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**SOCIAL AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS IN MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA**

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**ABSTRACT**

The projects funded using National Government Constituency Developed Fund in Kenya faces, time and cost overruns as well as quality issues which prompted this study to investigate the extent to which social audit has been conducted among government funded projects, and its effect on the performance taking a case of Mandera county. A descriptive approach was taken and the data was collected through semi-structured questionnaire. The study targeted 88 respondents who comprised of National Government Constituency Developed Fund committee members, wards representatives, heads of departments such as education, works, water, health, finance and audit in the sub county as well as the beneficiaries of the projects. The data analysis procedure was thematic, descriptive and inferential statistics. In this case, mean, standard deviation and regressions were used. The study found out that social accountability had a positive and significant effect on performance of NGCDF projects in Mandera county; participatory budgeting had a positive and significant effect on performance of NGCDF projects in Mandera county and community-based monitoring of NGCDF projects was also positively and significantly associated with the performance of NGCDF projects in Mandera county.

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This implies that an improvement in any of the three indicators would lead to a significant improvement in delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county in terms of scope and budget. The study recommends the project steering committee and the NGCDF committee to promote social accountability in managing NGCDF projects in order to enhance efficiency and output. This can be done by availing of audit reports, termly development information, financial reports, development reports and information calling for public participation information to the public for ease of perusal and positive criticism. The study recommends the project steering committee and the NGCDF committee to promote participatory budgeting in NGCDF projects. This can be done by making arrangements to ensure that the stakeholders take part in coming up with projects of priority in their areas, availing information calling for participatory budgeting, participatory resource allocation for identified projects, participatory project identification and availability of public forums to exchange useful information regarding costs of projects. The study also recommends the project steering committee and the NGCDF committee to promote community-based monitoring of NGCDF projects. This can be done by development of a framework for community-based monitoring of NG-CDF projects, joint NG-CDF projects impact assessments, joint NG-CDF projects reviews, joint NG-CDF projects monitoring and the use of information from M & E.

**Key Words :** *Social Accountability, Participatory Budgeting, Community-Based Monitoring, Performance of National Constituency Development Fund projects, Kenya*

## BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

National Government Constituency Developed Fund (NG-CDF) was first recommended in the year 2003 with the mandate of ensuring that there was regional development. Despite its bright vision, regional development has failed to kick start (Kerote, 2007). Infact, just two years after its inception, the fund was already marred by allegations, criticism and complains in failure to its mandate (Transparency International, 2005). Public funded projects across the globe face criticisms and mixed performance. Patanakul *et al.* (2016) cross examined the delivery of 39 projects funded by public funds across the US, UK and Australia and discovered high rates of cost overruns, quality issues and time overruns. This was despite the efforts put in to follow the described projects designs. In Europe, Locatelli *et al.* (2017) probed the characteristics of the projects which had been funded using public money. Delimiting the probe to selected countries in Europe, the study established that large infrastructure projects were the mainly hit in terms of under-delivery despite the massive support.

In Asia, Li *et al.* (2018) there was a huge loss of public money channeled towards public infrastructure projects in China. This mainly took place as a result of longer time period in delivery. The African continent is similarly not spared the backlash. In South Africa, Twum-Darko *et al.* (2015) showed that there was a high failure rate compared to private projects among public funded projects in the infrastructure sector. In a similar scenario in Nigeria Usman *et al.* (2015) agreed that the government had put in efforts to ensure delivery of public projects but the performance of the building projects in this context were below expectations. In Kenya, the Institute for Social Accountability (TISA) (2010) conducted a social audit of such projects and demonstrated that among selected constituencies, the projects were characterized by high rate of stalling. Some of the antecedents attributed to this were deficiencies in planning, absence of priority and high cases of corruption. The projects also confirmed cases of unaccountability that led to stalling rate of up to 40 percent among the NCDF funded projects (TISA, 2010).



