7.0. POVERTY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

7.1. Overview:

The Poverty Monitoring Master Plan was published in December 2001. The Plan is operationalized through activities of four (4) technical working groups, namely, Censuses and Surveys; Routine Data System; Research and Analysis; and Dissemination, Sensitization and Advocacy.

7.2. Progress to-date:

Surveys and Censuses - The major task planned during 2001/02 was the completion of Household Budget Survey (HBS) - 2000/01. The survey was finalized in March 2001. Analysis of HBS results was finalized in July 2002. The final report on the results of the Household Budget Survey have been published and disseminated. The group also coordinated the Integrated Labour Force Survey during the year. Recently the group coordinated the National Population and Housing Census carried out throughout the country as part of the multi-year planned surveys to feed into the Poverty Monitoring System.

Routine Data –Within the Local Government reform the group has continued its effort to link the Poverty Monitoring System and the Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation system. The immediate main task of the group is capacity building for data collection and processing, at the local government level. The group has undertaken sensitization activities on the Poverty Monitoring System with focus on roles of local authorities in data generation, collection, processing, and analysis.

Research and Analysis – The group has undertaken several studies as part of the PMS research agenda. The studies include (i) Poverty and Vulnerability (ii) Macro-Micro Linkage, (iii) Urban Poverty and (iv) geographic diversity of poverty. The findings of these studies coupled with the analysis of the HBS 2000/01 and the ILFS have been reported in the Poverty and Human Development Report (PHDR) 2002 for Tanzania, which was also prepared by this group.

Dissemination, Sensitization and Advocacy – In close consultation and collaboration with the other technical working groups, the DSA group has continued with popularization of policies and strategies on poverty targeting both upstream policy level and down stream actors. During 2001/2002 the group produced a simplified popular version of PRSP Progress Report (2002/01) in both English and Kiswahili languages. The popular versions along with ordinary versions were officially launched in April 2002. The group has also prepared a user guide for the Poverty Monitoring Master Plan to ensure that different target groups understand the Master Plan and this was launched during the Poverty Policy Week in September 2002.

7.3. Financing of the Poverty Monitoring Master Plan

The Government has included the cost of poverty monitoring in its budget for 2002/03 financial year. It has created a budget line under the Vice President's Office for this purpose. Out of about 2.5 billion shillings estimated for implementing activities of the PMMP during 2002/03, the Government has allocated 1.1 billion shillings. The Government is mobilizing additional funding from external development partners. It has also devised a mechanism for joint donor funding for the poverty monitoring system. A Memorandum of Understanding for management of pooled funds in this respect has been prepared.

Lessons and Challenges

The Tanzania approach can provide a number of key lessons for other countries preparing national systems for poverty monitoring. The most important are:

- Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach enhances legitimacy and help build consensus on key goals and objectives. It also brings on board as much existing capacity as possible to meet the many demands that will come to bear on the system.
- Taking a coordinated approach to working both within government and with external partners, besides building legitimacy, the system taps a wide range of expertise and financing during the early phases of PMS design.
- Linking traditional survey based instruments with the administrative data system and a programme of PPAs to create a holistic analysis of poverty trends and progress against public actions identified in the PRS.

7.4. Next Steps

The Poverty Monitoring Technical Working Groups have planned to undertake the following during 2002/03:

- **Surveys and Censuses Technical Working Group** has planned to finalize the analysis of the National Population and Housing Census during the 2002/03. The group is also preparing for the Agricultural Survey to be conducted in 2003, which will include a consumption module.

- **Routine Data Technical Working Group** will continue with capacity building initiatives at local government levels, on data generation, collection and analysis. The group will also carry out zonal sensitization workshops on poverty monitoring system at all levels of local government authorities, especially stressing the importance of administrative data in the monitoring process.

- **Research and Analysis Technical Working Group** will continue implementation of the planned research agenda. It will undertake analysis of the data arising from national population and housing census. The group will also finalize the PPA exercise. Analysis of population and housing census and PPA will provide important input into the Poverty and Human Development Report (PHDR) and PRS Progress Report for 2002/03.

- **Dissemination, Sensitization and Advocacy Technical Group** will continue with the dissemination of the user guide for the Poverty Monitoring System and ensure it reaches a wider audience particularly the poor. The group has also planned to further disseminate results of 2000/01 HBS widely, as well as producing a popular version for the Poverty and Human Development Report (2001/02). During 2002/03 the group will coordinate as an annual event, Poverty Policy Week, around September 2003. Radio programmes and feature articles in newspapers will also be prepared.

Short term challenges:

- *Getting monitoring output meaningfully fed into processes of policy revision and resource re-allocation:*

This is an ongoing challenge but in the short term two actions are necessary:

> First action is to make it clear to users, especially policymakers and politicians, what they can expect in terms of flow of monitoring output in the coming years, how best to access it and what will be the most useful and effective way to handle data.

> Second, action needs to be taken to link poverty information to policy formulation and implementation. In the short run this means building links between the poverty monitoring system and the ongoing PER and Budget/MTEF processes. The benefit from monitoring will depend on the quality of the link between poverty information and subsequent actions which includes the link between PRS targets and the budget.

- **More Systematic participation by CSO**

The value-added of a comprehensive system of poverty monitoring is its ability to embrace the information and data needs, as well as ideas on analysis and dissemination, of a broader stakeholder group. The involvement of CSOs in the PPA is significant but equally important is the mainstreaming of CSO participation throughout the system. The need to enhance the capacity of CSOs is thus emphasized.

Medium Term Challenges

- *Improving both the upward and downward flow of monitoring information at all Government levels.*

This is crucial for developing a culture of evidence-based policy making. But given the centralized nature of Government in Tanzania, and the difficulties experienced by the LGRP, this will be a major medium to long-term challenge. The emphasis has to be on getting the LGM&E system up and running, also it is likely to be slow, and the data needs in the meantime that require some kind of monitoring below national level.