
Monitoring and Evaluation Practices and Performance of Cash Transfer Programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya

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Abstract

Currently, Kenya's main cash transfer programs reach, directly or indirectly, an estimated 7.5% of the total child Population. Despite progress in expanding the number of beneficiaries, Kenya's cash transfer does not yet reach the vast majority of persons with severe disabilities in the poorest wealth Quintiles, even though coverage is pro-poor. This study sought to establish the influence of M&E budget and M&E reporting on the performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. This study used a descriptive research design. The study targeted cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya, focusing on four major initiatives under the Inua Jami framework across all 17 constituencies. The target population consisted of NG-CDFC committee members and programme beneficiaries, totalling 204 respondents. Using the Yamane (1967) formula, a sample of 135 respondents was selected for the study. The study used a stratified random sampling technique in choosing the sample size of targeted respondents. This study used questionnaires to collect primary data. Quantitative data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques. Inferential statistics were used to test the relationship between study variables. Data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The study results were presented through the use of tables. The study concludes that M&E budget and M& E Reporting have a positive and significant effect on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. Organizations implementing cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County should prioritize adequate allocation of funds specifically for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities and establish robust M&E reporting frameworks that emphasize accurate data collection, timely reporting, and effective information dissemination. Government and relevant regulatory bodies should develop and enforce policies that support effective M&E practices in cash transfer programs.

Keywords: *M&E Budget, M&E Reporting, Performance of Cash Transfer Programs*

INTRODUCTION

Cash transfer is a non-contributory payment system targeting poor and vulnerable people in society, done regularly and predictably to help them uplift their lives. Cash transfer programs range from social pensions, public works programs, to child grants (DFID, 2015). In most developing countries, cash transfer programs are expected to provide a wide range of benefits to beneficiaries, including social protection and decent livelihoods. Cash transfers have been in

existence for a long time. Managed by public authorities, cash transfers sourced from taxes to poor people were already in place in several countries in Europe by the early years of the last century, complementing other forms of social assistance, such as free education and subsidised health care and housing. Eventually, Cash transfers programmes spread across the Atlantic to the USA and Canada and to other parts of the world, such as Australia and South Africa, towards the middle of the last century and brought with them a more emphasis on the aspect of utilization of resources by beneficiaries (Dwyer et al., 2022).

In all types and forms of projects, be it in the private or public sector, performance is considered a crucial element. For success to be attained in projects, it is essential for stakeholders to create a well-thought out project schedule in addition to having a comprehension of the main success factors (Gido, Clements & Clements, 2019). This enables the project staff and other stakeholders to make the right judgment that contributes towards the success of projects. Among the most used measures for success of projects that have been researched by various scholars include: time, cost of the project, quality, stakeholders' perspective, achievement of set objectives (Gido, Clements & Clements, 2019). Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a continuous management function to assess if progress is made in achieving expected results, to spot bottlenecks in implementation and to highlight whether there are any unintended effects (positive or negative) from an investment plan, programme or project (“project/plan”) and its activities. This study, therefore, sought to assess the influence of monitoring and evaluation practices on performance of cash transfer programs.

Cash transfer programs have been implemented in Kenya for many years in various forms that include both non-contributory and contributory schemes. These schemes were given an impetus by the 2006 African Union meeting in Livingstone, Zambia, following which the Government of Kenya initiated a wide consultative process to formulate a National social protection framework. Poverty, disease and ignorance were identified as critical challenges facing Kenya at the time of independence. Considerable success has been achieved in addressing some challenges, but poverty and vulnerability remain major challenges to the majority of Kenyans (Ng'ang'a & Khaoya, 2025). This is particularly prevalent in rural areas and slums of major towns. To people living with disabilities, the situation is more deplorable. Besides poverty and illiteracy, people with disabilities experience more suffering, including poor health, discrimination and stigmatization. Disability is a disadvantage and exclusion which arises as an outcome of the interactions between people and barriers they face due to the failure of society to take into account their rights and needs. According to VSO (2021), these impairments includes and not limited to, physical, intellectual, mental or sensory characteristics or condition which place limitations on an individual's personal or social functioning. It has been argued that disability is a social problem. It is the exclusion of people with impairments due to social and environmental discrimination that acts as a barrier to their full and equal participation equally or equitably in mainstream society.