Kibebe *et al.* (2014) demonstrated that the expose by TI two years after inception of the fund, did not yield any significant impact on project performance under the fund. As at the year 2014, the projects still demonstrated stalling and poor quality indicating that it didn't bring much change to the lives of the community members. In agreement, Ndolo *et al.* (2015) confirmed maladministration of the money and poor-quality requirements among the projects funded by it. In brief, they showed that the projects acted as a bridge through which politicians embezzled public funds. Elsewhere, Ansell and Gash (2007) has revealed that one of the ways of ensuring public value for money by reducing corruption, ensuring accountability, transparency and improving project delivery is social audit. It is an avenue towards accountability by depending on the participation of the citizens. It basically reflects an approach through which the details and information regarding a project are scrutinized by the beneficiaries of the project. The history of this practice dates back to India (Cabannes, 2004). TISA (2010) narrows down the motive behind social audit to the obligation of the project beneficiaries to bear responsibility. This is a participatory approach which documents that all the stakeholders are mandated to demand accountability from the public officials who are mandated to serve them. Its importance has been documented as promotion of civic engagement, reduced mismanagement, enhanced transparency and increased delivery (Krenjova, Raudla, 2013; Bassoli, 2012).

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Delivery among publicly funded projects worldwide experience mixed performance (Kerzner, 2017). Kenya is not different since the performance of various projects funded using NG-CDF also faces, time and cost overruns as well as quality issues (Ndolo, Malala & Njagi, 2015). This is also supported by TISA (2010) report which indicated that overall, up to 40% of the projects funded through NG-CDF in Kenya have stalled but in Mandera County, taking an example of Mandera North Sub County, approximately 56% of the projects have stalled. A report by the Auditor General 2017 indicated anomalies in the spending of public funds on NG-CDF projects, where some expenses were not verified, quality issues were raised and lack of monitoring was confirmed. Fadhil (2011) argued that when publicly funded projects experience poor performance trends, it leads to wastage of public resources, thus increasing the fiscal burden to the citizens.

TISA (2010) argued that in order to enhance the performance of public funded projects in Kenya, there is a need for social audit. Through social audit, the report indicated that, misuse is reduced, delivery quality is enhanced, irregularities are reduced, time and cost overruns are reduced, accountability and transparency are also improved. Based on the statistics indicating poor trends in the performance of the NG-CDF funded projects in Mandera, a completion rate of only 44% (TISA, 2010), there was a need to conduct this study and determine the extent to which social audit has been conducted among these projects, and its effect on performance.

### Objectives of the Study

- i. To establish the effect of social accountability on performance of National Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County
- ii. To determine the effect of participatory budgeting on performance of National Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County
- iii. To assess the effect of community-based monitoring on performance of National Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County



## THEORETICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

The study was anchored on the Rights Based Perspective theory and Public Value Theory. The Rights Based Perspective theory came to light in the year 1948, after the UN passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The theory argues that the involvement of the citizens in matters regarding public functions is their right. It has been documented by Dagino (2003) that the society needs to be involved especially when solving their problems is concerned. Societal issues such as poverty and development needs engagement, ownership and social capital. Kabeer (2005) further supported this theory by arguing that there is a need to have inclusiveness in political and administrative processes in order to realize results. There is therefore a need for the ruling class to create a society which can enable the citizens, without considering their social status, to be able to offer their views in getting solutions to problems that face them as a society.

The Public Value Theory, propounded by Moore (1995) was meant to challenge the managers in the public sector to operate like their private sector counterparts and ensure that public resources are well managed. It demonstrates that if effective management of public resources is done, then public value would easily be realized. Therefore, there is a need for the public sector managers to employ strategies in their operation to ensure efficiency in utilization of resources and achievement of public value. The theory permeates the public sector managers to efficiently use the public resources in delivery of value. It reviews the obstacles of delivery in the public sector, re aligns goals and resource apportionment to deliver value (Moore, 1995). Other ways of ensuring public value is ensuring social audit by inviting collective efforts from stakeholders, just like is the case in the private sector.

## EMPIRICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

Gigler *et al.* (2011) probed social accountability among world bank funded projects. It comprehended that having an open access to data, enhanced the accountability, transparency and performance in service delivery. In another study, Baez and Jacobs (2013) established the obstacles to social accountability. The study indicated that it's the role of the citizens to make use of their right to information, to instigate and demand a change as well as better delivery of services from the state. In Ghana, Owusu (2008) conducted a desktop review of the obstacles to social accountability in Ghanaian projects funded through public funds and ascertained that there was a lower rate of accountability given the fact that it was not easy to conduct interviews with those mandated to deliver them. Aruk (2018) focusing on projects funded by the government in the Nabdram district in Ghana, through in depth KII and ascertained absence of transparency and accountability despite presence of structures to advance the same.

Kugonza and Mukobi (2016) interrogated the participation of citizens in delivery of water projects in Uganda. It was established that access and use of information were critical in citizen participation in delivery of the projects. In the same context, Nkuutu (2008) established the role of community participation in NGO funded projects in Uganda and revealed a high awareness of citizens' rights to participation. In India, Puri *et al.* (2011) interrogated whether there was social audit among projects in the health sector and established that through public participation, extensive results were being realized across the public health fraternity. Focusing on Kenya's Busia county, Papa (2016) established the role of involving citizens at the stage of developing projects and revealed that there existed limited social networks to allow participation as well as less gender inclusion techniques. In Kirinyaga county Kenya, Ngondo (2014) interrogated whether community participation was important in delivery of development projects and established that there is a low level of participation since the project managers had not welcomed the opinion of the citizens.



Dzidic and Brackovic (2017) interrogated the involvement of the community in monitoring of infrastructural projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina and revealed that through joint M & E, the project implementing team became more responsible, objective and accountable. It also led to enhanced projects results. In Nigeria, Okereke (2009) interrogated the impact of project monitoring driven by the community on how the projects in the agricultural sector performed and revealed that most of the government funded agricultural projects excluded the public in its monitoring. Yusuf *et al.* (2017) interrogated how M & E influenced delivery of NG-CDF projects in Kajiado East subcounty and stated that for enhanced projects success, the study recommended continued community driven M & E through enhanced civic education. In a similar conceptual and contextual interrogation, Ntiniya (2016) revealed that community driven M & E led to an improvement in project success. Similarly, Rukwaro (2018) who interrogated whether strategic planning was critical in the success of NG-CDF funded projects in Nakuru County, Kenya revealed that among the critical success factors, community driven M & E, involvement of the stakeholders and availability of resources, were the main antecedents for the success of the projects.

