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E2A EVIDENCE TO ACTION
for Strengthened Reproductive Health

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AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



About the program:

Evidence to Action (E2A) is an advocacy project that aims to address gaps in current Family Planning (FP) and Maternal New Born and Child Health (MNCH) policy and advocacy efforts in Tanzania through evidence based Interventions, funded by the United States Department for International Development (USAID) and Department for International Development (DFID). Pathfinder through E2A project carried an analysis of 2010 political parties manifesto to see how Political parties have positioned FP/MNCH as well as how do they see FP/MNCH in aiding to economic development for informed FP/MNCH advocacy interventions since government Programs largely, are reflection of the manifesto of the political party in power.

STRENGTHENING FP/RH AND POVERTY REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS THROUGH POLITICAL PARTIES' GENERAL ELECTIONS MANIFESTOS IN TANZANIA

1. Background

The 1977 Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (Section 1, Sub-section 3.1) declares Tanzania to be a democratic and socialist state that follows a multi-party system. Under this system, ruling Governments are formed by political parties after they win general elections. In the lead up to the elections, political parties work to convince voters to support them through various means, including developing and promoting election manifestos that outline and clarify the prospective parties' policies in political, economic, and social contexts. The manifestos are commitments by the political parties to the voters that explain how, if given the opportunity to lead the Government, they would implement the proposed policies. The manifestos are expected to assist prospective voters in deciding which political party is likely to form and run a Government in their best interests. Accordingly, the manifestos are used by voters to help them to decide for which party they will cast their vote.

The Constitution also stipulates that Tanzanian citizens are the primary source of all the Government powers, and that the primary objective of any Government should be

to improve the welfare of the Tanzanian people. After the election, the winning party who now controls the Government prepares their plan of action by drawing from, among other guidelines, their election manifestos to help them deliver on their pre-election promises, including development and welfare targets. In Tanzania, the framework pillars and efforts to promote economic growth and address poverty are defined and outlined in the National 2nd Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty 2010 - 2015 (MKUKUTA II) and the National Five - Year Development Plan 2011/12 - 2015/16 (FYDP), both documents were informed and guided by the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 (V2025), the uppermost long-term national development policy direction document covering a period of 35 years (from 1995 to 2025).

The national total fertility rate (TFR) has remained relatively high over nearly two decades, only decreasing from 5.8 children per woman in 1996 to 5.4 children per woman in 2010. The high TFR is associated with rapid population growth. From 2002 to 2012, the population of Tanzania increased by 30 percent, from 34.4 million to 44.9 million. At this growth rate, 2.7 percent per year, the population of Tanzania is set to **double** within the next 26 years (from 2012). The challenge with this pace of population size expansion is that it exacts **enormous** pressure on the available resources (including financial) that are essential in improving the quality of **life of the population** through provision of basic social services like education, healthcare, environment conservation, water supply, and employment. Resources required to to sustain and consolidate peace, political stability, social cohesion and national unity as the V2025, MKUKUTA II and NFYDP aspire to will also feel this constraint because **the demand for services increases more** quickly than **the available economic capability to supply them**.

A high TFR is also associated with a demographic structure comprising a large proportion of young people, hence an increased **dependency ratio**. The 2002 population census reported that **about 44 percent** of the population was under the age of 15. The young age structure has important population and development implications. It creates a high child dependency ratio that **places a heavy burden** on the working age population, **constrains** the provision of basic needs and social services as well as the propensity to save for investment, both for households and the Government. The young population also means that there is an in-built momentum for future population growth as today's children

will soon grow into their reproductive age and so population size will continue to grow even when TFR starts to fall.

Reduction of TFR is an important intervention in addressing other developmental challenges related to maternal and child health because almost all of the TFR reduction strategies can also reduce maternal risks and enhance **chances** for child survival. The key maternal risks include **women starting to bear children too early**, before they turn **20 years of age**; **bearing too many children**; **starting or continuing bearing children too late**, beyond age 35; and **bearing children in intervals of less than 3 years**.