According to the Kenya National Survey on Persons with disabilities, 2006, 46% of Kenyans experience some form of disability. More disabled people reside in rural areas, 65% of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) regard the environment as a major problem in their daily lives (National Coordinating Agency for Population and Development [NCAPD], 2008). Kenya. According to the 2009 population census in Kenya, 3.5% of Kenya's population is PWDs. They are disproportionately represented among the world's poor, and tend to be poorer than their counterparts without disabilities. It is estimated that 1 in every 5 people in the world is a PWD. Kenya's Vision 2030 provides a long-term development framework and initiatives aimed at

sustaining rapid economic growth and tackling poverty and combating discrimination faced by various groups, including people with disabilities.

The Bill of Rights states that the dignity of individuals and communities is recognized and protected, including their fundamental freedoms, to preserve and promote of all human beings (The Constitution of Kenya, 2010). The Draft national disability policy 2006, currently under discussion in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, recognises disability as a development issue. Consequently, it acknowledges the rights of persons with disabilities to development and the need to address factors that push them into absolute poverty (Disability Act 2005 version 2015). There is a link between poverty and disability that creates a vicious cycle: poverty leads to disability and disability often leads to poverty.

The government of Kenya has progressively made deliberate efforts to mainstream and integrate persons with disabilities in national development (Odhiambo-Abuya & Owuor, 2025). The PWSD-CT program was established in the year 2010 to enhance the capacities of livelihoods of PWSDs and mitigate the effects of disability to the household. The program was designed and planned at the national level. The project targeted a total of 2,100 beneficiaries across the then 210 constituencies. It was then scaled up to cover 14,700 beneficiaries in the years 2011 and 2012. In the years 2013 and 2014, the program enrolled an additional 12,500 new beneficiaries, bringing the total to a total of 27,200 beneficiaries. In the year 2015/2016, the program expanded to cover 47,000 beneficiaries.

Statement of the problem

Cash transfer programmes in Kenya have become a critical pillar of the country's social protection framework, targeting vulnerable groups such as older persons, orphans and vulnerable children, and persons with severe disabilities. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2023), approximately 36.1% of Kenyans live below the national poverty line, with higher vulnerability levels observed in urban informal settlements such as those in Nairobi City County. In addition, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2022) estimates that over 8.6 million children in Kenya require social protection support, while about 1 million persons live with disabilities, many of whom face significant socio-economic challenges.

Despite the expansion of key government programmes such as the Older Persons Cash Transfer (OP-CT), Orphans and Vulnerable Children Cash Transfer (OVC-CT), and Persons with Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer (PWSD-CT), coverage remains limited. Reports by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya (2020) indicate that cash transfer programmes collectively reach less than 10% of the eligible vulnerable population, with significant exclusion errors particularly among persons with severe disabilities. Furthermore, the programmes provide a uniform transfer of Kshs. 2,000 per household per month, which does not adequately account for differences in household size or levels of vulnerability, thereby limiting their effectiveness in addressing poverty (World Bank, 2022).

Although substantial resources have been invested in these programmes, existing studies and policy evaluations have primarily focused on programme coverage, targeting efficiency, and adequacy of benefits, with limited emphasis on the role of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices in enhancing programme performance (World Bank, 2022; UNICEF, 2022). In particular, most evaluations emphasize output indicators such as beneficiary numbers and funds disbursed, while insufficient attention is given to outcome and impact evaluation, creating a significant conceptual gap in the literature. Moreover, there is a lack of empirical evidence examining specific components of M&E systems, including M&E budget allocation and reporting mechanisms, and how these factors individually influence programme performance.

Existing studies tend to treat M&E as a generalized concept without disaggregating its functional elements, thereby creating an empirical gap (KNBS, 2023).

In addition, despite Nairobi City County being a major urban center with high levels of inequality and informal settlements, few context-specific studies have examined the effectiveness of cash transfer programmes within this setting, indicating a geographical gap. According to the World Bank (2023), urban poverty in Nairobi is characterized by high living costs, unemployment, and inadequate social services, which may influence programme outcomes differently compared to rural areas. Furthermore, while monitoring data is routinely collected within cash transfer programmes, there is limited evidence on how this data is utilized for decision-making, learning, and programme improvement, highlighting a practical gap between M&E implementation and programme performance outcomes (KNBS, 2023).