### Conceptual Framework

#### Independent Variables

#### Dependent Variable

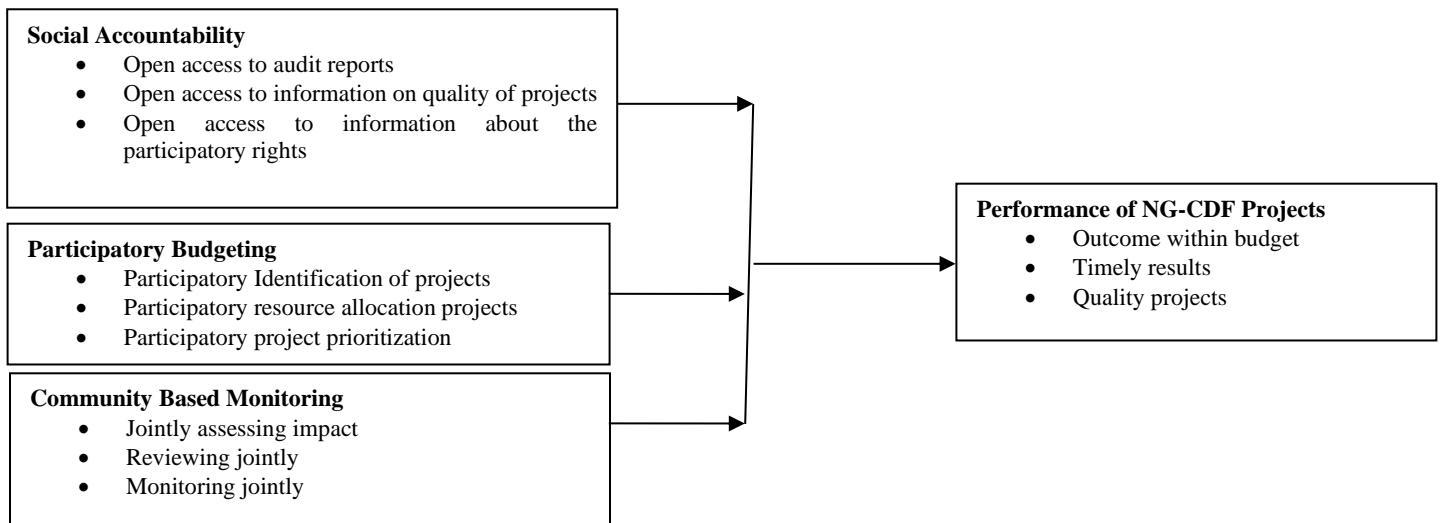


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive design was suitable in presenting a description regarding social audit and project performance. The study site was Mandera County where five wards namely Ashabito, Guticha, Rhamu, Rhamu Dimtu and Marothile were focused on. The study targeted those responsible for NG-CDF projects, that is committee members, NGCDF committee, wards representatives, heads of departments such as education, works, water, health, finance and audit in the sub county as well as the beneficiaries of the projects. In total, 88 people were targeted as shown in Table 1.



**Table 1 Target Population**

Category	Population
Project Management Committees (5 people per each of the 5 wards)	25
NGCDF Committees Members	7
Departmental Heads in the Constituency	6
Beneficiaries (10 people per each of the 5 wards)	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>

**Source: NG-CDF Office, Mandera North Constituency (2019)**

Given that the population was 88, respondents which was smaller than 200, the entire target was considered through a census. To obtain the views of the respondents regarding social audit and project performance, a semi-structured questionnaire was suitable to collect qualitative and quantitative data in a mixed methodology. The qualitative data from open-ended questions was analysed through thematic approach and presented in a narrative format. To analyze the quantitative data, quantitative methods which involve descriptive and inferential methods were used. While description of data involved means, measures of variation and percentages, inferential methods (multiple regression analysis) tested the relationships between the variables of focus. Statistical Package for Social Sciences V.24 tool was used. The presentation of the data was through tables. A multiple regression model of the form shown below was used:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon$$

Where Y –Performance of NG-CDF Projects;  $X_1$  – Social Accountability;  $X_2$  – Participatory Budgeting;  $X_3$  – Community Based Monitoring;  $\epsilon$  – Is the error term and  $\beta$  – Beta coefficients

### RESEARCH FINDINGS

The study targeted a total of 88 respondents out of which 59 responded. This translated to a response rate of 67 percent. The response rate is considered satisfactory according to Smith (2015) who supported a response rate above 50 percent as satisfactory.

#### Descriptive Analysis of Performance of NGCDF Projects

The dependent variable of the study was performance of NGCDF Projects. The respondents rated statements on performance of NGCDF Projects in a Five-point likert scale and the results are presented in Table 2.



**Table 2 Descriptive Analysis of Performance of NGCDF Projects**

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation
The quality of the NG-CDF projects has improved in the previous years	3.14	0.82
The cost efficiency of the NG-CDF projects has improved in the previous years	3.00	0.77
The time efficiency of the NG-CDF projects has improved in the previous years	3.05	0.82
The constituency has realized reduced number of collapsed projects funded through NG-CDF	2.98	0.84
The constituency has realized reduced number of stalled projects funded through NG-CDF	3.10	0.80
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>0.81</b>

The results in Table 2 indicated that for the last five years, the constituency has realised a performance improvement in NG-CDF funded projects in terms of quality, time and cost only to a moderate extent (M = 3.00 to 3.14). Additionally, the extent to which stalled and collapsed projects funded through the fund is being experienced has moderately reduced (M = 2.98 and 3.10). Overall, the performance of NGCDF projects in the county has improved to a moderate extent. The fact that the improvement is only to a moderate extent agrees with the findings of a study by Ndolo, Malala and Njagi (2015) who reported that the performance of various projects funded using NG-CDF face, time and cost overruns as well as quality issues.

