

- **No.19**
- **Students in the streets: Civil society studies, research and governance issues on the ground in Tanzania**

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- **Abstract:**
- The project Haki Shiriki Katicka Sera Building Civil Society Capacity for Poverty Reduction is a collaborative project between the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Huron University College, Canada. It is an example of how a problem based approach to poverty reduction can engage civil society organizations in a renewal of a graduate studies program that will strengthen the relationship between academics, policy makers and civil society organizations by producing students that are conducting research needed in Tanzania. The ongoing dialogue between lecturers, researchers, and students interested in helping strengthen civil society organizations in order to improve governance is an example of a trans-disciplinary approach that provides opportunities for students in CSOs and potentially, employment and leadership opportunities in the non-governmental sector. The renewal and creation of an M.A. and PhD stream in civil society has been achieved with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency through the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. It has involved Canadian academics, undergraduate and graduate students and Tanzanian CSOs, academics, and graduate students at the Institute for Development Studies, UDSM. The values underlying this project highlight how the process of using a curriculum renewal process can lead to community dialogue with CSOs, the development of programs which address civil society issues and opportunities for students to engage with a wide range of research questions and produce knowledge with the potential to address concerns related to good governance and poverty reduction. In addition, the new studies which resulted from this process led to employment opportunities for graduates in Tanzania in the civil society sector after course work which informs their future work and research placements which strengthen the CSO sector.