Therefore, this study seeks to address these gaps by establishing the influence of monitoring and evaluation practices, specifically M&E budget, and reporting on the performance of cash transfer programmes in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Objectives of the Study

The main focus of this study is to establish the influence of monitoring and evaluation practices on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Specific Objectives

- i. To establish the influence of M&E budget on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya
- ii. To analyze the influence of M&E reporting on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

Resource Dependency Theory

Resource Dependency Theory (RDT), developed by Pfeffer and Salancik (1978), is a theoretical framework in organizational studies that explains how organizations depend on external resources to survive, grow, and achieve their goals. The theory highlights the complex interdependencies between organizations and their external environment, emphasizing the role of power, uncertainty, and resource scarcity in shaping organizational behavior and strategies (Umwari et al., 2021).

Central to Resource Dependency Theory is the concept of dependency relations. RDT posits that organizations depend on external entities, such as suppliers, customers, regulators, and competitors, for critical resources such as capital, information, technology, and legitimacy. These dependency relations create asymmetrical power dynamics, as organizations seek to minimize vulnerability and maintain control over essential resources. Suppliers, for instance, can exert influence over organizations by controlling the supply of raw materials or crucial components, while customers can dictate market demand and pricing. Another key aspect of RDT is the recognition of resource scarcity and uncertainty in the external environment. Resources are finite and unevenly distributed, leading to competition and uncertainty for organizations. To navigate these challenges, organizations adopt various strategies, such as forming strategic alliances, diversifying their resource base, and building resilience to external shocks. By anticipating and adapting to resource scarcity and uncertainty, organizations can enhance their survival and competitiveness in dynamic environments (Simuyu & Okwoyo, 2023). This theory is relevant in establishing the influence of M&E budget on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Theory of Change

The Theory of Change (ToC), founded by Weiss in 1995, is a comprehensive methodology that outlines the steps needed to bring about a desired social change. At its core, ToC provides a roadmap that connects interventions, outcomes, and long-term goals. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the causal pathways between actions and impacts, thereby guiding program planning, implementation, and evaluation. This approach is particularly common in the realm of social and development programs where complex and systemic changes are sought (Kabelele & Musabila, 2020).

The Theory of Change (ToC) is built upon several key assumptions that underpin its methodology and approach to creating social impact. Firstly, ToC assumes that social change is achievable through intentional action and intervention. It operates on the belief that by understanding the causal pathways between inputs, activities, outcomes, and impacts, organizations can effectively plan and implement strategies to bring about desired changes. This assumption is grounded in the idea that social problems are not immutable or insurmountable but can be addressed through concerted efforts and interventions informed by evidence and analysis. Secondly, ToC assumes a degree of predictability in the relationship between actions and outcomes. It posits that by identifying and mapping out the intermediate steps between interventions and impacts, organizations can anticipate and measure progress towards their goals. This assumption forms the basis for monitoring and evaluation frameworks within ToC, which rely on the premise that changes in inputs and activities will lead to observable changes in outcomes and impacts over time. However, it's important to note that this assumption is not always accurate, particularly in complex and dynamic social systems where outcomes may be nonlinear and influenced by numerous interacting factors (Nahimana & Shukla, 2022). This theory is relevant in analyzing the influence of M& E reporting on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework refers to a diagrammatic set of interrelated ideas on a particular phenomenon and it's characterized by cause and effect relationships, which helps interpret more and hence making it easily understandable. This makes it more straightforward and also easily predictable Guntur, 2019). It is a diagram that explains the relationship between dependent and independent variables.