Additionally, the study established the percentage approximate number of NGCDF projects completed within time and scope (Table 3). It was revealed that in the year 2018, 49% of the initiated projects were completed within scope. The figure improved to 56% in 2019 but decreased to 23% in the year 2020. The year 2020 was a challenging year because of COVID 19 and thus a number of government projects across the country stalled. The findings are however consistent with the TISA (2010) report which indicated that overall, up to 40% of the projects funded through NG-CDF in Kenya have stalled but in Mandera County, taking an example of Mandera North Sub County, approximately 56% of the projects have stalled. However, the results show an improvement in the number of completed projects within scope.

**Table 3 Percentage Number of Completed Projects within Scope**

Year	Percentage number of NG-CDF projects completed
2020	23%
2019	56%
2018	49%

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Fadhil (2011) argued that when publicly funded projects experience poor performance trends, it leads to wastage of public resources, thus increasing the fiscal burden to the citizens. TISA (2010) argued that in order to enhance the performance of public funded projects in Kenya, there is a need for social audit. Through social audit, the report indicated that, misuse is reduced, delivery quality is enhanced, irregularities are reduced, time and cost overruns are reduced, accountability and transparency are also improved. Based on the statistics indicating poor trends in the performance of the NG-CDF funded projects in Mandera, a completion rate of only 44% (TISA, 2010), there was a need to conduct this study and determine the extent to which social audit has been conducted among these projects, and its effect on performance.

### Descriptive Analysis of Social Accountability

The study sought to establish the effect of social accountability on performance of National Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County. The respondents rated statements on social accountability in a Five-point likert scale and the results are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4 Descriptive Analysis of Social Accountability**

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation
Mechanisms have been initiated to make sure that audit reports are easily accessible	2.83	0.72
Mechanisms have been initiated to make sure that termly development information is easily accessible	3.07	0.81
Mechanisms have been initiated to make sure that financial reports are easily accessible	3.03	0.79
Mechanisms have been initiated to make sure that development reports are easily accessible	3.19	0.84
Mechanisms have been initiated to make sure that calls for public participation information are easily accessible	2.98	0.84
<b>Average</b>	3.02	0.80

The results in Table 4 indicated that in the county, initiation of mechanisms to make sure that audit reports are easily accessible is to a moderate extent ( $M = 2.83$ ;  $SD = 0.72$ ), initiation of mechanisms to make sure that termly development information is easily accessible is to a moderate extent ( $M = 3.07$ ;  $SD = 0.81$ ) and that initiation of mechanisms to make sure that financial reports are easily accessible is also to a moderate extent ( $M = 3.03$ ;  $SD = 0.79$ ). It was also indicated that initiation of mechanisms to make sure that development reports are easily accessible is to a moderate extent ( $M = 3.19$ ;  $SD = 0.84$ ) and similarly, initiation of mechanisms to make sure that calls for public participation information are easily accessible is to a moderate extent ( $M = 2.98$ ;  $SD = 0.84$ ).

These findings are consistent with that of a study by Baez and Jacobs (2013) who indicated that even though it is the role of the citizens to make use of their right to information, to instigate and demand a change as well as better delivery of services from the state, social audit faces a challenge related to exchange of information between the state and the citizens. Additionally, Aruk (2018) focusing on projects funded by the government in the Nabdam district in Ghana, ascertained absence of transparency and accountability despite presence of structures to advance the same.

Asked to indicate whether the social accountability procedures are satisfactory, all the respondents, 59 (100%), agreed that there was a need for improvement. Even though they agreed that some efforts have been made, they indicated that there was a need for great improvement especially in areas of corruption tolerance, publication of financial statements





and fairness. Similarly, in a study conducted in Ghana by Owusu (2008), it was ascertained that there was a lower rate of accountability in publicly funded projects given the fact that it was not easy to conduct interviews with those mandated to deliver them. Some of the quoted responses from the beneficiary is:

*“...there completely lacks accountability in NGCDF projects in my Sub County because everyone is kept in the dark. We don't know the budgetary allocations and its efficiency and accounting... ”*

A member of the NGCDF committee on the other hand had a contrary opinion noting that even though accountability was low, the picture is not as grimly painted.

