



MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS AND PERFORMANCE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUNDED PROJECTS IN GATUNDU NORTH CONSTITUENCY

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The main objective of the study was to examine influence of M&E systems on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency, Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to determine the influence stakeholders' participation in M&E systems; and to determine the influence of capacity building in M&E systems on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency, Kenya.

Methodology: This study adopted descriptive research design as it's aimed at explaining, how, what and why the status quo. The study targeted 12 NGCDF projects in four wards including Chania, Githobokoni, Gituamba and Mangu. A total of 200 respondents formed the unit of observation.

Findings: The study found Stakeholder participation has a direct ($\beta = .209$) relationship with performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Stakeholder participation significantly influences performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Capacity building has a direct ($\beta = .324$) relationship with performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Capacity building to significantly influences performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency

Recommendations: The study general recommends effective monitoring and evaluation systems to be adapted for the NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency and Kenya in general. Adequate and effective resource allocations, skilled personnel, thorough planning, and participatory M&E should be implemented for the NG-CDF projects.

Keywords: Participatory monitoring and evaluation, Capacity building, Stakeholders Participation, NG-CDF. Gatundu North Constituency, Project performance.

Background of the study

Over the last five financial years, the NGCDF has made key achievements to mainly the education sector and other sectors too. So far about Ksh 57 billion was allocated to NG-CDF bursary where over 6 million students were beneficiaries. The kitty has also helped in development of infrastructure in primary and secondary schools. So far over 24,000 new classrooms have been built with a capacity of 1,080,900 students. Construction of libraries, dormitories, administration blocks, pit latrines, dining halls, staff houses, police offices, staff houses for police and many more. In general education sector has been allocated about 72%, emergency 6%, security, 6%, M&E 3%, administration 6%, sports 2%, Environment 1% and 6% to others (NG-CDF, 2023). Globally, governments are faced with challenges of supervising the implementation of numerous planned projects that are meant to create a foundation for future development of the country. In Kenya, the M&E framework proposed by ministry of planning and national development hasn't been effective in monitoring of government projects. Reports from audits of the NGCDF has shown cases of stalled projects, misuse of funds, and even theft for funds meant to help aid development in the constituency. There have been cases of substandard projects, an accounted expenditure and others yet the NGCDF kitty is disbursed each financial year (Abdi & Kimutai, 2018).

Project monitoring as a continuous function involving the day to day operation during the implementation of a project or programme and is a routine measurement of programme inputs and outputs delivery, and implementation of projects, in compliance with the required procedures and achievement of planned targets, the main purpose being to indicate at the earliest instance any shortcomings with regards to achieving intended objectives so that ameliorative measures can be undertaken in good time (PMI, 2017). Stakeholder Monitoring is the process that ensures follow-up of the relations within the project stakeholders and the also the adaptation of the plans and strategies of the stakeholders' involvement (Riahi, 2017).

Statement of the Problem

The major role of NGCDF is to foster infrastructural and socio-economic growth and development which have been identified at the constituency level to be the most needful for the benefit of all community members and should tackle poverty, mitigate the inequality gap and ensure there is growth both at national and local level. This is only possible via efficient and optimal allocation of NG-CDF resources (NG-CDF, 2023). Operations of NG-CDF is not guaranteed due to management challenges, organization culture, project identification, community participation and degree of information asymmetry. Since there are varying community needs then there are conflicts among different parties that are hindering successful achievement of NG-CDF goals and objectives (Abdi & Kimutai, 2018). Due to lack of proper and effective M&E systems in place, politicians have used the kitty for political and personal gains (Ramadhani & Yusuf, 2019). Thus, the noble idea of NG-CDF has run into so many challenges especially with regard to governance hence thwarting need for efficient resources allocation.