Independent Variables

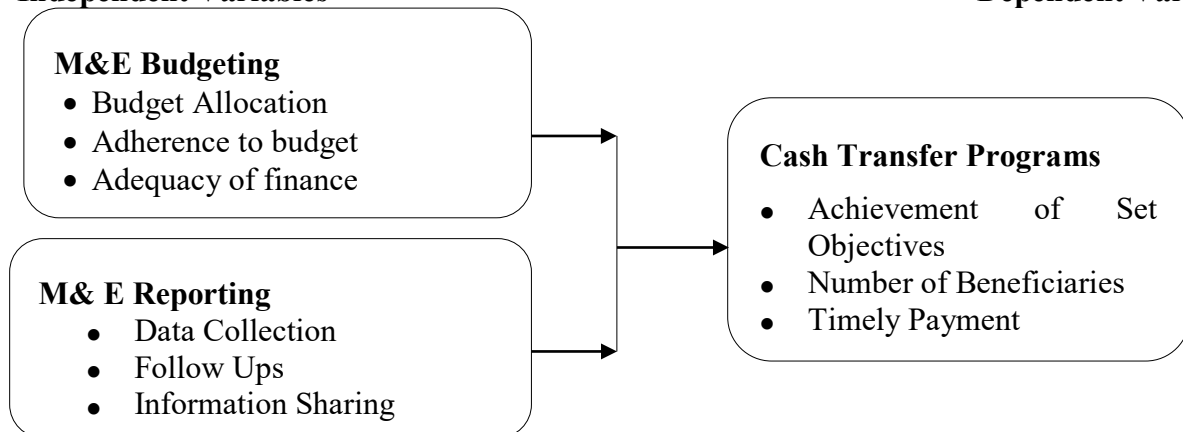


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

M&E budget

An M&E budget is a financial plan that outlines the estimated costs associated with monitoring and evaluating a project, program, or policy (Umwari et al., 2021). This budget is essential for ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated to track the progress, outcomes, and impact of activities, enabling informed decision-making and accountability. Budget allocation in the context of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) involves distributing available financial resources across various M&E activities to ensure comprehensive and effective monitoring and evaluation processes. This requires a detailed understanding of the project's scope, objectives, and key performance indicators. Allocating the budget efficiently involves prioritizing essential activities, such as data collection, analysis, and reporting, and ensuring that sufficient funds are directed towards critical areas. Effective budget allocation also considers the need for flexibility, allowing for adjustments as project needs evolve or unexpected challenges arise (Simuyu & Okwoyo, 2023).

Adherence to the budget is crucial for maintaining financial discipline and ensuring that M&E activities are conducted within the planned financial limits. It involves regular monitoring and reviewing of expenditures to ensure they align with the budgeted amounts. This can be achieved through robust financial management systems and periodic financial audits, which help identify any deviations from the budget and prompt corrective actions. The adequacy of finance determines whether an organization has sufficient funds to meet its operational and strategic needs. Adequate financing is essential for smooth operations, growth, and the ability to seize new opportunities. It involves assessing the funding requirements accurately and securing necessary resources through various means, such as revenue generation, loans, grants, or investments. Inadequate finance can lead to project delays, compromised quality, and missed opportunities, while excess funds without proper allocation can result in inefficiencies (Amai & Ruguru, 2022).

M& E reporting

M&E reporting refers to the process of documenting and communicating the findings, results, and insights derived from monitoring and evaluation activities (Kabelele & Musabila, 2020). It involves compiling data, analyzing information, and presenting key findings in a clear, concise, and accessible format. M&E reporting serves several purposes, including informing stakeholders about the progress, performance, and impact of a project, program, or policy, as well as facilitating evidence-based decision-making, learning, and accountability (Nahimana & Shukla, 2022).

Data collection is a fundamental component of any monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process, involving the systematic gathering of information to assess the progress, performance, and outcomes of a project, program, or intervention. It encompasses various methods, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, and document reviews, tailored to the specific objectives and context of the evaluation. Effective data collection begins with clear planning, including defining key indicators, designing data collection tools, and establishing protocols for data management and quality assurance. Follow-ups in the context of M&E refer to the process of tracking and revisiting data collection activities and evaluation findings over time to assess progress, address gaps, and identify changes or trends. Follow-ups are essential for ensuring the continuity and relevance of monitoring and evaluation efforts, particularly in long-term projects or programs with evolving dynamics. Follow-up activities may include revisiting survey respondents or interviewees for additional information, conducting site visits to verify data, or

reviewing interim findings to inform mid-course corrections or adjustments to program implementation (Okore & Kibet, 2020).

Information sharing is a key mechanism for disseminating evaluation findings, lessons learned, and best practices to relevant stakeholders, fostering transparency, accountability, and learning in M&E processes. Effective information sharing involves communicating evaluation results in a timely, accessible, and user-friendly manner, tailored to the needs and preferences of diverse audiences. This may include preparing comprehensive evaluation reports, summaries, infographics, or presentations, and disseminating them through various channels such as websites, newsletters, workshops, or conferences. Information sharing also involves engaging stakeholders in dialogue and discussion to contextualize findings, clarify interpretations, and solicit feedback for future improvement (Kiprotich, 2022).

Empirical Review

M&E Budget and Project Performance

Wasswa et al (2021) conducted a study on budget allocation and effectiveness of M&E systems in humanitarian organizations in Uganda: a case of Kyaka II and Kyangwali. The study employed a quantitative approach using a cross-sectional study design with some qualitative element. 77 respondents were carefully chosen using different sampling techniques. The study found a strong, positive, and significant relationship between budget allocation and M&E effectiveness. The study concluded that budget allocation for M&E activities influences the effectiveness of M&E systems of organizations in Kyaka II and Kyangwali refugee response.

