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LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM OF HUMAN IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY VIRUS PROGRAMME IN MSAMBWENI SUB- COUNTY, KWALE COUNTY

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Level of Funding and Performance of Monitoring and Evaluation System of Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus Programme in Msambweni Sub- County, Kwale County

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Purpose: The study sought to determine influence of funding on performance of Monitoring and Evaluation system of Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus Programme in Msambweni Sub- County, Kwale County

Methodology: A descriptive survey design was used. A total of 36 staff working in the HIV Programme were targeted because they are familiar with the M&E activities of the programme. All thirty-six staff working in the programme were used in this study as respondents. The researcher used Census survey in each facility because the number of subjects was manageable. Data was collected from the respondents using semi- structured questionnaires. The data was sorted, assessed for completeness and edited for errors, coded, and then entered into the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 where it was analysed using descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics that were used include percentages and frequencies. Data presentation was done using tables, charts and graphs.

Findings: Results revealed that the budget allocated for most of the respondents is minimal and does not favour the monitoring and evaluation system. The study concluded that lack of sufficient budget allocation has a negative impact on the performance of the monitoring and evaluation system.

Unique contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: The study recommends for more money to be generated in to the budget allocated to favour the monitoring and evaluation system. Lastly but not least the study recommends that training should be encouraged on services delivery to the programme since it have got a very high impact on monitoring and evaluation system.

Keywords: *Funding, Annual Budgets, Monitoring and Evaluation System, Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus Programme*

INTRODUCTION

Programs and projects may cost a lot of money if the process is paid before or in on-going project would as well be going after subsidizing with numerous different undertakings (Barasa & Kagiri, 2018). Policymakers should along these lines contrast the results of a program and its expenses with the goal that they can settle on the most ideal decisions for public speculations. There are two different ways to do this: money saving advantage investigation and cost-viability examination (Maleka, 2017). Developed and developing countries in recent years, have created dedicated monitoring and evaluation processes for their HIV/AIDS programme with the main objective improving the productivity. However such initiatives have not taken-off in most nations because of less financial interest in monitoring and evaluation framework, frail or badly characterized frameworks for assortment, investigation, and scattering of HIV/AIDS information, deficiently prepared information gatherers, and lacking specialized ability to change HIV/AIDS information into usable markers (Kawonga, Blaauw and Fonn 2012).

Allocation of fund towards M&E activities is often hampered by resource scarcity, competing needs with a programme and the need to conserve resources (Field et al., 2018). The public sector may decide that it is more advantageous to do a cost-benefit analysis rather than a money-saving benefit analysis on occasion, but this is only done in a few instances. So the cost-benefit analysis of a project must take into account the many nonfinancial aspects of the project that are difficult to define in simple programmatic or monetary terms. Additionally, the monitoring and evaluation plan should include actions that will strengthen the public monitoring and evaluation framework as well as a budget for these efforts (Njeru & Luketero, 2018). Undoubtedly, the Global Fund has mandated that countries invest between 7 and 10% of their entire grant money to monitoring and evaluation activities.

Monitoring and evaluation entails conducting a thorough and impartial analysis of finished or on-going activities in order to determine the extent to which they are meeting pre-determined goals (Kabonga, 2019). Monitoring and evaluation ought to be apparent all through the lifecycle of a task, just as after consummation. It gives a progression of data to inside use by directors, and for outer use by partners who hope to get results, need to see certifiable effects, and require responsibility and dependability with respect to the public area (Micah & Luketero, 2017). Governments and organizations have a responsibility to their partners, and as a consequence, they are expected to both achieve the intended benefits and have the option to provide evidence that this has been accomplished.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework is among the most important elements in a country's response to the war against Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (Bennett et al., 2015). In any organization monitoring and evaluation enables production of good-quality data to satisfy the users. M&E play the vital role of availing information regarding the outcomes and impacts of a given programme with the aim of driving improvements or justifying continued investment (Guinea et al., 2015).

For the purpose of screening the public illness or well-being framework approach to which the Global Fund award is contributing as part of the award marking process, nations are required to give their monitoring and evaluation strategy (Jain & Zorzi, 2017). This requirement ensures that all programmes that receive funding from Global Fund have a M&E framework in place. Plans for

monitoring and evaluation should be made available to the public, and they should be accessible at the conclusion of the working day. Among other things, they should contain actions that are not immediately connected to the ones that were funded by the grant (Warren et al., 2017). It is necessary for a nation to provide the appropriate information if the public monitoring and evaluation plan has not been created in sufficient depth. When it comes to countries that do not yet have a public monitoring and evaluation plan in place, Global Fund provides an explicit monitoring and evaluation plan (on an unusual basis) (Boyce et al., 2021). However the administrative Principal Recipient must show commitment towards supporting the public arrangement under which the award was made.

