

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

(YODESO)

A REPORT

OF

TRAINING WORKSHOP

ON

BUDGETING PROCESS AND ITS INFORMATION USE

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1. Introduction

Youth Development Society (YODESO) was established in 2004 and legally registered in 2006 under the Zanzibar Societies Act No. 6 of 1995 and granted certificate of compliance as required by the law with registration No. 358 of 26 January 2006.

One of the YODESO's main agenda is to try to build the capacity of its members that will lead them to effective policy engagement and provide better services to their target community they serve.

A four-day training on budgeting process and information use organized by YODESO aimed at building the capacity and supporting its members to be able to make a close follow-ups on public financial expenditures. As the participants were imparted with knowledge and skills on budgeting process, other budget implications were raised during training. These among others include, resource needs, budget planning and preparation guidelines, key implementers and other necessary parameters for budget processing.

2. Objectives of the Training

The objectives of the training were:

- Build capacity of participants to use budget information to influence decision at central and local government levels
- Develop understanding of the budget cycle, budget framework, and link between budget and MKUZA goals
- Ensure that participants gain skills for analyzing and interpreting budget information
- Ensure that participants gain knowledge of sources of information

3. Training Methodology

The following methodology was adopted to ensure that participants have close follow-ups of all training inputs for better understanding.

- Presentation from facilitator (Picture 1 Below)



Picture 1: Presentation from Facilitator

- Asking questions for clarification
- Sharing experience from one another
- Group exercise and presentation (Picture 2 below)



Picture 2: Group exercise and presentation

- Group and Plenary Discussions (Picture 3 below)



Picture 3: Group and Plenary Discussions

4. Training Coverage

The training coverage included the following topics:

- The budget framework
- Planning and budgetary process at central and local government
- Budgeting for Equity
- Budget analysis and monitoring
- The role of Civil Society Organization in planning, budgeting and monitoring

5. Training Outputs

The facilitator took the participants through the process of making them to understand the broad concept of budget. The training workshop participants were able to learn and understand the meaning of budget. They were told that a budget referred to an integrated plan that involve objective, strategy and implementation of various activities, with focus on mission, methodology to achieve the objective, outcomes and their sustainability, indicators for verifying objective achievement, key actors, timeline spent, means of verifying the outcomes and costs involved in implimenting any activity.

The participants were required to think of the situation where the members of the organizations as well as the target groups and other beneficiaries are all participating in paying taxes, contributing in resource mobilization and therefore are all obliged to observe proper utilization of funds in all public sectors. It was in this context, therefore where the participants were asked to think careful of those key elements in budgeting (Planning & Preparation, Approval, Implementation and Evaluation)

The participants were highlighted on the constitutional righs in receiving budget and expenditure information. It was also clarified during training that and why budget is supposed to be open and transparent. This is due to the fact that the budget is

- Public funds
- The govenment is working for the public
- A major deveelopment policy
- A way of comparaing with policy
- Means of monitoring and evaluating the performance of the government
- Used to reduce leakages and misuse of resources

5.1 Budget Preparation

- Always we use guidelines
- Always we make estimates

5.2 Budget Approval

- An approved budget is always a 'public budget'

5.3 Budget Implementation

We always measure the budget implementation status through:

- Quarterly Reports
- Biannual reports
- Annual reports

5.4 Budget Monitoring and Evaluation

We always evaluate financial expenditures through financial auditing.

6. Training Evaluation

Prior to starting of the training , the formal Training Evaluation was used to be done on daily basis in order to understand some difficulties that participants have been experienced in that day. This approach helps the facilitator to restructure his presentation and approaches that made the training sessions more interactive and useful. Through out the training sessions the participants were eager, authentic and were ready to learn more. The participants were energetic and participated in active and live discussion through out the training which was a good sign for the facilitator. Before the start and on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th days of the training there were formal written evaluations which asked specific questions and requested the participants to respond (Annex 3). Most of the participants indicated that they have understood the training very well. They showed their appreciation to the content of the training, facilitations skills and other arrangements for the training. Almost all participants confessed that, the training was of the great importance to their daily work although they urged to have more time for such training. Most of the participants indicated their interest of taking it further to their organizations. They requested management of YODESO to think of having periodic training for its members that can address the wide range of members training needs.

8 Conclusion

Generally, the training went very well, all the participants were very much involved in the discussion and sharing of experiences. They wanted to learn seriously all training components (Preparation, Approval, Implementation and Evaluation). They all expressed their interests of taking this training result to other members of the organization and ensured that they will organize some sort of meetings to share what they have learnt from this training.

Some members suggested that it is important for YODESO to have training plan that will focus on the needs such as management training for YODESO including budget training for other members.

YODESO should think of having training needs assessment for its members that can help them to plan effectively. As the training was conducted in Swahili, all members had high confidence in expressing their views and understood the subject matter very well. The participants emphasized that there is a need for having on going trainings in other public issues.