Some attributes of TFR suggest its relationship with poverty incidence. For **example**, TFR is higher in rural areas at 6.1 children per woman compared to only 3.7 children in urban areas (2010 TDHS). In Tanzania, poverty is a particularly rural phenomenon. TFR decreases as women are more educated, where **women with no education have more than twice as many children as those who have attended at least some secondary school**, and TFR also decreases with **wealth** as women who live in the poorest households have more than twice as many children as those living in the richest households (2004/5 TDHS). Although higher rural TFR could be associated with low access and use of modern contraceptive methods (26 percent of married rural women compared to 35 percent of urban counterparts), rural women start **childbearing much earlier** than their urban counterparts. By the time of the 2010 TDHS, 7.1 percent of rural adolescents aged 15 - 19 were pregnant with their first child compared to only 2.2 of the urban adolescents.

As Tanzania seeks to implement its policies and development plans, delivering better social and economic well-being to its people, it is important to consider the factors that will impact the population and reproductive health situation in order to achieve the desired development goals.

2. Project Interventions

As part of its overall mandate to conduct research and generate rigorous evidence for programmatic policy actions, the Evidence to Action (E2A) project for strengthened FP and RH services for women and girls, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Department for International Development (DFID),

implemented by Pathfinder International and other partners, conducted a review of four of Tanzania's major political party election manifestos during January 2014. The manifestos had been developed by the respective political parties to guide their participation in the 2010 General Elections. The manifestos were reviewed with the main purpose of identifying policy proposals with potential for improving reproductive health conditions for family planning (FP), maternal and child health, and reducing poverty in Tanzania, particularly by alleviating poverty incidence in the most burdened sections of the population.

The strategies outlined in the manifestos were examined critically to assess how they would address reproductive health, and how FP has been integrated within poverty reduction strategies. Based on the lessons from the review, some recommendations were made as to why and how general election manifestos could be utilized to advance the reproductive health and poverty reduction advocacy agenda in the future. The four parties whose manifestos were reviewed include: Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA), the Civic United Front (CUF), and the National Convention for Construction and Reform - Mageuzi (NCCR-Mageuzi). These four parties were selected based on the 2010 general elections results. The selected parties constitute almost all of the voters representation to the Parliament of Tanzania.

3. Key Findings

The main findings from the review include the following:

None of the manifestos included specific strategic proposals to strengthen FP services.

There were a few plans to strengthen maternal and child health services, mainly through the provision of free services, as well as through direct systems, services and regulatory framework strengthening, and the provision of public health education.

Most policy recommendations made by the manifestos centered around the mainstreaming of poverty reduction and general economic growth such as interventions strengthening productive activities employing the poor like agriculture and fisheries, and organizing preferential subventions and services to vulnerable and poor sections of the population like women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

None of the manifestos included policy proposals linking FP (or maternal and child health) to other efforts to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction strategies in the country.

4. Recommended Policy Actions

Given the importance of election manifestos in the setting of policy frameworks for Government in Tanzania, the process of developing election manifestos provides an important opportunity to influence future policies. For the purpose of repositioning FP/RH as an important component of efforts to achieve economic growth, managers of FP/RH and development advocacy programs, both from the Government and civil society organizations, will need to take the initiative and engage the policy formulation machinery of the respective political parties so that the general election manifestos reflect the real needs of the people and outline specific interventions aimed at improving the population, reproductive health, and development conditions. In order to engage with the manifesto development process, the interventions might include the following:

- 4.1: Prepare training and orientation materials, drawing from the situation in Tanzania, demonstrating the relationship between FP, population issues, and related RH conditions, as well as the prospects of achieving specific economic advancement and poverty reduction at household and national levels.
- 4.2: Continue to engage the major political parties and offer technical assistance in drafting relevant sections of their respective manifestos. The goal is to strategically link FP and population issues with national economic development in the 2015 general election manifestos.

COVER: Casting Vote

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