Umwari et al. (2021) researched on the monitoring and evaluation of budgeting and project performance in Rwanda: a case of the horticulture project at Bramin Ltd. A descriptive research design with a mixed method of qualitative and quantitative data was used in the study. The target population was 102 of M&E. The study found a positive and significant relationship between budgeting and the timely completion of the project and between budgeting and level of satisfaction of beneficiaries. The study concluded that there is a positively significant relationship between monitoring and evaluation budgeting and performance of the project.

Simuyu and Okwoyo (2023) assessed the monitoring and evaluation budget and performance of Water and Sanitation Projects in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study adopted a cross-sectional research design. The target population was the 192 project managers, monitoring and evaluation officers, and property management agencies. A sample of 130 respondents was obtained through stratified random sampling. The study found a significant relationship between monitoring and evaluation budget and performance. The study concluded that water and sanitation projects' performance was influenced by monitoring and evaluation budget.

Amai and Ruguru (2022) researched the effects of budgetary allocation on the monitoring and evaluation of nature-based enterprise projects in the Kenyan Water Towers. The descriptive cross-sectional research design was adopted and used on a target population of 160 representatives from national and county government ministries, departments and agencies. The study intended to use a total of 80 participants from the target population as the sample size. The study found that budgetary allocation is statistically significant in explaining the monitoring and evaluation of nature-based projects in the Kenyan water towers. The study concluded that budgetary allocation positively and significantly relates to monitoring and evaluation of nature-based projects in the Kenyan water towers.

Murei et al. (2017) examined the influence of monitoring and evaluation budget on performance of horticulture projects in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study employed a mixed approach to carry out cross sectional, correlation and descriptive survey. The target population for this study

was farmers' groups implementing various projects supported by the Kenya National Farmers Federation (KENAFF) in Nakuru County. Out of 45 groups, 28 purely implemented horticulture projects were purposively selected for the study. The study found that the M&E budget had a strong influence on performance of horticulture projects. The study concluded that the M&E budget had a statistically significant impact on performance of horticulture projects in Nakuru County.

M&E Reporting and Project Performance

Kabelele and Musabila (2020) examined the determinants of information sharing and the performance of the supply chain in the case of beverage manufacturing companies. The study adopted a mixed research design where quantitative and qualitative findings were triangulated. The snowball sampling technique was used to collect data from 170 respondents using an online survey, while purposive sampling was used to collect data from 10 respondents through interviews. The study found that information technology, trust, competitive environment and environmental uncertainty had a positive influence on information sharing, while top management support, commitment, common vision and reciprocity had no impact on information sharing. The study concluded that supply chain performance is determined by information sharing.

Nahimana and Shukla (2022) conducted a study on the effect of data collection practices on the performance of health projects in Rwanda: a case of the indoor residual spraying project. The study used a descriptive case survey design. A sample size of 310 respondents was drawn from a population of 1,383 using Yaro Yamane. The study found a positive and significant relationship between data collection practices and project performance in Rwanda. The study concluded that data collection practices have a statistically significant effect on project performance in Rwanda.

Okore and Kibet (2020) assessed on the influence of information sharing on supply chain performance in the tourism industry in the county government of Kakamega, Kenya. An explanatory survey design was used. The target population comprised 459 employees working in 4 licensed tour companies and 5 licensed hotels in Kakamega County. The study found that collaboration and networking influence supply chain performance. The study concluded that information sharing influences the supply chain performance of the tourism industry in Kakamega County.

Kiprotich (2022) researched the influence of information sharing on performance of manufacturing firms in Kenya. The explanatory research design was used in the study. The sample size was 264 procurement managers from Kenyan manufacturing enterprises, with 766 procurement managers as the target population. The study found that information sharing had a positive and significant effect on performance of manufacturing firms. The study concluded that information sharing has a significant effect on the performance of manufacturing companies in Kenya.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study used a descriptive research design, which involved gathering data that describes events, then organizing, tabulating, depicting and describing the data. The choice of this research design is influenced by the fact that it enables the researcher to assess the situation in the study area at the time of study.

Target Population

This study targeted cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. Nairobi County has a total of 17 constituencies. In Nairobi County, there are four major national cash transfer

programmes under the Inua Jamii framework: Inua Jamii Senior Citizens Cash Transfer (OP-CT): Targets citizens aged 70 and above, providing a regular stipend to improve their livelihoods. Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC): Supports households caring for children under 18 to improve education and health outcomes.

