



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Outreach Manager

Tel: 2124 634

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Email: info@mca-t.go.tz

MCA-T Signs Implementing Entity Agreement with NBS for Data Gathering in Water Projects

Millennium Challenge Account Tanzania (MCA-T) signed a contract with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on January 18, 2010 for the purpose of gathering baseline data necessary covering the water project components in the Tanzania Compact package using the National Panel Survey (NPS). NBS conducts the NPS on an annual basis, and MCA-T plans to make use of the survey instruments that have been developed by the NBS as well as its personnel to help gather data relevant for the water projects. The exercise to be carried out is one of the critical functions of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities designed for better efficiency in managing the outputs of the compact implementation. It will also enable the establishment of long term intervention needs through the collection of current situational information before an intervention (baseline data) and after intervention (post line data). This forms the basis for comparing intervention changes before and after intervention and hence able to determine the attributable differences to accounted as the project impact. It is through such data that one can measure development or stagnation.

In order to fit with MCA-T data gathering objectives, some questions will be added into the NPS survey instruments and the sample size increased in the MCA-T water sector intervention areas (Dar-es-salaam and Morogoro regions). Under this agreement, MCA-T will contribute a total of USD 177,290 to cover the cost for interviewing approximately 640 additional households (approximately 320 in Morogoro and 320 in Dar es Salaam). NBS will collaborate with the MCA-T Directorates of Water Sector Projects and also the Monitoring and Evaluation Department.

This is the third contract covering MCA-T's plans to gather baseline data for the three sectors, namely transport, energy and water. So far, data gathering for transport sector has been accomplished, while that for energy sector is under preparatory stages.

“MCA-T is very pleased with the involvement of the NBS in the implementation of the Tanzania Compact. With the great capacity already within the NBS we are confident that the implementation of this Agreement will be to the satisfaction of all the parties.” stated Mr. Bernard Mchomvu, MCA-T Chief Executive Officer.

It is a fact that an adequate supply of safe and clean water leads to reduced water-related diseases, more time devoted to productive activities, increased production for those sectors depending on water to produce, enhanced incomes and also acts as an enabling supply for more investments.

The improvements in the water delivery sector is part of the five-year \$698.1 million grant extended to Tanzania by the Millennium Challenge Corporation of the United States with the view to reduce poverty and stimulate growth in Tanzania.

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Millennium Challenge Account Tanzania (MCA-T) is an independent and autonomous Government Entity established to implement a \$698 million grant that will reduce poverty by improving infrastructure and thereby promoting economic growth. MCA-T is supported by Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a United States government agency designed to work with developing countries. For more information visit www.mca-t.go.tz or www.mcc.gov.