



Press Release
For Immediate Release

Government seeks citizen views on quality of health, education and water services

Wednesday 12 December, Dar es Salaam: Twaweza, as part of its contribution to the Open Government Partnership (OGP), has launched a competition that offers laptops to individuals and schools of their choice for submitting the best views about improving the quality of health, education and water services, and what citizens can do to make a difference.

The Government of Tanzania is seeking the views of citizens on how to strengthen quality, transparency and accountability of service delivery in these areas. Twaweza is supporting Government efforts in this regard, by creating popular materials and helping to review inputs received from people.

The call for citizen views will be publicised through four million popular booklets and other materials that will be distributed nationwide. Each quarter in 2013 the best ideas will inform government thinking; additionally the best entries will win laptops. The top ideas will also be published online and in print.

The popular booklets that promote the competition were produced in conjunction with Tamasha, a youth focused NGO. The booklets cover youth perspectives on maternal health; teen pregnancy; education quality; investment in resources; governance and youth participation in decision-making; and health, hygiene and sanitation. They aim to popularise research findings and young people's voices on these issues.

The OGP is a global effort to make governments be more open and responsive to citizens, by promoting transparency, empowering citizens, fighting corruption, and harnessing new technologies to strengthen governance. Fifty eight countries have joined OGP to date, including Tanzania, which is also a member of the OGP Steering Committee.

The Tanzania OGP Action can be found online here: <http://bit.ly/SayVD5> . The Plan has prioritised service delivery and access to information as a key pillar of Tanzania's movement towards open government. General information about the OGP can be found at opengovpartnership.org

Rakesh Rajani, Head of Twaweza, said *"The Open Government Partnership is a new approach to governance that embraces partnership between those who govern and those who are governed to solve our greatest challenges. Soliciting citizens' views on improving service delivery is a vital first step in making this vision a reality and Twaweza is delighted to be able to support the Government in popularising the call for opinions."*

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For more information:

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Notes to Editors

1. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) was launched in September 2011 with the two first co-chairs, Presidents Obama and Rousseff of the United States and Brazil, declaring a collective commitment by participating countries to make their administrations more transparent and accountable.
2. At the first annual meeting, held in Brasilia in April, representatives from Tanzania led by President Jakaya Kikwete joined counterparts from across the world, to share national visions and plans for opening the doors of government for citizens. Collectively OGP governments have made over 300 diverse commitments.
3. Participating countries (58) now cover about two billion people, 25% of the world's population.
4. For further details about the OGP, including a list of countries participating, visit www.opengovernmentpartnership.org
5. For details about Tanzania's commitments and delivery to date, visit www.opengovpartnership.org/countries/tanzania and <http://blog.opengovpartnership.org/2012/09/tanzania-ogp-update/>
6. Tamasha is an organisation dedicated to working with and for young people in Tanzania, by including their perspectives in development and supporting development of their capacities. www.tamashavijana.com
7. You can follow Twaweza's work
Web: www.twaweza.org Facebook: Twaweza Tanzania Twitter: @Twaweza_NiSisi
8. The booklets launched by Twaweza are listed below and will be distributed through schools and other networks.
 - Afya yafia wapi?
 - Bure bora?
 - Kodi ya mimba, nani alipe?
 - Rasilimali mali ya nani?
 - Shule ni elimu?
 - Ushirikishwaji ni ushiriki?

All these can be downloaded from <http://twaweza.org/go/youth-booklets>