Gatundu North Constituency since 2013/2014 has been allocated over Ksh 1,273,345,326.84 as meant for development of the constituency (NG-CDF Gatundu, 2023). NG-CDF operations such as tendering and procurement have remained questionable in Gatundu North as well as the entire country with reports of breaching the procurement Act being reported in every year by the Auditor general reports on the performance of NG-CDF (Office of the Auditor General, 2023). There has been too many notable cases of projects delays, stalled, poor quality of projects and unsatisfied communities in the project cycle (Sinteria, 2018). The CDF projects are not completed on schedule and on cost effective manner (Office of the Auditor General, 2023). According to the report of the auditor general for Gatundu North for year ended June 2021, there were a lot of inconsistencies in expenditure for unsupported bursary of Kshs 3,691, 500; Kshs 153, 367, 724 transfer to NG-CDF board, unconfirmed Project management committee balances of Kshs 4, 254, 438, irregular procurement of fuel Ksh 6, 727, 815, under expenditure

of about 30% of the budget, irregular payment of committee allowance Kshs 3,320,000, anomalies in implementation of projects. Thus, the report concluded that the internal controls and governance were not effective (Office of the Auditor General, 2023).

Objective of the study

The main objective of the study was to examine influence of M&E systems on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency, Kenya.

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To determine the influence stakeholders' participation in M&E systems on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency, Kenya.
- ii. To determine the influence of capacity building in M&E systems on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency, Kenya.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

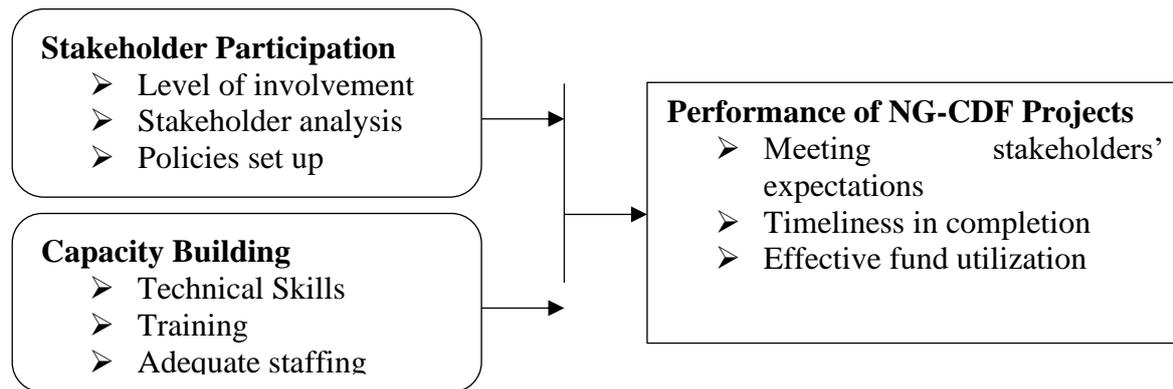
System theory traces its foundation to (Vroom, 1964). Successful achievement of desired outcomes is contingent to harmony between internal and external players failure to which project undertaking will be in vain. The theory argues that community needs assessment is based on systematic approach to heterogeneous attributes which may aid in solving community problems. As project participant's community members spearhead complex interrelationship which is crucial to project sustainability. Failure to harmonize systematic operations during project would erode odds of project success and sustainability. This is preceded by system which should have minimal resources spillage and mismanagement. This can only be achieved through healthy and harmonious communication structure between community and NG-CDF committees which may not be guaranteed due to information asymmetry among different teams (Nasambu, 2016).

Community participants ought to be accorded project analytical framework which should be in line with their organization culture and structure. The greatest concern of community members is their capacity to assess power and leadership influence clarity and understanding of sporadic groups. Operational guidelines and capacity to incorporate changes should be in line with macro and micro system operations although some may be closed such as public financial management act and open such development project sustainability though it must have clear governance guidelines to eliminate deviations from anticipated policies (Gasangwa, Mulyungi & Ndabaga, 2017). In essence, the theory was relevant in the study because there is need for identification and budgeting of resources that were used in monitoring and evaluating NG-CDF. This would be achieved through proper budgetary allocation and estimation. The theory was useful in explaining the how the variables of stakeholder participation and capacity building and how they influence performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North subcounty.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Framework

In this study the independent variables included stakeholders' participation and capacity building. The dependent variable is performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency in Kenya. Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework.