Systems of M&E that are accessible to the general public provide essential information on the effectiveness of implementation and funding agencies in their advising roles (Mpfu et al., 2014). In the same way, the information generated by these systems is crucial to the success of the systems that generate the information. A good M&E system must satisfy basic requirements such as clear definition of intended output and impact, clear definition of indicators and metric for evaluating outputs and impact, clear description of data collection methods, and it must be cost effective (Field et al., 2018). The need to collect adequate and comprehensive data should be counterbalanced with the value that additional accuracy or comprehensive would bring to the programme.

After the preceding section, it should be noted that national M&E frameworks in education are at varied stages of development in different areas of the globe. As a consequence of the different stages, each nation has experienced a unique set of issues and concerns that have been tailored to meet the specific requirements and circumstances of that country (Gaibo & Mbugua, 2019). It has been critical for them to deal with a varied variety of contributing components as part of their efforts to overcome these difficulties and advance the frameworks to the next higher degree. This has shown to be critical in their ability to achieve success. In addition to specific assistance, limit setting, infrastructure needs, financial resources, inter-sectorial coordination, and engagement with partners, among other aspects, it is impacted by a range of other elements (Curry, 2019). It is important to note that each element has its own set of conditions that vary from one nation and one time to the next, as well as from one country and one time to the next and across time.

If you have payment commitments under numerous programs and projects, satisfying such obligations may be a time-consuming and expensive procedure in certain cases, especially if the payment is made before or during the project's completion phase (Bao et al., 2015). This opens the door to the potential that the money will be utilized to finance a variety of additional initiatives in the future if conditions remain the same or improve from their present state. For the purpose of determining the most cost-effective choices for future public investments, policies should be evaluated both in terms of their outcomes and in terms of the costs involved with implementing those outcomes and costs (Nabukalu et al., 2020). It is possible to do this via the use of two separate methods: a cost-saving benefit study and a cost-viability analysis, both of which are detailed in further detail below.

Among industrialized and developing countries, there has been increasing agreement in recent years regarding the need of constructing an effective HIV/AIDS monitoring and evaluation framework to guide their various HIV/AIDS programs, and this consensus has become even

stronger (Peersman et al., 2009). Most countries' HIV/AIDS monitoring and evaluation systems are underfunded, HIV/AIDS information is not effectively collected and delivered, and those who collect HIV/AIDS information are not properly trained in their jobs, according to the World Health Organization. As a result of a scarcity of technical talents in this sector, HIV/AIDS information cannot be converted into indicators that can be utilized in therapeutic settings (Pham et al., 2017).

When making decisions in the public sector in order to save money, it is sometimes preferable to use cost-viability evaluation rather than money-saving benefit research when making decisions in order to save money (Tulchinsky & Varavikova, 2014). Although this is not always the case, when making decisions in the public sector in order to save money, it is sometimes preferable to use cost-viability evaluation rather than money-saving benefit research. Therefore, the cost-viability analysis should take into account the different non-financial factors of a project that are not frequently represented in rigidly structured money-related terms, such as the amount of time and effort necessary to complete the project (Rabarison et al., 2015). Program managers are responsible for predicting financial expenditures associated with the program's components in the same manner that a money-saving benefit analysis is carried out for the program's components (Franklin et al., 2020). However, the idea of sufficiency (which refers to the overall quality of a thing) may be seen as being more motherly in nature.

The plan for monitoring and evaluating should also include (and budget for) activities to improve the public system for monitoring and evaluating things like schools and government (Field et al., 2018). The information from public monitoring and evaluation frameworks is important for both the people who are doing the work and the people who are paying for it. A major goal of this lot of work has been to put the M&E framework together at the very beginning so that it can give relevant and useful data and execution input for a better plan with proof (Oplu & Muchai, 2021). The success of M&E frameworks also a lot depends on the goals and interests of the people who make them and the way they make them work (Mpfou et al., 2014). It is vital to know how such M&E frameworks and methodologies are interacting with one another for shared gain.

