

Supporting communities in solving their problems



Communities can face challenges related to the construction of a village dispensary; the school that was not built to appropriate standards, the lack of information concerning their local budget or the allocation of land for mining, lack of access to water or schoolgirl pregnancies.

A PETS intervention can

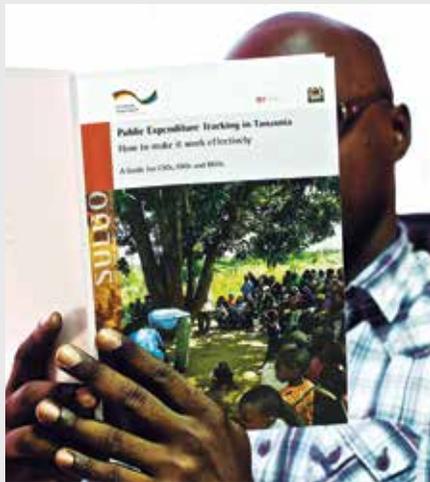
be designed to address all these challenges as they are often linked to the public resources allocated to the community.

Dimensions of PETS

SULGO in partnership with CETA* was able to strengthen democracy at the grassroots and increase awareness of civil rights and local development priorities. This has led to increased transparency and accountability, which has improved social service delivery.



*CETA is a non-profit organisation established in 2003 to promote democratic principles, knowledge of political institutions, human rights, citizen rights and duties and accountability of government authorities. CETA implements PETS in five villages in Handeni district with support from the GIZ's Support to Local Governance (SULGO) programme.



German Development Cooperation

The Support to Local Governance (SULGO) programme is a cooperation between the governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Federal Republic of Germany. It is implemented by the Prime Minister's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The overall aim of the programme is to improve access to public services for citizens through stronger local governments. It has been implemented since 2008, with the current phase running since November 2010.

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All products can be downloaded from the following websites:

<http://www.sulgo.or.tz>

<http://www.pmoralg.go.tz>



Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS)

PETS helps improve the performance of local development projects that may be suffering as a result of lack of accountability.

"PETS empowers people to follow up on the use of public resources earmarked for their community. This naturally improves the delivery of public services to them."

Salim R. Olotu, Executive Director, Civic Education Teachers' Association

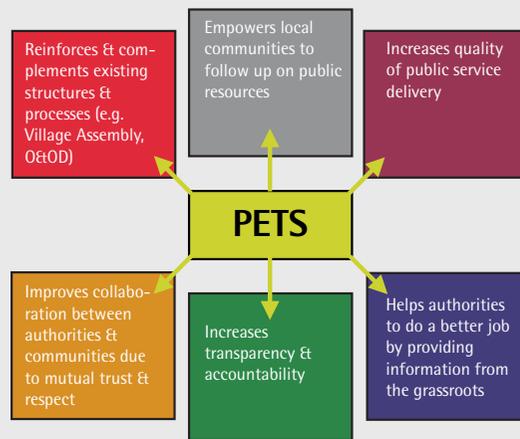
SULGO
better lives through better services



On the trail of public resource use

Increasing grassroots participation

PETS has been around for many years now. However, the experience with earlier PETS initiatives showed that their impact was short-lived as they were implemented in a random way without the effective utilisation of existing local structures.



GIZ's Support to Local Governance (SULGO) programme in cooperation with CETA undertook to review the approach to PETS implementation by emphasizing the anchoring of activities in established community structures such as the Village Assembly Meeting and the Standing Village Committees, as well as processes like the annual planning and budgeting cycle.

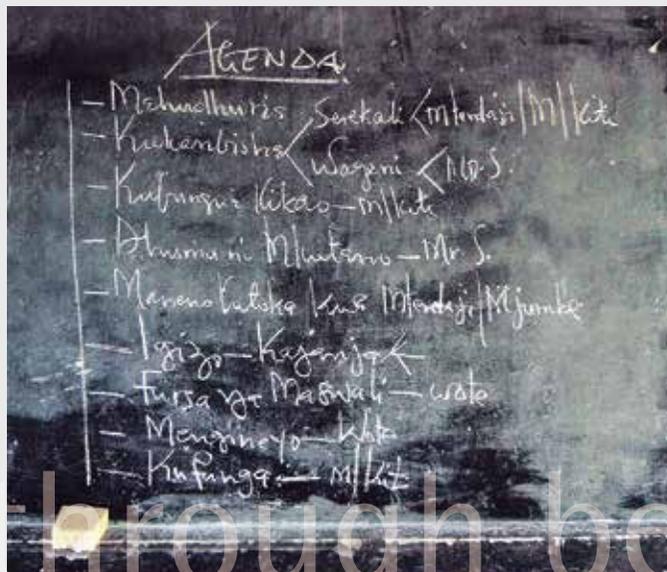
Since 2012, this new approach has been introduced in five partner villages in Ndolwa ward, Handeni district, in a process that entailed four training modules over a period of almost one year, during which a close partnership was nurtured between CETA, the PETS teams and local authorities. The partners are further supported through continuous mentoring. PETS Teams also liaise closely with the Handeni District Council, cultivating mutual trust and cooperation.

"It is important to collaborate with the village authorities in a respectful way. Sometimes it is difficult, like in the case when we found out that they had sold 400 hectares of village land illegally. Initially they shouted at us, but after many discussions they agreed to pay the money back to the investor and the land was returned to the community."

PETS team member in Chanika Kofi

What PETS entails

- ▶ PETS teams consist of residents who are elected during the Village Assembly Meeting, which is also the one that hands them the mandate to carry out their activities. The participatory nature of these inaugural deliberations is designed to increase the community's motivation for holding meetings more regularly.
- ▶ PETS teams also take part in the participatory budget and planning process which ensures that community priorities provide the basis for their tracking activities. It also means that PETS trainings are synchronized with the Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O&OD) formula as well as the Budget and Planning process.
- ▶ Trainings are need-oriented and demand-driven, and utilise participatory methods and exercises as well as a simple language. The content also covers basic civic education which provides participants with an understanding of their rights and obligations, thus motivating them to strive for more transparency and accountability.



- ▶ As conflict reconciliation is often also part of the PETS teams' work, techniques for this are included in the training as well. PETS teams are provided with templates and check-lists, which enable them to continue tracking independently.
- ▶ PETS teams provide constant feedback on their tracking results and any issues or questions arising to the Village Committees, which then bring them to the attention of the Village Council for inclusion into the agenda for the next Village Assembly Meetings. There, villagers discuss the results and raise any questions they may have. The Village Government addresses these questions while demonstrating its successes, too.
- ▶ There is increased awareness among communities of their right to participation and to information. As a result, they are holding their leaders accountable.
- ▶ Transparency and accountability of village governments has improved significantly, with leaders demonstrating more responsibility.
- ▶ Planning and monitoring of villages' O&OD priorities has improved and this has had a positive impact on village revenues.
- ▶ PETS teams meet regularly and provide input into the Village Committees.
- ▶ Village Assembly Meetings are taking place on a more regular basis.
- ▶ The ability of communities to solve their own problems has increased.
- ▶ Cooperation between communities and authorities has been strengthened. PETS teams have helped resolve conflicts within communities such as those related to access to water, redistribution of land, incomes from mining activities in their areas, and the construction of village dispensaries.

"It is very good to have a team of volunteers working in the village to solve community problems. The ability of villagers to solve their own problems has increased. For example, with the help of the PETS team, people in the villages of Chanika Kofi and Komdudu have improved access to water. In Amani and Sua villages, the PETS teams addressed the poor school attendance and the situation has improved significantly."

Julius M. Mhando, District Community Development Officer Handeni District Council