Independent Variables**Dependent Variable****Figure 1: Conceptual Framework****Stakeholders Participation**

Stakeholder's participation involves the process or activity of informing the public and inviting them to have input into the decisions that affect them (Kerzner, 2017). One way to help satisfy stakeholder concerns and promote transparency is to involve project-affected stakeholders in monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures or other environmental and social programs (Lester, 2017). Such Involvement, and the flow of information generated through this process, can also encourage local stakeholders to take a greater degree of responsibility for their environment and welfare concerning the project and to feel empowered that they can do something practical to address issues that affect their Stakeholder Involvement is an element of organizational capability that deals with stakeholder.

Participatory approach in management of organization project is crucial in decision making. It is anchored on the desire to involve those who may be affected more by specific projects. This is because failure to incorporate their input would lead to demand for their participation. Meaningful stakeholder's participation is possible when organizations are privy to how decisions in absence of stakeholders would injure their performance (Kamara & Muturi 2017). NG-CDF committees should develop measures aimed at mitigating risks associated with projects rejection or failure for it to achieve community goals. Meaningful stakeholder's engagement should be interactive, encouraging, and inclusive and would enable all parties to be ready to change (Kamau, 2017). To propel achievement of its goals then there is need for identification and legitimization of goals and interests. Further, all parties should prepare internally and align themselves with desired objectives, this would lead to trust building, consultation, response, feedback and monitoring and evaluation (Sulemana, Musah & Kaba, 2018).

Capacity Building

Capacity building is the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do their jobs competently or to a greater capacity (Argyris, 2019). Capacity building is thus, developing and strengthening of the capacity or ability. Capacity building seeks to help improve he organization performance since it's a system-wide and planned effort that is meant to help increase performance thorough planning, and purposeful actions (Nwankwo, Olabisi, & Onwuchekwa, 2017). Capacity building is the process that facilitates consolidation of capacities of a group or an organization or an individual in order to help in evolving and adopting of new changing business environments in order to remain competitive (Kwamboka, 2018). Some of the challenges related to capacity building activities include: lack of support for the activities, lack of clear understanding on capacity building, and having mixed evidence in supporting the capacity building outcomes (Wangila, 2017).

Staffing is considered to be a main concern of M&E since special training is demanded or needed which may include a combination of project management skills and research. The effectiveness of the M&E work is dependent on the staff who most of the times are not experts in M&E. Capacity building is thus crucial to ensure successful implementation of M&E. It is important to ensure there is adequate M&E support through identification of tasks and skills needed for the M&E activities, assessment of the skills of the project team members, specify the extent of local stakeholders participation, assigning of role and responsibilities to the various team members, recruitment to fill the skill gaps, identification of the training needs and areas, and giving attention to local capacity in M&E (Chaplowe, 2018). NG-CDF projects implementation is not only constrained by financial resources but also by shortage of requisite skills to be adopted in different phases of project implementation (Kinanu, 2017).

Project Performance

According to Kerzner (2017), various stakeholders evaluate project performance differently based on their expectations concerning the actual quality, cost, and time. Project performance can be measured in terms of the qualitative value the project has to the implementing organization or quantitative in terms of the earned value systems for utility and large government projects. M&E facilitates transparency and accountability of the resources to the stakeholders including donors, project beneficiaries and the wider community in which the project is implemented. Monitoring however tracks and documents resource use throughout the performance of the project. This enhances accountability in that it facilitates the demonstration of the resource use throughout the performance of the project. Monitoring also facilitates evaluation of the project meaning that in a well-designed monitoring and evaluation system, monitoring contributes greatly towards evaluation. Information from monitoring feeds into the evaluation process (Yusuf, Otonde, & Achayo, 2017).

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Stakeholders Participation and Project Performance

Aupe and Sagwa (2020) studied the influence of stakeholders in project M&E on sustainability of water projects in Kwanza sub-county in Kenya. The study targeted 32,181 households in Kwanza subcounty in Trans Nzoia County. a sample of 380 households was drawn. A descriptive survey design was adopted. The study found that there is a significant moderate positive correlation between stakeholder participation in M&E and sustainability of water projects in Kwanza Trans Nzoia County. The study recommended enhancement of stakeholder participation in M&E for sustainability of projects (Aupe & Sagwa, 2020). Kamau (2017) examined the effect of M&E in stakeholder participation on the extent of accountability of Umande Trust projects in Kibera. The study targeted 240 staff involved in the 20 bio-center projects in Kibera where a sample of 148 was drawn. The study found that through stakeholder involvement, they were able to come up with projects and the community comprising of youth, men, women, and people with disabilities were all engaged and involved in M&E of the projects (Kamau, 2017).

