Deprivation and the equitable allocation of health care resources to decentralized districts in Tanzania.

Innocent A. Semali1 and Gradeline Minja

2 1. School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Muhimbili University

College of Health Sciences

2. Tanzanian Government, Ministry of Health

Regional Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa (EQUINET)

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Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world and has significant geographical variation in economic and health indicators (National Bureau of Statistics 2001). The results of a household survey on income poverty in 2000/01 shows that 18% of Tanzanians live below the food poverty line and 35% live below the basic needs poverty line. Poverty is more severe in rural areas than in urban areas. Poor people in urban areas constitute only 13% of the country's poor people, while the rural poor account for 87%. There is also a wide variation between regions and between urban and rural areas in primary school enrolment, ranging from 85% in urban Iringa and Kilimanjaro to 40% in rural Lindi. Households in urban areas generally have higher rates of school enrolment, better access to drinking water, and higher socio-economic status. In contrast, households in remote regions and rural areas have both the worst socio-economic status and the greatest levels of social exclusion.