Theory of Change (TOC)

This study was guided by the Theory of Change (TOC) also referred to as programme theory. TOC can be traced back to Carol Weiss in her 1995 publication titled *New Approaches to Evaluating Comprehensive Community Initiatives* (Gooding et al., 2018). TOC is used to explicate how change happens as well as how programmes should be designed to drive desired changes. TOC emphasizes the design of programmes by developing causal linkage between intended outcomes, programme activities, and inputs. TOC urges programme designers to consider four essential ingredients: vision, strategy, context, and key questions. Context refers to factors such as socioeconomic conditions, existing politics, the political environment, target groups, actors, prevailing beliefs and practices, and capacity to respond to programme interventions (Vincent & Phiri, 2019).

Based on the context, the designer develops a vision and strategies that will lead to the realization of the vision. A strategy ought to capture interventions to be administered, the target for the intervention, immediate changes envisioned in each target group, intermediate changes for each target group, and long-term changes for each group (Gooding et al., 2018). When designing interventions, TOC begins by defining the intended goals and works backwards to identify

activities and inputs that will lead to the realization of the goals. Assumption regarding the desired changes should be made explicit at the programme design phase. Weiss opined that one of the main reasons as to why complex programmes are challenging to monitor and evaluate is due to the poor articulation of assumptions that inspires the programme. The term assumptions refer to the conclusion reached by stakeholders regarding the problem or situation that the programme seeks to solve (Auriacombe, 2011).

Learning should be supported during programme implementation by asking key questions about the intervention. The key questions form the basis of monitoring and evaluation (Gooding et al., 2018). TOC also emphasizes the engagement of stakeholders in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a programme. It contends that involving stakeholders brings about shared understanding of programme goals, greater cooperation among stakeholders and synergy (Vincent & Phiri, 2019). TOC provides a clear representation of how inputs and activities translate to the intended goals of the programme.

According to Gooding et al. (2018), TOC offers several advantages as an M&E framework. First, the provide a framework for indicating areas the programmes should focus on during M&E at the level of long-term and intermediate outcomes. The TOC framework helps the programme team to identify M&E information needs by indicating outcomes and stages within the impact pathway where information is needed. Secondly, TOC is more flexible than other frameworks such as Logical Framework approach because it considers multiple pathways to the desired goals (Auriacombe, 2011). This aspects help programme managers to overcome the challenges brought about by programme complexity.

The TOC framework also promotes engagement of stakeholders in the design of programme as well as the M&E system. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage and reflect on the purpose and goals of the programme (Vincent & Phiri, 2019). A major disadvantage of the TOC framework is that by considering multiple pathways to programme outcomes, it generates ambitious sets of information needs and methods that may not be feasible to implement.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey design was used. A total of 36 staff working in the HIV Programme were targeted because they are familiar with the M&E activities of the programme. All thirty-six staff working in the programme were used in this study as respondents. The researcher used Census survey in each facility because the number of subjects was manageable. Data was collected from the respondents using semi- structured questionnaires. The data was sorted, assessed for completeness and edited for errors, coded, and then entered into the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 where it was analysed using descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics that were used include percentages and frequencies. Data presentation was done using tables, charts and graphs.

RESULTS

Influence of Funding on M&E System Performance

The study found it important to find out whether there is a budget dedicated for monitoring and evaluation. Figure 1 contains the outcomes

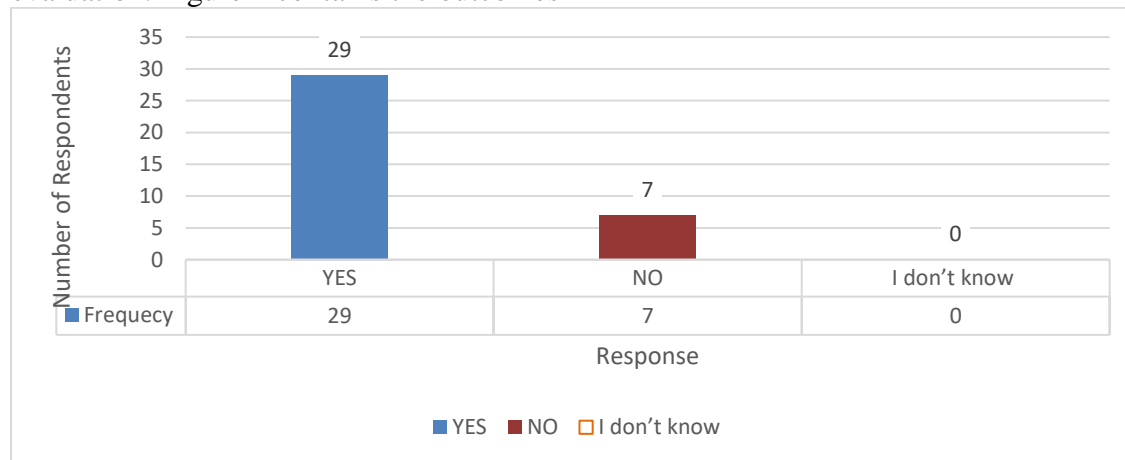


Figure 1: Influence of M&E System Performance

Source: Research Findings (2021)