Capacity Building and Performance of Projects

Mbithi (2020) studied the influence of M&E on project success among NGOs in Nairobi County. The study used descriptive survey design where 100 NGOs were targeted in Nairobi County. The study focused on the strength of M&E team, M&E approach, M&E budgetary allocation and how they influence success NGOs projects in Nairobi County. The study found that the Strength of the M&E team had no significant influence on project success. The study recommended having M&E teams that are not only functional but also competent in order to improve the success of NGOs projects. Gasangwa, et al., (2017) investigated the effect of monitoring and evaluation on project implementation in Rwanda vision 2020. The study investigated the effect of strength of monitoring and evaluation team, management support, clarity of scope in M&E and frequency of stakeholders meeting on project implementation.

Descriptive research design was adopted; primary was gathered through issue of questionnaires. Frequency, percentages and Chi square were adopted for data analysis. It was found that strength of M&E, management support, clarity of scope, frequency of stakeholder's meetings had significant effect on project implementation. It was concluded that there was need to enhance strength of M&E through capacity building that was to be achieved through financial allocation and adoption of technology in M&E.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopted descriptive research design as it's aimed at explaining, how, what and why the status quo investigation on factors affecting monitoring and evaluation of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North. The study targeted 12 NGCDF projects in four wards including Chania, Githobokoni, Gituamba and Mangu. The unit of analysis was therefore the 12 NG-CDF projects. The study unit of observation included all the individuals who are involved in 12 projects in Gatundu North constituency who are 200 in total. A census was adopted where the whole population of 200 was used. The study adopted a simple random sampling technique and stratified sampling to select a representative sample for the study who included the ward representatives, NGCDF project committees, project managers, project team, and project stakeholders. The study used closed-ended questionnaires to collect quantitative data. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for analysis. Descriptive and inferential analysis were conducted.

RESEARCH FINDINGS, ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

The study distributed 200 questionnaires to respondents in Gatundu North Sub County. A total of 176 questionnaires were dully filled and returned giving a response rate of 88%. Figure 2 below shows the response rate.

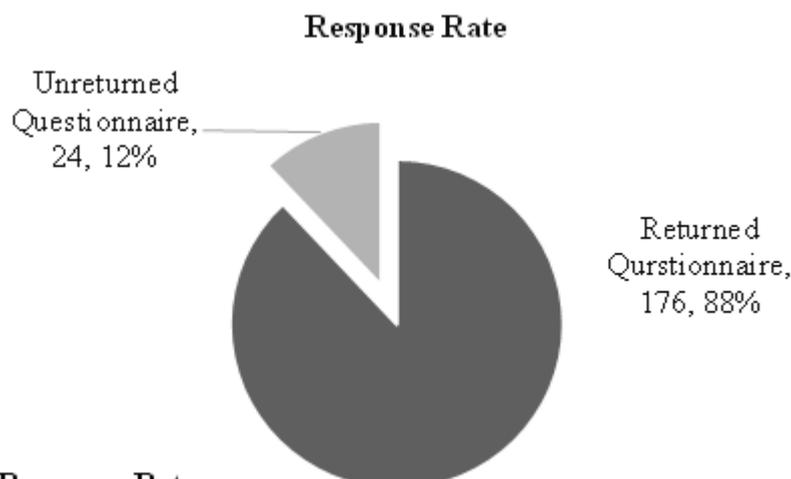


Figure 2: Response Rate

Descriptive Statistics

Respondents were requested to give their opinion on how they agreed with statements that measure the study variables. A 5-point Likert scale was used where 1= Strongly Disagreed, 2 =Disagreed, 3 =Neutral, 4= Agreed, 5= Strongly agreed. The study used measure of central tendency i.e. frequency, mean and standard deviation to describe the patterns of responses. The descriptives are as follows based on the study variables.