The implementation of cash transfer programs is done by the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Committee (NG-CDFC). In a constituency, the NG-CDF comprises 10 members consisting of the chair, male and female representatives and seven members. The total number of respondents from the 17 constituencies is 170. In addition, the study targeted 2 program beneficiaries per constituency, hence 34 program beneficiaries. The total target population was therefore 204 respondents. These respondents were targeted since they directly participate in the implementation of the cash transfer programs.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A sample is a smaller subset of a population that adequately represents the entire group (Saunders et al., 2019). A total sample size of 135 respondents was taken with the aid of Yamane's (1967) formula: $n=N/(1+e^2)$.

Where;

n= Sample size

N =total population

e=Error of tolerance

As such, the sample size will be;

$$n=204/(1+204*0.05^2)$$

$$n=204/1.51$$

$$n=135$$

The confidence level was 95%, thus giving a margin error of 0.05

The study used a stratified random sampling technique in choosing the sample size of targeted respondents.

Data Collection Instruments and Procedure

This research used a questionnaire to collect primary data. The researcher obtained a research permit from the relevant authorities required for data collection. Structured and open questions were used to collect primary data from the field.

Pilot Study

A pilot study was administered in order to test for the validity, reliability and practicability of the research instruments. The pilot study was carried out on 14 respondents, who are sufficient based on Glesne (2019), who stated that 10% of the population is adequate to constitute the pilot test size.

Data Analysis and Presentation

Quantitative data were coded and then analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer software version 22. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze descriptive data, while multiple regression analysis was used to test the relationships between the variables. Correlation analysis was used to show the strength of the relationships. The regression model was;

$$Y= \beta_0+ \beta_1X_1+ \beta_2X_2+ \varepsilon$$

Where:

Y= performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya

X is the set of the four independent variables, that is;

X₁- M&E budget

X_2 - M& E reporting

$\beta_{(1,2)}$ are the parameters associated with the corresponding independent variable that are to be estimated (partial regression coefficients)

β_0 is the intercept;

ε is the error variability (error term)

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Descriptive Statistics Analysis

M&E Budget and Performance of Cash Transfer Programs

The first specific objective of the study was to establish the influence of M&E budget on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. The respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on statements relating to M&E budget and performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. A 5-point Likert scale was used where 1 symbolized strongly disagree, 2 symbolized disagree, 3 symbolized neutral, 4 symbolized agree and 5 symbolized strongly agree. The results were as presented in Table 1.

From the results, the respondents agreed that the process of budget allocation for M&E activities is transparent and inclusive, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are consulted. This is supported by a mean of 3.943 (std. dv = 0.981). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.926 (std. dv = 0.850), the respondents agreed that allocated funds for M&E activities are often based on historical data and do not always reflect the current needs and priorities of the projects. Further, the respondents agreed that their M&E team strictly adheres to the allocated budget, with regular financial reviews ensuring no significant deviations. This is shown by a mean of 3.911 (std. dv = 0.914).

The respondents also agreed that budget overruns are a common issue in our M&E projects, often due to unforeseen costs and inadequate initial budgeting. This is shown by a mean of 3.896 (std. dv = 0.947). With a mean of 3.889 (std. dv = 0.856), the respondents agreed that the financial resources allocated to M&E activities are adequate to cover all planned initiatives and contingencies. The respondents agreed that there is often a shortfall in the M&E budget, which impacts the quality and scope of monitoring and evaluation activities. This is supported by a mean of 3.876 (std. dv = 0.694).

Table 1: M&E Budget and Performance of Cash Transfer Programs

	Mean	Std. Deviation
The process of budget allocation for M&E activities is transparent and inclusive, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are consulted.	3.943	0.981
Allocated funds for M&E activities are often based on historical data and do not always reflect the current needs and priorities of the projects	3.926	0.850
Our M&E team strictly adheres to the allocated budget, with regular financial reviews ensuring no significant deviations.	3.911	0.914
Budget overruns are a common issue in our M&E projects, often due to unforeseen costs and inadequate initial budgeting.	3.896	0.947
The financial resources allocated to M&E activities are adequate to cover all planned initiatives and contingencies.	3.889	0.856
There is often a shortfall in the M&E budget, which impacts the quality and scope of monitoring and evaluation activities.	3.876	0.694
Aggregate	3.898	0.873

