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REPORT OF ADVOCACY TO SENIOR COUNCIL STAFF AND COUNCILLORS IN DODOMA, IRINGA, MOROGORO AND PWANI REGIONS

JULY 6-29, 2011

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or the United States Government

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ACRONYMS

D by D	Decentralization by Devolution
DC	District Council
MC	Municipal Council
PMO-RALG Government	Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local
TC	Town Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report describes advocacy meetings conducted by Wajibika in the Iringa, Dodoma, Morogoro, and Pwani Regions' councils from July 6 through 29, 2011. At the end of 2009, under the AIDSTAR II mechanism USAID awarded Abt Associates a project called Wajibika, a Kiswahili word meaning "be accountable." Abt Associates operates the Wajibika Project in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and FHI360.

Wajibika supports the initiatives of the Government of Tanzania to strengthen the capacity of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) for fiscal and programmatic accountability under the decentralization by devolution (D by D) reform program. These reforms in local governance offer a historically unprecedented opportunity to support and strengthen the capacity of LGAs to operate independently of central authorities in managing council health service delivery. When the Government of Tanzania first embarked upon the Local Government Reform Programs (LGRP I, 1998 – 2008), it was clear from the outset that this was going to be a long-term process. Subsequent reviews of LGRP noted that the reform was too ambitious, given a complex policy environment characterized by a relatively limited grasp of the practical implications of D by D. LGRP-II, 2008-2013 builds upon the achievements and initiatives of the earlier phases of LGR. These additional reforms will further strengthen local government, and further mainstream D by D in all central and sector ministries.

Thus the overall project objective is to help GOT ensure effective, empowered LGAs as the primary and accountable lead actors of public service delivery and poverty reduction in their areas of jurisdiction. The strengthening of all levels of leadership at the district to play their role in ensuring effective governance is critical and calls for efforts to equip all stakeholders with appropriate skills for their job. Key stakeholders at the district include Councilors (elected) and technical staff, as well as their supervisors from the Regional level, especially the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS). Wajibika is committed to ensuring that all these key people understand clearly their role in governance, especially in accountability, and that they are conversant with all appropriate government regulations in order to be able to provide the necessary checks and balances for best performance in the delivery of health care and other services.

As part of its efforts to strengthen programmatic planning and fiscal accountability with LGAs, Wajibika conducted advocacy meetings in 27 councils with councilors; members of the finance, planning and administration committee; council internal audit committee members; and all heads of departments. The total numbers of participants were: 328 councilors, 408 heads of departments (heads of sections are included here), 220 Accountants and Internal Auditors, 44 audit committee members, 11 council directors, and 16 acting council directors. Six presentations held at the meetings

covered the following topics: Wajibika overview, internal auditing process, procurement as per the Public Procurement Act 2004, and health financing.

The Wajibika team was divided into two operational teams, each of which met with participants from one council per day. The meetings were conducted through PowerPoint presentations and discussion. In order to ensure that the materials provided were in line with what the system was currently using, Wajibika used trainers from relevant organizations and Government of Tanzania institutions, including officials from the Regional Secretariat and others from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.

The purpose of this advocacy was to orient the councilors on their roles and responsibilities, taking into account the fact that some of the councilors were newly elected, and to create a good rapport between heads of department and councilors. The meetings provided a common platform for councilors and heads of department to share ideas, and to discuss the key areas that often cause problems in audit reports: internal control and procurement processes in the councils. Participants were reminded of the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the councilors, heads of department and the council audit committee. They were sensitized on the importance of pre-payment schemes in health, with particular emphasis on the Community Health Fund and the need to identify and care for orphans and vulnerable children. The table below provides more detail on who attended the meetings.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY CATEGORIES AND COUNCILS

Council (District Council(DC) unless otherwise indicated)	Councilors	Heads of Depts.	Accountants Internal auditors	District Executive Directors	Ag. District Executive Directors	Audit committee members	TOTALS
Dodoma Municipal Council (MC)	13	11	8		1	1	24
Chamwino	11	18	9		1	1	29
Bahi	11	16	9	1		2	27
Kondoa	7	17	6		1	2	24
Kongwa	14	12	8	1		2	26
Mpwapwa	12	18	7	1		2	30
Total	68	92	50	3	3	10	226
Kibaha District Council	13	16	9		1	2	29
Kibaha Town Council (TC)	14	19	8	1		0	33
Kisarawe	14	18	8		1	2	32
Mkuranga	12	15	8		1	2	27
Bagamoyo	12	7	8		1	1	19
Mafia	9	20	7	1		2	29
Rufiji	11	17	8		1	1	28
Total	85	112	58	2	5	10	272
Morogoro MC	12	16	9		1	1	28
Morogoro	14	19	5		1	1	33
Kilombero	14	13	6		1	2	27
Ulanga	16	13	8		1	2	29

Mvomero	9	15	9	1		2	24
Kilosa	14	11	7		1	2	25
Total	79	87	45	1	5	10	227
Iringa MC	15	11	9		1	0	26
Iringa	9	13	8		1	2	22
Mufindi	12	18	8		1	2	30
Kilolo	11	15	8	1		2	26
Njombe TC	14	11	8	1		2	25
Njombe	8	13	9	1		2	21
Makete	12	17	6	1		2	29
Ludewa	15	19	8	1		2	34
Total	96	117	67	5	3	14	302
Grand Total	328	408	220	11	16	44	1027