Stakeholders Participation

The first specific objective of the study was to determine the how stakeholders' participation in M&E systems on Performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The average stakeholders' participation was 3.50 and the standard deviation (.954). This indicates that respondents agreed on stakeholders' participation in M&E systems in Gatundu North Constituency. The statements that have Mean greater than 3.50 contribute positively to the stakeholders' participation while those that less than 3.50 do not positively contribute to

stakeholder participation. In this study, stakeholders' involvement identification of projects, participation in decision making, stakeholders' identification and analysis, adherence to participation policies need improvement since they were all below the composite mean of 3.50. Table 1 below shows the responses.

Table 1: Stakeholders Participation

Stakeholders Participation	SD %	D %	N %	A %	SA %	MN	SDV
Stakeholder are involved in identification of projects	15.9	11.9	13.6	38.1	20.5	3.35	1.357
Stakeholders participate in decision making process in project	17	11.9	21.6	28.4	21	3.24	1.370
Stakeholders are identified at the initial stages of the project	9.7	18.8	22.2	14.2	35.2	3.47	1.385
Project stakeholders are analysed based on their interests and expectations.	2.8	18.8	28.4	35.2	14.8	3.40	1.043
There are policies on how stakeholders are involved in M&E activities	2.3	4.5	20.5	36.9	35.8	3.99	.977
The NG-CDF projects ensure they adhere to policies on stakeholder participation	15.3	12.5	13.1	29.5	29.5	3.45	1.422
Stakeholder are involved in M&E process to reduces conflicts in the project.	0	16.5	27.8	37.5	18.2	3.57	.971
Average Stakeholders Participation						3.50	.954

Stakeholder are involved in identification of the NGCDF project tin Gatundu North Constituency ad agreed by 58.6% of the respondents (M = 3.35, Stdv = 1.357). It was also greed by 49.4% of the respondents that stakeholders participate in decision making process of the NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency (M = 3.24, Stdv = 1.370). The study also found that stakeholders are identified at initial stages of the NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency as agreed by 49.4% of respondents (M = 3.47, Stdv = 1.385). It was also agreed by 50% of the respondents that stakeholders are analysed based on their interests and expectations (M =3.40, Stdv = 1.043). The study also found that NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency have policies on how stakeholders are involved in M&E activities. The statement was agreed by 72.7% of the respondents (M = 3.99, Stdv = .977). It was also agreed by 59% of the respondents that NGCDF project adhere to the policies of stakeholders' participation (M =3.45, Stdv = 1.422). It was also agreed that stakeholders' involvement in M&E process reduces conflicts in the project (M = 3.57, Stdv =.971).

Zaman et al (2023) opined that stakeholder's participation in M&E is critical determining factor for the success of projects and also performance of projects across sectors. Through effective stakeholder engagement ensures that the perspectives of the those affected by the projects is captured and considered throughout the entire lifecycle of the project. The stakeholders provide insights, improved design, and also ensure transparency in decision making. Roba and Odollo (2022) underscored the importance of stakeholder involvement in M&E activities of water projects. Stakeholders' involvement helps determine the success of M&E activities since the involvement of the stakeholders also helps ensure sustainability of the project. Thus, through participatory project beneficiaries and project donors ensure the projects achieve their objectives. Wekesa and Pedo (2021) found participatory M&E significantly influenced project sustainability of youth projects in Nairobi County. Stakeholder engagement is also an important determinant of project performance.

Stakeholder participation in NG-CDF is challenging and issues such as delays in decision making, conflict of interests, resources constraints are insuperable in projects and thus, they

call for mechanisms for balance the interests of the stakeholders and also streamlining of the decision-making process in projects (Zaman, Ford, & Zagt, 2023; Roba & Odollo, 2022). It is evident that NG-CDF projects like any other projects benefit immensely from participatory M&E process. participation of stakeholders in M&E help foster collaboration, builds trust and accountability as well as ensures continuity of success in projects. In this study, stakeholders' participation in M&E activities by involvement in important project decisions, conducting stakeholder analysis to identify their interests at early stages of the projects and having policies to helps their participation in monitoring projects will help ensured there is improved project performance of the NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency.

Capacity Building

The second specific objective of the study was to determine the effect of Capacity Building in M&E systems on Performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The average capacity building was 3.59 and the standard deviation (.828). This indicates that respondents agreed on capacity building in M&E systems in Gatundu North Constituency. The statements that have Mean greater than 3.59 contribute positively to the resource allocation while those that less than 3.59 do not positively contribute to capacity building. Thus, technical skills of the M&E team, trainings based on the skills gaps, regular trainings of M&E team, experience of the team, and the approach for M&E activities call for improved. Table 2 below shows the responses.