M&E Reporting and Performance of Cash Transfer Programs

The second specific objective of the study was to analyze the influence of M&E reporting on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. From the results, the respondents agreed that the data collection methods used in our M&E processes are thorough and ensure accurate, reliable data is gathered consistently. This is supported by a mean of 3.968 (std. dv = 0.905). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.859 (std. dv = 0.885), the respondents agreed that there are significant gaps in our data collection methods, leading to incomplete and sometimes inaccurate data in our M&E reports. Further, the respondents agreed that follow-up actions based on M&E findings are systematically implemented and tracked to ensure continuous improvement. This is shown by a mean of 3.800 (std. dv = 0.605).

With a mean of 3.785 (std. dv = 0.981), the respondents agreed that follow-ups on M&E findings are irregular and often not prioritized, resulting in missed opportunities for improvement.

In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.743 (std. dv = 0.738), the respondents agreed that Information from M&E reports is effectively shared with all relevant stakeholders, promoting transparency and collaborative decision-making. Further, the respondents agreed that the dissemination of M&E report information is inadequate, with many stakeholders not receiving timely or complete updates. This is shown by a mean of 3.698 (std. dv = 0.921).

Table 2: M&E Reporting and Performance of Cash Transfer Programs

	Mean	Std. Deviation
The data collection methods used in our M&E processes are thorough and ensure accurate, reliable data is gathered consistently.	3.968	0.905
There are significant gaps in our data collection methods, leading to incomplete and sometimes inaccurate data in our M&E reports.	3.859	0.885
Follow-up actions based on M&E findings are systematically implemented and tracked to ensure continuous improvement.	3.800	0.605
Follow-ups on M&E findings are irregular and often not prioritized, resulting in missed opportunities for improvement.	3.785	0.981
Information from M&E reports is effectively shared with all relevant stakeholders, promoting transparency and collaborative decision-making.	3.743	0.738
The dissemination of M&E report information is inadequate, with many stakeholders not receiving timely or complete updates.	3.698	0.921
Aggregate	3.789	0.867

Performance of Cash Transfer Programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya

The respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on various statements relating to Performance of Cash Transfer Programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. From the results, the respondents agreed that the cash transfer program has successfully met its set objectives, significantly improving the livelihoods of beneficiaries. This is supported by a mean of 3.984 (std. dv = 0.997). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.907 (std. dv = 0.831), the respondents agreed that despite on-going efforts, the cash transfer program has struggled to achieve its set objectives, with limited impact on the targeted communities. Further, the respondents agreed that the number of beneficiaries reached by the cash transfer program aligns well with the initial targets and expectations. This is shown by a mean of 3.828 (std. dv = 0.563). The respondents agreed that the program has faced challenges in reaching the intended number of beneficiaries, falling short of the initial targets. This is shown by a mean of 3.821 (std. dv = 0.851). From the results, the respondents agreed that beneficiaries consistently receive their cash

transfers on time, ensuring they can rely on these payments for their planned needs. This is supported by a mean of 3.809 (std. dv = 0.861). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.789 (std. dv = 0.738), the respondents agreed that delays in cash transfers are frequent, causing financial strain and uncertainty for the beneficiaries who depend on timely payments.

Table 3: Performance of Cash Transfer Programs

	Mean	Std. Deviation
The cash transfer program has successfully met its set objectives, significantly improving the livelihoods of beneficiaries.	3.984	0.997
Despite on-going efforts, the cash transfer program has struggled to achieve its set objectives, with limited impact on the targeted communities.	3.907	0.831
The number of beneficiaries reached by the cash transfer program aligns well with the initial targets and expectations.	3.828	0.563
The program has faced challenges in reaching the intended number of beneficiaries, falling short of the initial targets.	3.821	0.851
Beneficiaries consistently receive their cash transfers on time, ensuring they can rely on these payments for their planned needs.	3.809	0.861
Delays in cash transfers are frequent, causing financial strain and uncertainty for the beneficiaries who depend on timely payments.	3.789	0.738
Aggregate	3.829	0.818

Correlation Analysis

The present study used Pearson correlation analysis to determine the strength of association between independent variables (M&E budget and M&E reporting) and the dependent variable (performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya). Pearson correlation coefficient ranges between zero and one, where the strength of association increases with an increase in the value of the correlation coefficient. The current study employed Evans (2019) correlation coefficient ratings, whereby 0.80 to 1.00 depicts a very strong relationship, 0.60 to 0.79 depicts strong, 0.40 to 0.59 depicts moderate, and 0.20 to 0.39 depicts weak.