The study findings exemplifies that 29 (80.5%) of the respondents said that there is a budget dedicated for monitoring and evaluation, 7 (19.4%) of the respondents revealed that no budget is dedicated for monitoring and evaluation. Majority of the respondents from the findings said that there's a budget involved in monitoring and evaluation. These findings underpin the study by Opolu and Muchai (2021), who observed that most infrastructural projects in Vihiga County have a separate budget for M&E that is independent from the overall budgets of the projects.

Budget that is allocated for Monitoring and Evaluation

The study lobbied information on what budget is allocated for monitoring and evaluation. Table 10 contains the outcomes from the respondents

Table 1: Budget that is Allocated for Monitoring and Evaluation

	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 50,000	3	8.3
50,000-99,999	20	55.5
100,000 – 149,000	6	16.6
150,000 – 199,999	4	11.1
200,000- 249,000	2	5.5
250,000 and above	1	2.8
	36	100

Source: Research Findings (2021)

In terms of budget that was allocated for monitoring and evaluation, 3 (8.3%) of the respondents said that less than shs 50000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 20 (55.5%) of the respondents said that shs 50000- 99999 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 6 (16.6%) of the respondents said that shs 100000- 149000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 4 (11.01%) of the respondents said that shs 150000- 199000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 2 (5.5%) of the respondents said that shs 200000-249000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation while only 1(2.8%) of the respondents said that shs 250000 and above is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation.

From the finding's majority stated that the budget set on monitoring and evaluation normally ranges between shs 50000 to 99000. This budget may not be sufficient for executing M&E activity for a programme of this scale. This finding echoes the study by Kimondo and Ngugi (2019) who found that the proportion of county budgets allocated to M&E activity was very little, with most counties allocating less than 1% of their total expenditure.

Respondents' Rating of Budget Allocation for M&E

The questionnaire required the respondents to rate the budget allocated for monitoring and evaluation in the programme and their reaction. Figure demonstrates the outcomes.

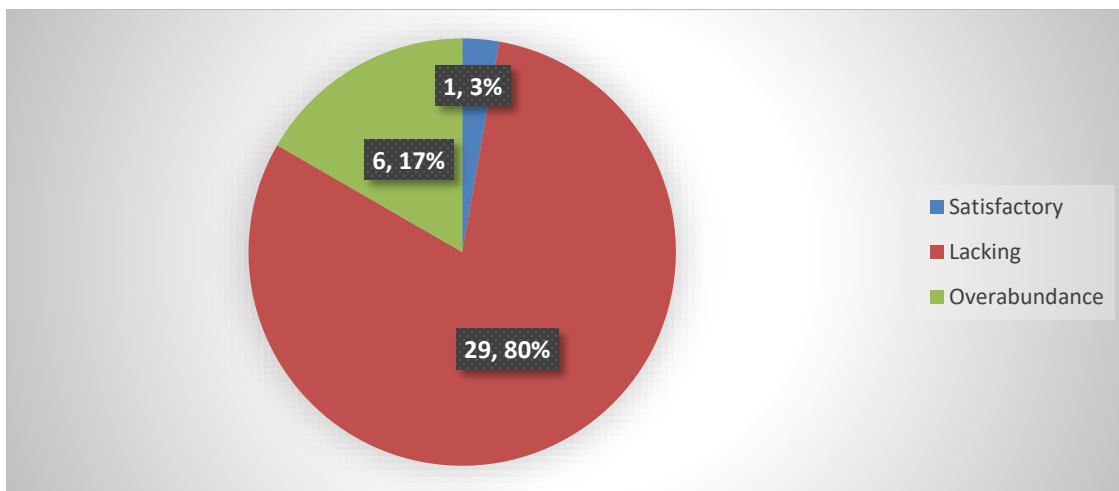


Figure 2: Respondents' Rating of Budget Allocation for M&E

Source: Research Findings (2021)

The ratings from the findings on budget allocation for monitoring and evaluation were as follows: 1(3%) of the respondents rated the budget allocation as satisfactory, 6 (17%) of the respondents rated the budget allocation as over abundance while 29 (80%) of the respondents rated the budget allocation as lacking. The findings reveal that the budget allocated for most of the respondents is minimal and does not favor the monitoring and evaluation system. The findings also resonate with the study by Opolu and Muchai (2021), who found that the majority of the respondents disagreed that the budget allocated towards M&E of infrastructure projects by the County Government of Vihiga was adequate.