Table 2: Capacity Building

Capacity Building	SD %	D %	N %	A %	SA %	MN	SDV
Gatundu North constituency has individuals with technical skills in M&E of NG-CDF projects.	15.9	8	10.2	38.6	27.3	3.53	1.385
The local stakeholders with technical skills on M&E are included in the M&E of the NG-CDF projects.	17	9.1	19.9	29.5	24.4	3.35	1.390
Team members are trained based on the identified skills gap on M&E	9.1	18.2	20.5	13.6	38.6	3.55	1.393
There is regular training to ensure team members have the require knowledge on matters of M&E of NG-CDF projects	2.8	16.5	27.3	37.5	15.9	3.47	1.036
There is need for continuous human capital needs development	1.1	5.1	21.6	35.8	36.4	4.01	.944
There is adequate and experience M&E team experienced personnel for its technical decisions	15.9	9.7	13.6	31.3	29.5	3.49	1.414
The approach used by the Constituency in M&E is dependent on the information needs and the interests of the stakeholders.	5.7	10.2	19.3	36.9	27.8	3.71	1.147
Average Capacity Budling						3.59	.803

Gatundu North constituency has individuals with technical skills in M&E of NG-CDF projects as agreed by 65.9% of the respondents ($M = 3.53$, $Stdv = 1.385$). It was also established that the local stakeholders with technical skills on M&E are included in the M&E of the NG-CDF projects. This was agreed by 53.9% of the respondents ($M = 3.35$, $Stdv = 1.390$). The M&E team members are trained based on the identified skills gap on M&E for the NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency as supported by 52.2% of the respondents ($M = 3.55$, $Stdv = 1.393$). It was also agreed that regular trainings to ensure team members have the require knowledge on matters of M&E of NG-CDF projects. This was supported by a majority 53.4%

of the respondents ($M = 3.47$, $Stdv = 1.036$). It was also agreed (72.2%) that the NG-CDF projects need continuous human capital needs development in M&E of the projects ($M = 4.01$, $Stdv = .944$). There is adequate and experience M&E team experienced personnel for its technical decisions as agreed by 60.8% of the respondents ($M = 3.49$, $Stdv = 1.414$). It was also agreed to a great extent (64.7%) the approach used by the Gatundu North Constituency is dependent on the information needs and interest of the stakeholders ($M = 3.71$, $Stdv = 1.147$).

Several studies have focused on M&E capacity building and performance of projects in different perspectives. In Ethiopia, Tesfaye (2019) argued that time wasted on capacity building during M&E affects the project life in terms of schedule management thus, recruiting highly qualified personnel eliminates the need for further capacity building. Projects require experienced personnel for efficiency project performance and not learners in the field. In Somaliland, Kamau and Yusuf (2024) established that team capacity in participatory M&E through training, experience and adequacy of staff is crucial for performance of livelihood projects in Somaliland. The M&E team need to possess the knowledge, skills and also capabilities to handle the M&E activities. Training and development are also important in helping the team members learn new skills in problem solving, communication, and conflict resolutions. As for the NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, having the technical skills and abilities, frequency trainings of the M&E team, and having enough personnel to the M&E activities is essential for improved performance of NG-CDF projects

Performance of Gatundu North Constituency NGCDF Projects

The aim of the study was to study was to examine the factors affecting M&E systems on Performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The average project performance was 3.37 and the standard deviation (.954). This indicates that respondents were neutral on how M&E systems influence performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The statements that have Mean greater than 3.37 contribute positively to the project performance while those that less than 3.37 do not positively contribute to project performance. In Gatundu North Constituency, stakeholders' expectations, implementation of projects within their budgets, accountability for resources utilization in the projects, and the number of completed projects provide insights for where the improvement is needed.