Note: The regional subtotals for Accountants and Internal Auditors include the representatives from the Regional Administrative Secretaries' office.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. The participants expressed their appreciation for Wajibika's bringing them together. They said it was the first time that the councilors, audit committee members and heads of departments had sat together to learn and share ideas, and that the topics presented were very relevant to all.
2. Participants also raised concerns. The councilors and heads of department felt that the concept of D by D remains very theoretical, as it has yet to be operational at council and sub-council levels. Currently they are not mandated to implement their activities independently, and this includes hiring and transfers.
3. The councilors expressed concern over the composition of the internal audit and procurement committees, since none of them is a member of these committees. They emphasized that because they are the de facto "owners" of the council, they should be part of the control system.
4. Regarding the procurement process at the council level, the councilors felt that they are involved only at the very end of the process, through their chair, who signs the offers. They feel that their chair is pulled into signing a final document without internalizing the process of its production. They would like more involvement in the process as a whole.
5. The two-hour session on the procurement process was found not to be adequate for councilors to adequately grasp the essentials of the Public Procurement Act 2004. Councilors from all councils said that advocacy was essential for all councilors and not just the members of the finance, planning and administration committee. They asked Wajibika to consider the possibility of holding similar sessions with all councilors so that they speak the same language.
6. Regarding construction and rehabilitation projects, the councilors suggested that for more-effective inspections of such projects they require experts who can verify the quality of the work in relation to given standards and value for money. Councilors complained that most sources of finance at the council level have been taken over by the central government, and as a consequence the councils have very meager funding sources of their own. Due to chronic delay in the release of funds, implementation of development activities is delayed- or not done at all.
7. The councilors generally complained of understaffing, and particularly pointed out the health sector as the most adversely affected. It was also noted that the PMO-RALG arbitrarily transfers councils' skilled staff without consulting the councils.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Wajibika recommends that advocacy meetings like these be held at least twice a year to cover all councilors. Councils should be encouraged to budget for these meetings in order to ensure their sustainability beyond the Wajibika involvement.
2. The PMO-RALG should lead the D by D implementation process and coordinate other sector ministries to ensure that D by D goes beyond the council level. The PMO-RALG should revise the membership of internal audit and procurement committees so that the councilors as "owners" are part of the control system.
3. Wajibika recommends that the councils, through the Council Chairperson, should identify important topics in the areas of finance, planning and program management, and invite experts through Wajibika to address the full council whenever possible.

ANNEX1. SCHEDULE FOR THE ADVOCACY MEETING WITH COUNCILORS, HEADS OF DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE

Time	Topic	Responsible
8.00-8.30	Registration	Administration
8.30-8.45	Introduction	All
8.45-9.00	Opening	Regional Administrative Secretary
9.00-9.30	Overview of Wajibika	Wajibika
9.30-10.30	Councilors' Responsibilities	Local Government Authorities
10.30-11.00	Tea Break	All
11.00-1.00	Public Procurement Act 2004	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
1.00-2.00	Lunch Break	All
2.00-3.00	Internal Auditing	Wajibika
3.00-3.30	Health Financing-Community Health Fund	Wajibika
3.30-4.00	Orphans and Vulnerable Children	Wajibika
4.00-4.30	Closure	Council Chairperson

ANNEX2. SCHEDULE FOR COUNCILORS' ADVOCACY

Region	Date	Venue	Team
Iringa			
Iringa DC	16-Jun-11	Makambako	A
Iringa MC	16-Jun-11	Makambako	B
Ludewa DC	17-Jun-11	Makambako	A
Mufundi DC	17-Jun-11	Makambako	B
Makete DC	20-Jun-11	Makambako	A
Njombe DC	20-Jun-11	Makambako	B
Njombe TC	21-Jun-11	Makambako	A
Kilolo DC	21-Jun-11	Makambako	B
Dodoma			
Dodoma MC	6-Jun-11	VETA DOM	A
Chamwino DC	6-Jun-11	VETA DOM	B
Bahi DC	7-Jun-11	VETA DOM	A
Kongwa DC	7-Jun-11	VETA DOM	B
Mpwapwa DC	8-Jun-11	VETA DOM	A
Kondoa DC	8-Jun-11	VETA DOM	B
Morogoro			
Morogoro MC	10-Jun-11	VETA MIKUMI	A
Morogoro DC	10-Jun-11	VETA MIKUMI	B
Mvomero DC	13-Jun-11	VETA MIKUMI	A
Kilosa DC	13-Jun-11	VETA MIKUMI	B
Kilombero	14-Jun-11	VETA MIKUMI	A
Ulanga DC	14-Jun-11	VETA MIKUMI	B
Pwani			
Kisarawe DC	23-Jun-11	Bagamoyo	A
Bagamoyo DC	23-Jun-11	Bagamoyo	B
Kibaha TC	24-Jun-11	Bagamoyo	A
Kibaha DC	24-Jun-11	Bagamoyo	B
Rufiji DC	27-Jun-11	Bagamoyo	A
Mkuranga DC	27-Jun-11	Bagamoyo	B
Mafia DC	29-Jun-11	Mafia	A

