



Opportunities to Uphold Child Rights and Strengthen the Child Protection System in Tanzania

Overview

The World Bank's stated objective of the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net II (PSSN-II) project is "to improve access to income-earning opportunities and socio-economic services for targeted poor households while enhancing and protecting the human capital of their children."

BIC and the Foundation for Environmental Management and Campaign Against Poverty (FEMAPO) have been closely monitoring this project since 2020 with the objective of strengthening child protection systems. FEMAPO conducted interviews with a wide range of stakeholders in Arusha, Dodoma and the Iringa region, including civil society organizations (CSOs), local government leaders at ward and village/street levels (among them, the TASAF coordinator in Arusha, the Arusha City Community Development Officer, and the Mayor of Arusha City Council). What we found was a lack of stakeholder engagement from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), the implementing agency, as well as a need to better address gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEA/H).

Findings

Lack of inclusion for children and CSOs working on child rights in the stakeholder engagement process throughout the project cycle. Children are listed as beneficiaries of the project, as heads of households, and direct beneficiaries. However, children have yet to be directly consulted about project design and implementation. [Child participation](#) is one of the four [core principles](#) of the Convention on the Rights of the child, and our [experience](#) shows it is doable.

Failure to take CSOs' concerns seriously and implement previous recommendations. In March 2021, FEMAPO and BIC shared [key recommendations](#) with the Bank and the TASAF around the need to provide training on child SEA/H as a prevention strategy and setting up child-friendly Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM). However, during field visits and interviews with key stakeholders, FEMAPO was not able to verify concrete progress around these two recommendations.

Recommendations

Work collaboratively with and leverage the expertise of local civil society. The Bank and the TASAF should have an open line of communication with local CSOs to receive regular feedback on the project's implementation. Despite multiple attempts during 2022, FEMAPO has not been able to secure a meeting with the TASAF at the national level to discuss project findings and recommendations. The Bank should seek to strengthen the relationships between the TASAF and local CSOs to make the most out of project implementation.

Utilize cash transfer and radio device deliveries to uphold child rights and sensitize households around gender issues. These opportunities should be used to sensitize households around GBV and SEA/H issues through different communication materials (posters with information about what GBV and SEA/H are and where/how to report; radionovelas stories around early childhood development, breastfeeding, nutrition, schooling; etc.).

Maximize project outcomes through supporting effective cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination. The Bank should support the TASAF in working closely with local government agencies implementing the project on the ground, including them in the design and implementation of the project, training them on child protection issues, etc. This would enable the TASAF to include a child protection approach during the implementation of the project and maximize project outcomes.

Take advantage of these recommendations to scale up child protection systems in the next Country Partnership Framework (CPF). The CPF ended in 2022. This provides an opportunity for the Bank to include child protection system strengthening as a key component of its social protection strategy in the next CPF and build on the recommendations layed out in this brief. Additionally, following the Bank's policies, CSOs working on child issues should be invited to [engage](#) in the CPF process and included in [collaborative processes](#).