Table 3: Performance of Gatundu North Constituency NGCDF Projects

Project Performance	SD	D	N	A	SA	MN	SDV
	%	%	%	%	%		
M&E has ensured the project stakeholder expectations are met	24.4	12.5	14.2	22.8	42.0	53.0	81.487
M&E has ensured that timeliness in implementing and completion of NGCDF projects	1.7	12.5	19.9	31.3	34.7	3.8	51.087
M&E has ensured projects are implemented within their budgets.	14.8	21	15.3	29.5	19.3	33.1	81.360
M&E has ensured NGCDFs are effectively utilized in projects.	9.1	18.8	19.9	21.6	30.7	3.4	71.330
M&E has ensured there is accountability of how resources are utilized.	10.2	17	26.1	27.3	19.3	33.2	81.246
Through M&E the number of NGCDF projects that are completed have increased.	10.2	19.9	29.5	21	19.3	33.1	91.250
M&E has ensured the overall performance of projects has increased and thus, project meet their intended goals	2.8	22.7	20.5	27.3	26.7	3.5	21.190
Average Project performance							3.37 .954

The study found that M&E has ensured the project stakeholder expectations are met as agreed by 48.9% ($M = 3.08$, $Stdv = 1.487$). It was also agreed to agreed extent that by 66% of the

respondents that M&E has ensured that timeliness in implementing and completion of NGCDF projects ($M = 3.85$, $Stdv = 1.087$). Further, it was also found that M&E has ensured implementation of NGCDF projects within their budgets. This was supported by 48.8% of the respondents ($M = 3.18$, $Stdv = 1.360$). M&E ensured that the funds for NGCDFs are effectively utilized in development projects as agreed by 52.3% ($M = 3.47$, $Stdv = 1.330$). There is M&E accountability of resources utilized in the NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency as agreed by 46.6% ($M = 3.28$, $Stdv = 1.246$). Through M&E the number of completed NGCDF projects have increased as agreed by 40.3% of the respondents ($M = 3.19$, $Stdv = 1.250$). It was also agreed by 54% of the respondents that due to M&E the overall performance of NGCDF in Gatundu North constituency has increased and the projects meet their intended goals ($M = 3.52$, $Stdv = 1.190$).

Correlation Analysis

The findings indicated strong positive significant ($sig = .000 < .05$) correlation ($r = .741$) between stakeholders' participation and performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Thus, to some extent the stakeholders' participation has a likelihood of influencing performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The findings are supported by Zaman et al (2023) who found stakeholders' participation in M&E of Cotter Dam water supply project in Australia has significant ($sig = .000$) but weak ($r = .249$) correlation with project performance. Similarly, Roba and Odollo (2022) a strong ($r = .587$) significant ($sig = .004$) correlation between stakeholder involvement in M&E and performance of water projects in Marsabit County.

The study also indicated a strong positive significant ($sig = .000 < .05$) correlation ($r = .741$) between capacity building and performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Thus, to some extent the capacity building has a likelihood of influencing performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The findings also coincide with Kamau and Yusuf (2024) who found a weak positive ($r = .295$, $sig = .009$) significant correlation between team capacity in M&E and performance of projects in Somaliland. Similarly, Kalisa and Gathiru (2023) found capacity building had a strong positive correlation ($r = .708$, $sig = .000$) with successful handover of projects to beneficiaries in Rwanda.

Table 4: Correlation Coefficients

		Stakeholders Participation	Capacity Building
Performance of NGCDF projects	Pearson Correlation	.741**	.745**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000
	N	176	176

Regression Analysis

This study applied a multiple regression model to identify the relationship between: Stakeholders participation and Capacity Building and their influence on Performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The study checked for the direction of the relation, significance of the relationship and the extent of influence.

Table 5: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-.760	.250		-3.042	.003
1 Stakeholder Participation	.209	.085	.209	2.460	.015
Capacity Building	.324	.089	.273	3.651	.000

Stakeholder participation has a direct ($\beta = .209$) relationship with performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Thus, an increase in stakeholder participation in M&E systems by .209 will lead to an increase in performance of NGCDF projects by a unit. The relationship is significant since the p-value $.015 < .05$ and the t-statistic $(2.460) > \pm (1.974)$ further indicates the significance of the stakeholder participation on performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Thus, stakeholder participation significantly influences performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The study also established a positive statistical relationship between stakeholder participation and performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The standardized beta coefficient (Beta) also indicated the level of influence where stakeholder participation had a significant (20.9%) influence on performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency (.209). It was also the variable with the third highest influence on performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency.

