns and does not consider social aspects	Ensuring planning is based on economic returns and social aspects through training	1
16.	**Income**	Enhancing income generating activities in rural access areas. .	Educating Rural Community on income generating activities	3

GROUP 2: Agreed Challenges and Solutions Ranked By Order of Importance

No	Barrier/Problem	Agreed Challenge	Agreed Solution	Rank
1	**Institutional**	Improving Local Government Authority in Management and accountability	Ensuring Local Government Capacity building and strengthening of downward accountability	1
2	**Ownership**	Improving community ownership for access measures	Improving community self organization and involvement of non state actors to mobilize community	2
3	**Affordability**	Enhancing general affordability by rural communities including financial constraints	Ensuring affordability by rural communities and involvement of non state actors to mobilize community.	3
4	**Policy M&E**	Ensuring implementation of existing rural community access policy actions	Improving policy monitoring and evaluation mechanism at National, local governments and community level.	4
5	**Finance**	Ensuring adequate budget allocation at National level and stopping of erratic disbursements	Ensuring advocacy to increase resource for rural community access infrastructure	5
6	**Standards**	Ensuring common standards for planning ,designs, and awareness creation on rural access infrastructure	Enhancing enforcement on use (repackaging and training)of standards	6
7	Maintenance	Ensuring adequate provision of rural community access infrastructure and improving maintenance	All above solutions	7

GROUP 3: Agreed Challenges and Solutions Ranked By Order of Importance

No	Barrier/Problem	Agreed challenge	Agreed Solution	Rank
1	**Finance**	Enhancing funding and budget tracking	Ensuring provision of adequate funding and downward accountability	1
2	**Mobility and Access**	Improving mobility and access to social and economic services	Studying to unravel issues for decision support on appropriate actions	2
3	**Technical**	Improving technical capabilities for rural access infrastructure	Building the technical capacity at relevant levels	3
4	**Standards**	Ensuring design standards and guidelines of rural community access infrastructure	Adopting existing standard guidelines to suit the rural access infrastructure and environments	4
5	**Sustainability**	Ensuring sustainability of the rural infrastructure and projects	Enhancing mobilization of local resources and community ownership	5
6	**Institutional**	Improving Community involvement and role in Contract arrangements	Enhancing contracting arrangements to accommodate organized rural community groups	6
7	**Technical**	Improving pass ability of community access transport	Ensuring timing improvements of problem	7

		infrastructures/roads	areas	
8	**Institutional**	Ensuring correct mindset/perception of the community	Sensitizing and disseminating information on community access infrastructure	8
9	**Policy M&E**	Ensuring operationalization of the rural development policy to enhance community access	Ensuring effective operationalization of rural development policy	10
10	**Service Delivery**	Ensuring adequate service delivery	Enhancing efficient service delivery	9
11	**Non Motorized**	Improving use of non motorized transport for rural community access	Enhancing mechanism for promotion of use of non motorized transport.	11
12	**Appropriate Technologies**	Enhancing use of appropriate means of transport in terms of technical and economic efficiency and effectiveness	Studying and promoting knowledge on use of appropriate means of transport	12

GROUP 4: Agreed Challenges and Solutions Ranked By Order of Importance

No	Barrier/Problem	Agreed Challenge	Agreed Solution	Rank
1	**Finance**	Ensuring adequate financial support	Raising percentage allocation of funding for each sector to improving rural community access including commitment from road funds	1
2	**Standards**	Ensuring existence of clear standards for footpaths, footbridges, water transport access landing points.	Harmonizing standards and communicating to where they are needed in easy language for use at any time.	2
3	**Ownership**	Clarifying ownership of basic access infrastructure at community level and operationalising Road Act 2007 requirements.	Ensuring regulations in place to operationalise Road Act 2007, and recognizing jurisdictions of community as road authority	3
4	**Skills**	Enhancing skills for basic community access infrastructure construction and maintenance to communities and Local Government Authorities	Improving capacity building initiatives	4
5	**Information**	Ensuring awareness by community on access infrastructure improvement	Enhancing awareness creation to community	5
6	**Cooperation**	Ensuring information sharing between different actors	Enhancing information sharing by meeting regularly and dissemination to stakeholders up to grass root level	6
7	**Political**	Eliminating unwarranted political interference in use of public funds	Strengthening Public Funds Tracking at grassroots level	7
8	**Planning**	Avoiding ad hoc planning	Enhancing implementation of available planning guidelines	8

Table 4: LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
WORKSHOP ON CHALLENGES IN DELIVERING IMPROVED COMMUNITY ACCESS IN
RURAL TANZANIA, 28th MAY, 2009

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Table 5: List of Invited Workshop Morogoro 28 May 2009-05-05

Organisation	No. Invitees
Roads Fund Board	2
Joint Technical Committee, Transport (Donors)	
Ministry of Infrastructure Development	3
Tanroads (Social, Environment, Gender)	1
Technology Transfer, Tanzania T^2	1
Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF)	2
Agriculture Sector Development Programme (National)	2
Urban Development & Environmental Management, UDEM	1
Camilla Lema IFRID	1
Economic and Social Research Foundation	1
The Sustainable Morogoro Programme, SUMO, Morogoro,	1
Planning Officer District Council, Mpwapwa	2
Ifakara Health Reseach Institute,	1
VTTP Pilot District. 4 VTTP Coordinators, 3 District Engineers	7
Research on Poverty Alleviation, Tanzania REPOA, Researchers	2
Mtandao wa Vikundi Vya Wakulima Tanzania	1
UVIKIUTA, Tanzania (Uvikiuata83@yahoo.com)	1
TCCIA, Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry & Agriculture	1
SIDO, Small Industries Development Organisation	1
ILO Tanzania	2
University of Dar es Salaam, Lecturers	2
Open University of Tanzania ,Lecturers	2
Institute of Rural Development Planning, Dodoma. Lecturers	2
ITECO-Consult –Tanzania	1
PMO-RALG, VTTP, Agriculture, DLG	6
Total number of participants	45