Budget Allocation and M&E Execution

The study found it necessary to reveal how budget allocation impacts the execution of M&E programme. Figure 3. contains the outcomes from the findings.

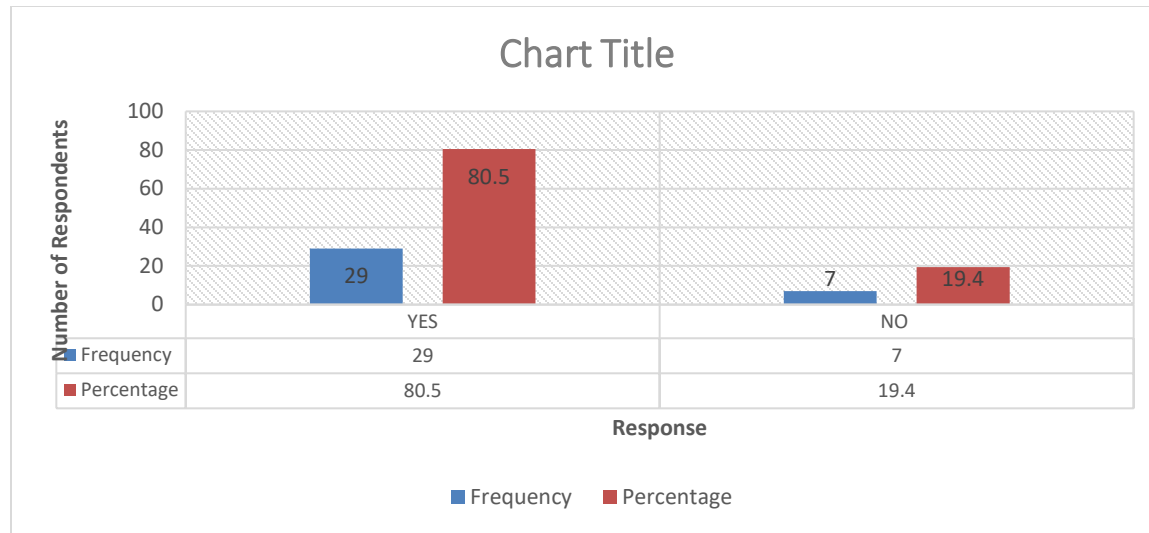


Figure 3: Impacts of Budget Allocation on M&E Execution

Source: Research Findings (2021)

It was evidence that 29 (80.5%) of the respondents revealed that budget allocation impacts the execution of M&E activities while 7 (19.4%) of the respondents argued that budget allocation does not impact the execution of observing and assessment in the monitoring and evaluation programme. Majority of the respondents found funding or rather budget allocation to be positively impacting the assessment of the monitoring and evaluation system.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The study findings in the research stated that 29 (80.5%) of the respondents said that there is a budget dedicated for monitoring and evaluation, 7 (19.4%) of the respondents revealed that no budget is dedicated for monitoring and evaluation. In terms of budget that was allocated for monitoring and evaluation, 3 (8.3%) of the respondents said that less than shs 50000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 20 (55.5%) of the respondents said that shs 50000- 99999 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 6 (16.6%) of the respondents said that shs 100000- 149000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 4 (11.01%) of the respondents said that shs 150000- 199000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation, 2 (5.5%) of the respondents said that shs 200000-249000 is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation while only 1 (2.8%) of the respondents said that shs 250000 and above is budgeted on monitoring and evaluation. From the finding's majority stated that the budget set on monitoring and evaluation normally ranges between shs 50000 to 99000. It was evidence that 29 (80.5%) of the respondents revealed that budget allocation impacts the execution of observing and assessment in the monitoring and evaluation programme

while 7 (19.4%) of the respondents argued that budget allocation does not impact the execution of observing and assessment in the monitoring and evaluation programme.

Conclusions

The study concluded that majority of the respondents from the findings said that there's a budget involved in monitoring and evaluation. When it come to the size of the budget that was allocated for monitoring and evaluation the study concluded that most of the respondent were allocated between 50,000 and 99,999. Study continued and concluded that budget allocated for most of the respondents is minimal and does not favor the monitoring and evaluation system. the researcher also went ahead and concluded that, majority of the respondents found budget allocation to be positively impacting the assessment of the monitoring and evaluation system.

Recommendations

The study recommends that size of the budget should be increase since budget allocated for most of the respondents was very minimal and didn't favor the monitoring and evaluation system.

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