Thus, as for the first specific objective to determine how stakeholders' participation influence M&E systems on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency in Kenya, the study found stakeholder participation significantly influences performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The findings concur with Zaman et al (2023) who found stakeholders' participation in M&E to be critical for successful implementation of water supply projects (Cotter Dam) in Australia. The study found stakeholders' participation had a weak correlation ($r = .249$) and explained 22% variation of performance of Cotter dam water supply project in Australia. Similarly, Roba and Odollo (2022) found a positive significant ($\beta = .531$, sig = .003) association between stakeholder involvement and performance of water projects in Marsabit County.

Capacity building has a direct ($\beta = .324$) relationship with performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Thus, an increase in capacity building in M&E systems by .324 will lead to an increase in performance of NGCDF projects by a unit. The relationship is significant since the p-value $.000 < .05$ and the t-statistic $(3.651) > \pm (1.974)$ further indicates the significance of the capacity building on performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. Thus, capacity building significantly influences performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The study also established a positive statistical relationship between capacity building and performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The standardized beta coefficient (Beta) also indicated that capacity building in M&E systems had a significant (27.3%) influence on performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency (.273). It was also the variable with the second highest influence on performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency.

Based on the findings related to the second specific object which was to determine the influence of capacity building in M&E systems on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North constituency in Kenya, the study found capacity building to significantly influences performance of NGCDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The findings correspond to Kalisa and Gathiru (2023) who found capacity building through training, skills development, knowledge transfer among the project beneficiaries significantly influence success handover of projects in Rwanda. Capacity building had a strong correlation ($r = .708$) with successful handover of projects. The variable also explained 50.1% of successful project handover. Through skills development, training, and knowledge transfer to project beneficiaries, there was successful handover of projects by leave-no-one-behind organizations. Capacity building ensures that stakeholders are active participants not passive recipients, this develops a sense of ownership and responsibility for ensuring project's success. The regression model was as follows:

Y = Performance of NG-CDF projects **X₁** = Stakeholders participation
X₂ = Capacity Building

$$Y = -.760 + .209X_1 + .324X_2 \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The study found the joint variables of M&E systems were significant in explaining change in performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The study concludes that M&E systems significantly influence performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The first specific objective of the study which was to determine the how stakeholders' participation in M&E systems on Performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The study found positive significant relationship between stakeholders' participation and performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency. The study concludes that stakeholders' engagement in M&E has a positive significant influence on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency in Kenya. Through stakeholders' involvement in the process of M&E, conduct a good stakeholder analysis to identify the interests and expectation of the stakeholders in the M&E, and setting up policies to foster the stakeholders' participation process in M&E will help ensure improved performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency.

The third specific objectives which was to determine the effect of Capacity Building in M&E systems on Performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The study found a significant association between capacity building in M&E and performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The study concludes that capacity building in M&E has a positive significant influence on performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency in Kenya. Through team members having the technical skills needed, regular training of team members, and having adequate staff for the M&E process will ensure improved performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency.

RECOMMENDATION

On stakeholder participation and performance of NG-CDF projects, the study recommends that the stakeholders at the constituency level be involved in monitoring of the NG-CDF projects. Their level of participation should not just be a formality but as enshrined in the Constitution. Most government funded projects have poor performance since there lack of participatory M&E. Since the NG-CDF projects are meant to benefit the local community at the constituency level, their voices should be that loud since they are the ones to benefit or suffer from the outcomes of the projects. This study therefore recommended a thorough participatory M&E process. Capacity building in M&E significantly influence performance of NG-CDF projects in Gatundu North Constituency, Kenya. The study recommends various stakeholders involved in the M&E should possess the skills, knowledge and capabilities need for effective M&E process. It is crucial for stakeholder to be active in monitoring the performance and implementation of the NG-CDF project rather than being passive participants who are used by the political elites to pass their agendas. The study recommends regular training of M&E teams involved in NG-CDF project to ensure they have the required skills set. Further, they should recruit team members who have the required technical capacity and knowledge on the M&E process. refresher courses and regular training will also help to ensure they current members develop their skills.

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