



Development is miserable, but  
people are making things happen

Rakesh Rajani, Twaweza  
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Across Tanzania  
Governments, NGOs, donors  
spend huge energy trying to improve lives  
of poor people.

Is it making a  
**difference?**



Based on 9 village stays in Tanzania (2009)



# What did we learn?

1. What **doesn't** work



water



Not functional in most schools and clinics



And in many places women and girls still walk



and walk



and walk



In urban areas too...



... such as in Namanga  
5 minutes from the US Embassy

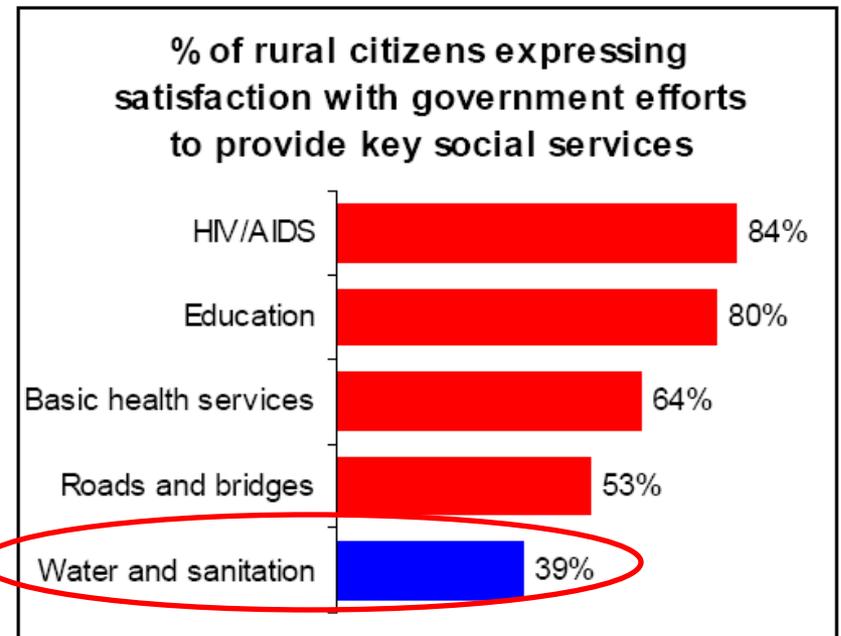
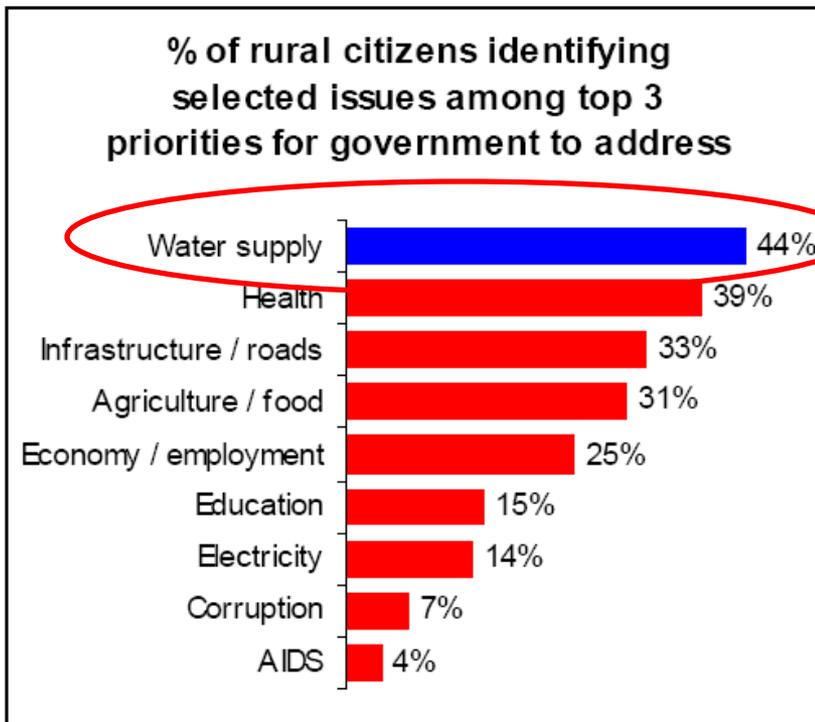


When nearby, contaminated but not treated,  
water borne illnesses common

20 liter bucket of water  
can cost up to **Tshs 300/-** (US \$.23)  
about **20-fold more** than what I pay

# Matters the most to rural citizens but gets the least attention

(compare water and HIV/AIDS)



*Source: 2008 Afrobarometer survey*

# Investments going to waste

Only 54% of rural water-points functioning in 33 surveyed districts

- > 4 WPs per 1,000 people
- 2-4 WPs per 1,000 people
- 1-2 WPs per 1,000 people
- < 1 WP per 1,000 people
- No data available





health



Nice new/renovated buildings  
but...