*“...the committee strives to ensure involvement and accountability. However, we accept that it's not fully implemented, efforts are being made to ensure that contracts are fairly awarded and value for money is achieved...”*

### Descriptive Analysis of Participatory Budgeting

The study also determined the effect of participatory budgeting on performance of National Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County. The respondents rated statements on participatory budgeting in a Five-point likert scale and the results are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5 Descriptive Analysis of Participatory Budgeting**

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation
There is involvement of the citizens in prioritization of projects	3.22	1.00
The information regarding participatory budgeting is well publicized	3.36	0.96
Budgeting for delivery of agreed projects is participatory	3.24	0.92
Identification of priority projects is jointly conducted	3.98	0.99
Sharing of information is publicly done through public forums	3.05	0.82
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>0.94</b>

It was established (Table 5) that in Mandera county, the stakeholders take part in coming up with projects of priority in their areas to a moderate extent (M = 3.22; SD = 1.00), the information regarding participatory budgeting is well publicized to a moderate extent (M = 3.36; SD = 0.96) and participatory resource allocation for identified projects is done to a moderate extent (M = 3.24; SD = 0.92). The results further indicated that participatory project identification is done to a high extent (M = 3.98; SD = 0.99) but availability of public forums to exchange useful information regarding costs of projects is to a moderate extent (M = 3.05; SD = 0.82). Generally, participatory budgeting has been achieved to a moderate extent.

In a related study, Kugonza and Mukobi (2016) interrogated the participation of citizens in delivery of water projects in Uganda and established that indeed access and use of financial information were critical in citizen participation in delivery of the projects but the information on such projects was not readily available. Additionally, the study by Smith (2011) indicated that in South Africa, public participation was hindered by unavailability of information from the government which faced frustrations from politicians and state officials.

Asked to explain the satisfaction level with the existing participatory budgeting procedures, there was mixed responses whereby while the beneficiaries indicated that they were not involved in most cases, the NGCDF committee members on the other hand indicated that they strived to make calls for publication participation. However, the clear picture is that



participatory budgeting was inadequate. The findings are consistent with that of a study by Nkuutu (2008) who established the role of community participation in NGO funded projects in Uganda and documented that the extent of participation was limited especially in the planning stage. Some of the quoted responses from the beneficiary is:

*“...the participatory budgeting process is shrewd in darkness. No one knows when and how various projects and their budgets are come up with. In addition, no information has ever been published for public participation and even if you happen to come across some, there is no information on public finances, as a result, there is no need to follow-up ...”*

On the contrary, the NGCDF committee members were of a different opinion indicating that, the area residents are highly illiterate and they may not be able to have come across the information being displayed on the notice board.

*“...we have always made sure that we involve the public before any budgeting process as is the requirement by law. When we display calls for public participation on notice boards, surprisingly, most people don't turn up. Additionally, the area being highly nomadic, most of the people are pastoralists who may not be available to share their opinion...”*

### Descriptive Analysis of Community Based Monitoring

The study assessed the effect of community-based monitoring on performance of National Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County. The respondents rated statements on community-based monitoring in a Five-point likert scale and the results are presented in Table 6.

**Table 6 Descriptive Analysis of Community Based Monitoring**

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation
The administration has put in place a framework for community-based monitoring of NG-CDF projects	3.10	0.80
There is joint NG-CDF projects impact assessments in the constituency	2.92	0.70
The administration has put in place a framework for community-based project reviews	3.00	0.77
The administration has put in place a framework for community-based project evaluation	2.81	0.80
The administration has put in place a framework for effective use of M & E information	3.00	0.77
<b>Average</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>0.77</b>

