

The Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) is a membership organization established in 1984. Its membership is made up of all the currently 133 Local Government Authorities in Tanzania Mainland comprising Districts, Towns, Municipalities and Cities. The Annual General Meeting is the highest decision making body and is attended by all Local Government Authorities Directors and Mayors/Chairpersons and 21 Members of Parliament elected from each region in Tanzania Mainland.

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The Executive Committee is vested with the responsibility of overseeing the execution of the Associations Policies, Programs and the Resolutions of the Annual General Meeting also supervises the Secretariat whose establishment is currently 14 staff members. ALAT operates a budget of approximately US \$ 500,000 p.a.

VISION: ALAT envisions responsible and autonomous Local Government Authorities that effectively and efficiently deliver quality services, responding to the needs and priorities of the people

MISSION: Be a recognized representative voice, lobby and advocate for promoting effective Local Government Authorities, for enhanced local social-economic development

ALAT has been involved in MPED since 2010, focusing on developing an association capacity-building program for its membership in collaboration with LGMABC. It has also the role and responsibility to support the implementation of the LED demonstration projects in Morogoro Urban and Districts Councils in partnership with the City of Kitchener, Ontario and Capital Regional District, British Columbia.

The Morogoro /Kitchener demonstration project as established a Small Business Advisory Services Centre in collaboration with TCCIA and other stakeholders and Morogoro's five districts/CRD demonstration project have developed a training manual on regional LED and conducted a TOT to the Council Staff who will train others and the lower level Local Government leaders.

COUNTRY CONTEXT FOR LED IN TANZANIA

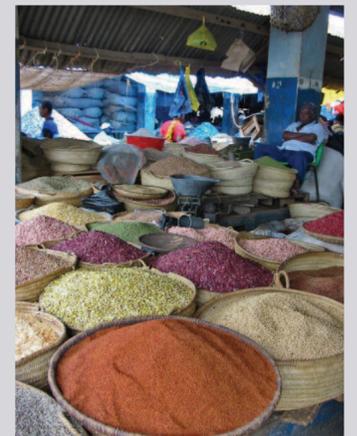
Local governments in Tanzania have been established with the objective of performing the following mandatory functions: maintenance of peace and Security to its people, and facilitate the social, political, economic development and poverty strategies.

Main sources of revenue for local governments include subsidies and grants from the Central Government and revenues from own sources. The central



government is obliged by law to provide subsidies and grants to the local governments for running the services mandated to them such as primary and secondary education, primary health care, promotion of agricultural extension services, maintenance of roads etc. The Local Government Authorities are also mandated by law to enact by-laws to raise revenues from own sources like property tax, market dues, produce cess, service charges, and license fees. By-laws must, however, be approved by the Minister responsible for Local Governments.

LED is part of local government's role. The Local Government system is enshrined in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania as institutions that are closest to the people and which shall be responsible for deciding on what the people want in terms of their development priorities. The Local Government Acts Na. 7 and 8 of 1982 define the mandatory and permissive functions of Local Government Authorities in which the issue of improving people's social and economic well-being and amelioration of poverty are mandatory.



KEY CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DOING LED

■ CHALLENGE 1: Resources

Local Government Authorities do not have adequate resources for improved service delivery to their people. The grants and subsidies provided by the Central Government are inadequate, and are not received on time or according to the approved budgets.

■ CHALLENGE 2: Capacity

The Local Government Authorities do not have the capacity to undertake their functions effectively due to the fact that they do not have adequate number of qualified staff in most of the departments. Taking an example of Community Development Officers – most Local Government Authorities require as many as 20 or more but they currently have only 5 or less.

■ CHALLENGE 3: Changing Mindsets

Collaboration between different development partners is not well perceived. The Local Authorities staff and leaders have negative attitudes towards the private sector and vice versa. The Local Government staff and leaders do not perceive their role as that of facilitating the private sector development but they consider it as only a source of revenue. The private sector also does not perceive its role as partners to Local Governments efforts but consider it as institutions which want to reap money from them. To overcome this challenge there is need for training/education programs on PPP and the Role of Local Governments and the Private sector in promoting LED.

SUCCESS STORY

Small Business Advisory Services Center in Morogoro

This Center was established by the Morogoro Municipal Council in collaboration with the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture and Industries Morogoro Branch as a result of the partnership between Morogoro Municipal Council and City of Kitchener after the identification of needs for LED promotion in Morogoro. This Center is aimed at building the capacity of the Municipality to promote LED. It also draws expertise from the learning institutions in Morogoro University of Agriculture, Mzambe University, Vocational and Education Training Authority, Small Scale Industrial Development Organization and the Folk Development College. TCCIA provided the premise and some facilities (furniture and computers), Morogoro Municipal Council provided in its Strategic plan and Budgets some funds for the operationalization of the centre, and the CRD provided a laptop and PowerPoint presentation. The Center was launched during the Agricultural Festival week where the CRD mission together with the Local Coordinators and the National Coordinator conducted training to the public on LED and Organic Farming which drew a lot of interest to the participants.

