

Privatizing Rural Development in Tanzania

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Tanzania has undergone an NGO-isation of the countryside over the last decade as significant donor and INNGO funding has been poured into the creation of a national civil society structure. Large amounts of funding has become available for civil society responses to the challenges of HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children, with three main effects. First, civil society organisations have become *ad hoc* contractors for rural social welfare activities focused on ‘sensitisation’ and ‘education’ of village residents, since it is claimed they are closer to the poor. Second, this has led to the booming of a training and workshop economy in which all that is needed to deliver such contracts (HIV/AIDS prevention awareness, good governance training, how to be civil society, how to challenge stigma about vulnerable children) can be provided in short workshops. Third, where specific skills, qualifications or experience is required, local district government employees are hired by civil society. The overall effect of enrolling civil society organisations into a privatization of development based on contracting out to non-state actors and community responsabilisation is to close down space for discussion about the most sustainable way to deliver adequate social welfare and social protection.