It was established (Table 6) that a framework for community-based monitoring of NG-CDF projects has been developed to a moderate extent ( $M = 3.10$ ;  $SD = 0.80$ ), joint NG-CDF projects impact assessments in the constituency are being conducted to a moderate extent ( $M = 2.92$ ;  $SD = 0.70$ ) and joint NG-CDF projects reviews in the constituency are being conducted to a moderate extent ( $M = 3.00$ ;  $SD = 0.77$ ). Furthermore, joint NG-CDF projects monitoring in the constituency is being conducted to a moderate extent ( $M = 2.81$ ;  $SD = 0.80$ ) and the use of information from M & E to improve on project outcome is being conducted to a moderate extent ( $M = 3.00$ ;  $SD = 0.77$ ). Overall, there is an agreement that community-based monitoring is being conducted to a moderate extent. A similar study was conducted by Okereke (2009) to interrogate the impact of project monitoring driven by the community on how the projects in the agricultural sector performed. It was revealed that most of the government funded agricultural projects excluded the public in its monitoring. As a result, it was documented that this sector had continued to perform below expectations.



Asked to explain the satisfaction level with the existing practices on community-based monitoring, majority of the respondents, 89%, apart from some NGCDF committee members, revealed that community-based monitoring was absent. The respondents indicated that monitoring of the NGCDF projects was a preserve of a few and not any citizen. However, the NGCDF committee members felt that since there is a representative committee, there was no need of additional citizens since it would inconvenience delivery. They however indicated that it should be considered.

The findings agree with that of a study by Yusuf *et al.* (2017) which interrogated how M & E influenced delivery of NGCDF projects in Kajiado East subcounty and established that community driven M &E was not widely practiced because of lack of training. Some of the quoted responses from the beneficiary is:

*“...community-based monitoring is a vocabulary but not a reality as far as NGCDF projects in this Sub County is concerned. As earlier indicated, there is nothing like participatory decision making in most projects funded by NGCDF but is normally conducted by a few members who are close to the leaders ...”*

On the contrary, the NGCDF committee members were of a different opinion indicating that, even though important, no law bound them to community-based monitoring. Additionally, it would be hard to implement it given the inadequate regulatory framework and the pastoralist life of the citizens.

*“...even though it’s an important suggestion, the existing regulatory framework is inadequate to advance such actions. As at the moment, we use the committee to monitor and it is already satisfactory and representative enough selected through a legal and competitive process as stipulated in the law...”*

### Regression Analysis

A regression analysis was used to establish the effect of social audit (Social Accountability, Participatory Budgeting, Community Based Monitoring) on performance of National Government Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County. In a regression analysis, the results show the model summary, ANOVA and model coefficients. Table 7 shows the model summary.

**Table 7 Model Summary**

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
.756	0.571	0.547	0.247

Predictors: (Constant), Social Accountability, Participatory Budgeting, Community Based Monitoring

The results indicate that social audit (Social Accountability, Participatory Budgeting, Community Based Monitoring) explain up to 57.1 percent of the performance of National Government Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County ( $R^2 = 0.571$ ). This implies that other factors other than social audit can contribute to the remaining percentage. However, it can be argued that social audit is significant determinant of National Government Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County. The regression model fitness was also established and presented in Table 8.



**Table 8 ANOVA**

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	4.467	3	1.489	24.381	.000
Residual	3.359	55	0.061		
Total	7.826	58			
Dependent Variable: NGCDF projects Performance					
Predictors: (Constant), Social Accountability, Participatory Budgeting, Community Based Monitoring					

The ANOVA model results for model fitness as shown in Table 8 shows that the regression model to predict the effect of social audit (Social Accountability, Participatory Budgeting, Community Based Monitoring) on performance of National Government Constituency Development Fund projects in Mandera County was a good fit (Sig < 0.05). This shows that the regression model was suitable in establishing the effect of social audit. The conclusions arising from the model are satisfactory. The regression model coefficients were also established and presented in Table 9.

**Table 9 Regression Model Coefficients**

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-0.412	0.412		-1.002	0.321
Social Accountability	0.318	0.075	0.378	4.25	0.000
Participatory Budgeting	0.408	0.087	0.442	4.659	0.000
Community Based Monitoring	0.382	0.092	0.396	4.16	0.000
<b>Dependent Variable: NGCDF projects Performance</b>					

The model coefficients result in Table 9 illustrates that social accountability has a positive and significant effect on performance of NGCDF projects in Mandera county ( $\beta = 0.318$ ; P-Value < 0.05). This implies that continued improvement of social accountability structures is associated with improved delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county in terms of scope and budget. The findings are consistent with that of a study by Gigler *et al.* (2011) who probed social accountability among world bank funded projects and comprehended that having an open access to data, enhanced the accountability, transparency and performance in service delivery.