Table 4: Correlation Coefficients

		Program Performance	M&E budget	M&E reporting
Program Performance	Pearson Correlation	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)			
	N	89		
M&E budget	Pearson Correlation	.836**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002		
	N	89	89	
M&E reporting	Pearson Correlation	.856**	.185	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.078	
	N	89	89	89

From the results, there was a very strong relationship between M&E budget and performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya ($r = 0.836$, $p\text{-value} = 0.002$). The relationship was significant since the $p\text{-value} 0.002$ was less than 0.05 (significance level). The

findings are in line with the findings of Amai and Ruguru (2022), who indicated that there is a very strong relationship between M&E budget and project performance.

The results also revealed that there was a very strong relationship between M&E reporting and performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya ($r = 0.856$, p value = 0.000). The relationship was significant since the p -value 0.000 was less than 0.05 (significance level). The findings are in line with the results of Nahimana and Shukla (2022), who revealed that there is a very strong relationship between M&E reporting and project performance.

Regression Analysis

Multivariate regression analysis was used to assess the relationship between independent variables (M&E budget and M&E reporting) and the dependent variable (performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya)

Table 5: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R-Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.940	.884	.883	.582

a. Predictors: (Constant), M&E budget and M&E reporting

The model summary was used to explain the variation in the dependent variable that could be explained by the independent variables. The R-squared for the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable was 0.884. This implied that 88.4% of the variation in the dependent variable (performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya) could be explained by independent variables (M&E budget and M&E reporting).

Table 6: Analysis of Variance

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	12.027	2	6.014	79.13	.000 ^b
1 Residual	6.568	86	.076		
Total	18.595	88			

a. Dependent Variable: performance of cash transfer programs

b. Predictors: (Constant), M&E budget and M&E reporting

The ANOVA was used to determine whether the model was a good fit for the data. The calculated F was 79.13. The p -value was 0.000. Since the F-calculated was greater than the F-critical and the p value 0.000 was less than 0.05, the model was considered a good fit for the data. Therefore, the model can be used to predict the influence of M&E budget and M&E reporting on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Table 7: Regression Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	0.311	0.082		3.793	0.003
	M&E budget	0.387	0.091	0.388	3.593	0.003
	M&E reporting	0.392	0.102	0.393	3.843	0.001

a Dependent Variable: performance of cash transfer programs

The regression model was as follows:

$$Y = 0.311 + 0.387X_1 + 0.392X_2 + \varepsilon$$

According to the results, M&E budget has a significant effect on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya ($\beta_1=0.387$, p value= 0.003). The relationship was considered significant since the p -value 0.003 was less than the significance level of 0.05. The

findings are in line with the findings of Wasswa et al (2021), who indicated that there is a very strong relationship between M&E budget and project performance.

In addition, the results revealed that M&E reporting has a significant effect on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya $\beta_1=0.392$, p value= 0.001). The relationship was considered significant since the p-value 0.001 was less than the significance level of 0.05. The findings are in line with the results of Nahimana and Shukla (2022), who revealed that there is a very strong relationship between M&E reporting and project performance.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The study concludes that the M&E budget has a positive and significant effect on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. Findings revealed that budget Allocation, adherence to budget and adequacy of finance influence performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

The study also concludes that M& E Reporting has a positive and significant effect on performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya. Findings revealed that data Collection, follow Ups and information sharing influence the performance of cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Recommendations

Organizations implementing cash transfer programs in Nairobi City County should prioritize adequate allocation of funds specifically for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities. This includes ensuring timely disbursement of funds, strict adherence to approved M&E budgets, and continuous financial oversight. Strengthening financial planning and accountability mechanisms will enhance efficient resource utilization, thereby improving program performance and sustainability.

Organizations should establish robust M&E reporting frameworks that emphasize accurate data collection, timely reporting, and effective information dissemination. Investment in digital data management systems can improve the efficiency and reliability of information. Additionally, regular follow-ups and feedback mechanisms should be institutionalized to ensure that findings from M&E reports are utilized for continuous program improvement.

Government and relevant regulatory bodies should develop and enforce policies that support effective M&E practices in cash transfer programs. This includes setting minimum standards for M&E budgeting and reporting. Strengthening institutional frameworks will ensure consistency, accountability, and improved performance across programs.

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