Staff virtually never around

No drugs

No lab tests

No sanitation

= **no care**



*“At this government health centre there was no doctor, only a ward attendant. The patient in this photo came in with a very high fever. She put him on the bed like this and left. A little later she came back and gave him malaria tablets, but she did not do any examination or any tests. His friend said he would bring him food later from the school where they were boarding.”*

MEDICAL STORES DEPARTMENT

RURAL HEALTH KIT - YELLOW

TANZANIA PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES LTD

EXPIRY DATE  
05/2004

7063  
TANZANIA  
2509187

P. O. BOX  
DAR ES SALAAM, TA  
TEL. 22 27

Cold chains not working, expired drugs



Nurses often run private pharmacies

*“In the neighboring village there is a good clinic, built by an NGO, but it’s only for HIV/AIDS testing. People cannot take their children with diarrhea and malaria there.”*

education





Many new schools and many more enrolled  
Budget tripled in the last decade  
The one MDG Tanzania will comfortably meet



New schools look better than local homes



But upon closer observation, poor quality



Floors of classrooms often first to go...

Newer buildings worse than older ones

Many unfinished buildings  
and insufficient desks  
despite parental contributions

Pit latrines inadequate, no water

*“The last development grant we received  
was in 2005.”*

In response parents compelled to contribute  
Unregulated, certainly no more ‘free education’



*“Every Monday I send 2 bricks to school to build a toilet. I have been doing this for two years, like many other parents... Three years later the walls of the toilets don’t even reach the height of this one year old child!”*

*“Last year we received capitation grant of Tshs 3,700. It is not enough, but we are grateful it as at least something.”*

**(Q: Do you know how much it is supposed to be?)**

*“No, is it supposed to be a certain amount?”*

**(Q: The policy says it should be \$10/yr, or about 13,000)**

*“Oh! I did not know!”*

**(Q: What will you do to ensure you get the full amount?)**

*“Nothing,” [laughs] “When your father gives you something, you say thank you, you don’t ask questions, you don’t ask whether it should be more.”*

*“An old Mzee got fed up of paying school ‘contributions’ of 10,000/- [about \$8] each time, not seeing the fruits of that money. So he refused to pay again until he got a proper income and expenditure report read out in public. The authorities tried to quieten him, but the old Mzee was adamant. The meeting ended in some disarray. Two days later the local militia (sungu sungu) visited his farm, demanded to search it, and ‘found’ a marijuana plant. He was told that he could be jailed for many years, unless... The old Mzee parted with two cows and Tshs 200,000/- [about \$160] to stop matters going further.*

*After that, do you think he or anybody else will speak up again?”*

In some schools, 400 students, 2 teachers

‘Vodafasta’ Teachers trained for 2 weeks

Often half the teachers not in school; those  
there rarely teach, push private tuition

Student attendance low,  
but not captured in district records

Few books, often locked up for safety

No functional libraries

Only \$4 of the \$10 gets to schools

Examinations dumbed down; still less than a quarter 'pass' Math, Science, English

Overall, **lots of schooling, little learning**

# What can we conclude?

We have hollow shells,  
hardware over software,  
dysfunctional governance,  
veneers & pretences of progress,  
high costs and serious inequities,

**Little care, little health, little learning**

# What can we conclude?

**Little faith in 'officialdom'**

in school committees to solve problems  
in Village Councils to air views  
in Councilors or MPs to help  
or elections to make a difference...  
("whoever wins will eat")

The 'official development' side of life (whether government, public services, or NGOs) is largely **dysfunctional, delivers little, supports few, inspires no one**

Few exceptions are used to  
over the main story

Development has become about **extracting** what one can from it (salaries, allowances, study trips, procurement deals, bribes)



“Development is ... a workshop”

What did  
we learn?

2. What **works**



Hamisi's story (Kahama, Tanzania)

Official work: farming cotton

Official income: about Tshs 300,000/- last year

After costs of inputs, hired labor, unfulfilled  
pay net profit: about Tshs 180,000/-

But something didn't compute:

- good, plenty food; good health
- using 35,000/month on mobile phone
- decent assets (bicycle, radio, kitchen ware)
  - relaxed, stress free, easy-going

After the first night over three days, turns out  
Hamisi is also engaged in:

- vegetables and rice fields
- tobacco (far from the main road)
  - cattle keeper
  - transporter
- cupboard shop in the living room

... and



Pikipiki rental business @ 10,000/- day



The herb gardener supplying  
Paul Tudor Jones' luxury hotel at Grumeti



Lots of thriving markets ...



... for food



or clothes..



Buy mine!



If you want the latest watches ...



... or your previous ones repaired



Despite restrictions people move things



... in rural areas



... in cities



And bring the services right to you



.. esp. convenient when stuck in traffic



You can get sturdy shoes  
specially made for local conditions



... unless you prefer new, imported ones.



... or second hand but looking good



Reliable services too,  
from cooking your food the old way



... or the new



No electricity, no problem,  
you can still be handsome ...



Shine your shoes ...



Make you beautiful ...



... or well groomed



Pots for your water and cooking ...



Fixing your stoves ...



solving every ailment (and fulfilling fantasies)



Or, if you prefer, your rat problem ...



Hustling, making things out of scrap, whether  
Cheap packaging recycled materials



... or jewelry made from bottle tops



... or sun charged batteries for power

Where indeed is  
the **power**?

Officialdom  
of policies, services, governance, projects  
does not work

But people are not waiting  
for us to get our act together.

They are getting on with things;  
hustling, scrounging, scheming, innovating  
making do, making new, crossing lines, ...

Imagination

will make

Tanzania fly