The model coefficients result in Table 9 also established that participatory budgeting has a positive and significant effect on performance of NGCDF projects in Mandera county ( $\beta = 0.408$ ; P-Value < 0.05). This implies that continued involvement of the public in budgeting is associated with a significant improvement in delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county in terms of scope and budget. A related in India by Puri *et al.* (2011) revealed that through public participation, extensive results were being realized across the public health fraternity. The findings are also consistent with that of a study by Ngondo (2014) which interrogated whether community participation was important in delivery of development projects in Kirinyaga County and established that where public participation has been included, the results have been massive with less cost overruns in projects.



The model coefficients result further demonstrated that community-based monitoring of NGCDF projects is positively and significantly associated with the performance of NGCDF projects in Mandera county ( $\beta = 0.382$ ; P-Value  $< 0.05$ ). This implies that continued involvement of the community in monitoring of the NGCDF projects is associated with a significant improvement in delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county in terms of scope and budget. A study by Dzidic and Brackovic (2017) also interrogated the involvement of the community in monitoring of infrastructural projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina and established that it made the project implementing team became more responsible, objective and accountable leading to enhanced projects results. Additionally, a study by Rukwaro (2018) on whether strategic planning was critical in the success of NG-CDF funded projects in Nakuru County, Kenya indicated that among the critical success factors, community driven M & E, involvement of the stakeholders and availability of resources, were the main antecedents for the success of the projects.

## **CONCLUSION**

It was concluded that continued improvement of social accountability structures is associated with improved delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county in terms of scope and budget. Such accountability practices are availability of audit reports, termly development information, financial reports, development reports and information calling for public participation information. Another conclusion is that continued involvement of the public in budgeting is associated with a significant improvement in delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county in terms of scope and budget. Such practices are arrangements to ensure that the stakeholders took part in coming up with projects of priority in their areas, access to information calling for participatory budgeting, participatory resource allocation for identified projects, participatory project identification and availability of public forums to exchange useful information regarding costs of projects.

The study also concluded that based on the study findings was that continued involvement of the community in monitoring of the NGCDF projects is associated with a significant improvement in delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county in terms of scope and budget. Community based practices are development of a framework for community-based monitoring of NG-CDF projects, joint NG-CDF projects impact assessments, joint NG-CDF projects reviews, joint NG-CDF projects monitoring and the use of information from M & E to improve on project outcome.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Given that continued improvement of social accountability structures is associated with improved delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county, the study recommends the project steering committee and the NGCDF committee to promote social accountability in managing NGCDF projects in order to enhance efficiency and output. This can be done by availing of audit reports, termly development information, financial reports, development reports and information calling for public participation information to the public for ease of perusal and positive criticism.

Since it was established that continued involvement of the public in budgeting is associated with a significant improvement in delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county, the study recommends the project steering committee and the NGCDF committee to promote participatory budgeting in NGCDF projects. This can be done by making arrangements to ensure that the stakeholders take part in coming up with projects of priority in their areas, availing information calling for participatory budgeting, participatory resource allocation for identified projects, participatory project identification and availability of public forums to exchange useful information regarding costs of projects.



Based on the findings that continued involvement of the community in monitoring of the NGCDF projects is associated with a significant improvement in delivery of NGCDF projects in Mandera county, the study recommends the project steering committee and the NGCDF committee to promote community-based monitoring of NGCDF projects. This can be done by development of a framework for community-based monitoring of NG-CDF projects, joint NG-CDF projects impact assessments, joint NG-CDF projects reviews, joint NG-CDF projects monitoring and the use of information from M & E to improve on project outcome.

### **CONFLICT OF INEREST**

No potential conflict of interest was recorded by the authors.

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